Barbara — need letter of response to file Judy's interest in the EIS CAI related to

Kathy

No Note

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

AUG 10 1994

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Judith Espinosa, Secretary
New Mexico Environment Department
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Ms. Espinosa:

Rec'd file

I am writing to you because I know of your interest in environmental issues and activities potentially affecting the environment at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). In particular, I would like to provide additional information specific to the LANL Environmental Management (EM) program to supplement the letter you recently received from my Defense Programs colleagues. This information includes our recommendations for addressing open EM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) actions at LANL.

As you know, the Department is planning to prepare a site-wide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for LANL. A copy of the Advance Notice of Intent, which will be published in the Federal Register and other public media shortly, is attached. The Notice identifies opportunities for public dialogue and participation in the planning process for the EIS, which will address not only EM activities but all ongoing or proposed activities at LANL.

As shown in the attached Advance Notice of Intent, the Department's EM program proposes that certain activities and projects be included in the EIS analysis and that certain other projects proceed as interim actions. For the balance of projects, we have no current proposal, but will make a determination during the scoping process for the EIS. We have coordinated closely with our colleagues in the Department's field offices in New Mexico to develop this categorization regime and to determine what projects should appropriately be placed in which categories.

The following is a list of EM activities and projects to be included in the EIS analysis and for which we propose to defer action (subject to the availability of new information) pending the outcome of decisions made during the EIS process:

- Radioactive Liquid Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Controlled Air Incinerator Treatment Operations
- Mixed Waste Disposal Facility
- New Sanitary Landfill
- Expansion of Area G - Low-level Waste Disposal Facility

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- Decontaminate, Decommission, and Demolish Building 86, High Pressure Tritium Laboratory, TA-33

During the preparation of the EIS, we propose to continue or start independent NEPA review for four EM proposed activities and projects:

- Actinide Source Term Waste Test Program
- Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility/Mixed Waste Receiving and Storage Facility
- Replacement Waste Compactor
- Hazardous, Low Level Radioactive, and Mixed Waste Treatment Skids

For three EM activities, we have no proposal to offer, but will develop a position during the scoping process for the draft EIS:

- High Explosives Wastewater Treatment Facility
- Controlled Air Incinerator Trial Burn
- Mixed Waste Disposal Facility (clean-up waste) Note: The existing draft Environmental Assessment (EA) would be completed and made available to stakeholders to assist them during the scoping process. In essence, the scoping process for the EIS would be used as comment period for the draft EA.

This proposed categorization is intended to provide a clear indication of our view as we enter the scoping process for the EIS. It is exactly the purpose of the scoping process to involve stakeholders and consider public comment, to help us determine the appropriate scope for the EIS. We wholeheartedly encourage you to participate actively in this scoping process and give the benefit of your thoughts so that we can develop meaningful planning for the future of LANL. Also, new information could become available during or after the scoping process which could change this categorization. For example, although the Department proposes to defer the expansion of Area G until after the EIS is completed, new information on the rate of waste generation, the success of our waste minimization efforts, and the availability of existing disposal capacity could compel the Department to undertake a separate environmental analysis for a limited interim expansion in order to avoid shutting down important LANL activities while the EIS is being completed. This would of course be undertaken only after determining it is a permissible interim action pursuant to NEPA.

We are confident that this proposal represents a reasonable approach. Please do not hesitate to call me or James D. Werner (202/586-9280) of my headquarters staff; or Ron Hanson (505/845-6210) or John Arthur (505/845-5985) from our Albuquerque Operations Office if you have any questions. Thanks for your active interest in the Department's operations and plans.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Grumbly
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management

[6450-01]

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SITE-WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT,
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

AGENCY: Department of Energy

ACTION: Advance Notice of Intent to Prepare a Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operations of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Energy (DOE) is providing advance notice of its intent to prepare a Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for its Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Los Alamos, New Mexico, a DOE multipurpose research and development laboratory. The SWEIS will be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.], the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations [40 CFR Parts 1500-1508] and the DOE NEPA regulations [10 CFR Part 1021]. The SWEIS will analyze the potential environmental impacts of continuing to operate LANL and reasonable alternative operating envelopes.

With this Advance Notice, DOE initiates a prescoping process to identify possible issues and alternatives to be analyzed in the SWEIS.. As provided at 10 CFR 1021.311(b), this Advance Notice provides an early opportunity to inform the public of the SWEIS and to solicit early public comments. After this prescoping process, DOE will publish a Notice of Intent (NOI) which will identify the proposed scope of the SWEIS, including the proposed alternatives and issues developed through this prescoping process. Although schedules have not yet been developed, it is DOE's intent to start the full SWEIS process as soon as possible and complete the process as quickly as possible. The public is

invited to comment on this Advance Notice and to attend public information meetings and workshops addressing SWEIS issues.

DATES: Written comments on the scope of the SWEIS are invited from the public. Prescoping comments should be postmarked by October 31, 1994. The Department will again invite comments on the scope of the SWEIS after the NOI is published.

