

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 2, 2007

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-329) McNary – Coyote Springs and Coyote Springs – Slatt,
Project #: V-P-07/03

TO: Bill Erickson
Natural Resource Specialist – TFP-WALLA WALLA

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management will be performed along the McNary – Coyote Springs No. 1 500 kV Transmission Line Corridor, between structure 15/1 and Coyote Springs Substation; and along the Coyote Springs – Slatt No. 1, 500 kV Transmission Line Corridor, between Coyote Springs Substation and structure 5/2.

Location: The project line is located in Morrow County, Oregon and is located in BPA's Walla Walla 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 operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. 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 in the transmission line corridors described above. The entire easement widths of all subject lines will be managed. The total project area consists of approximately 575 acres. Approximately one mile of access road will need to be managed as part of this project.

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 rural agricultural and grazing land. The subject corridor also traverses Port of Morrow Land. The Landowners will be notified of the upcoming work by letters.

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. Shrubs will not be cut that are less than 10 feet high where ground to conductor clearance is more than 50 feet.

Low pressure ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. Herbicides with an aquatic toxicity rating of “Practically Non-Toxic” to “Slightly Toxic” may be applied within 35 foot buffer for non ESA streams and 100 feet for ESA streams. Spot or localized applications may be applied up to the waters edge.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether the proposed project will have an effect on any listed species. A current species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for threatened and endangered species 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 federally listed ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project.

Essential Fish Habitat: A review of NOAA database identified Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) streams occurring in the project area. Measures identified for water resources will be followed for EFH. A determination was made that this project will have no effect on essential fish habitat.

Cultural Resources: No ground disturbing activities are planned for this project which may affect the cultural resources, however, if a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be stopped in the vicinity and the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA archeologist will be contacted.

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/ Oden Jahn

Oden W. Jahn
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

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

DATE: 02-05-07

Attachments:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Effects Determination
cc:
K. Pierce– KEC-4