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APPALACHIAN POWER PLANS TRANSMISSION UPGRADES IN SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON, W.Va., Sept. 7, 2016 – Appalachian Power and its affiliate, AEP West Virginia Transmission Co., are proposing a project that will strengthen southern West Virginia’s electric grid. The \$62 million *Boone County Area Improvement Project* includes rebuilding about 16 miles of transmission line, building a new substation and expanding an existing substation along the project route.

Increased outages during the past two years prompted Appalachian Power to begin planning significant upgrades to the transmission system. Rebuilding the existing 90-year-old line will reduce outages by providing the area with a modern, robust energy source capable of handling increased power demand.

“The transmission grid in this area struggles to provide a consistent power source to residents,” said Phil Moye, corporate communications manager for Appalachian Power. “Replacing aging infrastructure is a safe, cost-effective solution to help ensure we continue to provide customers with reliable electric service.”

About 10 miles of the work will take place in Boone County. The remaining six miles of the rebuild and the new substation will be in Kanawha County.

To gather information from the public and affected landowners, Appalachian will host a public open house later this month to share details of the proposed improvements.

The open house is scheduled for 5–7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, at the Racine Community Center, 446 John Slack Circle, in Racine. Visitors may come any time during the open house to learn project details, view maps of proposed routes and speak with project team members.

“Any time new infrastructure needs to be added to our transmission system, we like to involve the public in our process,” said Moye. “The open house gives us an opportunity to answer questions the community may have about the proposed project.”

Following the open house, Appalachian will determine a route that minimizes impact to the environment and community. Construction is expected to start in late 2017 and be completed by the end of 2019. When completed, the project is estimated to provide Boone and Kanawha counties with combined annual tax revenue of about \$850,000.

Additional information about this project including a project timeline, maps and continuous updates can be found www.AppalachianPower.com/Boone.

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 223,000 miles of distribution lines. AEP ranks among the nation’s largest generators of electricity, owning approximately 31,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S.

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