The Department will hold public information meetings and workshops in conjunction with prescoping. These will be held at various places in northern New Mexico. The times, dates, and format of these meetings will be announced in the local press no later than two weeks prior to the meetings and publicized in other ways as appropriate.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the SWEIS or other matters concerning the SWEIS, or requests to be put on a mailing list for future information about the SWEIS, should be addressed to:

M. Diana Webb
Los Alamos Area Office
U. S. Department of Energy
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, NM 87544
Attn: LANL SWEIS
(505) 665-6353
Facsimile (505) 665-4504

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information on the DOE NEPA process, please contact:

Carol M. Borgstrom, Director
Office of NEPA Oversight, EH-25
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585
(800) 472-2756 or (202) 586-4600

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

About the SWEIS. The Department has a policy to prepare SWEISs for large, multi-facility DOE sites [10 CFR 1021.330], such as LANL. The purpose of a SWEIS is to provide DOE and its stakeholders with a comprehensive look at the environmental impacts caused by its operations and activities at a site. The NEPA process allows for Federal, State, tribal, county, municipal and public participation in the environmental review and resultant decisionmaking process. A SWEIS was last prepared for LANL in 1979 [DOE/EIS-0018]. The planned SWEIS would replace that document.

A SWEIS is a useful tool for DOE to manage its facilities and operations. It provides the DOE decisionmakers, site management, and the public with comprehensive information on the cumulative impact of past, ongoing and planned activities at a site in order to plan for quality stewardship of the resources entrusted to DOE's care. A SWEIS can be used to establish an environmentally-sound operating envelope for site activities and establish thresholds of significance to identify future environmental impacts. The SWEIS is expected to support later

NEPA reviews by allowing DOE to focus on project-specific issues and to narrow and simplify the scope of later reviews. This process is called "tiering" [40 CFR 1508.28]. DOE believes that the SWEIS analysis will generally provide adequate NEPA coverage for those activities and projects covered by the SWEIS. However, a SWEIS may not replace the need for future, project-specific NEPA reviews as future proposals for LANL facilities are developed. In accordance with 10 CFR 1021.330(d), DOE will evaluate the SWEIS at least every five years after its completion to determine whether it should be revised.

Site-wide Analysis. The SWEIS will address operations and planned activities at LANL foreseen within the next 5 to 10 years. The SWEIS will focus on operating practices and facility management; DOE does not expect to be able to anticipate all future research and development projects that LANL may be called upon to support over the next ten years. The Department anticipates that the SWEIS will provide an analysis of all activities at LANL and all DOE land management activities related to operations at LANL. The SWEIS will also examine DOE's ongoing obligations to the surrounding community under the Atomic Energy Communities Act [42 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.], including proposals to transfer certain tracts of DOE-administered land to Los Alamos County. The Department intends to use the SWEIS to develop: mitigation measures for operating and facilities management practices; a nuclear materials storage and handling strategy; a waste management strategy; an environmental restoration strategy; and a land transfer strategy for LANL. The SWEIS will include an analysis of the impacts of operating

all major facilities at LANL. Specific research projects or facility proposals that are not included within the SWEIS analysis would be subject to project-specific NEPA reviews.

Los Alamos National Laboratory's mission. The Department coordinates and administers the energy functions of the Federal government. Among other things, it is responsible for the nuclear weapons program, research and development of energy technologies, and basic science research. The Laboratory is one of DOE's primary research and development laboratories. It was established in 1943 to provide research, design, and testing for nuclear weapons and nuclear materials and remains one of the three laboratories in DOE's nuclear weapons complex. Over the past 50 years, LANL's mission has expanded to include research in energy, materials science, nuclear safeguards and security, biomedical science, computational science, environmental protection and cleanup, and other basic science research. In addition to work done in support of DOE programs, LANL provides research and science services for other Federal agencies, universities, foreign countries, and private industry. The Laboratory is one of the largest multiprogram research laboratories in the world, with an annual budget of about $1 billion and about 10,000 contractor and sub-contractor employees. The Laboratory covers about 43 square miles of Federal land in north-central New Mexico in Los Alamos and Santa Fe Counties.

The Secretary of Energy has initiated an independent review to provide recommendations on the future missions of all DOE Laboratories. The

SWEIS will incorporate any recommendations accepted by DOE regarding the future missions of LANL.

Related NEPA reviews. Currently, certain of LANL's mission elements are being considered in several other broad-scale NEPA reviews. In addition, about 20 proposed projects at LANL are in the process of having either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared.

- The Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programmatic EIS (PEIS) [Notice of Intent, 55 FR 42633] will analyze the DOE plan to formulate and implement an integrated Environmental Management program. The Laboratory is one of the alternative sites proposed to store and process transuranic radioactive waste and store, process, and provide on-site disposal for low-level radioactive waste, possibly including material generated at locations other than LANL.

- The Nuclear Weapons Complex Reconfiguration PEIS [revised Notice of Intent, 56 FR 39528] analyzes alternatives for the reconfiguration of the weapons complex due to nuclear weapons stockpile reductions. The Department currently is considering how the scope of this PEIS should be revised further to reflect more recent budget and stockpile reduction decisions. At this time, the Reconfiguration PEIS and its related decisions are not expected to change the weapons mission at LANL.

- The Advanced Neutron Source EIS analyzes the siting, construction and operation of a research nuclear reactor [Notice of Intent, 58 FR 31019]. The Laboratory is being considered as an alternative to the preferred site at DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation, Tennessee.

