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**Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Finding of No Significant Impact
for the
Proposed TA-16 Engineering Complex
Refurbishment and Consolidation
at
Los Alamos National Laboratory,
Los Alamos, New Mexico**

**U. S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Office of Los Alamos Site Operations
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, NM 87544**

EA-1407

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY,
NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Proposed TA-16 Engineering Complex Refurbishment and Consolidation
at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: The *Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed TA-16 Engineering Complex Refurbishment and Consolidation at Los Alamos National Laboratory* (DOE/EA-1407) (attached) provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine that a Finding Of No Significant Impact is appropriate for the Proposed Action analyzed in the EA. The EA documents the evidence and analysis in the following chapters: 1. Purpose and Need; 2. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives; and 3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.

Analyses performed in the EA allow the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to conclude that potential adverse effects of the Proposed Action, under normal conditions, would be minimal. Engineering and administrative controls or considerations that serve to lessen any potential for adverse environmental effects have been incorporated as integral features of the Proposed Action. Examples of this type of mitigating feature include: the use of Best Management Practices to prevent surface soil erosion; incorporation of dust suppression measures to minimize or prevent dust emissions during construction and demolition activities; the employment of waste minimization practices to decrease waste disposal requirements; and the use of specialized personal protective equipment and specialized task equipment to perform decontamination and demolition work.

The EA considered the cumulative effects of the Proposed Action with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The impacts from the refurbishment and consolidation of LANL's TA-16 Engineering Complex would be a minor contribution to the overall cumulative impacts of activities in and around the western portion of LANL and along the Pajarito Plateau.

PREDECISIONAL DRAFT REVIEW & COMMENT: On March 25, 2002, the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration invited review and comment on the predecisional draft EA from the State of New Mexico; four nearby American Indian Tribes: Cochiti, Jemez, Santa Clara and San Ildefonso (sometimes referred to as the four

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accord pueblos because each tribe has entered into an accord with the Department of Energy); the Pueblo of Acoma; and the Mescalero Apache Tribe. The National Nuclear Security Administration also made the predecisional draft EA available to the general public at the same time it was provided to the State and Tribes for review and comment.

The general availability of the EA to the public was accomplished by placing it in the Department of Energy Public Reading Rooms located within the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Community Outreach Center and Reading Room, and in the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library in Albuquerque. Additionally, over 50 local stakeholder groups and individuals that have identified themselves as interested parties with regards to LANL activities were notified by letter of the availability of the predecisional draft on March 25, 2001. Notice of the availability of the EA for review was also published in three local newspapers. Copies of the EA were provided to all requesting interested parties for their review upon their requests. The review and comment period was 21 days long and ended on April 15, 2002. Comments were received from the State of New Mexico, Environment Department; their comments were addressed though changes made in the Final EA as appropriate, together with an individual comment response letter.

AGENCY CONSULTATIONS:

Structures at TA-16 are register-eligible properties that would be adversely affected by demolition. Data recovery conducted under a Memorandum of Agreement with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is planned to mitigate the adverse effects from demolition of the structure. The State Historic Preservation Officer will be asked to concur on the NNSA's determination that there would be adverse effects to historic cultural resources; NNSA will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the SHPO regarding mitigation of the adverse effects through adequate data recovery from that structure before any demolition is undertaken.

Endangered Species Act consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Service) was determined to be unnecessary for the Proposed Action. No affect to potential critical habitat for threatened or endangered species or to individuals of threatened or endangered species is anticipated from implementation of the Proposed Action and therefore consultation under section 7 provisions are not required.

No other agency consultations were identified as being required for the preparation of the EA with regards to compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

FINDING: The United States Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration finds that there would be no significant impact from proceeding with its

proposal to refurbish and consolidate the TA-16 Engineering Complex at Los Alamos National Laboratory as described in the Proposed Action. This finding is based on the EA, which analyzes the consequences of the relevant issues of environmental concern. The Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration 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 Department of Energy National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures [10 CFR 1021]. Therefore, no environmental impact statement is required for this proposal.

Signed in Los Alamos, New Mexico this 23rd day of April,
2002.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "E. Dennis Martinez", written over a horizontal line.

E. Dennis Martinez

Acting Director

Office of Los Alamos Site Operations

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information on this proposal, this Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review program concerning proposals at Los Alamos National Laboratory, please contact:

Elizabeth Withers, NEPA Compliance Officer

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National Nuclear Security Administration

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Copies of this FONSI (with the Environmental Assessment attached) will be made available for public review at the DOE Public Reading Room within the Los Alamos National Laboratory Community Relations Office, 1619 Central Avenue, Los Alamos, New Mexico, 87544 at (505) 665-4400 or (800) 508-4400. Copies will also be made available within the DOE Public Reading Room at the Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87131 at (505) 277-5441.