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BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

NEWS from AEP Ohio

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AEP OHIO ANNOUNCES FINAL STEP OF BARNESVILLE AREA IMPROVEMENTS

GAHANNA, Ohio, Feb. 22, 2018 – AEP Ohio and its affiliate, AEP Ohio Transmission Company Inc., are taking the final step to improve electric service in Barnesville and the surrounding area. The project team will host an open house this month to seek feedback about planned improvements to the electric transmission grid in eastern Ohio.

The community and landowners in the project area are invited to attend an open house on March. 15 at Union Local High School on 66779 Belmont-Morristown Road in Belmont. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The events will run to 7:30 p.m. The informational open house provides attendees the opportunity to talk with company representatives, view detailed maps and provide input on the proposed routes and the overall project. There is no formal presentation. Visitors may come and go at any time during the open house.

The Barnesville Area Improvements Project, originally announced by AEP Ohio in October 2014, involves rebuilding and upgrading approximately 32 miles of existing 69-kilovolt (kV) power lines to 138 kV. The existing 69 kV facilities were built in the 1940s. These will be replaced with 138 kV lines and structures that will allow the lines to carry more power.

“The Glencoe-Speidel Transmission Line is the next step to improving the electric service reliability in Belmont County,” said Todd Sides, project manager for AEP Ohio. “This upgrade provides AEP Ohio with a transmission grid capable of handling the existing electric demand, while at the same time, preparing for the possibility of future growth.”

AEP Ohio plans to invest about \$20 million in the 13-mile, Glencoe-Speidel transmission line. Construction is targeted to begin in early 2019 and be complete by spring 2020.

Additional information about the project, including maps, is available online at AEPOhio.com/Glencoe-Speidel.

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AEP Ohio is based in Gahanna, Ohio, and is a unit of American Electric Power. AEP Ohio provides electricity to nearly 1.5 million customers. News and information about AEP Ohio can be found at AEPOhio.com.

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 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'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.

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