



Press Release

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Greg Booth, General Manager

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Substation Theft Reported

On Thursday, May 28th, Clatskanie PUD crews discovered that metal thieves had broken into the Delena Substation. The substation, located along Hwy. 30 near the intersection with Lost Creek Road, belongs to Clatskanie PUD and houses high voltage equipment. The substation also contains some equipment belonging to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). District officials reported that the lock was cut off of the substation gate and fence fabric was cut and grounding wires were stolen from both the PUD and BPA equipment.

According to Dave Quinn, PUD Operations Manager, substation equipment is not designed to operate with these grounds missing. Quinn wants to remind the public that only qualified persons may enter a substation and warns of serious injury that may occur to the person or persons illegally entering and removing the equipment. The PUD complies with strict guidelines set forth by the National Electrical Safety Code when it comes to substation security, including the installation of barb wire at the top of the fence, locks, and signage.

The PUD estimates the damage to the equipment to be around \$4,000, not including the time spent by employees repairing the damage. The Columbia County Sheriff's Office is investigating leads at this time. The PUD and BPA both report they will be increasing security measures at this substation and other sites in the area. Clatskanie PUD is currently a member of a joint task force of local utilities offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of this or other metal theft of utility plant. Citizens are encouraged to be aware of suspicious vehicles or persons hanging around power poles or substations and to report such activity to the PUD or law enforcement.