

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****National Nuclear Security Administration****Office of Los Alamos Site Operations  
Notice of Floodplain Involvement for  
the Connector Road Between  
Technical Areas 22 and 8 at Los  
Alamos National Laboratory, Los  
Alamos, New Mexico**

**AGENCY:** National Nuclear Security Administration, Office of Los Alamos Site Operations, DOE.

**ACTION:** Notice of floodplain involvement.

**SUMMARY:** The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) of the Los Alamos Area Office at the Department of Energy (DOE) plans to construct a connector road about one mile in length between Technical Areas (TAs) 22 and 8 at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). A short segment, less than 200 feet in length, of the road will cross a floodplain area within Pajarito Canyon, located within the western portion of LANL. In accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022, DOE has prepared a floodplain/wetland assessment and will perform this proposed action in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain.

**DATES:** Comments are due to the address below no later than April 17, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to: Elizabeth Withers, Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos Area Office, 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544, or submit them to the Mail Room at the above address between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may also be sent electronically to: ewithers@doeal.gov or by facsimile to (505) 667-9998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tom Rush, Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos Area Office, 528 35th Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544. Telephone (505) 667-5280, facsimile (505) 667-9998.

For Further Information on General DOE Floodplain Environmental Review Requirements, contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, Department of Energy, 100 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington DC 20585-0119. Telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756, facsimile (202) 586-7031.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In March 2002, NNSA considered a proposal for constructing about a mile-long, two lane paved road that would link TA-22 with an existing road, Anchor Ranch Road, within TA-8. This new road will provide a second means for access to facilities located at TA-22; the existing TA-22 access road will be restricted to

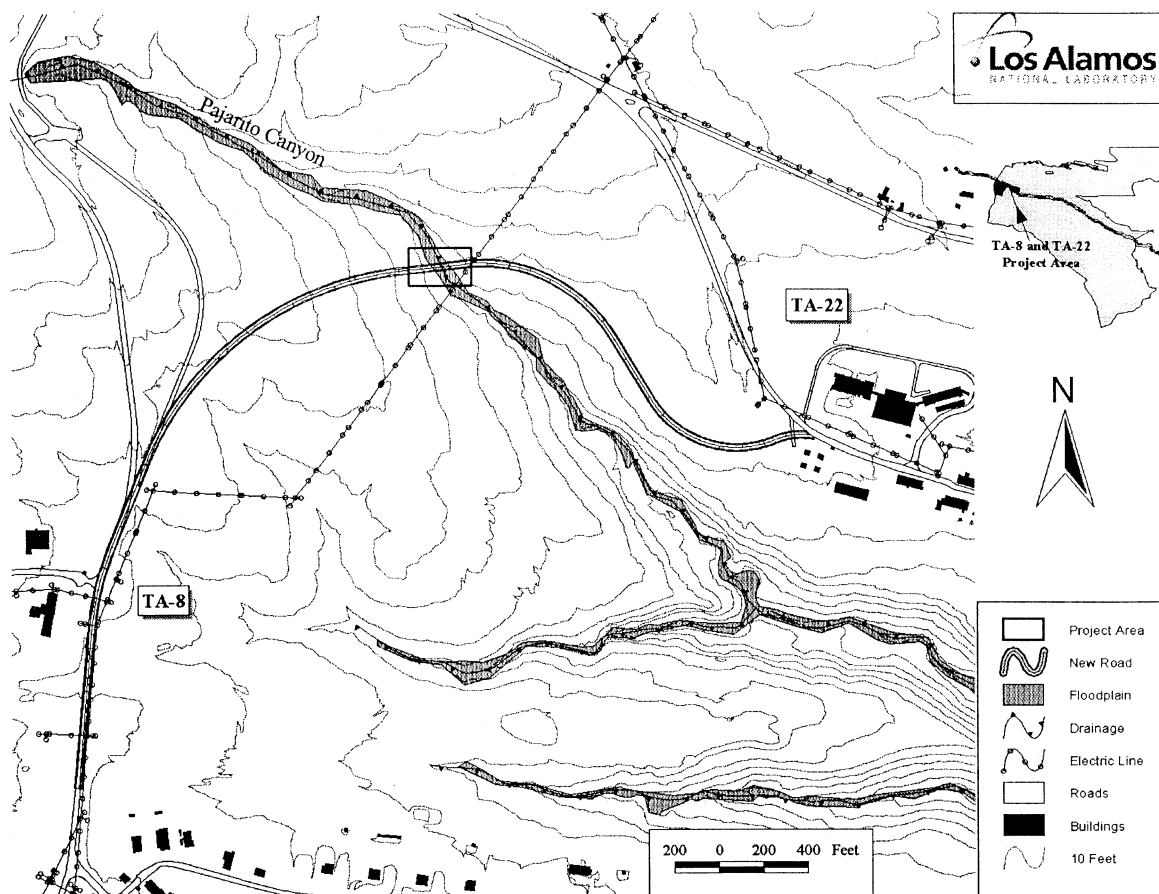
emergency use. The new road will correct traffic safety hazards associated with use of the existing TA-22 access road. The area surrounding TA-22 and TA-8 is forested and having a secondary access road to the TA-22 facilities is an important fire safety measure. Construction of the road will commence in fiscal year 2003 and be completed in less than 12 months.

