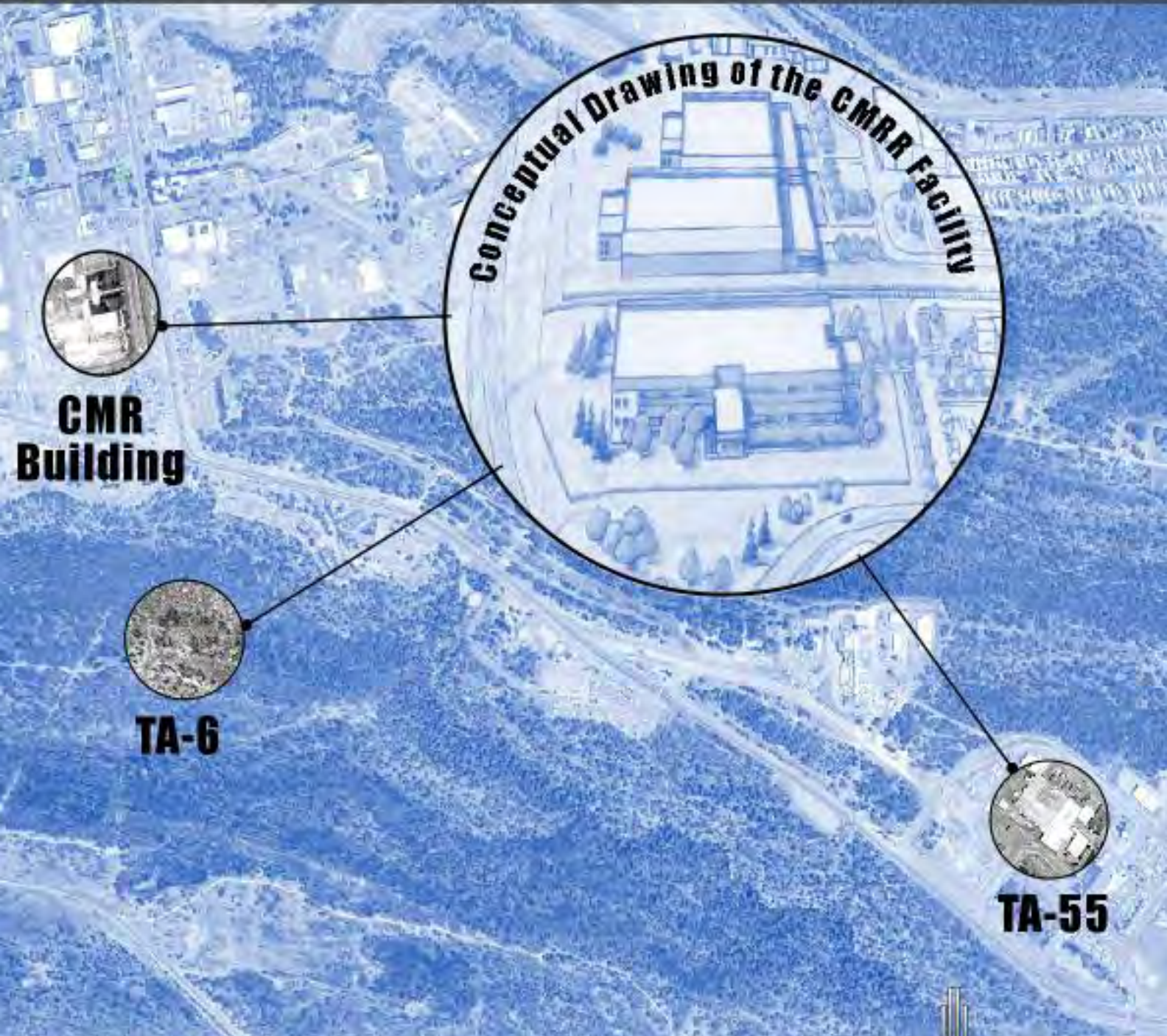


# Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico

DOE/EIS-0350  
November 2003



Conceptual Drawing of the CMRR Facility



**CMR  
Building**



**TA-6**



**TA-55**



U.S. Department of Energy



National Nuclear Security Administration



Los Alamos Site Office

**AVAILABILITY OF  
THE FINAL CMRR EIS**

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## COVER SHEET

**Responsible Agency:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

**Title:** *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory (CMRR EIS)*

**Location:** Los Alamos, New Mexico

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**Abstract:** NNSA, an agency within DOE, proposes to replace the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The *CMRR EIS* examines the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action of consolidating and relocating the mission-critical CMR capabilities from a degraded building to a new modern building(s).

The existing CMR Building, constructed in the early 1950s, houses most of LANL's analytical chemistry and materials characterization AC and MC capabilities. Other capabilities at the CMR Building include actinide processing, waste characterization, and nondestructive analysis that support a variety of NNSA and DOE nuclear materials management programs. In 1992, DOE initiated planning and implementation of CMR Building upgrades to address specific safety, reliability, consolidation, and security and safeguards issues. Later, in 1997 and 1998, a series of operational, safety, and seismic issues surfaced regarding the long-term viability of the CMR Building. Because of these issues, DOE determined that the extensive upgrades originally planned would be much more expensive and time consuming and of only marginal effectiveness. As a result, DOE decided to perform only the upgrades necessary to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the CMR Building through 2010 and to seek an alternative path for long-term reliability.

The *CMRR EIS* evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is to replace the CMR Building. The Preferred Alternative is to construct a new CMRR Facility at Technical Area (TA) 55, consisting of two or three buildings. One of the new buildings would provide space for administrative offices and support functions. The other building(s) would provide secure laboratory spaces for

research and analytical support activities. The buildings would be expected to operate for a minimum of 50 years. Tunnels could be constructed to connect the buildings. Alternative 2 would be to construct the new CMRR Facility within an undeveloped “greenfield” area near TA-55 at TA-6. Alternatives 3 and 4 would be to continue using the existing CMR Building for administrative offices and support functions with the implementation of minimal necessary structural and system upgrades and repairs, together with the construction of new nuclear laboratory building(s) at either TA-55 or TA-6. The EIS also presents an analysis of impacts associated with the dispositioning of all or portions of the existing CMR Building.

| **Public Comments:** In preparing this final EIS, NNSA considered comments received from the  
| public during the scoping period (July 23, 2002, to August 31, 2002) and during the comment  
| period on the draft *CMRR EIS* (May 16, 2003, to June 30, 2003). Comments received on the  
| draft EIS after the close of the comment period were considered for the preparation of the final  
| EIS.

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## ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND CONVERSION CHARTS

AC and MC	analytical chemistry and materials characterization
ANL-W	Argonne National Laboratory-West
BIO	Basis for Interim Operations
C	Centigrade
CEDE	cumulative effective dose equivalents
Center	Interagency Emergency Operations Center
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFC	chlorofluorocarbons
CFR	<i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>
CMR	chemistry and metallurgy research
CMRR	chemistry and metallurgy research building replacement project
CTG	combustion turbine generators
dBA	decibels A-weighted
DCGs	Derived Concentration Guides
DoD	U.S. Department of Defense
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
DP	Defense Programs
DSW	Directed Stockpile Work
EA	environmental assessment
EIS	environmental impact statement
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
F	Fahrenheit
FR	<i>Federal Register</i>
FY	Fiscal Year
g	gravitational acceleration
GIS	geographic information system
HABS/HAER	Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record
ICRP	International Commission on Radiological Protection
INEEL	Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory
INP	Integrated Nuclear Planning
LANL	Los Alamos National Laboratory
LANL SWEIS	<i>Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of the Los Alamos National Laboratory</i>
LCF	latent cancer fatality
MCE	maximum considered earthquake
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MEI	maximally exposed individual
mg/L	milligrams per liter



MMI	Modified Mercalli Intensity
MOA	memoranda of agreement
MPF	Modern Pit Facility
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCRP	National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAP	National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NMAC	New Mexico Administrative Code
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department
NMSA	New Mexico Statutes Annotated
NNSA	National Nuclear Security Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NTS	Nevada Test Site
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
PIDAS	Perimeter Intrusion and Detection Alarm System
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RLWTF	Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility
RTBF	Readiness in Technical Base Facilities
SEA	Special Environmental Analysis
SNL/NM	Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico
SNM	special nuclear material(s)
SRS	Savannah River Site
SSM	Stockpile Stewardship and Management
SWS	Sanitary Wastewater Systems
TA	technical area
TRU	transuranic waste
UC at LANL	University of California, current LANL Management and Operating contractor
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S.C.	<i>United States Code</i>
WIPP	Waste Isolation Pilot Plant
WR	War-Reserve

