

*in the news*[home](#) [site search](#) [org chart](#) [contact us](#) [web comments](#)

## **Insulator-shooting vandals cause power line damage**

### **BPA offers up to \$1,000 for information**

Bonneville Power Administration  
U.S. Department of Energy

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, August 26, 1997**

PR 39 97

---

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Gail Dreckman, BPA (503)230-3778

---

**NORTH BEND, Wash. - The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those who caused an estimated \$3,000 worth of damage to power lines outside of North Bend.**

The exact date and time of the vandalism is unknown, but the incident most likely occurred prior to August 15, when a BPA maintenance crew reported the damage. Eleven out of nineteen insulators had been shot along BPA's Rocky Creek - Maple Valley 345,000-volt line off Interstate 90, approximately six miles from North Bend. There are no suspects, but the likely perpetrators are juveniles who enjoy shooting at insulators.

"Anyone shooting at power lines for fun should consider the dangers and consequences of their actions," said BPA Security Specialist Gail Dreckman. "High voltage power lines pose enormous risk to anyone who shoots at them. Downed power lines can cause fires and lethal ground voltages can kill or injure the vandals and others in the area."

Fortunately, BPA was able to avoid an outage by providing alternate pathways for electrical power while making necessary repairs. BPA crews spent several hours restoring the line.

BPA annually spends between \$400,000 and \$500,000 to replace insulators damaged or destroyed by gunshot vandalism. These costs get passed on to customers and ratepayers. Above and beyond these monetary costs and inconveniences are the possible disruption of essential services -- fire departments, police and ambulance services -- that depend on reliable electric service.

Under its popular neighborhood watch-style Crime Witness Program, BPA offers cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of perpetrators. Since 1994, the Crime Witness Program has generated hundreds of telephone tips resulting in dozens of arrests, recovered property, and most importantly, deterrence of future crime. Informants can call toll free 1-800-437-2744 and their identity will be kept confidential.

