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# Department of Energy
# Finding of No Significant Impact
# for Leasing Land for the Siting, Construction
# and Operation of a Commercial AM Radio Antenna
# at
# Los Alamos National Laboratory

U. S. Department of Energy
Los Alamos Area Office
528 35th Street
Los Alamos, NM 87544

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

# LEASING OF LAND FOR THE SITING, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A COMMERCIAL AM RADIO ANTENNA AT LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:** The Environmental Assessment (EA) for *Leasing of Land for the Siting, Construction and Operation of a Commercial AM Radio Antenna at Los Alamos National Laboratory (DOE/EA-1332)* (attached) provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine that a Finding Of No Significant Impact is appropriate for this action. The EA documents the evidence and analysis in the following chapters: 1. Purpose and Need for Agency Action; 2. Description of Alternatives; and 3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.

Analyses performed in the EA conclude that potential adverse effects of the proposed action under normal conditions would be minimal. Engineering and administrative controls or considerations that serve to lessen any potential for adverse environmental effects, have been incorporated as integral features of the proposed action. An example of this type of mitigating feature is the use of a fence to prevent climbing on the antenna.

The EA considered the cumulative effects of the proposed action with past, present and reasonably forseeable future actions. The location of the antenna is adjacent to a tract of land proposed for conveyance to the Incorporated County of Los Alamos or transfer to the Pueblo of San Ildefonso. The impacts from the radio antenna would be a minor contribution to the overall cumulative impacts when combined with the larger impacts from

proposed residential and commercial development on the adjacent tract.

**PREDECISIONAL DRAFT REVIEW & COMMENT:** On January 28, 2000, the Department of Energy invited review and comment on the predecisional draft EA from the State of New Mexico; four nearby American Indian Tribes: Cochiti, Jemez, Santa Clara and San Ildefonso (sometimes referred to as the four accord pueblos because each tribe has entered into an accord with the Department of Energy); and the Mescalero Apache Tribe. In addition, the Department of Energy made the predecisional draft EA available to Los Alamos County and the general public at the same time it was provided to the State and Tribes. The availability of the EA to Los Alamos county and the public was accomplished by placing it in the Department of Energy Public Reading Rooms located within the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Community Outreach Center and Reading Room, and in the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library in Albuquerque. The predecisional draft EA was also placed on the World Wide Web Computer Internet System. Additionally, over 50 local stakeholder groups and individuals, which have identified themselves as interested parties with regards to LANL activities, were notified of the availability of the predecisional draft on January 28, 2000, and copies of the EA were provided to all interested parties for their review upon their requests. The Pueblo of San Ildefonso sent the sole letter received by DOE in response to the predecisional EA; the letter stated the Pueblo did not identify any impacts on historic properties and that the provisions in the EA were protective of the Pueblo's interests.

**AGENCY CONSULTATIONS:** No potential effects to Federally-listed threatened and endangered species or their habitat are anticipated during construction actions or operation of the antenna. Similarly, there are no known historic, prehistoric or other cultural resources that may be affected. The State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred on the DOE's determination that there are no anticipated effects to historic or prehistoric cultural resources; this concurrence completed the DOE's compliance requirements under

the National Historic Preservation Act. No other agency consultations were identified as being required for the preparation of the EA with regards to compliance with environmental laws.

**FINDING:** The United States Department of Energy finds that there would be no significant impact from proceeding with its proposal to lease land for the siting, construction and operation of a commercial AM radio antenna at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. This finding is based on the EA that analyzes the consequences of the relevant issues of environmental concern. The Department of Energy makes this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.], the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act [40 CFR 1500] and the Department of Energy National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures [10 CFR 1021]. Therefore, no environmental impact statement is required for this proposal.

Signed in Los Alamos, New Mexico this 16 day of Feb 2000 ~~1999.~~

David A. Gurulé

David A. Gurulé, P.E.
Area Manager
Los Alamos Area Office

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information on this proposal, this Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or the Department of Energy's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review program concerning proposals at Los Alamos National Laboratory, please contact:

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U.S. Department of Energy

528 35th Street

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Copies of this FONSI (with the Environmental Assessment attached) will be made available for public review at the DOE Public Reading Room within the Los Alamos National Laboratory Community Relations Office, 1619 Central Avenue, Los Alamos, New Mexico, 87544 at (505) 665-4400 or (800) 508-4400. Copies will also be made available within the DOE Public Reading Room at the Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87131 at (505) 277-5441.