



Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PROGRAM

March 25, 2019

In reply refer to: FOIA #BPA-2019-00619-F

Jerome Berryhill

(b) (6)

Email: (b) (6)

Dear Mr. Berryhill,

Thank you for your interest in the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). We have received your request for records under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552). Your request was received on March 15, 2019, and has been assigned Department of Energy (DOE) control number BPA-2019-00619-F. Please use this number in any correspondence with the agency about your request.

Request

“A document found on BPA's website https://www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/NEPADocuments/nepa/Vegetation_Management/pdf/FEIS-0285-SA-705-Marion-Alvey-No.-1-Access-Road.pdf contains the following text;

"To comply with Western Electricity Coordinating Council standards, BPA proposes to manage vegetation with the goal of removing tall-growing vegetation that is currently or will soon become a hazard to the transmission line (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(s) causing an electrical arc, relay and/or outage)."

My request is for 1) The Western Electricity Council Standards mentioned herein [and] 2) BPA's definition of the "minimum safety zone" of a transmission line.”

Acknowledgement

BPA has reviewed your request and has determined that it fulfills all of the criteria of a proper request under the FOIA and DOE FOIA regulations at Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1004.

Response

The information you seek is publicly available. Links to that information are provided below:

1. **Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) Standards** – Section 215 of the Federal Power Act requires the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) to develop mandatory and enforceable reliability standards in the United States. In 2006, the Federal

Energy Regulatory Commission granted ERO designation to the National Electric Reliability Council (NERC). WECC is responsible for compliance monitoring and enforcement of NERC standards. The standard you seek is a NERC facilities design, connections, and maintenance (FAC) standard, *FAC-003-4, Transmission Vegetation Management*, and is available at the following link:

<http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/ReliabilityStandards/FAC-003-4.pdf>

- 2. BPA Safety Zone Requirements** – BPA’s Vegetation Management office is responsible for keeping a safe distance between high-growing vegetation and nearby power lines. Details about BPA vegetation safety zones are published on BPA’s website at:

<https://www.bpa.gov/PublicInvolvement/Vegetation-Management/Pages/Vegetation-Management.aspx>.

Fees

There are no fees associated with the response to your request.

Certification

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.7(b)(2), I am the individual responsible for the information release described above. Your FOIA request BPA-2019-00619-F is now closed with all available agency records and information provided.

Appeal

The adequacy of the search may be appealed within 90 calendar days from your receipt of this letter pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Appeals should be addressed to:

Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals
HG-1, L’Enfant Plaza
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585-1615

The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. You may also submit your appeal by e-mail to OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov, including the phrase “Freedom of Information Appeal” in the subject line. (The Office of Hearings and Appeals prefers to receive appeals by email.) The appeal must contain all the elements required by 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either (1) in the district where you reside, (2) where you have your principal place of business, (3) where DOE’s records are situated, or (4) in the District of Columbia.

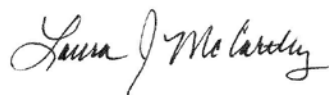
You may contact BPA’s FOIA Public Liaison, Jason Taylor, at 503.230.3537, jetaylor@bpa.gov, or the address on this letter header for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Phone: 202-741-5770
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
Fax: 202-741-5769

Thank you again for your interest in the Bonneville Power Administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura J. McCarthy".

Laura J. McCarthy
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Officer