



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 6
800 N. Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209
FEMA

May 12, 2026

Ali Rye, State Director
Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
P.O. Box 27111
Santa Fe, NM 87502

ATTN: Jeremy Klass, Mitigation and Recovery Bureau Chief

RE: DR-4652-0006-NM – Los Alamos County, New Mexico
Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project Approval
Assistance Listing 97.039 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Dear Ms. Rye,

This letter provides official notification that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approves the application submitted by Los Alamos County, New Mexico for the Jemez Mountain Fire Protection project. The total project cost is \$3,371,081.09. The Federal share in the amount of \$2,528,310.82, is available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) under FEMA-DR-4652-NM. The non-federal match requirement of \$842,770.27 will be provided by Los Alamos County, New Mexico.

Pursuant to Section 1215 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018, which amended Section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, subrecipient Management Costs (MC) in the amount of \$104,435.36 are available to Los Alamos County at a Federal Cost Share of 100%.

The following is the approved Scope of Work (SOW) and MC activities for the above-referenced project:

Los Alamos County proposes the replacement of an above-ground electrical line with an underground line installed in an electrical conduit along Camp May Road under a Special Use Authorization and Right-of-Way agreement. Burying a power line offers permanent wildfire risk reduction by eliminating ignition risk, as buried lines are not susceptible to damage from high winds, falling trees, or fire-related outages. The electrical line will be installed to meet the current State and County building codes, replacing an undersized line.

The proposed action will occur within the Jemez Mountains of the Santa Fe National Forest and Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration lands, as well as Pajarito Mountain Ski Area (Pajarito), located on privately-owned lands within Los Alamos County, New Mexico along Camp May Road. The installation will occur along the currently disturbed north side of West Road near the intersection with Camp May Road (35.876800, -106.335659) to the

existing Camp May Water Tank (35.893537, - 106.394139) located on private land at the Pajarito Mountain Ski Area for a total distance of 4.3 miles.

The existing overhead line to be replaced is 21,948 feet long of overhead 13KV three-phase powerline and 81 power poles. The existing powerline will be replaced with a new underground powerline installed in PVC conduit, 29 concrete vaults, eight electric switches, and miscellaneous apparatus to complete the installation.

The project will install underground fiber-optic and electrical lines to include 105,000 feet of three-phase 500 MCM conductor, 8 electric switches, seven electric transformers, and all associated terminations, transformer pads, switch pads, and incidental equipment. In addition, trenching, conduits, conductors, and risers are required to transfer existing services from the overhead system to the new underground system. 24,754 feet of the existing overhead electric system will be taken out of service and demolished as part of the project. The proposed fiber-optic line is an operational communication system needed to properly monitor the electric system. It will allow the electrical engineers to monitor the status of the electric lines installed in the mountain. It is not a public service line; it is for utility communications only.

Immediately after the completion of construction, revegetation of the terrain will occur with Forest Service-approved native seed mixes. Mulch socks and filter fences will be used to minimize erosion and sediment transport until vegetation takes root. The approved subrecipient MC activities include grant administration, procurement compliance activities, monitoring and reporting, and closeout processing tasks.

In accordance with FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was conducted for the proposed project in order to comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EA resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Applicant must ensure it complies with all conditions set forth in the attached Record of Environmental Consideration (REC) and FONSI. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize federal assistance including funding.

Environmental Conditions for the project include:

- Clean Water Act
 - Prior to construction, Los Alamos County, in coordination with the Forest Service and the Department of Energy, will acquire all relevant Army Corps of Engineers and State of New Mexico permits.
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 - Prior to any tree-cutting activities to occur between April 1 and August 30, project areas shall be surveyed for migratory birds by a qualified biologist, in

consultation with the Forest Service and Department of Energy / National Nuclear Security Administration resource specialists.

- National Historic Preservation Act
 - The site location for LA 199267 must be avoided during project implementation and the south side of West Road will not be used for equipment staging or vehicle parking.
- NEPA Determination
 - Los Alamos County, in coordination with the Forest Service and the Department of Energy, will comply with the Project Design Criteria set forth in Table 3 of the USFS Final Environmental Assessment for the Camp May Waterline Pipeline Project dated November 2021.
- Standard Environmental Conditions
 - Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.
 - This review does not address all federal, state and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires the Recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.
 - If ground disturbing activities occur during construction, the Applicant will monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the State and FEMA.

