

## **Spacer Damper Program**

This five year program (FY08-12) will replace remaining failing spacer dampers on approximately 3,000 miles of 500 kV main grid conductor bundles on each phase. The conductor bundles are critical line components with their performance, integrity, and availability paramount to BPA's mission and success. This is a continuation of an existing program started in 2000 that has already replaced over 1,500 miles of 500 kV main grid spacer dampers to date.

Maintaining conductor spacing is essential to prevent conductor damage due to clashing, and damping is critical to prevent conductor damage through fatigue strand breaks. As time passes, a failed spacer damper can actually cut through a conductor and cause the line to part and fall to the ground. Failures of BPA's spacer damper population have already begun to occur due to wear and age, and the failures present a clear and present threat to the integrity of the 500 kV grid.

The complete program to replace 3,000 miles of Spacers is projected to be completed by the fiscal year end 2012 and total capital project cost is estimated to be \$65.1 million.