- The Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and INEL Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs EIS includes a programmatic analysis of transporting, processing, and storing spent nuclear reactor fuel [Notice of Availability, Draft EIS, 59 FR 32688]. The Laboratory has generated spent fuel and continues to temporarily store this material pending the outcome of programmatic decisions following the spent fuel EIS.

- The Department is preparing a site-wide EIS for all activities at its Pantex Plant, near Amarillo, Texas [Notice of Intent, 59 FR 26635]. The primary mission of this facility is disassembly of nuclear weapons. The Pantex site-wide EIS will also take a programmatic look at storing disassembled nuclear weapons components. The Laboratory disassembles and temporarily stores radioisotopic thermoelectric generators (radioactive heat sources) that have been removed from retired weapons and could be considered as an alternative site for other components.

- The Department is preparing a PEIS for Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials [Notice of Intent, 59 FR 31985]. The PEIS will analyze alternatives for the long-term storage and

disposition of surplus nuclear materials in order to minimize the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons capability in the world. Phase I of the project will be to provide safe, controlled, inspectable interim storage. As part of this phase, DOE is performing a vulnerability study to determine the risks associated with current storage of nuclear materials. Phase II will be long-term storage or disposition of surplus material. Among other things, the PEIS will analyze a new, consolidated long-term storage facility at five candidate sites (LANL is not a candidate site), and continued use of interim storage facilities. The Laboratory now stores some nuclear materials.

- The Department is preparing a programmatic EA on its proposal to produce medical isotopes for medical applications such as diagnostics and chemotherapy [EA determination, 02/24/93]. The proposal involves irradiating targets in a nuclear reactor, processing the material, and disposing of waste. The original proposal was to use the Omega West Reactor at LANL to produce the isotopes. Since that time, DOE has decided to permanently shut down that reactor, and it would not be used for this purpose. Alternatives currently under consideration involving LANL facilities would include fabricating targets at the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building, processing and recycling irradiated material at that facility, and disposing of low-level radioactive waste at LANL's waste management area.

Besides these broad-scale NEPA documents, DOE is in the process of conducting several environmental analyses for specific proposed projects at LANL or has made preliminary plans to start such reviews. Through this prescoping process, the public is invited to comment as to whether the NEPA reviews listed in Tables 1 and 2 should precede, be incorporated into, or be deferred until after the SWEIS. In accordance with requests from the State, tribes, and the public, DOE invites public comment as to which of these ongoing NEPA reviews should be included within the scope of alternatives to be analyzed in the SWEIS. Specifically, as requested by the public, DOE invites comments to assist in determining either: 1) the project has independent justification and would not prejudice the outcome of the SWEIS, and the NEPA review can proceed; 2) the project is integral to alternatives to be analyzed in the SWEIS, and the NEPA review will be included in the SWEIS; or 3) the project depends on the outcome of the SWEIS, and the NEPA review will be deferred until after the SWEIS is completed.

These projects and DOE's initial recommendations are listed in Table 1. For a few projects, DOE does not make an initial recommendation but will develop its recommendation after considering public comment. Table 1 also provides information on the DOE program which sponsors the proposals and the date of the determination of the initial level of NEPA review. The Department may initiate other projects while the SWEIS is being prepared; Table 2 lists planned projects for which DOE believes NEPA reviews may be needed prior to completion of the SWEIS but has not yet issued a NEPA determination. The public is invited to comment on

whether these NEPA reviews should proceed independently of the SWEIS, or should be included in the SWEIS analysis. The NOI will summarize comments received, explain whether or not DOE proposes to continue with any of these NEPA reviews, and describe their relationship to the alternatives suggested in the NOI.

Issues and alternatives. The Department has not yet identified environmental issues or suggested alternatives for the SWEIS. These will be developed over the next few months through the prescoping process with the assistance of stakeholder involvement. The Department anticipates that alternatives will be issue-driven to allow alternatives to focus on activities or operations which are of concern ("at issue") to the agency or the public. The SWEIS would not analyze alternatives to current practices for which neither the agency nor the public have identified any concerns.

The SWEIS will look at reasonable alternatives to the current situation. The public is specifically invited to comment on whether analysis of an alternative which would describe phasing out all LANL operations and eventually decommissioning all facilities (a "shutdown alternative") would be useful for comparison to ongoing activities.

In 1976, LANL was designated as one of four National Environmental Research Parks (NERPs). The NERPs were established to contribute to the understanding of how people can live in balance with nature while enjoying the benefits of technology. The Department has never

instituted an active management plan for the LANL NERP. The public is specifically invited to comment on whether the SWEIS should contain alternatives for managing the NERP or whether the designation should be lifted.

The NEPA process. The DOE NEPA review process is described in the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations [40 CFR Parts 1500-1508] and the DOE NEPA regulations [10 CFR Part 1021]. Through NEPA, Congress requires that Federal agencies consider environmental impacts when making decisions and lay the decisionmaking process open to public scrutiny. An EIS documents the environmental review of major Federal actions which may significantly affect the human environment; an EA may be used to determine the need for an EIS or to document that no significant environmental impacts would be expected to occur.

