

**Withdrawal of the Floodplain Assessment  
for the  
New Mexico State Route 4 and East Jemez Road Intersection  
and  
Floodplain Statement of Findings  
Technical Area-72 Shooting Range Facility  
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)

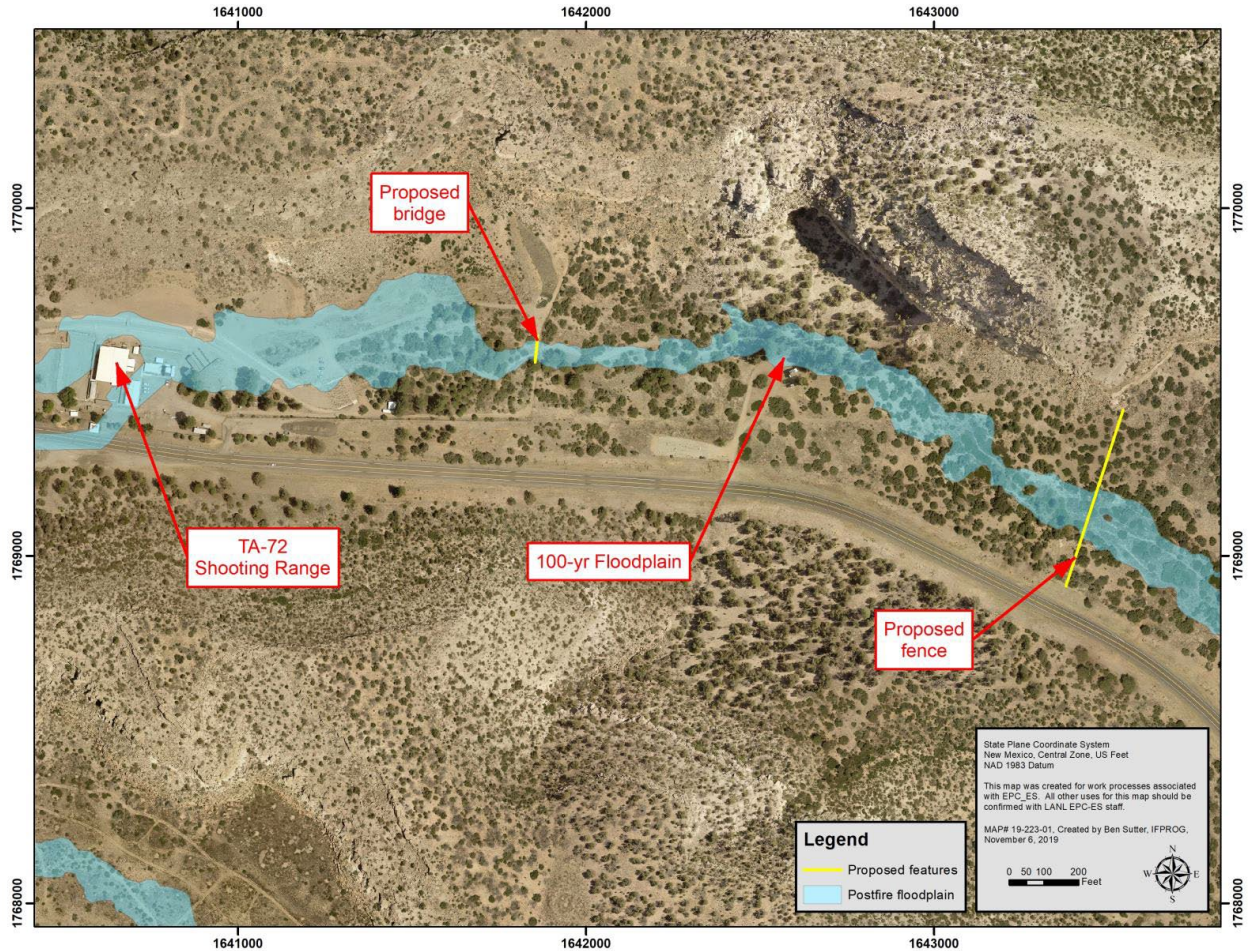
**ACTIONS:**

- Partial Withdrawal of Floodplain Assessment
- Floodplain Statement of Findings

**PROPOSED ACTIONS:** NA-LA prepared and released on November 14, 2019 for public review and comment the *Lower Sandia Canyon Floodplain Assessment for the New Mexico State Route 4 and East Jemez Road Intersection and Technical Area-72 Shooting Range Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory*. In accordance with the DOE floodplain regulations, NA-LA has reevaluated the proposed floodplain action, associated mitigating measures, and considered all substantive comments received.

Upon further review NA-LA is withdrawing the Floodplain Assessment component for the proposed New Mexico State Route 4 and East Jemez Road intersection improvements project. This project has not yet received the funding necessary for construction and could not be implemented any sooner than late 2020. Upon receipt of funding both a National Environmental Policy Act analysis and floodplain assessment will be conducted concurrently. The withdrawal does not affect the floodplain assessment for the installation of a 4-strand wire fence and prefabricated bridge at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Technical Area (TA)-72 Shooting Range Facility.

In support of recent modifications and upgrades to the TA-72 Shooting Range Facility NA-LA is proposing the installation of a 4-wire fence with Surface Danger Zone beacons and signage to improve and expand the perimeter boundary and the placement of a 10-foot by 30-foot prefabricated bridge (Figure 1). The prefabricated bridge is designed to be installed without footings which will result in less construction disturbance to channel banks. Both the fence and bridge cross the lower Sandia Canyon floodplain.



**Figure 1. Aerial photo of TA-72 at LANL showing the Sandia Canyon 100-year floodplain, 4-wire fence and pre-fabricated bridge locations.**

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 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.

The notification for the proposed actions within Sandia Canyon floodplain 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 14, 2019 on the DOE NEPA website at <https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/other-environmental-documents>. One set of comments was received.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Other locations were considered but did not meet the selection criteria as efficiently as the proposed action. The proposed fencing location is based on the new shooting range orientation and distance from the shooting range facility. The canyon and the floodplain are narrower at the proposed location and are less likely to impact floodplain function.

**FLOODPLAIN IMPACTS:** NA-LA has determined that during construction the fence and bridge installation may result in minor short-term impacts to the 100-year floodplain but would not result in short or long-term adverse impacts to the floodplain values or functions. Short-term impacts would be minimized through the use of best management practices during the construction activities. Temporary disturbance within the floodplain will cease following completion of construction activities. No impacts to lives and private property are anticipated from this project.

Should either the fencing or bridge installation require the remove of shrubs or trees, the construction activities would be performed in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act which 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.

NA-LA, upon publication of this Statement of Findings, will endeavor to provide stakeholders and the public with a 15-day opportunity to review the floodplain Statement of Findings before implementing the proposed floodplain action.

**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