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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TRANSOURCE ENERGY ANNOUNCES A \$75 MILLION INVESTMENT IN WEST VIRGINIA'S ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION GRID**

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Nov. 23, 2016 – Energy companies today announced plans to shore up the electric transmission grid in parts of West Virginia with a \$75 million electric grid expansion. The anchor of the project is a new transmission line and key substations that will be constructed and owned by Transource® Energy, an affiliate of American Electric Power.

The *Clendenin – Walton Area Improvements Project* includes construction of approximately 25 miles of new 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, three new substations and additional upgrades to other transmission facilities in the area. The proposed work will provide a robust transmission grid capable of handling the area's increase in demand while ensuring continued reliable service to local customers in Kanawha and Roane counties.

PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization responsible for monitoring the electric grid in 13 states including West Virginia, identified the need for the project in its 2014 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan. In 2015, PJM awarded the project to Transource, a partnership between AEP and Great Plains Energy. In June, the Public Service Commission of West Virginia granted Transource approval to construct the project. Appalachian Power and First Energy will construct additional facilities to incorporate the grid upgrades.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to help strengthen the power grid in West Virginia that will in turn improve local reliability to customers," said Antonio Smyth, president, Transource Energy.

Transource will hold an open house to introduce the project and gather public input on preliminary study segments. The open house is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 8 from 5 – 7 p.m., at Walton Elementary/Middle School, 90 School Drive, Walton. Visitors can come any time.

"The open house is an opportunity for our project team to speak with landowners and answer questions, view maps and preliminary study segments and learn more about the project," Smyth said.

“It also gives our team a chance to gather valuable information to help us build the best possible project we can.”

Transource will own two of the three new substations; one located near Charleston and the second about 3 miles east of the Roane-Calhoun county line. The third substation will be in Walton and operated by Appalachian Power. All 25 miles of the transmission line located in Kanawha and Roane counties will be owned by Transource. Construction is expected to start in 2017 and be completed by mid-2019.

Additional information can be found on the project website at [www.TransourceEnergy.com/Projects/Clendenin](http://www.TransourceEnergy.com/Projects/Clendenin)

Transource® is a partnership between American Electric Power (AEP) and Great Plains Energy (GPE) focused on the development and investment in competitive electric transmission projects across the United States. In all, AEP and GPE own and operate nearly 50,000 miles of transmission lines between them and have more than 100 years of expertise in the planning, design, engineering, construction and operation of transmission systems. AEP owns 86.5 percent of Transource. GPE owns 13.5.

Transource is a member of three regional transmission organizations—the PJM Interconnection, the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP)—which together serve all or part of 28 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and the province of Manitoba in Canada.

Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Transource also has offices in Kansas City, Missouri; Tulsa, Oklahoma and Dallas, Texas.

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