

memorandum

DATE: April 18, 2017

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: EPR/Olympia

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (DOE/EIS-0285/SA 661)

TO: Lee Webb
TLM Lineman Foreman III – TFOF-Olympia

Proposed Action: Danger Tree removal adjacent to the Shelton-Fairmount No. 4 transmission lines corridor from structures 45/1 to 45/3.

Pollution Prevention and Abatement Project Number: 3601

Location: Jefferson County, Washington in Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Olympia Maintenance District. The project is located within the following coordinates; T26N, R2W, Sec12.

Proposed by: BPA

Description of the Proposal: In order to comply with Western Electricity Coordinating Council standards and to help provide system reliability, BPA proposes to remove 150 danger trees directly adjacent to the right-of-way boundary of the Shelton-Fairmount No. 4 transmission line. The trees are located on the west side of the ROW between structures 45/1 to 45/3. The fringe of trees was left after a timber harvest by the previous land owner (the land is now owned by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources). The row of fringe trees now presents a hazard to the transmission line as they are more exposed to wind and vulnerable to blow down. (A hazard is defined as one or more branches, tops, and/or whole trees that could fall or grow into the minimum safety zone of the transmission line causing an electrical arc, relay and/or outage). The trees will be felled, bucked into log lengths, and transported to a local mill. All onsite debris would be scattered within the tree fringe area.

Analysis: This project meets the standards and guidelines for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0285, May 2000) and ROD. A Vegetation Management Control Prescription and Checklist were completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in BPA's Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS and ROD. The subject corridor is traverses Washington State DNR lands in Jefferson County Washington. The Washington DNR acquired the property after the timber harvest occurred. No tribal lands are involved. The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures outlined in the Vegetation Control Prescription & Checklist.

Water Resources: No Water resources (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occur within the influence of the project area. No herbicides will be applied as part of this project.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project would have any effects on any listed species. A species list was obtained for federally listed, proposed and candidate species potentially occurring within the project boundaries from the United States Fish and

Wildlife Service (USFWS). Based on the ESA review conducted, BPA made a determination that the project would have “No Effect” for all ESA-listed species under USFWS’ jurisdiction.

BPA conducted a review of ESA-listed species and Essential Fish Habitat (as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Act), under the jurisdiction of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The proposed vegetation management activities are within the scope of activities and action area evaluated in the *Endangered Species Act Section 7 Programmatic Conference and Biological Opinion and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species to Administer Maintenance or Rebuild Projects for Transmission Line and Road Access Actions Authorized or Carried Out by the Bonneville Power Administration in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho* (SLOPES PBO) (WCR-2014-1600, September 22, 2016). It was determined that no species or habitat under the jurisdiction of NMFS and covered under the SLOPES PBO are located within the project boundary or influenced by the project.

Cultural Resources: No cultural resources are known to occur within the project area; additionally no ground disturbing activities are planned for this project that could potentially affect unknown cultural resources. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, 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.

/s/ Joseph Sharpe for

Greg P. Tippetts

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

CONCUR: /s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: April 18, 2017

Attachments:

Vegetation Control Prescription & Checklist

Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species and Essential Fish Habitat