SAND2026-18685O

DOE/EIS-0556

SITE-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES, NEW MEXICO

May 2026

Summary

COVER SHEET

RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL AGENCY: United States (U.S.) Department of Energy (DOE)/ National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

COOPERATING AGENCIES: The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southwestern Region, and the Department of the Air Force, Kirtland Air Force Base

COLLABORATING ENTITY: The Pueblo of Isleta

TITLE: *Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico* (SNL/NM SWEIS or SWEIS) (DOE/EIS-0556)

LOCATION: Albuquerque, New Mexico

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Public Scoping Comments: DOE issued a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* (88 FR 24607) on April 21, 2023, announcing a 45-day SWEIS scoping period to receive input on the preparation of this SNL/NM SWEIS. Comments received during that scoping period have been considered in the preparation of this SWEIS.

Regulators and Cooperators Comments: Comments on this document were accepted for a 30-day period ending February 6, 2026, from federal, state, tribal, and local entities that have jurisdiction by law (42 U.S.C. § 4332(C)) or special expertise with respect to environmental impacts identified within this SWEIS (42 U.S.C. § 4336a(a)(3)).

CONTENTS

SUMMARY S-1
S.1 Introduction and Purpose and Need for Agency Action S-1
S.1.1 Introduction S-1
S.1.2 Background S-1
S.1.3 Purpose and Need for Agency Action S-5
S.1.4 Public Involvement S-5
S.2 Proposed Action and Alternatives S-6
S.2.1 Introduction and Development of the SWEIS Alternatives S-6
S.2.2 No-Action Alternative S-7
S.2.3 Modernized Operations Alternative S-8
S.2.4 Expanded Operations Alternative S-9
S.2.5 Analytical Parameters for Each Alternative S-11
S.2.6 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study S-12
S.2.7 Selected Alternative S-12
S.3 Environmental Consequences S-12
S.3.1 Introduction S-12
S.3.2 Comparison of Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives S-12
S.4 References S-21

TABLES

Table S-1. TAs and Other Areas Addressed in This SNL/NM SWEIS S-3
Table S-2. Summary of Construction and DD&D – No-Action Alternative S-8
Table S-3. Summary of Construction and DD&D – Modernized Operations Alternative S-9
Table S-4. Incremental Construction and DD&D Associated with Expanded Operations Alternative Projects S-10
Table S-5. Total Construction and DD&D – Expanded and Modernized Operations Alternatives S-11
Table S-6. Comparison of Environmental Consequences S-13

FIGURES

Figure S-1. Location of the SNL/NM Site S-3
Figure S-2. Locations of SNL/NM TAs, Other Permitted Properties, Withdrawn Area, and Selected Offsite Leased Facilities S-4
Figure S-3. Level of Operations for the SNL/NM Alternatives S-7

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACM	asbestos-containing material
BBCS	Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy
BMP	best management practice
Ci	curie
CTF	Coyote Test Field
DAF	U.S. Department of the Air Force
DD&D	decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
FFRDC	Federally Funded Research and Development Center
Forest Service	U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
FR	*Federal Register*
ft^2	square foot
KAFB	Kirtland Air Force Base
LCF	latent cancer fatality
LLW	low-level radioactive waste
m^3	cubic meter
M&O	Management and Operating
MEI	maximally exposed individual
MLLW	mixed low-level radioactive waste
MT	metric ton
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NTESS	National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC
R&D	research and development
ROD	Record of Decision
ROI	Region of Influence
SFO	Sandia Field Office
SNL	Sandia National Laboratories
SNL/NM	Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico
SWEIS	site-wide environmental impact statement
TA	Technical Area
TRU	transuranic (waste)
UAS	unmanned aircraft system
U.S.C.	United States Code

UxS	unmanned system
VRM	Visual Resource Management
yr	year

SUMMARY

S.1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE AND NEED FOR AGENCY ACTION

This section provides a summary of information contained in later sections of this *Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico* (SNL/NM SWEIS or SWEIS). The information includes the purpose and need for agency action (Section S.1.3), a description of the alternatives considered (Section S.2), the environmental resource areas evaluated (Section S.3.1), and a comparison of the potential consequences by resource area for each alternative (Section S.3.2).

S.1.1 Introduction

Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), a multi-mission National Laboratory owned by the United States (U.S.) Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), is an NNSA-sponsored Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC). FFRDC sites are owned by the federal government but are operated by contractors and provide federal agencies with research and development (R&D) capabilities. The continued operation of SNL is critical to NNSA's primary national security missions of maintaining the U.S. nuclear stockpile, nonproliferation, counterterrorism and counterproliferation, and powering the nuclear navy. While SNL has operations outside of New Mexico, the scope of this SNL/NM SWEIS is limited to activities within New Mexico, primarily at SNL/NM within Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) and leased properties within and near the Albuquerque area.

NNSA has prepared this SWEIS in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) NEPA implementing procedures (DOE 2026). The primary purpose of this SWEIS is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the continued operation of SNL/NM within three identified alternatives. The U.S. Department of the Air Force (DAF) and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service) accepted NNSA's invitation to participate as cooperating agencies in preparing this document. In addition, the Pueblo of Isleta, which borders KAFB to the south, accepted NNSA's invitation to participate as a collaborating entity in the preparation of this SWEIS.

NNSA is concurrently issuing a Record of Decision (ROD) with this SWEIS, which identifies the alternative selected representing the proposed federal action for continued operation of SNL/NM.

S.1.2 Background

Established in 1948, SNL initially focused on nuclear weapons engineering and production coordination, gradually moving toward a greater emphasis on weapons design, research, and development. In addition to NNSA missions, new portfolios have been added for energy production, security (global, homeland, weapons), bioscience, and robotics. National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC (NTESS), operates SNL pursuant to a Management and Operating (M&O) contract awarded by NNSA.

SNL/NM is primarily located within KAFB to the southeast of Albuquerque. KAFB spans about 51,588 acres at the foothills of the Manzanita Mountains (Figure S-1). Albuquerque borders KAFB to the north, northeast, west, and southwest. The Albuquerque International Sunport (an airport) and Mesa del Sol (a 12,800-acre mixed-use urban area under development) are west of KAFB. KAFB is bordered to the east by Forest Service land, and the southern boundary is shared with the Pueblo of Isleta (SNL 2022a).

This SWEIS identifies the environmental impacts from existing SNL/NM operations, which are conducted on NNSA-owned land, NNSA-permitted land or land withdrawn from other federal agencies, and state-owned and privately owned leased/licensed properties within the state of New Mexico (Figure S-2). Within KAFB, the SNL/NM-managed lands[1] include about 16,000 acres and contain over 900 buildings with about 7 million square feet (SNL 2022b). NNSA-owned land comprises 2,913 acres and includes five Technical Areas (TAs). NNSA-permitted land on which SNL/NM operates consists of about 6,300 acres from the DAF along with a portion of land withdrawn[2] by the Forest Service (4,595 acres) (34 FR 1139). In addition, NNSA leases about 2,687 acres from the New Mexico State Land Office (La Semilla Buffer Zone) west of the KAFB boundary, which serves as a safety and sound buffer for testing operations (SNL 2022a).

