

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI); ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF KANSAS CITY NATIONAL SECURITY CAMPUS NEW MEXICO OPERATIONS (DOE/EA-2231)**

**Notice:** National Nuclear Security Administration

**Action:** Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI); Environmental Assessment of Kansas City National Security Campus New Mexico Operations (DOE/EA-2231)

**Date:** January 8, 2024

### **1) SUMMARY:**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) issues this finding of no significant impact (FONSI) on its Proposed Action to continue to operate and update operations at the Kansas City National Security Campus New Mexico Operations (KCNSC NMO).

The Proposed Action involves the updating of operations at the KCNSC NMO to provide the flexibility to expand, reconfigure, and/or move any or all operations within the KCNSC NMO, including the Alamo Road main campus, the Alamo Road, Craddock Development Company (Craddock) facilities, the Air Park facility at 2100 Air Park SE, the Nuclear Emergency Support Team (NEST) facility at 2301 Buena Vista Drive, and additional buildings on NNSA and Department of Defense–owned land on Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB), including buildings at the Old Western Command facility, Nuclear Response Group Readiness Operations Center (NRGROC), and other NRGROC and NEST facilities also located on-KAFB. In addition, this FONSI also includes appropriate and applicable expanded locations not identified on- and off-KAFB that will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis

As lead agency, the DOE NNSA has prepared a Site-Wide Environmental Assessment (SWEA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the proposed continued operation and potential expansion of operations at the KCNSC NMO. The NNSA, a semi-autonomous agency within the DOE, awarded Contract DE-NA 00002839 to Honeywell Federal Manufacturing and Technologies, Inc., to operate and manage the NNSA’s KCNSC NMO. This contract includes certain assigned tasks to conduct operations at KCNSC NMO. This work is conducted at several locations in the Albuquerque, New Mexico area, including specific properties within KAFB, to support the security, development, and manufacture of the non-nuclear components of nuclear weapons.

KCNSC NMO has historically been included in the 1999 Final Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico (DOE/EIS-0281). However, the Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico, that is in currently being prepared does not include KCNSC NMO. Therefore, KCNSC NMO is initiating the development of this standalone SWEA, which complies with all seven(7) NEPA requirements as well as the applicable DOE regulations in 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1021 and includes all current and anticipated facilities used in its mission.

Together, the KCNSC NMO support more than 350 employees working in several research and development and technical manufacturing disciplines. The NNSA anticipates a continued increase in workload and production needs requiring additional personnel, as well as research and manufacturing space within the Albuquerque area beyond 2030.

The NNSA currently leases the KCNSC NMO Alamo Road headquarters property, the Air Park building, and NEST facility on Buena Vista Drive. In addition, NNSA also leases the four Craddock warehouses across Alamo Drive from the headquarters. To continue to meet their nuclear security mission and maintain manufacturing and process requirements to support national security, the NNSA requires additional rental space both on- and off-KAFB. At this time, a specific additional facility has not been identified. Additional modification, demolition, and occupation of NNSA and Department of Defense facilities on-KAFB is likely.

The SWEA was prepared to provide the following information to decision makers and other document reviewers:

- The purpose and need for agency action;
- A description of the alternatives to the Proposed Action;
- A description of the affected environment—the KCNSC NMO on- and off-KAFB and surrounding area;
- An assessment of potential direct and indirect environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative;
- An assessment of the cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action with past, present, and other reasonably foreseeable actions; and
- A discussion of applicable regulatory requirements related to the Proposed Action.

Based on the findings presented in the SWEA, the NNSA has determined that the Proposed Action is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not necessary, and NNSA is issuing this FONSI.

## **2) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Further information, including an electronic copy of the final environmental assessment (EA) and this FONSI will be made available on the following website:

[NNSA NEPA reading room | Department of Energy](#)

For further information on the NEPA process, other NEPA documents, or to request a hard copy of the final SWEA or this FONSI contact:

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### 3) PURPOSE AND NEED:

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to support continued growth, operational capacity, and address current and anticipated DOE workloads across NNSA facilities in the NMO over the next 5 to 10 years.

