



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination Form



Proposed Action Title: Categorical Exclusion for the New Mexico State Road 4 (NM 4) and East Jemez Road Intersection Improvements, Right-of-Way Expansion, and Land Conveyance

Program or Field Office: Los Alamos Field Office

Location(s): NM 4 and East Jemez Road Intersection, owned by the Department of Energy (DOE), located on Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) lands within Santa Fe County, New Mexico.

Proposed Action Description

The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Los Alamos Field Office proposes to modify and upgrade the NM 4 and East Jemez Road Intersection (Intersection) on Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) lands owned by the DOE, within Santa Fe County, New Mexico. The Proposed action is to improve motor vehicle transportation safety and roadway capacity and efficiency. East Jemez Road is used as the LANL truck route and serves as one of the primary access point for LANL employees and contractors. As a result, the roadway experiences heavy traffic volumes particularly during the morning and evening rush hours. Once the Intersection improvements are completed, the Intersection and associated lands will be conveyed to Los Alamos County. An extra 50 feet right-of-way easement on the northwest side of NM 4 will be provided to the New Mexico Department of Transportation for the maintenance of the expanded NM 4 pavement, associated new road shoulders, and vegetation control along the roadway.

Additionally, the current and designated visitor access to the National Park Service (NPS) Bandelier National Monument (BNM) Tsankawi Unit is within the NM 4 right-of-way on the east side just north of East Jemez Road on DOE lands. Vehicular access to the current Tsankawi parking area presents safety issues for visitors and NPS staff due to heavy LANL morning and evening rush hour traffic volumes, poor visibility of oncoming traffic because of the roadway's slope and curvature, lack of Tsankawi parking lot road signage, and roadside parking configuration make access to Tsankawi challenging. BNM has proposed improvements to the Tsankawi Unit that includes a new vehicular access point and parking lot. The Intersection design has incorporated a new entry point onto BNM Tsankawi Unit property that would improve safety and the BNM visitor experience.

NEPA Analysis

The proposed action as described above meets the conditions that are integral elements of 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B to Subpart D of Part 1021:

B1.24 Property transfers

Transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests in personal property (including, but not limited to, equipment and materials) or real property (including, but not limited to, permanent structures and land), provided that under reasonably foreseeable uses (1) there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment and (2) the covered actions would not have the potential to cause a significant change in impacts from before the transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests.



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B1.32 Traffic flow adjustments

Traffic flow adjustments to existing roads (including, but not limited to, stop sign or traffic light installation, adjusting direction of traffic flow, and adding turning lanes), and road adjustments (including, but not limited to, widening and realignment) that are within an existing right-of-way and consistent with approved land use or transportation improvement plans.

National Park Service NEPA Coverage: *US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Bandelier National Monument Tsankawi Unit Management Plan and Environmental Assessment October 2014* and associated July 21, 2015 *Finding of No Significant Impact*.

NEPA Compliance Officer Determination

Based on my review of information conveyed to me and in my possession concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer as authorized under NNSA Policy 451.1 *National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Program* and DOE Policy 451.1 *National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Program*, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the class of action specified at 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B1.24 and B1.32 and the NPS BNM Tsankawi Unit Management Plan and Environmental Assessment October 2014 (EA) and associated July 21, 2015 Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances present and that the proposal has not been segmented. I approve the proposed project under 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B1.24 and B1.32 and in consideration of the NPS EA and FONSI.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Date Determined: