

**Floodplain Statement of Findings  
for the Technical Area 72 Outdoor Live Fire Range  
Storage Units Installation,  
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

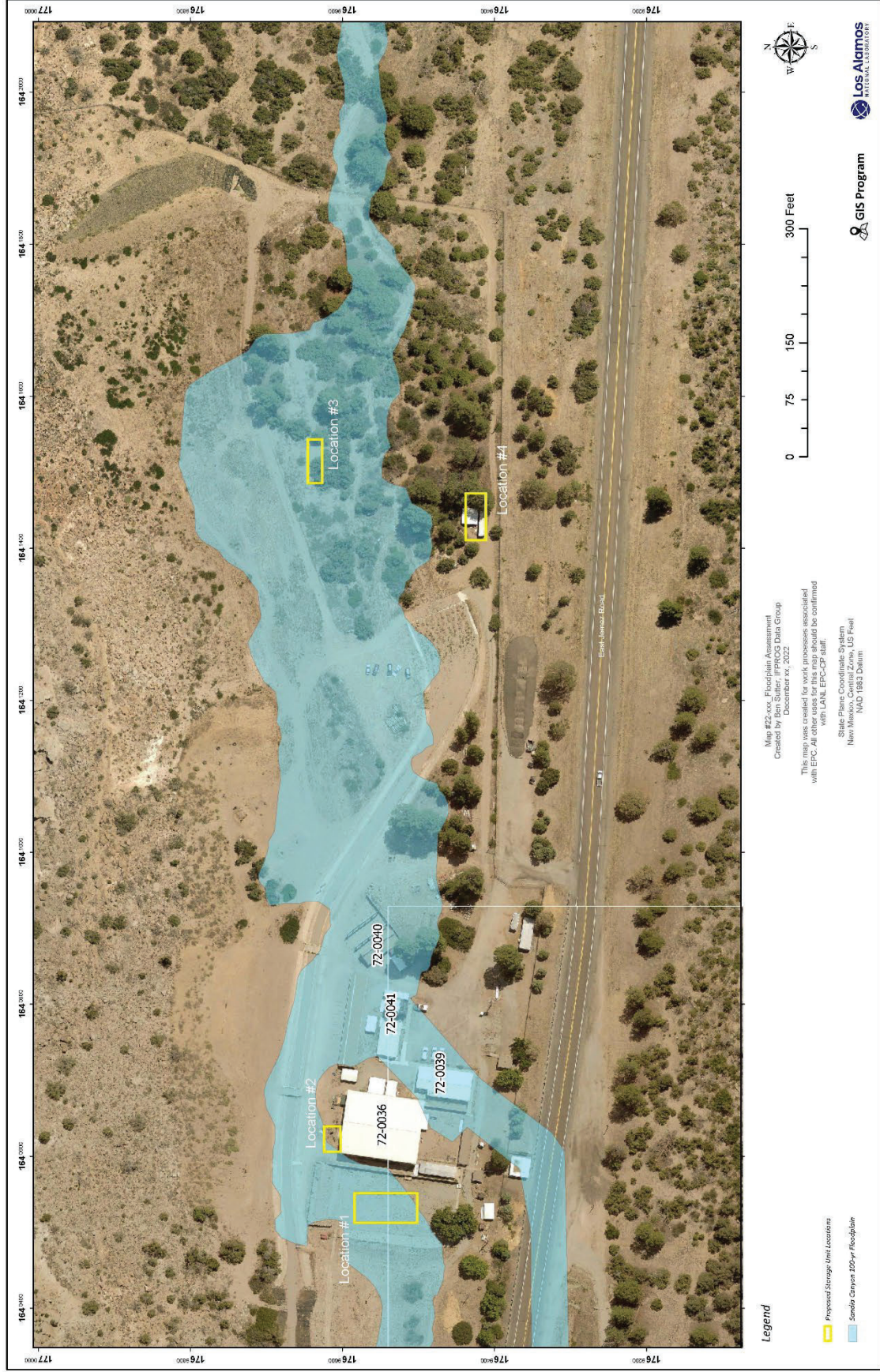
**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is proposing continuing process improvements to the site in lower Sandia Canyon at Technical Area (TA) 72 at the Outdoor Live Fire Range facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The proposed project is intended to provide storage for firing range supplies and consumables. The project activities within the 100-year floodplain include installation of at least seven prefabricated metal transportainer type storage units located at one of four locations (Figure 1). The assessment focuses on activities occurring in or near the Sandia Canyon 100-year floodplain that include: 1) installation of at least three storage units at Location #1; 2) installation of two storage units at Location #2; and 3) installation of at least one storage unit at Location #3. Figure 1 shows the proposed storage unit locations within the Sandia Canyon floodplain. Location #4 is shown in Figure 1; however, this site is not within the floodplain.

**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:** The alternatives available to DOE/NNSA include the no action alternative. The no action alternative was not selected by DOE/NNSA because the TA-72 Outdoor Live Fire Range facility currently does not have enough closed in space to store firing range supplies. The alternative of off-site storage was not selected because of the time and fuel spent by staff to travel 32 miles round trip every time firing range supplies are needed. Access to on-site storage reduces overall cost and impact to programmatic schedules.

**FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS:** The proposed project would result in limited and minor direct and indirect impacts to the Sandia Canyon 100-year floodplain and would not result in adverse impacts to the floodplain values or functions. Temporary disturbance within the floodplain would cease following completion of installation activities. Best management practices would be implemented. This proposed project would not significantly modify flow paths within the floodplain from pre-project conditions to post project conditions. No effects to lives and property associated with floodplain modifications are anticipated.

**Figure 1. Map of Proposed Storage Units in Relation to the Sandia Canyon 100-year Floodplain.**





**STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL HARM TO OR WITHIN THE FLOODPLAIN:**

Excavation is not part of the work scope and soil is not expected to be disturbed or removed. Potential short-term direct and indirect floodplain impacts from release of pollutants to the floodplain and exposure to stormwater would be avoided or minimized through implementation of the following best management practices:

- Hazardous materials, chemicals, fuels, and oils would not be stored within the floodplain.
- Heavy equipment would not be used within the stream channel, especially if conditions are too wet to prevent damage to the soil structure.
- Equipment would be refueled at least 100 ft. from the Sandia Canyon bottom.

**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 *Los Alamos National Laboratory Floodplain Assessment for the Technical Area 72 Outdoor Live Fire Range Storage Units Installation Project* (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 December 15, 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](mailto:Kristen.Dors@nnsa.doe.gov); fax (505) 667-5948 or mail to:

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