



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

December 5, 2003

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Ms. Dulane Crist
21010 157th Ave., SE
Monroe, WA 98272

Certified Mail
Return Receipts Requested
7002-2030-0000-0093-4949

RE: FOIA Request #04-002

Dear Ms. Crist:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated October 21, 2003 and designated as FOIA #04-002.

No environmental assessments or impact analyses were prepared by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) or its contractors specifically for the September 29, 2003, change in voltage of the existing Monroe/Sno-King transmission line to its design capacity of 500 kilovolts (kV), as this was an operational change of an existing facility within its design limits that was not expected to have any environmental effects.

However, two Categorical Exclusions, both of which are attached, were prepared for actions taken related to this voltage change. One Categorical Exclusion was prepared in June 2000 for the installation of the 500 kV transformer at the Sno-King Substation. The other Categorical Exclusion was prepared in July 2003 for the construction of a new three-pole transmission structure to allow the relocation of the tap for the Monroe-Sno-King transmission line from the existing 230kV Monroe-Sammamish transmission line to the existing the Echo Lake - Monroe 500 kV transmission line.

For the voltage change, no other analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has been conducted, and BPA has no other documents responsive to this request.

A map of all BPA 500kV lines in the State of Washington has been prepared and is enclosed.

No programmatic environmental assessments of 500kV lines have been prepared by BPA or its contractors, and BPA has no other documents responsive to this request.

Although not responsive to this request, BPA has located an "Environmental Statement" (ES) prepared by BPA in December 1970 for its Fiscal Year 1972 Proposed Program. This ES is one of BPA's first documents prepared under the then newly enacted NEPA. This document identifies the Monroe/Sno-King Transmission Line as "Work Underway Prior to July 1, 1970".

1970 ES, Attachment A, p. 11-12. There is no environmental analysis of the Monroe/Sno-King Transmission Line in this ES because the decisions to build and ultimately operate the Monroe/Sno-King Transmission Line with a 500 kV capacity, and to initially operate it at 230 kV, were made before the passage of NEPA on January 1, 1970. While the actual operation of the line at 500 kV is a recent event, the agency decision to do so dates back to the late 1960's with the original planning, design and construction of the line. A copy of the ES is attached for your information.

There will be no charge to fulfill your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Beraud". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert W. Beraud, Manager
Environmental Analysis – KEC

4 Enclosures:

Environmental Clearance Memorandum June 22, 2000

Environmental Clearance Memorandum July 8, 2003

Map, BPA 500 Transmission Grid: Washington Area

BPA Environmental Statement FY 1972 Proposed Program