
APPENDIX B

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The MSTI project incorporates Environmental Protection Measures that NorthWestern would employ as necessary and appropriate, through project design, project construction and during operation and maintenance, to avoid or minimize environmental impacts and to protect the environment as standard practice for the entire project. Environmental Protection Measures have been incorporated into the project for general application on a nonspecific basis as part of the project description. The Environmental Protection Measures described in this document are preliminary measures that are part of the project description, but are not finalized or committed to until further discussions with the MDEQ and other agencies.

Agency consultation was completed through out the Region Study and MSTI MFSA data acquisition process. Resource specialists from POWER contacted respective resource specialists from state and federal agencies to: discuss the MSTI project, gather pertinent data, and discuss specific resource issues, impacts and mitigations. Available data was gathered and potential impacts were discussed, however resource specific protection measures and mitigation were not offered.

1.0 General

1.1 All construction vehicle movement outside the right-of-way normally will be restricted to pre-designated access, contractor-acquired access, or public roads.

1.2 The areal limits of construction activities normally will be predetermined, with activity restricted to and confined within those limits.

1.3 In construction areas where recontouring is not required, vegetation will be left in place wherever possible and original contour will be maintained to avoid excessive root damage and allow for resprouting. Disturbance would be limited to overland driving where feasible to minimize changes in the original contours.

1.4 To reduce visual contrast and reduce siltation in construction areas (e.g., marshaling yards, structure sites, spur roads from existing access roads) where ground disturbance is substantial, surface preparation and reseeding would occur. The method of restoration would normally consist of loosening the soil surface, reseeding, installing cross drains for erosion control, placing water bars in the road, and filling ditches. Methods would be detailed in the Plan of Development (POD).

1.5 A POD including specific plans to address mitigation requirements would be prepared in consultation with the Agencies prior to construction being authorized. These plans would detail additional measures required to minimize potential proposed project impacts on natural resources and human safety. Plans typically include reclamation and revegetation of the right-of-way, resource protection, noxious weed control, dust control, hazardous spill prevention, fire prevention and storm water pollution prevention.

1.6 The POD would outline any required monitoring guidelines for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the line in order to avoid inadvertent impacts to resources. The Agencies would appoint an authorized inspector to oversee construction activities, authorize revisions or changes in the field, and determine if environmental protection is being done according to the approved POD. NorthWestern Energy would conduct a training program to inform construction crews of all permit requirements and restrictions relevant to Proposed Project construction.

1.7 Prior to construction, all supervisory construction personnel will be instructed on the protection of cultural, paleontological and ecological resources. To assist in this effort, the construction contract will address: (a) Federal, state and tribal laws regarding antiquities, fossils, plants and wildlife,