# Los Alamos County Council Working Session

# Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL)

# Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) Update

ATTACHMENT A

**Presented by:**

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**NA-LA NEPA Compliance Officer**

**September 20, 2022**

# Scoping

- **On August 19, 2022, NNSA published a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* to prepare the new LANL SWEIS. Public notification also included emails to the GovDelivery mailing list for LANL.**
- **Scoping meetings were held virtually on September 13th and 14th. It was an opportunity to submit comments on the SWEIS scope.**
- **This meeting tonight is NOT an opportunity to submit comments on the scope of the new SWEIS.**

**The extended scoping comment period ends October 18, 2022**

# Los Alamos National Laboratory

- One of three national security laboratories responsible for certifying the safety, security, reliability, and military effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile
- Founded in 1943
- Employs around 14,000 with a current budget of approximately $4.6B
- LANL occupies approximately 40 square miles (25,600 acres)

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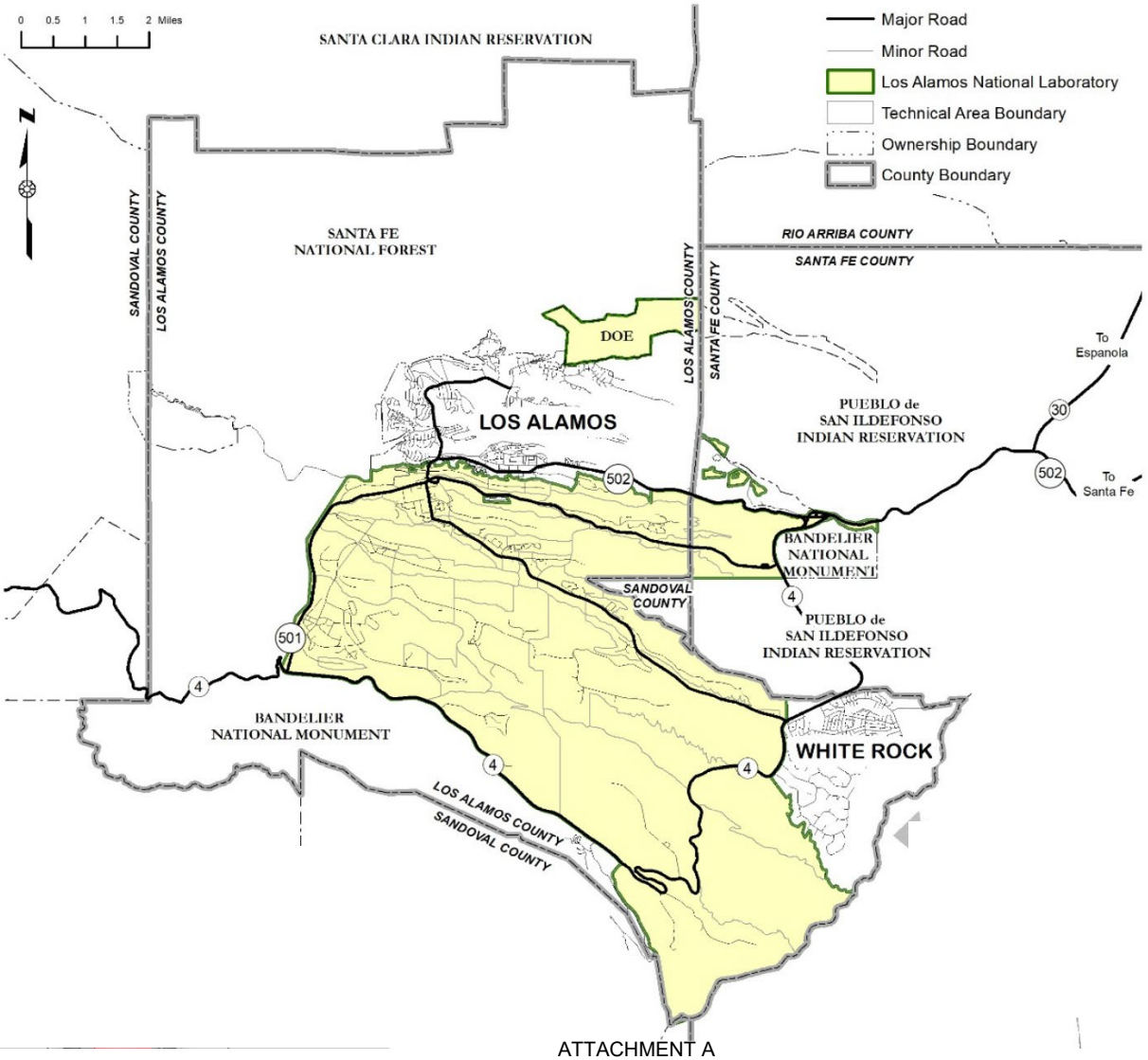
# LANL Regional Perspective

