

**Floodplain Statement of Findings
for
Technical Area 72 Outdoor Live Fire Range Storage Magazines Project,
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos County, New Mexico**

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA),
Los Alamos Field Office

ACTION: Floodplain Statement of Findings

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is proposing new construction in lower Sandia Canyon at Technical Area 72 (TA-72) at the Outdoor Live Fire Range facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Project activities within the Sandia Canyon 100-year floodplain include installing two prefabricated storage magazines that meet Department of War (DOW), formerly the Department of Defense (DOD), requirements for arms and explosives materials, such as ammunitions and associated infrastructure and supporting infrastructure.

The floodplain assessment was prepared in accordance with DOE regulations set forth in Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1022 (10 CFR 1022), *Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements*, and complies with the regulations that were current at the time of publication. The need for a floodplain assessment was determined as the project refined scope and specific locations were identified. Public meetings are not a requirement of 10 CFR 1022 which is a separate process from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. § 4321 *et seq.*; 10 CFR Part 1021; and the new DOE Implementing Procedures.

LOCATION WITHIN A FLOODPLAIN EXPLANATION: Recent facility analysis identified the need to replace several storage structures with structures that meet updated DOD compliance regulations for materials such as ammunitions. Two new prefabricated storage magazines and supporting infrastructure are proposed for installation to meet the more-stringent DOD requirements. This assessment focuses on proposed activities and impacts that are proposed to occur in or near the Sandia Canyon 100-year floodplain. The project proposes installation of 1) a concrete base pad for the storage magazines; 2) a sidewalk; 3) two storage magazines; 4) a drainage swale; and 5) electrical power connection to the storage units. Figure 1 shows the proposed project location within the Sandia Canyon 100-year floodplain.

The scope of the project does not include storage of highly volatile, toxic, or water reactive materials, hazardous waste, or other materials or actions that would increase hazards to human safety, health and welfare. Therefore, this project did not meet the 10 CFR 1022 definition of a “critical action”, and the 100-year floodplain was appropriate for this analysis despite historic records on frequency or intensity of precipitation.

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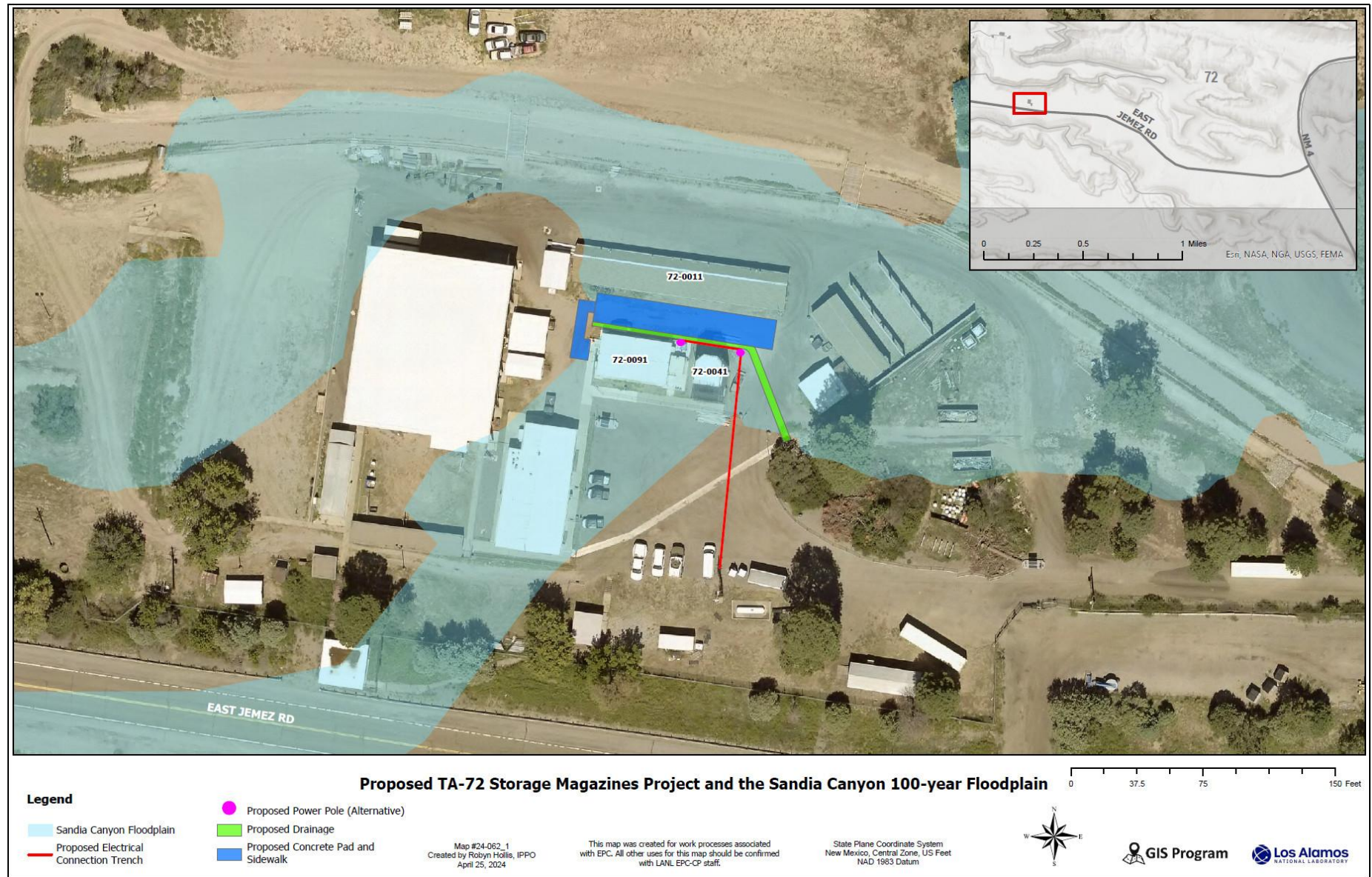


