

memorandum

DATE: February 27, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-43)

TO: William T. Erickson - TFP/Walla Walla
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Lower Monumental – McNary 57/2 to 63/5, and Radar Tap 0/4 to 0/10 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 165 and 80 feet respectively.

Location: The ROW is located in Umatilla and Franklin County, OR, being in the Walla Walla 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 following the initial entry to eliminate re-sprouting 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.
- 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. If the soil is significantly disturbed a reseeding regime will be applied.
- Herbicides will be applied by licensed applicators following manufacturers' label instructions and BPA's management prescriptions.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation was contacted by letter and have expressed no concerns related to the Wanaket Wildlife Area, but requested BPA to stack the Russian Olive in-place for wildlife cover.

- The proposed work activities on BLM land conform to the FEIS; no environmental concerns exist in those areas.
- Water resources (streams, rivers, wetlands) will be protected with appropriate buffers, together with the selective spot/basal applications of Practically Non-Toxic to Slightly toxic herbicides.
- The proposed herbicide applications are limited to terrestrial use only and will not be applied to areas containing standing water.
- No 'in stream' work is to take place without prior consultation with the appropriate government agencies and proper permits in place.

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.

/s/ John Howington

John Howington
Physical Scientist – KEPR-4

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

DATE: 2-27-02

Attachments

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4
T. McKinney – KEC-4
M. Hermeston – KEP-4
K. Hutchinson – KEPR/Walla Walla
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
M. Johnson – TF/DOB-1
P. Key – LC-7
R. Coila– TFP/Walla Walla
M. Richardson – TFP/Walla Walla
M. Ward – TFPF/Walla Walla
Environmental File – KEC
Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

JHowington:jh:7603:02/27/2002
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