



Department of Energy
Office of Science
Pacific Northwest Site Office
P.O. Box 350, K9-42
Richland, Washington 99352

JUN 30, 2026

26-PNSO-0187

ADDRESSEES - SEE LIST

Dear Sir/Madam:

NOTIFICATION OF FLOODPLAIN DETERMINATION

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) previously informed your office in our letter 26-PNSO-0127, dated April 7, 2026, of our intent to conduct a Floodplain Assessment for activities related to the development of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Sequim Campus, and invited your office and others to provide comments. DOE received zero public comments.

DOE has completed the assessment and determined that it is appropriate to proceed with its development activities as proposed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Tom McDermott of my office at tom.mcdermott@science.doe.gov or 509-713-5681.

Sincerely,

ASHLEY
MORRIS

Ashley T. Morris
Acting Manager

Digitally signed by
ASHLEY MORRIS
Date: 2026.06.30
12:29:17 -07'00'

OPS:TMM

Enclosure

cc w/encl:

M. E. Barnes, PNNL
E. G. Damberg, PNNL
A. S. Knode, PNNL
J.M. Robinson, PNNL
D. M. Storms, PNNL
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Kate Dexter, City of Port Angeles
Nathan West, City of Port Angeles
Brandon Janisse, City of Sequim
Matthew Huish, City of Sequim
Kelly Burger, City of Sequim
Dan Butler, City of Sequim
Vicki Lowe, City of Sequim
Rachel Anderson, City of Sequim
Harmony Rutter, City of Sequim
Nicole Hartman, City of Sequim
Paul Bucich, City of Sequim Public Works
Christy Cox, Clallam Conservation District
Randy Johnson, Clallam County
Mark Ozias, Clallam County
Mike French, Clallam County
Todd Mielke, Clallam County
Bruce Emery, Clallam County
Rebecca Mahan, Clallam County Marine Resources Committee
Suzy Ames, Clallam Economic Development Council
Colleen McAleer, Clallam Economic Development Council, Port of Port Angeles
Jonathan W. Smith Sr, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
Allison O'Brien, Department of Interior
John Graves, FEMA Region 10
Ellie Ausmuss, Friends of Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge
Darlene Hollum, Hoh Tribe
William Ron Allen, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Heather Dudley-Nollette, Jefferson County
Heidi Eisenhour, Jefferson County
Greg Brotherton, Jefferson County
Mark McCauley, Jefferson County
Josh Peters, Jefferson County
Joe Holtrop, Jefferson County Conservation District
David Ballif, Jefferson County Economic Development Corporation
Helle Andersen, League of Women Voters of Clallam County
Francis Charles, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Anthony Hillaire, Lummi Nation Tribe

Timothy J. Greene Sr., Makah Tribe
NOAA NEPA Inbox, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Katherine Renshaw, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Scott Hecht, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
David Brownell, North Olympic History Center
President, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
Jeff Johnston, Olympic Region Clean Air Agency
Amber Caldera, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Connie Beauvais, Port of Port Angeles
Steven Burke, Port of Port Angeles
Doug Woodruff, Quileute Tribe
Colleen Robinson, Sequim Chamber of Commerce
Leonard Forsman, Suquamish Tribe
Pam Sanguinetti, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
John Robertson, U.S. Coast Guard
Rebecca Chu, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Karen Burgess, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Andrew Baca, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Krishna Viswanathan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jennifer Brown-Scott, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Staff, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Emily Randall, U.S. Representative
Heather Hall, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Danielle Zitomer, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Patty Hayes, Washington Department of Health
Casey Sixkiller, Washington State Department of Ecology
Jon Kenning, Washington State Department of Ecology
Joenne McGerr, Washington State Department of Ecology
Ria Berns, Washington State Department of Ecology
Amanda Richardson, Washington State Department of Ecology
SEPA Mailbox, Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympic Region Mailbox, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Roberta Davenport, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Chris Chappell, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Allyson Brooks, Washington State Historic Preservation Officer
Steve Tharinger, Washington State Legislature
Adam Bernbaum, Washington State Legislature
Laurie Connelly, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Mike Chapman, Washington State Representative
Maria Cantwell, Washington State Senate
Patty Murray, Washington State Senate

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.

