

February 26, 2025

Mr. Stephen Hoffman  
LANL SWEIS Document Manager  
3747 W. Jemez Road  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544  
email: [LANLSWEIS@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:LANLSWEIS@nnsa.doe.gov)

Re: Incorporated County of Los Alamos Comments to Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL SWEIS) (DOE/EIS-0552)

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (“LANL SWEIS”), dated January 2025. In general, we find the report very thorough and a confirmation of the potential for effective redevelopment and economic progress at LANL. Overall, the Incorporated County of Los Alamos (“County”) supports the preferred Expanded Operations alternative. Specifically, we would, however, offer the following comments in support of the LANL SWEIS:

The County consistently supports LANL’s interest “to expand operations and missions to respond to future national security challenges and meet increasing requirements.” The County is confident that the preferred alternative would be in the best interest for the County and the surrounding community. As discussed in Section 5.9 of the LANL SWEIS, the total direct and indirect employment of 29,603 people by the end of 2038 would be an economic driver for our local economy and facilitate additional improvements for the quality of life in our community.

Additionally, we support the decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition (“DD and D”) of aging facilities and modernization of existing facilities, as well as construction of new facilities, to make the Laboratory’s operations more energy efficient. We support the Los Alamos Canyon Bridge replacement, projects, including additional energy projects, the proposed hydropower demo/test facility, and mini reactors, and efforts to reduce fire risk and manage feral cattle. Proactively addressing the aging facilities and infrastructure, and on-going concerns related to

feral cattle and wildfire risk, will enable the growth, efficiency, and safety necessary to realize the enduring vision for LANL, its mission, and the surrounding community. Facilitating and incorporating clean energy-efficient solutions are essential to the continuous success of LANL and the County working together through Los Alamos County utilities.

Regarding the “Alternative Considered, but Eliminated from Detailed Study”, the County agrees with the elimination of those alternatives. The eliminated alternatives would have undermined decades of cooperation between the County and LANL and impeded fulfillment of NNSA mission requirements.

The County is poised and ready to assist LANL in realizing the preferred Expanded Operations Alternative, most specifically in continuing to supply electricity and facilitating the LANL Electrical Power Capacity Upgrade Project. We look forward to continuing discussion regarding the modernization and development of LANL.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact County Manager Anne W. Laurent or me, at (505)662-8400. The County looks forward to continuing the relationship and supporting LANL and NNSA in realizing the vision for LANL and the NNSA mission.

Sincerely,

Theresa Cull, Chair of the County Council  
Incorporated County of Los Alamos