



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Field Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF
THE CAMP MAY WATER PIPELINE PROJECT
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY, LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO**

RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES: United States Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest and Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos Field Office

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Española Ranger District within the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) has prepared an Environmental Assessment for the Camp May Water Pipeline Project (EA) in coordination with the Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Los Alamos Field Office (NA-LA). Each agency has independently prepared a decision document of a Finding on No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action to install an underground water pipeline, fiber optic conduit, and electrical conduit along Camp May Road to Pajarito Mountain Ski Area.

The Proposed Action occurs within the SFNF and DOE/NNSA lands, as well as Pajarito Mountain Ski Area (Pajarito), located on privately owned lands within Los Alamos County, New Mexico. Pajarito also consists of privately-owned lands in Sandoval County; however, infrastructure described in the Proposed Action would not be installed in Sandoval County. The project area is located approximately 60 miles northeast of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Through the Proposed Action, Los Alamos County would install an underground water pipeline, fiber optic conduit, and electrical conduit along Camp May Road to provide an additional water source for snowmaking at Pajarito, fire suppression, and potable water uses as well as improved electric and fiber optic utilities along Camp May Road and at Pajarito.

Because a portion of the proposed waterline, one water tank, and one booster would be constructed on DOE/NNSA managed lands, the NA-LA has jurisdiction and administrative control over those lands involved in the Proposed Action. While the NA-LA has jurisdiction over the land, the land itself is the property of the DOE/NNSA. The Proposed Action would require a new Right-of-Way (ROW) agreement from the NA-LA for the waterline and modification of an existing ROW agreement to include the new tank, booster station, and associated utilities. Both the Forest Service and NA-LA participated in the EA preparation and finalization process, but the NA-LA did not request Cooperating Agency status.

Purpose and Need: Los Alamos County and the Forest Service have identified the following needs for the proposed project:

- There is a need for a connection between Los Alamos County's water supply system and storage tank at Pajarito for fire suppression capabilities at Pajarito and surrounding National Forest System (NFS) and non-NFS lands

- There is a need for supplemental snowmaking water supply to provide for reliable and consistent snow coverage at Pajarito, especially during the early and late parts of the season and years of below average snowfall
- There is a need for improved domestic water supply at existing Pajarito facilities as well as new domestic water supply to Camp May Park, a Los Alamos County Park located on Camp May Road
- There is a need for improved electric and fiber optic utilities to Camp May Park and existing Pajarito facilities

The existing conditions driving these needs are further described in Section 1.2 of the EA.

Proposed Action: The project will permit the installation of an underground water pipeline, fiber optic conduit, and electrical conduit along Camp May Road to Pajarito under a Special Use Authorization and ROW agreement. This includes the construction, operations, and maintenance of all necessary improvements, associated with the proposed new water tank, water pipeline, four booster pump stations, and fiber optic and electrical conduit.

The Selected Alternative will result in disturbance on NFS, DOE/NNSA, and private lands.

Table 1. *Summary of Disturbance on NFS, DOE/NNSA, and Private Lands* describes the acreage of disturbance associated with each project component and how that disturbance is divided by land ownership/management.

Table 1. Summary of Disturbance on NFS, DOE/NNSA, and Private Lands

Project Component	NFS Lands		DOE/NNSA Lands		Private Lands		Total	
	Quantity	Disturbance	Quantity	Disturbance	Quantity	Disturbance	Quantity	Disturbance
Water Pipeline and Utility Corridor ^a	3.5 miles/ 18,464 feet	12.7 acres	0.8 mile/ 4,149 feet	2.9 acres	0.03 mile/ 182 feet	0.2 acre	4.3 miles/ 22,795 feet	15.7 acres
Camp May Water Tank #2 ^b	0	0 acre	1	0.1 acre	0	0 acre	1	0.1 acre
Booster Pump Stations ^c	3	0.15 acre	1	0.05 acre	0	0 acre	4	0.2 acre
Construction Easements ^d	0	0 acre	2	4.3 acres	0	0 acre	2	4.3 acres
Total	--	12.9 acres	--	7.4 acres	--	0.2 acre	--	20.3 acres^e

Notes:

^a Utility corridor assumes a disturbance width of approximately 30 feet, and where the corridor is centered on a specific land ownership all disturbance on either side of the centerline will occur on that land ownership.

^b Camp May Water Tank #2 disturbance includes tank footprint, surrounding gravel pad, and two gravel access roads.

^c Booster pump stations assume a disturbance footprint of 0.05 acre to include the gravel access road, booster pump station building, rock splash pad, pad mounted transformers, and chain link fence.

