

General (NEPA)

United States Government

Department of Energy

Albuquerque Operations Office
Los Alamos Area Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

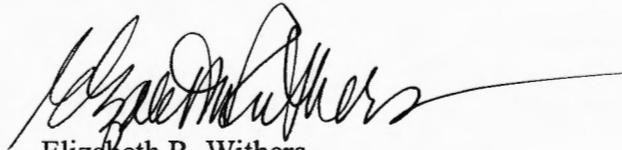
memorandum

DATE: NOV 16 2000
REPLY TO:
ATTN OF: LAAME:6EW-754
SUBJECT: Los Alamos Area Office (LAAO) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
Status Report for October 2000

TO: Those on Attached List

Attached for your information and use is the October 2000 NEPA status report for LAAO. The intent of this report is to provide accurate and timely information on the status of the various DOE NEPA documents that directly or indirectly affect LAAO and the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

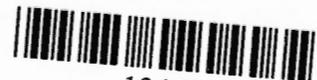
If you have any suggestions for improving this report, they would be greatly appreciated. Please provide your comments to me in person or you can call me at (505) 667-8690. If I cannot be reached, you may provide your comments to John Stetson, PWT, LAAO, at (505) 667-0575.



Elizabeth R. Withers
LAAO NEPA Compliance Officer
Office of Environment

Attachment

LAAO/Non-MSWA Reg/NEPA



13455

Addressees - Memorandum Dated

NOV 16 2000

Status Report only:

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RECEIVED

NOV 21 2000

DOE OVERSIGHT BUREAU

Addressees - Memorandum Dated **NOV 16 2000**

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LOS ALAMOS AREA OFFICE



**Monthly NEPA
Status Report
for
October 2000**

Los Alamos Area Office Monthly NEPA Status Report

October 2000

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this monthly report is to provide a concise and current status of the Los Alamos Area Office (LAAO) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Program and those DOE NEPA documents that either directly or indirectly affect LAAO and the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Additionally, this report discusses the status of cultural and biological resources in Sections VIII and IX.

II. NEPA COMPLIANCE FOR THE CERRO GRANDE FIRE

During the month of October, DOE distributed approximately 200 copies of the final Special Environmental Analysis (SEA) evaluating the known and potential impacts from wildfire suppression and flood control actions undertaken by and on the behalf of DOE at LANL. A Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on October 13. The document is available to the public via the Los Alamos Public Reading Room at 1619 Central Avenue, the University of New Mexico Government Information Department at the Zimmerman Library, public libraries in Los Alamos, Española, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque, and via the LANL web at <http://lib-www.lanl.gov/pubs/Environment.htm>.

III. MAJOR LANL NEPA PROGRAM OR COMPLIANCE ISSUES

- 1. Supplement Analysis (SA) of the LANL Site-Wide EIS (SWEIS) for the Offsite Source Recovery Project:** DOE prepared an SA to determine if the SWEIS encompasses the environmental effects of a proposal for modifying current methods utilized to receive and manage certain offsite unwanted radioactive sealed sources at LANL. The SA was prepared according to the requirements for determining the need for supplemental EISs in DOE's NEPA implementing regulations (10 CFR 1021.314). The SA concluded that the effects analyzed in the SWEIS bound the effects of the proposed project and that no further NEPA review is considered necessary. DOE issued its final NEPA decision on October 17.
- 2. EA for the Storage of Radioisotopic Thermoelectric Generators:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Air Force (USAF) jointly have under consideration a project to remove and transport ten Strontium 90 (⁹⁰Sr) radioisotopic thermoelectric generators (RTGs) from Burnt Mountain Seismic Array Observatory in Alaska to either a designated site within the DOE Complex or an interim storage location at an Air Force facility, if necessary, and to select a long-term storage location for these ten RTGs, as well as up to 50 other ⁹⁰Sr RTGs located throughout the United States. The DOE has determined that an environmental assessment will be prepared for this proposed project. If you have any questions concerning this project, please contact Mr. Robert A. Campbell, EM-22, Office of Technical Program Integration, U.S. Department of Energy, 3110 Rivermont Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022; e-mail: ROBERT.CAMPBELL@em.doe.gov; phone: (678) 585-9565; fax (509) 461-3485.