NTESS has been the M&O contractor for SNL since 2017. SNL employs over 14,000 regular employees at all locations, with about 13,080 employed at SNL/NM. Its total budget is about $4.6 billion per year. The NNSA Sandia Field Office (SFO) administers the M&O contract with NTESS and oversees their operations as M&O contractor.

As shown on Figure S-2, SNL/NM and NNSA SFO operations include five TAs, the Eubank Corridor, KAFB-permitted areas, a "Withdrawn Area," and the La Semilla Buffer Zone, as well as operations on several KAFB-permitted land parcels, and leased facilities off KAFB (refer to Table S-1**)**.

[1] The term "SNL/NM-managed lands" refers to all lands owned by NNSA and permitted lands from the DAF and the Forest Service that have been withdrawn for DOE purposes related to SNL/NM.

[2] The term "withdrawn" in this context is used to describe federal land that is withheld from settlement, sale, location, or entry, under some or all general land laws, for the purpose of limiting activities under those laws (43 U.S.C. § 1702(j)).

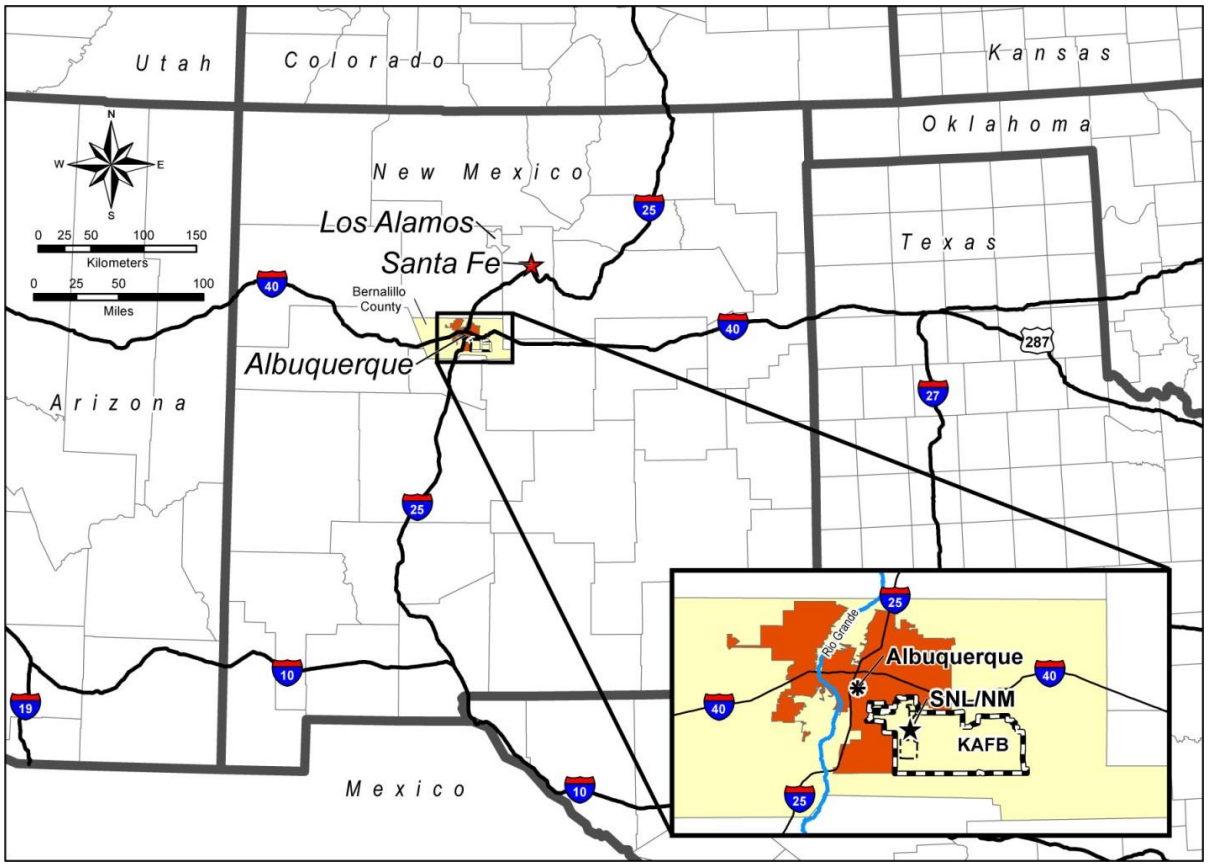

Figure S-1. Location of the SNL/NM Site

Table S-1. TAs and Other Areas Addressed in This SNL/NM SWEIS

Area	Description
TA-I	Includes the main SNL/NM administration and site support area, several R&D laboratories, and production/manufacturing facilities.
TA-II	Consists primarily of support service facilities, the Explosive Components Facility, battery testing, and waste management facilities.
TA-III	Primarily physical testing and waste management.
TA-IV	Primarily houses high-energy physics facilities, including several accelerators.
TA-V	Several radiological test facilities, including two research reactor facilities.
KAFB-permitted land to NNSA	Includes areas such as the Coyote Test Field (CTF) sites for explosive testing and ranges, remote testing sites, the R&D facilities, and storage bunkers.
Withdrawn Area	Established by Public Land Order 4569 from the Forest Service to DOE for 4,595 acres as a safety buffer for testing in Lurance Canyon. Refer to Figure S-2 for a graphic depiction of this area.
Offsite NNSA-owned facility	Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies, used for science, technology, and engineering research in nanotechnology, located in the Eubank Corridor.
Onsite NNSA-owned facility	John A. Gordon Albuquerque Complex, used for headquarters administrative offices, located in the Eubank Corridor.
Offsite leased facilities/areas	Includes the La Semilla Buffer Zone (Figure S-2 lower left); Advanced Materials Laboratory at the University of New Mexico (Figure S-2 Offsite Lease 1); Buena Vista Surge space (Figure S-2 Offsite Lease 2); and Sandia Science and Technology Park (Figure S-2 Offsite Lease 3), which includes the Innovation Parkway Office Center, Cyber Engineering Research Laboratory, Center for Global Security and Cooperation, Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovation, and Computer Science Research Institute.

