

U.S. Department of Energy
Finding of No Significant Impact
for the Proposed Action to increase the weight of explosives used
at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Site 300.

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has completed a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for Proposed Action to increase the weight of explosives used at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Site 300. The Final EA is attached to this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A complete summary of the EA is found on pages i-iv of the EA.

DOE NNSA proposes to increase the cumulative weight of explosives detonated from 100 lbs./day (up to 1,000 lbs./yr.) to 1,000 lbs./day (up to 7,500 lbs./yr.) at LLNL Site 300 Building 851 Firing Table. The purpose of this Proposed Action is to perform research vital to the Counterterrorism, Counterproliferation and Stockpile Stewardship Program missions. The Proposed Action would be subject to permitting by San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and would require the application and acquisition of the appropriate SJVAPCD permit and associated California Environmental Quality Act review. DOE NNSA considered three alternative actions: construct a larger contained firing facility at Site 300, perform the work at an alternate DOE NNSA facility, or propose a lesser increase at Site 300. DOE NNSA determined that the selected alternative is the preferred alternative.

DOE NNSA considered the potential for the Proposed Action to result in impacts on land use and aesthetic resources, socioeconomic, environmental justice, community services, prehistoric and cultural resources, traffic and transportation, and utilities and energy, and determined that further analysis was not required for the reasons provided in Section 4.1 of the EA.

DOE NNSA analyzed the Proposed Action for impacts on the human environment in the areas of geology and soils, ecological resources, air quality, water resources, noise, materials and waste management, human health and safety, accidents and intentional destructive acts, climate change, and cumulative impacts in Section 4.0 of the EA, Potential Impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EA: The DRAFT EA was made available for public review and comment from November 6, 2017 to December 7, 2017, during a 32-day public comment period that allowed for the Thanksgiving holiday. In response to comments requesting more time to review the EA, and due to a transcription error in information provided about the Proposed Action on the DOE NNSA website, DOE NNSA extended the public comment period to 11:59 pm December 22, 2017. Appendix B of the EA contains the DOE NNSA responses to comments. DOE NNSA revised the Draft EA for clarity and in response to public comment to produce the Final EA.

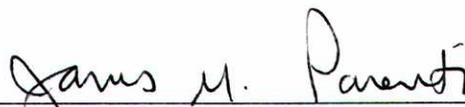
DETERMINATION: Based on the Analysis in this EA, and after considering all comments received, DOE NNSA has determined that the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) of 1962 42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and DOE NNSA is issuing this FONSI and Final EA.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY: Copies of this FONSI and EA are available online:
<https://energy.gov/node/2920560>

Or by request via mail to:

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Issued this 5th day of March 2018.



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