The EIS process begins with publication of a NOI to solicit public comments to assist in determining the scope of analysis in the EIS [40 CFR 1501.7; 10 CFR 1021.311]. The Department documents the results of the scoping process and its plans on how to conduct the EIS review in an Implementation Plan [10 CFR 1021.312]. An agency publishes a draft EIS to gain public input into the environmental analysis before a final EIS is issued [40 CFR 1502.9; 10 CFR 1021.313]. An agency issues a Record of Decision (ROD) to document its decision and to explain how the environmental considerations documented in the EIS were balanced against other factors which led to the decision, such as technical, regulatory, or financial considerations [40 CFR 1505.2; 10 CFR 1021.315].

A PEIS is a broad-scale analysis of proposed programs or policies [40 CFR 1502.4(b)], including proposals with geographically connected actions [40 CFR 1502.4(c)(1)]. A SWEIS is a specific type of PEIS used to analyze connected actions at a DOE site [10 CFR 1021.330]. An agency follows the same steps to prepare a SWEIS as for an EIS.

Classified material. The Department will review classified material while preparing the SWEIS. Within the limits of classification, DOE will provide to the public as much information as possible. If necessary, classified information will be segregated into a classified appendix.

Public involvement opportunities. The Department will conduct prescoping over the next few months. The results of prescoping will be provided in the NOI. Through this Advance Notice, DOE asks other Federal agencies, the State, tribal governments, local governments, and the general public to assist in identifying the scope of analysis for the SWEIS, including suggestions on issues, alternatives, and other topics of interest. As part of the prescoping process, DOE will hold a series of public information meetings and workshops, and provide other opportunities for public involvement. These will be publicized in local media at least two weeks in advance. Other Federal agencies, which perform work at LANL or manage land that might be affected by LANL activities, will be consulted about the SWEIS. Information briefings will be given to the State, affected tribes, and local governments. Other parties with an interest in LANL's operations, such as private

companies having industrial partnerships with LANL, will be advised of the SWEIS process. The Department invites stakeholders to submit written comments on the content of the SWEIS and suggestions on the SWEIS review process, including suggestions for the conduct or format of public involvement opportunities, to the address given above. Comments received prior to October 31, 1994, will be considered in developing the proposed issues and alternatives for the NOI.

The NOI will explain how comments and issues raised in the prescoping process have been incorporated into the suggested alternatives and issues identified in that Notice. Publication of the NOI will be followed by a second invitation to comment, public information meetings and workshops, and formal public scoping meetings. The results of the scoping process will be documented in an Implementation Plan which will be made available to the public. Other Federal agencies, the State, tribes, local governments, and the public will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the draft SWEIS and participate in public hearings. A final SWEIS will be prepared which will explain how public comments on the draft were considered. Following the final SWEIS, DOE intends to issue a ROD to document DOE's decisions regarding the operation of LANL and explain the measures identified to mitigate any adverse impacts.

Copies of written comments, summaries of prescoping public meetings, and other materials pertaining to the development and analysis of the SWEIS will be made available for public review at the Los Alamos National

Laboratory Community Reading Room, 1450 Central Ave., Suite 101, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544. For information on the availability of specific documents and hours of operation, please contact the reading room at (505) 665-2127 or (800) 543-2342.

Signed in Washington D.C. this 4th day of August, 1994, for the United States Department of Energy.

Tara O'Toole, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health

TABLE 1
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONGOING NEPA REVIEWS

Title, Summary	DOE Program Sponsor/ NEPA Determ. Date	Discussion, Initial Recommendation
Environmental Impacts Statements (EISs)		
Radioactive Liquid Wastewater Treatment Facility, TA-63 Proposed facility would replace existing 30-year old wastewater treatment facility which has reached the end of its design life.	EM 02/08/93	**Discussion:** The existing wastewater treatment facility, completed in 1963, is still able to be operated safely and reliably for a few more years, although design standards have changed considerably since that time. It is possible that certain design details, such as wastewater stream source and type, may depend on sitewide decisions regarding the location and use of other facilities at LANL. Detailed design for a replacement facility cannot be started until the NEPA review is completed, which in turn would affect construction schedules. **Initial Recommendation: Include in the SWEIS.**
Environmental Assessments (EAs)		
Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building Upgrades, TA-3 Part of a series of proposed infrastructure renovations to a 40-year old facility used for various research projects. CMR supports activities in several other LANL facilities. The purpose of the upgrades is to reduce risk, enhance the safety margin, and provide for the continued safe, reliable, and effective use of the facility to support	DP 09/13/93	**Discussion:** CMR first operated in 1952. Since then, environmental, safety and security design and operating requirements have changed. Utility and infrastructure systems at CMR have aged and need to be replaced. Although current operations in CMR are conducted in a way that protects the safety of workers, the public and the environment, some utility and infrastructure upgrades would allow CMR operations to more closely adhere to current environmental, safety, and health requirements. These include

