

**Floodplain Statement of Findings
for the Technical Area 72 Outdoor Live Fire Range Gate
Installation Project,
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 new construction in lower Sandia Canyon at Technical Area (TA) 72 at the Outdoor Live Fire Range facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The proposed upgrades are intended to improve range safety. The project activities within the 100-year floodplain include: 1) installation of three gates at the all-terrain vehicle/pedestrian walkway bridges and 2) replacement of the main entrance gate to the range with a permanent gate.

These four gates will be used to control vehicle access to individual firing ranges and add a visual aid to deter pedestrians from walking into individual firing ranges. The three proposed gates at the all-terrain vehicle/pedestrian bridges will be approximately 10ft. in length and 4ft. in height made of steel tubing (e.g., agricultural/farm style gates). Each gate will be mounted on one side to an approximately 4-inch (in.) diameter, 5ft. tall metal pole set in a base of concrete.

LOCATION WITHIN A FLOODPLAIN EXPLANATION: Given that Outdoor Live Fire Range is partially within the floodplain, there are no practical alternatives that would avoid an action within the floodplain.

ALTERNATIVES: In addition to the Proposed Action, the alternatives available to DOE/NNSA include the no action alternative. The no action alternative was not selected by DOE/NNSA because the gates provide an additional layer of safety for the facility. The alternative of using temporary barrier panels was not selected by DOE because they are easily moved and/or removed.

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 the four gate installations. 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.

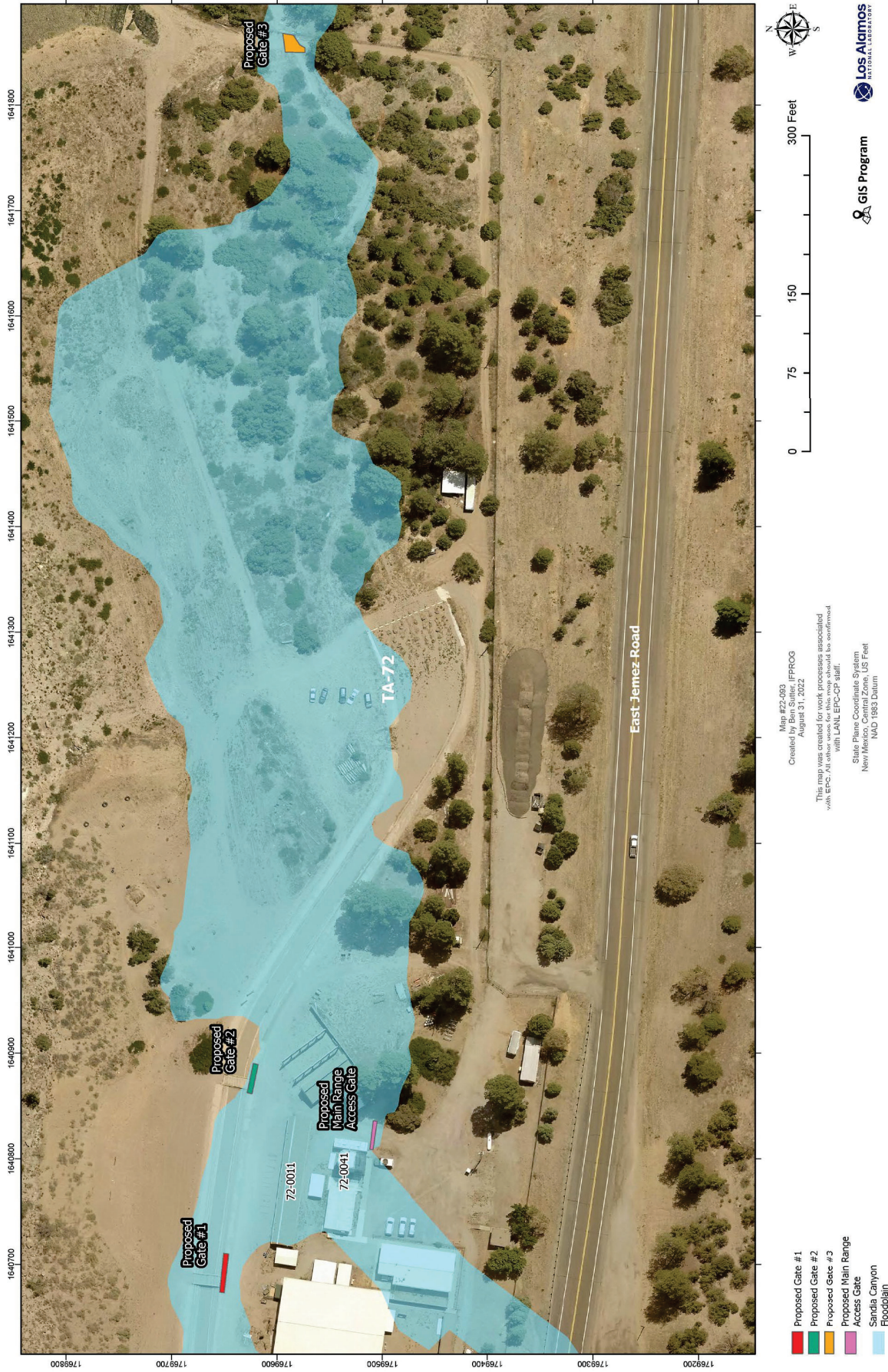


Figure 1. Location of the Proposed Gates in Relation to the Sandia Canyon 100-year Floodplain.

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:

- 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 100 ft from the 100-year 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 Technical Area 72 Outdoor Live Fire Range Gate Installation Project 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 September 23, 2022, for a 15-day public review and comment period on the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/los-alamos-national-laboratory-floodplain-assessment-technical-area-72-outdoor-live-0>. 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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