

**Floodplain Statement of Findings  
for the  
Installation of Permanent Power to the TA-36 Remote Restroom  
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

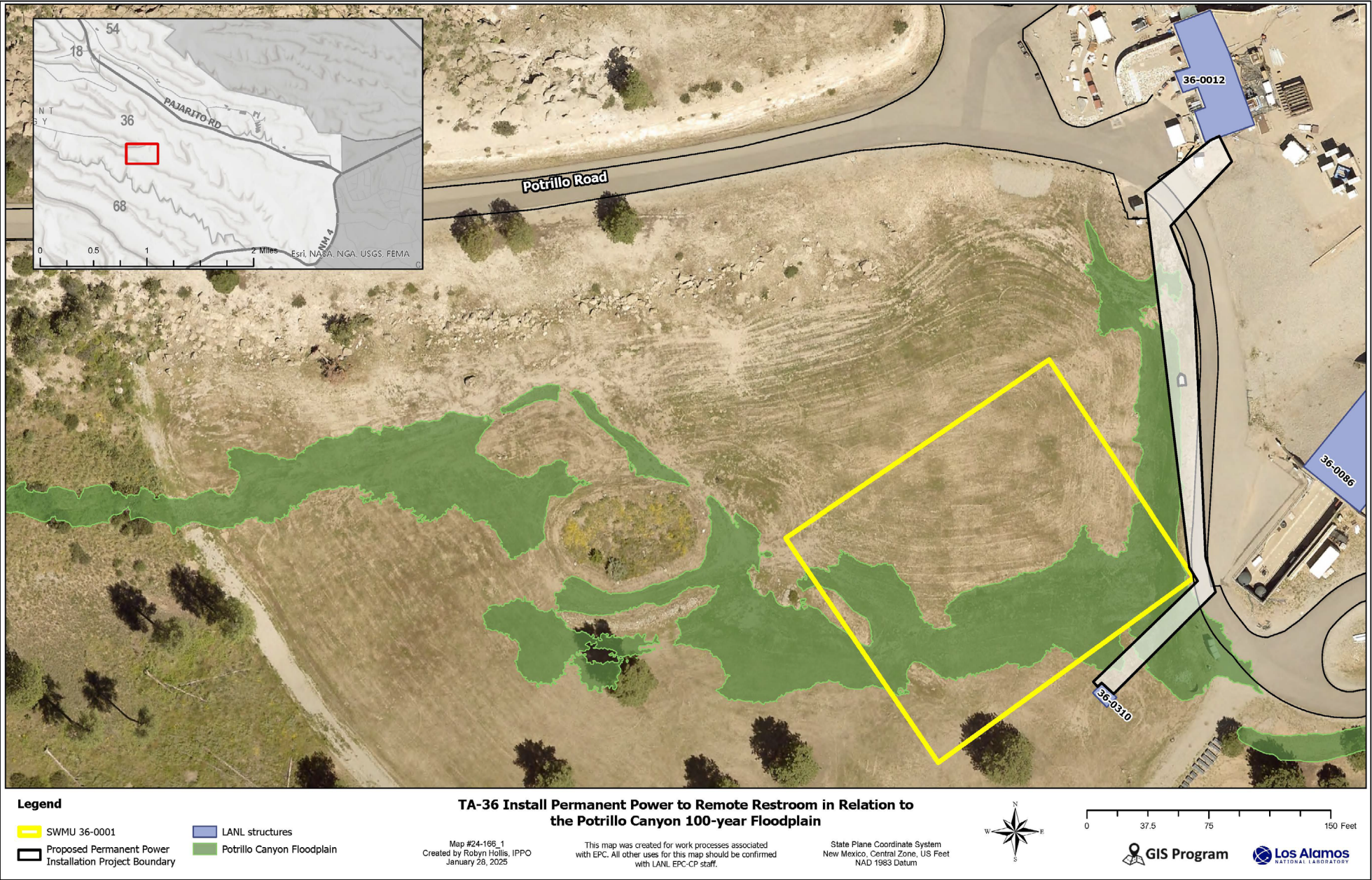
**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is proposing new construction in Potrillo Canyon at Technical Area (TA) 36 at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The proposed project would provide permanent electrical power to a vault-type restroom. Project activities within the 100-year floodplain would include installation of underground conduit for electrical wiring.

**LOCATION WITHIN A FLOODPLAIN EXPLANATION:** Given the location of the nearest electrical transformer, structures on the east side of the proposed route, a Solid Waste management Unit (SWMU) on the west side of the proposed route, and the location of the restroom, there are no practical alternatives that would avoid installing electrical conduit within the floodplain. Location is shown in the figure on Page 2.

**ALTERNATIVES:** The alternatives available to DOE/NNSA include the no action alternative. The no action alternative was not practicable because of the need to provide continuous electrical power to the vault-type restroom to prevent water from freezing in the pipes and vault. The alternatives of constructing an overhead power line, solar panels, or propane tanks were not practicable because the restroom is in the blast radius of potential explosive fragments which may damaging equipment or start a fire and is not compatible with the operations risk assessment. The alternatives of trenching through an access road, seasonal site closures, and alternate construction methods such as horizontal drilling were not practicable because of cumulative delays and impacts to programmatic work supporting LANL mission.

**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. Stormwater controls and 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:





- The proposed project is covered under the 2008 Site Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWIES), Appendix L. Additional clarification can be found in the 2008 SWEIS, Non-Key Facilities Document, Section 1.3 Support Activities.
- Per *Vegetation and Fuels Prescription Controls Requirements for Sited High Explosives Facilities*. Los Alamos National Laboratory document WFO-OP-276 does not prescribe the use of herbicides or pesticides.
- Hazardous materials, chemicals, fuels, and oils would not be stored within the floodplain.
- Equipment would be refueled at least 100 ft. from the Potrillo Canyon floodplain.
- The project is required to utilize appropriate industry standard stormwater controls. These include temporary materials (e.g., silt fence, etc.) to reduce erosion and sediment transport, manage run-on and runoff, contain excavated materials, and keep potential pollutants within the work site limits and away from potential stormwater flow during construction and are installed and maintained per manufacturer guidance. The project is required to utilize appropriate industry standard best management practices such as procedures and practices and include waste management and spill prevention.
- After construction activities are completed, all disturbed areas must have final stabilization in accordance with the LANL Seeding Specification. Any required vegetation stabilization will use the LANL Seeding Specification seed mix which contains native perennial grass, forb and shrub species and pollinator plant species. Native species selection benefits pollinator species, helps suppress weeds, and restores natural habitats ensuring long-term ecological stability.
- 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.
- The project is adjacent to Solid Waste Management Unit (SWMU) 36-001, Material Disposal Area AA (inactive legacy landfill). A July 2019 Supplemental Investigation Report submitted to New Mexico Environmental Department found the site meets industrial, construction worker, and ecological risk levels. The site is still designated as “in progress” and as such soil or vegetation may not be disturbed or removed from the SWMU as a result of construction activities without approval from LANL Consent Order subject matter experts.

**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 Installation of Permanent Power to the TA-36 Remote Restroom* (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 March 14, 2025, 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-installation-permanent-power-ta>.

One set of comments was received. After the close of the public comment period and before issuing a floodplain statement of findings, DOE/NNSA reevaluated the practicability of alternatives to the proposed floodplain action and the mitigating measures, taking into account all

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substantive comments received during the public comment period. Some of the comments received were determined to be outside the scope of this document.

**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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