

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: November 15, 2007

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA 348- Chehalis-Raymond No. 1, Chehalis-Olympia No. 1, Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1, Chehalis-Centralia No. 2, Chehalis-Covington No. 1, and the Raymond-Cosmopolis No. 1 transmission line corridors.) KEP Project Tracking No: **621**

TO: Jim Jellison
Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV/Olympia

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management (Reclaim and Danger Tree falling) along the Chehalis-Raymond No. 1, Chehalis-Olympia No. 1, Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1, Chehalis-Centralia No. 2, Chehalis-Covington No. 1, and the Raymond-Cosmopolis No. 1 transmission line corridors.

Location: The project consists of Reclaim or Danger tree removal at several distinct locations along five separate transmission line corridors located within the Olympia District. The lines and mile sections are: the Chehalis-Raymond No. 1, 115-kV mile 4/1 to 19/1, Chehalis-Olympia No. 1, 230-kV mile 1/1 to 29/5, Chehalis-Mayfield No. 1, 115-kV mile 11/4 to 11/5, Chehalis-Centralia No. 2, 69-kV mile 11/5 to 11/6, the Chehalis-Covington No. 1, 230-kV mile 31/2 to 31/3, and the Raymond-Cosmopolis No. 1, 115-kV mile 1/1 to 1/4. The transmission lines are located in one or more of the following counties, Lewis, Pacific, and/or Thurston Counties, WA.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to conduct vegetation control activities that include cutting and or chemical treatment of Reclaim and or Danger Trees on or adjacent to the transmission line right of way. Reclaim or “C” trees are trees within the transmission line right of way easement. Danger trees “DT’s” are trees outside the Right of way easement that have been determined to pose a threat to the transmission line. The subject DT’s were assessed by BPA professional foresters and were determined to fit one or more of the criteria for identifying trees with a greater potential to fall into the line. Trees being removed are generally along or just outside of the fringes of the right of way boundary. Most project sites require the removal of 1 to 2 trees. Several sites will require that larger amounts of trees be removed. The subject trees can potentially interfere with the safety, operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission line located within the transmission line right of way corridors.

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 corridors traverse public lands in Lewis, Pacific, and Thurston Counties, WA land along the corridors consist of private residential, private agricultural, private timber, and Washington State DNR properties. 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. No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. Cut stump herbicide application is prescribed for the project. The following herbicide conservation measures and buffers will be implemented. 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 waters edge for non-T&E water bodies and up to one yard of the waters edge for any T&E listed stream, ponds, or wetlands. No broadcast herbicide treatments are prescribed for this project.

No private water wells/springs were identified along the right-of-way that could be affected by the project.

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 29th, 2007, 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 or historic resources are known to occur in the project areas. It has been determined that this project will not effect any cultural or historic resources. If a site is discovered during the course of the project, 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.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph C. Sharpe (for)

Greg P. Tippetts

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

CONCUR: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: November 15, 2007

Attachments:

Vegetation Management Checklist

Threatened & Endangered Species Effects Determination.