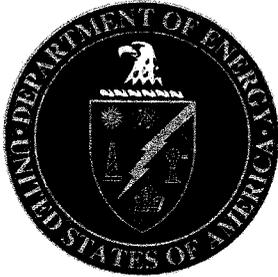


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Supplement Analysis

Security Perimeter Project

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removal that would occur as a result of selected thinning activities. The forest at LANL would become more park-like with an increase in the diversity of shrubs, herbs, and grasses in the understory. Some facilities currently screened from casual view may become visible to viewers at various vantage points. The overall effect of the thinning would be to make the contrast between the scenic background setting and LANL's industrial character more obvious.

The development of the Research Park as analyzed in EA-1329, will alter the visual character of the leased tract and the adjoining undeveloped areas by removing natural vegetation and interspersing office and commercial buildings. New three- to five-story buildings in the western part of the tract will alter the visual character of these areas and would create a visual field more similar to the commercial appearance of the eastern portion. Neither the future Research Park buildings nor the proposed security perimeter road would likely obscure views of the mountains to the east or west. Segments of the proposed perimeter security road would remain screened by existing (thinned) forest and the topography while the segment closest to the Omega Bridge would likely be quite visible but still in keeping with the developed nature of the main entrance to LANL. There are no designated scenic areas or parks that would be affected. Construction of the Research Park would already be expected to introduce an industrial view for five to ten years during which time the security perimeter would also be constructed.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources include any prehistoric sites, buildings, structures, districts, or other places or objects considered to be important to a culture or community for scientific, traditional, religious, or any other reason. They combine to form the human legacy for a particular place (DOE 1999). To date, over 1,950 archaeological sites and historic properties have been recorded at LANL. LANL has conducted field surveys of the areas affected by the proposed perimeter road. As a result of these surveys, one traditional cultural property (TCP), four prehistoric Archaic sites, and one historic site (a portion of a wagon road) were identified. The criteria used for evaluating cultural resources depends upon their significance as sites eligible for listing to the NRHP as described in the *National Historic Preservation Act* (16 United States Code 470). These determinations of significance are met by evaluating each cultural resource based on it meeting any one or more of the following characteristics:

- Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- Association with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- Illustration of a type, period, or method of construction; for its aesthetic values or for its representation of the work of a master; or if it represents a significant and distinguished entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The partial wagon road site has been determined to be ineligible for preservation and thus is not an issue. The four Archaic sites are eligible for preservation. The planned construction of the perimeter road would adversely affect two of the recorded prehistoric archaeological sites in the area. The other two can be avoided. A TCP is also present within the project area. Adverse affects to this TCP by construction of the perimeter road are currently being identified by San Ildefonso Pueblo in consultation with LANL archaeologists.

Because the construction of a portion of the perimeter road would be an adverse effect to two of the Archaic sites, under Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (as amended) and 36 CFR Part 800.5, "Assessment of Adverse Effects", a data recovery plan would be prepared to resolve these adverse effects and would be negotiated between the SHPO and the NNSA DOE. The data recovery plan would specify mitigation actions for each site. It is likely that at least one of the sites will require full excavation as an acceptable method for mitigating any adverse effects. The other sites will likely need partial or no excavation provided they could be avoided.

A Memorandum of Agreement for resolution of adverse effects would be prepared following SHPO concurrence on the NRHP eligibility assessment and would implement the data recovery plan. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation would be notified of the Memorandum of Agreement and would have an opportunity to comment. No disturbance of the two Archaic sites or the TCP can take place until LANL and NNSA DOE prepare and implement the data recovery plan for mitigation of adverse effects.

Biological Resources

Biological resources include Federally protected threatened or endangered species. The Security Perimeter Project would occur next to Los Alamos Canyon and the road would span a shallow canyon that drains into Los Alamos Canyon. This area has been identified as potential Mexican spotted owl habitat. Surveys for Mexican spotted owls in Los Alamos Canyon have been repeated annually over the past seven years and no Mexican spotted owls have been identified as using this habitat area. Informal consultation has been reinitiated by NNSA with the Fish and Wildlife Service to satisfy the requirements of compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The NNSA has determined that the Security Perimeter Project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect either individual Mexican spotted owls or their potential critical habitat. Other species of animals in the project area would be expected to be affected in the same manner as previously identified in the three subject EAs.

Finding

The United States Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration finds that the environmental effects of the Proposed Action are adequately bounded by the analyses of impacts projected by previous environmental assessments EA-1429, EA-1329, and EA-1212, and no Supplemental EA is required. The Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration makes this Finding 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].

Signed in Los Alamos, New Mexico this 19th day of February, 2003



Ralph B. Erickson, Manager
Los Alamos Site Office

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