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**Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Finding of No Significant Impact  
for the  
Proposed Future Disposition of Certain Cerro Grande Fire  
Flood and Sediment Retention Structures 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**

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

**Proposed Future Disposition of Certain Cerro Grande Fire**  
**Flood and Sediment Retention Structures at**  
**Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico**

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:** The *Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Future Disposition of Certain Cerro Grande Fire Flood and Sediment Retention Structures at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/EA-1408)* (attached) provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine that a Finding Of No Significant Impact is appropriate for the Proposed Action, the Disassembly of All Structures Alternative and the No Action Alternative. The EA documents the evidence and analysis in the following chapters: 1. Purpose and Need; 2. Description of Alternatives; 3. Affected Environment; and 4. Environmental Consequences. A Floodplains and Wetlands Assessment is included as Appendix A of the document. As required by 10 CFR Part 1022.15, a Statement of Finding is attached to this Finding of No Significant Impact.

Analyses performed in the EA allow NNSA to conclude that potential adverse effects of the Proposed Action, Disassembly of All Structures Alternative and the No Action Alternative, 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 Alternatives. Examples of this type of mitigating feature include: the use of a previously disturbed site for use as a project staging area; the use of Best Management Practices to prevent surface soil erosion and sediment migration where soil disturbance is unavoidable; the use of dust suppression measures during construction to minimize the generation of fugitive dust; and the reuse of concrete rubble produced by demolition actions.

The EA considered the cumulative effects of the Proposed Action with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The impacts from the partial or total demolition of identified structures would be a minor contribution to the overall cumulative impacts.

**PREDECISIONAL DRAFT REVIEW & COMMENT:** On July 8, 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 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 Relations Office and Reading Room, and in the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library in Albuquerque. Additionally, over 30 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 July 8, 2002. Notice of the availability of the EA for review was also published in three local newspapers. Copies of the EA were provided to all interested parties for their review. The review and comment period was 21 days long and ended on July 30, 2002.

Six parties provided comments to the draft EA, including the State of New Mexico and the Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society. None of the local pueblos and tribes offered comment on the predecisional draft EA. Comments received were addressed through changes to the final EA and by providing individual comment response letters. Copies of the Final EA have been sent to the respondents.

**AGENCY CONSULTATIONS:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) was engaged in informal consultation under the provisions of section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended. NNSA determined that the proposed activities may affect but are not likely to adversely affect individual Mexican spotted owls or their critical habitat. As part of the DOE/EA-1408 Mitigation Action Plan, consultation with the Service will be completed as required. Cultural resources are located near some of the subject structures. However, these sites would be avoided and no effect to the resources is expected. NNSA is not required to engage in consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer according to section 106 requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act.

**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 disposition certain flood and sediment retention structures built after the Cerro Grande Fire at Los Alamos National Laboratory as described in the Proposed Action, the Disassembly of All Structures Alternative, and the No Action Alternative of the subject Environmental Assessment. This finding is based on the Environmental Assessment, 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 7th day of August, 2002.



Ralph E. Erickson  
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:

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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.