

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

---

## *Accused vandal arrested*

### *Sheriff's office apprehends alleged shooter of BPA power line*

---

[Click here for other BPA news releases](#)

---

#### **Bonneville Power Administration**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: TUESDAY, March 7, 2000**

PR 36 00

*CONTACTS:* [Gail Dreckman](#), BPA (503) 230-3778

[Bob Windus](#), BPA (503) 230-5148

---

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – The person who may have caused an expensive shutdown at the Fort James paper mill near Westport, Ore., last month is under arrest.

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Department announced today the arrest of 19-year-old Alan Nicholas of Taylorville, Ore. He will be charged with criminal mischief one, which is a felony. Sheriff deputies also apprehended another individual in connection with the crime who will not be charged because he is a minor. The case is being referred to the District Attorney's office for prosecution.

On Feb. 23, vandals shot out insulators on a BPA high voltage transmission line causing a power outage that shut down the Fort James paper mill near Westport, Ore. Mill officials say the shutdown cost between \$250,000 and \$500,000.

BPA offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandals. No reward will be paid, however, because the suspects were arrested as a result of a normal sheriff's investigation.

Since 1994, BPA's Crime Witness Program has generated hundreds of tips resulting in dozens of arrests, thousands of dollars of recovered property and, most important, deterrence of future crime. In 1999, a total of 202 insulator units were replaced, representing an 88 percent decrease from the historic average of 1,723 units replaced each year prior to the institution of the program. Cumulative savings since the program began total more than \$2 million. Anyone with information about a crime against BPA property or personnel can call toll free 1-800-437-2744. The identity of informants is kept strictly confidential.

###

---