

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: April 23, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
DOE/EIS-0285/SA-08

TO: Don Atkinson – TFN/Snohomish
Natural Resource Specialist

Proposed Action: Clearing C-trees along the south side of the right-of-way.

Location: Raver - Covington Line 1, between towers 6/5 and 7/2. Work will be performed in the State of Washington.

Proposed by: BPA Snohomish Region.

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).

Planning Steps

1. Identify facility and the vegetation management need.

The project involves controlling all tall growing trees (C-Trees) within the right-of-way. All work is to be done on the south side of centerline. Target vegetation is the tall growing Firs along the edge of the ROW, all of which is located within the back yards of the property owners along the right-of-way.

The density of vegetation is low and consists of C-Trees located within backyards, with the branches growing towards the lines. Due to lack of access and past verbal agreements with the landowners, permission/agreement has been difficult to obtain from the property owners. Permission has now been obtained to remove the C-Trees within their back yards which, will soon be a hazard to our transmission line facility.

We are working with the landowners to get them to plant low growing scrubs and ornamentals within the right-of-way and adjacent to the right-of-way. A follow up herbicide treatment is not planned because the trees being cut will not re-sprout.

This right-of- way or project area is on a three to four year maintenance schedule. Little or no treatment should be required in the immediate future.

2. Identify surrounding land use and landowners/managers.

The project area is located within a residential area. There are fourteen landowners within the project area. Letters were sent to them on February 16th, 2001. The landowners were given 60 days to respond to this project, per the Easement agreement, Doc. VC 503. Most of the landowners have contacted BPA concerning any special attention required within their yards. A map of each property is on file to include instructions for each landowner. Agreement has been made with the landowners to cut the trees and to chip all debris that can not be used for firewood. There is no casual informal use of the right-of-way other than that by the individual property owners.

There are no other potentially affected publics.

3. Identify natural resources.

No streams, rivers, lakes or wetlands are located in the proposed work area. According to the Washington State Natural Heritage database, no potential resources within the project area have been found. No streams, sensitive plants or T&E critical habitat located are within the project area.

4. Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.

The C-Trees in the project area will be cut using chain saws. The limbs and tops will be chipped and the bole of the trees left for firewood per the land owners request. No herbicide use is planned for this project.

The disposal method is as stated in paragraph 4 above, the limbs and tops will be chipped and the boles left for the landowners.

5. Determine re-vegetation methods, if necessary.

There will be little or no soil disturbance. Therefore unless requested by the landowner after the trees have been felled and the debris cleaned up no reseeding or planting is planned for this project.

6. Determine monitoring needs.

The project will be monitored during and after completion to determine its effectiveness, and to evaluate any environmental impacts. Should any impacts be found they would be mitigated for.

7. *Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.*

This memo provides an overview of site specific details regarding this project. There are no potential project impacts or project work that are different than those disclosed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS. Any subsequent information received from landowners will be incorporated.

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/ Mark A. Martin

Mark A. Martin

Environmental Scientist - KEPR

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 4/25/01

cc:

K. Nakata – DOE/EH-42

T. McKinney – KEC-4

J. Meyer – KEP-4

M. Martin – KEPR/Covington

J. Sharpe – KEPR-4

P. Key – LN-7

D. Hollen – TF/DOB1

L. Alvarez – TFN/Snohomish

S. Davis – TFN/Snohomish

R. Sweet – TFNF/Snohomish

Environmental File – KEC-4 (EQ-14)

Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)