DATE: February 8, 2022
REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: BPA Contracting Officers, as applicable
SUBJECT: Contractor Facial Covering Policy Revision
TO: All BPA Contractors performing work on federal property,

In December 2020, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) initiated a face covering policy, requiring the use of masks anytime and anywhere on BPA property. Consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) updated guidance, unfiltered cloth masks are no longer acceptable unless they are worn over a disposable type mask while working in a BPA facility.

Effective immediately, BPA encourages all contract workers to wear the most protective mask available while performing service on BPA property. While indoors, all individuals, whether fully vaccinated or not, must wear a face covering. While outside, BPA allows for individuals to not wear a face covering if they are socially distant, and can maintain a six foot separation at all times. Wearing of face coverings is required unless work dictates a higher level of PPE, or when using CDC guidance for activities like eating and drinking.

Masks should fit well and cover the nose and mouth to contain the wearer’s respiratory droplets. Face masks should be made of multiple layers of tightly woven breathable material, such as found in surgical type masks, have a nose wire, and should not have exhalation valves or vents. The CDC recognizes that both N95 respirators and KN95 face masks provide more protection to the wearer than others.

Contract Workers are responsible for wearing one of the mask options listed:
1. Disposable masks meeting CDC guidelines
2. KN95
3. NIOSH approved N95
4. For those required to wear Arc Flash face coverings, the following options are approved alternatives:
   - BENCHMARK FR Mask 3052FRBK NINJA, worn two (or even three) at a time, one over the other
   - BENCHMAR FR Gaiter Muffler 3050FR, worn folded so that it has two layers of material over the mouth and nose and under the chin
   - A & M INDUSTRIAL, INC. MASK2-Y2

Those choosing to use a NIOSH approved N95 respirator, understanding they are wearing them as a voluntary use respirator, must follow the guidance in 29 CFR 1910.134 Appendix D.
BPA requires our contract workers to provide their own face coverings. In the event that a contract worker refuses to wear a face covering or to wear it in an inappropriate fashion, BPA may require the individual to leave the property and will not be allowed to return.

Thank you for your diligence and efforts to help BPA continue to deliver value to the region and keep the lights on.

Please contact your Contracting Officer with any questions or concerns.