

MEDIA CONTACT:

George Porter
(540) 314-2983
gaporter@aep.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APPALACHIAN POWER PLANS OPEN HOUSE EVENTS TO SHARE POWER GRID IMPROVEMENTS IN PATRICK AND CARROLL COUNTIES

ROANOKE, Va., Oct. 6, 2021 – Appalachian Power representatives plan to upgrade the power grid serving customers in five Virginia counties. The Stuart Area Improvements Project provides a new electrical source to support the current electrical need in the region and increases electric reliability for customers. The project involves constructing several components in the next few years.

The first component of the Stuart Area Improvements Project is the Stuart – Willis Gap Transmission Line Project located in Patrick and Carroll counties and involves:

- Building approximately 22 miles of 138-kilovolt transmission line
- Building two new substations
- Retiring the Stuart Substation

Retiring aging equipment, installing modern equipment and upgrading facilities reduces the need for frequent equipment maintenance and improves electric service reliability. Installing the additional power source ensures continued electric service to customers if the existing transmission line experiences an extended power outage.

“This project represents the first component of an overall effort to improve the power grid in Virginia. This component modernizes the local electric transmission grid and ensures Patrick and Carroll county residents continue to receive reliable electric service,” said George Porter, Appalachian Power spokesperson.

Company representatives are evaluating several route options for the new transmission line. The project begins at the existing Willis Gap Substation located off Orchard View Drive at the border of Carroll and Patrick County. Route options continue east for approximately 12 miles toward the proposed substation, located off Cox Ridge Road in Patrick County near the community of Claudville. The route options then travel east for approximately 10 miles and end at a proposed substation site located off Commerce Drive near the town of Stuart.

Appalachian Power representatives invite community members and landowners in the project area to learn more by attending one of the in-person or virtual events planned later this month.

Appalachian Power

Page 2 of 3

Planned in-person open houses:

- Wednesday, October 20th, from 3 - 7 p.m. at the Stuart Rotary Field (Hooker Building), 420 Woodland Drive Stuart, VA 24171
- Thursday, October 21st, from 3 - 7 p.m. at the Ararat Ruritan Club, 4711 Ararat Highway, Ararat, VA 24053

Planned live virtual town halls:

- Thursday, October 28, 2021 from 12 - 1 p.m.

If joining by phone, dial 1-415-655-0001 and enter the following access code when prompted:
2438 072 6918

If joining online, visit AppalachianPower.com/StuartTownHall1 Event Password: Stuart

- Thursday, October 28, 2021 from 5 - 6 p.m.

If joining by phone, dial 1-415-655-0001 and enter the following access code when prompted:
2436 288 2978

If joining online, visit AppalachianPower.com/StuartTownHall2 Event Password: Stuart

Area landowners can expect to receive a packet in the mail that includes additional project details and a comment card they can return with their feedback. Project representatives invite landowners and community members to participate in these events to learn more about the project, ask questions and share input. Additional details are available at AppalachianPower.com/Stuart

We are committed to keeping you informed about this project while also keeping our customers and employees safe and healthy during COVID-19. Project team members plan to wear face coverings at the in-person open houses and encourage those who plan to attend the in-person events to also wear face coverings. For the safety of the community and the project team, those who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or are feeling unwell please consider attending one of the virtual town halls to learn more about the project.

The project team plans to use input from the community and additional field work to determine a power line route that minimizes impact on the community and environment.

Company representatives plan to file an application with the Virginia State Corporation Commission in fall 2022. If the project receives approval, the company expects construction for the Stuart – Willis Gap Transmission Line component to begin in fall 2024 and conclude by fall 2025.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power, which is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions. AEP's approximately 16,800 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more

Appalachian Power

Page 3 of 3

than 223,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.5 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 30,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 5,500 megawatts of renewable energy.

###