The needs to be addressed are:

***Current and forecasted increases in production*** – In support of the need for an effective and safe national defense capability, KCNSC is responsible for the procurement and manufacturing of non-nuclear mechanical, electronic, and engineered material components for nuclear weapons and for the response to radiological and nuclear emergencies. Although some of these components are produced at Los Alamos National Laboratories, about 85% are produced at KCNSC. KCNSC is also responsible for evaluating and testing non-nuclear weapon components. Most of this mission is performed at KCNSC (Kansas City, Missouri); however, some of these missions are performed at KCNSC NMO. Certain additional missions in support of the Office of Secure Transportation, Emergency Response and Counter Nuclear Proliferation are also assigned to KCNSC. KCNSC, including KCNSC NMO, is managed and operated by Honeywell Federal Manufacturing and Technologies, Inc. The contract was most recently awarded in 2015 for a 5-year term and five additional 1-year extension periods. It is this national need that the Proposed Action addresses.

***Expansion of activities to support the NNSA's national security mission*** – Flexibility to update, share, and relocate manufacturing, warehousing, and administrative operations is needed to address client demands and staffing needs while relieving existing space pressures at the KCNSC NMO to support current and anticipated workloads. New or additional operations and processes, construction of new standalone facilities, or expansion of either the off- or on-KAFB not described in the SWEA would require an independent review and NEPA determination under applicable federal and state regulations. Similarly, the acquisition of a new facility within project area would require DOE NEPA determination under a site-specific NEPA document to determine the effects of the use of that facility on the localized human and natural environment. All permits supporting the expansion of KCNSC NMO to that future site would be obtained at that time.

#### 4) DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

**Proposed Action:** The Proposed Action and Preferred Alternative is to continue current operations of KCNSC NMO, accommodating expansions in the operation by the lease of new locations located within the limits of Figures 1-1 and 1-2 and to demolish, remodel, construct, maintain, and/or operate buildings and exterior areas on KAFB, as required. New activities would be proposed as actions covered by this SWEA, as required by future changes in the mission and scope of the NNSA assigned to KCNSC NMO. The U.S. Air Force requires that permittees follow the Environmental Impact Analysis Process prior to modifications of permitted property, including ground disturbance, construction, and/or demolition, via the submission of U.S. Air Force Form 813.

The scope of operations that would be conducted at KCNSC NMO, and any additional facility, may include the following:

- Electrical and Mechanical Assembly – silicone, epoxy, and other adhesive bonding; non-foam encapsulation; lamination; and fiber optics
- Fabrication and Manufacturing (chemical, mechanical, material preparation) – autoclave operation, ceramic forming and processing, chemical manufacturing, molding, foam processing, furnace and heat-treating oven bake and curing, sieving powders, stereolithography, and thermal processing
- Surface Preparation (chemical and mechanical) – Alodine chemical film, aqueous strip, blasting, cleaning (aqueous, plasma, solvent, and ultrasonic), deburring, vapor degreasing, depotting, chemical etching, and mold-release applications
- Coating – application of dry film, spray paint, aerosol, parylene, liquid, and powder coatings
- Machining – cutting (acetylene, plasma, wet/dry), drilling, grinding, wet and dry milling, roll milling, sheet metal work, laser cutting and marking
- Testing and Analysis – calibration, inspection, leak detection, x-ray, and testing of electronics, explosives, kinematics, pressure, and thermal
- Welding, Brazing, and Soldering – electric beam, laser, pulse arc, resistance, and manual
- Support and Miscellaneous – facility maintenance, assembly and disassembly, diesel and gasoline combustion, recycling, janitorial services, packaging, shipping, and personal care
- Administrative and Logistics Support – security, transportation, storage, waste management, and similar support activities

KCNSC NMO is planning to lease 2.77 additional acres of Albuquerque Sunport–owned vacant lot adjacent to the east side of the Craddock A facility. This lot will be used to site future hazardous materials operations and storage in portable Connex buildings. In addition, Class 1.1 and Class 1.2 explosives will be located on-site in an appropriate storage facility. This addition is included as part of the Proposed Action.

