

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 9, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-255 Franklin-Walla Walla Transmission Line) **Project #: V-P-05/04**

TO: Bill Erickson
Natural Resource Specialist – TFP/Walla Walla

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Franklin-Walla Walla 115 kV
Transmission Line Corridor from Structures 7/3 +225 to 8/5 + 650.

Location: The project area is located in Walla Walla County, WA being in Bonneville Power
Administration's Walla Walla Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to clear unwanted vegetation in the access roads
and around tower structures that may impede the operation and maintenance of the subject
transmission line. The width of the ROW easement is 60 feet. BPA plans to conduct vegetation
control with the goal of removing growing vegetation that is currently encumbering access of the
transmission line. All work will be in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and
BPA standards.

Listed noxious weeds are present in the ROW. A cooperative effort to control noxious weeds is
also proposed with the landowners and the Walla Walla County Noxious Weed Control board.
These listed noxious weeds are non-native species that need to be controlled to prevent any
additional spread of these weeds and encroachment of habitat for native species on the right-of-
way. These noxious weeds will be controlled using an Integrated Vegetation Management
Approach using a combination of manual, mechanical, herbicidal and biological methods.

Analysis: A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for the project corridor in
accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations
Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

The subject corridor traverses the McNary Wildlife Refuge and is managed by the US Fish and
Wildlife Service.

As identified in Section 3 of the checklist, the natural resources present in the area of the
proposed work may include areas of intermittent water flow due to runoff or irrigation. At this
time there are none identified in the project corridor. If water is present during the vegetation
management activities, measures as outlined in the attached checklist will be followed to avoid
impacts. No other natural resources have been identified in the work corridor.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project will have any effects on any listed species. A species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on March 4, 2005, identifying threatened and endangered species potentially occurring in the project area. The list was assigned Reference #1-9-05-SP-0141. A determination of No Effect was made for all ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project and for Essential Fish Habitat.

Cultural Resources: BPA has conducted 106 consultations with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) the Yakima Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, the Nez Perce Tribe, the USF&W Service and the Bureau of Reclamation on a parallel project. A pedestrian cultural survey was conducted in February 2005 and no previously unrecorded sites were found. In a letter dated March 24, 2005, the SHPO concurred with BPA's determination that no historic properties would be affected. Since there will be no ground disturbing activities associated with the vegetation management work, with the work being located in the same prism of the parallel work, the vegetation management work will have No Effect on cultural properties.

Re-vegetation: Re-vegetation needs will be determined onsite. Any areas identified with limited ground cover will be reseeded using native seed mixtures. The seeding will be completed when there is enough moisture to allow 2 months of growth. This work is expected to take place in early and late fall or late winter.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during treatment. In addition, the site will be inspected during routine BPA ground and aerial patrols as well as yearly observation patrols by local Weed Board members.

Findings: 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. This Supplement Analysis also finds the proposed actions will not affect threatened or endangered species. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Joseph Sharpe for
 Ken Hutchinson
 Environmental Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
 Kathy S. Pierce
 NEPA Compliance Officer (acting)

DATE: 5/12/05

Attachments:
 Vegetation Management Checklist
 Effects Determination

cc:

K. Pierce – KEC-4

P. Smith – KEP-4

J. Meyer – KEP-4

J. Sharpe – KEPR-4

K. Hutchinson – KEPR/Walla Walla

H. Adams – LC-7

J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2

R. Duncan – TFP/Walla Walla

M. Richardson – TFP/Walla walla

G. Wilfong – TFPF/Pasco

Environmental File – KEC-4

Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

Khutchinson:kh:4722:5/5/2005 (KEP-KEPR/WALLA WALLA-W:\EP\2005 FILES\EQ-14-Supplement Analysis\FEIS-0285-SA-255-Franklin-Walla Walla7_3 to 8_5.doc)