^d Construction easements will be temporary disturbance and reclaimed following construction activities on DOE/NNSA land.

^e Numbers may not total due to rounding

Project Design Criteria have been applied to avoid and minimize potential resource impacts from construction and operation of the proposed project and are identified in Table 3 of the EA.

EA REVIEW AND COMMENT: The Selected Alternative was listed in the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) on February 16, 2018, and a description of the project was made available to the public on the SFNF project website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53328>. The Forest Service distributed a scoping letter on February 16, 2018, via email to 338 individuals and organizations, initiating a 30-day public scoping period. A public project scoping meeting was held on March 1, 2018. Notice of the meeting was published in the Los Alamos Monitor on the 18th, 21st, and 25th, of February 2018; and in the Los Alamos Daily Post from February 18 to March 1, 2018. A total of 41 people attended the public meeting at the University of New Mexico Los Alamos campus.

Scoping comments were accepted at the public scoping meeting, as well as through the SFNF website, mail, fax, telephone, and email. In total, 23 comment letters were received. These were utilized by the ID Team to help guide the analysis and development of the EA.

Following the release of a legal notice in the Albuquerque Journal on May 20, 2020, an opportunity to comment period for the draft EA was open for 30 days. A cover letter inviting comments on the draft EA was mailed to 8 individuals and emailed to approximately 430 community residents, interested individuals, public agencies, tribal governments, and other organizations. This letter referred the reader to the draft EA and requested public input to help guide the decision-making process as well as provided instructions for public involvement.

Tribal involvement and consultation in the NEPA process was led by the Forest Service and is dictated by a variety of laws and regulations, including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Sections 1501.2 and 1501.7 of the CEQ Regulations, Executive Order (EO) 13175 – Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1509.13 Chapter 10. In accordance with these regulations, a notification of the proposed project was mailed to the Pueblos of Cochiti, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, and Tesuque on February 12, 2018. There are no records to indicate that a response to this notification was received. A letter inviting comments on the draft EA was sent to the Pueblos of San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, and Tesuque on May 18, 2020. A formal invitation to consult on the proposal was mailed to the Pueblos of Cochiti, Nambe, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, and Tesuque on July 7, 2021. A response was received via email from the Pueblo de San Ildefonso on July 13, 2021, indicating that there were no concerns about the proposal. The Pueblo of Tesuque responded via email on July 20, 2021, indicating that they would like to be a consulting party to the proposal. A follow-up field visit to the location of the proposal was conducted by the Forest Service with representatives of the Pueblo of Tesuque on September 3, 2021. The monitoring stipulations requested during this meeting were incorporated into the Final EA.

A total of 24 comment letters were received. These were used to identify substantive issues and to consider potential alternatives to the Proposed Action. Responses to these comments are provided in the Forest Service Response to Comments document. After reviewing public comments, as well as internal concerns raised by NNSA specialists, a final list of issues was assembled that helped guide subsequent analysis. Issues are identified in Chapter 1 of the EA.

AGENCY CONSULTATION: Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act was required. The Service's Biological Opinion stated: "the Selected Alternative is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Jemez Mountains salamander nor adversely modify or destroy its critical habitat". The Service's conclusion is predicated on the full implementation of the project as described in the EA and incorporation of tribal monitoring stipulations.

DETERMINATION: NNSA has independently reviewed the Espanola Ranger District's final EA and determined that the analysis meets President's Council on Environmental Quality and DOE NEPA regulations and adequately assesses and discloses the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. Based on the NNSA's independent evaluation, the Final EA is hereby adopted. Based on the evaluation presented in the final EA, DOE/NNSA has determined there would be no significant impact from proceeding with the Proposed Action. The basis of this determination is that there are no adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative environmental effects that would likely result from the Proposed Action based on the analysis of relevant issues of environmental concern in the EA and the implementation of tribal monitoring stipulations.

The DOE therefore approves this FONSI for the portions of the project on DOE/NNSA property with mitigation measures pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500), and DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021). No Environmental Impact Statement is required for this proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on this EA, contact Ms. Kristen Dors, NEPA Program Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos Field Office (NA-LA), 3747 W. Jemez Road, Los Alamos, NM 87544 or via email at NA-LA_NCO@nnsa.doe.gov.

For further information on the DOE NEPA process contact the Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-54), U.S. Department of Energy, 100 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20585: telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756.

Issued this 25th day of March 2022, in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Theodore A. Wyka
Manager