

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 8, 2008

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA – 370 - St. Johns-St. Helens No.1 and St. Helens-Alston No.1, 115-kV Transmission Lines Corridor) PP&A Project Tracking No: **799**.

to: Ed Tompkins
Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV-LMT

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the St. Johns-St. Helens No.1 and St. Helens-Alston No.1 115-kV Transmission Line Corridor from St. Johns Substation to St. Helens Substation (PGE), and St Helens Substation (PGE) to Alston Substation.

Location: The project corridor is located in Multnomah and Columbia counties, Oregon and includes two separate transmission lines separated at PGE's St. Helens Substation (tap). The corridor includes two distinct transmission lines. The first transmission line runs from the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA's) St. Johns Substation located in Portland OR, extending 22 miles West-North West to PGE's St. Helens Substation located in St. Helens, OR. The second transmission line, the St. Helens-Alston No. 1 extends north from PGE's St. Helens Substation located in St. Helens, OR, 25 miles to BPA's Alston Substation located near Alston OR. The project is located in BPA's Olympia Region.

Proposed by: 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. Vegetation management work will occur between miles 2 to 22 of the St. Johns-St. Helens No. 1, and miles 1 to 25 of the St. Helens-Alston No. 1, 115-kV transmission line corridor. Vegetation management prescriptions for this transmission line corridor may be broken into separate management projects and performed in separate years. This proposal covers approximately 441 acres of land and encompasses the entire easement width of the transmission lines within the St. Johns-St. Helens No. 1 and St. Helens-Alston No. 1, 115-kV line corridor.

Analysis: A "Vegetation Control Prescription and 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 public and private lands in Multnomah and Columbia counties, Oregon. Land along the corridor consists of private municipal and rural residential areas, farming and grazing lands, private timber, a city park, and county lands.

Section 3 of the checklists 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 summarized in section 3.1 of the Vegetation Control Prescription and Checklist. Water resources are further detailed in the vegetation management prescription portion of the document. 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. No ground-disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented, thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. The following herbicide buffers will be implemented for the project. Outside a 100' buffer from any stream, ponds, or wetlands, Triclopyr BEE (common formulations, Garlon 4 & Tahoe 4E) may be applied. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A & Tahoe 3A) may be applied for spot or localized applications from 100' up to the waters edge for non-threatened and Endangered (T&E) water bodies and up to one yard of the waters edge for any T&E-listed stream, ponds, or wetlands. For any initial or follow-up broadcast, treatment with Triclopyr TEA on sprouting stumps or brush a 35' buffer will be maintained from any stream, ponds, wetlands, or sensitive areas.

One private water well was identified along the right-of-way in the project area. No herbicide application will be made within a 164-foot radius of the wellhead, as specified in the EIS. For location information, see section 3.0 of the attached Vegetation Control Prescription and checklist.

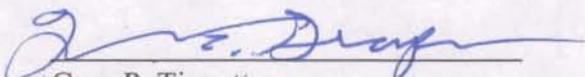
Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project will have any effects on T&E-listed species. A species list was reviewed from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Portland, Oregon office website on March 24th, 2008, identifying T&E 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 that occurs in the project area.

Cultural Resources: No cultural resources areas or issues are known to occur within the project area. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, 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,



Greg P. Tippetts
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

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

DATE: April 8, 2008

Attachments:

Vegetation Management Checklist

Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species