

memorandum

DATE: February 2, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project FEIS (DOE/EIS-0344/SA-2) for Design Change for Crossing Avista Corporation's Westside Tap 230-kV Transmission Line, and Relocation and Raising of Taft-Bell Tower 98/5.

TO: Mark A. Korsness,
Project Manager, Grand Coulee-Bell No. 6 Project

Proposed Action: Design Change for Crossing Avista's Westside Tap 230-kV Line consisting of the installation of two 3-wood pole dead-end structures, and 1 tubular steel pole on BPA Right-of-Way, and the removal of a steel pole on Avista's Right-of-Way. The proposed action also includes relocating Taft-Bell Tower 98/5 ahead-on-line (AHOL) 75', and raising it 20' for line clearance of the new Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV capacitor yard.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration

Location: N. Spokane and Mead, Washington, in Spokane County

Description of Proposal: Two proposals related to the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV project are covered in this SA.

1) As part of the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV project, BPA considered several electrical design options for crossing Avista's Westside Tap 230-kV line near the Spokane River, including using a taller tower (77/4). Two options became apparent during final design after the EIS was completed. Either the new tower (77/4) would have to be over 200' tall in order to meet electrical safety requirements for adequate separation of one transmission line from the other, or Avista's Westside Tap line would need to be lowered. BPA design engineers have determined that lowering Avista's line is the best option to solve the line clearance problem. The proposal would involve rebuilding the Westside Tap line span at the crossing by adding 2 new 90' tall 3-wood pole dead-end structures and a 135' tall steel pole double circuit dead-end, all on BPA right of way (ROW). BPA would remove one of Avista's steel poles on Avista's ROW.

2) Final design for electrical clearances for Bell Substation's new 500-kV yard and new capacitor yard to be constructed for the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV project, was completed after the final EIS. The design showed that there was a line clearance problem for the existing Taft-Bell 500-kV line as it passes over the new capacitor yard. BPA proposes to move the first Taft-Bell lattice steel tower (98/5) located on the east side of the substation, 75' closer to the substation and raise its height by 20' to achieve the required electrical line clearance.

Analysis: Evaluation of the proposal to install the two 90' tall 3-wood pole dead-end structures and single 135' tall steel pole on BPA ROW, and remove one of Avista's steel poles on Avista's ROW is not a significant change or amendment to the project. There is no significant change to impact analysis or outcomes, because lowering of Avista's lines would allow the new Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV tower 77/4 to match the size and the average height of existing towers, and

match the other new towers as described in the EIS. The 77/4 tower, wood poles, and steel pole would blend in with adjacent facilities, and visual impacts would be similar to those described in the EIS. Several small additional areas of vegetation on the ROW would need to be cleared for the wood poles and the steel pole. The areas where the new wood poles and steel pole structure are to be placed are within the originally defined Area of Potential Effect, which was investigated for cultural resources during preparation of the Grand Coulee-Bell EIS. No cultural resources were present in this area. The proposed installation would fulfill the requirement for electrical safety and adequate separation of BPA's line from Avista's line.

The proposal to relocate the Taft-Bell tower 75' AHOL (to the west) on the ROW, and raise the height of the tower by 20', is not a significant change or amendment to the project. There is no significant change to impact analysis or outcomes with this proposal. The relocation would move it closer to the new capacitor yard and provide for the appropriate electrical clearance of the Taft-Bell 500-kV line as it passes over the equipment in the new capacitor yard. The proposal would increase the size of the current footprint of the tower, and a small amount of vegetation that would be cleared for construction. New footings would be excavated for the new, larger legs in order to accommodate the additional 20' of height. The relocated tower would be within the Area of Potential Effect originally defined for the expansion of the 500-kV substation and new capacitor yard in support of the Grand Coulee-Bell project. The proposed site was previously surveyed and shovel-tested. No cultural or historic properties would be affected by this proposed action. Increasing the height of the tower by 20' would not affect visual resources in this industrial area.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds that 1) the proposed action is substantially consistent with the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project FEIS (DOE/EIS-0344) and Record of Decision; and 2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Inez S. Graetzer 2/03/04

Inez S. Graetzer

Environmental Project Lead for

Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project EIS

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 2/04/04