FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

OPERATIONS, UPGRADES, AND CONSOLIDATION AT THE WESTERN COMMAND SITE, NEW MEXICO

(DOE/EA-1906)

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

Final Environmental Assessment: The Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with constructing, operating, and maintaining a new consolidated Western Secure Transportation Center at Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB). The NNSA prepared the EA in accordance with the requirements of the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969 (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] Section 4321–4347), as amended; the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500–1508); and DOE's NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR 1021).

The Proposed Action would consolidate Western Command Operations into a new complex at the existing Agent Operations Western Command (AOWC) and Training Facility. Currently Western Command Operations are conducted at several locations throughout KAFB. Consolidation of the operations at one location would enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness of Western Command operation; minimize the need to drive trucks and support vehicles to multiple locations to support single transportation campaigns and overall maintenance activities; and integrate training and operations as effectively as practicable.

Three alternative sites, all DOE-owned properties, were considered and eliminated from further analysis based on the sites failing to meet the project objectives. Under the No Action Alternative, NNSA would continue operations at the current AOWC and Vehicle Maintenance Facility/Mobile Electronics Maintenance Facility sites. The inclusion of the No Action Alternative is prescribed by the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA and serves as a benchmark against which the environmental impacts of the action alternatives may be evaluated.

NNSA concluded that the proposed project would result in no impacts or negligible impacts to these resource areas: aesthetics and visual resources, land use, radiological, and intentional destructive acts. The EA analyzes potential impacts of consolidating Western Command operations to other resource categories. A detailed description of the Proposed Action and its environmental consequences is presented in the EA. Implementation of the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative would result in minor impacts on the human and natural environment at KAFB. Cumulative impacts from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions are also considered.

Public Participation in the EA Process: Public notices were placed in the local newspaper announcing the availability of the draft EA for public review and comment. The draft EA was made available for public review on NNSA's website at http://nnsa.energy.gov/nepa and at public reading rooms: Central New Mexico Community College Montoya Campus, 4700 Morris NE, Albuquerque, NM; Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico Campus, Albuquerque, NM; and KAFB Library, Bldg 20204, Kirtland AFB, NM. The draft EA was also available on DOE's NEPA website at http://nepa.energy.gov/DOE_NEPA_documents.htm. Copies of the draft EA were sent to the State of New Mexico and the Pueblo of Isleta. The draft EA was also coordinated with subject-matter advisors at KAFB. Comments received during the 30-day public review period were addressed where appropriate in the final EA. No comments were received from the Pueblo of Isleta.

Finding: Based on the analyses of potential environmental impacts in the final DOE/EA-1906 and considering the public comments received on the draft EA, the NNSA finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. NNSA makes this FONSI pursuant to the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq., the CEQ implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500) and the DOE NEPA regulations (10 CFR 1021). Therefore, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required for this proposal.

Copies of the final EA and FONSI are available on NNSA's website at http://nnsa.energy.gov/nepa and at the public reading room in Albuquerque, NM: Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico Campus. The final EA is also available on DOE's NEPA website at www.energy.gov/nepa.

Issued in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the 10 day of July 2012.

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