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United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: DEC 18 2008

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-388) Shelton – Fairmount No. 4, Project #: **PP&A-1130**

TO: Jim Jellison
Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV-OLYMPIA

Proposed Action: The project area consists of the right-of-way (ROW) along the Shelton-Fairmount No. 4 transmission line corridor. Land along the corridor consists of private residential, private timber, and state owned property.

Location: The project area is located between Shelton Substation and Fairmount Substation on the BPA Shelton-Fairmount No. 4 transmission line, located in Mason and Jefferson Counties, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove tall growing and noxious vegetation from the ROW and access roads that can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Unwanted, tall growing, noxious vegetation, and reclaim trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the ROW using selective and nonselective methods that may include hand cutting, mowing, and herbicidal treatment. Vegetation management work will occur in the transmission line corridors described above. The entire easement widths of all subject lines will be managed.

Analysis: Vegetation Prescription Checklists were completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in the BPA Transmission System Vegetation Management Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0285).

Land along the corridor consists of private residential, private timber, and state owned property. The landowners will be notified of the upcoming work by letters.

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 project checklist. Trees in riparian zones will be selectively cut to include only those that are within 50 feet of the conductor at maximum sag. Trees will be topped where shrubs are not present to provide shade and a silt buffer. Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance is more than 50 feet.

No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. Only herbicides that will have "No Effect" on Pacific salmon and steelhead and their critical habitat, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and have an aquatic toxicity rating of "Practically Non-Toxic" to "Slightly Toxic," may be applied within 35 feet of water bodies and within 100 feet of streams under the jurisdiction of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Spot or localized applications may be applied up to the waters edge.

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 effect on any listed species. A current species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for threatened and endangered species potentially occurring in the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of National Oceanic and 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 NOAA database identified Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) streams occurring in the project area. Measures identified for water resources will be followed for EFH. A determination was made that this project will have no effect on essential fish habitat.

Cultural Resources: No ground disturbing activities are planned for this project which may affect the cultural resources, however, if a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be stopped in the vicinity 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 threatened or endangered species. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

Aaron Shurtliff
Environmental Engineer

CONCUR: Donald L Rew
FOR Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 12/18/08

References:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Effects Determination