



PRESS RELEASE

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On July 1 at 2:00 pm, approximately 2,900 Clatskanie PUD customers experienced an interruption of service due to a broken conductor on the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) 115 kV transmission line. Breakers opened after detecting the fault, dropping service to three of the District's substations, including Clatskanie, Bradbury and Delena.

At about 3:00 pm, BPA initially believed the faulted section was in the Astoria area so they isolated the faulted line from the Clatskanie service area. District crews quickly restored service to Delena and Clatskanie customers around 3:15 pm. District crews also energized the Bradbury substation transformer, while coordinating with Cascade Grain to energize plant service. After several tests, BPA finally confirmed the problem to be near Naselle. BPA manually isolated the faulted line segment and began repairs, which required another outage. Transmission service was finally restored at 4:09 pm and District crews again energized Clatskanie, Delena and Bradbury loads including Cascade Grain. The District was able to separate its customers from the transmission system prior to each switching event, minimizing the switching surges due to line testing.

Not only were Clatskanie PUD customers affected during this outage, but also customers of Pacific Power in the Astoria area, West Oregon Electric Cooperative customers in the Mist area, Pacific County PUD customers in the Naselle area, and Wahkiakum County PUD customers. This outage is just one of several outages for Clatskanie PUD recently due to problems associated with BPA's transmission lines. On June 29th, BPA reported a failure, possibly from lightning, on the 115kV transmission line near Clatskanie, knocking out power. Power was restored as soon as possible to customers but power had to be taken down again on the June 30th for BPA personnel to make repairs to the line. On July 3, BPA said lightning struck transmission lines again and the District's line crew worked throughout the early morning hours with BPA to restore power.



BPA working along Hwy 30 on June 30th to repair damage to the 115kV Transmission Line. Photo by Kerry Kallunki, Clatskanie PUD.

The District relies on BPA's transmission line in order to distribute power to the District's 4,500 customers. BPA has stated they will be reviewing diagnostic and isolation procedures to better serve Clatskanie customers in future events. The District is also pursuing possible corrective measures that can be taken both short and long term to improve transmission service and reliability.