

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 13, 2008

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA- 372 - Elbe Tap to Alder-LaGrande 115-kV, and Lynch Creek Tap to LaGrande-Cowlitz 115 kV Transmission Line Corridors **PP&A No: 832**

TO: Jim Jellison
Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV/Olympia

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Elbe Tap to Alder-LaGrande 115-kV, and Lynch Creek Tap to LaGrande-Cowlitz 115-kV Transmission Line Corridors.

Location: The project consists of vegetation management on Elbe Tap to Alder-LaGrande 115 kV from tower 1/1 to tower 7/17, and, Lynch Creek Tap to LaGrande-Cowlitz 115-kV from tower 1/1 to tower 4/8.

The project is located in Pierce County, WA. Right of way widths vary between 25 and 90 feet.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove tall-growing and noxious vegetation from the right-of-way and access roads, and remove danger trees from off the right-of-way that can potentially interfere with the safety, operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission line. Unwanted, tall-growing, noxious vegetation, reclaim trees, and danger trees will be removed and/or controlled inside and outside of the ROW using selective and nonselective methods that may include hand-cutting, mowing, and herbicidal treatment.

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

The subject corridor traverses various lands in Pierce County, 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 the cutsheet portion of the Vegetation Control Prescription and Checklist. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the rivers, streams, and wetlands identified. Cut stump herbicide application is prescribed for the project. The following herbicide conservation measures and buffers will be implemented. Outside a 100 foot 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 three feet of the waters edge for any T&E/EFH listed stream, pond, or wetland. No broadcast herbicide treatments are prescribed for this project.

One drinking water well has 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 November 01, 2007, the list identified threatened and endangered species and Critical Habitat potentially occurring in the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of 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 Nisqually 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: May 14, 2008

Attachments:
Vegetation Control Prescription and Checklist
Threatened & Endangered Species Effects Determination.

cc:
K. Pierce – KEC-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
G. Tippetts – KEPR/Olympia
H. Adams – LC-7
D. Underwood – TFO/Olympia
R. Brady – TFOK-Chehalis
Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

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