**CONVERSIONS**

METRIC TO ENGLISH			ENGLISH TO METRIC		
Multiply	by	To get	Multiply	by	To get
<b>Area</b>					
Square meters	10.764	Square feet	Square feet	0.092903	Square meters
Square kilometers	247.1	Acres	Acres	0.0040469	Square kilometers
Square kilometers	0.3861	Square miles	Square miles	2.59	Square kilometers
Hectares	2.471	Acres	Acres	0.40469	Hectares
<b>Concentration</b>					
Kilograms/square meter	0.16667	Tons/acre	Tons/acre	0.5999	Kilograms/square meter
Milligrams/liter	1 <sup>a</sup>	Parts/million	Parts/million	1 <sup>a</sup>	Milligrams/liter
Micrograms/liter	1 <sup>a</sup>	Parts/billion	Parts/billion	1 <sup>a</sup>	Micrograms/liter
Micrograms/cubic meter	1 <sup>a</sup>	Parts/trillion	Parts/trillion	1 <sup>a</sup>	Micrograms/cubic meter
<b>Density</b>					
Grams/cubic centimeter	62.428	Pounds/cubic foot	Pounds/cubic foot	0.016018	Grams/cubic centimeter
Grams/cubic meter	0.0000624	Pounds/cubic foot	Pounds/cubic foot	16,025.6	Grams/cubic meter
<b>Length</b>					
Centimeters	0.3937	Inches	Inches	2.54	Centimeters
Meters	3.2808	Feet	Feet	0.3048	Meters
Kilometers	0.62137	Miles	Miles	1.6093	Kilometers
<b>Temperature</b>					
<i>Absolute</i>					
Degrees C + 17.78	1.8	Degrees F	Degrees F - 32	0.55556	Degrees C
<i>Relative</i>					
Degrees C	1.8	Degrees F	Degrees F	0.55556	Degrees C
<b>Velocity/Rate</b>					
Cubic meters/second	2118.9	Cubic feet/minute	Cubic feet/minute	0.00047195	Cubic meters/second
Grams/second	7.9366	Pounds/hour	Pounds/hour	0.126	Grams/second
Meters/second	2.237	Miles/hour	Miles/hour	0.44704	Meters/second
<b>Volume</b>					
Liters	0.26418	Gallons	Gallons	3.78533	Liters
Liters	0.035316	Cubic feet	Cubic feet	28.316	Liters
Liters	0.001308	Cubic yards	Cubic yards	764.54	Liters
Cubic meters	264.17	Gallons	Gallons	0.0037854	Cubic meters
Cubic meters	35.314	Cubic feet	Cubic feet	0.028317	Cubic meters
Cubic meters	1.3079	Cubic yards	Cubic yards	0.76456	Cubic meters
Cubic meters	0.0008107	Acre-feet	Acre-feet	1233.49	Cubic meters
<b>Weight/Mass</b>					
Grams	0.035274	Ounces	Ounces	28.35	Grams
Kilograms	2.2046	Pounds	Pounds	0.45359	Kilograms
Kilograms	0.0011023	Tons (short)	Tons (short)	907.18	Kilograms
Metric tons	1.1023	Tons (short)	Tons (short)	0.90718	Metric tons
<b>ENGLISH TO ENGLISH</b>					
Acre-feet	325,850.7	Gallons	Gallons	0.000003046	Acre-feet
Acres	43,560	Square feet	Square feet	0.000022957	Acres
Square miles	640	Acres	Acres	0.0015625	Square miles

a. This conversion is only valid for concentrations of contaminants (or other materials) in water.

**METRIC PREFIXES**

Prefix	Symbol	Multiplication factor
exa-	E	1,000,000,000,000,000,000 = 10 <sup>18</sup>
peta-	P	1,000,000,000,000,000 = 10 <sup>15</sup>
tera-	T	1,000,000,000,000 = 10 <sup>12</sup>
giga-	G	1,000,000,000 = 10 <sup>9</sup>
mega-	M	1,000,000 = 10 <sup>6</sup>
kilo-	k	1,000 = 10 <sup>3</sup>
deca-	D	10 = 10 <sup>1</sup>
deci-	d	0.1 = 10 <sup>-1</sup>
centi-	c	0.01 = 10 <sup>-2</sup>
milli-	m	0.001 = 10 <sup>-3</sup>
micro-	μ	0.000 001 = 10 <sup>-6</sup>
nano-	n	0.000 000 001 = 10 <sup>-9</sup>
pico-	p	0.000 000 000 001 = 10 <sup>-12</sup>

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# 1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR AGENCY ACTION

Chapter 1 of this environmental impact statement (EIS) provides an overview of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) proposal for consolidation and relocation of mission-critical chemistry and metallurgy research (CMR) capabilities currently located at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) CMR Building at Technical Area 3 (TA-3). Chapter 1 includes background information on CMR capabilities and on the CMR Building's physical condition, the purpose of and need for agency action, the scope of the *Environmental Impact Statement for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (CMRR EIS)*, and the alternatives analyzed in the EIS. Chapter 1 also discusses other National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents related to the chemistry and metallurgy research replacement (CMRR) proposal, as well as the scoping and public comment period process used to obtain public input on the issues addressed in this *CMRR EIS*.

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

NNSA, a separately organized agency within DOE, is responsible for providing the Nation with nuclear weapons, ensuring the safety and reliability of those nuclear weapons, and supporting programs that reduce global nuclear proliferation. NNSA is also responsible for the administration of LANL. LANL is located in north-central New Mexico and covers an area of about 40 square miles (104 square kilometers). LANL was originally established in 1943 as "Project Y" of the Manhattan Project, with a single-focused national defense mission – to build the world's first nuclear weapon. After World War II ended, Project Y was designated a permanent research and development laboratory (known first as the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, it acquired the LANL name in the 1980s) and its mission was expanded from defense and related research and development to incorporate a wide variety of new assignments in support of Federal Government and civilian programs. LANL is now a multi-disciplinary, multi-purpose institution engaged in theoretical and experimental research and development. The Federal agency with administrative responsibility for LANL has evolved from the post-World War II Atomic Energy Commission, to the Energy Research and Development Administration, and finally to DOE, NNSA. The University of California (UC at LANL) is the current LANL Management and Operating contractor and has served in this capacity since the laboratory's inception.

Current DOE, NNSA mission-support work provided by UC at LANL stems from its original purpose to build the world's first nuclear weapon. The work includes research and development performed for a variety of programs within DOE, as well as cost-reimbursable work identified as "work for others." This designation, "work for others," encompasses non-DOE-sponsored work

## CMRR EIS Terminology

**Missions:** In this EIS, “missions” refers to the major responsibilities assigned to DOE and NNSA. DOE and NNSA accomplish their missions by assigning groups or types of activities to their national laboratories, production facilities, and other sites.

**Programs:** DOE and NNSA have program offices, each having primary responsibilities within the set of Administration and Department missions. Funding and direction for activities at DOE and NNSA facilities are provided through these program offices, and similar or coordinated sets of activities conducted to meet the mission responsibilities are often referred to as “programs.” Programs generally are long-term efforts with broad goals or requirements.

**Capabilities:** “Capabilities” refers to the combination of facilities, equipment, infrastructure, and expertise necessary to undertake types or groups of activities and to implement mission assignments. Capabilities at LANL have been established over time, principally through mission-support work assignments and activities directed by program offices.

**Projects:** The term “projects” is used to describe activities with a clear beginning and end that are undertaken to meet a specific goal or need. Projects are usually relatively short-term efforts, and they can cross multiple programs and missions. Projects can range from very small efforts to major undertakings.

