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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

National Nuclear Security Administration

Record of Decision: Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico

AGENCY: National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), U.S. Department of Energy

ACTION: Record of Decision

SUMMARY: The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) issues this Record of Decision (ROD) for the Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico (SNL/NM SWEIS; DOE/EIS-0556). The NNSA has decided to fully implement the Expanded Operations Alternative identified in the SNL/NM SWEIS to best meet its statutory missions and responsibilities.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY AND CONTACT INFORMATION: The ROD and SNL/NM SWEIS (DOE/EIS-0556) are available on the following websites: *https://www.sandia.gov/about/environment/sweis/* and *https://www.energy.gov/nepa/office-nepa-policy-and-compliance*. For further information on this ROD or the SNL/NM SWEIS, contact: Dr. Adria Bodour, NEPA Compliance Officer, National Nuclear Security Administration, Sandia Field Office, PO Box 5400, Albuquerque, NM 87185; email *adria.bodour@nnsa.doe.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The NNSA is responsible for meeting the national security requirements established by the President and Congress to maintain and enhance the safety, security, reliability, and performance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile; promoting nonproliferation; and supporting a multitude of national security imperatives—including efforts to ensure energy resiliency and protect against

cyber, space, biological, and chemical threats. The continued operation of SNL/NM is critical to NNSA's Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program, efforts to prevent the spread and use of nuclear weapons worldwide, and to many other areas that impact national security and global stability. SNL/NM also provides non-weapons research and science services in multiple areas, including waste management, environmental restoration, hazardous and radioactive material transportation, energy efficiency, nuclear energy, fossil energy, magnetic fusion, basic energy sciences, supercomputing, and biological and environmental research. SNL/NM capabilities support strategic partnership projects, under which SNL/NM oversees national security-related research, development, and testing programs and conducts work for other federal and state government agencies, industry, and academic institutions.

NEPA Review

Three alternatives were analyzed in the SNL/NM SWEIS based on current operations and potential future operations, and are summarized below. The No-Action Alternative reflects ongoing operations throughout SNL/NM at existing levels of operations and assigned mission functions that represent continuation of current programs and capabilities along with approved projects. The No-Action Alternative was included in the environmental review to provide a baseline for comparison of the environmental effects from the other action alternatives. The Modernized Operations Alternative includes the scope of the No-Action Alternative and (1) construction of replacement facilities, (2) upgrades to existing facilities and infrastructure, and (3) decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition (DD&D) projects. Under this alternative, NNSA would replace facilities that are approaching their end of designed life, upgrade certain other facilities to extend their lifetimes, DD&D of older facilities, and improve work environments to enable NNSA to meet operational requirements. This alternative would not

expand beyond SNL/NM existing programs and capabilities but may expand operations within those programs and capabilities. The Expanded Operations Alternative includes the scope of the No-Action Alternative and the Modernized Operations Alternative. This alternative expands SNL/NM programs and capabilities beyond those that currently exist to respond to future national security challenges and meet increasing requirements. This alternative includes construction and operation of replacement and new facilities, upgrading existing facilities, and DD&D of older facilities.

Public Involvement

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 the SNL/NM SWEIS. During scoping, NNSA held one in-person public scoping meeting with online listening capabilities and one online meeting. Comments received during that scoping process have been considered in the preparation of the SNL/NM SWEIS. A notice was issued by DOE in the *Federal Register* (90 FR 51732) on November 18, 2025, removing the requirement to release a Draft SNL/NM SWEIS for public comment due to intervening regulatory changes.

Decision

After fully considering public scoping comments, comments received from regulators, cooperating and collaborating entities, and the NNSA's mission needs and drivers, the NNSA has selected to implement the Expanded Operations Alternative. This decision provides a reasonable and appropriate path forward for SNL/NM to continue operations, facility construction (i.e., upgrades, replacement, and/or new), DD&D facilities, and expand existing programs and capabilities to best meet statutory missions and responsibilities.

Mitigation

No likely adverse impacts were identified that require additional mitigation measures beyond those required by applicable regulatory drivers and appropriate permitting or otherwise achieved through design features and/or best management practices specified in the SNL/NM SWEIS.

SIGNING AUTHORITY: This DOE document is signed by Brandon Williams, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. § 2402 and relevant delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy.

Signed in Washington, D.C., on this 18th day of MAY 2026.

Brandon M. Williams
Under Secretary for Nuclear Security
Administrator, NNSA