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- 3. EA for the Proposed Relocation of the Atlas Facility from LANL to the Nevada Test Site:** On October 17, 2000, the Manager of the DOE Nevada Operations Office (DOE/NV) determined that an Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of NEPA review required for the proposed action. DOE/NV proposes to relocate the Atlas Pulsed Power Facility from LANL to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) in order for DOE to improve the ability and efficiency of the Stockpile Stewardship Program and to broaden its intellectual and technical capability in Nevada. DOE proposes to disassemble Atlas and transport it from Los Alamos to the NTS, where it would be reassembled in a new building within the existing Area 6 construction camp. After reassembly, Atlas would be tested to ensure proper operation and then be used to conduct up to 40 pulsed power experiments each year.
- 4. Proposed Relocation of LANL TA-18 Missions EIS:** The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposed Relocation of the Technical Area 18 missions at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to another location by the end of 2004. TA-18 is a group of facilities at LANL that supports important defense, nuclear safety, and other national security missions. The principal TA-18 activities are design, construction, research, development, and applications of experiments on nuclear criticality. Relocating the TA-18 missions will enable the Department to conduct these missions in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. A draft EIS is anticipated in May 2001.
- 5. Conveyance and Transfer of Certain Land Tracts EIS:** The Record of Decision (ROD) was issued on March 8, 2000. DOE has decided to implement the preferred alternative in the EIS, i.e., seven tracts will be conveyed or transferred in full, and three tracts (Airport, TA-21, and White Rock Y) will be conveyed or transferred in part, based on the continuing or future need for an individual tract, or a portion of the tract, to meet the national security mission support function at LANL. In addition, the disposition of each tract, or portion of a tract, will be subject to DOE's ability to complete any necessary environmental restoration or remediation. Pursuant to the Allocation Agreement between the County of Los Alamos and the San Ildefonso Pueblo, signed on January 7, 2000, all lands are to be received by the County of Los Alamos except for a portion of the TA-74 Tract, the White Rock Y Tract, and the White Rock Tract.
- 6. Leasing the Isotopes of Carbon Oxygen and Nitrogen (ICON) Facility for the Production of Stable Medical Isotopes:** The DOE Los Alamos Area Manager determined on April 7, 2000 that an Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of NEPA review required for the proposed action. DOE would enter into a long-term agreement with a commercial, for-profit firm to lease Building 88, TA-46 at LANL for the cryogenic separation of stable Carbon-13 and Oxygen-18 isotopes. These isotopes would then be sold for use in medical, biomedical, and industrial applications.

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7. Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Forest Health Improvement Program at LANL EA:

The DOE Los Alamos Area Manager approved the final EA and signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on August 10, 2000 for the proposed wildfire management activities to treat approximately 5,000 acres of DOE property at LANL. The EA analyzes the environmental effects of several different kinds of treatments, including thinning, cutting fire breaks, constructing new fire roads, chipping, and others. Copies of the EA and FONSI may be found in the public reading rooms or at the web sites shown on page 4.

**IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS (EISs) AFFECTING
LAAO/LANL (Ongoing EISs bolded)**

EIS Title	Status	Scheduled		
		Draft	Final	ROD
Proposed Relocation of LANL TA-18 Missions	Notice of Intent published May 2, 2000 (See 65 FR 25472). Public scoping period closed June 15.	05/01		
Conveyance and Transfer of Certain Land Tracts	Final EIS was approved by DOE Headquarters on October 5, and was released to the public January 24. A Record of Decision was published in the Federal Register on March 1, 2000 (See 65 FR 14952).	02/99	02/00	03/00
Waste Management PEIS	Final ROD for treatment and disposition of Low-Level/Low-Level Mixed Waste was released on February 25, 2000. (See 65 FR 10061)	09/95	05/97	02/00
Surplus Plutonium Disposition	Final EIS was released in November. A Notice of Availability for the ROD was published in the Federal Register on January 11 (See 65 FR 1608).	07/98	11/99	01/00
Sandia SWEIS	Final EIS was distributed on October 22; Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register on October 29, 1999. The Record of Decision was issued on December 15, 1999. (See 64 FR 69996)	04/99	10/99	12/99
LANL SWEIS	The SWEIS Yearbook webpage may be found at: http://www.esh.lanl.gov/esh/swireports.htm	05/98	02/99	09/99

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Note: Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements may be found on the DOE NEPA web site at: http://nepa.eh.doe.gov/eis/eis_toc.html.

