

**Floodplain Statement of Findings
for the
Decommissioning and Demolition Project at Technical Area-41
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos County, New Mexico**

August 2020

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA),
Los Alamos Field Office

ACTION: Floodplain Statement of Findings

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The NNSA, a semi-autonomous agency within the DOE, is proposing the demolition and decommissioning (D&D) of structures 41-004 and 41-007, formerly a waste water treatment facility (WWTF) at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Technical Area (TA) 41 (Figures 1 and 2) within the Los Alamos Canyon 100-year (yr) floodplain. Both structures are process-contaminated and are no longer required. D&D of these structures would eliminate the potential long-term risk to the public and environment, reduce LANL's overall square footage, and reduce the cost for surveillance and maintenance. The Proposed Action includes the shoring of erosion compromised Omega Road sections to allow for the passage of construction vehicles and equipment. Omega Road is the only vehicle access to the project site. An Area of Concern (AOC) C-00-006 occupies the same footprint as the 100-yr floodplain. The 100-yr floodplain represents the extent to which LANL legacy sediments and contaminants¹ could have been deposited and therefore, is used to delineate the extent of the AOC. The floodplain and the AOC intersect a small portion of building 41-0004 and much of structure 41-0007. Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) 41-002(a), 41-002(b) and 41-002(c) are associated with Structure 41-007 and are interconnected by a network of drain lines that are completely inactive. Waste materials associated with the AOC or SWMUs have been characterized and will be stockpiled and sorted on site, then disposed of in accordance with LANL's waste management procedures. D&D of these facilities is currently planned to start in 2021.

LOCATION WITHIN A FLOODPLAIN EXPLANATION: Given the Proposed Action there are no alternatives with the exception of no-action that would avoid D&D activities within the floodplain.

ALTERNATIVES: Only the No Action alternative was considered which would not meet the need to D&D process-contaminated structures 41-004 and 41-007 that are no longer required.

FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS: The D&D activities will result in a reduction in impervious surfaces and should result in a net decrease in storm water runoff from the area. Short-term impacts will be avoided or minimized by adherence to permits and other requirements. Post construction, the floodplain would retain the similar preconstruction floodplain values and functions as present prior to D&D activities. No impacts to human safety, health and welfare, or private property are anticipated as the natural and beneficial floodplain values will be preserved. The Proposed Action, with implementation of project mitigation measures, conforms to applicable floodplain protection standards.

¹ Hazardous chemical and radioactive contamination and waste that may be present as a result of pre-1999 nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear research at LANL.

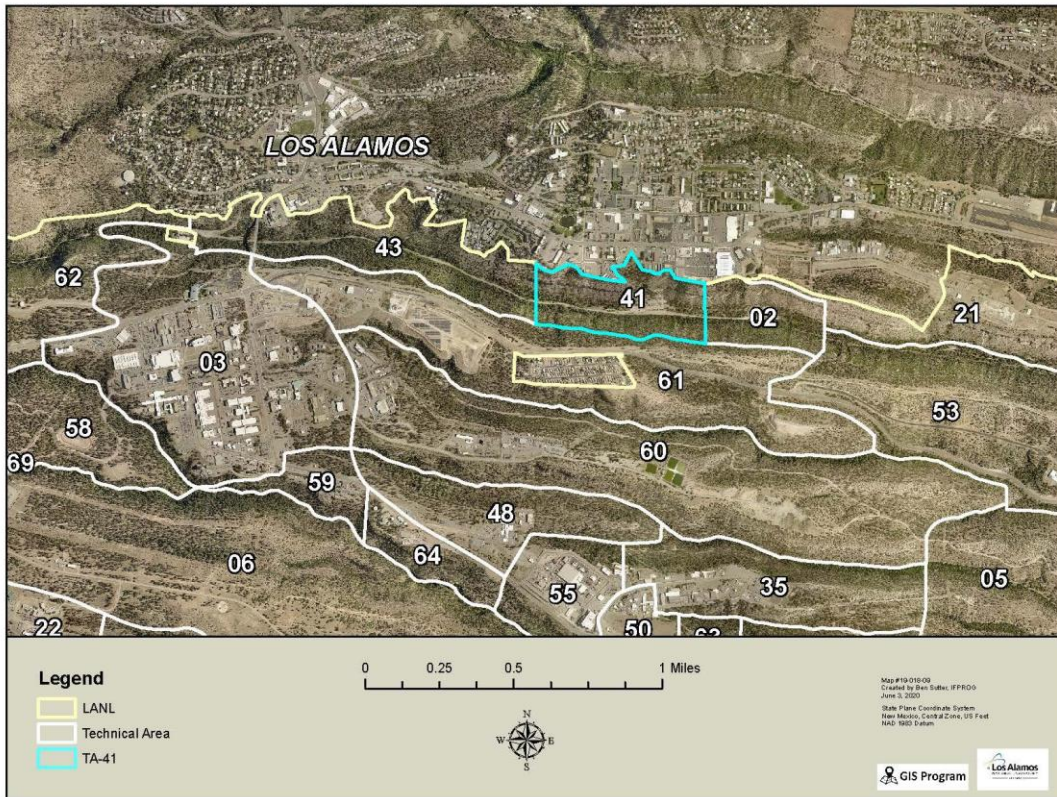


Figure 1. Location of Technical Area 41 in Los Alamos Canyon.

