

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: February 27, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-41)

to: William Erickson – TPF/Walla Walla
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management around wood poles in Transmission Line ROW's in the Walla Walla Region (see attached checklist for identification). The proposed work will be accomplished in the indicated sections of the transmission line corridors with the easement width ranging from 0 to 200 feet.

Location: The ROWs are located in Walla Walla Region (see checklist).

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to clear unwanted vegetation around wood poles and switch platforms. The vegetation clearing around wood poles is for fire protection. Over the last 3 years, BPA has been able to increase reliability and reduce losses due to rangeland fires by applying a soil residual herbicide as a wood pole fire treatment around wood pole structures which provide a 10 to 15 foot vegetation free area at our structure sites. It is estimated that over 200 structures have been saved in areas where this program has been implemented. The need to implement this Program on BPA is beneficial due to the increased reliability and the reduction of costs due to structure replacement.

Line sectionalizing switches are located on transmission towers that redirect electricity on the right-of-way. It is required for the area below the sectionalizing switch platform to be kept completely clear of vegetation.

All work will be executed in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code and BPA standards. Follow-up herbicide treatment will occur during routine patrols to eliminate any vegetation growing within 10 to 15 feet of the wood poles.

Analysis: This project meets the standards and guidelines for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Planning steps are described in the attached checklist. See attached checklist and cut sheet.

- Soil residual herbicides will be applied to wood pole structures to reduce fuels to prevent fire damage during wildfires.
- Umatilla Indian Reservation – Will consult with Tribe and use standard practices.

- No herbicides will be applied in ROWs controlled by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) until approval from each agency.
- Water resources (streams, rivers, wetlands) and threatened or endangered (T&E) animal species located within the water resources will be protected with 35-100-foot buffers, (165 foot buffer for wells).
- Herbicides will be applied by licensed applicators following manufacturers' label instructions and BPA's management prescriptions.

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. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shawn L. Barndt

Shawn Barndt

Physical Scientist – KEPR-4

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 2/27/02

Attachments

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4

T. McKinney – KEC-4

M. Hermeston – KEP-4

J. Meyer – KEP -4

K. Hutchinson – KEPR/Walla Walla

J. Sharpe – KEPR-4

P. Key – LC-7

M. Johnson – TF/DOB-1

R. Coila – TFP/Walla Walla

M. Richardson – TFE/Walla Walla

M. Ward - TFPF/Walla Walla

Environmental File – KEC

Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

SBarndt:sb:5351:02/27/2002

(KEP-KEPR-4-W:\EP\2002 FILES\EQ\EQ-14\FEIS-0285-SA-41woodpolesWallaWalla.doc)