

**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 FLOYD COUNTIES**

ROANOKE, Va., Feb. 9, 2022 – Appalachian Power representatives announce the second phase of upgrades to 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 second component of the Stuart Area Improvements Project, the Stuart – Floyd Transmission Line Rebuild Project, located in Patrick and Floyd counties, involves:

- Upgrading approximately 20 miles of 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to 138-kV
- Upgrading the Woolwine Substation
- Expanding the Floyd Substation

Installing modern equipment and upgrading facilities along the transmission line and at the substations reduces the need for frequent equipment maintenance and improves electric service reliability.

The first component of the Stuart Area Improvements Project, announced last October, is the Stuart – Willis Gap Transmission Line Project.

“This phase is the second component of an overall effort to improve the power grid in Virginia for Appalachian Power Customers. This component modernizes the local electric transmission grid and ensures Patrick and Floyd county residents continue to receive reliable electric service,” said George Porter, Appalachian Power spokesperson.

Company representatives plan to upgrade the transmission line in or near the existing right-of-way, which may require new or updated property easements.

Work for the second phase begins at the existing Floyd Substation located off Route 615 near the town of Floyd and travels south approximately 10 miles to the Woolwine Substation located off Woolwine Highway. The project continues south approximately 10 miles and connects to a proposed substation site off Commerce Drive just outside of Stuart.

## Appalachian Power

### Page 2 of 2

Appalachian Power representatives invite community members and landowners in the project area to learn more, talk to project team members and provide input on the project by attending one of the in-person open house events planned later this month.

The planned in-person open houses are scheduled for 5 – 7 p.m. The dates and locations for the events are:

- Wednesday, Feb. 23, Floyd Elementary School gymnasium, 531 Oak Hill Drive SW in Floyd
- Thursday, Feb. 24, Stuart Rotary Field, Rotary Memorial Building, 420 Woodland Drive in Stuart

Appalachian Power is 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 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, are asked to please consider visiting the virtual open house on the project website at [AppalachianPower.com/Stuart](https://www.appalachianpower.com/Stuart) to learn more about the project and provide feedback.

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.

The Virginia State Corporation Commission requires Appalachian Power representatives to file an application for project approval. The project team plans to file the application in fall 2022. If the project receives approval, crews are expected to begin construction on the Stuart – Floyd Transmission Line Rebuild component in fall 2025 and conclude by fall 2027.

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

###