LANL missions for at least another 20 to 30 years. Some renovations were covered by prior NEPA review and are currently underway.		improving or replacing the building's structural, ventilation, electrical, facility monitoring, waste management, and security systems. Another element of the CMR upgrade projects would refurbish Wings 2 and 4 at CMR, to accommodate LANL program needs. If the upgrades were deferred until after the SWEIS, CMR would continue to be used but would also continue to deteriorate as the building systems aged. **Initial Recommendation: Analyze in the EA** those components of the proposed upgrades that are needed to maintain the existing operation infrastructure, improve safety of operations to workers and the general public, enhance CMR environmental management systems, and provide for improved security. **Include in the SWEIS** the remainder of the proposed CMR upgrades which relate to long-term programmatic needs, including refurbishing Wings 2 and 4.
High Explosives Materials Test Facility, TA-11 Proposed construction and operation of a new 3,000 square-foot building for mechanical and thermal tests on high explosive materials and related assemblies in support of DOE's science-based stockpile stewardship program. The proposal would consolidate in one building the high explosives work now done in several locations at LANL; the existing facilities have deteriorated substantially and are inadequate to reliably support current needs. LANL has an ongoing mission to evaluate aging weapons to ensure that the enduring nuclear weapons stockpile remains safe and reliable; therefore, LANL must maintain the capability to assure the continuity and reliability of evaluation	DP 03/10/92	**Discussion:** This is a small-scale construction project to consolidate ongoing activities at LANL and would not increase LANL's existing testing program. If constructing the building were deferred until after the SWEIS, testing and evaluation would continue in the existing facilities. Further deterioration of the existing buildings could disrupt the evaluation program and create uncertainty in LANL's ability to safely and reliably test high explosives materials. A decision to construct this building would not influence, nor be influenced by, sitewide decisions. **Initial recommendation: Proceed with EA.**

tests and the safety of workers performing those tests.		
Isotope Separator Facility, TA-48 Proposed 4,000 square-foot laboratory facility to develop pure samples of isotopes to be used as standards for weapons and non-weapons research. This project has been deferred.	DP 12/10/92	**Discussion:** NEPA review of this project is not needed at this time. **Initial Recommendation: Defer until after SWEIS.**
Low Energy Accelerator Laboratory (LEAL), TA-53 (formerly Accelerator Prototype Laboratory) Proposed 7,000 square-foot laboratory to support development of proton accelerators for ongoing programs. The low-energy, high-current front end accelerator prototype would be housed and operated in this proposed building.	DP 08/23/92	**Discussion:** This is a small-scale construction project to support ongoing research. If constructing the building is deferred until after the SWEIS, the research would continue in existing buildings if space allowed. A decision to construct this building would not influence, nor be influenced by, sitewide decisions. **Initial Recommendation: Proceed with EA.**
Nuclear Materials Storage Facility Upgrade, TA-55 (Revision to 1986 EA) The 1986 EA covers actions currently needed to correct identified design and construction deficiencies. The revised proposal is to increase the storage capacity of an existing nuclear materials storage vault from about 6.6 metric tons of plutonium to about 25 metric tons (LANL's current inventory is about 2.6 metric tons), with a corresponding increase in heat removal capability from 20 kilowatts to 75 kilowatts. The proposed upgrades would also allow storage of material that generates more heat due to radioactive decay.	DP 08/10/93	**Discussion:** The 1986 EA analyzed constructing and operating the existing vault to consolidate nuclear material storage at LANL. The proposal was revised in 1993 to allow for increased storage capability in the vault; the NEPA determination was to revise the 1986 EA to provide the NEPA review for the increased capacity. If the revised NEPA review were to proceed, DOE could make an early decision on whether to increase the storage capability of the existing vault. This would be necessary if, prior to completing sitewide decisions, DOE needed to store at LANL more material, or different types of material, than is now on-site or anticipated under current mission workloads. If a decision to increase the capacity were deferred until after the SWEIS, DOE and LANL could continue to work towards correcting design and construction deficiencies but could not undertake work

		that would lead to increased storage capacity. The SWEIS will be used to help develop a nuclear materials storage and handling strategy, which would include projections of amounts of material anticipated to be on site if LANL's weapons mission changed; sitewide decisions could influence decisions on the future use and capacity of the vault. **Initial Recommendation: Include in SWEIS the proposal to increase the vault's capacity as part of nuclear materials storage and handling strategy. Work to correct existing design and construction deficiencies would continue.**
Safety Testing of Pits Under Thermal Stress, CMR Building, TA-3 (formerly Fire Resistant Pit Test Program) Proposed experiments to ensure that the enduring nuclear weapons stockpile is safe and would not cause environmental or health problems in the event of a fire. The project would require minor modifications to one of the hot cells at CMR, but would not require construction of any new facilities. The tests would be on disarmed nuclear weapons devices (pits) to determine the potential for materials failure under fire conditions. LANL has an ongoing mission to evaluate weapons to ensure that the enduring nuclear weapons stockpile remains safe and reliable.	DP 06/02/93	**Discussion:** This is a small-scale project that would not require construction of a new facility. It is not connected to the infrastructure upgrades at CMR. If the test is deferred until after the SWEIS, some existing uncertainties regarding the safety of the nuclear weapons in the enduring stockpile would remain unresolved. A decision to conduct this test would not influence, nor be influenced by, sitewide decisions. **Initial Recommendation: Proceed with EA.**
Transuranic Waste Drum Staging Building, TA-55 Proposal to convert an existing 1,000 square-foot building within the Plutonium Facility to temporarily stage transuranic waste pending transportation to LANL's	DP 06/11/91	**Discussion:** This is a small-scale project that would not require construction of new facilities. If the project were deferred until after the SWEIS, waste could continue to be stored in laboratory space. A decision to proceed with this modification would not