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR Part 1022), NNSA has prepared a floodplain/wetland assessment for this action, which is available by contacting Elizabeth Withers at the previously identified addresses, phone and facsimile numbers. The floodplain/wetland assessment is available for review at the DOE Reading Room at the Los Alamos Outreach Center, 1619 Central Avenue, Los Alamos, NM 878544; and the DOE Reading Room at the Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131. The NNSA will publish a floodplain statement of findings for this project in the **Federal Register** no sooner than April 17, 2002.

Issued in Los Alamos, NM on March 25, 2002.

**Corey A. Cruz,**

*Acting Director, U. S. Department of Energy,  
National Nuclear Security Administration,  
Office of Los Alamos Site Operations.*



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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### National Nuclear Security Administration

#### Floodplain Statement of Finding for the Disposition of the Omega West Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM

**AGENCY:** Office of Los Alamos Site Operations, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Floodplain statement of finding.

**SUMMARY:** This Floodplain Statement of Findings is for the disposition of the Omega West Facility from the Los Alamos Canyon floodplain at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Los Alamos, New Mexico. This Statement of Findings is prepared in accordance with 10 CFR part 1022. The Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Office of Los Alamos Site Operations plans to decontaminate and demolish the Omega West Facility from the Los Alamos Canyon bottom to reduce the potential for radioactive

contaminant spread and debris dissemination in the event of a major flood. The Omega West Facility (the Facility) housed an old research reactor known as the Omega West Reactor (OWR). The OWR was shut down in 1992 and the fuel rods were removed from the Facility in 1994. The Facility, originally constructed in 1944, and its associated structures are of advanced age and not in a condition suitable for renovation or reapplication. Further, they are located within a potential flood pathway. There is no foreseeable future use for the Facility, which is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. NNSA prepared a floodplain assessment describing the effects, and measures designed to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplains.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Withers, U. S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos Site Operations Office, 528 35th Street, Los Alamos NM 87544. Telephone (505) 667-8690, or facsimile (505) 667-9998; or electronic address: ewithers@doeal.gov. For Further Information on General DOE Floodplain Environmental Review Requirements,

Contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0119, Telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756; facsimile (202) 586-7031.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

A Notice of Floodplain Involvement was published in the **Federal Register** on February 20, 2002 (67 FR 7674). This Notice announced that the Floodplain Assessment would be issued together as part of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA). The draft EA was distributed to the State, Tribes, and interested parties, and was also placed in the DOE's public Reading Rooms in Los Alamos and Albuquerque, New Mexico on March 4, 2002 for a 21-day comment period. No comments were received from the **Federal Register** notice on the proposed floodplain action.

In May 2000, the Cerro Grande Fire burned across the upper and mid-elevation zones of several watersheds, including the Los Alamos Canyon watershed. Several of the Omega Facility's small support buildings and structures were demolished and