

APPENDIX L

Study Schedules

With the exception of five studies scheduled for completion at the generation plant site, all environmental studies required to finalize this Application for Site Certification have concluded. The five remaining studies are described in the following sections.

L.1 Meteorological Studies

Meteorological data for air quality monitoring have been collected at the generation plant site since January 20, 2001. These data include wind direction, wind speed, and air temperature. Meteorological studies will continue through January 2002. Data are downloaded weekly for use in monthly reports, and monitoring equipment is audited quarterly. A final report will be issued by late February 2002.

L.2 Geotechnical Studies

In-field geotechnical studies at the generation plant site have been completed. Two technical memorandums have been completed. A geotechnical data memorandum was completed August 23, 2001, that provides a summary of the accumulated data. A geotechnical recommendation memorandum was completed October 9, 2001, that provides recommendations for project design. Data from the geotechnical studies are discussed in Section 3.1, Earth. Eight borings were completed at the site; however, soil conditions prevented all borings from reaching their targeted depth. Soil samples were taken at various depths.

L.3 Oral History Studies

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation recently completed an oral history study regarding potential traditional cultural properties at the generation plant site and along the transmission line route. The Wanapum Band has agreed to provide ongoing verbal communication as the Starbuck Power Project progresses. Three other tribes (the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, and Yakama Nation) are considering, or are in the process of beginning, oral history studies. These oral history reports are expected to be completed by late January 2002.

L.4 Cultural Resources Studies

An archaeological survey will be completed on privately owned land along the transmission line, pending landowner approval. Approval for access to private land along the transmission line was received in September 2001. Representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, Wanapum Band, and Yakama Nation will likely participate in the survey. Cultural resource studies will be conducted throughout October and November 2001, and a technical report is expected to be completed by early February 2002.

L.5 Vegetation Studies

A one-day vegetation study was conducted August 24, 2001, to verify whether the flowering plant *Silene spaldingii*, Spalding's silene is located on or near the generation plant site. The plant has been proposed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. No suitable habitat for or evidence of Spalding's silene was observed. Results of the study have been incorporated into Section 3.4, Wetlands and Vegetation.

L.6 Breeding Bird Studies

Before commencing construction activities, the Applicant will conduct breeding bird surveys to determine the presence of nesting raptors. The surveys will be conducted in May through June, and will include the generation plant site and 0.5-mile area surrounding the site. The surveys will be used to conclude whether construction noise is likely to have a significant adverse impact on protected bird species during core breeding and nesting periods (from April 15 to July 15). If such surveys indicate a probable significant impact, the Applicant will develop and implement a plan, in coordination with USFWS and WDFW, to avoid or mitigate such impacts.

L.7 Aquifer Studies

The Applicant is in the process of designing an aquifer test to be conducted at the generation plant site. The test, which is planned to be conducted before December 2001, will provide data from the flood gravel aquifer to be used for design specifications for the onsite well. A technical memorandum will be completed before January 2002.