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**Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for the  
Proposed Disposition of the Omega West Facility  
at  
Los Alamos National Laboratory,  
Los Alamos, New Mexico**

**U. S. Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Office of Los Alamos Site Operations  
528 35th Street  
Los Alamos, NM 87544**

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**APR 16 2002**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY,**  
**NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Proposed Disposition of the Omega West Facility**  
**at Los Alamos National Laboratory**

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:** The *Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Disposition of the Omega West Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory (DOE/EA-7410)* (attached) provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine that a Finding Of No Significant Impact is appropriate for the Proposed Action (Complete Removal Alternative) analyzed in the EA. The EA documents the evidence and analysis in the following chapters: 1. Purpose and Need; 2. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives; 3. Affected Environment; and 4. Environmental Consequences.

Analyses performed in the EA allow NNSA to conclude that potential adverse effects of the Proposed Action, under normal conditions, would be minimal. Engineering and administrative controls or considerations that serve to lessen any potential for adverse environmental effects have been incorporated as integral features of the Proposed Action and the actions described and analyzed for the off-site disposal option. Examples of this type of mitigating feature include: the use of Best Management Practices to prevent surface soil erosion and sediment migration controls where soil disturbances occurs; the use of dust suppression measures during demolition to minimize the generation of fugitive dust and High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters to minimize the release of radioactive dust particles; the use of native species for post demolition site landscaping to the maximum extent practicable; and the use of specialized personal protective equipment and specialized task equipment to perform decontamination and demolition work.

The EA considered the cumulative effects of the Proposed Action with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The impacts from the decontamination and demolition of the Omega West Facility would be a minor contribution to the overall cumulative impacts of activities in and around Los Alamos Canyon and along the Pajarito Plateau.

**PREDECISIONAL DRAFT REVIEW & COMMENT:** On March 4, 2002, the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration invited review and comment on the

predecisional draft EA from the State of New Mexico; four nearby American Indian Tribes: Cochiti, Jemez, Santa Clara and San Ildefonso (sometimes referred to as the four accord pueblos because each tribe has entered into an accord with the Department of Energy); the Pueblo of Acoma; and the Mescalero Apache Tribe. The National Nuclear Security Administration also made the predecisional draft EA available to the general public at the same time it was provided to the State and Tribes for review and comment.

The general availability of the EA to the public was accomplished by placing it in the Department of Energy Public Reading Rooms located within the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Community Outreach Center and Reading Room, and in the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library in Albuquerque. Additionally, over 50 local stakeholder groups and individuals that have identified themselves as interested parties with regards to LANL activities were notified by letter of the availability of the predecisional draft on February 28, 2001. Notice of the availability of the EA for review was also published in three local newspapers. Copies of the EA were provided to all requesting interested parties for their review upon their requests. The review and comment period was 21 days long and ended on March 25, 2002. Comments were received from four commentors (San Ildefonso Pueblo, Nuclear Watch of New Mexico, the State of New Mexico Environment Department, and an individual); their comments were addressed through changes made in the Final EA as appropriate, together with individual comment response letters.

#### **AGENCY CONSULTATIONS:**

Building 2-1 of the Omega West Facility is a historic structure that would be adversely affected by demolition. Data recovery conducted under a Memorandum of Agreement with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is planned to mitigate the adverse effects from demolition of the structure. The State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred on the NNSA's determination that there would be adverse effects to historic cultural resources; NNSA will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the SHPO regarding mitigation of the adverse effects through adequate data recovery from that structure before any demolition is undertaken.

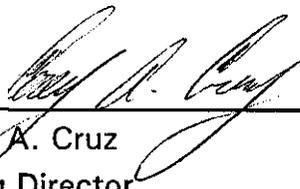
Temporary affects to potential habitat of a Federally-listed threatened species are anticipated during demolition actions; however the overall results would be permanent beneficial affects to the potential habitat of the area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) has concurred on NNSA's determination that the proposed action "may affect and is not likely to adversely affect" the Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). NNSA initially made a determination that implementing the Proposed Action "may affect and is likely to adversely affect" potential habitat for the Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*);

the Service did not concur with this determination of affects. The Service reached the conclusion that the Proposed Action “may affect but is not likely to adversely affect” potential spotted owl habitat.

No other agency consultations were identified as being required for the preparation of the EA with regards to compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

**FINDING:** The United States Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration finds that there would be no significant impact from proceeding with its proposal to decontaminate and demolish the Omega West Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory as described in the Proposed Action. This finding is based on the EA, which analyzes the consequences of the relevant issues of environmental concern. The Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration makes this Finding of No Significant Impact pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.], the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act [40 CFR 1500] and the Department of Energy National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures [IO CFR 1021]. Therefore, no environmental impact statement is required for this proposal.

Signed in Los Alamos, New Mexico this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March  
2002.

  
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Corey A. Cruz  
Acting Director  
Office of Los Alamos Site Operations

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information on this proposal, this Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or the Department of Energy's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review program concerning proposals at Los Alamos National Laboratory, please contact:**

**Elizabeth Withers, NEPA Compliance Officer**

**Office of Los Alamos Site Operations**

**U.S. Department of Energy**

**National Nuclear Security Administration**

**528 35th Street**

**Los Alamos NM 87544**

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**Copies of this FONSI (with the Environmental Assessment attached) will be made available for public review at the DOE Public Reading Room within the Los Alamos National Laboratory Community Relations Office, 1619 Central Avenue, Los Alamos, New Mexico, 87544 at (505) 665-4400 or (800) 508-4400. Copies will also be made available within the DOE Public Reading Room at the Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87131 at (505) 277-5441.**