



Fast Action By BPA Crew Helps Residents Survive The Cold

Bonneville Power Administration

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EATONVILLE, Wash.- With temperatures well below zero, it could have been a very dark and cold night for residents of Eatonville had it not been for the fast action of Bonneville Power Administration crews to restore power last night. Eatonville is located southeast of Tacoma.

When the Lynch Creek transformer failed Thursday morning, BPA crews worked throughout the day and into the night in sub-freezing temperatures to replace the faulty transformer that is the only source of power for some 800 residents of Eatonville. While searching for a replacement transformer, BPA delivered a 125-kilowatt power generator (used to heat Bonneville's own work station) to an emergency shelter in Eatonville where residents could go for heat and light.

A spare transformer was found in a BPA facility in Vancouver, Wash., and dispatched to replace the faulty one. BPA crews installed the temporary transformer, weighing more than 100,000 pounds, and restored power early Friday morning - just 17 hours after the power failure. Eatonville Mayor Kirk Heinz commended the crew on its fast and selfless action.

"What could have been a disastrous situation turned out to be a mere inconvenience," said Mayor Heinz. "The crew went above and beyond the call of duty by donating its own generator to the emergency facility and restoring power so quickly in spite of such brutal weather conditions."

The temporary transformer will be in place for about six weeks until BPA installs a new, permanent transformer. The old Lynch Creek transformer was built in 1985 and served the town of Eatonville and 1,200 OHOP Mutual Power & Light customers. OHOP was able to shift customers to another substation about six miles away from Lynch Creek during the power outage.

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For more information, contact BPA Media Relations, 503-230-5131, mediarelations@bpa.gov.