**V. LAAO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS (EAs) in CY 2000
(Ongoing EAs bolded)**

EA No.	Title	EA Determin.	MRT Formed	Draft EA	Final EA & FONSI
EA-	Leasing the ICON Facility for Production of Stable Medical Isotopes	04/07/00			
EA-1329	Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Forest Health Improvement Program at LANL	11/19/99	11/30/99	07/07/00	08/10/00
EA-1247	Electrical Power Systems Upgrade at LANL	02/06/98	02/24/98	10/22/99	03/09/00
EA-1332	Leasing Land for Siting, Construction and Operation of a Commercial AM Radio Antenna at LANL	12/16/99	12/23/99	01/28/99	02/16/00
NPS Action	Big Horn Sheep Re-establishment	NPS Action	NPS Action	May '01	

Note: Draft and Final Environmental Assessments may be found on the LANL web site at: <http://lib-www.lanl.gov/pubs/Environment.htm>. Final EAs are also posted on the DOE NEPA web page at http://nepa.eh.doe.gov/ea/ea_toc.html.

VI. NEPA Review Forms (NERFs)

During the month of October, the following NERFs or CX amendments were signed by the LAAO NCO.

NERF Number	Title	CX Reference	Date Signed
LAN 00-043	Camp Pendleton Field Exercise	B1.2	10/16/00
LAN 97-039a	Environmental Conditioning Research at K-Site	B3.6	10/17/00

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The following NERFs are still under review:

NERF Number	Title	Date Received by LAAO
LAN 00-036	Multi Purpose Building at TA-54, Area G	May 4, 2000

VII. Application of Umbrella Categorical Exclusion Determinations:

The following is a listing of NEPA "umbrella" determination application reviews performed in the months of July, August and September 2000.

Acc No.	Project Title	TA	Bldg	Reference NEPA Document	DOE Tracking No.
8074	Spatial Imaging of Non-Equilibrium Spin Polarizations	3	0	Electronic And Magnetic Materials Characterization R & D	97-055
7738	TA-16-388 Stormwater Corrective Action	16	0	Routine Maintenance at LANL, FY99-01	96-010
8055	Move Trailer from TA-21 to Ta-16, Near Building 205 (WETF)	16	0	Routine Maintenance at LANL, FY99-01	96-010
7626	Burial of Power Lines Crossing Pidas	18	0	Support Structures at LANL, FY99-01	96-022
8034	Expand Parking Lot NE of SM-16	3	0	Support Structures at LANL, FY99-01	96-022
7971	SM-30, TA-58 & 59 Wildfire Fuel Reduction	58 59	30 0	Wildfire Risk Reduction and Forest Health Improvement EA	00-006
8114	Development of Highway Deicer Measurement	46	41	Basic Laser Science - FY00-02	97-066
8137	Silex Laser Investigation	35	2	Basic Laser Science - FY00-02	97-066
8142	An In-Situ Geochronology System Based on Laser-Induced Breakdown Etc.	46	41	Basic Laser Science - FY00-02	97-066

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Acc No.	Project Title	TA	Bldg	Reference NEPA Document	DOE Tracking No.
7080	Structural Studies on Gene V Protein	43	1	Biosciences and Biotechnology Bench-Scale Research and Development, FY00-02	96-091
8111	Instrumentation Support & Development for Biological Foundations	0	0	Biosciences and Biotechnology Bench-Scale Research and Development, FY00-02	96-091
8113	Developing a Viability Toolkit	35	85	Biosciences and Biotechnology Bench-Scale Research and Development, FY00-02	96-091
8119	Optical Biosensor Early Detection of Infection: Assay Development for Protein Toxins CBNP Program Area: Medical Diagnostics	0	0	Biosciences and Biotechnology Bench-Scale Research and Development, FY00-02	96-091
7915	Demolition of TA-53-62	53	62	D & D of Vacated Structures	98-052
7916	Demolition of TA-55, Bldgs. 48, 125, 162	55	48, 125, 162	D & D of Vacated Structures	98-052
8109	Hgas Instrumentation	46	24	Electronic and Electrochemical Materials and Devices R & D FY00-02	96-127
8122	C-Safe II	16	226, 260, 430, 280	Fabrication of High Explosives (HE) Components for LLNL, FY97-00	94-047a
8143	Virtual Pinhole Confocal Microscope	3	40	High Power Microwave Technology - R-1629-96-0	96-080
8070	Raman Lidar System	3	287	Lidar Measurements of Existing Phenomena	95-052

