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Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

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Dear Interested Party:

The Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announces the issuance of its Record of Decision (ROD) on February 3, 2004, for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building Replacement Project, which was the subject of the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (CMRR EIS), DOE/EIS-0350. The ROD was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, February 12, 2004 (Volume 69, Number 29, pages 6967 through 6972).

The NNSA's decision is to proceed with implementation of its Preferred Alternative to construct a new CMRR Facility at Technical Area (TA) 55. The CMRR Facility will consist of two main buildings; one of these two buildings will be a consolidated special nuclear materials-capable, Hazard Category 2 laboratory constructed above ground level; the second of these two buildings will be a separate administrative office and support functions building. The NNSA will also pursue the demolition of the existing CMR Building after the new CMRR Facility is operable.

The NNSA prepared the CMRR EIS to examine the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed replacement of the existing CMR Building at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) with a new facility and the relocation of certain CMR capabilities from the aging CMR Building into the new buildings. The CMRR EIS evaluated the No Action Alternative and four action alternatives: (1) Alternative 1, the NNSA's Preferred Alternative, to construct a new CMRR Facility at Technical Area (TA) 55; (2) Alternative 2, to construct the new CMRR Facility with in an undeveloped "Greenfield" area within TA-6; and Alternatives (3) and (4) to continue using the existing CMR Building for administrative offices and to construct a new nuclear laboratory building(s) at either TA-55 or TA-6. The NNSA's preferred construction option is the construction of a single, consolidated special nuclear materials-capable, Hazard Category 2, laboratory constructed above ground level with a separate administrative office and support functions building (Construction Option 3). The preferred option for the disposition of the existing CMR Building is to decontaminate, decommission and demolish the entire structure (Disposition Option 3).

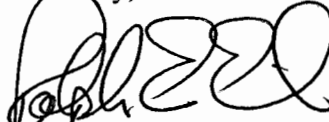
A copy of the Record of Decision may be obtained by writing to Ms. Elizabeth Withers, CMRR EIS Document Manager, at the letterhead address, or by calling her at (505)667-8690. Ms. Withers may also be reached by electronic mail at: ewithers@doeal.gov.



FEB 18 2004

Thank you for your continued interest in the NNSA's National Environmental Policy Act compliance program. If you would like any further information about the CMRR Project or about the National Environmental Policy Act compliance program at the Los Alamos Site Office, please contact Mr. Withers at one of the previously provided addresses.

Sincerely,



Ralph E. Erickson
Manager

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