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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AEP APPALACHIAN POWER ANNOUNCES TENNESSEE PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN TRANSMISSION SYSTEM**

KINGSPORT, Tenn., Sept. 25, 2017 – Kingsport Power, doing business as AEP Appalachian Power, and its affiliate AEP Appalachian Transmission Co. have announced a significant transmission project in Hawkins County that will help ensure continued reliable electric service to its customers in Tennessee.

The Nagel Substation Expansion Project is a \$105 million infrastructure upgrade that includes modernizing the existing equipment and adding additional facilities to support a lower voltage. The work will reduce congestion on the transmission grid and provide a more efficient and robust power system.

The project will be completed on existing company sites and easements and will not affect other properties.

Construction is expected to begin the fall of 2017 and be complete by the end of 2019. Once complete, the project will generate estimated annual tax revenue of about \$2 million to Hawkins County.

“Providing all of our customers here in Tennessee safe reliable electric service is our top priority,” said Mary Begley, external affairs manager for the Tennessee utility. “The work we are proposing at Nagel Substation will help reduce the possibility of extended power outages to customers by replacing existing equipment with modern technology.”

The Nagel Substation is located in Hawkins County on the Tennessee-Virginia border about 10 miles west of the City of Kingsport. The substation expansion work will take place on the Tennessee side adjacent to Stanley Valley Road. On the Virginia side, two transmission lines will be moved about 200 feet to accommodate a new entry point into the substation.

Additional information about the project, including maps, a timeline and updates can be found at [www.AppalachianPower.com/Nagel](http://www.AppalachianPower.com/Nagel).

AEP Appalachian power has been a part of northeastern Tennessee for 100 years and serves 47,000 customers in the City of Kingsport, portions of Sullivan, Washington and Hawkins counties, and the Town of Mt. Carmel. It is a unit of American Electric Power, one of the largest

**Appalachian Power**  
**Page 2 of 2**

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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