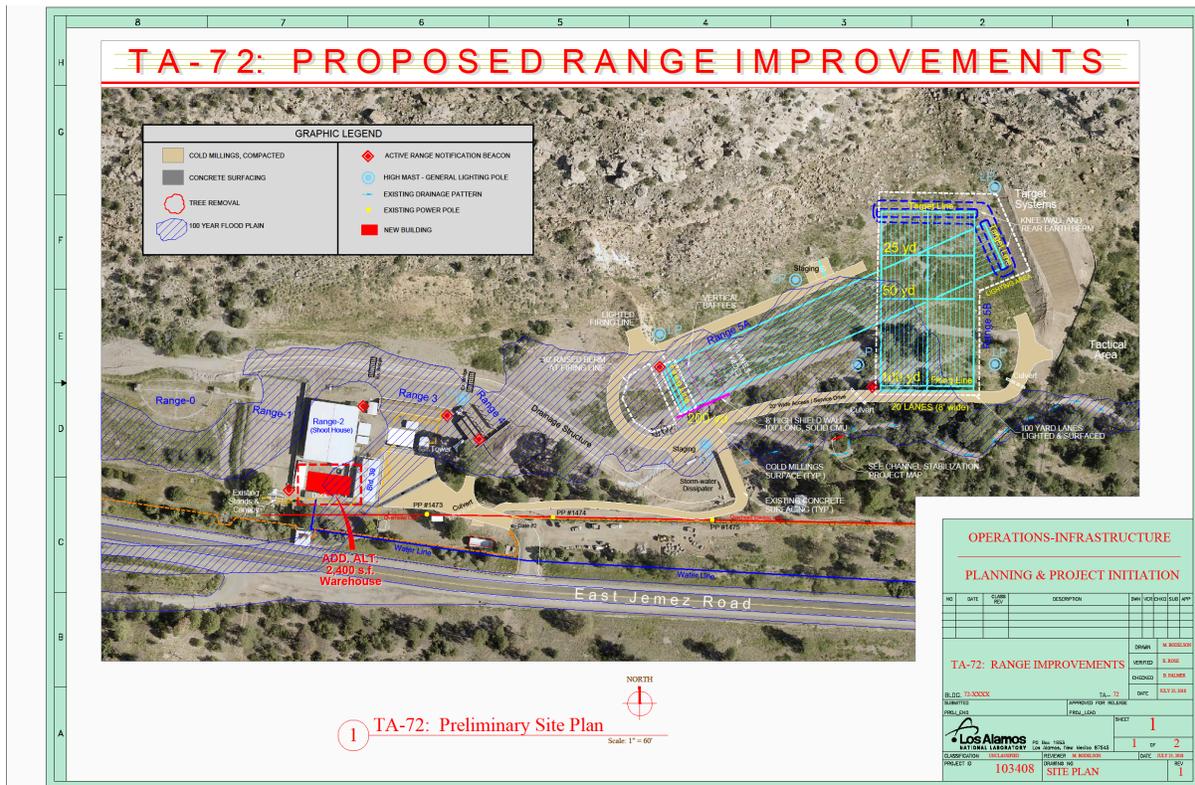


# FLOODPLAIN STATEMENT OF FINDINGS FOR TA-72 OUTDOOR FIRE RANGE UPGRADES AND CHANNEL STABILIZATION PROJECTS AT LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO

**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 several upgrades to the Outdoor Live Fire Range including the construction and use of a new storage warehouse, new sanitary holding tank, range upgrades, a new dual-purpose shooting range with access roads, and streambed channel corrective actions within the 100-year floodplain (Figure 1).



**Figure 1. TA-72 Proposed Site Plan in relation to the 100-year floodplain.**

The proposed 2400 ft<sup>2</sup> (222 m<sup>2</sup>) warehouse and sanitary holding tank will be constructed just south of the Range 2 Shoot House and west of building 39 (Figure 1). This footprint is already disturbed and partially developed and surrounded by other structures. Shooting range upgrades include improvements to the stormwater drainage system around new and existing buildings and a new system of underground drains primarily to correct drainage issues during rain events. The upgrades also include the development of a new dual purpose firing range (5A and 5B) including

access roads and placement of asphalt millings from onsite road projects and/or base course material at specific locations around the site. Areas that will receive the material are the existing dirt roads in the site, the parking areas, and the dirt field that is within range 5 (Figure 1). No asphalt millings or base course will be placed within the drainage structure. A system of stormwater controls (swales, culverts, and detention basins) will also be installed to reduce erosion and stormwater and sediment discharge to the main channel.

**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 5, 2018. Access to the “*Floodplain Assessment for the TA-72 Outdoor Fire Range Upgrades at Los Alamos National Laboratory*” (Assessment) was posted to the LANL Electronic Public Reading Room at <http://permalink.lanl.gov/object/tr?what=info:lanl-repo/lareport/LA-UR-18-29766> as well as posted on the DOE NEPA website <https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/other-environmental-documents>.

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:** An earlier version of the Shooting Range Upgrade Project was initially considered in 2018 but did not include safety recommendations or stream channel stabilization activities. The only viable alternative to the proposed action is a no action alternative. This alternative was not selected because it would not allow DOE to fulfill its mission requirements and ensure armed Protective Force personnel are trained and qualified to protect the laboratory workforce and operations as required by: DOE Order 470.3B, *Graded Security Protection (GSP) Policy*, DOE Order 470.4B, *Safeguards and Security Program*, Admin Change 1, DOE Order 473.3, *Protection Program Operations*, and the LANL *Site Safeguards and Security Plan*. Compliance with the listed safety and security requirements is mandatory. The streambed corrective action plan to address streambank and channel erosion issues was required and approved by the US Army Corps of Engineers to meet the terms and conditions of the Nationwide Permit which was issued in 2012 and authorized the construction of stream channel improvements that subsequently require mitigation actions to correct downstream erosion issues.

**FLOODPLAIN IMPACTS:** DOE NA-LA has determined that this project will result in both short and long-term direct and indirect impacts to the 100-year floodplain. However, all impacts will be minimized and mitigated by the use of stormwater controls throughout the project area. Modifications to the 100-yr floodplain include minimal increased elevations and alterations of stormwater flow paths associated with construction and surfacing of the new firing ranges and access roads, and modifications to the stream channel to improve drainage from the area and potentially reduce the frequency of flooding. Temporary disturbance within the floodplain will cease following completion of construction activities associated with these projects. Stormwater discharge into the main channel from the ranges and erosion within the main channel will be

reduced by these stormwater controls. No impacts to lives and private property are anticipated from this floodplain modification project. The proposed project reduces flooding risk to existing structures because site drainage will be improved.

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