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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TRANSOURCE ENERGY ANNOUNCES FINAL LINE ROUTE FOR CLENDENIN – WALTON AREA IMPROVEMENTS ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT**

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 21, 2017 – Transource® Energy, an affiliate of American Electric Power, has determined the final line route for the Clendenin – Walton Area Improvements Project in Kanawha and Roane counties. The route was determined by incorporating public input gathered at an open house in December along with other land and environmental requirements.

The project components include approximately 25 miles of new 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, three new substations and additional upgrades to existing transmission facilities. The \$75 million investment in the local transmission grid will support the region’s increase in power demand and ensure reliable electric service to area customers.

Right-of-way agents from Emerald Energy working on behalf of Transource will start contacting landowners along the route.

The Public Service Commission of West Virginia approved the project in June 2016. Construction is expected to start later this year and be completed in 2019. Appalachian Power and First Energy will construct additional facilities to incorporate the grid upgrades. An interactive map of the proposed route can be found on the project website at [www.TransourceEnergy.com/Projects/Clendenin](http://www.TransourceEnergy.com/Projects/Clendenin)

Transource® is a partnership between American Electric Power (AEP) and Great Plains Energy (GPE) focused on the development and investment in competitive electric transmission projects across the United States. In all, AEP and GPE own and operate nearly 50,000 miles of transmission lines between them and have more than 100 years of expertise in the planning, design, engineering, construction and operation of transmission systems. AEP owns 86.5 percent of Transource. GPE owns 13.5.

Transource is a member of three regional transmission organizations—the PJM Interconnection, the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP)—which together serve all or part of 28 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and the province of Manitoba in Canada.

Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Transource also has offices in Kansas City, Missouri; Tulsa, Oklahoma and Dallas, Texas.

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