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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APPALACHIAN POWER BEGINS SUBSTATION UPGRADES TO IMPROVE RELIABILITY IN FOUR ROANOKE-AREA COUNTIES

ROANOKE, Va., February 11, 2016 -- Appalachian Power has begun construction on a project to bolster the transmission grid in four central Virginia counties. The Roanoke Area Switching Improvements Project is an estimated \$30 million investment in the region with upgrades to at least 14 area substations.

Appalachian Power identified the opportunity to improve power quality following a review of its system. The company determined certain equipment was not responding to momentary power disturbances as quickly as possible given industry advancements. The planned upgrades will improve equipment performance and further reduce outage times.

“Our first priority is to provide safe and reliable service to our customers,” said David Nance, customer services manager for Appalachian Power. “This project will improve reliability for our residential, commercial and industrial customers, allowing them to be more productive in their day-to-day activities.”

Four of the substations will require expansion but most of the construction work will be on property already owned by the company. Five substations are in Montgomery County, four each are in Roanoke and Giles counties, and one is in Botetourt County.

Construction start dates will be staggered for each substation through next year. All work is expected to be completed by fall 2017.

“This multi-station project is only part of a significant investment in central and southwest Virginia,” Nance added. “There is a lot of work that needs to be done to modernize our power delivery infrastructure and this project takes us a long way in that direction.”

The Roanoke Area Switching Improvements Project is part of a \$630 million investment in announced system upgrades of transmission infrastructure in southwestern Virginia.

Additional information about the projects can be found at www.AEPTransmission.com/Virginia.

Appalachian Power
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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 to nearly 5.4 million customers through 223,000 miles of distribution lines 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 ranks among the nation's largest generators of electricity, owning approximately 32,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S.

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