



NEWS RELEASE
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GOING AFTER COPPER LANDS TWO MEN JAIL TIME

VANCOUVER – The BC Transmission Corporation says last week’s sentencing of two men for attempting to break into the Qualicum Substation sends a strong message that criminals targeting the electrical system will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

“These convictions make it clear that you risk serious jail time if you are caught trying to break into electrical substations. We will seek prosecution every time,” said Brian Martin, BCTC’s Security Manager. “We work hard to keep people out of our substations because they are dangerous places. High voltages and a lack of knowledge can have deadly consequences. Break-ins can put the electricity supply for everyone served by the substation in jeopardy.”

The first perpetrator was sentenced to a year in jail, while the second received a seven month sentence. They were arrested by Oceanside RCMP just before 5 a.m. on June 18, 2009 after BCTC’s security surveillance detected the break and enter.

Copper theft is a growing problem for British Columbia’s utilities and for the residents of British Columbia. Copper theft from substations has a high cost for utilities, and puts the safety of the public, our employees, and the electrical system at risk.

“BCTC is constantly working with various police departments around B.C. on anti-theft initiatives in an effort to deter criminals. We also offer rewards for information leading to the conviction of people damaging our property,” Martin added. “BCTC has also deployed new security systems and setup response protocols with municipal police designed to catch criminals in the act.”

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