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**I&M ANNOUNCES REPLACEMENT OF BLUFFTON TO VAN BUREN ELECTRIC LINE**

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FORT WAYNE, Ind. – Indiana Michigan Power (I&M), an operating unit of American Electric Power, is announcing an approximately \$30 million investment to improve the electric transmission system in Grant, Huntington and Wells counties.

The Bluffton –Van Buren Transmission Line Rebuild Project is essential to ensure that continued reliable energy service is available to customers. Plans include proactively rebuilding approximately 20 miles of 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The line begins in Bluffton and travels through Liberty Center and Warren, ending in Van Buren. Existing wood poles will be replaced with sturdier steel poles and new wires of the same voltage. Improvements will decrease outages and time needed to restore service when outages occur.

To gather information from the public and affected landowners, I&M will host a public open house **Tuesday, June 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Knight Bergman Center, 132 Nancy St, Warren, Ind.** Project representatives will be available to answer questions and obtain valuable local community input; there is no formal meeting or agenda

Additional information about the project, including a project timeline, fact sheet and map can be found at [www.IndianaMichiganPower.com/BlufftonVanBuren](http://www.IndianaMichiganPower.com/BlufftonVanBuren).

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Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) is headquartered in Fort Wayne, and its 2,450 employees serve more than 589,000 customers. It operates 2,600 MW of coal-fired generation in Indiana, 2,160 MW of nuclear generation in Michigan and 22 MW of hydro generation in both states. The company also provides its customers 450 MW of purchased wind generation and, by the end of 2016, approximately 15 MW of large-scale solar generation.

American Electric Power is 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. AEP's utility units operate as AEP Ohio, AEP Texas, Appalachian Power (in Virginia and West Virginia), AEP Appalachian Power (in Tennessee), Indiana Michigan Power, Kentucky Power, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, and Southwestern Electric Power Company (in Arkansas, Louisiana and east Texas). AEP's headquarters are in Columbus, Ohio.