

**FLOODPLAIN STATEMENT OF FINDINGS
FOR
THE NORTH ANCHO AND LOWER SANDIA CONTROLS PROJECTS AT
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY
TECHNICAL AREAS – 39 AND 72
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: DOE is proposing to install controls to improve water quality and allow surface water management in two watersheds at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The proposed work will occur in two project areas, one in the upper portion of the Ancho Canyon watershed in Technical Area (TA) 39 (Figure 1) and the other in the lower portion of the Sandia Canyon watershed in TA-72 (Figure 2). The purpose of this work is to prevent or minimize the transportation of waterborne pollution by reducing peak discharge from storm water run-on and sediment transport within the LANL watersheds. Controls will be installed near and within the 100-year floodplain (hereafter floodplain). The proposed work will comply with requirements under the Settlement Agreement and Stipulated Final Compliance Order (Settlement Agreement)¹ Number HWB-14-20.

¹ Settlement Agreement Number HWB-14-20 is the agreement between the Hazardous Waste Bureau of the New Mexico Environment Department and the U.S. Department of Energy and Los Alamos National Security, LLC. The agreement settles and completely resolves the alleged violations contained in the December 6, 2014, Los Alamos National Laboratory Order, and any future claims, penalties, fines, liabilities or other sanctions against the Respondents and their officers, directors, employees, agents, constituent agencies, contractors, subsidiaries, successors, assignees, trustees, receivers, and other affiliates arising from or related to the February 14, 2014, incident at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.



Figure 1. Proposed project areas in the north Ancho Canyon watershed in TA-39

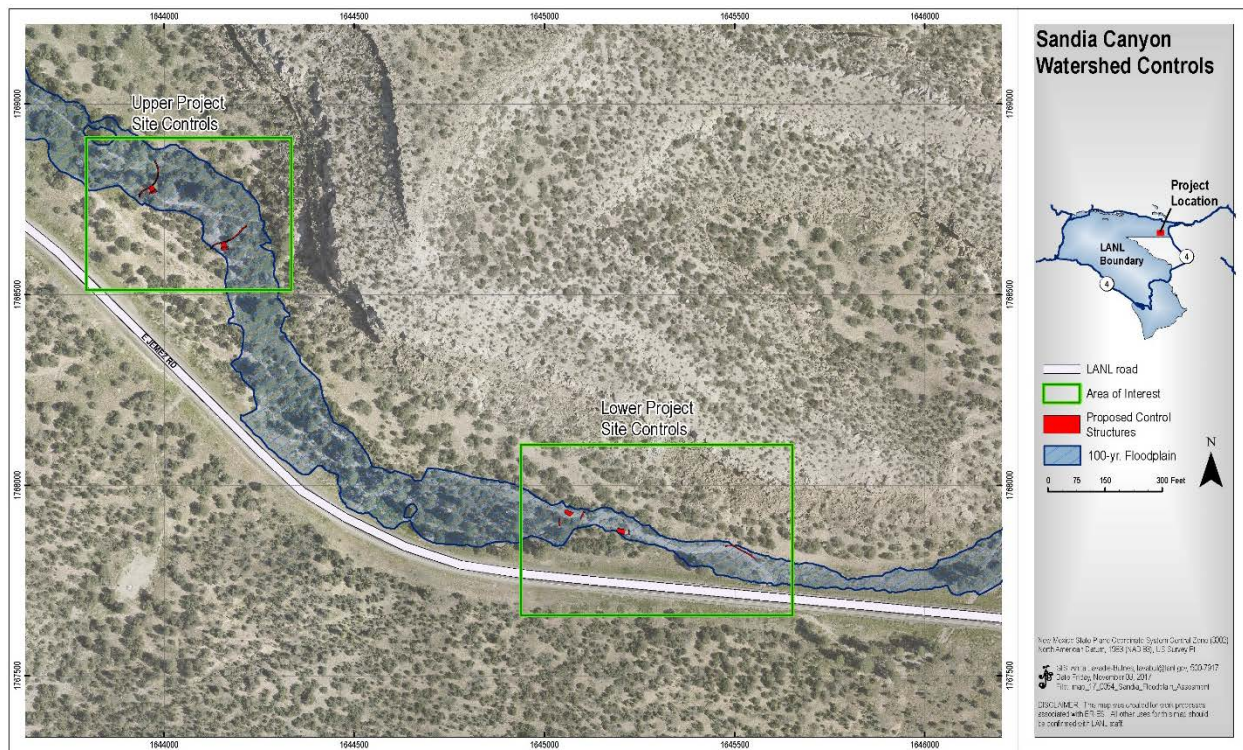


Figure 2. Proposed project areas in the lower Sandia Canyon watershed in TA-72

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 December 5, 2017. Access to the “*Floodplain Assessment for the North Ancho and Lower Sandia Controls Projects*” (Assessment) was posted to the LANL Electronic Public Reading Room at <http://permlink.lanl.gov/object/tr?what=info:lanl-repo/lareport/LA-UR-17-30209> as well as posted on the NNSA Los Alamos Site 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: Larger structures and sediment ponds were evaluated for the north Ancho Canyon watershed. However, the proposed smaller project without sediment ponds achieves the goal of reducing peak runoff and sediment load. A no action alternative was not selected because it would not allow DOE to control stormwater by slowing water velocities and manage sediments from the two watersheds.

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 construction activities. Best management practices will be implemented, including erosion and sediment control measures will be utilized during construction to minimize any potential harm. This proposed project will not significantly modify existing elevations and flow paths within the floodplain upstream and downstream of the projects from pre-project conditions to post-project conditions or result in other long-term negative impacts to the floodplain and its functionality. No effects to lives and property associated with floodplain modifications are anticipated.

Compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act restricts vegetation removal during the peak bird breeding season, May 15 through July 31, unless biological resources staff at LANL 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on this proposed floodplain action contact Ms. Kristen Dors via email at 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