

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 13, 2008

REPLY TO KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA -371 Chehalis-Centralia No. 1, 69 kV, and, Chehalis-Centralia No. 2, 115 kV Transmission Line Corridors **PP&A No: 831**

TO: Jim Jellison
Natural Resource Specialist – TFBV/Olympia

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Chehalis-Centralia No. 1, 69 kV, and Chehalis-Centralia No. 2, 115 kV Transmission Line Corridors.

Location: The project consists of vegetation management on the Chehalis-Centralia No. 1, 69 kV, from tower 6/2 to 12/4, and, Chehalis-Centralia No. 2, 115 kV from tower 10/5 to 15/9. The transmission corridors are between 50 and 100 feet wide. The project is located within the Olympia District, Lewis County, WA.

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, and remove danger trees from off the right-of-way 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.

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 various lands in Lewis County, WA including public and private lands. 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) and Arsenal/Escort 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-

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 steam, ponds, or wetlands. No broadcast herbicide treatments are prescribed for this project.

One drinking water source has been identified. No herbicides will be applied within a 164-foot radius of the water sources.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat: Pursuant to its obligations 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 February 25, 2008, 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: The Chehalis Tribe was contacted and 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,



Mark W. Hermeston
Licensed Hydrogeologist (WA663)

CONCUR: 
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: May 13 2008

Attachments:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Threatened & Endangered Species Effects Determination.