

MEDIA CONTACT:

John Shepelwich
(540) 985-2968
Mobile: (540) 613-7460
jeshepelwich@aep.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POWER SYSTEM UPGRADE ANNOUNCED FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY IN VIRGINIA

ROANOKE, Va., July 7, 2016 – Appalachian Power today announced a project that will increase electric reliability for its customers in Franklin County.

The proposed Redwood Substation project will update the company's local electric delivery system with a new substation and by replacing about 4 miles of existing distribution line. The \$6 million project will provide a robust energy hub for customers from Rocky Mount to Smith Mountain Lake while meeting the growing electricity demands of the region.

Appalachian identified the need to improve its local infrastructure following extreme weather conditions during the last two winter seasons. Aging equipment combined with severe weather pushed the company's system to capacity. This project will help alleviate stress on the system and reduce the possibility of extended power outages.

"Our focus as a company is to provide reliable service to our customers at an affordable price," said Larry Jackson, external affairs manager for Appalachian Power. "This project will ensure the residents of Franklin County continue to receive the highest quality of service while providing them with a system that is capable of handling the future power needs of the region."

The new Redwood Substation will be built on a piece of land owned by Appalachian Power near the intersection of Powells Store and Webster roads. The company will also build about 600 feet of transmission line and two transmission structures to connect the substation to an existing transmission line, all on company property. The 60-year-old Glade Hill Substation will be retired and removed after the new substation is placed in service.

Appalachian is seeking local approval for the substation. If received, construction is expected to start this fall and be complete by the end of 2017. The Redwood Substation project is estimated to add approximately \$20,000 in taxes annually to Franklin County.

The Redwood Substation project is part of the \$650 million investment in announced Appalachian Power energy system upgrades in southwestern Virginia. Additional information about the projects can be found at www.AEPTransmission.com/Virginia.

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.

###