

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 20, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the System Operation Review EIS (DOE/EIS-0170/SA-1)

TO: Anthony G. White – PGPL-5
Public Utility Specialist and
Secretary, United States Entity

Proposed Action:

Non-Treaty Storage Agreement (NTSA) – Contract Extension, Contract Number DE-MS79-90BP92754.

Proposed By:

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and B.C. Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro).

Location:

British Columbia, Canada.

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA and BC Hydro propose to extend the existing NTSA for a period of one year.

Analysis:

On July 5, 1990, BPA and BC Hydro signed the NTSA, which expanded the amount of non-Treaty storage space available in Canada and extended the then-existing agreement from 1993 to 2003, with an expiration of June 30, 2003. On July 9, 1990, the United States and Canadian Entities (under the Columbia River Treaty) signed an Entity Agreement relating to the use of the Columbia River non-Treaty storage and specifying that the July 5, 1990 Agreement was in effect. The NTSA provides the flexibility to more effectively use existing storage space in Canada. The NTSA does not require any particular operation of the storage space but provides for both BPA and BC Hydro to store and release water within existing downstream requirements.

BPA prepared the Non-Treaty Storage Agreement Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA-0451, June 1990) and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on June 25, 1990. The Environmental Assessment (EA) and FONSI were followed by an Administrator's Record of Decision (ROD) in July 1990. Subsequently, the NTSA was considered within the scope of the System Operation Review (SOR) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, November 1995. This SOR EIS assessed operations of the 14 Federal dams and reservoirs on the Columbia and lower Snake Rivers. BPA's February 21, 1997 ROD selected the system operating strategy (SOS) that was identified as the preferred alternative in the SOR Final EIS. This SOS adopted operations recommended in the Biological Opinions on the Operation of the Federal Columbia River Power

System and the Kootenai White Sturgeon. Non-Treaty storage has had, and continues to have, an important role in BPA's efforts to achieve flow targets set in these Biological Opinions.

Since the NTSA went into effect, the additional storage space in Canada has been used to benefit both power and non-power purposes, including helping to achieve flow targets set in the Biological Opinions. The proposed one-year extension would continue to provide this flexibility, and help maintain the status quo while BPA and BC Hydro move forward with creating a mutually beneficial agreement for 2004 and beyond.

Findings:

This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed one-year extension of the NTSA will not result in any substantial changes to the SOS that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the SOS or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce 6-20-2002

Katherine S. Pierce
Environmental Specialist
Environment, Fish and Wildlife

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 6-20-2002

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