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United States Government **Department of Energy**

memorandum

Bonneville Power Administration

DATE: JAN 2 7 2010

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplemental Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-419 Paul - Satsop No. 1) PP&A Project #1502

TO: Steve Narolski
Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV-DOB1

Proposed Action: Vegetation management activities along the Paul-Satsop No. 1 500-kV transmission line right-of-way (ROW) corridor and associated access roads.

Location: The ROW corridor is located in Lewis and Thurston counties, Washington, in the BPA Olympia District.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to clear unwanted vegetation along and adjacent to the transmission line corridor and access roads of the 500-kV Paul - Satsop No. 1 transmission line from Paul Substation to Olympia Substation. Other lines that are present within the corridor are the Paul - Olympia No. 1 500-kV and the Chehalis – Olympia No. 1 230-kV transmission lines. The ROW corridor in the proposed project area measures from 125 to 330 feet in width and crosses approximately 21 miles of terrain through fee-owned, private timber, rural residential, agricultural, private, county and State of Washington lands.

In order to comply with Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) standards, BPA proposes to manage vegetation with the goal of removing tall growing vegetation that is currently or will soon become a hazard to the transmission line (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). The overall goal of BPA is to establish low-growing plant communities along the ROW to control the development of potentially threatening vegetation.

A combination of selective and nonselective vegetation control methods would be used to perform the work. All methods including selective cutting, mowing, and herbicide treatments are consistent with the methods approved in BPA's Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0285, May 2000), and August 23, 2000 Record of Decision (ROD). Debris would be disposed of using on-site chip, lop and scatter, or mulching techniques. All on-site debris would be scattered along the ROW.

Analysis: A Vegetation Control Prescription & Checklist was developed for this corridor that incorporates the requirements identified in BPA's Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285). The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the

project area along with applicable mitigation measures outlined in the Vegetation Control Prescription & Checklist.

Water Resources: Water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are noted in the Vegetation Control Prescription & Checklist. As conservation and avoidance measures, only spot and basal treatment with Garlon 3A (Triclopyr TEA) would be used within a 100-foot buffer up to the water's edge of any stream containing threatened or endangered species. Trees in riparian zones would be selectively cut to include only those that will grow into the minimum approach distances of the conductor at maximum sag. Shrubs that are less than 10 feet high would not be cut where ground to conductor clearance allows. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods would be implemented, thus eliminating the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. Private water wells/springs were identified along the ROW. No herbicide application would be made within a 50 feet radius of the wellhead/spring (164 feet when using herbicides with a ground/surface water advisory). For location information, see the Vegetation Control Prescription & Checklist.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project would have any effects on any listed species. Species lists were obtained for federally listed, proposed and candidate species potentially occurring within the project boundaries from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Based on the ESA review conducted, BPA made a determination that the project would have "No Effect" for all ESA listed species under USFWS jurisdiction. BPA also conducted a review of species under the jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species under NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction.

Essential Fish Habitat: A review of the NOAA Fisheries database identified Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) streams occurring in the project area. Measures identified for water resources would be followed for EFH. A determination of "No Effect" was made for EFH 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 would be stopped in the vicinity and the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA archeologist would be contacted.

Re-Vegetation: Native grasses are present on the entire ROW and are expected to naturally seed into the areas that would have lightly disturbed soil, predominately located on the ROW roads.

Monitoring: The entire project would be inspected during the work period. Additional monitoring for follow-up treatment would be conducted as necessary. A diary of inspection results would be used to document formal inspections and will be filed with the contracting officer.

Findings:

This Supplemental 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. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

Oden W. Jahn
Environmental Scientist

CONCUR: Katherine S. Pierce DATE: January 27, 2010
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

References:
Vegetation Management Prescription and Checklist
Effects Determination