

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 8, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA 282 Nasselle Tap to Allston Astoria No. 1, 115 kV) Project #: **V-O-06/05**

TO: Jim Jellison
Natural Resource Specialist-TFO/Olympia

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management (Danger Tree Removal) along the Nasselle Tap to Allston Astoria No. 1, 115 kV Transmission Line Corridor from structures 5/1 to 35/1.

Location: The project line is located in Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties, Washington, from Naselle substation in Naselle WA, to Cathlamet substation in Clatskanie WA. The project is located in BPA's Olympia Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to conduct vegetation control activities that include cutting, chemical treatment, and cut lop and scatter of Danger Trees adjacent to the right of way. Danger Trees are located off of the Right of way and have been determined to pose a threat to the transmission line. The subject danger trees have a greater potential to fall into the line and interfere with the safety, reliability, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line.

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

The subject corridor traverses public and private lands in Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties Washington. Landowners include Washington State DNR, private residential, and industrial timber, properties. 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. Trees in riparian zones will be selectively cut to include only those that are within 50 feet of the conductor at maximum sag. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the water resource. The following herbicide buffers will be implemented for the project. Outside a 100' buffer from any river, stream, pond, 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 up to one yard of the waters edge for T&E listed resources and or Essential Fish Habitat resources. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A & Tahoe 3A) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to the waters edge for any other water resource.

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 30th, 2005 identifying threatened and endangered species and Critical Habitat Units 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: No cultural resources are known for 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.

/s/ Joseph C. Sharpe for

Greg P. Tippetts
Physical Scientist

CONCUR /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 2/10/2006

Attachment:
Vegetation Management Checklist

cc: