

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: May 27, 2003

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS  
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-158-Addition of Use Area to List of Approved Herbicides.

TO: All Facility Management Specialists  
All Natural Resource Specialists

**Proposed Action:** The herbicide mixture bromacil + diuron (equivalent to Weed Blast<sup>®</sup>) is being proposed for use in non-electric areas for total vegetation management.

**Location:** Systemwide.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

**Description of the Proposal:** BPA proposes to add an area/facility where previously approved herbicides can be used for total vegetation management. This proposal would add the use of a bromacil + diuron mixture at the following non-electric facilities: radio/microwave sites, maintenance yards, and the grounds surrounding radio/microwave sites, electric yards, and maintenance facilities that require total vegetation management.

**Analysis:** The herbicide mixture bromacil + diuron has been previously analyzed in the FEIS for use rights-of-ways and electric yards. Nine chemicals are currently approved for use at non-electric facilities. The approved chemicals are mainly used for selective vegetation management such as landscaping and noxious weed control as well as total vegetation management in parking lots, etc. The addition of the bromacil + diuron mixture allows total vegetation management in these areas but with less impact than discussed in the FEIS. The herbicide mixture (equivalent to Weed Blast<sup>®</sup>) is a granular-applied herbicide. As such, the mixture does not pose a threat from drift and does not require the use of an adjuvant. As analyzed in the FEIS the mixture poses slight toxicity to human health and terrestrial mammal and avian species. The mixture can be moderately toxic to aquatic species, however, this mixture is for use in upland areas only. Upland areas are described as greater than 150 feet from any surface waters.

## **Planning Steps:**

### ***1. Identify facility and the vegetation management need.***

This proposal would add the use of a bromacil + diuron mixture at the following non-electric facilities: radio/microwave sites, maintenance yards, and the grounds surrounding radio/microwave sites, electric yards, and maintenance facilities that require total vegetation management. Certain facilities (listed above) require total vegetation management to preserve existing entrance roads, parking lots, building site surrounds, and wildfire buffers.

**2. *Identify surrounding land use and landowners/managers and any conservation and avoidance.***

Most sites are fee-owned by BPA, however, there may be certain sites that are operated under agreement with various private landowners and governmental organizations. Adjacent landowners could include all those listed above including tribal nations.

Landowners, where applicable, and adjacent landowners will be contacted (letters, personal contact, door hangers, etc.) by BPA before and during the project. Any input received may be incorporated into the conservation and avoidance measures listed below.

**3. *Identify natural resources and any conservation and avoidance.***

**Conservation and avoidance measures:**

Do not apply this mixture to any riparian area.

Do not apply this mixture to sites where surface drainage may impact adjacent lands, including riparian areas.

Do not use in any irrigation conveyance whether wet or dry.

Do not use on any croplands or grazing lands.

**T&E Species:**

Do not apply this mixture in the presence of any terrestrial mammal or avian T&E species without further consultation.

Do not apply this mixture to any riparian area, or, where surface drainage may impact riparian areas.

**4. *Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.***

Not applicable. This SA describes areas currently under total/partial vegetation management control with other chemicals.

**5. *Determine re-vegetation methods, if necessary.***

Not applicable. This SA describes areas currently under total/partial vegetation management control with other chemicals.

**6. *Determine monitoring needs.***

The project will be inspected during the work period, and again in early summer to determine vegetation management effectiveness and revegetation needs. The line will be patrolled annually after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment measures.

7. *Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.*

**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 or ESA documentation is required.

/s/ Mark W. Hermeston  
Mark W. Hermeston  
Physical Scientist (Environmental)  
Licensed Hydrogeologist (WA 663)

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

DATE: 05/29/2003

Attachment

cc:  
All TF Resource Management Specialists  
All KEPR  
L. Croff – KEC-4  
T. McKinney – KEC-4  
J. Meyer – KEP-4  
P. Key – LC-7  
J. Hilliard – T-DITT2  
D. Hollen – TF/DOB-1  
Environmental File – KEC-4  
Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

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