

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: December 14, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-35)

TO: James Jellison - TFO/Olympia
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1 230 kV Transmission Line ROW and the Mossy Rock–Chehalis Transmission Line ROW, between 7/1 to 27/10. The proposed work will be accomplished in the indicated sections of the transmission line corridor with an average corridor width of 162 feet.

Location: The ROW is located in Lewis County, WA, being in the Olympia Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to clear unwanted vegetation in the rights-of-ways and around tower structures that may impede the operation and maintenance of the subject transmission lines and access roads, including Reclaim and Danger Trees. BPA plans to conduct vegetation control with the goal of removing tall growing vegetation that is currently or will soon be a hazard to the transmission line. BPA's overall goal is to have low-growing plant communities along the rights-of-way to control the development of potentially threatening vegetation. All work will be executed in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards. Danger and "C" trees contract work is scheduled to begin January 1, 2002. Follow-up chemical treatment is planned to begin in the late spring of 2002.

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). The Planning steps are described in the attached checklist. See checklist.

- Vegetation herbicide treatments on sprouting-types of species ensure that the roots are killed. Prevention of re-sprouts encourages low-growing plant communities to establish themselves and flourish on the right-of-way.
- According to Richard Bellon, Chehalis Tribal culture site specialist, there are known cultural sites in the vicinity of Chehalis-Mayfield transmission line. Richard is aware of BPA's brush cutting practices on the right-of-way. He is more concerned if BPA's brush cutting activities lead to soil disturbances off of the right-of-way roads from dozing and digging from heavy equipment like a crawler tractor. If cultural sites were identified, Richard requests that BPA contact him so a survey of the site can be performed and registered with the State of Washington.

- Water resources (streams, rivers, wetlands and well) will be protected with 100-foot buffers (165 foot buffer for the well) combined with the spot application of 50/50 Accord or Garlon 3A/Water for stump treatment in the riparian zones immediately outside the buffers.
- No 'in stream' work is to take place without prior consultation with the appropriate government agencies and permits are in place.
- Herbicides will be applied by licensed applicators following manufacturers' label instructions and BPA's management prescriptions.
- Re-seeding /re-planting regimes have not been planned at this time. Low growing aggressive native vegetation within the right-of-way can naturally dominate with the elimination of tall growing vegetation.
- Beginning in the spring, 2002 the brush cutting and herbicide application program will be monitored for soil erosion and follow-up treatment, and if necessary native grass re-seeding program will be implemented.

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, unless Potential Spotted Owl or Marbled Murrelet habitat is removed.

/s/ John Howington

John Howington
Physical Scientist – KEPR-4

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 12/14/2001

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4
T. McKinney – KEC-4
M. Hermeston – KEP-4
C. Leiter – KEP-4
M. Martin – KEPR/Covington
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
P. Key – LC-7
D. Hollen – TF/DOB-1
D. Krauss – TFO/Olympia
S. Martin – TFO/Olympia
Environmental File – KEC
Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

JHowington: jh:7603:12/14/2001

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