

MEDIA CONTACT:

George Porter
(540) 985-2968
gaporter@aep.com



APPALACHIAN POWER SEEKS INPUT ON TRANSMISSION LINE IMPROVEMENTS IN MASON COUNTY

CHARLESTON, W.Va., April 17, 2023 – Appalachian Power representatives plan to increase electric reliability by upgrading the power grid serving customers in Mason County.

The Apple Grove-Lakin Transmission Line Rebuild Project involves upgrading approximately 28 miles of transmission line along the Ohio River to 138-kilovolt (kV) engineering standards between Apple Grove Substation located off WV-2 and the Lakin Substation near WV-62.

The existing transmission line was built in the 1960s and is experiencing age-related outages. The upgrades strengthen the transmission system by replacing wooden poles with steel structures and updating aging equipment inside three substations. The upgrades also address stress on the area electric system that was identified in PJM Interconnection’s 2024 Summer Analysis. PJM Interconnection serves as the regional transmission organization that monitors the electric grid in 13 states, including West Virginia. The upgrades are expected to enhance the power line's performance during periods of high electric demand, reduce customer outages in the area and increase electric reliability for customers.

The project team is seeking community input on route options at select areas along the power line route to rebuild the line. Landowners within the project area can expect to receive a packet in the mail that includes additional project details and a comment card that they can return with their feedback.

Landowners and community members can also visit the virtual open house at **AppalachianPower.com/AppleGrove** to learn more about the project and provide feedback to the project team.

The project team plans to use input from the virtual open house, the comment cards and additional field work to determine a power line route that minimizes impacts on the community and the environment. Appalachian Power intends to file an application with the West Virginia Public Service Commission for the project later this year. Company representatives expect construction to begin in June 2024 and conclude by December 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

Appalachian Power**Page 2 of 2**

16,700 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 224,000 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 31,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 5,900 megawatts of renewable energy.

###