
**Department of Energy
Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Effluent Reduction
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico**

**U. S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, NM 87544**

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

EFFLUENT REDUCTION
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

EFFLUENT REDUCTION FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: The Environmental Assessment (EA) for Effluent Reduction (DOE/EA-1156) (attached) briefly provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine that a finding of no significant impact is appropriate for this action. The EA documents the evidence and analysis in the following chapters: 1. Purpose and Need for Agency Action; 2. Description of Alternatives; 3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences; 4. Abnormal Events; 5. Agencies and Persons Consulted; and 6. Permits Required.

PREDECISIONAL DRAFT REVIEW & COMMENT: On July 15, 1996, the Department of Energy (DOE) invited review and comment on the predecisional EA from the State of New Mexico and four American Indian Tribes: Cochiti, Jemez, Santa Clara and San Ildefonso (sometimes referred to as the four accord pueblos because each tribe has entered into an accord with the DOE). In addition, DOE made the predecisional draft EA available to Los Alamos County and the general public at the same time it was provided to the State of New Mexico and the four accord pueblos by placing it in the DOE Public Reading Rooms within the Los Alamos National Laboratory Outreach Center and Reading Room in Los Alamos, and the TVI-Main Campus Library in Albuquerque. Also, local stakeholder groups were notified of the availability of the predecisional draft on July 15, 1996.

Comments were received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the State of New Mexico Environment Department; and the New Mexico Law Center commenting on behalf of the Pueblo of San Ildefonso. These comments were addressed in the Final EA, and individual responses to the comments were sent to the respondents.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on this proposal, this Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or the DOE's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review program concerning proposals at LANL, please contact:

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Copies of this FONSI (with the Environmental Assessment attached) will be made available for public review at the Los Alamos National Laboratory Outreach Center and Reading Room, 1450 Central Avenue, Suite 101, Los Alamos, New Mexico, 87544 at (505) 665-2127 or (800) 543-2342. Copies will also be made available in the DOE Public Reading Room, located in the TVI-Main Campus Library, 525 Buena Vista SE, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87106 at (505) 224-3000.

FINDING: The United States Department of Energy (DOE) finds that there would be no significant impact from proceeding with its proposal to eliminate industrial effluent from 27 outfalls at LANL. DOE makes this Finding of No Significant Impact pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.], the Council on Environmental

Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act [40 CFR 1500] and the DOE National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures [10 CFR 1021]. Based on the EA that analyzes the potential environmental effects that would be expected to occur if the DOE were to eliminate the industrial effluent from 27 LANL outfalls, the proposed action does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, no environmental impact statement is required for this proposal.

Signed in Los Alamos, New Mexico this 18th day of September, 1996.



G. Thomas Todd
Area Manager
Los Alamos Area Office