

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Office of Los Alamos Site Operations,  
National Nuclear Security  
Administration; Notice of Floodplain  
Involvement for the Proposed Future  
Disposition of Certain Cerro Grande  
Fire Flood and Sediment Retention  
Structures at Los Alamos National  
Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of floodplain involvement.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Office of Los Alamos Site Operations proposes to demolish the above ground portions of two structures built to retain or divert flood waters at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and retain five others intact with continuing maintenance, which could include periodic sediment removal actions; these structures were constructed in the wake of the Cerro Grande Fire in 2000 as emergency actions to address post fire danger to LANL facilities from floods and sediment movement. All of these structures are located in floodplains; one structure that is being proposed for remaining intact, the Los Alamos Canyon gabion weir, is associated with an area that might develop into a wetland. 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 July 12, 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 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may also be sent electronically to: [ewithers@doeal.gov](mailto:ewithers@doeal.gov) or by facsimile to (505) 667-9998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karen Agogino, Department of Energy,

National Nuclear Security Administration, Albuquerque Field Office, Pennsylvania and H Street, Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, NM 87116. Telephone (505) 845-6100, facsimile (505) 284-7107.

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:** NNSA constructed several permanent flood and sediment retention structures within various canyons across LANL during the four months immediately following the devastating Cerro Grande Fire that occurred in mid-2000. These structures and their locations are as follows:

- A substantial concrete flood retention structure and a steel flood diversion wall were built within Pajarito Canyon;
- A low-head rock gabion weir together with a sediment detention basin were built in Los Alamos Canyon;
- Four concrete road reinforcement areas were built along State Road 501 and Anchor Ranch Road at their crossings of Two-Mile, Pajarito and Water Canyons; and
- Reinforcements were made to the Los Alamos Canyon Reservoir near the head of Los Alamos Canyon [note: the Reservoir is located on property administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest and is not subject to DOE's current proposal].

These structures, along with other various actions and activities taken to extinguish the fire and as recovery actions in the wake of the fire were subject to the emergency provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); a Special Environmental Analysis (DOE/SEA-03) was prepared to analyze the impacts of the actions taken by NNSA rather than normal NEPA documents. However, the ultimate disposition of these permanent structures was not identified and analyzed in the Special Environmental Analysis issued in September 2000. The

disposition of the seven permanent structures located within the boundaries of LANL is the subject of a separate NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA). NNSA's proposed disposition action for these seven structures is to partially breach the above ground portions of the flood retention structure in Pajarito Canyon, remove the above ground portions of the steel flood diversion wall in Pajarito Canyon, and retain the remaining five structures intact and continue to routinely maintain these structures into the foreseeable future (which is defined for the purposes of this proposal as being the next ten years). Routine maintenance of these structures may include accumulated sediment removal. Other alternatives considered are the No Action Alternative (consisting of the retention of all the structures intact with on-going continuation of routine maintenance) and the Disassembly of All Structures Alternative (consisting of the demolition of all above ground portions of all the subject structures).

In accordance with DOE regulations for compliance with floodplain and wetlands environmental review requirements (10 CFR part 1022), NNSA has also prepared a floodplain/wetland assessment for this action, which is part of the NEPA draft EA. The draft EA (containing the floodplain/wetland assessment) is available by contacting Elizabeth Withers at the previously identified addresses, phone and facsimile numbers. The draft EA (containing the floodplain/wetland assessment) is also 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 July 12, 2002.

Issued in Los Alamos, NM, on June 20, 2002.