**Campaign:** “Campaigns” are composed of activities focused on science and engineering that address critical capabilities, tools, computations, and experiments needed to achieve certification, manufacturing, and refurbishment.

performed in support of other Federal agencies, universities, institutions, and commercial firms that is compatible with the DOE mission work conducted at LANL and that cannot reasonably be performed by the private sector. Within DOE, the NNSA mission is to: “(1) enhance U.S. national security through the military application of nuclear energy; (2) maintain and enhance the safety, reliability, and performance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, including the ability to design, produce, and test, in order to meet national security requirements; (3) provide the U.S. Navy with safe, militarily effective nuclear propulsion plants and ensure the safe and reliable operation of those plants; (4) promote international nuclear safety and nonproliferation; (5) reduce global danger from weapons of mass destruction; and (6) support U.S. leadership in science and technology” [50 USC Chapter 41, § 2401(b)]. In the mid-1990s, DOE, in response to direction from the President and Congress, developed the Stockpile Stewardship and Management (SSM) Program to provide a single, highly integrated technical program for maintaining the continued safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile. Stockpile stewardship comprises the activities associated with research, design, development, and testing of nuclear weapons, and the assessment and certification of their safety and reliability. Stockpile management comprises operations associated with producing, maintaining, refurbishing, surveilling, and dismantling the nuclear weapons stockpile. Work conducted at LANL provides science, research and development, and production support to these NNSA missions, with a special focus on national security. Under the direction of DOE, UC at LANL has developed facilities, capabilities, and expertise at LANL to perform theoretical research (including analysis, mathematical modeling, and high-performance computing), experimental science and engineering ranging from bench-scale to multi-site, multi-technology facilities (including accelerators and radiographic facilities); and advanced and nuclear materials research, development, and applications (including weapons components testing, fabrication, stockpile assurance, replacement, surveillance, and maintenance including theoretical and experimental activities). These capabilities developed

under the direction of DOE (or its predecessor agencies) now allow UC at LANL to conduct research and development assignments at LANL for the new NNSA that include continued production of War-Reserve (WR) products, assessment and certification of the nuclear weapons stockpile, surveillance of WR components and weapons systems, ensuring safe and secure storage of strategic materials, and management of excess plutonium inventories. These LANL assignments are all conducted in support of the NNSA Stockpile Stewardship Program and funded as either Directed Stockpile Work (DSW), campaigns, or Readiness in Technical Base Facilities (RTBF) work activities. In addition, LANL supports actinide (actinides are any of a series of elements with atomic numbers ranging from actinium-89 through lawrencium-103) science missions ranging from the plutonium-238 heat source program undertaken for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to arms control and technology development. LANL's main role in NNSA mission objectives includes a wide range of scientific and technological capabilities that support nuclear materials handling, processing, and fabrication; stockpile management; materials and manufacturing technologies; nonproliferation programs; and waste management activities. Additional information regarding DOE and NNSA work assignments at LANL is presented in the 1999 LANL *Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL SWEIS)*. This document and other related documents can be found in the DOE Reading Rooms in Albuquerque, New Mexico (at the Government Information Department, Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico), and in Los Alamos (at the Community Relations Office located at 1619 Central Avenue).

The capabilities needed to execute the NNSA mission activities require facilities at LANL that can be used to handle actinides and other radioactive materials in a safe and secure manner. Of primary importance are the facilities located within the CMR Building and the Plutonium Facility (located at TA-3 and -55, respectively), which are used for processing, characterizing, and storing special nuclear materials (SNM)<sup>1</sup>. Most of the LANL mission support functions previously listed require analytical chemistry, material characterization, and actinide research and development support capabilities and capacities that currently exist at facilities within the CMR Building and are not available elsewhere. The

### Nuclear Facilities Hazards Classification (DOE Order 411.1)

**Hazard Category 1:** Hazard analysis shows the potential for significant offsite consequences.

**Hazard Category 2:** Hazard analysis shows the potential for significant onsite consequences.

**Hazard Category 3:** Hazard analysis shows the potential for only significant localized consequences.

### SNM Safeguards and Security (DOE Order 474.1-1A)

DOE uses a cost-effective, graded approach to provide SNM safeguards and security. Quantities of SNM stored at each DOE site are categorized into Security Categories I, II, III, and IV, with the greatest quantities included under Security Category I and lesser quantities included in descending order under Security Categories II through IV. Types and compositions of SNM are further categorized by their "attractiveness" to saboteurs, alphabetically with the most attractive materials for conversion of such materials into nuclear explosive devices being identified by the letter "A," and lesser attractive materials being designated progressively by the letters "B" through "E."

<sup>1</sup>Special nuclear material: plutonium, uranium enriched in the isotope 233 or in the isotope 235, and any other material that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission determines to be special nuclear material.

Plutonium Facility houses other unique capabilities. Work is sometimes moved between the CMR Building and the Plutonium Facility to make use of the full suite of capabilities that these two facilities provide.

The CMR Building is over 50 years old and many of its utility systems and structural components are aged, outmoded, eroding, and generally deteriorating. Studies conducted in the late 1990s identified a seismic fault trace located beneath one of the wings of the CMR Building that greatly increases the level of structural integrity required at the CMR Building to meet current structural seismic code requirements for a Hazard Category 2<sup>2</sup> nuclear facility. Correcting the CMR Building's defects by performing repairs and upgrades and retrofitting utility systems for long-term use housing the mission-critical CMR capabilities would be extremely difficult and costly. Over the long term, NNSA cannot continue to operate the assigned LANL mission-critical CMR support capabilities in the existing CMR Building at an acceptable level of risk to public and worker health and safety without operational restrictions. These operational restrictions preclude the full implementation of the level of operation DOE decided upon through its Record of Decision for the *LANL SWEIS*. Mission-critical CMR capabilities at LANL support NNSA's SSM strategic objectives; these capabilities are necessary to support the current and future directed stockpile work and campaign activities conducted at LANL. The CMR Building is near the end of its useful life and action is required now by NNSA to assess alternatives for continuing these activities for the next 50 years.

## 1.2 HISTORY OF THE CMR BUILDING

Construction of the CMR Building at LANL within TA-3 was initiated in 1949, and operations began in 1952. The three-story CMR Building (Building 3-29) is supported by an adjacent radioactive liquid waste pump house (Building 3-154). The CMR Building has a central corridor and 8 wings, providing over 550,000 square feet (51,097 square meters) of working area. The original construction provided a main corridor with seven wings. In 1960, an additional wing (Wing 9) was added to accommodate activities that require hot cells for the remote handling of radioactive materials. Wings 6 and 8 were never constructed. The CMR Building is currently designated as a Hazard Category 2, Security Category III nuclear building.

The CMR Building's main function is to house research and development capabilities involving analytical chemistry, materials characterization, and metallurgic studies on actinides and other metals. These activities have been conducted almost continuously in the CMR Building since it became operational. Analytical chemistry and materials characterization (AC and MC) services performed in the CMR Building now support virtually every program at LANL. **Figure 1-1** shows the CMR Building.

The CMR Building was initially designed and constructed to comply with the Uniform Building Codes in effect at the time. Over the intervening years, a series of upgrades have been performed to address changing building and safety requirements (DOE 1997a). By the mid-1990s, the CMR Building had been operating continuously for over 40 years and was approaching its 50-year

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<sup>2</sup>A Hazard Category 2 nuclear facility is one in which the hazard analysis identifies the potential for significant onsite consequences. See box inset in Section 1.1 for additional information on hazard categories.



design life. In 1992, DOE initiated planning and implementation of CMR Building upgrades to address specific safety, reliability, consolidation, and safeguards and security issues. These upgrades were intended to extend the useful life of the CMR Building for an additional 20 to 30 years. In 1997 and 1998, a series of operational, safety, and seismic issues surfaced regarding the long-term viability of the CMR Building. In responding to these issues, DOE determined that originally-planned extensive upgrades to the CMR Building would be expensive, time consuming, and only marginally effective in providing the required operational risk reduction and program capabilities to support DOE and NNSA missions. As a result, in 1999, the CMR Upgrades Project was downscoped to accommodate only upgrades necessary



**Figure 1-1 CMR Building**

to ensure safe and reliable operations through 2010, consistent with an overall strategy for managing risk at the CMR Building. This risk management strategy recognized that the 50-year-old CMR Building could not continue mission support at an acceptable level of risk to public and worker health and safety without operational restrictions. It also committed NNSA and LANL to manage the CMR Building to a planned end of life in or about the year 2010, and to develop long-term facility and site plans to replace and relocate CMR capabilities. Since this strategy was adopted, CMR capabilities have been restricted substantially, both by planned NNSA actions and by unplanned facility outages that have included the operational loss of two of the eight wings of the CMR Building.

