

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 9, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
: (DOE/EIS-0285/SA 297- Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1, 230 kV and Mossy Rock-Chehalis No. 1, 230 kV) **Project #: V-O-06/12**

TO: Jim Jellison
Natural resource specialist– TFO/Olympia

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1, 230 kV and Mossy Rock-Chehalis No. 1, 230 kV Transmission Line Corridors from Chehalis Substation heading east to Silver Creek and Mossy Rock substations.

Location: The project transmission line corridors are located in Lewis county Washington, from Chehalis substation located in Napavine WA, extending approximately 27 miles east to Mossy Rock Substation located in Mossy Rock, WA and Silver Creek Substation located in Silver Creek, WA. The project is located in BPA's Olympia Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove tall growing and noxious vegetation from the right of way and access roads that can potentially interfere with the safety, reliability, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line. Unwanted, tall growing, and noxious vegetation, and reclaim trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the ROW using selective and nonselective methods that may include hand cutting, mowing, and herbicidal treatment. Vegetation management work will occur between miles 1 to 22 of the Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1, and miles 7/1 to 27/10 of the Mossy Rock-Chehalis No. 1 transmission line corridors. The subject transmission lines occupy a common easement corridor from mile 11/8 of the Mossy Rock-Chehalis No. 1 west to Chehalis. This proposal covers approximately 551 acres of land and encompasses the entire easement widths of the transmission lines within the Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1, 230 kV, and the Mossy Rock-Chehalis No. 1, 230 kV line corridors. All work will be conducted in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards.

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

The subject corridor traverses public and private lands in Lewis county Washington. Landowners include private residential, agricultural, and private industrial timber. No tribal lands are involved.

Section 3 of the checklist identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work. The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures.

Water Resources: Water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are listed in section 3.1 of the Vegetation Management Checklist. Trees in riparian zones will be selectively cut to include only those that are within 50 feet of the conductor at maximum sag. Trees will be topped where shrubs are not present to provide shade and a silt buffer. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. The following herbicide buffers will be implemented for the project. Outside a 100' buffer from any stream, ponds, or wetlands Triclopyr BEE (common formulations, Garlon 4 & Tahoe 4E) may be applied. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A & Tahoe 3A) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to the water's edge. For any initial or follow up broadcast treatment with Triclopyr TEA on sprouting stumps or brush a 35' buffer will be maintained from any stream, ponds, wetlands, or sensitive areas.

Three water supply wells were identified along or in the immediate area of the right of way. No herbicide application will be made within a 164-foot buffer of the wells as specified in the EIS. For location information see section 3.2 of the attached project checklist.

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. Species lists were reviewed from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on May 3rd, 2006, identifying threatened and endangered species and Critical Habitat Units potentially occurring in the project area. In addition a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project. No waters characterized as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) occur in the project area therefore the project will not have an effect on EFH.

Cultural Resources: The Chehalis Tribe has known cultural sites in the vicinity of Chehalis-Mayfield transmission line according to Richard Bellon, Chehalis Tribal culture site specialist. Richard is aware of BPA's brush cutting practices on the right-of-way. He is more concerned if BPA's brush cutting activities leads to soil disturbances off of the right-of-way roads from dozing and digging from heavy equipment like a crawler tractor. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be stopped in the vicinity and the appropriate tribe, the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA archeologist will be contacted.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally the line will be patrolled annually after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and any issues associated with the project.

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 C. Sharpe for _____
Greg P. Tippetts
Physical Scientist

CONCUR /s/ Katherine S. Pierce _____
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 05/17/06

Attachments:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Endangered Species Effects Determination.