

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 27, 2006

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA 321- Shelton-Fairmount No. 4, **Project #: V-O-07/02**)

TO: Jim Jellison –
Natural resource specialist TFO-Olympia

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Shelton-Fairmount No. 4, 230 kV Transmission Line Corridor from Shelton Substation heading North to Fairmount Substation.

Location: The project line is located in Mason and Jefferson counties Washington, from Shelton substation located in Shelton WA, extending 60 miles north to Fairmount Substation located near Discovery Bay 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, operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission line. Unwanted, tall growing, noxious vegetation, reclaim trees, and Danger trees will be removed and/or controlled inside and outside of 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 60 of the Shelton-Fairmount No. 4, 230 kV transmission line. Vegetation management prescriptions for this transmission line corridor may be broken into separate management projects and performed in separate years. This proposal covers approximately 1735 acres of land and encompasses the entire easement width of the transmission lines within the Shelton-Fairmount No. 4, 230 kV line corridor.

Analysis: A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for each project (two) along this 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 public and private lands in Mason and Jefferson counties Washington. Land along the corridor consists of private residential, private timber, industrial timber, Washington State DNR, and USFS-managed lands.

Section 3 of the checklists 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.

Several private water wells/springs were identified along the right of way. No herbicide application will be made within a 164-foot radius of the wellhead/spring or watershed 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. A species list was reviewed from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on October 20th, 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. A determination of "No Effect" was made for Essential Fish Habitat waters that occur in the project area.

Cultural Resources: No cultural resources are known for the project area. Kathy Duncan, the Cultural Resource Manager for the Jamestown Klallam tribe is not aware of any cultural sites on this transmission corridor. 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/ James M. Kehoe (for)

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 11/1/06

Attachments:

Vegetation Management Checklist
Endangered Species Effects Determination.