radioactive waste management area at TA-54.		influence, nor be influenced by, sitewide decisions. **Initial Recommendation: Proceed with EA.**
Weapons Components Test Facility Relocation, TA-16 Proposal to relocate a test shop to a nearby 11,000 square-foot area now used as a warehouse. The shop is used for materials tests on weapons components and for non-weapons structural tests. A new hydraulic load-test machine press would be installed, and a small addition built to house hydraulic pumps.	DP 12/25/92	**Discussion:** This is a small-scale project that would not require construction of a new facility. If the project were deferred until after the SWEIS, the same testing operations would continue in the existing space, but the proposed hydraulic press could not be installed. A decision to proceed with this modification would not influence, nor be influenced by, sitewide decision. **Initial Recommendation: Proceed with EA.**
Decontaminate, Decommission and Demolish (DD&D) Building 86, High Pressure Tritium Laboratory, TA-33 Proposed demolition of a 40-year old tritium-contaminated building after removing tritium-contaminated equipment. Tritium inventory and equipment removal were covered under a separate NEPA review and are currently underway. The building is being monitored to determine residual tritium levels. Future DD&D of the building would be done under the EM program, but the facility currently remains under DP management.	DP/EM 11/04/91	**Discussion:** This facility has not operated since 1991. The immediate safety hazard was the removal of tritium-contaminated equipment, which is being accomplished. There is no immediate need to perform DD&D, and this action would produce potentially contaminated building rubble that would have to be disposed of. **Initial Recommendation: Include in the SWEIS** the remaining DD&D to help determine potential waste volumes for future disposal.
New Sanitary Landfill Proposal to locate, construct, and operate a new sanitary landfill at LANL.	DP/EM 05/09/91	**Discussion:** A decision on where to locate the new landfill and how much capacity it should have would depend on sitewide decisions regarding other facilities and a waste management strategy. **Initial Recommendation: Include in SWEIS.**

Actinide Source Term Waste Test Program, CMR Building, TA-3 Proposal to conduct tests to determine under controlled conditions how actinides (radioactive elements) behave when exposed to brine. This test will be used to provide information important to the decision on whether or not to operate the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico. The test results are needed by 12/95 to complete the WIPP performance assessment; to meet this schedule, tests must begin in 1994.	EM 12/09/92	**Discussion:** This is a small-scale project that would not require construction of a new facility. It is not connected to the infrastructure upgrades at CMR. If the test program is deferred until after the SWEIS, existing uncertainties regarding the performance of WIPP would remain unresolved and the schedule for completing the performance assessment would not be met. A decision to conduct this test would not influence, nor be influenced by, sitewide decisions. **Initial Recommendation: Proceed with EA.**
Controlled Air Incinerator, Expanded Operations, TA-50 Proposal to use an existing incinerator to treat environmental restoration and operational waste generated at various areas of LANL. The incinerator has previously been permitted and has operated a total of 2,607 hours over 15 years as a research and development facility. Incinerating waste destroys toxic organic constituents and generally reduces waste volume dramatically. Incineration is a recommended best demonstrated available technology within environmental statutes. DOE has a milestone to complete a trial burn by 02/13/95 under its Federal Facility Compliance Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If the trial burn is successful, DOE and the EPA will develop a plan for additional milestones.	EM 10/20/90	**Discussion:** The Controlled Air Incinerator has undergone extensive safety and environmental upgrades to support converting the facility's mission from a research and development facility to an operational facility in support of treating both hazardous and mixed waste. The SWEIS will be used to develop a waste management strategy; analyzing impacts of incinerating operational waste could be an important element of that strategy. **Initial Recommendation: Include treatment operation of the incinerator in SWEIS.** DOE makes no recommendation whether work would continue to conduct a trial burn as required by the Federal Facility Compliance Agreement. DOE will continue to work with regulators and the public to determine the appropriate activities for the Controlled Air Incinerator.
Expansion of Area G, Radioactive Waste Disposal Site, TA-54	EM 10/20/90	**Discussion:** The original proposal would provide long-term, large-scale expansion of the waste disposal area. Some expansion of LANL's waste handling

Proposal to expand an existing 63-acre low-level radioactive waste management area which is anticipated to reach capacity in 3 to 5 years. The original proposal was to expand by an additional 70 acres to provide an additional 20 years of disposal capability; a smaller 30-acre area is also considered, as well as a 5-acre area that would provide disposal capability for up to 8 years. There are no archeological sites in the 5-acre area.		capacity would be needed in 3 to 5 years to accommodate environmental restoration, D&D, and other operational waste. It is not clear at this time what the projected volumes of waste might be over the next 20 years. LANL is increasing waste minimization efforts and it is possible that site missions could change; the sitewide analysis will help develop projections of waste volume and type. The smaller, 5-acre proposal would allow for up to 8 years of additional disposal capacity in the event that it is needed while the sitewide analysis is being completed. If no expansion takes place prior to the SWEIS, it is possible that existing waste disposal areas may be filled prior to completing sitewide decisions. **Initial Recommendation: Include in the SWEIS.** If a compelling need can be shown for additional disposal capacity prior to completing sitewide decisions, DOE may, at a later time, propose a separate NEPA review to address those needs.
Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility and Mixed Waste Receiving and Storage Facility, TA-63 Proposal to construct and operate two waste management facilities to repackage, stage and treat hazardous and mixed wastes which cannot be placed in land disposal areas. The two facilities would be connected actions because they would be located close together and they support each other; therefore the NEPA review has been combined. DOE has an initial milestone of 01/30/95 for completing the detailed design for the proposed Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility to comply with its Federal Facility Compliance Agreement with the EPA; the NEPA review must be completed prior to beginning the detailed design. The proposal includes	EM 04/26/91	**Discussion:** The Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility is needed for on-site waste management and to help DOE meet compliance milestones regarding legacy waste. Delays in completing design and initiating construction could jeopardize meeting the Agreement. If this project is deferred until the SWEIS, the compliance milestone could not be met. The Mixed Waste Receiving and Storage Facility, while not tied to a specific compliance milestone, would assist DOE in meeting near-term site waste management goals. Although the NEPA determination was to analyze these two facilities together, the cumulative impacts of waste disposal operations would be analyzed in the SWEIS. **Initial Recommendation: Proceed with EA.**

