



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Categorical Exclusion (CX) Determination Form



Categorical Exclusion ID#:

Proposed Action: Categorical Exclusion for Los Alamos County A-8-a Stormwater Infrastructure Development

Program or Field Office: NNSA Los Alamos Field Office - Los Alamos, New Mexico

Location(s) (City/County/State): Los Alamos NM, United States

Proposed Action Description

Los Alamos County (County) proposes to install stormwater infrastructure in Subparcel A-8-a on County property to collect, manage, and send stormwater into Los Alamos Canyon located in Technical Area 02 on DOE/NNSA property south of DP road. DOE/NNSA proposes to grant an easement or license for the County to install stormwater infrastructure on DOE/NNSA property. Stormwater infrastructure would consist of a steel pipe encased in concrete that would direct water from the detention ponds located on County land to the edge of the mesa that overlooks Los Alamos Canyon and direct stormwater flows onto DOE/NNSA property. The County also proposes to fill a cut in the mesa edge to provide stabilized ground for the stormwater infrastructure. The fill would utilize local soil and rock from push piles in the construction area, which would be compacted and stabilized to support the stormwater infrastructure and prevent further erosion in the cut. Excavation in the mesa bedrock could occur for stormwater flow slope.

NEPA Analysis

The following categorical exclusions as listed in the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (dated February 2, 2026) and 10 CFR 1021 apply:

B1.33 Stormwater runoff control

Design, construction, and operation of control practices to reduce stormwater runoff and maintain natural hydrology. Activities include, but are not limited to, those that reduce impervious surfaces (such as vegetative practices and use of porous pavements), best management practices (such as silt fences, straw wattles, and fiber rolls), and use of green infrastructure or other low impact development practices (such as cisterns and green roofs).

Regulatory Requirements in DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, Appendix B, *Categorical Exclusions Applicable to Specific Agency Actions*.

To find that a proposal is categorically excluded, DOE shall determine the following:

- (1) The proposal fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B to DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures;
- (2) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. The proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other actions with



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individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Best Management Practices Required for Project Implementation on DOE/NNSA Property

<u>Resources</u>	<u>Impact Identified</u>	<u>Best Management Practices</u>
Visual Resources; Geology and Soils; Nonradiological Air Quality	Temporary visual impacts from generation of dust during construction activities.	Application of water for dust suppression is required during construction activities.
Water Quality Stormwater	The maximum stormwater capacity in the ponds would be approximately 75,000 gallons, with a 24-hour peak volume at approximately 49,000 gallons. The estimated rate of stormwater flow would be approximately 14.7 cubic feet per second.	Onsite grading and drainage controls for Los Alamos County land would use a series of retention ponds, detention ponds, and piping to control the flow of stormwater. Implementation would prevent erosion from County discharges onto DOE/NNSA property.
Water Quality Individual Permit Sites	One site monitoring area (SMA)—LA-SMA-5.54—located in Los Alamos Canyon below the proposed location for stormwater infrastructure not anticipated to be disturbed.	LA-SMA-5.54 has certified EPA BMPs to be maintained during and after the proposed project (i.e., rock check dams, earthen berms, established vegetation, and rock-lined channels and swales).
Ecological Resources	The project is proposed within occupied habitat for the Mexican spotted owl.	Timing restrictions are in place for noise-generating activities in occupied habitat between March 15 and August 31.
Human Health and Safety; Noise	Workers could be exposed to various occupational hazards during construction and operational activities. Such hazards could include routine hazards associated with construction and operation (e.g., heavy machinery and construction materials).	Occupational risks and hazards during construction and operations activities would be minimized through compliance with Los Alamos County safety standards, policies, procedures, and controls.
Cultural Resources	Archaeological sites are present adjacent to the proposed construction area. The project is not anticipated to impact integrity of the sites.	Known cultural resources will be marked to ensure avoidance. Resources discovered on DOE/NNSA property require the County to notify DOE/NNSA for assessment per LANL Cultural Resources Management Plan.
Waste Management/ Pollution Prevention	Los Alamos County and its contractors would be responsible for waste generated by the project, such as general construction waste. No hazardous or radioactive waste would be generated by the proposed action.	Los Alamos County and its contractors would be responsible for complying with federal and state laws and requirements.



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Environmental Restoration	A 2007 environmental baseline survey identified that Subparcel A-8-a has trace levels of residual contamination within the subparcel from legacy LANL activities. DOE/NNSA determined that previous remedial activities were sufficient and the proposed activities would not require future remedial activities.	1. Any material excavated must be managed within the PRS/SWMU/AOC boundary and, if possible, returned to the point of origin upon completion of the project.
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NEPA Compliance Officer Determination

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action (*Categorical Exclusion for Los Alamos County A-8-a Stormwater Infrastructure Development*), as a designated NNSA NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

If changes are made to the scope of the action so that it is no longer bounded by the above description, or the project is changed to encompass other actions, NEPA requirements for the action will need to be reassessed at that time and further analysis may be required.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Date Determined: