

**FLOODPLAIN STATEMENT OF FINDINGS  
FOR  
THE NON-POTABLE WATER LINE FROM THE LOS ALAMOS CANYON  
RESERVOIR TO THE LOS ALAMOS TOWNSITE  
TECHNICAL AREA - 62  
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO**

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

**ACTION:** Floodplain Statement of Findings

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The DOE is proposing to allow the County of Los Alamos (County) to replace an irreparably damaged County water line located on DOE; segments of which occur within the 100 year floodplain (hereafter floodplain). The project is located in TA-62 at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in the Los Alamos Canyon watershed in and adjacent to the Los Alamos Reservoir Access Road. The water line will be installed from the Los Alamos Canyon Reservoir to the townsite of Los Alamos within (i.e. beneath) the existing roadway which overlaps the floodplain in several areas. The majority of this project occurs on property owned by the U.S. Forest Service. However, the final 2,880 ft (877 m) of roadway occurs on DOE administered land (Figure 1).

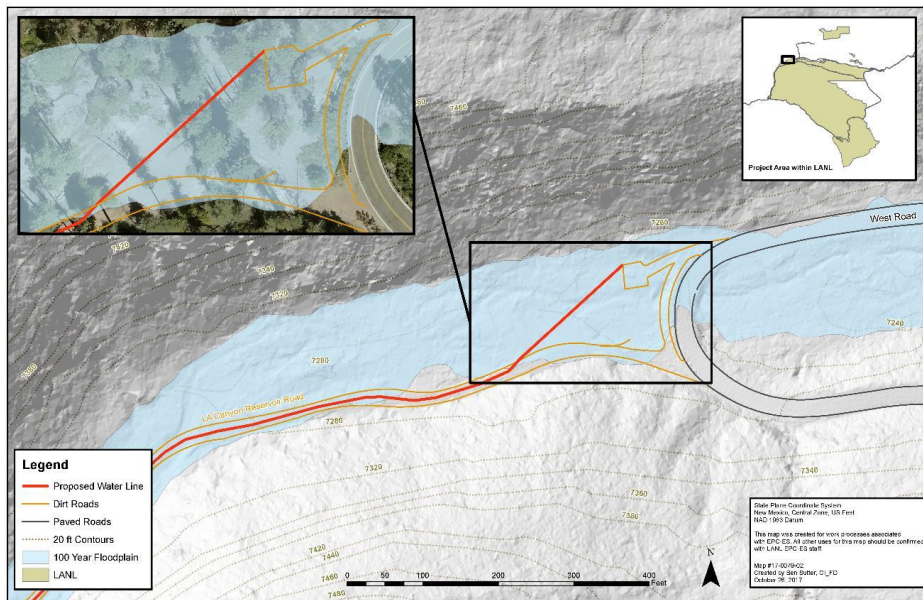


Figure 1. General location map showing the proximity of the water line to the 100-year floodplain in TA-62 in Los Alamos Canyon.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The notification for actions within a floodplain area and request for comments was sent to appropriate government agencies, tribal, and groups and

persons known to be interested in or potentially affected by the proposed floodplain action via the GovDelivery system and published online on November 30, 2017. Access to the “*Floodplain Assessment for the Non-potable Water Line from the Los Alamos Canyon Reservoir to the Los Alamos Townsite*” (Assessment) was posted to the LANL Electronic Public Reading Room at <http://permalink.lanl.gov/object/tr?what=info:lanl-repo/lareport/LA-UR-17-30141> as well as posted on the NNSA Los Alamos Field Office NEPA Reading Room at <https://nnsa.energy.gov/aboutus/ouoperations/generalcounsel/nepaoverview/nepa/lafo>

Additionally a hard copy of the Assessment was placed in the Los Alamos National Laboratory Public Reading Room, located at 94 Cities of Gold Road, Pojoaque, New Mexico. No comments were received. This Floodplain Statement of Findings was prepared in accordance with Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management* and DOE implementing regulations 10 Code of Federal Regulations 1022 *Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements*; and provides a summary of the Assessment analysis and determination.

**ALTERNATIVES:** The only viable alternative to the proposed action is a no action alternative. This alternative was not selected because it would not allow the County of Los Alamos to replace the damaged water line.

**FLOODPLAIN IMPACTS:** DOE NA-LA has determined that this project will not result in long-term adverse impacts to the beneficial values of the 100-year floodplain. The project will conform to applicable floodplain protection standards. Temporary disturbance within the floodplain will cease following completion of waterline replacement construction activities. Best management practices, including erosion and sediment control measures will be utilized during construction to minimize any potential harm. After pipeline replacement is completed construction scarred areas will be revegetated with an appropriate native seed mix or plants. This proposed project will not significantly modify existing elevations and flow paths within the floodplain or result in other long-term impacts to the floodplain and its functionality. No negative effects to lives and property associated with floodplain disturbance are anticipated.

Compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act restricts vegetation removal during the peak bird breeding season, May 15 through July 31, unless LANL biological resources staff have conducted a survey to ensure that there are no nesting birds present. If active nests are found, the nest tree or shrub will be left in place until the nesting is complete. Large tree removals will be evaluated on a case by case basis by LANL biological resources staff.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information on this proposed floodplain action contact Ms. Kristen Dors via email at [Kristen.Dors@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Kristen.Dors@nnsa.doe.gov); fax (505) 667-5948; or mail to Ms. Kristen Dors, NNSA Los Alamos Site Office, 3747 West Jemez Road, Los Alamos, NM 87544