**No Action Alternative:** The No Action Alternative would be to maintain the current operation and maintenance of KCNSC NMO and for the NNSA to find alternative locations for the expansion of its mission. The No Action Alternative is only carried forward for comparison to the Proposed Action.

The discontinuation of all NNSA activities at KCNSC NMO was not considered by this SWEA since this option would not meet the needs of the NNSA and its congressionally mandated national security mission. Similarly, the relocation of the current NNSA support offered by KCNSC NMO to either the existing Kansas City NNSA site or a new location was not considered. Such an action would generate a new, additional set of environmental consequences equal to, or worse than, operation of the current site.

## **5) ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF PROPOSED ACTION:**

The following is a summary of the findings of the final SWEA (DOE/EA-2231). For the purposes of discussing the potential effects of the Proposed Action, the KCNSC NMO on- and off-KAFB are collectively referred to as “KCNSC NMO facilities” unless separate descriptions are warranted. An off-KAFB “project area” has been defined for expansion of KCNSC NMO into an existing or new industrial/warehouse location that has not been determined at this time.

**Land Use:** The Proposed Action could involve construction of minor improvements within the footprint of the KCNSC NMO facilities on- or off-KAFB to accommodate stormwater or industrial wastewater collection, additional parking, security systems/fencing, and public road improvements to access the facilities. None of these improvements would change the overall use of the properties and they would remain zoned as they are today. The NNSA would maintain compliance with the applicable plans and regulations of governing jurisdictions. No properties of environmental concern are immediately adjacent to the existing KCNSC NMO facilities, and none of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1976 (CERCLA) sites identified on KAFB would be affected by the Proposed Action nor would they affect the continued use of current KCNSC NMO facilities.

The proposed expansion of operations to a new location within the project area would require review of the particular property selected and the environmental impact of construction/building upgrades/improvements required for occupancy and use. At this time, no specific site(s) for expanded operations have been identified. The NNSA would conduct a site-specific analysis of the proposed site, complete the appropriate level of environmental review, and obtain the required permits to use the site and maintain compliance with applicable regulations. This analysis identified no significant adverse impacts to future land use of the area.

**Aesthetics (Visual and Noise):** Minor levels of additional noise would be generated by the changes in operations at the KCNSC NMO facilities. Manufacturing operations would continue to be contained within existing building envelopes. The movement of employees between facilities and access to the facilities by vendors from Albuquerque surface streets, Interstate 40, and Interstate 25 would generate minor increases in traffic noise in addition to minor temporary increases in noise levels resulting from minor site improvements (e.g., parking expansion, etc.). In the next 5 to 10 years, staff numbers and the number of vendor deliveries may increase to address workload demand. With only minor changes occurring to the exterior of the KCNSC NMO buildings on- and off-KAFB, minimal visual or aesthetic changes would occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

The expansion of operations to a new location within the project area could increase noise levels in the vicinity of that proposed site. The NNSA would evaluate the proximity of the site to noise-sensitive receptors (if present) and conduct traffic studies, if warranted, to assess the noise generated by the volume of traffic (employee and vendor) forecasted to access the site to support operations.

**Air Quality:** Under the Proposed Action, the existing KCNSC NMO facilities are anticipated to continue to generate emissions below the limits of the existing City of Albuquerque (COA) Source Registration and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System certificate in the near term and would be covered under those existing documented environmental limits. The NNSA would continue to monitor air emissions from the facilities to maintain compliance with the permits and any changes in the regulations. If future growth in operations would result in emissions exceeding the current permitted limits, the NNSA would seek to amend the existing permit or request that a new permit be issued in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations. The upgrade and expansion of operations would not affect the overall attainment status of the area, would not exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and would maintain compliance with the Statewide Implementation Plan. Greenhouse gasses would not be expected to increase above a significant level.

Expansion of operations to a new location within the project area would be evaluated to determine whether the existing permits would cover that facility or if a separate facility-specific permit would need to be obtained. The same emissions monitoring protocols conducted at the existing KCNSC NMO facilities would occur at a new facility once it becomes operational. Expanding operations to a new location within the project area would not affect the overall attainment status of the area, would not exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and would maintain compliance with the Statewide Implementation Plan.

