

MEDIA CONTACT:

Phil Moya
(304) 348-4188
pamoya@aep.com



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APPALACHIAN POWER ANNOUNCES OPEN HOUSE TO SHARE PLANS FOR NEXT PHASE OF TRANSMISSION IMPROVEMENTS IN BOONE AND KANAWHA COUNTIES

CHARLESTON, W.Va., March 30, 2017- Appalachian Power and its affiliate, West Virginia Transmission Company, plan to update the existing transmission grid to provide continued reliable electrical service to customers in Boone and Kanawha counties.

The Boone-South Charleston Improvements Project is a \$40 million investment that includes upgrading 18 miles of 46-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to 69 kV standards, relocating a substation and making upgrades to additional transmission facilities. The work will address southern West Virginia's need for increasing electricity demand by replacing aging infrastructure with robust and modern technology.

"Providing safe and reliable electric service to customers is our top priority," said Phil Moya, corporate communications manager for Appalachian Power. "The work we are proposing, combined with other reliability projects we have going on in the area, will help ensure our customers are getting the best service we can provide at an affordable cost."

The company will host an open house to provide details about the project to the public and affected landowners. The open house is scheduled for 5:30–7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 12 at Ruthlawn Elementary located at 736 Ruthdale Road in Charleston. Visitors may come any time during the open house to learn project details, view maps of proposed routes and speak with company representatives.

"Open houses provide us an opportunity to speak with customers, answer their questions and gather valuable information that helps in the process of determining the best route for the transmission line," said Moya.

The Boone – South Charleston Project is the second phase of Appalachian Power's previously announced Boone County Area Improvements Project, a combined investment of over \$100 million in West Virginia's transmission system. When complete, both phases are estimated to bring Boone and Kanawha counties combined annual tax revenue of about \$1.5 million. Construction is expected to begin at the end of 2018 and be complete by the end of 2020.

Additional information about the project, including maps, a timeline and updates can be found at www.appalachianpower.com/SouthCharleston.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is a unit of American Electric Power, one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, delivering electricity and custom energy solutions to nearly 5.4 million customers in 11 states. AEP owns the nation's largest electricity transmission system, a more than 40,000-mile network that includes more 765-kilovolt extra-high voltage transmission lines than all other U.S. transmission systems combined. AEP also operates 224,000 miles of distribution lines. AEP ranks among the nation's largest generators of electricity, owning approximately 26,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP supplies 3,200 megawatts of renewable energy to customers.

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