

**NEPA REVIEW  
LAN-11-0002**

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

**Construction of Protective Force Indoor Live Fire Range at TA-16  
Los Alamos National Laboratory**

**1. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:**

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is a prominent contributor to the national security mission of the United States through the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) and its strategic commitment for long-term stewardship of the nation's nuclear stockpile. LANL performs numerous programs and campaigns in science, design, engineering, testing, and manufacturing capabilities needed for stockpile stewardship.

Asset protection is a key component of the LANS mission at LANL, and the LANL protective force is tasked with maintaining the highest level of protection for equipment and personnel. Changes to the DOE Design Basis Threat guidance have led to the development of new protection strategies for LANL. As a result of these new protection strategies, improved training capabilities are needed. Since Fiscal Year 2008, the NNSA Office of Defense Nuclear Security has authorized the construction of several new protective force training facilities at LANL. This Categorical Exclusion is provided for the proposed indoor live fire range at TA-16.

According to a biological assessment prepared in December 2010, this project area is near core and buffer nesting habitat for the Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*). The owl was listed as a threatened species in 1993. A detailed analysis of the potential magnitude of the effects within led to the assessment decision that, after applying reasonable and prudent measures, these actions *may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect* the Mexican spotted owl. A letter dated February 10, 2011 to NNSA LASO from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service states, "we find that your proposed action will have insignificant and discountable effects to the Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*). Therefore, the Service concurs with your determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect".

**Indoor Live Fire Range at TA-16**

The proposed indoor live fire range would be approximately 18,000 square feet, and house a 50-meter, 20-position firing range suitable for all pistol and rifle calibers currently in use or required by the LANL protective force. The facility would contain classrooms, training development offices, an armory for weapons storage and cleaning, and restroom facilities suitable for approximately 25 students and instructors. This facility would be located on approximately four acres.

**2. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION BEING APPLIED:**

**10 CFR 1021, Appendix B1.15:** Siting, construction (or modification), and operation of support buildings and support structures (including, but not limited to, trailers and prefabricated buildings) within or contiguous to an already developed area (where active utilities and currently used roads are readily accessible). Covered support buildings and structures include those for office purposes; parking; cafeteria services; education and training; visitor reception; computer and data processing services; employee health services or recreation activities; routine

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maintenance activities; storage of supplies and equipment for administrative services and routine maintenance activities; security (including security posts); fire protection; and similar support purposes, but excluding facilities for waste storage activities, except as provided in other parts of this appendix.

**REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS IN 10 CFR 1021.410 (B):**

1. The proposed action fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to Subpart D.

For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements (i.e., to fit within a class), the proposal must not:

- a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including DOE and/or Executive Orders;
  - b. Require siting, construction, or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include such categorically excluded facilities;
  - c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; or
  - d. Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources (including but not limited to those listed in paragraph B. (4)).
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 is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211.

**3. NEPA COMPLIANCE OFFICER CLASSIFICATION/DETERMINATION:**

This proposal is covered by a NEPA categorical exclusion in accordance with Appendix B to Subpart D of 10 CFR 1021, and meets the requirements of 10 CFR 1021.410 (B) listed above.

If changes are made to the scope of action so that it is no longer bounded by the action described in this memo, or it 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.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**George Rael, L&O NEPA Compliance Office**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*2/28/11*