

**Floodplain Statement of Findings
for the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Project
at Technical Area 39 at
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos County, New Mexico**

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 replacement of a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) unit approximately 50 feet north of structure 39-0097 on a currently paved area at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) within Technical Area (TA) 39 (Figure 1). The purpose is to replace an older, nonfunctional HVAC unit to stabilize temperatures inside structures 39-0097 and 39-0088 (Proposed Action). A footprint of 16 x 20ft will be cut from the paved area and excavated to a minimum 8in depth and filled with compacted base course to support the structure. The structure housing the condensing units consists of a prefabricated concrete pad with concrete shielding side walls and a metal grating roof. The enclosure will be approximately 9ft tall, which is below the top of the adjacent bunker that will act as shielding. The Proposed Action is located in the Ancho Canyon Area of Concern (AOC) C-00-018. The AOC occupies the same footprint as the 100-yr floodplain. The 100-yr floodplain represents the extent to which post-Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) aged sediments (and contaminants) could have been deposited, and therefore, is used to delineate the extent of the AOC.

LOCATION WITHIN A FLOODPLAIN EXPLANATION: Given the site within the floodplain offers greater protection from blast waves and shrapnel, there are no practical alternatives that would avoid an action within the floodplain.

ALTERNATIVES: In addition to the Proposed Action, alternative locations for the HVAC unit were considered, however, the location chosen for the new equipment afforded the best protection from blast waves and shrapnel, as well as maintenance access. Alternative locations out of the floodplain are level with the testing pad and at high risk of damage.

FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS: The Proposed Action will not result in a significant change, if any, to the floodplain values or functions. Short-term impacts will be avoided or minimized by adherence to permits and other requirements. Post construction, the floodplain would retain the same preconstruction floodplain values and functions as present prior to intersection modification. 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.

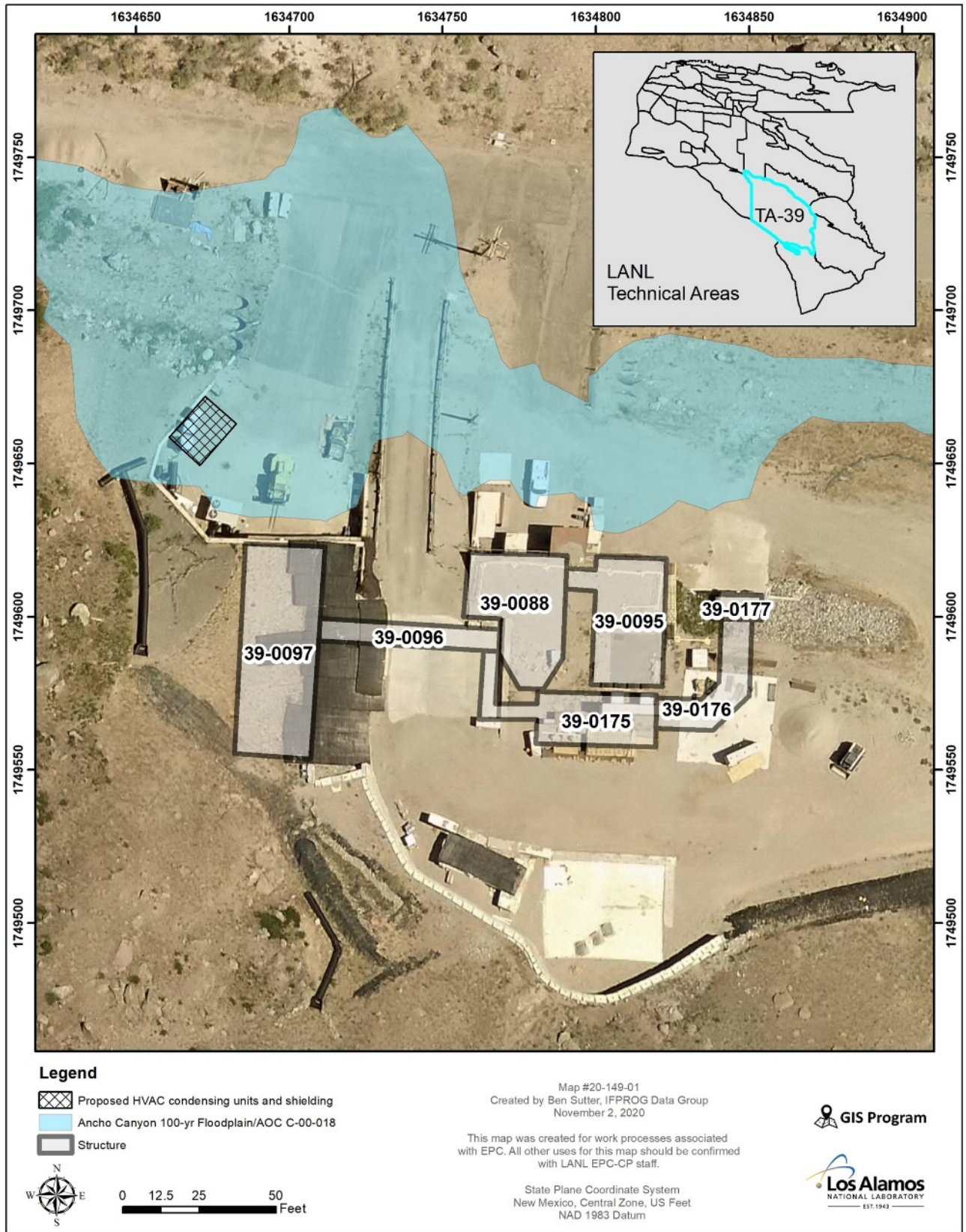


Figure 1. Location of TA-39 (inset) and the proposed HVAC unit north of building 39-0097, and the Ancho Canyon 100-yr floodplain.

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:

- Any soil and asphalt removed from the AOC from the excavation will be stabilized on site or disposed of in accordance with the LANL Waste Management Procedures
- Project disturbed areas will be stabilized and revegetated post construction in accordance with the LANL Seeding Specification.
- Hazardous materials, chemicals, fuels, and oils will not be stored within the floodplain.
- Heavy equipment will not be used within the floodplain if conditions are too wet to prevent damage to the soil structure.
- Equipment will be refueled at least 100ft from the 100-yr floodplain.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A 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 provided a summary of the *Floodplain Assessment for the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Project at Technical Area 39 at Los Alamos National Laboratory* (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 February 4, 2021, 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.

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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