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***NEWS RELEASE:***  
***Vandals shoot out power line insulators***  
***BPA offers up to \$1,000 for information***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**PR 56 98**

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**Lebanon, Ore. - The Bonneville Power Administration is offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals who caused an estimated \$2,000 of damage to a power line located about four miles southwest of Highway 20 near Lebanon.**

Vandals shot out insulators on BPA's Santiam - Albany 230-kilovolt line most likely during the weekend of Aug. 15. A BPA helicopter pilot on a routine patrol noticed the shot out insulators. BPA's transmission line maintenance crews were alerted and discovered that 10 out of 14 insulators had been shot out.

Fortunately, this incident did not interrupt power to BPA customers or costs would have been much higher.

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.

The Crime Witness Program was created by BPA in 1994 as a cost-effective way to involve the public in combating crimes that could potentially cause power outages.

Through its neighborhood watch-style 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, thousands of dollars of recovered property and, most importantly, deterrence of future crime. For example, in 1997, a total of 237 insulator units were replaced, representing an 82 percent decrease from the 1,313 units replaced in 1996. Cumulative savings since the program began totals more than \$600,000.

BPA needs your help. If you have information regarding this act of vandalism against ratepayers, call

the 24-hour Crime Witness Hotline toll free at 1-800-437-2744. All information will be kept confidential and used solely in conjunction with an investigation by law enforcement.

BPA, a federal power marketing agency, is the Northwest's largest electricity provider. The agency is responsible for selling the power produced by 29 federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. It owns and operates the nation's largest transmission system totaling 15,012 circuit miles.

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