using small-scale, self-contained portable "skids" to treat the waste.

High Explosives Wastewater Treatment Facility, TA-16 Proposal to construct and operate a wastewater treatment facility to treat wastewater containing trace amounts of high explosives waste. The project would include constructing a delivery pipeline and decontamination and demolition of an existing treatment facility. The project would minimize wastewater generation by eliminating 99 percent of current wastewater flows through a combination of wastewater elimination, recycle, and reuse. It would reduce the number of industrial wastewater outfalls from the 17 currently in use to 1. On 6/15/94 the EPA issued an Administrative Order to LANL requiring compliance with Clean Water Act permitting requirements. DOE has a milestone of 10/97 to start construction under its Federal Facility Compliance Agreement with the EPA.	EM 06/29/92	**Discussion:** DOE needs to address water pollution compliance independent of SWEIS analysis. If construction is not started by 10/97, DOE would not meet its compliance milestone and LANL would not meet the Administrative Order. To start construction by that date, design work must be completed; detailed design could not start until the NEPA review is completed. If the design work was deferred until after sitewide decisions, the schedule could not be met. The SWEIS is expected to result in a sitewide waste management strategy; this facility could be important to that strategy. Work to minimize in-plant waste and eliminate some wastewater outfalls would not influence, nor be influenced by, sitewide decisions. **Initial Recommendation:** DOE makes no recommendation at this time regarding proceeding with this NEPA review.
Mixed Waste Disposal Facility, TA-67 Proposed facility to treat and dispose of mixed (radioactive and hazardous) waste generated at LANL. The entire project would consist of up to 11 waste disposal cells and would hold up to 475,000 cubic yards of waste generated by environmental restoration work at LANL.	EM 07/13/93	**Discussion:** The EPA issued a Hazardous and Solid Waste Act Permit to LANL that requires LANL provide a list of solid waste management units. The workplans for cleanup of the units, to be submitted prior to the investigation phase, will contain schedules for completing the site investigation work. These schedules, once accepted by the EPA, will be legally enforceable milestones under the conditions described in the Permit. In addition, it is expected that voluntary corrective actions will be undertaken to remediate a majority of the sites during the site investigation phase. The facility would provide the capacity to safely treat and dispose of the waste

		expected to be generated by this program. The NEPA review must be completed before detailed designs are started. If the detailed design phase is delayed until the SWEIS is completed, the DOE and LANL will not be able to meet the cleanup schedules. In 1993, DOE conducted nine public meetings on the scope of the NEPA review of the entire project to allow the project milestones to be met while the SWEIS is under preparation. Under the Environmental Assessment currently being prepared, the facility would be constructed for the disposal of environmental restoration waste only. Discussions concerning the potential disposal of legacy and operational mixed waste will be part of the SWEIS environmental restoration and waste management strategy. The total projected volume of legacy and operational mixed waste would be less than one percent of the projected total annual waste volumes. **Initial Recommendation:** DOE makes no recommendation at this time regarding proceeding with this NEPA review. However, DOE proposes to proceed with the EA review for the environmental restoration waste only and make the draft EA available to stakeholders to assist in the decision making process. **Include in the SWEIS** the analysis of the disposal of legacy and operational mixed wastes.
National Biomedical Tracer Facility Proposal to locate, construct, and operate a facility at LANL to use accelerator technology to produce radioisotopes for medical research and applications. The facility would house a proton accelerator, laboratories, and office space.	none 12/17/93	**Discussion:** DOE has not yet determined a sponsor or funding profiles for this project. **Initial Recommendation: Defer until after SWEIS.**

Abbreviations used in Table:

EA: Environmental Assessment
LANL: Los Alamos National Laboratory
TA: Technical Area
DOE: Department of Energy
EM: DOE Environmental Management
SWEIS: Sitewide Environmental Impact Statement
DP: DOE Defense Programs
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