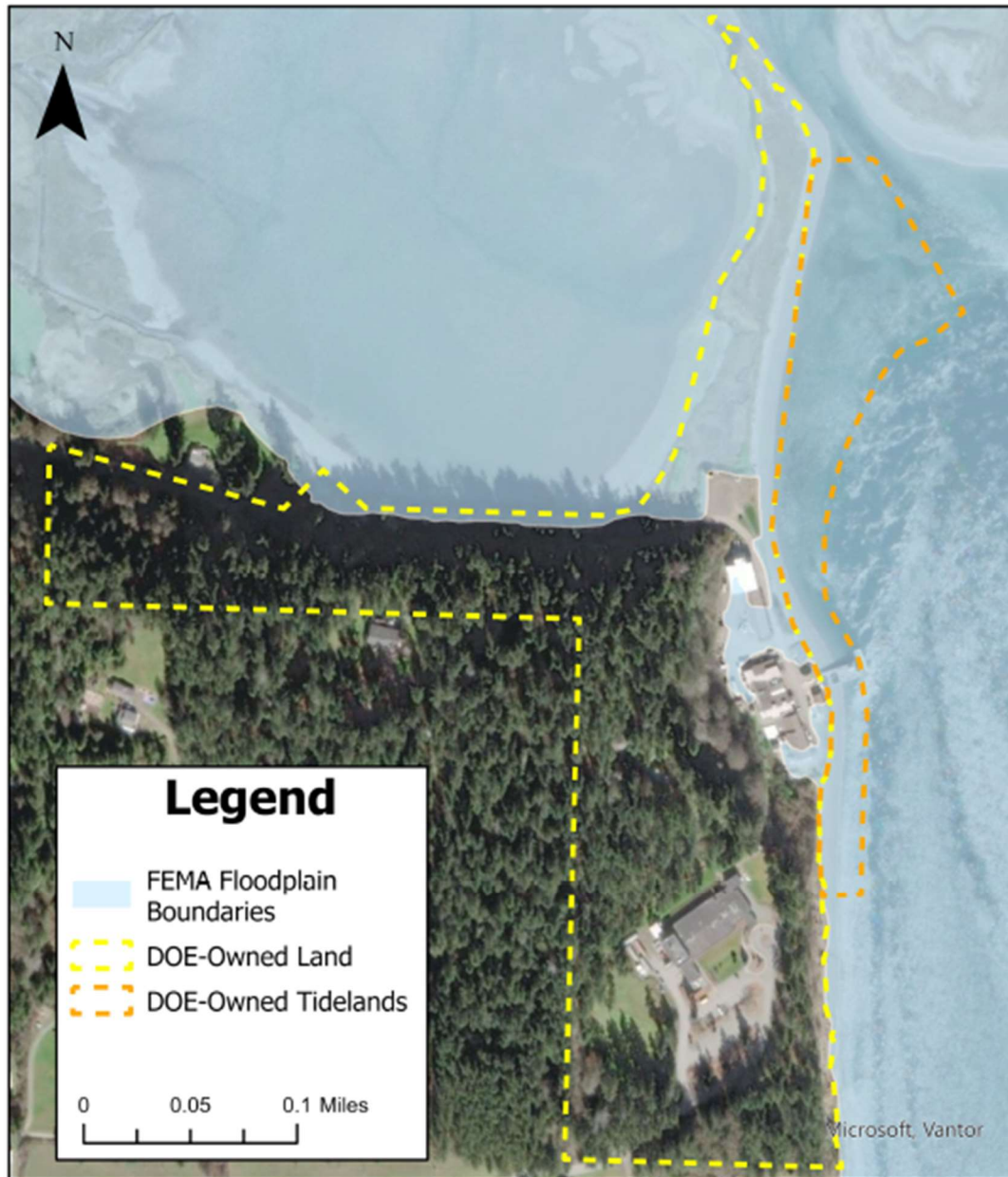


Figure 1: Map of the PNNL Sequim Campus with boundaries of DOE-owned land (yellow) and tidelands (orange) relative to the FEMA-designated base floodplain of Sequim Bay (blue).