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# NNSA Mission

- **NNSA's mission, as stated in the National Nuclear Security Administration Act (50 USC 2401) is to:**
  - **Enhance United States national security through the military application of nuclear energy;**
  - **Maintain and enhance the safety, reliability, and performance of the United States nuclear weapons stockpile, including the ability to design, produce, and test, in order to meet national security requirements;**
  - **Promote international nuclear safety and nonproliferation;**
  - **Reduce global danger from weapons of mass destruction; and**
  - **Support United States leadership in science and technology.**

# LANL Mission Drivers

- **The U.S. must have the ability to maintain and certify a safe, reliable, and effective nuclear arsenal.**
- **The 2018 Nuclear Posture Review reaffirmed the role of an effective, responsive, and resilient nuclear weapons infrastructure for national security.**
- **LANL must continue supporting international nuclear safety and nonproliferation; reducing global danger from weapons of mass destruction; and enhancing United States leadership in science and technology by conducting fundamental scientific research, modeling, and development.**
- **DOE's Office of Environmental Management must continue to comply with the requirements agreed to in the 2016 Consent Order.**

# LANL Mission Programs

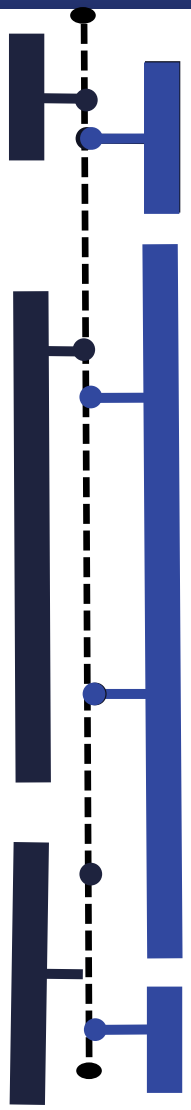
- Stockpile Stewardship/Weapons Programs
  - Weapons Design and Certification
  - Weapons Materials (Uranium, Plutonium) – Dynamic Properties
  - Weapons Engineering - High Explosives and Tritium, Materials Manufacturing Development
  - Weapons Production – Plutonium (including pit production), Detonators
- Science Technology, and Engineering Programs
  - Accelerator, Material, Bioscience, Physical, and other basic Science
  - Supercomputing
  - Energy security and climate change
- Global Security
  - Nuclear Nonproliferation
  - Nuclear Counterterrorism/Counterproliferation
  - Emerging Threats
  - Biosecurity
  - Space applications and support
  - Surplus Plutonium Disposition
  - Offsite Source Recovery Program
- Environmental Management/Restoration Program

# LANL SWEIS Historical Context

**1979 SWEIS and Record of Decision**
- DOE/EIS-0018
- First comprehensive site-wide strategy for Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory

**2008 SWEIS and Records of Decision**
- DOE/EIS- 0380 provided updates from the 1999 SWEIS
- Evaluated a No-Action, Reduced Operations, and Expanded Operations Alternative
- 2008 ROD selected the No-Action Alternative and included limited pit production (20 ppy)
- 2009 ROD selected the No-Action Alternative plus elements of the Expanded Operations Alternative.
- 2011 AROD decided to implement elements of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative.
- 2020 AROD decided to implement the Expanded Operations pit production (30 ppy with surge capacity for 80 ppy)

**2022 Notice of Intent (NOI)**
- The NOI announces NNSA's intent to prepare the Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement to analyze the potential environmental impacts for continuing operations of LANL for approximately the next 15 years.