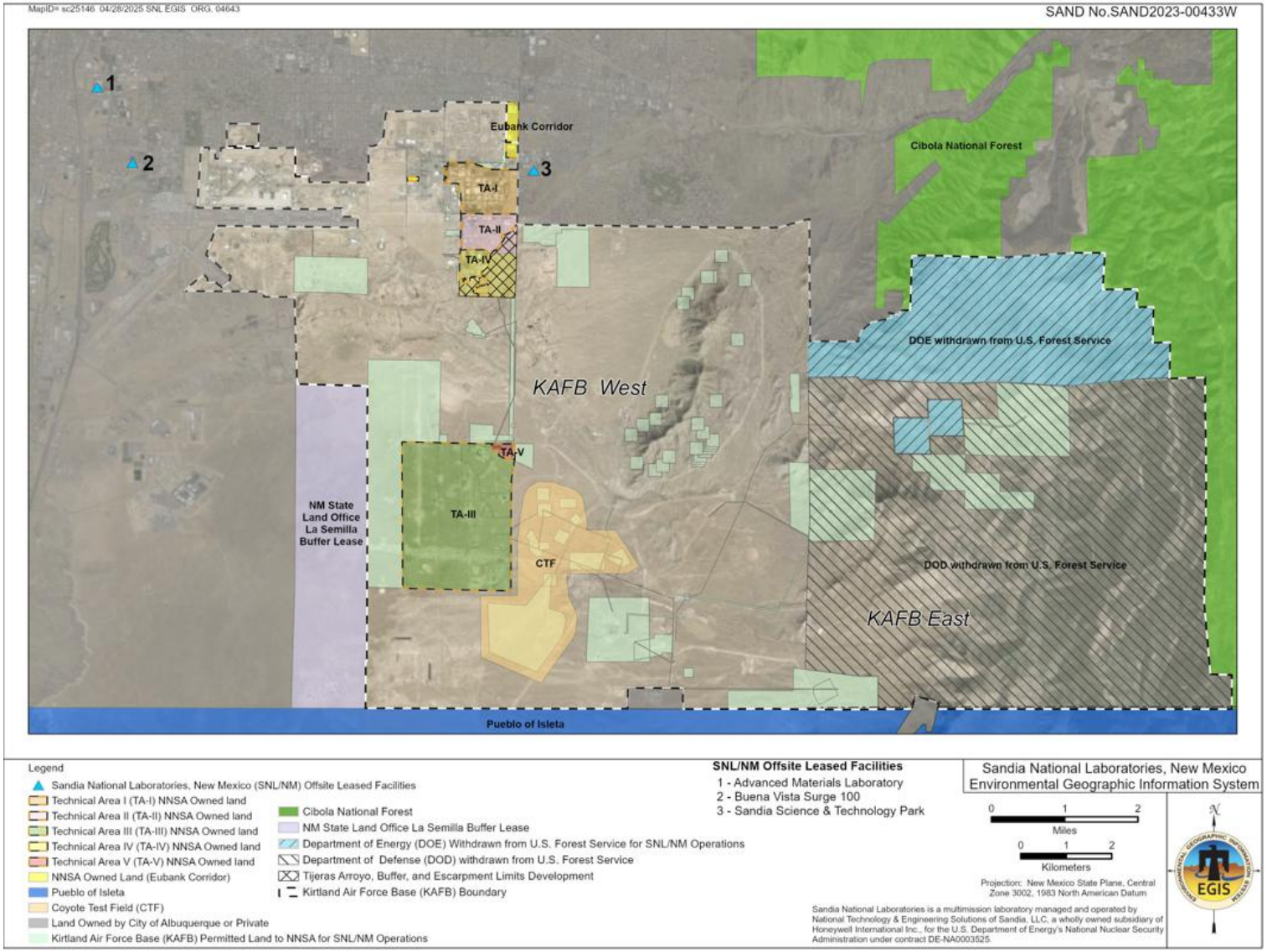

Figure S-2. Locations of SNL/NM TAs, Other Permitted Properties, Withdrawn Area, and Selected Offsite Leased Facilities

In 1999, DOE issued the first SWEIS for SNL/NM (DOE 1999), which analyzed the potential impacts of continued operations and resource management at SNL/NM to meet evolving DOE portfolios. Operations at SNL/NM are conducted in accordance with the 1999 SWEIS and ROD, four subsequent supplement analyses (DOE 2001; DOE 2002; DOE 2004; and DOE 2006), and other project-specific NEPA documents. This SWEIS describes SNL/NM operations and organizes the description of the alternatives consistent with the planning areas identified in SNL's Site-Wide Master Plan (SNL 2022b).

S.1.3 Purpose and Need for Agency Action

The purpose and need for continued operation of SNL/NM supports NNSA's missions as directed by Congress and the President (refer to Chapter 2 for a detailed discussion of the DOE/NNSA missions supported by SNL/NM). NNSA's operation of SNL/NM ensures a safe, secure, and reliable nuclear stockpile through the application of unparalleled science. Currently, many of these national security functions are conducted solely at SNL/NM. A curtailment or cessation of these activities would run counter to national security policy.

S.1.3.1 Other SNL/NM Program Considerations and Needs

Scientific progress drives research at SNL/NM. Consistent with the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 U.S.C. § 2401 et seq.), NNSA is responsible for supporting U.S. leadership in science and technology. SNL/NM supports other government entities by the advancement of science, industry through its Strategic Partnership Projects and Laboratory Directed Research and Development, and science and industry through the transfer of technology.

The approximately 900 real property assets or facilities[3] comprising SNL/NM have an average structure age of 36 years. Fifty-one percent of SNL/NM assets are in fair condition, while about 24 percent are in poor condition. Condition issues are primarily the result of old and outdated assets with continuously increasing repair needs. Asset condition presents a risk to mission success and bounds the growth of mission activities (SNL 2022b).

S.1.4 Public Involvement

The process of developing this SWEIS included two public comment sessions during the scoping phase of the SNL/NM SWEIS. Scoping is a process in which the public and stakeholders provide comments regarding the framing of alternatives to be considered within a specific environmental impact statement. This process began with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* (FR) on April 21, 2023. The FR NOI initiated a 45-day SWEIS public scoping period, which ended on June 5, 2023 (88 FR 24607).

[3] The term "facilities" refers to land, buildings, and other structures; their functional systems and equipment; and other fixed systems and equipment installed therein, including site development features outside the plant, such as landscaping, roads, walks, parking areas, outside lighting and communication systems, central utility plants, utility supply and distribution systems, and other physical plant features. These include any NNSA-owned, -leased, or -managed facilities, and they may or may not be furnished to a contractor under a contract with NNSA.

NNSA held one in-person public scoping meeting with online (virtual) listening capabilities on May 9, 2023, and one online (virtual) meeting on May 11, 2023. In addition to the two scoping meetings, NNSA communicated via advertising, email, and postal mail to encourage the public to submit comments on the SWEIS scope. NNSA considered all comments received during the scoping process in developing this SWEIS, including comments received just after the close of the comment period. Appendix B to this SWEIS summarizes the comments, how NNSA addressed them, and a detailed discussion of the public scoping process.

On November 18, 2026, a Notice of Change in the process for SNL/NM SWEIS was published in the FR (90 FR 51732). This change is consistent with the revocation of the Council of Environmental Quality and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (February 2026; DOE 2026). This SWEIS and ROD are posted on the DOE NEPA website http://energy.gov/nepa/nepa-documents).