**E. Dennis Martinez,**

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

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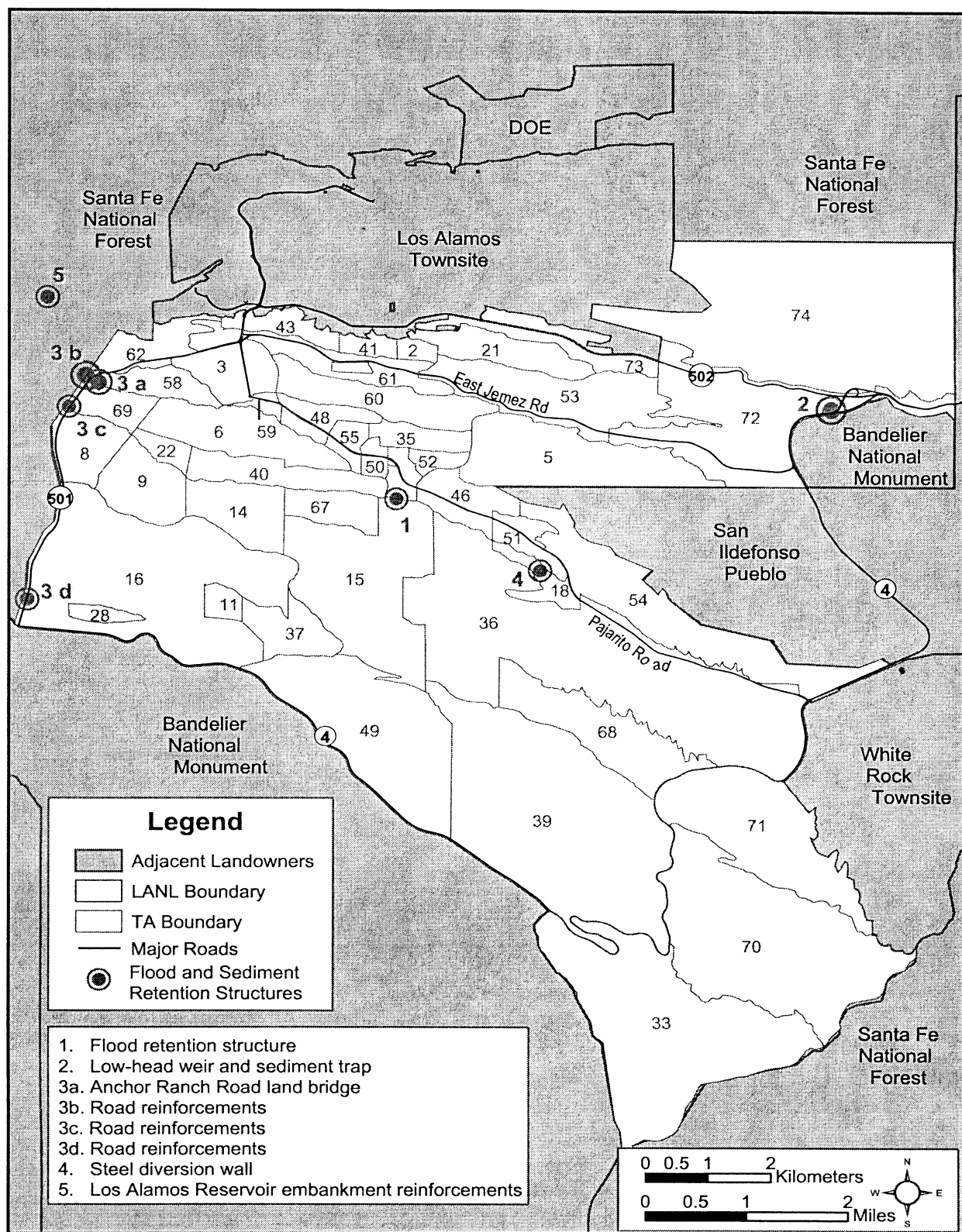


Figure 1. Location of certain flood and sediment retention structures within LANL

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### **National Nuclear Security Administration, Office of Los Alamos Site Operations; Notice of Floodplain Involvement for the Construction and Operation of a 12-inch Natural Gas Pipeline in Los Alamos Canyon at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of floodplain involvement.

**SUMMARY:** The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Office of Los Alamos Site Operations at the Department of Energy (DOE), plans to grant an easement to the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) to construct, operate, and maintain a 15,000 foot, 12-inch diameter natural gas transmission line on DOE-owned land at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The new gas line would begin at an existing valve station at the bottom of Los Alamos Canyon, cross under the streambed to avoid encroaching on wetlands, and continue upstream for about two miles. The gas line would then cross back under the stream to connect with an existing gas line. The proposed easement would be 50 feet wide and would parallel an existing electric power line. Portions of the gas line will be constructed in the 100-year floodplain of Los Alamos Canyon, as identified in the location map.

In accordance with 10 CFR part 1022, NNSA 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 July 12, 2002.

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

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Milton West, Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Albuquerque Operations Office, P.O. Box 5400, Building 388, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-5400. Telephone (505) 845-4452, facsimile (505) 284-7191.

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, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington DC 20585-0119. Telephone (202) 586-4600 or (800) 472-2756, facsimile (202) 586-7031.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In August 2001, NNSA considered a proposal for constructing a new 12-inch natural gas pipeline to provide additional natural gas capacity to Los Alamos County and LANL. A 50-foot right-of-way would be cleared along the length of the easement to facilitate construction and operation of the gas line. The proposed project

would be located at the bottom of Los Alamos Canyon parallel to an intermittent stream and along an existing electric power line. Stream crossings would be accomplished by tunneling under the streambed to avoid wetland areas. Portions of the gas line construction would occur in the 100-year floodplain. The floodplain/wetlands assessment will discuss engineering best management practices that will be implemented to control erosion and sedimentation from the construction activities. Construction of the gas pipeline would begin in the spring of 2003 and be completed in approximately six 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 87544; 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 July 12, 2002.

Issued in Los Alamos, NM, on June 20, 2002.

**E. Dennis Martinez,**

*Acting Director, U. S. Department of Energy,  
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