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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APPALACHIAN POWER TO HOST OPEN HOUSE FOR ALTAVISTA-LEESVILLE TRANSMISSION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

ROANOKE, Va., Oct. 24, 2024 – Appalachian Power representatives are upgrading the transmission system in the Altavista/Leesville area and are hosting an open house to gather input from the community. Altavista-Leesville Transmission Improvements Project involves

- rebuilding approximately 1 mile of 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in or near the existing right-of-way and
- building approximately 9 miles of 138-kV transmission line.

The upgrades to the local electric transmission system benefit area customers by replacing aging equipment with modern technology capable of conducting a greater amount of electricity to meet the power needs for the planned Blue Ridge Solar 150-megawatt solar generation facility in Pittsylvania County.

“This project allows crews to replace the 1960s-era power line,” said George Porter, Appalachian Power spokesperson. “Replacing the deteriorating power line with modern equipment improves the line’s operational performance and reliability for area customers.

The project team has developed preliminary transmission line route options and is looking for feedback from area residents to reduce impacts on the community. Landowners and community members are invited to an open house to provide feedback.

**OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION:**

**Wednesday, November 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. at**

**Altavista Elementary School**

**2190 Lynch Mill Road, Altavista VA 24517**

There is no formal presentation, so attendees may come and go any time during the two-hour event to talk to project representatives and view detailed maps. Residents who cannot attend the open house can visit the project website and virtual open house at [AppalachianPower.com/Altavista-Leesville](https://AppalachianPower.com/Altavista-Leesville).

## **Appalachian Power**

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Landowners within the project area can expect to receive a packet in the mail that includes additional project details and a comment form to provide feedback on or before **Monday, November 25**. The project requires approval by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC). Company representatives plan to file an application next fall with the SCC requesting approval. Company representatives expect construction to begin late 2026 and conclude by late 2027.

Appalachian Power has 1.1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power (AEP), which is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions. AEP's approximately 16,00 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 225,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.6 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 29,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 5,900 megawatts of renewable energy.

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