S.2 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

S.2.1 Introduction and Development of the SWEIS Alternatives

NNSA's Proposed Action is the manner of continued operations at SNL/NM to meet NNSA mission requirements. This SWEIS analyzes three alternatives for continued operations: (1) No-Action Alternative, (2) Modernized Operations Alternative, and (3) Expanded Operations Alternative. The evaluation of environmental impacts from each alternative includes potential future projects from the Site-Wide Master Plan and other internal planning. Chapter 3 describes in detail the alternatives, which are briefly summarized in the sections that follow. This SWEIS also presents reasonably foreseeable environmental effects in Chapter 6.

The analyses in this SNL/NM SWEIS consider ongoing and proposed activities that could occur over the next 15 years (2025–2040). Figure S-3 provides a high-level illustration of the comparative level of operations for the three alternatives. Previously analyzed projects and proposed projects include new facility construction projects; operational changes; modernization/upgrade of existing facilities and infrastructure; and decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition (DD&D).

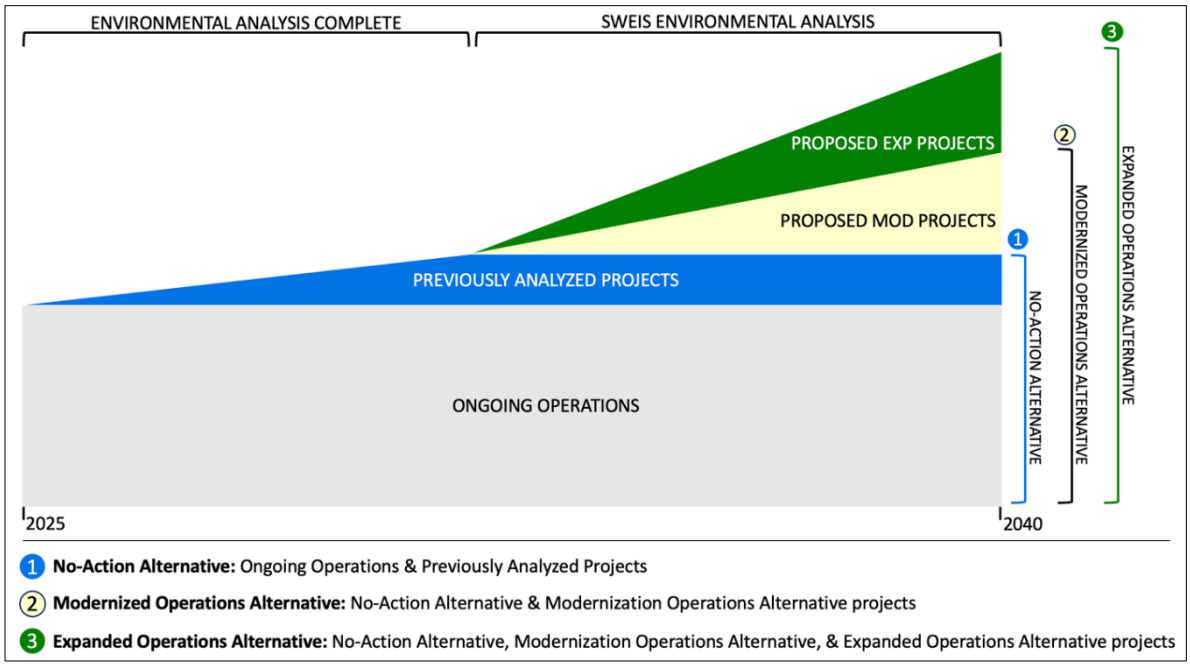

Figure S-3. Level of Operations for the SNL/NM Alternatives

S.2.2 No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative continues operations throughout SNL/NM and supports currently assigned programs. NEPA regulations require analysis of the No-Action Alternative to provide a benchmark for comparison with the environmental effects of other alternatives. Due to the programmatic nature of a SWEIS and the length of time between this document and the 1999 SWEIS, the No-Action Alternative reflects both the continuation of ongoing operations and the implementation of projects for which NEPA analysis/documentation have already been completed, although the projects themselves may not yet be implemented. The No-Action Alternative includes (1) minor construction (currently under $34 million) of replacement facilities, (2) upgrades to existing facilities and infrastructure, and (3) DD&D projects.

The No-Action Alternative includes 22 projects to replace aging infrastructure, described in Section 3.2, that already have NEPA analysis/documentation but are in various stages of implementation. These 22 projects include 1 major project (Power Sources Capability Facility), 12 minor projects, and 9 utility/infrastructure upgrades. These projects represent a development footprint (estimated square footage of a project/facility plus any construction laydown areas that may be required; refer to Section 3.2 for details) of about 309,660 square feet (7.1 acres), with a dedicated site-wide laydown area of about 6 acres to support SNL/NM construction activities.

Ten buildings and other assets, with a total footprint of 117,172 square feet (2.7 acres), are scheduled to undergo DD&D. Some hazardous construction materials often seen in older facilities may be present, such as asbestos, lead-based paint, and chemical contamination. NNSA has conservatively estimated that about 30 percent of the total wastes from DD&D could be hazardous. Building-specific characterization to determine the amount of hazardous material is performed prior to DD&D activities. Any hazardous waste will be disposed of at a permitted

offsite treatment, storage, and disposal facility. No radiological contamination is expected from DD&D activities under the No-Action Alternative (SNL 2023a).

S.2.2.1 Attributes of the No-Action Alternative

As shown in Table S-2, there will be a net increase in facility square footage of about 192,488 square feet at SNL/NM under the No-Action Alternative, as facility construction will be larger than the facility DD&D actions. Most facility construction will occur in TA-II due to the Power Sources Capability Facility. Examples of major existing facilities and categorized nuclear facilities are provided in Appendix A to this SWEIS.

Table S-2. Summary of Construction and DD&D – No-Action Alternative

Area	Facility/Development Footprint [a] (ft^2)	Additional Infrastructure Footprint (acre)	DD&D Footprint (ft^2)
TA-I	38,900	5-acre staging area	102,572
TA-II	158,500	1-acre substation	0
TA-III	29,500	0	11,000
TA-IV	65,400	0	0
TA-V	0	0	0
Other (KAFB-West, CTF)	17,360	0	3,600
TOTALS	**309,660 ft^2 (7.1 acres)**	**6 acres**	**117,172 ft^2 (2.7 acres)**

a. Data in this column include the square footage (ft^2) of a facility plus any construction laydown areas that may be required. After construction, laydown areas may be converted to parking areas or landscaped areas, or restored to the pre-construction state. To be conservative, this SWEIS assumes that the values in this column represent the maximum amount of land that could be disturbed. In terms of land use, the facility footprint represents the development footprint.

Source: SNL 2023a.

S.2.3 Modernized Operations Alternative

The Modernized Operations Alternative enhances existing programs and activities through facility modernization; no new programs would be instituted at SNL/NM. This alternative includes the scope of the No-Action Alternative, plus additional modernization activities, such as: (1) construction of additional replacement facilities, (2) upgrades to existing facilities and infrastructure, and (3) DD&D projects. Under this alternative, NNSA would replace facilities that are approaching their end of designed life, upgrade facilities to extend their lifetimes, and improve work environments enabling NNSA to increase efficiencies while still meeting operational requirements. The proposed DD&D of older facilities would eliminate excess facilities and reduce costs and risk.