### **1.3 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR AGENCY ACTION**

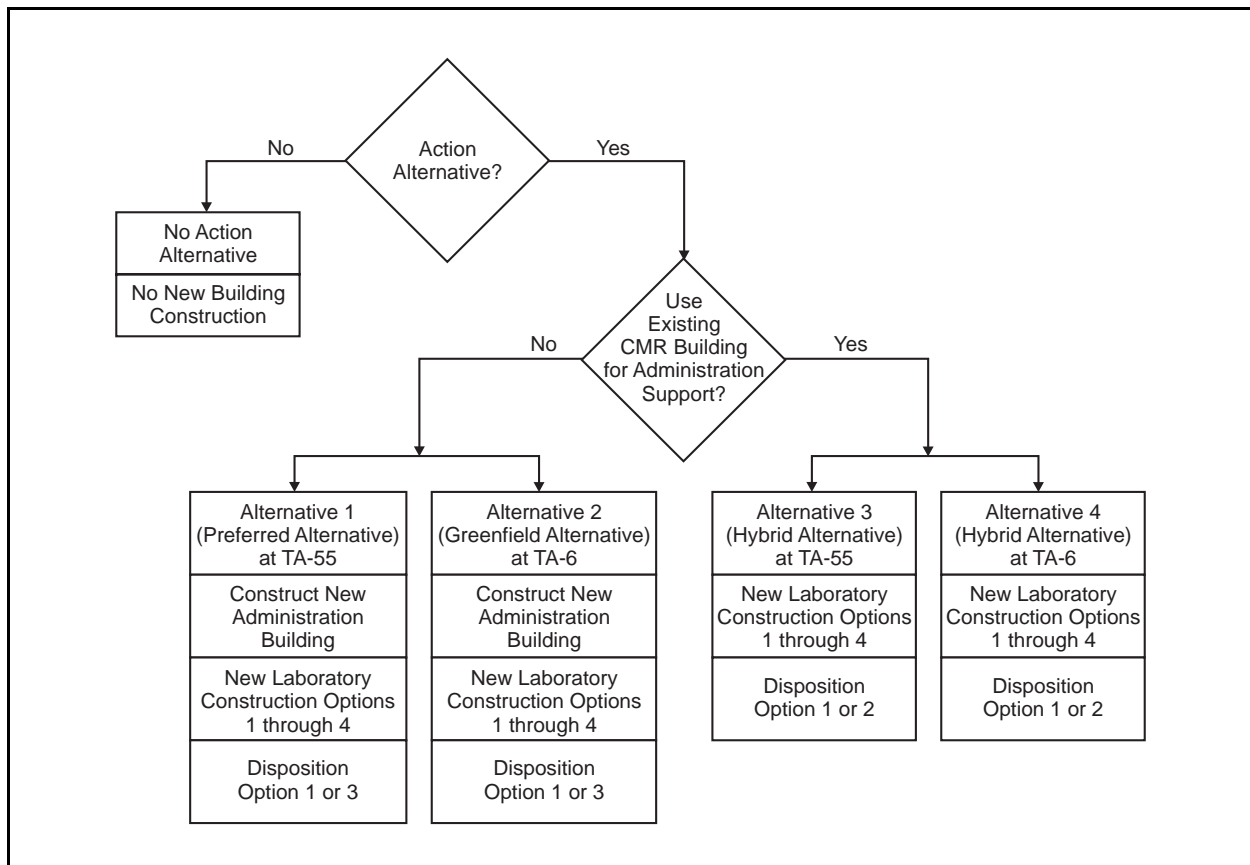
AC and MC are fundamental capabilities required for the research and development support of the DOE and NNSA missions at LANL. CMR capabilities have been present at LANL for the entire history of the site and are critical for future work conducted there.

CMR Building operations and capabilities are currently being restricted in scope due to safety constraints; the building is not being operated to the full extent needed to meet the DOE, NNSA operational requirements established in 1999 for the next 10 years. In addition, continued support of LANL's existing and evolving roles is anticipated to require modification of some capabilities, such as the ability to physically handle larger containment vessels (as compared to existing capabilities) in support of dynamic experimentation and subsequent cleanout. The facilitation and consolidation of like activities at LANL would enhance operational efficiency in terms of security, support, and risk reduction in handling and transportation of nuclear materials.

NNSA needs to act now to provide the physical means for accommodating the continuation of the CMR Building’s functional, mission-critical CMR capabilities beyond 2010 in a safe, secure, and environmentally sound manner at LANL. At the same time, NNSA should also take advantage of the opportunity to consolidate like activities for the purpose of operational efficiency, and it might be prudent to provide extra space for future modifications or additions to existing capabilities.

#### 1.4 THE PROPOSED ACTION AND SCOPE OF THE CMRR EIS

NNSA proposes to relocate LANL AC and MC, and associated research and development capabilities that currently exist primarily at the CMR Building, to a newly constructed facility, and to continue to perform those operations and activities at the new facility for the reasonably foreseeable future (for the purposes of this EIS, the operations are assessed for a 50-year operating period). As shown in **Figure 1–2**, the *CMRR EIS* evaluates construction of a new CMRR Facility at TA-55 as the Preferred Alternative, a “Greenfield” Site Alternative at TA-6, two “Hybrid” Alternatives, and the No Action Alternative.



**Figure 1–2 Alternatives and Options Evaluated in Detail in the CMRR EIS**

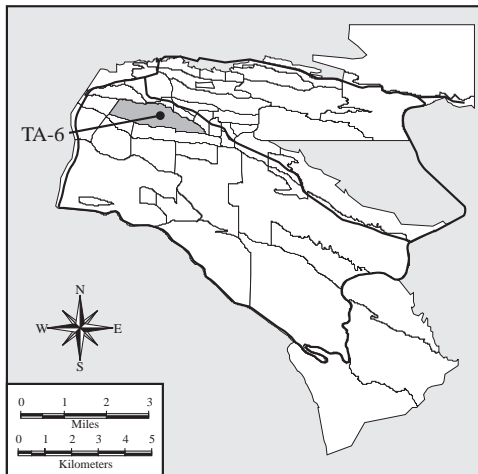
- | NNSA’s Preferred Alternative (Alternative 1) is to construct two new buildings (Construction
- | Option 3) within TA-55 to house AC and MC capabilities and their attendant support capabilities that currently reside primarily in the existing CMR Building at the operational level identified by

the Expanded Operations Alternative in the 1999 *LANL SWEIS*. This alternative also includes construction of a parking area(s) and other infrastructure support facilities. AC and MC capabilities would be moved from the existing CMR Building into the new buildings using a phased approach, and operations would resume there in a staged manner (there would be a period of operational overlap between the old CMR Building and the new CMRR Facility), and the existing CMR Building would be dispositioned. One of the new buildings in TA-55 would provide administrative offices and house support activities. AC and MC activities would be conducted in either two separate laboratories (Construction Options 1 and 2) or in one new laboratory (Construction Options 3 and 4). The configuration of the laboratories has not been determined at this stage of the project, but would be driven by safety, security, cost and operational efficiency parameters to be evaluated during the conceptual design. As indicated in Figure 1–2, if an action alternative were selected for implementation, then construction of new laboratories would take place in either TA-55 or TA-6. The construction options are:

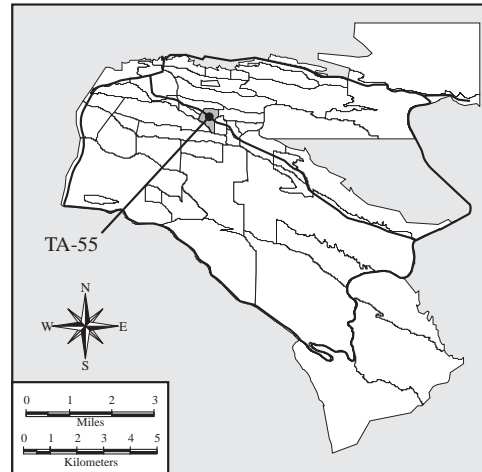
- Construction Option 1:** Build two separate laboratories above ground.
- Construction Option 2:** Build two separate laboratories, one below ground and one above ground.
- Construction Option 3:** Build one consolidated laboratory above ground.
- Construction Option 4:** Build one consolidated laboratory below ground.

If a single new laboratory were constructed, it would be designated a Hazard Category 2 nuclear facility, and all AC and MC activities would be conducted in one building. If two new laboratories were constructed, one of the new buildings would be designated a Hazard Category 2 nuclear facility and the other designated a Hazard Category 3 nuclear facility. This EIS evaluates the environmental impacts that could result from constructing the Hazard Category 2 building aboveground and also belowground level. This EIS also includes an

evaluation of environmental impacts that could result from construction of tunnels to connect the new buildings, SNM storage vaults, utility structures, security structures, and the construction of parking space for occupants of the new CMRR Facility.



**TA-6 Site**



**TA-55 Site**

An alternative site for the new CMRR Facility is also analyzed in this EIS – namely, constructing the new CMRR Facility within TA-6; this alternative is referred to as the “Greenfield” Site Alternative. The TA-6 site is a relatively undeveloped, forested area with some prior

disturbance in limited areas. The construction options are the same as those described for the Preferred Alternative.

Two other “Hybrid” Alternatives are analyzed in this EIS, in which the existing CMR Building would continue to house administrative offices and support functions for AC and MC capabilities (including research and development), and no new administrative support building would be constructed. Structural and systems upgrades and repairs to portions of the existing CMR Building would need to be performed and some portions of the Building could be decommissioned, decontaminated, or demolished. A new CMRR Facility laboratory building or buildings would be constructed in either TA-55 (Alternative 3) or TA-6 (Alternative 4) with the same construction options.

Disposition analyses for the existing CMR Building under each of the action alternatives shown in Figure 1–2 would include:

**Disposition Option 1:** Reuse of the building for administrative and other activities appropriate to the physical conditions of the structure, with the performance of necessary structural and systems upgrades and repairs.

