

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Bonneville Power Administration

DATE: NOV 02 2009

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (DOE/EIS-0285/SA 407) KEP Project No: **1486**. (This SA supersedes all previous SA's for the subject transmission line corridor (including DOE/EIS-0285/SA 188 & DOE/EIS-0285/SA 282).

TO: Steve Narolski – TFBV-Olympia
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation management 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, Washington, to Cathlamet Substation in Clatskanie, Oregon. The project is located in Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Longview Maintenance District.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposal: BPA plans to manage vegetation with the goal of removing tall growing vegetation that is currently or will soon become a hazard to the transmission line. New Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) standards have been adopted that decrease the allowable height of vegetation (a hazard is defined as one or more branches, tops, and/or whole trees that could fall or grow into the minimum safety zone of the transmission line(s) causing an electrical arc, relay and/or outage). BPA's overall goal is to have low-growing plant communities along the rights-of-way (ROW) to control the development of potentially threatening vegetation.

A combination of selective and nonselective vegetation control methods will be used to perform the work. All methods including selective cutting, mowing, and herbicide treatments are consistent with the methods approved in the Vegetation Management Program EIS and Record of Decision (ROD). The work will provide system reliability. Debris will be disposed of using onsite chip, lop and scatter, or mulching techniques. All on-site debris will be scattered along the ROW.

Analysis: A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in BPA's Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS and ROD.

The subject corridor traverses public and private lands in Pacific and Wahkiakum counties,

Washington. Landowners include Washington State Department of National Resources (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 55 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.

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 water's edge for threatened and endangered (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 water's 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 October 23, 2009, identifying T&E 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.



Greg P. Tippetts
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

CONCUR: Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: November 2, 2009

Attachment:

Vegetation Management Checklist (VMTS spreadsheet)

Effects Determination for: Threatened and Endangered Species and Essential Fish Habitat

cc:

K. Pierce – KEC-4

P. Smith – KEP-4

J. Sharpe – KEPR-4

H. Adams – LC-7

D. Underwood – TFO-Olympia

R. Brady – TFOK-Chehalis

Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)