

**Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Finding of No Significant Impact
for Proposed Closure of the Airport Landfills
Within Technical Area 73 at
Los Alamos National Laboratory,
Los Alamos, New Mexico
(DOE/EA-1515)**

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Proposed Closure of the Airport Landfills Within
Technical Area 73, Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: The *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Closure of the Airport Landfills within Technical Area 73 at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE/EA-1515) (attached) provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine that a Finding Of No Significant Impact is appropriate for the described range of voluntary corrective measure alternatives. The EA documents the evidence and analysis in the following chapters. 1. Purpose and Need; 2. Description of Alternatives; 3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences of a range of voluntary corrective measure alternatives and the No Action Alternative.

Analyses performed in the subject EA allow the National Nuclear Security Administration to conclude that potential adverse environmental effects of the voluntary corrective measure alternatives, 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 corrective measure. Examples of these mitigating features include FAA safety guidelines for airport construction, good management practices to ensure standard worker safety goals are met, surface water run-on controls to minimize future erosion and the infiltration of water into the landfill areas, storm water protection measures to protect canyons and the surrounding mesa from uncontrolled run-off and erosion, and dust suppression methods to minimize the generation of dust during corrective measure activities. Further examples are discussed in section 2.1, *general measures*, of the EA and will be included in the revised Remedy Design Work Plan being prepared for submission to NMED.

The EA considered the type of potential accidents that might occur from construction activities and operational hazards, as well as possible cumulative effects from implementing any of the range of corrective measures together with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

PREDECISIONAL DRAFT REVIEW & COMMENT: On April 4, 2005, 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; 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 predecisional draft 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 Relations Office and Reading Room, and in the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library in Albuquerque.

Additionally, over 60 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 EA on April 4, 2005. Notice of the availability of the predecisional draft EA for review was also published in three local newspapers. Copies of the predecisional draft EA were provided to all interested parties for their review. The review and comment period was 15 days long and ended April 19, 2005.

Three parties provided comments on the predecisional draft EA, the State of New Mexico, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and the Pueblo of San Ildefonso. Comments received were addressed through changes to the Final EA. Copies of the FONSI and final EA will be sent to each of the commentors.

AGENCY CONSULTATIONS: NNSA determined that the corrective measure activities would not affect individual threatened or endangered species that may be present at LANL or their critical habitat. Voluntary corrective measure activities would be conducted in accordance with the LANL Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Management Plan. Therefore, no consultation is required through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the provisions of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC 1531 *et seq.*), unless new species were to be listed over the period of time required to implement all of the activities that are part of the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action's construction activities would not affect recorded historic or prehistoric resources. No consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) pursuant to section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act is required, although the SHPO will be informed of NNSA's determination of affect pursuant to the provisions of the *Programmatic Agreement for the Management of Historic Properties at Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM*.

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 implement a voluntary corrective measure for closure of the Airport Landfills within Technical Area 73 at Los Alamos National Laboratory. This finding is based on the Environmental Assessment, 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 [10 CFR 1021]. Therefore, no environmental impact statement is required for this proposal.

Signed in Los Alamos, New Mexico this 22nd day of May 2005.



Edwin L. Wilmot
Manager
Los Alamos Site Office

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

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National Nuclear Security Administration

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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.