**Disposition Option 2:** Decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition of selected parts of the existing CMR Building, with some portions of the Building being reused.

**Disposition Option 3:** Decontamination, decommissioning, and demolition of the entire existing CMR Building.

| The NNSA’s Preferred Alternative for disposition of the CMR Building is Disposition Option 3. The No Action Alternative would involve the continued use of the existing CMR Building with minimal routine maintenance and necessary structural and systems upgrades and repairs. Under this alternative, AC and MC capabilities (including research and development), as well as administrative offices and support activities, would remain in the existing CMR Building. No new construction would be undertaken.

This EIS provides an evaluation of potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that could result from relocating existing AC and MC capabilities from the CMR Building to TA-55 (the Preferred Alternative). The *CMRR EIS* will also provide the analyses of direct and indirect impacts that could result from implementing the various action alternatives identified and the No Action Alternative. These alternatives were developed by a team of NNSA and LANL staff who evaluated various criteria and site locations at LANL. The selection criteria for siting considered security issues, infrastructure availability, environmental issues, safety and health infrastructure, and compatibility between sites and CMR capabilities. The alternatives analyzed in this EIS are described in greater detail in Chapter 2.

## **1.5 DECISIONS TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE *CMRR EIS***

The analyses of environmental impacts that could occur if NNSA implemented the Preferred Alternative evaluated in this *CMRR EIS* will provide NNSA’s decision maker (in this case the

Administrator of NNSA) with important environmental information for use in the overall decision-making process. The decisions to be made by the NNSA decision maker regarding the CMRR Project are:

- Whether to construct a new CMRR Facility to house AC and MC capabilities at LANL
- Whether to construct a new building to house administrative offices and support functions in conjunction with the new laboratory facilities
- Whether to locate the new CMRR Facility building(s) at TA-55 next to the existing structures that house LANL plutonium capabilities, or to locate the CMRR Facility building(s) within TA-6, which is a “greenfield” site
- Whether to construct the new CMRR Facility with one large laboratory that would house both the Hazard Category 2 and 3 capabilities, or with two separate laboratory buildings, one to house Hazard Category 2 capabilities and one to house Hazard Category 3 capabilities
- Whether to construct the new Hazard Category 2 laboratory as an aboveground structure or a belowground structure
- What to do with the existing CMR Building if new CMRR Facility laboratories are constructed.

Other considerations, in addition to the environmental impact information provided by this EIS, that are not evaluated in this EIS, will also influence NNSA’s final CMRR Project decisions. These considerations include cost estimate information, schedule considerations, safeguards and security concerns, and programmatic considerations of impacts. In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality’s (CEQ) NEPA-implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500 through 1508): “1500.1 Purpose. ... (c) Ultimately, of course, it is not better documents but better decisions that count. NEPA’s purpose is not to generate paperwork – even excellent paperwork – but to foster excellent action. The NEPA process is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. These regulations provide the direction to achieve this purpose.”

There are decisions related to the CMR capabilities and activities at LANL that the NNSA Administrator will not make based on the Final *CMRR EIS* analysis. These include the following:

**NNSA will not make a decision to remove mission support assignments of CMR capabilities from LANL or to alter the operational level of those capabilities.** CMR capabilities were a fundamental component of Project Y during the Manhattan Project era, and the decision to facilitate these capabilities at the Los Alamos site was made originally by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Manhattan District. DOE’s predecessor agency, the Atomic Energy Commission, made the decision to continue supporting and to expand CMR capabilities at LANL after World War II; and the CMR Building was constructed to house these needed capabilities. DOE

considered the issue of maintaining CMR capabilities (along with other capabilities) at LANL in 1996 as part of its review of the SSM Program and made programmatic decisions at that time that required the retention of CMR capabilities at LANL (see later discussion of the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Stockpile Stewardship and Management* in Section 1.6.1.3 of this EIS). In 1999, DOE concluded in the *LANL SWEIS* that, due to the lack of information on the proposal(s) for replacement of the CMR Building to provide for its continued operations and capabilities support, it was not the appropriate time to make specific decisions on the project. With the support of the *LANL SWEIS* impact analyses, however, DOE made a decision on the level of operations at LANL that included the capabilities housed by the CMR Building. Having made these critical decisions within the past 7 years, NNSA will not revisit decisions at this time related to the maintenance of CMR capabilities at LANL to support critical NNSA missions.

**NNSA will not make a decision on other elements or activities that have been recently undertaken associated with the LANL “Integrated Nuclear Planning” (INP) initiative.** During the period from 2000 to 2001, NNSA initiated planning activities associated with the CMRR Project to address long-term AC and MC mission support beyond the year 2010, consistent with the strategy for managing the operation of the CMR Building. During this same timeframe, UC at LANL was implementing or initiating other activities, including identification of potential upgrades to the existing Plutonium Facility, campaigns for pit<sup>3</sup> manufacturing and certification, planned safeguards and security system upgrades, and the proposed relocation of TA-18 capabilities. Such actions were undertaken to address safeguards and security upgrades, operational inefficiencies, and long-term facilities infrastructure requirements related to or affecting LANL nuclear facilities. Recognizing the need for the CMRR Project to be integrated with other contemplated actions, near and long term, affecting the nuclear mission capabilities at LANL, NNSA and UC at LANL developed the INP process. INP is intended to provide an integrated, coordinated plan for the consolidation of LANL nuclear facility construction, refurbishment and upgrade, and retirement activities. As such, INP is a planning process, not an overarching construction project, and is a tool used by NNSA and UC at LANL to ensure effective, efficient integration of multiple distinct stand-alone projects and activities related to or affecting LANL nuclear facilities capabilities. As individual elements or activities associated with INP become mature for decision and implementation, each element and activity moves ahead in the planning, budgeting, and NEPA compliance process on its own merits.

NNSA’s overall concept for TA-55 would have it contain all or at least most of the Security Category I nuclear operations needed for LANL operations. To that end, however, are the following considerations: the various potential LANL Security Category I nuclear facilities are independent of one another in terms of their programmatic utility to DOE and NNSA; these Security Category I nuclear facilities are also independent of one another in terms of their individual operations and the capabilities they house; the existing structures are of differing ages and therefore replacement of the aging structures would become necessary at different times; the construction of major facilities within a relatively tight area would require they be staggered so that the area could physically accommodate the necessary construction laydown sites and needed

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<sup>3</sup>*The central core of a primary assembly in a nuclear weapon, typically composed of plutonium-239 and/or highly enriched uranium, and other materials.*

storage areas; and the additional security elements required for the construction and startup of operations in Hazard Category 2 nuclear facilities would predicate the need for their separate construction in terms of scheduling.

NNSA recently completed an EIS for relocating LANL's TA-18 capabilities and materials and decided to move Security Category I and II capabilities and materials to another DOE site away from LANL (see discussion in Section 1.6.1.13 regarding the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Relocation of Technical Area 18 Capabilities and Materials at the Los Alamos National Laboratory*). NNSA is separately considering the construction and operation of a pit manufacturing facility on a scale greater than can currently be accommodated in existing facilities at LANL, and is considering LANL's TA-55 as a possible site (though it is not currently identified as the preferred site location). (See additional discussion regarding this proposal and its associated NEPA compliance analyses in Section 1.6.2.1).

## **1.6 RELATED NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT REVIEWS**

This section explains the relationship between the *CMRR EIS* and other relevant NEPA compliance impact analyses documents and NNSA programs. Completed NEPA compliance analyses are addressed in Section 1.6.1; ongoing NEPA compliance analyses are discussed in Section 1.6.2; and the relationships to other LANL projects are discussed in Section 1.6.3.

### **1.6.1 Completed NEPA Compliance Actions**

#### **1.6.1.1 *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed CMR Building Upgrades at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/EA-1101)***

In February 1997, DOE issued the *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed CMR Building Upgrades at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE 1997a). DOE prepared this environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the effects that could be expected from performing various necessary extensive structural modifications and systems upgrades at LANL's existing CMR Building. Changes to the Building included structural modifications needed to meet current seismic criteria and building ventilation, communications, monitoring, and fire protection systems upgrades and improvements. A Finding of No Significant Impact was issued on the CMR Building Upgrades project on February 11, 1997.