TABLE 2
PLANNED NEPA REVIEWS RECOMMENDED TO PROCEED PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF SWEIS

Title, Summary	DOE Program Sponsor	Discussion
Laundry DOE is considering proposing to locate, construct, and operate an on-site facility to launder anti-contamination clothing which may potentially be contaminated with radioactive materials from ongoing activities.	DP	Currently, laundry is done in an off-site facility. It is possible that an on-site facility would be more efficient. This is a small-scale project that would not influence, nor be influenced by, sitewide decisions. If decisions on the laundry are deferred until after the SWEIS, DOE would continue to use an off-site contract laundry.
Receipt and Storage of Nuclear Material for Criticality Experiment, TA-18 DOE is considering proposing to ship nuclear material from various DOE sites to the Los Alamos Critical Experiments Facility (LACEF), and store the material at that facility, until it is needed for criticality experiments or training exercises. The experiments or training exercises would be covered by separate NEPA review. DOE currently has about 3,000 unirradiated low-enriched uranium nuclear reactor fuel rods at its Hanford Plant, Richland, Washington; about 30 kilograms of unirradiated high-enriched uranium particle bed fuel at its Sandia National Laboratory, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and about 250 kilograms of high-enriched uranium reactor fuel from the critical mass assembly at its Health Physics Research Reactor, Oak Ridge National	DP	The DOE sites listed no longer have any programmatic need for this material. Hanford can no longer provide long-term storage due to clean-up operations now going on; if not moved off-site, it will be disposed of by burial at Hanford. The Sandia material is unique and was developed at significant taxpayer expense; the Department of Defense might fund shipment to LANL if it can be accomplished in the near-term. The Oak Ridge material has been used as an important calibrated radiation source for accident simulation and radiation dosimetry; this device is the only one in this country which has been characterized to make the dosimetric measurements essential for analyzing accident conditions and other radiation experiments. LANL has an ongoing criticality experiments and safety training program and can make use of this material in the future. If decisions on receiving and storing the material are deferred until the SWEIS, it is possible that storage, shipping or funding constraints would make the material unavailable to LANL. Decisions

Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The LACEF is the only remaining DOE facility where criticality experiments are routinely conducted. In response to the 1993 Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board recommendation regarding critical facilities infrastructure, DOE is considering consolidating unique critical mass assemblies at the LACEF in order to continue to reliably analyze the criticality of nuclear systems.		regarding the long-term use of the LACEF would be made in the SWEIS as part of the sitewide nuclear materials storage and handling strategy.
Hazardous, Low Level Radioactive, and Mixed Waste Treatment Skids DOE uses portable, self-contained treatment units, or "skids," to treat hazardous, low-level radioactive, and mixed (radioactive and hazardous) waste. In addition to the "skids" specifically proposed as part of the Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility, DOE may require additional "skids" to treat waste at various locations at LANL.	EM	The current Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility and Mixed Waste Receiving and Storage Facility proposal includes the use of certain "skids" specifically for treating waste at these facilities. DOE may need to use additional "skids" to treat on-site waste at various locations at LANL in order to meet the schedule for DOE's Federal Facility Compliance Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency. The additional "skids" would be designed, constructed, and possibly operated prior to completion of the proposed Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility and prior to completion of the SWEIS to meet the Agreement schedule. If the project is deferred until the SWEIS, the "skids" could not be designed, constructed or used in the near-term.

Replacement Waste Compactor TA-54 DOE is considering proposing to replace an existing 50-ton waste compactor at the low-level radioactive waste management area at Area G, TA-54, with a 200-ton compactor in a new building adjacent to the existing facility. Initially, DOE considered including the analysis of this proposal with the NEPA review for the proposal to expand Area G, TA-54; however, the NEPA determination for that proposal did not include the compactor. The existing compactor is not operating. The proposed replacement compactor would increase the operating life of the existing waste disposal area by increasing the efficiency of waste minimization practices, including reducing the volume of waste for disposal and eliminating void spaces between waste containers. This, in turn, would postpone the need to expand the existing waste site.	EM	**Discussion:** This is a small-scale project which would increase operational efficiency and reduce waste volume. This, in turn, would extend the useful life of the existing disposal area. If installing the proposed compactor is deferred until the SWEIS, the existing compactor would not be replaced and inefficient waste disposal practices would continue in the existing area. A decision to install and operate the compactor would not influence, nor be influenced by, sitewide decisions.

Radioisotope Heat Source Fabrication, CMR, TA-3 and TA-55 (Revision to 1991 EA) Plutonium-238 is used as a long-term, reliable source of heat that is converted to electricity to power spacecraft. In 1991 DOE completed an EA for the Cassini mission and the Comet Rendezvous Asteroid Flyby (CRAF); CRAF was later canceled. The work at LANL to support the Cassini mission is ongoing. The project to build more units for other uses may be extended at LANL.	NE	The 1991 EA analyzed using LANL facilities at TA-55 to support radioisotope thermoelectric generator (RTG) work for the space mission. The proposal may be revised to allow for RTG work for other missions, beyond the timeframe included in the 1991 EA, and possibly using facilities at the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building in addition to TA-55. If so, the 1991 EA would be revised to provide the NEPA review for the revised mission. If the revised NEPA review were to proceed, DOE could make early decisions on whether to use LANL facilities for the additional RTG work. This would be necessary if, prior to completing sitewide decisions, DOE needed to determine where the additional RTG work would be done in the near-term in order to meet mission schedules. If the project is deferred until the SWEIS, it is possible that DOE may not be able to deliver heat sources to meet mission needs. Any future long-term uses of LANL facilities for such missions, and long-term strategy for storing and handling plutonium-238, will be included in the SWEIS.

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