**Geology and Soils:** The continuation and expansion at all or select operations at the existing KCNSC NMO facilities could involve the minor disturbance of previously modified land areas within the project area. Construction on the vacant lot adjacent to Alamo/Craddock could disturb up to 2.77 acres of soil. The NNSA would obtain the appropriate permits and implement sedimentation and erosion control measures, as well as develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to avoid stormwater runoff. Subsurface geotechnical engineering investigations will be performed for any new construction that will identify and mitigate any hazards due to soil condition (liquefaction, collapse, etc.).

**Water Resources:** All operations would continue to occur within building envelopes, preventing the potential introduction of materials and wastes into surface water and groundwater resources. The upgrade and expansion of operations at the existing KCNSC NMO facilities could involve minor soil disturbances to accommodate construction and/or installation of parking lots or other minor facility renovations. The NNSA would obtain the appropriate permits and implement sedimentation and erosion control measures, including development of a SWPPP to manage stormwater runoff during those activities. If construction would be proposed within areas that fall under a new definition of waters of the United States, a jurisdictional determination would be obtained by the NNSA and, if triggered, a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit (nationwide or individual) would be requested, depending on the amount of fill to be placed within the site's jurisdictional boundaries. Mitigation could be required depending on the level of impact. No impacts to groundwater sources would occur.

Future on- and off-KAFB locations would be assessed for surface water features such as wetlands, stream channels, and floodplains. Field studies would be conducted to support coordination with permitting agencies if minor improvements are proposed at the identified site (e.g., parking or access expansion, utilities, minor facility renovation). At this time, no specific sites have been identified.

**Biological Resources (Vegetation and Wildlife):** No federally listed species have the potential to occur in the project area; therefore, no federally listed species would be impacted by the implementation of the Proposed Action. The expansion, reconfiguration, and/or relocation of all or select operations at the KCNSC NMO facilities would not remove or disturb habitat or displace resident or migratory wildlife. Minor improvements may be made in areas currently occupied by lawn or paved parking areas to accommodate operations. Any disruption to wildlife present on or adjacent to KCNSC NMO facilities would be minimal and temporary, such as noise from construction equipment. Building exteriors and grounds adjacent to areas proposed for improvement would be assessed for the presence of nesting birds. If active nests are discovered, removal of the nests to facilitate the proposed activities would not occur until after the young have fledged.

Because future activities within the project area would contain existing buildings, parking lots, access drives, vacant disturbed land, and utilities, no wildlife habitat would be expected to be removed. Activities in the project area should not disrupt resident or migratory wildlife.

**Cultural Resources:** The Proposed Action would not result in land disturbance or deep excavation activities in areas of known archaeological deposits or historic/cultural sites. No resources eligible for listing or currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places would be affected by the Proposed Action; therefore, the Proposed Action would have no effect on historic properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Only minimal ground disturbance would occur at a proposed existing facility location within the 2-mile radius to accommodate minor access, parking, and infrastructure improvements to support proposed operations. Nonetheless, a site-specific assessment of the potential for archaeological and historic (non-archaeological) resources would be undertaken to support NEPA clearance for a new facility location.

The COA-owned lot adjacent to the Craddock buildings has not been surveyed for cultural resources. Prior to ground disturbance, an archaeological survey is likely to be required following the COA Archaeological Ordinance, as well as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Infrastructure (Utilities and Transportation)**: The utilities serving the existing KCNSC NMO facilities have sufficient capacity to support upgraded and expanded operations and no changes are expected to occur.

The NNSA would evaluate any potential proposed existing facility location within the 2-mile radius to determine whether adequate utility services are provided. Only minor utility improvements would be undertaken to facilitate operations such as the installation of an industrial wastewater pretreatment facility if needed.

Employee and supply traffic and materials movement would continue to flow between both facilities using the local roadway system. Minor improvements to parking areas at both facility locations may occur to accommodate increases in staff levels as operations expand. No access to the neighboring rail lines is required to support the Proposed Action.