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Acc No.	Project Title	TA	Bldg	Reference NEPA Document	DOE Tracking No.
8020	Newnet Station Installation and Environmental Teller Machine	35	2, 35	Relocation of Structures and Operations at LANL, FY99-01	96-011
8098	Drainage Swale, 54-375	54	0	Routine Maintenance at LANL, FY99-01	96-010
8099	Re-Roof TA-16 Building (TA-16-261, -263, -277)	16	261, 263, 277	Routine Maintenance at LANL, FY99-01	96-010
8106	Move Electronics Equipment Services Unit (ESU) from TA-16-202 to TA-16-54	16	54	Routine Maintenance at LANL, FY99-01	96-010
8126	Emergency Generator Replacement	3	22	Routine Maintenance at LANL, FY99-01	96-010
8078	Wet Pipe Sprinkler System	35	455	Safety and Environmental Improvements at LANL, FY99-01	96-012
8132	Siting of Two Chemical Storage Lockers at TA-48	47	0	Safety and Environmental Improvements at LANL, FY99-01	96-012
8019	Drilling of R Characterization Well, R-22	54	0	Site Characterization of Canyon Systems	96-108
8101	CSM Hydrogeologic Investigation for 16-021(c)-99	11 15 16	0	Site Characterization of Canyon Systems	96-108
8107	TA-2/41 Post Cerro Grande Fire Recovery Work	2 41	0	Site Characterization of Canyon Systems	96-108
8033	Construct TA-61 Parking	61	0	Support Structures at LANL, FY99-01	96-022
8034	Expand Parking Lot NE of SM-16	3	0	Support Structures at LANL, FY99-01	96-022
8035	Construct South CMR Parking	3	0	Support Structures at LANL, FY99-01	96-022
8036	Eniwetok Dr Parking	3	0	Support Structures at LANL, FY99-01	96-022

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Acc No.	Project Title	TA	Bldg	Reference NEPA Document	DOE Tracking No.
8117	TA-18 Office Building	18	0	Support Structures at LANL, FY99-01	96-022
8050	TA-3-39 Upgrade Temperature Control System on the Modulab 23h	3	39	Workplace Habitability Improvements at LANL, FY99-01	96-015
7908	D & D of TA-00-1078	0	1078	D & D of Vacated Structures	98-052
8127	Pulsed Laser Deposition Laboratory	35	2	Electronic and Electrochemical Materials and Devices R & D FY00-02	96-127
8130	Cleanup of Photoprocessing Facility Outfall (PRS 16-020)	16	0	ER Project VCA, EC and IAs; through FY00	96-060
8166	Hazard Control Plan (HCP) for Waste Management	18	0	Routine Maintenance at LANL, FY99-01	96-010
8129	NMT-8/JCNNM Building	55	0	Routine Maintenance at LANL, FY99-01	96-022

VIII. Cultural Resources (Natural Historic Preservation Act Compliance):

The following cultural resource reports were submitted and/or received approval from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) during the reporting period:

Cultural Resource Reports	Report Sent	Response from SHPO
Emergency Action Project to Mitigate Flood Damage at the Historic Ancho Ranch Complex	September 6, 2000	October 6, 2000
Cultural Resource Survey of Land Transfer Tracts	September 14, 2000	October 6, 2000
D&D of the Omega West Reactor and Water Boiler Building, TA-2-1	September 27, 2000	October 13, 2000

IX. Biological Resources (Endangered Species Act Compliance):

No biological assessment reports were submitted to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) during the reporting period

2000



November



2000

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