Technical Conditions for the project include:

- Subrecipient must coordinate with the local floodplain administrator to obtain required permits. The subrecipient must comply with any conditions of the permit(s) prior to initiating work. All permits and coordination pertaining to these activities must be retained by the subrecipient. Submit permits and documentation of coordination to FEMA at closeout.
- Subrecipient must ensure that the project and all associated works are built to industry standards and in compliance with latest edition of codes and standards required by Federal, State and Local Rules and regulations. All permits and coordination pertaining to these activities must be retained by the subrecipient.

- Subrecipient must ensure to submit the signed and sealed as-builts plans by licensed engineer/architect at the closeout to FEMA.
- Subrecipient must acquire all applicable federal, state, tribal and/or local permits.

Programmatic Conditions for the project include:

- All work occurring on federal lands must be within the applicable easement(s) and completed in compliance with all Special Use Authorization(s) and Right of Way agreement(s).
- Federal funding awarded for the DR-4652-0006-NM project may not be used for activities beyond what is detailed in the approved SOW and budget.
- In accordance with the 2015 HMA Guidance Part III E.2, no work completed prior to the transmission of this approval letter from FEMA to the Recipient is eligible under this grant.

The milestones included in the application indicate that the time to complete this subaward will be 24 months from the date of this letter. FEMA will not establish activity completion timeframes for individual subawards. The Period of Performance (POP) for DR-4652-NM is May 14, 2028, 36-months from the close of the application period. It is the responsibility of the Recipient and subrecipient to ensure all approved activities associated with this sub-award are completed by the end of the POP. Any costs incurred prior to the date of this approval or after the POP will be disallowed.

A change to the approved SOW requires prior approval from FEMA. The National Environmental Policy Act stipulates that additions or amendments to a HMGP SOW shall be reviewed by all state and federal agencies participating in the NEPA process. NEPA sign-off for all SOW additions or amendments is essential before the revised SOW can be approved by FEMA or implemented by the HMGP subrecipient.

In accordance with FEMA Policy #104-11-1 Interim Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Management Costs, any MC provided will be obligated in increments sufficient to cover Recipient and subrecipient needs for no more than one year unless contractual agreements require additional funding. Actual subrecipient MC are to be reconciled quarterly during the review of expenditures submitted by the subrecipient through quarterly report process. Subrecipient MC can be expended for a maximum time of 180 days after work is completed for the subaward or the end of the Period of Performance (POP), whichever is sooner.

The initial quarterly progress reports for the HMGP project are due at the end of the approving quarter. Please include this HMGP project in your future quarterly reports. Note that Title 44 of

Ms. Rye
May 12, 2026
Page 5

the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 206.438(c) indicates the State must provide a quarterly progress report to FEMA indicating the status and completion date for each project funded. The report will include any problems or circumstances affecting completion dates, SOW, or project cost that may result in non-compliance with the approved grant conditions.

In accordance with HMGP rules and policy, we require the submittal of all closeout documentation within 120 days of the project completion, not to exceed POP. Section 206.438(d) of 44 C.F.R. requires the Governor's Authority Representative to "certify that reported costs were incurred in the performance of eligible work, that the approved work was completed, and that the mitigation measure is in compliance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement."

The Obligation Report, Project Cost Line-Item Report, Project Management Report, REC, FONSI, and Technical Recommendation Report are included for your records.

If you have any questions regarding the information, please contact Mike Garcia, HMA Branch Chief, at (940) 383-7386 or Mike.Garcia@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

JOHN R
GARVIN

Digitally signed by
JOHN R GARVIN
Date: 2026.05.18
09:14:14 -05'00'

FOR:

Roosevelt Grant III
Mitigation Division Director

Enclosures: Obligation Report #1
Obligation Report #2
Project Management Report
Project Cost Line-Item Report
REC
FONSI
Technical Recommendation Report