

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 13, 2007

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-343 Fidalgo – Lopez Substation: Danger Tree Removal Project #: PP&A-369)

TO: Kathy Stephenson
Forester - TERS-3

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management, tree removal on BPA fee owned property.

Location: The proposed action is to take place at Fidalgo Substation and Lopez Substation. Fidalgo Substation is located on the northwesterly side of Fidalgo Island overlooking Rosario Strait in section 2, township 35 north, and range 1 east, Skagit County, Washington. Lopez Substation is located on the east side of Lopez Island overlooking Lopez Sound, in section 30, township 35 north, range 1 west, San Juan County, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), located in the Snohomish Region.

Description of the Proposal: Proposal is to remove all tall growing vegetation located on BPA fee owned property at both Lopez and Fidalgo substation that may fall into the substation fenced yards.

Analysis: A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administration's Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

Lopez and Fidalgo substations are located in timbered residential property. Notification letters will be sent two weeks prior to commencement of operation on the easement property.

Water Resources: There are no streams, creeks or wetlands located on either BPA properties. Removal of trees will not result in sediment loading or higher water temperatures of nearby marine waters. Herbicides will not be used.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether the proposed project will have an affect on any listed species. A species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) website on June 21, 2007, for threatened and endangered (T&E) species potentially occurring in the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries was conducted. A determination of "No Effect" was made for federally-listed, ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat for the project.

Essential Fish Habitat: A review of the services and BPA's integrated GIS system database identified Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) the marine waters occurring near the project area. Conservation measures, including the use of BMPs to control run off and sediment and no herbicide use will be employed to avoid impacts to the shoreline environment. A determination was made that this project will have "No Effect" on EFH.

Cultural Resources: A cultural resource survey had been conducted at both substations for an unrelated project. No cultural resources were found. However, if a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work in the vicinity will be stopped and the BPA Environmental Specialist and the BPA Archeologist will be contacted.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds that (1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; (2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. This Supplement Analysis also finds the proposed actions will not affect T&E species. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Phil Smith for

Mark Martin
Environmental Engineer

CONCUR: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: July 12,2007

Attachments:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Effects Determination

bcc:
D. Atkinson
Natural Resource Specialist - TFN/Snohomish