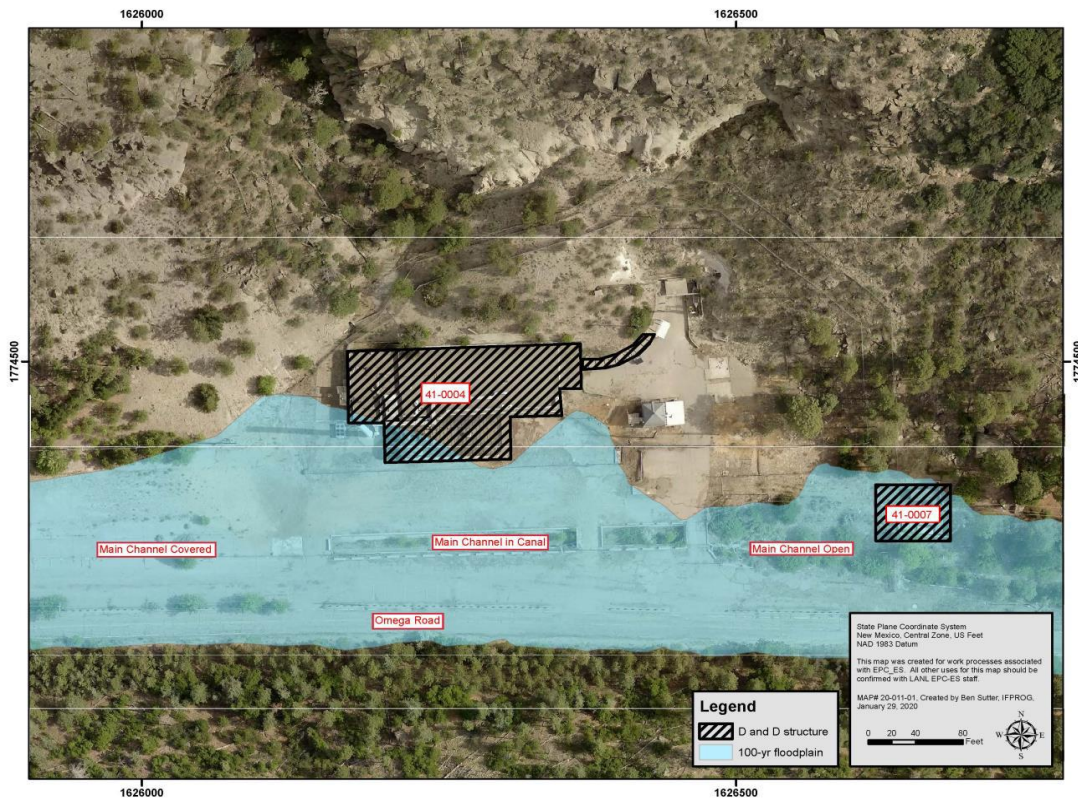


Figure 2. TA-41 D&D Project Targeted Structures and the Los Alamos Canyon 100-yr floodplain.

STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL HARM TO OR WITHIN THE FLOODPLAIN:

Engineering and administrative controls to limit soil erosion, sediment loss, and spills and leaks will be in place during and after construction. Specific mitigations include the following:

- Controls will be in place to limit soil erosion, sediment loss, and fuel spills during and after construction. Heavy equipment will not be used if conditions are too wet to prevent damage to the soil structure. Equipment will be refueled at least 100ft from the Los Alamos Canyon bottom. Project disturbed areas will be stabilized and revegetated post construction in accordance with LANL seeding specifications.
- Waste materials removed from an AOC or SWMU have been characterized and will be stockpiled and sorted on site, then disposed of in accordance with the LANL waste management procedures.
- Radiological waste materials will be stored in metal roll off bins, either within the D&D footprint or on adjacent paved areas. Non-radiological waste materials will be stockpiled and then loaded into end dump trailers and removed from the site. Uncharacterized underground materials will be characterized and disposed of in accordance with LANL waste management procedures.
- If vegetation removal is required during the nesting season (May 15 through July 31), an onsite inspection for bird nests by LANL Biologists would be required. Construction activities will conform to requirements stipulated in the LANL migratory bird best management practices.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Floodplain Statement of Findings was prepared in accordance with Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management* and DOE implementing regulations 10 Code of Federal Regulations 1022 *Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements* and provides a summary of the *Los Alamos National Laboratory Floodplain Assessment for the Decommissioning and Demolition Project at Technical Area-41* (Floodplain Assessment) analysis and determination.

The notification for the availability of the Floodplain Assessment and request for comments was sent to appropriate government agencies, tribes, organizations, and persons known to be interested in or potentially affected by the proposed floodplain action via the GovDelivery system and published online on July 13, 2020, for a 15-day public review and comment period on the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website at <https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/other-environmental-documents>. No comments were received on the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion *B1.23 Demolition and disposal of buildings* as defined in DOE National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations found at 10 Code of Federal Regulations 1021, Appendix B to Subpart D of Part 1021—Categorical Exclusions Applicable to Specific Agency Actions.

B1.23 Demolition and disposal of buildings

Demolition and subsequent disposal of buildings, equipment, and support structures (including, but not limited to, smoke stacks and parking lot surfaces), provided that 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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or questions regarding this Floodplain Statement of Findings contact Ms. Kristen Dors via email at Kristen.Dors@nnsa.doe.gov; fax (505) 667-5948 or mail to:

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