

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

Vandals destroy insulators BPA offers reward

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

Bonneville Power Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FRIDAY, March 16, 2001

PR 17 01

CONTACTS: [Jeffery Millenor](#), BPA (503) 230-3103

Duvall, Wash. – The Bonneville Power Administration is offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of vandals who have twice struck a BPA high-voltage power line near Duvall, about 35 miles northeast of Seattle.

In February, vandals shot out all three insulators on a 500,000-volt transmission line. BPA took the line out of service and replaced the insulators. BPA then placed "Crime Witness" signs in the area, which offer a reward for information about crimes committed on BPA property.

On March 9, a BPA employee found the new signs shot to pieces. Additionally, a BPA Danger Tree crew found extensive dumping in the area, including vehicles, furniture and trash. The heavy gate leading to the right-of-way was broken, and a vehicle that BPA had placed in the entrance to prohibit passage was towed to the side.

"This is a particularly serious situation due to the very high voltages carried by this line," explained Jeffrey Millenor, security specialist for BPA. "If a high voltage power line falls to the ground, the resulting charge in the ground can cause electrocution of those in the area as far away as 100 feet."

Vandalism accounts for millions of dollars in damage to the Northwest power system each year. These costs get passed on to customers and ratepayers. Beyond these monetary costs and inconveniences is the possible disruption of essential services – fire, police and medical – that depend on reliable electric service.

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, BPA replaced 202 insulator units, an 88 percent decrease from the historic average of 1,723 units a year. Cumulative savings since the program began total more than \$2,000,000. Informants can call toll free 1-800-437-2744. The identity of informants is kept strictly confidential.

###
