

Floodplain Statement of Findings for the Sampling and Remediation of Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU) 39-001(a), 39-001(b), 39-006(a), and 39-010 in North Ancho Canyon

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA)

ACTION: Floodplain Statement of Findings

PROPOSED ACTION: EM-LA prepared and released on 05/25/2022 for public review and comment the *Floodplain Assessment for the Sampling and Remediation of Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU) 39-001(a), 39-001(b), 39-006(a), and 39-010 in North Ancho Canyon*. In accordance with the DOE floodplain regulations, EM-LA has reevaluated the proposed floodplain action, associated mitigating measures, and considered all substantive comments received.

EM-LA is proposing to take action within the North Ancho 100-year floodplain at Los Alamos National Laboratory's Technical Area (TA) – 39. This action consists of sampling and remediation 4 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMU) 39-001(a), 39-001(b), 39-006(a), 39-010. SWMU 39-001(a) will have existing well boreholes capped and will be abandoned. SWMU 39-001(b) will have existing well boreholes capped and will be abandoned. SWMU 39-006(a) will have below surface sampling conducted to test for presence and extent of soil contaminants. SWMU 39-010) will have below surface sampling conducted to test for presence and extent of soil contaminants. See Figure 1 for locations North Ancho Aggregate Area.

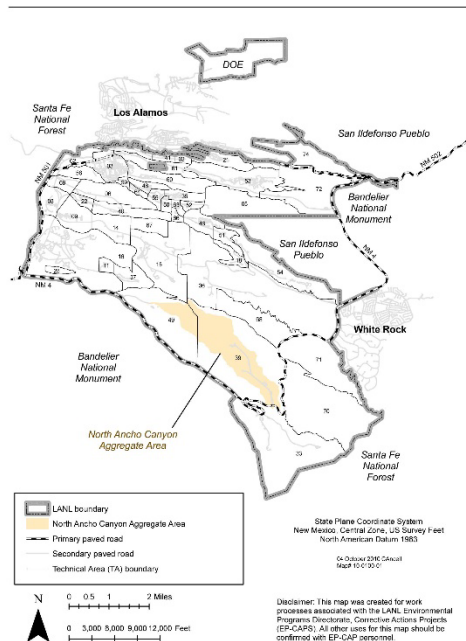


Figure 1 Location of North Ancho Canyon Aggregate Area with respect to surrounding land holdings

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 North Ancho's 100-year 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. It was also made available to the public on the Energy.gov website and in local newspapers. No comments were received.

ALTERNATIVES: Given the purpose and need for the extent sampling and remediation of the SWMUs, there was no other practicable alternative location or alternative that would have avoided or reduced impacts to the floodplain.

FLOODPLAIN IMPACTS: EM-LA has determined that sampling and remediation may result in minor short-term disturbance within the 100-yr floodplain but would not result in short or long-term adverse impact to the floodplain values or functions. Short-term impacts would be avoided or minimized through the use of best management practices during sampling and remediation activities. The sites will be restored to pre-activity state in such a manner as to have no or minimal effect on floodplain values or functions. No impacts to lives and private property are anticipated from this project.

Should activities require removal of shrubs or trees, they will be conducted in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act which restricts vegetation removal during peak bird breeding season, May 15 through July 31, unless a biological resource specialist has 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.

EM-LA, upon publication of the 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 action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on this proposed floodplain action contact Jesse Kahler via email at jesse.kahler@em.doe.gov