



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
NEPA Determination Form



Proposed Action Title: Categorical Exclusion for Pacheco Microwave Tower Project

Program or Field Office: Los Alamos Field Office

Location(s) (City/County/State): Santa Fe, NM, and Technical Area (TA)-53 at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM

Proposed Action Description

The U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration proposes to install two 8-foot-wide microwave dishes and accompanying infrastructure on the roof of a leased property in Santa Fe, NM. The microwave dishes are needed to provide redundant network capabilities with the communications tower recently installed at Technical Area 53 at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Installation would include two eight-foot microwave dishes and accompanying infrastructure on the roof of the Pacheco Complex, located in Santa Fe, NM and two 8-foot microwave dishes on the cellular tower located at the bend of Leda Road in TA-53. The existing tower at TA-53 is a 70-foot-tall monopole structure with radio antennae. Investigations of microwave technology have identified a clear line of sight of approximately 22 miles between the Pacheco Complex and the TA-53 communications tower. The microwave dishes would be used alongside the primary overhead fiber-optic cable to provide the required level of bandwidth (5 Gbps) to keep communications intact.

Categorical Exclusion Applied

The proposed action to install microwave dishes at the Pacheco Complex at the communication tower in TA-53 meets the eligibility criteria of 10 CFR Part 1021 (b)1.19 *Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers* - Siting, construction, modification, operation, and removal of microwave, radio communication, and meteorological towers and associated facilities, provided that the towers and associated facilities would not be in a governmentally designated scenic area (see B(4)(iv) of this appendix) unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate governmental entity.

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 NAP 451.1 and DOE P 451.1), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the class of action specified at 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B1.19. 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 B1.19. This determination is made pursuant to the NEPA [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.], the U.S. Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA [40 CFR 1500], and the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures [10 CFR 1021].

Kristen M.
Dors

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Kristen M. Dors
Date: 2022.10.03
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NEPA Compliance Officer:

Date Determined: