



**National Nuclear  
Security Administration  
Los Alamos Field Office**



**National Environmental Policy Act  
Categorical Exclusion Determination**

**Project/Activity Title:** Los Alamos National Laboratory Cellular and Radio Communications Upgrades

**Location:** Technical Areas (TA)-03, 60, 15, 53 and San Ildefonso Pueblo cellular tower at the Totavi gas station off New Mexico State Road 502.

**Accession No:** 24895/25135

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:** The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) must ensure that Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) operations are conducted in a safe, secure, and efficient manner. The purpose of the project is to improve the current cellular and telecommunications network with upgrades to existing infrastructure, and the construction and maintenance of new cellular towers.

To improve cellular service to support LANL operations the DOE/NNSA will:

1. Support the creation of a dedicated Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) cellular service;
2. Enhance existing cellular/Distribution Antenna System (DAS) sites;
3. Construct and maintain one new cellular tower in Technical Area 15 and two new cellular towers in Technical Area 53, and
4. Lease space on a San Ildefonso Pueblo cellular tower at the Totavi gas station off New Mexico State Road 502 to support LANL's expansion of their two-way radio system.

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION APPLIED:** The following DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) categorical exclusion applies to the proposed action:

**B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers**

Siting, construction, modification, operation, and removal of microwave, radio communication, and meteorological towers and associated facilities, provided that the towers and associated facilities would not be in a governmentally designated scenic area (see B(4)(iv) of this appendix) unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate governmental entity.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

**DETERMINATION:** Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under NNSA NAP-451.1), I have I have determined that the Proposed Action as described herein, falls within the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B 10 CFR Part 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D of Part 1021—Categorical Exclusions Applicable to Specific Agency Actions: B1.19 *Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers*. The proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**Los Alamos Field Office NEPA Compliance Officer:** Kristen M. Dors

**Date:** August 7, 2019

**Signature:**