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, these upgrades were intended to extend the useful life of the CMR Building an additional 20 to 30 years. However, late in 1997 and on through 1998, a series of operational, safety, and seismic issues surfaced regarding the long-term viability of the CMR Building. In the course of considering these issues, DOE determined that the extensive upgrades originally planned for the Building would be much more expensive and time consuming than had been anticipated and would be marginally effective in providing the required operational risk reduction and program capabilities to support NNSA mission assignments at LANL. As a result, DOE reduced the number of CMR Building upgrade projects to only those needed to ensure safe and reliable operations through about the year 2010. CMR Building operations and capabilities are currently being restricted due to safety and security constraints; the Building is not operational to the full extent needed to meet DOE NNSA requirements established in 1999 for

the then foreseeable future over the next 10 years. In addition, continued support of LANL's existing and evolving mission roles is anticipated to require additional capabilities such as the ability to handle large containment vessels in support of dynamic experiments. The continued adequate, safe, and secure housing of these operational and capability requirements beyond the year 2010 is the subject of this EIS.

#### **1.6.1.2 *Disposition of Surplus Highly Enriched Uranium Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0240)***

In June 1996, DOE issued the *Disposition of Surplus Highly Enriched Uranium Final Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE 1996a). DOE prepared this EIS because of the need to move rapidly to neutralize the proliferation threat of surplus highly enriched uranium and to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to nonproliferation. Alternatives considered included several approaches to blending down the highly enriched material to make it non-weapons-usable and suitable for fabrication into fuel for commercial nuclear reactors. In the Record of Decision, published in the *Federal Register* on August 5, 1996 (61 FR 40619), DOE stated that it would implement a program that would blend as much as 85 percent of the surplus highly enriched uranium to a uranium-235 enrichment level of approximately 4 percent for commercial use and blend the remaining surplus highly enriched uranium down to an enrichment level of about 0.9 percent for disposal as low-level radioactive waste. Highly enriched uranium used in support of ongoing CMR activities could be dispositioned, when necessary, using material management methods described in the *Highly Enriched Uranium EIS*.

#### **1.6.1.3 *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Stockpile Stewardship and Management (DOE/EIS-0236)***

In September 1996, DOE issued the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Stockpile Stewardship and Management* (DOE 1996b). This Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) evaluated the potential environmental impacts resulting from activities associated with nuclear weapons research, design, development, and testing, as well as the assessment and certification of weapons' safety and reliability. The stewardship portion of the document analyzed the development of three new facilities to provide enhanced experimental capabilities. The Record of Decision was published in the *Federal Register* on December 26, 1996 (61 FR 68014). In the Record of Decision, DOE elected to downsize a number of weapons complex facilities, build the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and reestablish pit fabrication capability at LANL. A supplemental analysis (DOE/EIS-0236-SA, September 1999) was prepared to examine the plausibility of a building-wide fire at LANL's Plutonium Facility and to examine new studies regarding seismic hazards at LANL. The supplemental analysis concluded there was no need to prepare a supplemental EIS. The impacts of this action were included in the baseline assessment and are included in the potential cumulative impacts resulting from the *CMRR EIS* proposed action. In addition, as identified in the *CMRR EIS* Notice of Intent (67 FR 48160), CMR capabilities at LANL support the stockpile stewardship mission addressed in the *Stockpile and Stewardship Management EIS*.



#### **1.6.1.4 Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Managing Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Radioactive and Hazardous Waste (DOE/EIS-0200-F)**

In May 1997, DOE issued the *Final Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Managing Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Radioactive and Hazardous Waste* (DOE 1997b). This PEIS examined the potential environmental and cost impacts of strategic management alternatives for managing five types of radioactive and hazardous wastes resulting from nuclear defense and research activities at sites around the United States. The five waste types are low-level mixed waste, low-level radioactive waste, transuranic waste, high-level radioactive waste, and hazardous waste. This PEIS provided information on the impacts of various siting alternatives that DOE would use to decide at which sites to locate additional treatment, storage, and disposal capacity for each waste type. This information included the cumulative impacts of combining future siting configurations for the five waste types and the collective impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future capabilities.

The selective waste management facilities considered for the five waste types were treatment and disposal facilities for low-level mixed waste, treatment and disposal facilities for low-level radioactive waste, treatment and storage facilities for transuranic waste (in the event that treatment is required before disposal), storage facilities for canisters of treated (vitrified) high-level radioactive waste, and treatment of nonwastewater hazardous waste by DOE and commercial vendors. In addition to the No Action Alternative, which included only existing or approved waste management facilities, the alternatives for each of the five waste type configurations included decentralized, regionalized, and centralized alternatives for using existing and operating new waste management facilities. However, the siting, construction, and operation of any new facility at a selected site would not be decided until completion of a sitewide or project-specific environmental review.

DOE published four decisions from this PEIS. In its Record of Decision for the Treatment and Management of Transuranic Waste published in the *Federal Register* (63 FR 3629) and subsequent revisions to this Record of Decision (65 FR 82985, 66 FR 38646, and 67 FR 56989, respectively), DOE decided (with one exception) that each DOE site that currently has or will generate transuranic waste would prepare its transuranic waste for disposal and store the waste onsite until it could be shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico, for disposal.

In the second Record of Decision published in the *Federal Register* (63 FR 41810), DOE decided to continue using offsite facilities for the treatment of major portions of the nonwastewater hazardous waste generated at DOE sites. This decision did not involve any transfers of nonwastewater hazardous waste among DOE sites.

In the third Record of Decision, published in the *Federal Register* on August 26, 1999 (64 FR 46661), DOE decided to store immobilized high-level radioactive waste in a final form at the site of generation [Hanford Site, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), Savannah River Site (SRS), and the West Valley Demonstration Project] until transfer to a geologic repository for ultimate disposal.

DOE addressed the management and disposal of low-level and mixed radioactive waste in a fourth Record of Decision, published in the *Federal Register* on February 25, 2000 (65 FR 10061). In this Record of Decision, DOE decided to perform minimal treatment of low-level radioactive waste at all sites and continue, to the extent practicable, disposal of onsite low-level radioactive waste at INEEL, LANL, the Oak Ridge Reservation, and SRS. DOE decided to treat mixed low-level radioactive waste at the Hanford Site, INEEL, the Oak Ridge Reservation, and SRS, with disposal at the Hanford Site and the Nevada Test Site (NTS). Radioactive and hazardous wastes generated by current and future CMR operations at LANL would continue to be managed in accordance with these and amended Records of Decisions.

#### **1.6.1.5 *Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/EIS-0238)***

In January 1999, DOE issued the *LANL SWEIS* (DOE 1999a). This document assessed four alternatives for the operation of LANL: (1) No Action, (2) Expanded Operations, (3) Reduced Operations, and (4) Greener Alternative. The Record of Decision for the *LANL SWEIS* was published in the *Federal Register* on September 20, 1999 (64 FR 50797). In the Record of Decision, DOE selected the Expanded Operations Alternative with reductions to certain weapons-related work. The Expanded Operations Alternative described in the *LANL SWEIS* analyzed the impacts from the continuation of all present activities at LANL, at the highest level of activity. The Record of Decision states that operations at the CMR Building would continue and increase by approximately 25 percent over past No Action operational levels. The effects from the Expanded Operations Alternative level of activity at LANL are discussed in Chapter 4, “Environmental Consequences,” of the *LANL SWEIS*, and have been included in the assessment of baseline conditions at LANL for the proposed action alternatives presented in this EIS.

The No Action Alternative assessed in this EIS is consistent with the Preferred Alternative identified in the *LANL SWEIS* and its associated Record of Decision. However, as a result of continued reductions in the CMR Building's operational capacity due to the structural deterioration caused by aging and the need to ensure compliance with safety requirements for that building, the No Action Alternative no longer allows UC at LANL to fully meet NNSA's CMR mission requirements at LANL. The No Action Alternative analyzed in the *CMRR EIS* reflects the current reduced level of operations at the CMR Building.

#### **1.6.1.6 *Surplus Plutonium Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0283)***

In November 1999, DOE issued the *Surplus Plutonium Disposition Final Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE 1999d), an EIS that was tiered from the *Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0229). The Record of Decision for the PEIS, published in the *Federal Register* on January 14, 1997 (62 FR 3014), outlined DOE's approach to plutonium disposition and established the groundwork for the *Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS*. The fundamental purpose of the program is to ensure that plutonium produced for nuclear weapons and declared excess to national security needs (now and in the future) will never again be used for nuclear weapons.

The *Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS* evaluated reasonable alternatives for the siting, construction, and operation of facilities required to implement DOE's disposition strategy for up to 55 tons (50 metric tons) of surplus plutonium. The disposition facilities analyzed in the *Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS* included pit disassembly and conversion, plutonium conversion and immobilization, and mixed oxide fuel fabrication. The *Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS* also analyzed the potential impacts of fabricating a limited number of mixed oxide fuel assemblies for testing in a reactor.

