

**Floodplain Statement of Findings
for the
Travel Time Equipment Installation Project,
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 National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is proposing new construction at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) across several locations within LANL property. Proposed Location 2 and Proposed Location 3 are within the lower Sandia Canyon floodplain. The proposed installations are intended to estimate vehicle travel times and post the information on existing electronic message signs to inform LANL commuters with traffic updates and gather data for current and future transportation planning. The project activities within the 100-year (base flood elevation) floodplain include: 1) installation of two wood poles (e.g., power pole type) and 2) mounting traffic monitoring equipment and solar panels on the wood poles.

LOCATION WITHIN A FLOODPLAIN EXPLANATION: Given the need to locate monitoring equipment at strategic locations with the highest traffic congestion as identified by transportation studies, there are no practical alternatives that would avoid an action within the floodplain.

ALTERNATIVES: The alternatives available to DOE/NNSA include the no action alternative. The no action alternative was not selected by DOE/NNSA because the current volume of vehicles trying to access the approaches to NM 4 and the East Jemez Road Intersections is causing travel delays, driver frustration and increased traffic accidents. The alternative of placing the monitoring equipment in other locations was not selected because the locations described in the proposed project have been identified in LANL transportation and parking studies as areas with the highest traffic congestion.



FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS: The proposed project would result in limited and minor direct and indirect short-term impacts to the 100-year floodplain and would not result in adverse impacts to the floodplain values or functions. The proposed project would also not change the flood hazard. Temporary disturbance within the floodplain would cease following completion of construction activities. Best management practices would be implemented. This proposed project would not significantly modify flow paths within the floodplain from pre-project conditions to post project conditions. No effects to lives and property associated with floodplain modifications are anticipated.


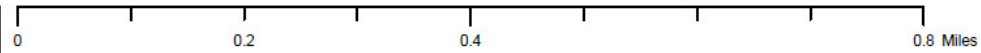
STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL HARM TO OR WITHIN THE FLOODPLAIN: Potential short-term direct and indirect floodplain impacts from release of pollutants to the floodplain and exposure to stormwater would be avoided or minimized through implementation of the following best management practices:

- Hazardous materials, chemicals, fuels, and oils would not be stored within the floodplain.
- Equipment would be refueled at least 100 feet from the 100-year floodplain in Sandia Canyon.



Legend

-  Proposed Travel Time Equipment Locations
-  Sandia Canyon Floodplain

Map #24-094.1
 Created by Robyn Hollis,
 June 19, 2024.

State Plane Coordinate System
 New Mexico, Central Zone, US Feet
 NAD 1983 Datum



- The project is required to utilize appropriate best management practices to contain excavated materials and all other potential pollutants within the work site limits and away from potential stormwater flow. Controls may include temporary controls to reduce sediment transport during construction, final stabilization to control erosion after construction activities are completed, and pollution prevention measures such as housekeeping and spill prevention. Any required vegetation stabilization will be completed in accordance with LANL Seeding Specifications.
- Proposed project activities will not temporarily stage vegetation, soils, or equipment within the watercourse; activities must not push soils into the watercourse; and vegetation that has been removed or masticated must not be left in the watercourse. Heavy equipment must not be used within the stream channel, especially if conditions are too wet to prevent damage to the soil structure.
- Location 3 of the proposed project is located in threatened or endangered species habitat based on LANL surveys and procedures. The project is required to coordinate with LANL Environmental Stewardship personnel for work requirements including seasonal restrictions, vegetation removal restrictions and on-site surveys prior to project field work.
- The project will involve disturbance of the Sandia Canyon Area of Concern (AOC) C-00-007. Any disturbed soil from the AOC would be stabilized using LANL approved best management practices and managed on-site. The project is required to take precautions to avoid inadvertently transporting potentially contaminated soil from the site. If any soil is removed from the AOC, it must be managed, characterized and disposed of in accordance with the LANL Waste Management Procedures.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A Floodplain Statement of Findings was prepared in accordance with Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management* and DOE implementing current regulations 10 Code of Federal Regulations 1022 *Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements* and provided a summary of the *Los Alamos National Laboratory Floodplain Assessment for the Travel Time Equipment Installation Project* (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 August 19, 2024, 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-travel-time-equipment>. One set of comments was received.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS STATEMENT OF FINDINGS CONTACT: For further information or questions regarding this Floodplain Statement of Findings contact Ms. Karen Armijo via email at karen.armijo@nnsa.doe.gov; fax (505) 667-5948 or mail to:

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