

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: August 6, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project Final EIS  
(DOE/EIS-0332/SA-04)

TO: Theresa Berry  
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** McNary Substation office building location clarification

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Location:** Umatilla County, Oregon

**Background:** In 2002, BPA completed the McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS-0332) and issued a Record of Decision (ROD) documenting its decision to build and operate the McNary-John Day transmission line. The Final EIS included an alternative (Alternative A – Relocate Building) for a portion of the McNary-John Day transmission line between BPA's McNary Substation and the Columbia River. This alternative involved relocating an existing prefabricated office building within BPA's McNary Substation property to help accommodate the routing of the new transmission line. The 2002 ROD for the project selected this alternative.

In 2010, BPA determined that rather than relocating the existing McNary Substation office building, BPA instead would remove the existing building and replace it with an entirely new office building at a location within BPA's McNary Substation property to the west of the McNary Substation control house. The environmental review of this change in the project was documented in a Supplement Analysis (SA) to the Final EIS for the project (see DOE/EIS-0332/SA-2).

As a result of further detailed design work for the project, BPA now proposes to build the new McNary Substation office building at a different location within the McNary Substation property than was described in the 2010 SA.

**Analysis:**

The newly proposed site for the new McNary Substation office building is located approximately 600 feet east of the originally proposed location for this building. The design of the new office building at its new location would not change from what was described in the 2010 SA – i.e., an approximately 2,900 square feet single-story building that would be built slab-on-grade, with new water and sewer lines installed along the existing substation access road and a new parking area adjacent to the new building. However, because the building would now be located approximately 600 feet east of the originally proposed location, the new water and sewer lines would correspondingly increase in length by approximately 600 feet. BPA would use the same

two-foot-wide trenching and refilling methods for installing this additional length of these lines as was described in the 2010 SA.

As with the originally proposed location for the new McNary Substation office building, the new location for this building is entirely within BPA's existing McNary Substation property. Construction of the new building and associated parking lot 600 feet to the east and the slightly longer water and sewer lines would require a similar amount of clearing of predominantly disturbed grassland as previously described in the 2010 SA, with the clearance for the water and sewer lines still all along an existing access road. Disturbance of these vegetation types by the project was already considered and evaluated in the 2002 Final EIS. Areas to be disturbed by construction have been incorporated into on-going Section 106 consultation for the project and Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer concurrence has been obtained. The relocation of the new McNary Substation office building within the existing substation property thus does not represent a significant change in the project relevant to environmental concerns.

**Findings:** This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) the proposed location clarification does not represent a substantial change to the McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project that is relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) this clarification is not new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns regarding the project or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Stuart Hugill, for:

Laura Roberts  
Biological Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

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