

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 6, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-14)

TO: Bill Erickson – TFP/ Walla Walla Region
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management at the Teakean Butte Microwave site.

Location: Clearwater County, ID, Walla Walla Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to remove 28 danger trees and dense brush from the microwave site in order to provide a 75 –80 foot safety buffer for fire control and Microwave Beam path. The work will protect BPA's investment at the site and provide system reliability. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

Analysis: This project meets the standards and guidelines for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

Planning Steps

1. Identify facility and the vegetation management need.

The proposed work includes removal of danger trees and dense vegetation that may affect the integrity and operation of the microwave beam path, right-of-way (ROW) and provide fire control at the Teakean Butte Microwave facility. A danger tree is any growing or dead tree located outside the right-of-way, which could, within a fifteen-year period, bend or fall on BPA facilities or microwave beam paths. Work will be done in a manner that limits or eliminates disturbance to existing areas.

The overall management scheme for this work will be to have BPA contractors fall the trees and limb them for removal by the landowner. The landowner will remove all debris and clear a 75-80 foot buffer (to bare ground) around the site. He will be in charge of slash disposal and seeding the site to an approved grass.

The site will be reviewed for needed actions to prevent brush and fuel buildup.

Future cycles of work will involve the treatments used in the previous phases of work to prevent brush and fuel buildup.

2. Identify surrounding land use and landowners/managers.

The land use around the site is timber and grazing lands. During routine patrols, tall, encroaching trees and vegetation issues are identified and marked. The local landowner is consulted and the tree/brush problems are discussed. BPA and the landowner are working together to minimize the fire hazard issue at the site. Once a plan of action is discussed and agreed upon, work will progress. Prior to any work being performed, the project manager will attempt to notify the landowner when the contractor's crews will be in their area.

3. Identify natural resources.

No streams, rivers, lakes or wetlands are located in the proposed work area.

Because of the location of the work, no other issues dealing with T&E Species, wildlife enhancement, visually sensitive areas, cultural resources or areas associated with steep slopes or canyon crossings were identified. Therefore no other natural resources issues have been identified.

Prior to the beginning of the work, the contractor will be provided with a set of the project maps, as well as with a list of management prescriptions from the Vegetation Management EIS.

4. Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.

The designated trees needing removal have been marked. Removal shall be by manual and mechanical methods. All equipment used shall be in good operating condition to eliminate oil or fuel spills or excess exhaust. All equipment will have approved spark arrestors. All stumps will be cut flat. Both conifers and deciduous trees will be cut per applicable guidelines. This impact avoidance approach both maximizes the use of limited resources and minimizes environmental impacts.

Glyphosate, triclopyr (Garlon 3A and 4), imazapyr, 2,4-d dicamba, picloram, Escort, and clopyralid may be prescribed for future cut-stump, stem-injection, basal-stem treatments, spot foliar and Broadcast treatment. All herbicides will be applied by a licensed applicator following the manufacturer's label instructions and BPA's management prescriptions. The herbicides used for vegetation management will be consistent with the Vegetation Management FEIS.

The contractor will receive a list of required mitigation measures (management prescriptions) to follow as well as a set of maps delineating the Microwave site and issues and any other sensitive resource areas.

5. *Determine revegetation methods, if necessary.*

The revegetation strategy at this time is to plant Smooth Broom, a non native perennial low growing grass used primarily to stabilize the bare soil with cover and fire protection. Smooth Broom grass has a long vegetative period which also remains green over a longer period of time over the dry season.

The seeding will begin at the completion of clearing. Follow-up will be necessary with weed control to help establish grass species.

6. *Determine monitoring needs.*

An inspector will monitor the work being performed at the time of the initial work. Follow-up inspections will be performed during routine regular patrols. Additional required work would be identified at that time. Site will be managed by the landowner.

7. *Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.*

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. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ John W. Howington

John W. Howington

Environmental Protection Specialist - KEPR

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney
 Thomas C. McKinney
 NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 6/7/2001

cc:

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Environmental File – KEC (EQ-14)

Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)