

**Bonneville Power Administration  
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## Vandals damage BPA equipment and threaten environment; BPA offers reward

**VANCOUVER, Wash.** - Vandals created an oil spill when they damaged utility trailers allowing large amounts of oil to leak on the ground in the storage yard of BPA's Ross Complex in Vancouver. The Bonneville Power Administration is offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandals.

On Thursday, May 29, BPA employees discovered significant vandalism to two utility trailers parked in the northwest storage yard at BPA's Ross Complex. Both trailers contained pumping equipment, tools and equipment used in treating insulating oil in large power transformers and circuit breakers. It appears that the vandals opened a control valve inside one of the trailers causing oil to leak onto the ground. The oil spill covers an area approximately 20 feet long by 10 feet wide. Samples of the oil were taken and sent out for analysis. The results show no PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) contamination, and the incident was reported to state authorities. Environmental cleanup is expected to cost approximately \$5,500.

BPA's northwest storage yard is located at the intersection of NE 61st Street and NE 10th Avenue, just behind the Les Schwab tire store on NE Minnehaha. The break-in and vandalism probably occurred sometime between the afternoon of May 28 and the morning of May 29 when it was discovered. The environmental cleanup has already been completed.

BPA is offering cash rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators. Informants can call toll free (800) 437-2744. The identity of informants is kept strictly confidential.

"Vandalism accounts for millions of dollars in damage to the Northwest power system each year and these costs get passed on to customers and ratepayers," explained Jeffrey Millennor, security specialist for BPA.

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. Cumulative savings since the program began total more than \$2 million.

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