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## ***BPA seeks vandals responsible for Zig Zag area powerline damage***

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### **Bonneville Power Administration**

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**ZIG ZAG, Ore.** – The Bonneville Power Administration is offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of vandals who destroyed equipment on a BPA high voltage transmission line.

Vandals on June 6 destroyed several critical insulators on one of its 500,000-volt transmission lines near Zig Zag, forcing the line out of service. While no one lost power, regional ratepayers will be stuck with the \$7,000 repair bill if no one is apprehended.

"Anytime this kind of incident occurs, whether it causes a power outage or not, it is costly and dangerous," said Jeffrey Millenor, BPA security specialist. "Every one of these incidences has an impact on BPA's rates. Those responsible were not only playing with fire, they were playing with their lives and the lives of others."

Repair crews discovered several other damaged insulators in the same area while they made repairs. Such repair work is billed to all BPA customers and can potentially contribute to higher BPA transmission rates. "That's one reason why catching these vandals is important," Millenor said. "We've had damage in this area before. We would really like to catch those responsible so they can pay for the damage instead of our ratepayers."

Since 1994, BPA's Crime Witness Program has generated hundreds of tips resulting in dozens of arrests and 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 \$2,000,000. Informants can call toll free at 1-800-437-2744. The identity of informants is kept confidential.

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