

MEDIA CONTACT:**AEP Ohio**

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aepohiomediarelations@aep.com**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****AEP OHIO SCHEDULES OPEN HOUSE TO DISCUSS PROPOSED POWER GRID IMPROVEMENTS TO BENEFIT AUGLAIZE COUNTY CUSTOMERS**

GAHANNA, Ohio, July 3, 2018 – AEP Ohio and AEP Ohio Transmission Company, Inc., will host an open house to seek public input about proposed improvements to the electric transmission grid in northwest Ohio. The Wapakoneta Area Improvements Project is designed to improve the electric service reliability for customers in the region and allow for economic development by providing an additional power source to the area and modernizing the electric transmission infrastructure. The project is being developed in coordination with the city of Wapakoneta and its electric department.

The proposed project consists of building approximately 15 miles of 138-kilovolt transmission line, constructing two new substations and expanding a substation. AEP Ohio will seek input on proposed study segments to determine a route for the new power line at an open house on Thursday, July 19, at the Wapakoneta Middle School located at 400 W. Harrison Street in Wapakoneta. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The event will run until 7:30 p.m. The informational open house provides attendees an opportunity to talk with project representatives and view detailed maps. There is no formal presentation. Visitors may come and go at any time during the open house. The project team will use information gathered during the open house to help determine the proposed route for the transmission line.

The project area includes Pusheta, Washington, St. Marys, Duchouquet and Moulton townships in Auglaize County. The proposed new substations will be located on company-owned property. After a transmission line route is determined, the company will seek regulatory approval from the Ohio Power Siting Board. Upon approval, the company would work with landowners to secure easements necessary for the safe construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line. The preliminary schedule anticipates a construction start date of summer 2019.

Additional information about the project, including an interactive map, is available online at AEPOhio.com/Wapakoneta.

AEP Ohio is based in Gahanna, Ohio, and is a unit of American Electric Power. AEP Ohio provides electricity to nearly 1.5 million customers. News and information about AEP Ohio can be found at AEPOhio.com.

American Electric Power is one of the largest electric utilities in the United States, delivering electricity and custom energy solutions to nearly 5.4 million customers in 11 states. AEP owns the nation's largest electricity transmission system, a more than 40,000-mile network that includes more 765-kilovolt extra-high voltage transmission lines than all other U.S. transmission systems combined. AEP also operates 224,000 miles of distribution lines. AEP ranks among the nation's largest generators of electricity, owning approximately 26,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP's utility units operate as AEP Ohio, AEP Texas, Appalachian Power (in Virginia and West Virginia), AEP Appalachian Power (in Tennessee), Indiana Michigan Power, Kentucky Power, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, and Southwestern Electric Power Company (in Arkansas, Louisiana and east Texas). AEP's headquarters are in Columbus, Ohio.

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