As detailed in Section 3.3, 38 facility projects and 20 upgrade/utility/infrastructure projects, with a total development footprint of 1,657,580 square feet (38 acres), are proposed within the Modernized Operations Alternative, (this is in addition to the development identified within the No-Action Alternative). Major projects include eight facility replacements or upgrades and an additional 4 acres of land to support infrastructure development would be

disturbed. More than 40 buildings and support facilities, with a total footprint of 538,000 square feet (12.4 acres), would undergo DD&D.

S.2.3.1 Attributes of the Modernized Operations Alternative

As shown in Table S-3, there is potential for a net increase in facility square footage at SNL/NM under the Modernized Operations Alternative, as facility construction would be larger than projected facility DD&D actions. The net effect would be an increase in facilities by about 1,118,580 square feet (25.76 acres). Most facility construction would occur in TA-I and TA-II in disturbed areas. Of the new facilities that would be constructed (1,657,580 square feet), major projects (859,000 square feet) account for about 52 percent of total new construction.

Because of the increase in the overall size of facilities at SNL/NM, some site-wide operational parameters (e.g., number of workers, electricity usage, natural gas usage) would increase (refer to Appendix A, Table A-3). There would also be an increase in wastes associated with DD&D activities. Chapter 5 of this SWEIS presents these impacts.

Table S-3. Summary of Construction and DD&D – Modernized Operations Alternative [a]

Area	Facility/Development Footprint [b] (ft^2)	Additional Infrastructure Footprint (acre)	DD&D Footprint (ft^2)
TA-I	608,080	3-acre utility corridor	400,500
TA-II	535,000	1-acre substation	114,500
TA-III	192,500	0	8,000
TA-IV	75,000	0	0
TA-V	0	0	1,000
Other (KAFB-West, KAFB-East, CTF, SSTP, Site-wide)	247,000	0	14,000
TOTALS	**1,657,580 ft^2 (38.0 acres)**	**4 acres**	**538,000 ft^2 (12.4 acres)**

a. The values in this table are associated with the projects listed in Table 3-3. These values are incremental additions to the values associated with the No-Action Alternative.

b. Data in this column include the square footage of a facility plus any construction laydown areas that may be required. After construction, laydown areas may be converted to parking areas or landscaped areas, or they may be restored to the pre-construction state. To be conservative, this SWEIS assumes that the values in this column represent the maximum amount of land that could be disturbed. In terms of land use, the facility footprint represents the development footprint.

Source: SNL 2023b.

S.2.4 Expanded Operations Alternative

The Expanded Operations Alternative includes all projects identified within the No-Action and Modernized Operations Alternatives, plus additional actions that would expand or add operational capacity, capabilities, and missions to respond to future national security challenges and changing requirements. This alternative includes construction and operation of new facilities, new utility and infrastructure, and DD&D.

As described in Section 3.4, 30 new projects, totaling about 1,557,200 square feet (35.7 acres) of facility development and an additional 1,464 acres of other expanded energy generation project, would be constructed under the Expanded Operations Alternative. Again, these are in addition to the new projects identified in the Modernized Operations and No-Action Alternatives. Of these 30 projects, 7 utility/infrastructure projects are proposed, including expanded energy projects such as energy infrastructure enhancement, utility lines construction/changes, roads that could disturb 20 acres, and fences that would disturb an additional 3.3 acres. In addition, 52 facilities and other support facilities with a total footprint of 566,000 square feet (13 acres) would be scheduled to undergo DD&D. Section 3.4 identifies other actions that could expand the capabilities at SNL/NM.

S.2.4.1 Attributes of the Expanded Operations Alternative

Table S-4 shows the incremental values associated with the Expanded Operations Alternative projects. There would be an increase in facility square footage at SNL/NM, as facility construction would be larger than DD&D action by about 991,200 square feet (22.7 acres). Most facility construction (about 33 percent) would occur in TA-II. Of the 1,557,200 square feet of new facilities that would be constructed, major projects (1,345,000 square feet) account for about 86 percent of the incremental new construction. Table S-5 shows the total values for the Expanded Operations, Modernized Operations, and No-Action Alternatives.

Table S-4. Incremental Construction and DD&D Associated with Expanded Operations Alternative Projects

Area	Facility/Development Footprint [a, b] (ft^2)	Additional Infrastructure Footprint (acres) [a]	DD&D Footprint (ft^2) [a]
TA-I	266,700	19 acre expanded energy projects	191,000
TA-II	505,000	20-acre roads/infrastructure + 8 acre expanded energy projects	0
TA-III	108,500	0	58,000
TA-IV	345,000	4 acre expanded energy projects	238,000
TA-V	150,000	0	68,000
Other (KAFB-West, KAFB-East, CTF, Eubank Corridor, Site-wide)	182,000	1,410 acre expanded energy projects + 3.3-acre fence	11,000
INCREMENTAL TOTALS	**1,557,200 ft^2 (35.7 acres)**	**1,464.3 acres**	**566,000 ft^2 (13.0 acres)**

a. These values are incremental additions to the values associated with the Modernization Alternative. Table S-5 provides the total values associated with the Expanded Operations Alternative.

b. Data in this column include the square footage of a facility plus any construction laydown areas that may be required. After construction, laydown areas may be converted to parking areas or landscaped areas, or they may be restored to the pre-construction state. To be conservative, this SWEIS assumes that the values in this column represent the maximum amount of land that could be disturbed. In terms of land use, the facility footprint represents the development footprint.

Source: SNL 2023c.

Table S-5. Total Construction and DD&D – Expanded and Modernized Operations Alternatives

Area	Facility/Development Footprint [a, b] (ft^2)	Additional Infrastructure Footprint (acres) [a]	DD&D Footprint (ft^2) [a]
TA-I	890,380	19 acre expanded energy projects + 3 acre utility corridor	591,500
TA-II	1,040,000	20 acre roads/infrastructure + 8 acre expanded energy projects + 1 acre substation	114,500
TA-III	301,000	0	66,000
TA-IV	420,000	4 acre expanded energy projects	238,000
TA-V	150,000	0	69,000
Other (KAFB-West, KAFB-East, CTF, Eubank Corridor, Site-wide)	412,400	1,410 acre expanded energy projects + 3.3 acre fence	25,000
TOTALS	**3,213,780 ft^2 (73.8 acres)**	**1,468.3 acres**	**1,104,000 ft^2 (25.3 acres)**

a. The values in this table are for all projects listed in Tables 3-3 and 3-5.

b. Data in this column include the square footage of a facility plus any construction laydown areas that may be required. After construction, laydown areas may be converted to parking areas or landscaped areas, or they may be restored to the pre-construction state. To be conservative, this SWEIS assumes that the values in this column represent the maximum amount of land that could be disturbed. In terms of land use, the facility footprint represents the development footprint.

