Floodplain Statement of Findings
for the High Explosive Transfer Facility
Blast Radius Fence Project at Technical Area 08,
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos County, New Mexico

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

ACTION: Floodplain Statement of Findings

DESCRIPTION Of THE PROPOSED ACTION: The NNSA, a semi-autonomous agency within the DOE, is proposing install a 3-strand smooth wire fence to create an operational boundary from the TA-08 High Explosive (HE) Transfer Facility (Figure 1). The proposed fence is intended to provide a barrier between the public and direct access to the HE Transfer Facility. The proposed 3-strand smooth wire fencing would be installed from a former spur of Anchor Ranch Road to the existing chain link fence north of X-Ray Road. Warning signs would be posted on the fence. The fence would be installed in a radius of 1250 feet (ft) minimum distance from the TA-08 HE Transfer Facility.

Fence materials (e.g., t-posts, wire, etc.) would be transported to the area outside the floodplain by wheeled all-terrain vehicles. Existing two-track roads and trails would be utilized wherever possible. Materials would be transported into the floodplain by hand. T-posts would be installed by hand with a fence post driver. LANL civil engineering standards require that T-post type metal fence posts would be driven into the ground at intervals of no more than 16 ft and to a depth of no less than 36 inches. The Project estimates the posts would be set at approximately 10 ft intervals. The Pajarito Canyon 100-year floodplain is approximately 60 ft. wide at the location where the fence crosses the floodplain. Therefore, there should be no more that 5-6 posts installed in the floodplain. Posts would be installed outside of the stream channel.

LOCATION WITHIN A FLOODPLAIN EXPLANATION: Given the proximity of the HE Transfer Facility to the Pajarito Canyon 100-year floodplain, there are no practical alternatives that would avoid an action within the floodplain.

ALTERNATIVES: In addition to the Proposed Action, **t**he alternatives available to DOE/NNSA include: (1) no action alternative, and (2) a chain link security fence alternative. The no action alternative was not selected by DOE/NNSA because the potential for a public safety issue would persist if an operational barrier were not installed. The chain link fence alternative was not selected by DOE/NNSA because chain link would trap debris causing eventual damage to the fence, alteration of stream flow, and floodplain deterioration.

FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS: The Proposed Action will not result in a significant change, if any, to the floodplain values or functions. Short-term impacts will be avoided or minimized by adherence to permits and other requirements. Post construction, the floodplain would retain the same preconstruction floodplain values and functions as present prior to intersection modification. No impacts to human safety, health and welfare, or private property are anticipated as the natural and beneficial floodplain values will be preserved. The Proposed Action, with implementation of project mitigation measures, conforms to applicable floodplain protection standards.

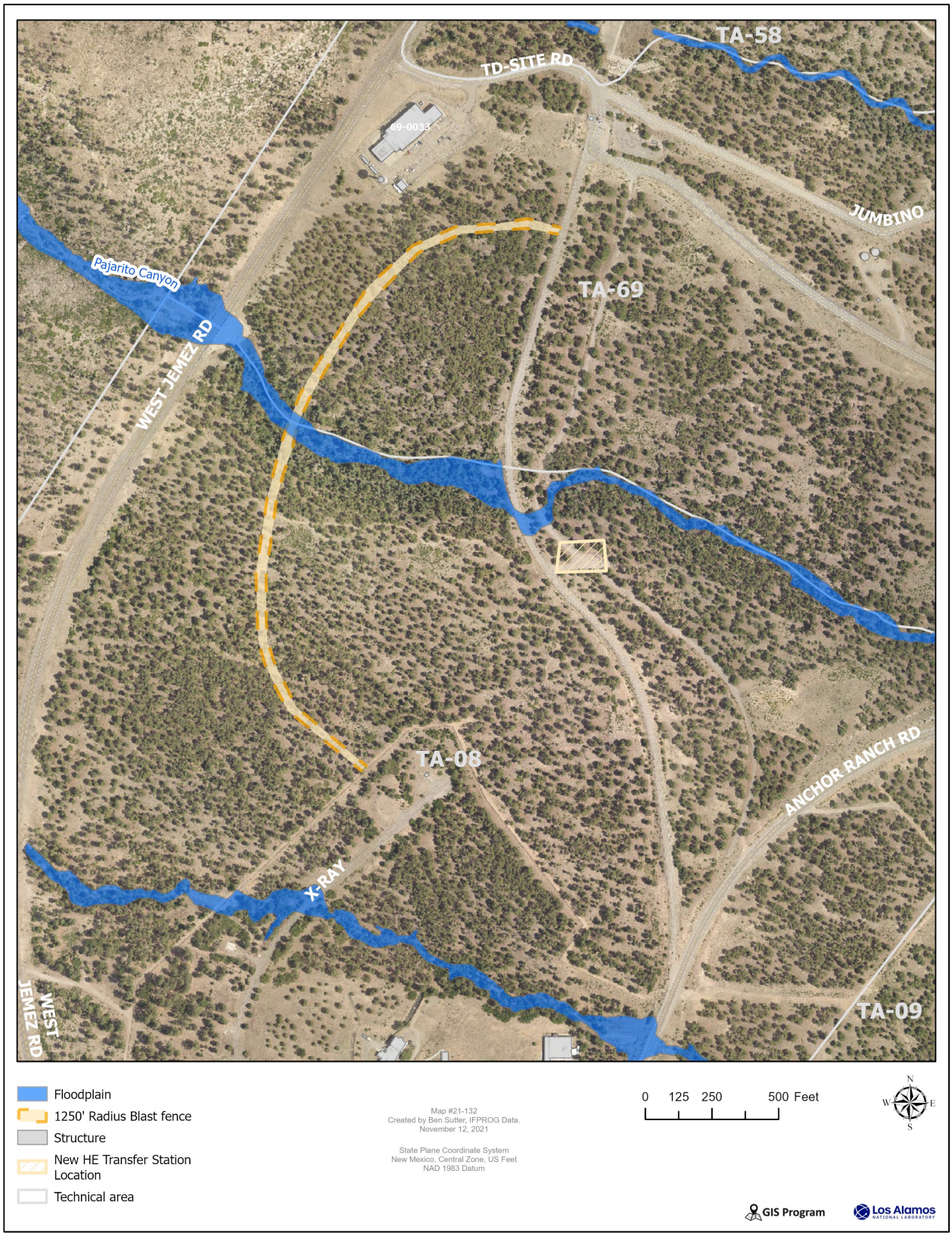

Figure 1. Location of the proposed blast radius fence line for the TA-08 HE Transfer Facility showing Pajarito Canyon 100-year floodplain.

STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL HARM TO OR WITHIN THE FLOODPLAIN: Engineering and administrative controls to limit soil erosion, sediment loss, and spills and leaks will be in place during and after construction. Specific mitigations include the following:

- Hazardous materials, chemicals, fuels, and oils will not be stored within the floodplain.
- Heavy equipment will not be used within the floodplain if conditions are too wet to prevent damage to the soil structure.
- Equipment will be refueled at least 100 ft from the 100-year floodplain.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A 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 provided a summary of the *Floodplain Assessment for the West Road Maintenance Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory* (Floodplain Assessment) analysis and determination.

The notification for the availability of the Floodplain Assessment and request for comments was sent to appropriate government agencies, tribes, organizations, 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, 2021, for a 15-day public review and comment period on the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website at https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/los-alamos-national-laboratory-floodplain-assessment-high-explosive-transfer-facility. No comments were received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or questions regarding this Floodplain Statement of Findings 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 Field Office
3747 West Jemez Road
Los Alamos, NM 87544