

BPA NEWS

PR 17 24

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, October 3, 2024

CONTACT: Doug Johnson, BPA, 503-713-7658 or 503-230-5131

BPA schedules last overnight outage impacting Troy, Mont. area

Equipment that unexpectedly failed in May will be fully restored after this outage

Troy, Mont. – The Bonneville Power Administration will need one more overnight outage, impacting the City of Troy, Montana, from 11 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, until 6 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 10. This outage and two other outages taken in August are necessary to replace a circuit breaker that failed in May.

In August, BPA took outages to perform maintenance in preparation for installation of the new breaker. This final outage was scheduled to occur on Thursday, Sept. 26 but was canceled due to high winds in the area that interrupted power. That windstorm damaged three BPA lines in multiple locations. The crew scheduled to do the planned overnight maintenance work redirected its efforts to identifying and repairing the windstorm damage.

“The transmission system is able to function without that breaker but is not at its full capacity without it,” said Misty Gardelle, Kalispell Substation Operations Chief. “We are eager to get the breaker back in service before winter. Having the system at full strength will benefit everyone and help us avoid unplanned outages.”

The substation where the breaker is located is the only feed into the City of Troy and surrounding area. This is referred to as a “radial feed,” meaning that when maintenance at that substation or on the line feeding that substation needs to be done, electricity cannot get to homes and businesses served by the City of Troy. BPA has multiple points across the Pacific Northwest that are radially fed.

“We understand the impact of the power being out and try to minimize the impact by scheduling overnight outages,” said Gardelle. “We also understand the frustration caused by these frequent but necessary outages.”

(MORE)



About BPA

The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Oregon, is a nonprofit federal power marketer that sells wholesale, carbon-free hydropower from 31 federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. It also markets the output of the region's only nuclear plant. BPA delivers this power to more than 140 Northwest electric utilities, serving millions of consumers and businesses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. BPA also owns and operates more than 15,000 circuit miles of high-voltage power lines and 261 substations, and provides transmission service to more than 300 customers. In all, BPA provides nearly a third of the power generated in the Northwest. To mitigate the impacts of the federal dams, BPA implements a fish and wildlife program that includes working with its partners to make the federal dams safer for fish passage. It also pursues cost-effective energy savings and operational solutions that help maintain safe, affordable, reliable electric power for the Northwest. www.bpa.gov

###