Source: SNL 2023c.

Because some of the Expanded Operations Alternative facilities would support new missions or expand capabilities, operational parameters (e.g., emissions, utility demands, workers, accident risks/consequences) associated with those facilities could be expected to change compared to those of existing operations. There would also be an increase in wastes associated with DD&D activities. These DD&D wastes would include construction debris and both radiological and hazardous/asbestos-contaminated wastes. Chapter 5 of this SWEIS presents the impacts associated with these changes.

S.2.5 Analytical Parameters for Each Alternative

As discussed in Sections 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4, all alternatives encompass a multitude of discrete projects/actions that have environmental impacts. By conducting a site-wide analysis, NNSA can consolidate impact analyses for multiple projects/actions, streamlining the NEPA process to make it more efficient and useful. Additionally, a site-wide analysis presents comprehensive impact information for decisionmakers to clearly understand the totality of impacts through reasonably foreseeable future activities at a site; avoids segmentation (division of actions with significant impacts into smaller actions, thereby minimizing significance); and efficiently responds to stakeholders by presenting information on past, present, and future activities at SNL/NM to better understand environmental impacts.

A primary challenge in preparing a site-wide analysis is to address the impacts from individual projects/actions and the totality of impacts from all projects/actions. To address this challenge, NNSA defined and accumulated data for defined projects/actions proposed within

each alternative. The accumulated parameters are shown in Appendix A, Table A-2 (for construction) and Table A-3 (for operations).

S.2.6 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study

NNSA assesses only reasonable alternatives that would meet the purpose and need identified in Section 1.3 of this SWEIS. The following alternatives were not considered in this SNL/NM SWEIS because they do not comport with NNSA's mission requirements (refer to Section 3.6 for more details):

- complete closure of SNL/NM; and
- transfer of current missions/operations from SNL/NM to other sites.

S.2.7 Selected Alternative

The alternative that NNSA believes would fulfill its statutory missions and responsibilities, considering economic, environmental, technical, and other factors, is considered the selected alternative. NNSA prepared cost, scheduling, and technical analyses separately and has considered these and all relevant factors in the ROD. NNSA has determined that SNL/NM is critical to its Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program, and the Expanded Operations Alternative best supports this mission. Therefore, NNSA has identified the Expanded Operations Alternative as the selected alternative for the continuing operations of SNL/NM.

S.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

S.3.1 Introduction

NNSA evaluated potential environmental impacts of the No-Action Alternative, the Modernized Operations Alternative, and the Expanded Operations Alternative (descriptions of those each alternatives are provided in Chapter 3 of the SWEIS) and compared the potential environmental impacts for each alternative to the existing environment as described in Chapter 4 of the SWEIS. The potential environmental impacts were determined using the methodologies described in Appendix C of the SWEIS.

This SWEIS evaluates the potential impacts of the alternatives within defined Regions of Influence (ROIs) for each identified resource. The ROI is the geographical area where potential impacts on an environmental resource could occur. All ROI are within the state of New Mexico; however, the ROI may be different for each environmental resource areas. Chapter 4, Table 4-1 lists the environmental resources analyzed in this SWEIS and their associated ROIs.

S.3.2 Comparison of Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives

Table S-6 summarizes a comparison of the environmental consequences for the continued operation of SNL/NM. The table compares the potential impacts to environmental resources associated with the continued operation of SNL/NM under the No-Action Alternative, Modernized Operations Alternative, and Expanded Operations Alternative. Table S-6 includes data for both construction and operations associated with each alternative. Chapter 5 of this SWEIS contains detailed analyses supporting the summary comparison of alternatives.

Table S-6. Comparison of Environmental Consequences

No-Action Alternative	Modernized Operations Alternative	Expanded Operations Alternative
Land Use and Airspace (refer to Section 5.2)		
Total permanent land development at SNL/NM will be 3,260 acres (24 percent of total land area). Site-wide development footprint will be about 6,102,728 square feet (3 percent over baseline). No change to current or future land use designation. Activities represent a continuation of existing land uses and will be compatible with existing and approved future land uses at and surrounding the site. No specific proposed projects or actions will result in changes, disruptions, or other impacts on the current use, management, or operational procedures of existing airspace.	Total permanent land development at SNL/NM would be 3,290 acres (24 percent of total land area). Site-wide development footprint would be about 6,989,308 square feet (15 percent more than the No-Action Alternative). No change to current or future land use designation. Activities represent a continuation of existing land uses and would be compatible with existing and approved future land uses at and surrounding the site. No specific proposed projects or actions would result in changes, disruptions, or other impacts on the current use, management, or operational procedures of existing airspace.	Total permanent land development at SNL/NM would be 3,577 acres (26 percent of total land area). Site-wide development footprint would be about 7,809,508 square feet (28 percent more than the No-Action Alternative). No change to current or future land use designation. The proposed Forest Service land transfer of all DOE withdrawn lands (4,595 acres) or partial land transfer with Forest Service retaining up to 315 acres would not result in current or future land use. Activities would be compatible with existing and approved future land uses at and surrounding the site. SNL/NM would expand unmanned system (UxS) operations to include new air, ground, and water unmanned devices across all KAFB property, unmanned aircraft system (UAS) flight "swarms," and counterterrorism activities. Airspace would be governed by the Federal Aviation Administration certificates of authorization.
Visual Resources (refer to Section 5.3)		
No long-term change to Visual Resource Management (VRM) class.	No long-term change to VRM class.	KAFB-West's short-term VRM class would change from II-III to IV, and long-term VRM class would change from II-III to III-IV due to expanded energy projects, which would amplify existing visual impacts from SNL/NM operations on sites adjacent to residential developments and Pueblo of Isleta lands. All other areas have no long-term change to VRM class.

No-Action Alternative	Modernized Operations Alternative	Expanded Operations Alternative
Geology and Soils (refer to Section 5.4)		
Disturbance of about 13.1 acres of previously undisturbed soil will occur. No activities will cause significant[4] impacts on soil erosion, slope stability, subsidence, or liquefaction. Any new facility will be designed and constructed to meet seismic design criteria commensurate with the risk category requirements. Potential impacts from geologic hazards (i.e., seismic events) are discussed in the Accidents Analysis and Intentional Destructive Acts section of this table.	Disturbance of about 42 acres of previously undisturbed soil would occur. No activities would cause significant impacts on soil erosion, slope stability, subsidence, or liquefaction. Any new facility would be designed and constructed to meet seismic design criteria commensurate with the risk category requirements. Potential impacts from geologic hazards (i.e., seismic events) are discussed in the Accidents Analysis and Intentional Destructive Acts section of this table.	Disturbance of about 1,542.1 acres (73.8 acres for facilities; 3 acres for utility corridor; 1 acre for substation; 20 acres for roads; 3.3 acres for fence; and 1,441 acres for expanded energy projects and infrastructure) of previously undisturbed soil would occur. No activities would cause significant impacts on soil erosion, slope stability, subsidence, or liquefaction. Any new facility would be designed and constructed to meet seismic design criteria commensurate with the risk category requirements. Potential impacts from geologic hazards (i.e., seismic events) are discussed in the Accidents Analysis and Intentional Destructive Acts section of this table.

