

DOE Floodplain Statement of Findings for Activities Related to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Sequim Campus Future Development

Project Description

To accomplish its scientific mission, the Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to construct, improve, operate, and remove buildings and infrastructure (e.g., roads, utilities, pier, floating dock) on the PNNL Sequim campus shoreline, located at the mouth of Sequim Bay in Clallam County, WA (Figure 1). Buildings and infrastructure could include, but not be limited to, specialized research laboratories, marine access, facilities, office space, and support buildings.

An assessment of the environmental impacts of these proposed activities was conducted as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Future Development of the Sequim Campus (DOE/EA-2130) in 2022. In 2025 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) was updated. The updated FIRM indicates that portions of the PNNL Sequim Campus shoreline are now within the base floodplain of Sequim Bay.

On April 16th, 2026, DOE distributed a Notice of Intent to conduct a Floodplain Assessment (FA) and invited comments as required under 10 CFR 1022.12. No comments have been received.

Summary of FA

The FA evaluated the potential impact of these activities on the floodplain. In summary, the activities are not anticipated to obstruct floodwaters, increase the base flood elevation, or worsen flooding for the surrounding area. The activities are outside of high-hazard areas and regulatory floodways, indicating a low likelihood of flood losses and adverse impacts. These activities conform to the applicable floodplain protection standards.

Within the FA DOE evaluated the viability of leasing private facilities as an alternative. However, the lack of nearby available facilities that meet DOE's needs, the additional risk and liability associated with the utilization of privately owned facilities, and the expected decrease in research that would occur if facilities were not co-located with the PNNL Sequim Campus made this alternative infeasible. DOE also considered the no

action alternative. This alternative was discarded as it guaranteed that DOE would not be able to meet its mission need.

Mitigation measures would be used to minimize adverse impacts to the floodplain, including:

- Limiting construction activities within the floodplain to the existing developed footprint
- Minimizing total impervious surface area
- Following established operating procedures, maintenance plans, safety protocols, and design standards
- Obtaining and abiding by applicable laws and regulatory requirements
- Implementing best management practices for stormwater management and erosion control
- Protecting ecologically sensitive areas through biological resources reviews requirements, as applicable
- Limiting and controlling access to the area

Determination

Based off the information contained within the FA, DOE has decided to proceed with the proposed action as described in the Project Description.

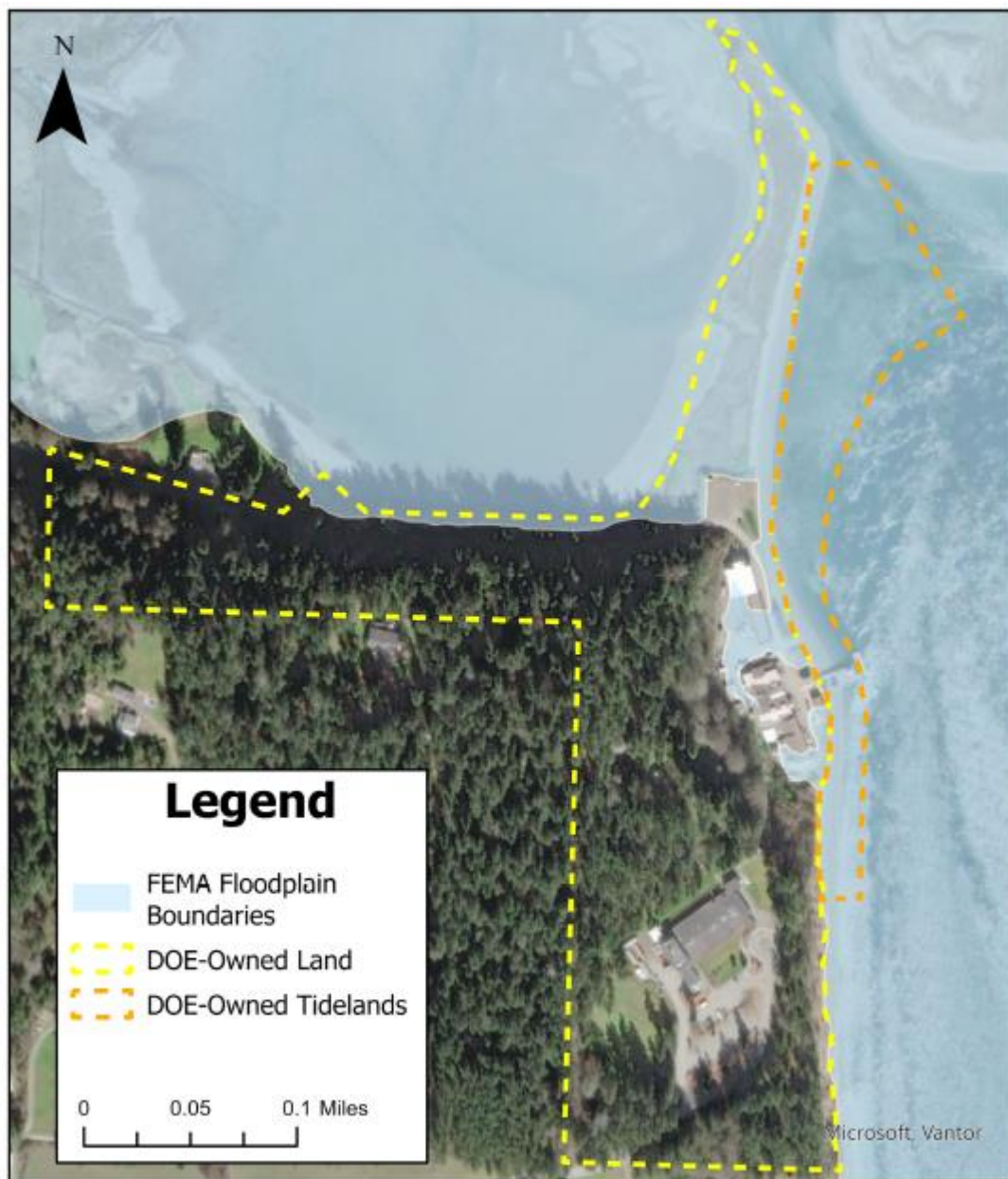


Figure 1: Map of the PNNL Sequim Campus with boundaries of DOE-owned land (yellow) and tidelands (orange) relative to the FEMA-designated base floodplain of Sequim Bay (blue).