

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 21, 2008

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-360 - Paul-Satsop No. 1 500-kV, Paul-Olympia No. 1 500-kV, and Chehalis – Olympia No. 1 230 kV Transmission Lines) PP&A Project Tracking No: **737**

TO: Jim Jellison
Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV/Olympia

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Paul – Satsop No. 1 500-kV, Paul - Olympia No. 1 500-kV, and Chehalis – Olympia No. 1 230-kV transmission line corridors.

Location: The project consists of vegetation management on transmission line corridors located within the Olympia District. The project will occur from tower 10/4 to 21/5 on the Paul-Satsop No. 1 500-kV and Paul – Olympia No. 1 500-kV, and, from tower 29/6 to 30/12 Chehalis – Olympia No. 1 230-kV located in Grays Harbor, Lewis and Thurston Counties, Washington. Right-of-way widths vary between 125 and 250 feet.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to conduct vegetation control activities that include cutting and/or chemical treatment of tall-growing and noxious vegetation from the right-of-way and access roads. The subject vegetation can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines located within the right-of-way corridor.

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

The subject corridor traverses various lands in Grays Harbor, Lewis and Thurston Counties, WA including public and private lands. No tribal lands are involved.

Section 3 of the checklist identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work. The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures.

Water Resources: Water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are listed in section 3.1 of the Vegetation Management Checklist. No ground-disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented, thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. Cut-stump herbicide application is prescribed for the project. The following herbicide conservation measures and buffers will be implemented. Outside a 100' buffer from any stream, ponds, or wetlands Triclopyr BEE (common formulations, Garlon 4 & Tahoe 4E) and Arsenal/Escort may be applied. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A & Tahoe 3A) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to the waters edge for non-T&E water bodies and up to one yard of the waters edge for any T&E-listed stream, ponds, or wetlands. No broadcast herbicide treatments are prescribed for this project.

Five drinking water sources have been identified. No herbicides will be applied within a 164 foot radius of the water sources.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project will have any effects on any listed species. A species list was reviewed from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on February 25, 2008, identifying Threatened & Endangered species and Critical Habitat Units 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 all ESA-listed species and designated critical habitat for the project. A determination of "No Effect" was made for Essential Fish Habitat waters that occur in the project area.

Cultural Resources: The Chehalis Tribe was contacted and no cultural or historic resources are known to occur in the project areas. It has been determined that this project will not effect any cultural or historic resources. If a site is discovered during the course of the project, work will be stopped in the vicinity and the appropriate tribe, the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA archeologist will be contacted.

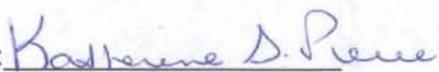
Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally, the line will be patrolled annually after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and any issues associated with the project.

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 threatened or endangered species; therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

Sincerely,



Mark W. Hermeston
Licensed Hydrogeologist (WA663)

CONCUR: 
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: March 21, 2008

Attachments:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Threatened & Endangered Species Effects Determination.