Figure 1 Proposed TA-72 Storage Magazines Project and the Sandia Canyon 100-year floodplain

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternatives available to DOE/NNSA include the no action alternative, which was not selected by DOE/NNSA because the existing storage structures do not meet the more stringent DOD requirements for safe storage and operation of arms and explosives materials such as ammunitions. The alternative of offsite storage was not selected because of the time and fuel spent by staff who would travel 32 miles round trip every time firing range supplies are needed. Access to onsite storage reduces overall cost and impact to programmatic schedules.

FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS: The proposed project would result in limited and minor direct and indirect impacts to the Sandia Canyon 100-year floodplain and would not result in adverse impacts to the floodplain values or functions. Temporary disturbance within the floodplain would cease following completion of installation activities. Best management practices would be implemented. This proposed project would not significantly modify flow paths within the floodplain from pre-project conditions to post-project conditions. No effects to lives or property associated with floodplain modifications are anticipated

STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL HARM TO OR WITHIN THE FLOODPLAIN:

Potential direct and indirect floodplain impacts from release of pollutants to the floodplain and exposure to stormwater would be avoided or minimized through implementation of the following:

- The project does not propose work in any wetlands within LANL property; no wetlands impacts are expected.
- Based on LANL surveys and procedures, no threatened or endangered species habitat is located near the proposed project area. No impacts are expected to occur to threatened or endangered species.
- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits killing migratory birds, including nestlings and eggs in an active nest. If the project requires vegetation removal during the nesting season (May 15 through July 15), LANL Biological Resources subject matter experts would conduct an onsite inspection for bird nests. Construction activities would conform to requirements stipulated in the Migratory Bird Best Management Practices Source Document for LANL.
- Based on LANL surveys and procedures, no historical or archaeological resources are located within 100 feet of the proposed project areas. No impacts are expected to occur to cultural resources. The project must follow the LANL procedure for inadvertent discoveries.
- Equipment would be refueled at least 100 ft. from floodplains.
- Hazardous materials, chemicals, fuels, and oils would not be stored within floodplains.
- The proposed project is not expected to add contamination from normal operations. Unplanned releases/spills from abnormal operations would be addressed with specific requirements in the LANL Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure program and the CGP.
- No additional impervious surfaces or modification to stormwater flow paths are proposed, therefore the project would not be subject to additional requirements regarding the Energy Independence and Security Act, Section 438.
- No soil-disturbing activities will occur in the watercourse. In accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulations, a Clean Water Act Section 404 dredge-and-fill permit or New Mexico State Section 401 Water Quality Certification would not be required for this project.
- The proposed project will involve minimal disturbance of the Sandia Canyon Area of Concern, C-00-007. The project must coordinate with LANL Consent Order personnel before construction begins. Any material excavated within an AOC boundary must be managed within that boundary, returned to the point of origin, and stabilized using LANL-approved best management practices. Any material that cannot be managed on site must be managed, characterized, and disposed of in accordance with P409, *LANL Waste Management*, and associated documents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A Floodplain Statement of Findings was prepared in accordance with Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management* and DOE implementing current regulations 10 Code of Federal Regulations 1022 *Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements*. A summary of the analysis and determination for the *Floodplain Assessment for the Technical Area 72 Outdoor Live Fire Range Storage Magazines Project* (Floodplain Assessment) is provided in the Statement of Findings

The notification for the availability of the Floodplain Assessment and request for comments was sent to appropriate government agencies, tribes, organizations, and persons known to be interested in or potentially affected by the proposed floodplain action via the GovDelivery system and published online on August 3, 2026, for a 15-day public review and comment period on the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website at:

<https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/los-alamos-national-laboratory-floodplain-assessment-technical-area-72-outdoor-live-2>.

One comment was received discussing the use of Department of War versus Department of Defense.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS STATEMENT OF FINDINGS CONTACT: For further information or questions regarding this Floodplain Statement of Findings contact Ms. Karen Armijo via email at karen.armijo@nnsa.doe.gov; fax (505) 667-5948 or mail to:

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