

MEDIA CONTACT:

Todd Burns, Appalachian Power
Corporate Communications Manager
(540) 985-2912, tfburns@AEP.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**APPALACHIAN SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON ELECTRIC RELIABILITY UPGRADE
SERVING PARTS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG AND BLACKSBURG**

ROANOKE, Va., May 20, 2008 – Appalachian Power today announced a \$15 million upgrade in the electric infrastructure that serves parts of Montgomery County, the Town of Blacksburg and the Town of Christiansburg. The company is in the initial study phase of the project which involves construction of approximately eight miles of electric transmission line and is seeking public input into the siting process before pursuing approval to construct the new line.

Electric service in the area is primarily supplied by a single radial 138 kilovolt (kV) line and multiple 69 kV lines. Peak electric demand in the area has increased from 207 megawatts (MW) in 2003 to 250 MW in 2008 and is expected to continue to grow steadily.

The addition of a new power line that ties together three existing electric substations and establishes a looped 138 kV system, helps prevent overloads and reduces the likelihood of interrupting electric service to the region. With a looped system in place, the outages can be isolated when they occur and alternate paths will keep customers' electric service intact.

The new facilities will be constructed on single pole structures with an average height of 100 feet tall and be built on a 100 foot-wide right of way. The company has identified preliminary proposed corridors for review. The public can provide comments on the preliminary study corridors and suggest alternative routing options at AppalachianPower.com and at a public workshop 5-8 p.m. Thursday, June 5, at Christiansburg High School, 100 Independence Blvd., Christiansburg, Va., 24073. The public comment period continues through July 18.

"We've identified all of the routes that we think would work," said Shawn Smith, project manager. "But, constructive public participation is critical to identifying the best place to locate this new line."

Appalachian will file an application with the Virginia State Corporation Commission in September seeking approval to construct the new facilities. The project is planned to be in service by 2014.

Appalachian Power
Page 2 of 2

Customers can find more information about the Falling Branch-Merrimac Transmission Reinforcement Project, including maps and photos of similar facilities to those proposed, or provide comments on the project at www.AppalachianPower.com.

Appalachian Power has about 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, which delivers electricity to more than 5 million customers in 11 states. AEP ranks among the nation's largest generators of electricity, owning nearly 38,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP also owns the nation's largest electricity transmission system, a nearly 39,000-mile network that includes more 765 kilovolt extra-high voltage transmission lines than all other U.S. transmission systems combined.

###