**1999 SWEIS and Record of Decision**
- DOE/EIS-0238

**2009 Supplement Analysis (SA-1)**
- Offsite transportation of LLW to Energy*Solutions*

**2011 Supplement Analysis (SA-2)**
- Transportation and storage of sealed sources from foreign countries

**2016 Supplement Analysis (SA-3)**
- Facility modifications and processing studies for remediated TRU waste drums

**2016 Supplement Analysis (SA-4)**
- Treat, repackage and store TRU waste drums

**2018 Supplement Analysis (SA-5)**
- 5-year periodic review

**2020 Supplement Analysis (SA-6)**
- Increase pit production to 30 ppy with surge capacity for 80 ppy

**2024 SWEIS and Record of Decision**

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# NEPA Process


- Provides for public and government involvement and ensures that federal officials consider the environmental effects of proposed actions and alternatives in order to foster better decision-making.
- An EIS is required for any major federal action that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
- A SWEIS provides a comprehensive analysis of site-wide activities.
- Scoping and review of the Draft SWEIS enables participation in the SWEIS process

**Input from scoping will assist NNSA in formulating the Proposed Action, refining the alternatives, and defining the scope of SWEIS analyses**

# Current Alternatives Being Considered

- No Action – Continue current facility operations throughout the Laboratory in support of assigned missions.
  - Includes the programs and activities for which NEPA review is already complete or underway.
  - Includes compliance with the Consent Order.
- Modernizing Current Operations – Includes the scope of the No Action Alternative and modernizes facilities to support current missions.
  - Includes construction of replacement facilities and more significant upgrades or decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition.
- Expanded Operations – Includes the scope of the Modernizing Current Operations Alternative plus actions to expand operations and missions.
  - Responds to foreseeable future national security challenges
  - Includes construction of new facilities and significant upgrades that change the nature and capability of facilities.
  - Expands the capabilities at LANL beyond those that currently exist.

# Other Potential Alternatives

- **Evaluating the reasonableness of specific Reduced Operations Alternatives**
- **Alternatives that NNSA will not consider as reasonable because they are inconsistent with the LANL mission defined by NNSA.**
  - **Complete closure and decontamination and decommissioning of the Laboratory.**
  - **Transfer of current missions/operations from LANL to other sites.**

**NNSA welcomes input on any other alternatives that the public identifies for the SWEIS**

# Content of the SWEIS

- Summary
- Introduction and Background
- Purpose and Need
- LANL Missions and Planning Areas
- Alternatives
- Affected Environments
- Environmental Impacts
- Regulatory Compliance
- Technical Appendices

# SWEIS Assessments

- Land and Visual Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Air Quality and Noise
- Ecological Resources
- Human Health and Safety
- Socioeconomics and Infrastructure
- Cultural Resources
- Waste Management and Pollution Prevention
- Traffic and Transportation
- Environmental Justice
- Climate Change and Resiliency
- Site Contamination and Remediation
- Facility Accidents and Intentional Destructive Acts

# How To Provide Scoping Comments

- **Email:** LANLSWEIS@NNSA.DOE.GOV
- **Mail:** **LANL SWEIS Comments**
  **NNSA, Los Alamos Field Office**
  **3747 W. Jemez Road**
  **Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544**
- **Project Information:** https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/nnsa-nepa-reading-room
- **Extended scoping period ends on October 18, 2022**

The next opportunity for public input will follow publication of the Draft SWEIS (expected in Summer/Fall 2023). The Notice of Availability of the Draft SWEIS will be announced by the Environmental Protection Agency and NNSA in the *Federal Register*. The Notice of Availability will then be published on the NNSA NEPA Reading Room website.