[4] In Table S-6 and where appropriate throughout this SWEIS, NNSA uses the term "significant," as defined in DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (DOE 2026).

No-Action Alternative	Modernized Operations Alternative	Expanded Operations Alternative
Water Resources and Hydrology (refer to Section 5.5)		
Surface Water: Minimal[5] impacts from: (1) increased sediment load to surface water due to land disturbance; (2) increased surface water flow volumes due to impervious surfaces in localized areas; and (3) contamination from operations. SNL/NM will comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater requirements consisting of Construction General Permit, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, and Multi-Sector General Permit permits. Construction and operations would not affect floodplains. Groundwater: Compliance with federal regulations and implementation of mitigation measures would ensure minimal impacts on groundwater. Groundwater monitoring will continue under the No-Action Alternative to ensure existing remedy and remediation continues to be effective. Groundwater quality would be expected to continually improve.	Same as No-Action Alternative.	Same as No-Action Alternative.

[5] In Table S-6 and where appropriate throughout this SWEIS, NNSA uses the term "minimal" to describe potential non-zero impacts that are considered negligible because either (1) in context, the magnitude or intensity of the impacts would be too small to be significant, or (2) the impacts would be very small or slight in size or amount relative to defined standards for a resource. For example, "minimal" impacts include those that are indistinguishable from background, or so minor that they would neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of an environmental resource. Refer to the detailed analysis in Chapter 5 for the basis of these summary descriptions.

No-Action Alternative	Modernized Operations Alternative	Expanded Operations Alternative
Air Quality (refer to Section 5.6)		
Bernalillo County is designated as an attainment area for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). General conformity is not applicable. There would be minimal impact on air quality. Vehicular traffic and the use of construction equipment will generate most of the air emissions. No NAAQS would be exceeded. Impacts from radiological air emissions are addressed in Human Health.	Similar impacts as No-Action Alternative. Total non-construction-related air emissions are expected to increase by 29 percent compared to the No-Action Alternative, primarily from increase in workforce commuting. No additional radiological emissions are expected. Impacts from radiological emissions are addressed in Human Health.	Similar impacts as No-Action Alternative. Total non-construction-related air emissions are expected to increase by 62 percent compared to the No-Action Alternative, primarily from the increase in workforce commuting. Radiological air emissions are expected to increase by about 35 curies (Ci) per year, with tritium and noble gases accounting for most of the increase. Impacts from radiological emissions are addressed in Human Health.
Noise (refer to Section 5.7)		
Noise impacts are expected to be similar to the impacts from existing noise generated by SNL/NM. Construction activities could generate ground-borne vibrations, but are expected to be confined to the area immediately around equipment and not extend beyond the SNL/NM-managed lands. In most cases, UxS events are not perceptible outside of the KAFB boundary. In most cases, explosive events heard outside the KAFB boundary resemble a dull thud or a short burst (less than 3 seconds). Given the remote location of explosives test sites, noise is expected to attenuate before reaching residential areas.	Similar impacts as No-Action Alternative. No change is expected in explosive frequency or magnitude of explosives used or UxS frequency or use compared to the No-Action Alternative.	Similar impacts as No-Action Alternative. There is an expected increase of up to 50 percent in explosive frequency, with all types and sizes of explosives. While this would increase the number of noise and vibration events associated with explosive detonation, there is no change in the magnitude of any explosive event. This alternative also includes additional UxS operations, including increasing the number of flights and size of the swarms. Swarm size would be increased from 10 UAS to up to 100, which would increase the noise by an observer directly below. The number of UxS flights would increase by almost 60 percent compared to the No-Action Alternative. More frequent flights would not increase magnitude of noise impact from the UxS.

No-Action Alternative	Modernized Operations Alternative	Expanded Operations Alternative
Biological Resources (refer to Section 5.8)		
Disturbance of 13.1 total acres (includes 5 acres of permanent staging area). Minimal impacts on vegetation, wildlife, and special status species.	Disturbance of 42.0 total acres. Minimal impacts on vegetation, wildlife, and special status species.	Disturbance of 1,542.1 total acres (73.8 acres for facilities; 3 acres for utility corridor; 1 acre for substation; 1,441 acres for expanded energy projects; 20 acres for roads; and 3.3 acres for fence). Moderate impacts primarily on grasslands, due to 1,441 acres for expanded energy projects. Significant impacts on grassland-reliant wildlife, bats, and migratory birds and raptors. Some impacts could be reduced by implementing a Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy (BBCS) and best management practices (BMPs). Significant impacts on grassland-reliant and migratory special status species: bats, prairie dogs, and dozens of bird species. Some impacts could be reduced by implementing a BBCS and BMPs.
Cultural and Paleontological Resources (refer to Section 5.9)		
Minimal impacts on archaeological sites / Traditional Cultural Places. Ten historic buildings (NHPA historic properties) and other support facilities are scheduled for DD&D. Potential impacts on cultural resources would be avoided or reduced by locating projects in areas previously disturbed, rerouting construction to avoid resources, marking or fencing at-risk cultural resources, and monitoring construction activities.	Similar impacts as No-Action Alternative. More than 40 historic buildings (NHPA historic properties) and other support facilities are scheduled for DD&D.	Potential for impacts on National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) qualities from development activities, of which up to 1,200 acres would be on less developed lands. Any construction in undeveloped areas would require archaeological survey and monitoring. If NRHP-eligible sites are encountered, further consultation may be required. DD&D would remove 100 historic buildings (NHPA historic properties).

No-Action Alternative	Modernized Operations Alternative	Expanded Operations Alternative
Traffic and Transportation (refer to Section 5.10)		
During operations, DD&D, and environmental remediation, SNL/NM would regularly transport radiological waste and other nuclear materials to and from the SNL/NM site. The estimated annual impacts of these shipments would be: • Dose to transport-crews: 6.18 person-rem; • Risk to transport crews: 0.0037 latent cancer fatalities (LCF); • Incident-free dose to public: 2.5 person-rem; • Risk to Public: 0.0015 LCF; • Accident Risk to Public: 0.00000054 LCF/yr; •Non-radiological Risk (# of traffic-accident fatalities/yr): 0.00075	During operations, DD&D, and environmental remediation, SNL/NM would regularly transport radiological waste and other nuclear materials to and from the SNL/NM site. The estimated annual impacts of these shipments would be: • Dose to transport crews: 14.0 person-rem • Risk to transport crews: 0.0084 LCF • Incident-free dose to public: 16.2 person-rem • Risk to Public: 0.0097 LCF • Accident Risk to Public: 0.00000055 LCF/yr • Non-radiological Risk (# of traffic-accident fatalities/yr): 0.0011	During operations, DD&D, and environmental remediation, SNL/NM would regularly transport radiological waste and other nuclear materials to and from the SNL/NM site. The estimated annual impacts of these shipments would be: • Dose to transport-crews: 18.1 person-rem; • Risk to transport crews: 0011 LCF; • Incident-free dose to public: 17.7 person-rem; • Risk to Public: 0.011 LCF; • Accident Risk to Public: 0.00000082 LCF/yr •Non-radiological Risk (# of traffic-accident fatalities/yr): 0.0015
Infrastructure (refer to Section 5.11)		
The existing infrastructure (utilities) will be adequate. Electrical capacity may become a limiting factor in the future. SNL/NM is currently conducting a site-wide electrical infrastructure study to identify system limitations and recommend the necessary upgrades to support future growth and ensure reliable power delivery.	Electrical capacity would become a more critical limiting factor, as peak energy usage would utilize 53% of existing capacity. Water and natural gas increases can be accommodated by existing systems. Sanitary wastewater discharge remains well below permitted discharge rate.	Due to increased onsite electrical power generation, peak energy usage would only increase 17 percent, lowering impact on existing capacity from the Modernized Operations Alternative. Water and natural gas increases can be accommodated by existing system. Sanitary wastewater discharge remains well below permitted discharge rate.