Other roadways within the project area also have adequate capacity to support KCNSC NMO facility expansion. The additional site selected would be evaluated by the NNSA to ensure that adequate on-site capacity is available to accommodate employee parking and access by vendors.

**Socioeconomic Resources**: Additional employees would be hired to support the current and projected workloads anticipated under the Proposed Action, but at this time, the number of additional employees needed over the next 5 to 10 years is undetermined. All KCNSC NMO facilities are located within Albuquerque in areas dominated by industrial and commercial employers. The Proposed Action is focused on existing property/facility acquisition and would not require off-KAFB major construction or facility demolition and, therefore, would not displace any homes or businesses or result in any changes to surrounding neighborhoods. No changes in travel times by emergency responders would occur and no community facilities would be affected. No disproportionately high impacts to minority or low-income populations would occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

A future facility would be located in an area supporting industrial/warehouse uses, not the residential neighborhoods prevalent in the northern parts of the project area. The additional facility may provide additional jobs and indirectly support local businesses in the neighboring area.

**Waste Management**: The volume of waste generation would increase slightly at the existing KCNSC NMO facilities with the update and expansion of operations. Regardless of the characteristics of the waste stream, management of nonhazardous and hazardous waste would continue in the same manner as under current operational levels. All wastes would continue to be categorized and disposed of according to the federal and state permits held by the NNSA and following applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Wastes would be minimized through continued and expanded reuse and recycling.



Operations at a future industrial/warehouse facility within the project area would also generate various waste streams and the management and disposal of those wastes would occur in the same manner they are addressed the existing KCNSC NMO facilities.

**Human Health and Safety:** Waste generation rates at all KCNSC NMO facilities would be monitored as operations are expanded for planned increases in manufacturing capacity needed to support forecasted workloads, and waste management operations would be adjusted as needed. On-site waste management staff would continue to manage waste disposal operations, prepare shipments, and contract with local permitted waste management and recycling contractors for collection and transport of waste to licensed disposal facilities. The existing KCNSC NMO U.S. Department of Transportation Security Plan for the transport of hazardous wastes required under 49 CFR 172.800 would be maintained and amended, as needed, to reflect any change in waste generation.

Only minor changes would occur to the exterior of the KCNSC NMO on- and off-KAFB buildings. Any associated construction wastes would be managed in accordance with U.S. Air Force, COA, Bernalillo County, and State of New Mexico requirements, as applicable. Nonhazardous waste would be disposed of at a locally permitted sanitary landfill or, if available, a local landfill permitted solely for construction-type debris. Minimal hazardous waste is anticipated to be encountered or generated during any building renovation, and if encountered, it would be handled in compliance with applicable regulatory requirements to minimize hazards to worker safety.

Any new locations would be permitted in the same manner as the existing KCNSC NMO on- and off-KAFB facilities. All wastes generated from a new facility would be managed and disposed of in the same manner as wastes generated at the existing KCNSC NMO facilities. The transport of hazardous wastes from the new location to disposal facilities would be covered under KCNSC NMO's existing U.S. Department of Transportation Security Plan.

**Cumulative Impacts:** The Proposed Action would result in minor cumulative impacts. Expansion of operations to meet larger volumes of production requirements will result in the hiring of additional employees; minor increases in surface traffic volumes, air emissions, industrial wastewater generation, power usage, and waste generation would occur to support the forecasted workload over the next 5 to 10 years. Overall, the expansion of operations across the existing and proposed KCNSC NMO facilities would result in minimal cumulative impacts.

**6) DETERMINATION:**

In accordance with NEPA, DOE NEPA implementing regulations (10 CFR 1021), and based on the findings in the final SWEA, the NNSA finds that the update of operations at the KCNSC NMO on- and off-KAFB facilities to expand, reconfigure, and/or move any or all operations within the KCNSC NMO, consisting of the existing location and an additional existing industrial/warehouse space within the project area, would not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required and the NNSA is issuing this FONSI for the Proposed Action.

Issued at the KCNSC, NNSA Kansas City Field Office on this 8 day of January 2024.

**JEFFREY  
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