



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
National Nuclear Security Administration
Los Alamos Site Office
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544



OCT 30 2009

Distribution List:

The U. S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Los Alamos Site Office (LASO) issued a floodplain assessment for work proposed within Upper Los Alamos (LA) Canyon for comment in accordance with Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1022 (Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements) on October 16, 2009. A copy of the Floodplain Assessment was made available for review electronically on the internet at: <http://www.lanl.gov/environment/compliance/>, and for hard copy review at the Robert J. Oppenheimer Study Center Research Library, located within Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Technical Area-3, Los Alamos, New Mexico. The two-week comment period ended on October 30, 2009 and no comments were received.

The LASO personnel are preparing to implement a project to conduct a cleanup within a drainage below the town site (area of potential contamination Solid Waste Management Unit [SWMU] 01-001[f]) and construct two retention ponds at the base of the drainage located in LANL's Technical Area 43 within Upper Los Alamos Canyon. SWMU 01-001(f) was a septic tank and associated outfall that served a uranium machine shop. The tank has been removed. Radiological-contaminated soil was excavated during a voluntary corrective action in 1996 from this area. Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination was found during follow-up sampling in this area and is required to be cleaned up. This activity is covered in the LANL cleanup project under the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) order on consent.

The cleanup includes collecting 50 pre-excavation samples from the sediment in the drainage to better identify the limits of excavation. Approximately 500 cubic yards of sediment are estimated to be excavated from within the drainage. Equipment anticipated to be used will be a vacuum truck, with minimal use of excavator, backhoe, and skid loaders. Sampling will be performed using a spade and scoop; if tough terrain is encountered, a hand auger will be used. In addition, an excavation of approximately 2,000 cubic yards of sediment from the lower drainage and completion of two retention ponds will be performed. Grubbing and clearing of vegetation will be conducted prior to start of excavation activities. Heavy equipment, such as excavator, backhoe, and skid loader will be utilized to perform this work. Vegetation removed during grubbing and clearing will be re-used for erosion control on-site after excavation is complete. The retention ponds and staging of project related equipment will be located within the 100-year floodplain of Upper Los Alamos Canyon.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 1022, LASO personnel have prepared this Statement of Findings and will perform these proposed actions in a manner so as to avoid or minimize potential harm to or within the affected floodplain area. If you have any questions or comments on this action, please contact Vicki Loucks of my staff at (505) 667-6819 or by e-mail at vloucks@doeal.gov. For further information on general DOE floodplain environmental review requirements, contact Mrs. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and

OCT 30 2009

Compliance (GC-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20585; (202) 586-4600, or leave a message at (800) 472-2756.

Sincerely,



Juan L. Griego
Assistant Manager
National Security Missions

26.4 NSM:8VL-209526

cc:

V. Loucks, NSM, LASO

C. Rodriguez, EPO, LASO

L. Hansen, ENV-EAQ, LANL, MS-J978

Records Center, LASO

Official Contract File, LASO