

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: January 24, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-38)

TO: Benjamin J. Tilley – TFE/Alvey

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Wendson-Tahkenith #1 & #2 1/1-20/4, Tahkenitch-Gardiner #1/1-2/3 and Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1/1-4/2 Transmission Line ROW's. The proposed work will be accomplished in the indicated sections of the transmission line corridor with an average corridor width of 100 feet.

Location: The ROW is located in Douglas and Lane County, OR, being in the Eugene 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. A follow-up herbicide treatment will occur 6-12 months following the initial entry to eliminate resprouting noxious weeds and tall-growing species along access roads and tower sites.

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 attached checklist and cut sheet.

- Vegetation herbicide treatments on sprouting-types of species ensure that the roots are killed. Prevention of resprouts encourages low-growing plant communities to establish themselves and flourish on the right-of-way.
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians-Meeting w/ Robert Kentta, Cultural Resource Director. No areas of sensitive tribal resources identified.
- Water resources (streams, rivers, wetlands) will be protected with 35-100-foot buffers, (165 foot buffer for wells) together with the spot application of Garlon 4A (25%) WEB Oil (75%) outside the buffers.
- Threatened or endangered (T&E) animal species will be protected by avoiding all work in the recognized T&E habitat during core and late breeding seasons. Additionally T&E species will be protected by examining trees needing to be removed greater than 32in. DBH for evidence of

Marbled Murrelet or greater than 11in. DBH for evidence of Spotted Owls. If evidence is found the crew will stop work and begin formal consultation with the USFWS.

- Reseeding /replanting 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.
- No herbicides will be used in the Siuslaw National Forest.
- No 'in stream' work is to take place without prior consultation with the appropriate government agencies and proper permits in place.
- Herbicides will be applied by licensed applicators following manufacturers' label instructions and BPA's management prescriptions.

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: 1-29-02

Attachments

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4
T. McKinney – KEC-4
M. Hermeston – KEP-4
C. Leiter – KEP-4
B. Sherer – KEP -4
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
P. Key – LC-7
A. Del La Cruz – TFE/Alvey
T. Jones – TFE/Alvey
M. Newbill – TFE/Chemawa
Environmental File – KEC
Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

JHowington;jh:7603:01/24/2002

(KEP-KEPR-4-W:\EP\2002 FILES\EQ\EQ-14\FEIS-0285-SA-38-Wendson-Tahkenitch1.doc)