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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**APPALACHIAN POWER PROJECT TO HELP SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA**

ROANOKE, Va., Oct. 27, 2016 – Appalachian Power is partnering with the Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority (BRCEDA) to bring a more robust power source to the Wildwood Commerce Park and increase its development potential as a business location for southwestern Virginia.

The 138-kilovolt (kV) Wildwood Commerce Transmission Project will add about 3 miles of transmission line and a substation. The new line will originate from Appalachian Power's existing Jacksons Ferry – Pipers Gap transmission line and will terminate at the new substation in the business park. Construction is expected to take approximately 12 months and will begin when a first park customer is secured.

The 273-acre Wildwood Commerce Park is located on E. Stuart Dr. in the (city) of Galax and is a joint endeavor of Carroll and Grayson counties and Galax. Currently, two pads at the park (100 acres and 25 acres) are graded and ready for construction. Another 50-acre site has been designed.

Completion of the project is expected to help the park attract companies in the sectors of automotive components, manufacturing and food processing.

"In order to be certified as a large industrial park, Wildwood Commerce Park must be able to provide utility services in quantities required by major industrial prospects within one year," said Alan Hawthorne, interim director for BRCEDA. "Successful completion of the 138 kV substation and transmission line allows high capacity electrical service to be provided to a potential customer in a timely manner."

Appalachian Power will host an informal public open house to provide project information to the community and affected property owners. The event will be 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10,

at Carroll County Middle School located at 1036 North Main Street in Hillsville. Appalachian representatives will share details about the project, answer questions and gather public input.

Additional information about the project, including a timeline, maps and updates is available at www.AppalachianPower.com/Wildwood .

BRCEDA's development plans for the business park can be found at <http://www.wildwoodva.com/>

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 to more than 5 million customers in 11 states. AEP ranks among the nation's largest generators of electricity, owning nearly 32,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP also owns the nation's largest electricity transmission system, a 40,000-mile network that includes more 765-kV extra-high voltage transmission lines than all other U.S. transmission systems combined.