

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: March 19, 2008

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-365-McNary-Roundup, McNary Powerhouse, Lower Monumental-McNary, McNary-Badger Canyon #1 and Radar Tap Transmission Line Corridors.

**Project #: PP&A 766**

to: Bill Erickson  
Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV/Walla Walla

**Proposed Action:** Vegetation Management along the various subject transmission line corridors.

**Location:** The project areas are located in Bonneville Power Administration's Walla Walla Region, being in Umatilla, Benton and Franklin Counties as shown below.

County	Township	Range	Section(s)
Umatilla, OR	3 N.	29 E	36
Umatilla, OR	4 N	28 E	1, 12, 18
Umatilla, OR	4 N	29 E	1
Umatilla, OR	5 N	28 E	13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 26, 27, 35
Umatilla, OR	5 N	29 E	19, 20, 21, 22
Benton, WA	6 N	28 E	33, 34
Franklin, WA	14 N	29 E	13

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

**Description of the Proposal:** BPA proposes to clear unwanted tall growing and volunteer trees in the right-of-way and around tower structures that may impede the operation and maintenance of the subject transmission lines. BPA is clearing these trees to prevent them from falling or growing into the lines causing system outages. In addition, miscellaneous right-of-way (ROW) access road mowing will be conducted. BPA plans to conduct vegetation control with the goal of removing tall growing vegetation that is currently or will soon be a hazard to the transmission line. Vegetation that will grow tall will be selectively eliminated before it reaches a height or density to begin competing with low-growing species. Desirable low-growing plants will not be disturbed. Cut-stump or follow-up herbicide treatments on re-sprouting type species will be carried out to ensure that the roots are killed.

The widths of the managed ROW easements range from 80 feet to 1200 feet. All work will be accomplished by selective and non-selective vegetation control methods to assure that there is little potential harm to non-target vegetation and to low-growing plants. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards. The work will provide system reliability.

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

The subject corridor traverses residential, rural, agricultural and Federal lands.

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

**Water Resources:** Isolated wetlands and the Columbia River have been identified within ½ mile of the McNary Powerhouse line project work corridor. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented near these water bodies, minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation into these water bodies. All available herbicidal, manual and mechanical methods will be used for vegetation management. If necessary, the following herbicide buffers will be implemented for the project. Outside a 100 foot buffer from any T&E listed stream, ponds or wetlands or a 35-foot buffer from any other stream, pond or wetland, Triclopyr BEE (common formulations Garlon 4 and Tahoe 4E) may be applied. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A and Tahoe 3A) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to one yard of the waters edge for T&E listed streams, ponds or wetlands or up to the waters edge of any other water body or sensitive habitat. For any initial or follow up broadcast treatment with Triclopyr TEA on sprouting brush, a 35 foot buffer will be maintained from any stream, pond, wetland of sensitive areas. Other approved herbicides and buffers as reference in the project vegetation management checklist may also be used.

No other drinking water wells, irrigation wells or water supplies were identified along the right-of-way. However, if present, work shall be performed as outlined in the checklist.

**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 obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) web link on February 29, 2008 identifying threatened and endangered species potentially occurring in the Umatilla, Benton and Franklin County project areas. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat and Essential Fish Habitat for the project.

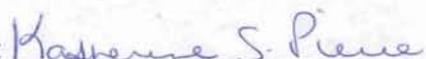
**Cultural Resources:** Tree removal or access road mowing will not affect cultural and historic resources. No soil disturbance will occur along the project corridors during this work. If any cultural resources are found during the work, work will cease until a BPA archeologist has been notified and direction given.

**Re-Vegetation:** If required, reseeding with native seeds will be accomplished using the mixes established in the checklist.

**Monitoring:** The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally the line will be routinely patrolled 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.

  
Ken Hutchinson  
Environmental Scientist

CONCUR:   
Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: March 19, 2008

Attachments:  
Vegetation Management Checklist  
Effects Determination