

Ross HMEM Garage

The current HMEM facility on the Ross Complex supports the Ross-Longview District and also acts as a regional maintenance hub for major equipment work (booms over 70 feet and cranes over 15 tons). The facility is also the first destination for new vehicles received through Supply Chain. It is the servicing location for warehouse logistics equipment and BPA construction and maintenance equipment. The Ross HMEM Garage is the largest of the 16 HMEM shops in the system. The importance of this facility as the central maintenance facility and service hub stems from its central location within BPA's service territory, accessibility from two major interstate roads, excellent vendor support and adjacency to BPA's logistics center.

The Ross HMEM facility is outdated and inefficient. It is housed in the South Ampere building and has remained structurally unchanged since becoming operational in 1939. In the intervening years, vehicles have evolved to become significantly larger, heavier and more complex. As a result, the facility no longer allows for safe, efficient or industry best work practices. The garage operates with a permanent backlog, year round overtime accruals, and accident rates that are higher than any other BPA fleet shop.

A number of studies have been conducted to evaluate all aspects of the current facility. Those studies pointed to performance-limiting facility condition issues and over 50 facility-related deficiencies affecting quality control, shop safety or productivity. Shop production capacity is well below target levels principally due to shop size and precautions undertaken to mitigate facility-related safety risks. As these are corrected, shop throughput is expected to rise substantially as experienced with the recent HMEM upgrade at Bell.