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Clean up act

Tracey Grose, an OSPERG member, participated in the group's skits focusing on the Clean Air Act, which will be up before Congress this month. OSPERG is lobbying Oregon senators to vote in favor of the bill.

Photo by Mia Bertelsen

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BPA postpones hearings

The Bonneville Power Administration, along with Lane County and the cities of Eugene and Springfield, has indefinitely postponed two public hearings scheduled for Feb. 21 and 28 on the BPA power line project.

"We are taking time out to work with Lane County, Eugene and Springfield to redesign the process," said BPA project manager Tom McKinney. "BPA is willing to adjust the process in ways that local officials feel are appropriate. We agree that more opportunity for public involvement is desirable."

In the next few weeks BPA will meet with local elected officials to talk about the public involvement process for the power line study and to decide whether to continue, modify or end the study.

The BPA is conducting a study to identify possible locations for a 500,000 volt power line needed in the Eugene-Springfield area within the next 20 years.

In November 1989, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released that evaluated and recommended alternatives for routes for the power line.

The favored and least expensive route would run next to an existing power line in Eugene's south hills. However, the BPA has no definite plans to build a new power corridor, and has encouraged input from local citizens and officials.

If BPA and local officials jointly decide to proceed with the project, new public hearings will be scheduled.

Source of oil still unknown

ASTORIA (AP) — The Coast Guard continued its effort Monday to find the source of small clumps of tar-like oil that has washed up on beaches along the northern Oregon Coast.

Blotches of the thick substance were found from Seaside to Rockaway Beach, but the only significant concentrations were discovered near Cannon Beach, where the first oil began washing ashore Thursday.

Thick brown algae resembling oil also was reported at some area beaches.

The Coast Guard said the clumps of oil, known as "tar balls," ranged from silver-dollar size to 6 inches in diameter.

Coast Guard aircraft searched the beaches and the Pacific up to five miles offshore over the weekend but found nothing

that might be a source of the oil. No oil slicks were sighted.

The Coast Guard expanded its search to 20 miles offshore Monday.

Oil-soaked birds were spotted several days before the oil began showing up on shore.

Cleanup crews arrived Friday morning but found most of the oil had washed back to sea. Later tides brought in more oil, and a dozen workers spent the weekend cleaning and surveying area beaches.

By Sunday, 15 bags or barrels of oil had been collected, said Petty Officer Chris Buell of the Coast Guard station at Warrenton.

Officials said the oil had to have been in the ocean for several days to reach its tar-like consistency.

Tuesday, February 20, 1990