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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**APPALACHIAN POWER SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSES FOR POWER GRID UPGRADES IN CENTRAL VIRGINIA**

ROANOKE, Va., Oct. 25, 2019 – Appalachian Power representatives plan to upgrade the electric transmission network serving customers in Central Virginia. The project includes several phases over the next few years in five central Virginia counties.

The Central Virginia Transmission Reliability Project provides a new electrical source for the region to increase reliability for customers and support the retirement of aging equipment.

“The Central Virginia Transmission Reliability Project represents a huge investment in the transmission infrastructure in Virginia,” said Larry Jackson, director of external affairs for Appalachian Power. “The work we are proposing helps ensure reliable electric service to our customers while building a modern power grid capable of handling continued growth and economic development.”

The first phase of the project, Joshua Falls – Gladstone, involves building approximately 15 miles of transmission line and improving four substations in Amherst, Appomattox, Campbell and Nelson counties.

Potential route options for the proposed transmission line begin at the Joshua Falls Substation located off Mt. Athos Road in Campbell County. The line route options continue east through Amherst and Appomattox counties for about 10 miles to the Riverville Substation, located off Edgehill Plantation Road. From there, the route options continue east for about 5 miles to the Gladstone Substation located off Highway 60 in Nelson County.

Appalachian Power representatives invite community members and landowners in the project area to learn more by attending one of the following open houses:

- Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Appomattox County High School, located at 198 Evergreen Ave.

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- Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Amherst County High School, located at 139 Lancer Lane.

The events do not include a formal presentation, so attendees may come and go at any time to ask questions, view maps and submit suggestions to the project team. The team uses input from the open houses, online submissions and additional field work to determine a line route that minimizes impact on the community and environment.

After the project team selects a line route, company representatives plan to seek approval from the Virginia State Corporation Commission. If approved, construction for the first phase begins in Summer 2022 and lasts about a year.

Visit [AppalachianPower.com/CVTRP](https://www.appalachianpower.com/CVTRP) for more information, including detailed project maps, a timeline and updates.

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 companies in the United States. AEP is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions to customers. AEP's more than 18,000 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 219,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.4 million regulated customers in 11 states. AEP also is one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 32,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 5,300 megawatts of renewable energy.

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