

**MINOR CHANGE TO A CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION
CD-11-10-G**

**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
BIG EDDY-KNIGHT TRANSMISSION PROJECT
COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA
JANUARY 23, 2012**

REQUEST

In accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) needs to provide airway markings for the Columbia River transmission line crossing. Working with the FAA, BPA originally proposed lighting on the towers on either side of the river and marker balls on the line's uppermost wires (optical ground wire). BPA is now proposing to adjust the lighting scheme and not use marker balls. BPA has requested to remove the marker balls from the overhead wires of the Columbia River crossing, remove six sets of steady burning red waist lights from towers 7/5 and 8/1 and replace with three additional day/night warning lights for mandatory FAA safety warning requirements on towers 7/5 and 8/1. These beacons will flash white during the day and red at night, and will be sequenced to flash middle, top, bottom; middle, top, bottom. Bird diverters will be used in place of marker balls to mitigate impacts to protected bird species. Mitigations have been included to tower 7/5 to reduce the impacts to an adjacent residence. A full description of this proposal is described in the December 21, 2011 correspondence to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

FINDINGS

BPA completed a scenic review of potential impacts from the proposed modification, they have been reviewed by a Forest Service Landscape Architect, and are an accurate representation of scenic resource impacts.

The removal of the orange, white, and yellow marker balls (36 inch diameter) from the uppermost wires on the Columbia River Crossing between towers 7/5 and 8/1 is a positive impact for scenic resources as seen from the I84, Highway 14, and Columbia River Key Viewing Areas. The removal of the six sets of steady burning red waist lights visible at night is a positive impact for scenic resources. The increase from three to six flashing dual colored beacons (red at night and white during the day), and the change from steady flashing beacon's to sequenced flashing beacons, is a minor incremental change that will have a negligible impact to scenic resources. The proposed modification does not result in any change to the cumulative effect findings described in Findings E41.

FINDINGS MODIFIED (DELETIONS SHOWN AS STRIKEOUTS, ADDITIONS SHOWN IN BOLD)

Findings E22 - GMA Key Viewing Areas Guideline 16 requires all exterior lighting to be directed downward and sited, hooded and shielded such that it is not highly visible from KVAs. It also states that shielding and hooding materials should be composed of non-reflective, opaque materials. Lighting is required by the Federal Aviation Administration between the towers that cross the Columbia River. The lighting for Tower 7/5 will consist of ~~two~~ **three** flashing, dual colored (~~red white~~ at night and ~~white red~~ during the day) beacons ~~and four nighttime steady-burning red waist lights~~. The lighting for Tower 8/2 will consist of ~~one~~ **three** flashing, dual colored beacons ~~and two nighttime steady-burning waist lights~~. A condition of approval will require BPA

to minimize visual impacts to views experienced from KVAs to the maximum extent practicable, consistent with Scenic Policy 4 (see Finding E6).

DECISION

As proposed, the proposed modifications for the Big Eddy-Knight Transmission Project are consistent with the Management Plan for the CRGNSA. None of the 12 existing conditions of approval from the November 22, 2011 Consistency Determination will be modified or changed. No new conditions of approval are required.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

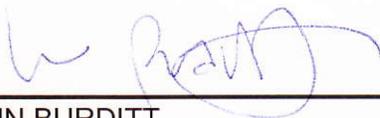
A written request for review of the Consistency Determination, with reasons to support the request, must be received within 20 days of the date shown with the Area Manager signature below. Requests for review should be addressed to: Request for Review, Regional Forester, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Work on the proposed development may begin immediately if it complies with the conditions of approval described in this decision (above). The CRGNSA decision expires two years after the date of determination. This decision becomes void on November 22, 2013. A one-year extension may be requested if submitted in writing prior to expiration of the approval. If implementation or a request for an extension has not commenced before that date a new consistency review shall be required.

CONTACT

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area staff prepared an analysis file in conjunction with this project. For further information, contact Lynn Oliver at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, phone: (541) 308-1716, e-mail: loliver@fs.fed.us.



LYNN BURDITT

AREA MANAGER

1/23/2012
Date

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