No-Action Alternative	Modernized Operations Alternative	Expanded Operations Alternative
Waste Management and Materials Management (refer to Section 5.12)		
Construction, environmental remediation, DD&D, and operations will generate the following projected annual quantities of waste: LLW (m^3/yr): 93.9 MLLW (m^3/yr): 93.8 TRU waste (m^3/yr): 1.4 Hazardous (MT/yr): 353 ACM (MT/yr): 253 Infectious waste (MT/yr): 2.8 Chemical waste (MT/yr): 296.4 Classified hazardous waste (MT/yr): 8.1 Classified non-hazardous waste (MT/yr): 10.2 Non-hazardous solid (MT/yr): 5,450	Construction, environmental remediation, DD&D, and operations would generate the following projected annual quantities of waste: LLW (m^3/yr): 93.9 MLLW (m^3/yr): 93.8 TRU waste (m^3/yr): 1.41 Hazardous (MT/yr): 574 ACM (MT/yr): 474 Infectious waste (MT/yr): 2.8 Chemical waste (MT/yr): 296.4 Classified hazardous waste (MT/yr): 8.1 Classified non-hazardous waste (MT/yr): 10.2 Non-hazardous solid (MT/yr): 6,450	Construction, environmental remediation, DD&D, and operations would generate the following projected annual quantities of waste: LLW (m^3/yr): 250 MLLW (m^3/yr): 140.1 TRU waste (m^3/yr): 2.1 Hazardous (MT/yr): 1,069 ACM (MT/yr): 922 Infectious waste (MT/yr): 4.2 Chemical waste (MT/yr): 444.6 Classified hazardous waste (MT/yr): 12.1 Classified non-hazardous waste (MT/yr): 53.0 Non-hazardous solid (MT/yr): 9,990
Human Health and Safety (refer to Section 5.13)		
Non-radiological impacts: • Lost days due to injury/illness per year: 384 • Number of occupational fatalities per year: 1.0 Radiological impacts: <u>Public</u> Maximally exposed individual (MEI) risk (LCF): 0.0000000039 Population risk (LCF): 0.000014 <u>Workers</u> Collective annual radiological dose to workers (person-rem): 2.38 Total annual radiological risk to workers (LCFs): 0.0014	Non-radiological impacts: • Lost days due to injury/illness per year: 440 • Number of occupational fatalities per year: 1.1 Radiological impacts: <u>Public</u> MEI risk (LCF): 0.0000000099 Population risk (LCF): 0.00002 <u>Workers</u> Collective annual radiological dose to workers (person-rem): 9.5 Total annual radiological risk to workers (LCFs): 0.0057	Non-radiological impacts: • Lost days due to injury/illness per year: 524 • Number of occupational fatalities per year: 1.3 Radiological impacts: <u>Public</u> MEI risk (LCF): 0.000000015 Population risk (LCF): 0.00003 <u>Workers</u> Collective annual radiological dose to workers (person-rem): 21.1 Total annual radiological risk to workers (LCFs): 0.013

No-Action Alternative	Modernized Operations Alternative	Expanded Operations Alternative
Accident Analysis and Intentional Destructive Acts (refer to Section 5.14)		
Dose and LCF Totals: (average meteorology) MEI dose (rem): 0.21 MEI LCF: 0.000126 Offsite population dose (person-rem): 535 Offsite population LCF: 0.32 Co-located worker dose (rem): 2.44 Co-located worker LCF: 0.00146 Annual Risk Totals for Design-Basis Seismic/Fire-Involved Facilities: MEI (LCF): 0.000000026 Offsite population (LCF): 0.0001 Co-located worker (LCF): 0.00000073	Dose and LCF Totals: (average meteorology) MEI dose (rem): 0.21 MEI LCF: 0. 000126 Offsite population dose (person-rem): 535 Offsite population LCF: 0.32 Co-located worker dose (rem): 2.44 Co-located worker LCF: 0. 00146 Annual Risk Totals for Design-Basis Seismic/Fire-Involved Facilities: MEI (LCF): 0.000000026 Offsite population (LCF): 0.0001 Co-located worker (LCF): 0.00000073	Dose and LCF Totals: (average meteorology) MEI dose (rem): 0.21 MEI LCF: 0. 000126 Offsite population dose (person-rem): 535 Offsite population LCF: 0.32 Co-located worker dose (rem): 2.44 Co-located worker LCF: 0. 00146 Annual Risk Totals for Design-Basis Seismic/Fire-Involved Facilities: MEI (LCF): 0.000000026 Offsite population (LCF): 0.0001 Co-located worker (LCF): 0.00000074
Socioeconomics (refer to Section 5.15)		
Direct SNL/NM Jobs: 14,378 Indirect Jobs: 5,175 Total Annual Value Added to the ROI Economy (Millions): $2,633.2 Schools: No change in demand; no effect on school services Housing: No change in vacancy; median price increases anticipated unrelated to NNSA activities	Direct SNL/NM Jobs: 16,460 Indirect Jobs: 5,924 Total Annual Value Added to the ROI Economy: (Millions): $3,013.8 Schools: Minimal enrollment increase; no effect on school services Housing: Adequate availability; median price increases anticipated unrelated to NNSA activities	Direct SNL/NM Jobs: 19,750 Indirect Jobs: 7,107 Total Annual Value Added to the ROI Economy: (Millions): $3,616.2 Schools: Minimal enrollment increase; no effect on school services Housing: Adequate availability; median price increases anticipated unrelated to NNSA activities
Surrounding Population Considerations: No disproportionate and adverse impacts on at-risk populations are anticipated. Refer to Table 5-64 for detailed information.	Surrounding Population Considerations: No disproportionate and adverse impacts on at-risk populations are anticipated. Refer to Table 5-64 for detailed information.	Surrounding Population Considerations: No disproportionate and adverse impacts on at-risk populations are anticipated. Refer to Table 5-64 for detailed information.

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