

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 31, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-58)

to: Bill Erickson – TPF/Walla Walla
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management at the Lines Creek Microwave site. The proposed work will be accomplished within the fenced area of the facility.

Location: The Lines Creek Microwave site is located at SWSW Section 33 T44N R2E within Shoshone County, Idaho, Walla Walla Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes bare ground vegetation management at the microwave site. Bare ground management is needed to prevent fire damage and maintain a vegetation free environment on the site.

All work will be executed in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards. The site will be checked 2-3 times during the growing season. Follow-up herbicide treatment will occur to eliminate any vegetation growing.

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 and Forest Service approval letter.
- Only herbicides approved by both USFS and BPA will be used at this facility.
- 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.

/s/ Shawn L. Barndt

Shawn L. Barndt

Physical Scientist – KEPR-4

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 06/12/02

Attachments



cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4

T. McKinney – KEC-4

P. Key – LC-7

M. Hermeston – KEP-4

J. Meyer – KEP –4

K. Hutchinson – KEPR/Walla Walla

J. Sharpe – KEPR-4

M. Johnson – TF/DOB-1

M. Richardson – TFE/Walla Walla

R. Coila – TFP/Walla Walla

M. Ward - TFPF/Walla Walla

Environmental File – KEC

Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

Electric Yard and Non-Electric Facility Checklist

1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

1.1 Describe facility: (More than one facility may be listed and analyzed.)

Substation/Facility Name	Size of Area to be Treated (Acres or Square Feet)	Section Township/Range	County	State
Lines Creek Microwave US Forest Service	3500 sq feet or 0.08 acres	SWSW Sec 33 T44N R2E BM	Shoshone	ID

1.2 Describe vegetation needing management:

- MICROWAVE SITE (Total vegetation management needs no further description.)

Site is in high rainfall area where vegetation can invade site in a short period of time. Bare ground vegetation management is needed to prevent fire damage and maintain a vegetation free environment on the site.

2. IDENTIFY SURROUNDING LAND USE AND LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS

2.1 List the types of landowners and land uses around your facility.

General Telephone has adjacent site. Site in on US Forest Service Land via permit # 0596-0082.

Contact is Dave Muscy 208 765-7223
 US Forest Service
 3815 Schreiber Way
 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814-8363

2.2 Determine if there is a need to notify surrounding landowners of vegetation management activities. If so, why and how?

No, FS is sole owner

2.3 List any specific measures to be taken based on surrounding landowners/use.

Site will be posted for 30 days after treatment to identify type of herbicide used and contact person for more information.

3. IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCES

3.1 List any water resources (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) near the facility. Does the substation drainage have a direct path to the water body? If yes, what measures will you take to limit potential impacts?

None

3.2 Are there wells in or near the substation? Describe the buffers that will be applied, as appropriate.

No wells or other water sources

3.3 Are there any T&E species in the area that could be affected? If yes, what measures will be taken to avoid impacts?

None Listed. Consulted with FS and there are no known rare plants in that location.
See attached:(Letter St Joe Ranger District 5/22/02)

3.4 Will herbicide treatment be occurring on any steep slopes?

No, Site is level ground

3.5 Attach drawing showing location of all required buffers.

No Buffers needed

4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS

Describe overall vegetation management scheme and schedule:

Initial: Site will be treated with Tebuthiuron (Spike) pellets after the major runoff period in the first year.

Maintain a 3x drip line buffer from all tall trees around the area.

Subsequent: The site will be checked at least 2-3 times over the growing season. If vegetation comes back, the areas will be foliar backpack, or handgun spot treatments with glyphosate, 2,4-d, Dicamba, Tryclopypyr or picloram based on the weeds present (broadleaf, grass like, or woody).

Future: The herbicides on the site should be rotated using Teuthiuron, Bromacil and possibly Hexazinone using granular broadcast, and foliar handgun methods.

- If using herbicides, use only those herbicides approved for both FS use and Bonneville use. Determine appropriate herbicides when coordinating with the appropriate Forest. For many FS regions some or all of the following list may apply:
 - Bromacil
 - Dicamba
 - Glyphosate
 - Hexazinone
 - Picloram
 - Triclopyr
 - Tebuthiuron
 - 2,4-D.

The Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS written by the Bonneville Power Administration analyzes for the effects of the above herbicide treatments. This document was developed in cooperation with the Forest Service and as such is applicable to such site on Forest Service lands.

5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION

Describe debris disposal and revegetation, if any.

None Needed

6. DETERMINE MONITORING NEEDS

Is there a need to monitor adjacent areas for potential herbicide movement/contamination? If so, describe monitoring plan.

Site will be inspected regularly over the growing season by BPA and Contractor staff. Major issues for monitoring will be whether the herbicide is working and whether it is leaching of site.

7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

- 7.1 Describe any potential project impacts or project work that are different than those disclosed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS. Describe how those differences impact natural resources and if the differences are "substantial".

None

- 7.2 Is there a need for additional NEPA documentation (i.e. Forest Service requirement, Record of Decision, supplemental EIS)? If so, attach.

Received letter from George M. Bain, District Ranger (May 22,2002) outlining approval of outlined treatments at site. Requests copies of application records. In addition, BPA will provide copy of SA and Final Checklist.