

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **AVALANCHE REPAIR PLAN Damaged Tower Will not be Replaced**

AEL&P announced today a plan for repairing the portion of the Snettisham transmission line which was damaged in an avalanche on Monday, January 12. The structure that was damaged, known as structure 3/5, was one of three that was destroyed in an avalanche in April, 2008. The repair is scheduled to take about 4 weeks and is estimated to cost \$1.7 million.

The repair plan does not include rebuilding structure 3/5. Instead the plan calls for routing the line directly from structure 3/4 to structure 4/1. “There are several advantages to this plan”, said Eric Eriksen, AEL&P Vice-President of Transmission and Distribution, “One of the most important is that it eliminates a structure which would always be vulnerable to avalanches in the future.”

This plan also enables crews to work much more quickly. “Structure 3/5 is in an area with ongoing avalanche potential”, said Eriksen, “These structures on either side are in areas that are much safer to work in.”

There are some engineering issues that must still be worked out. Tower 3/4 is not designed to carry the new loads. Engineers are analyzing the structure to see what modifications need to be made.

If things go as planned, the repair work may be finished in a month. “That schedule is weather dependent, of course”, said Eriksen, “Heavy snows and low visibility could slow work at the site.”

Contact: Scott Willis, AEL&P 463-6396 (w) or 723-2606 (cell)