In the Record of Decision, published in the *Federal Register* on January 11, 2000 (65 FR 1608), DOE decided to provide for the safe and secure disposition of surplus plutonium as mixed oxide fuel through immobilization. On April 19, 2002 (67 FR 19432) DOE/NNSA amended the Records of Decision for the *Storage and Disposition of Weapons-Usable Fissile Materials PEIS* and *Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS*. This Amended Record of Decision announced the cancellation of the immobilization portion of the disposition strategy as well as changes to NNSA's strategy for long-term storage of surplus pit and nonpit plutonium. Plutonium used in support of ongoing CMR activities could be dispositioned, when necessary, using material management methods described in the *Surplus Plutonium Disposition EIS*.

#### **1.6.1.7 *Special Environmental Analysis for the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration: Actions Taken in Response to the Cerro Grande Fire at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/SEA-03)***

In September 2000, NNSA issued this special environmental analysis (SEA) to document their assessment of the impacts of emergency activities conducted at LANL in response to the Cerro Grande Fire. In May 2000, the wildfire burned 7,684 acres (3,110 hectares) within the boundaries of LANL and an additional 35,446 acres (14,345 hectares) in neighboring areas (DOE 2000b). As a result, NNSA took emergency action to protect the lives of its employees, contractors, and subcontractors, and other people living and working in the LANL region, their property, and the environment.

The urgent nature of the actions required in response to the Cerro Grande Fire precluded compliance with NEPA in the usual manner, so NNSA invoked the emergency circumstances clause of both the CEQ's NEPA-implementing regulations (40 CFR 1506.11) and DOE's NEPA-implementing regulations (10 CFR 1021.343). The SEA assessed the impacts that resulted from actions undertaken by NNSA (or on behalf of NNSA or with NNSA funding) to address the emergency situation. The SEA described actions and their impacts, mitigation measures taken for actions that rendered their impacts not significant or that lessened the adverse effects, and an analysis of cumulative impacts. Actions not included in the SEA will be the subject of other NEPA reviews and analyses. Actions taken in response to the SEA are discussed in Chapter 3, "Affected Environment," and have been included in the baseline conditions for the No Action Alternative in the *CMRR EIS*.

**1.6.1.8 Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction and Operation of a New Interagency Emergency Operations Center at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/EA-1376)**

In July 2001, NNSA issued the *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction and Operation of a New Interagency Emergency Operations Center at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE 2001). The purpose for this EA was to evaluate the impacts of the construction and operation of a new Interagency Emergency Operations Center (Center) at TA-69 at LANL. The new Center will include a 30,000-square-foot (2,700-square-meter) facility, a garage, a 130-car parking lot, and a 150-foot-tall (46-meter) fire suppression water storage tank with antenna attachments on about a 5-acre (2-hectare) site. The new Center will be designed as a state-of-the-art multi-use facility housing about 30 full-time UC and Los Alamos County (or their contractor) staff. Under normal operating conditions, the facility will serve as the County fire, police, and 911-dispatch center and the administrative offices for the LANL Emergency Management and Response staff. Up to about 120 Federal, state, local, and tribal representatives may also be accommodated at the Center in the event of an emergency on the general scale of the May 2000 Cerro Grande Fire. The new Center will be designed to meet and withstand, to the extent practical, any anticipated emergency such that emergency response actions will likely not be compromised by the emergency itself. The Finding of No Significant Impact was signed on July 26, 2001. The effects of this action are factored into the assessment of potential cumulative impacts at LANL in the *CMRR EIS*.

**1.6.1.9 Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Disposition of the Omega West Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/EA-1410)**

In March 2002, NNSA issued the *Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Disposition of the Omega West Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE 2002a). This EA was prepared to analyze the environmental consequences of removing the Omega West Facility and the remaining support structures from Los Alamos Canyon. The Proposed Action included the characterization, decontamination of structures (the removal of radiological and chemical contamination to minimize the amount of waste disposed), and the demolition of structures (including the reactor vessel); the segregation, size reduction, packaging, transportation, and disposal of wastes; and removal of several feet of potentially contaminated soil from beneath the Omega West Facility. Under the Proposed Action, two waste disposal options were evaluated. One would involve the transportation of up to 330 covered truckloads [approximately 144,000 cubic feet (4,080 cubic meters)] of radioactive low-level waste to another disposal site or a commercial facility. The other option would involve managing the low-level waste onsite at LANL at TA-54, Area G.

A Phased Removal Alternative was also considered involving similar decontamination and demolition actions as the Proposed Action to ensure the safe removal and disposal of waste resulting from the immediate removal of the support buildings and structures. In the Phased Removal Alternative, the demolition of the reactor vessel and Room 101 of Building 2-1, which houses the empty reactor vessel, would be conducted at an undetermined time in the future before 2025. The Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Action was signed on

March 28, 2002. The effects of this action are factored into the assessment of potential cumulative impacts at LANL in the *CMRR EIS*.

**1.6.1.10 *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Future Disposition of Certain Cerro Grande Fire Flood and Sediment Retention Structures at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/EA-1408)***

In August 2002, NNSA issued the *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Future Disposition of Certain Cerro Grande Fire Flood and Sediment Retention Structures at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE 2002c). This EA was prepared to analyze the environmental consequences resulting from future disposition of certain flood retention structures built within the boundaries of LANL in the wake of the Cerro Grande Fire. In May 2000, a prescription burn, started on Federally-administered land to the northwest of LANL, blew out of control and was designated as a wildfire. This wildfire, which became known as the Cerro Grande Fire, burned approximately 7,684 acres (3,110 hectares) within the boundaries of LANL. During the fire, a number of emergency actions were undertaken by DOE and NNSA to suppress and extinguish the fire within LANL. Immediately thereafter, NNSA undertook additional emergency actions to address the post-fire conditions. Due to hydrophobic soils (nonpermeable soil areas created as a result of very high temperatures often associated with wildfires) and the loss of vegetation from steep canyon sides caused by the fire, surface runoff and soil erosion on hillsides above LANL were greatly increased over prefire levels. The danger to LANL facilities and structures and homes located down-canyon from the burned area was magnified.

NNSA constructed certain flood and sediment detention structures in the wake of the Cerro Grande Fire as part of its emergency response actions. These structures were built to address the changes in local watershed conditions that resulted from the fire. The long-term disposition of these structures was not considered as part of the decision to undertake the construction actions. Watershed conditions are expected to return to a prefire status or approximate the prefire condition over the next 3 to 8 years. NNSA needs to take actions regarding the disposition of these structures when they are no longer necessary to protect LANL facilities and the businesses and homes located downstream. The structures addressed in this EA are: (1) a flood retention structure constructed of roller-compacted concrete located in Pajarito Canyon; (2) a low-head weir, constructed of rectangular rock-filled wire cages (gabions), and associated sediment detention basin in Los Alamos Canyon; (3) reinforcements of four road crossings, including a land bridge along Anchor Ranch Road in Two-Mile Canyon and State Road 501 embankment reinforcements at Two-Mile Canyon, Pajarito Canyon, and Water Canyon; and (4) a steel diversion wall upstream of TA-18 in Pajarito Canyon.

The Proposed Action is to remove part of the above ground portion of the flood retention structure, including gabions that are currently being installed along the downstream channel. Design studies would be performed at the time of removal to determine the channel width needed and the required slope. At the end of the partial flood retention structure removal, the streambed would be graded, the remaining sides of the flood retention structure would be stabilized, and the banks would be reseeded. The Proposed Action would also include removal of the access road in order for that part of the canyon wall to be recontoured and stabilized if TA-18 facilities remain

in place; if TA-18 facilities are relocated, this access road might remain in place. The area would be monitored and maintained to prevent erosion of the slopes and damage to the flood plain and downstream wetlands. The Proposed Action also includes removal of the entire above ground portions of the steel diversion wall at TA-18. Any removal of the two identified structures would not occur until after the Pajarito watershed has returned to prefire conditions, or the local ecosystem has recovered enough to approximate a prefire condition. The Proposed Action would leave the other subject structures in place with continued performance of routine maintenance activities. The Finding of No Significant Impact was signed on August 7, 2002. The effects of this action are factored into the assessment of potential cumulative impacts at LANL in the *CMRR EIS*.

**1.6.1.11 *Environmental Assessment for Proposed Access Control and Traffic Improvements at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/EA-1429)***

In August 2002, NNSA issued the *Final Environmental Assessment for Proposed Access Control and Traffic Improvements at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE 2002d)*. This EA was prepared to analyze the environmental consequences resulting from the construction of eastern and western bypass roads around the LANL TA-3 area and the installation of vehicle access controls and related improvements to enhance security along Pajarito Road and in the LANL core area. This Proposed Action would modify the current roadway network and traffic patterns. It would also result in traversing Areas of Environmental Interest identified in the *LANL Habitat Management Plan*, demolition of part of an historic structure at Building 3-40, and traversing several potential release sites and part of the Los Alamos County landfill. The Finding of No Significant Impact was signed on August 23, 2002. The effects of this action are factored into the assessment of potential cumulative impacts at LANL in the *CMRR EIS*.

