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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Insulator damage endangers public, power reliability; ratepayers foot repair bill

BPA offers reward up to \$25,000 for info leading to arrest and conviction

Tacoma, Wash. – The Bonneville Power Administration is offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for tips about multiple incidents of insulators damaged by firearms on its high-voltage power line near Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Wash. Damaged insulators can put people nearby at risk of electric shock, serious injury or death.

“Shooting at electrical equipment is senseless, costly and endangers the safety of anyone in the area,” says Jeff Millenor, physical security manager for BPA.

Over the past 90 days, there have been four incidents of damaged insulators on BPA’s Olympia-Grand Coulee transmission line between 34th Avenue East and Mountain Highway East, just southeast of Lewis-McChord, between Spanaway and Graham.

“We’re asking neighbors and anyone who has seen suspicious activity near BPA’s power line to contact us,” says Sergeant Frank Clark with the Pierce County Sheriff’s Office.

If you have information about the insulator shootings, please contact Sgt. Clark at 253-798-4963 or fclark2@co.pierce.wa.us.

Insulators are a critical component because they ensure electricity stays in the power lines and does not enter other equipment such as steel towers or poles. Damaged insulators can also cause a power line to flash over to ground, resulting in a power outage, and create a dangerous situation for electrical workers trying to keep the



Damaged insulators create a dangerous situation that can result in a power outage and put anyone nearby at risk of electric shock, serious injury or death. (BPA photo)

lights on for people during the holidays. And unfortunately, Northwest electric ratepayers will absorb the repair costs in their electric power rates.

Crime Witness Program

BPA offers up to \$25,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of individuals committing crimes against BPA facilities and infrastructure. If you have information about illegal or suspicious activity on BPA property, please call BPA's 24-hour toll-free, confidential Crime Witness hotline at 800-437-2744. If you see illegal or suspicious activity happening in real time, please first contact local law enforcement. For more details about the program, go to www.bpa.gov/goto/CrimeWitness.

The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Ore., is a nonprofit federal power-marketing agency under the U.S. Department of Energy that sells wholesale renewable hydropower from federal dams in the Columbia Basin and one nuclear plant to more than 140 Northwest utilities. BPA operates a high-voltage transmission grid comprising more than 15,000 circuit miles of lines and associated substations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana with more than 480 customers. It funds one of the largest wildlife protection and restoration programs in the world, and, with its partners, pursues cost-effective energy savings in all sectors of the economy. BPA also pursues breakthroughs that can increase efficiencies, solve operational challenges and reduce costs — all of which help maintain affordable, reliable electric power for the Northwest and lessen impacts to the environment.

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