**1.6.1.12 *Environmental Assessment for the Installation and Operation of Combustion Turbine Generators at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/EA-1430)***

In December 2002, NNSA issued a final EA and a Finding of No Significant Impact for a proposal to install and operate two new simple-cycle, gas-fired combustion turbine generators (CTGs), each with an approximate output of 20 megawatts of electricity, as stand-alone structures within the Building-22 Co-generation Complex at TA-3 (DOE 2002g). Installation of the CTGs will occur consecutively and will include installation of two new compressors to provide the gas pressure required for operation of the CTGs. The project will consider two options: (Option A) installation of two CTGs (CTG 1 and CTG 2) that would be used long term as simple-cycle, gas-fired turbine generators without cogeneration capabilities, and (Option B) installation and subsequent conversion of one or both of the installed CTGs from simple-cycle operation to combined-cycle cogeneration at some future date. In addition to these two options for installing and operating the proposed CTGs, the existing steam turbines in the TA-3 Cogeneration Complex will be maintained and refurbished and will continue to be operated long term with the CTGs. The contributory effects of this action are factored into the assessment of potential cumulative impacts at LANL in the *CMRR EIS*.

### **1.6.1.13 Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Relocation of Technical Area 18 Capabilities and Materials at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (DOE/EIS-319)**

In August 2002, NNSA issued the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Relocation of Technical 18 Capabilities and Materials at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (TA-18 Relocation EIS)* (DOE 2002e). This EIS evaluated the potential impacts of relocating criticality experiment capabilities and SNM from TA-18, a facility at LANL that supports defense and national security missions. TA-18 is the Nation's only facility currently capable of performing general-purpose nuclear materials handling for a variety of experiments, measurements, nonproliferation safeguards and arms control, and training. The *TA-18 Relocation EIS* evaluated the potential environmental impacts associated with relocating TA-18 capabilities and materials to the following alternative locations: (1) LANL's TA-55; (2) the Device Assembly Facility at NTS (the Preferred Alternative); (3) TA-V at Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico (SNL/NM); and (4) the Argonne National Laboratory-West (ANL-W), located near Idaho Falls, Idaho. In addition, the *TA-18 Relocation EIS* also evaluated the No Action Alternative of maintaining the capabilities and materials at the present TA-18 location as described in the *LANL SWEIS*, and upgrading these existing facilities to meet current and future DOE environmental safety and health requirements.

In the Record of Decision, published in the *Federal Register* on December 31, 2002 (67 FR 251), DOE decided to relocate TA-18 Security Category I and II capabilities and materials to the Device Assembly Facility at NTS. The contributory effects of ongoing activities at TA-18 have been included in the conditions described for LANL in Chapter 3, "Affected Environment," and are included in the potential cumulative impacts resulting from the *CMRR EIS* proposed action.

## **1.6.2 Ongoing NEPA Compliance Actions**

### **1.6.2.1 Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Stockpile Stewardship and Management for a Modern Pit Facility (DOE/EIS-0236-S2)**

On September 23, 2002, NNSA issued a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* (67 FR 59577) to prepare a *Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Stockpile Stewardship and Management for a Modern Pit Facility (MPF EIS)* in order to decide: (1) whether to proceed with the Modern Pit Facility (MPF); and (2) if so, where to locate the MPF. The draft *MPF EIS* was issued on May 28, 2003; the Notice of Availability was published in the *Federal Register* on June 6, 2003 (68 FR 33934). The final *MPF EIS* is planned for issuance in April 2004.

NNSA is responsible for the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, including protection of production readiness to maintain that stockpile. Since 1989, DOE has been without the capability to produce plutonium pits (the portion of a nuclear weapon that generates the fission energy to drive modern thermonuclear weapons). NNSA, the Department of Defense (DoD), and Congress have highlighted the lack of long-term pit production capability as a national security issue requiring timely resolution. While an interim capability is currently being established at LANL, classified analyses indicate that this capability will not suffice for

long-term maintenance of the nuclear deterrent that is a cornerstone of U.S. national security policy.

Consistent with the 1996 *SSM PEIS* Record of Decision (61 FR 68014) and the 1999 *LANL SWEIS* Record of Decision (64 FR 50797), NNSA has been reestablishing a small pit manufacturing capability at LANL. The establishment of the interim pit production capacity is expected to be completed in 2007. However, classified analyses indicate that the capability being established at LANL will not support either the projected capacity requirements (number of pits to be produced over a period of time), or the agility (ability to rapidly change from production of one pit type to another, ability to simultaneously produce multiple pit types, or the flexibility to produce pits of a new design in a timely manner) necessary for long-term support of the stockpile. In particular, any systemic problems that might be identified in an existing pit type or class of pits (particularly any aging phenomenon) could not be adequately addressed today nor with the capability being established at LANL. Although no such problems have been identified, the potential increases as pits age. NNSA's inability to respond to such issues is a matter of national security concern. NNSA is responsible for ensuring that appropriate pit production capacity and agility are available when needed, and this Supplement to the *SSM PEIS* is being undertaken to assist NNSA in discharging this responsibility.

The CMRR Facility would provide AC and MC capabilities for existing mission support assignments at LANL that are expected to continue for the long-term. Such AC and MC capabilities are needed independent of the proposed action that will be analyzed in the *MPF EIS* for constructing and operating a new MPF at one of five DOE and NNSA sites across the county. The CMRR Facility could provide AC and MC support capabilities for pit manufacturing at LANL if a decision were made not to construct a new MPF and, instead, to continue to use LANL's existing capabilities and facilities for pit manufacturing (this possibility was explicitly analyzed in the *LANL SWEIS* Expanded Operations Alternative and is implicitly analyzed in this *CMRR EIS*). However, should a decision be made to construct a new MPF at LANL, the level of AC and MC support capabilities required for pit production capacities associated with the new MPF would be beyond LANL's pit production level capacity as described in the *LANL SWEIS* Expanded Operations Alternative and would also be beyond the level of pit manufacturing AC and MC support that would be provided by the new CMRR Facility. The conceptual design for a new MPF includes locating necessary support capabilities for AC and MC work within the MPF itself – the MPF would be a self-contained facility in that respect. The *MPF EIS* will, accordingly, analyze the direct environmental impacts of AC and MC capabilities for pit manufacturing associated with a new MPF for the various operational level options under consideration for that facility. The cumulative impact section (Section 4.8 of this EIS) provides an assessment of the environmental impacts of constructing and operating both the CMRR Facility and a new MPF at LANL (to the extent those impacts are known or can be currently estimated).



**1.6.2.2 Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Issuance of a Special Use Permit to the Incorporated County of Los Alamos for the Development and Operation of a New Solid Waste Landfill at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/EA-1460)**

In December 2002, NNSA determined the need to prepare an EA for a proposal by the Incorporated County of Los Alamos to develop and operate a new solid waste landfill within LANL for nonhazardous wastes. The wastes disposed of at this new landfill would be generated by LANL operations and by commercial and residential users within Los Alamos County. The existing Los Alamos County Landfill, also located within the LANL boundaries, would be closed and monitored. The existing landfill site would be used to recycle wastes and compact and bale wastes that could not be recycled. The baled wastes would be trucked periodically to the new landfill for disposal. The EA preparation has been placed on hold pending the development of additional project information. The contributory effects of this action are factored into the assessment of potential cumulative impacts at LANL in the *CMRR EIS* (to the extent environmental effects are known or can be currently estimated).

**1.6.2.3 Environmental Assessment for Partial Conversion of an Existing TA-55 Building into a Nondestructive Examination Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico (DOE/EA-1428)**

In March 2002, NNSA identified its intent to prepare an EA regarding the renovation of Building 55-41, located within TA-55 at LANL, to accommodate x-ray generators and associated support equipment needed to perform nondestructive examinations of nuclear items and components. Currently, nuclear components and items are shipped from TA-55 to radiography facilities at TA-8 over a distance of approximately 4 miles (6.4 kilometers). This requires implementation of a rolling roadblock when the materials are transported, and setup of a temporary material accountability area at TA-8 while the nondestructive examination procedures take place. The proposed action would provide a more efficient nondestructive radiography capability to support SSM programs at LANL, and eliminate the need for transport outside the security perimeters of TA-55 where nuclear items and components, including pits, are stored or managed. The contributory effects of this action are factored into the assessment of potential cumulative impacts at LANL in the *CMRR EIS* (to the extent that environmental effects are known or can be currently estimated).

**1.6.3 Relationships to Other LANL Projects**

DOE routinely conducts planning activities at its sites to identify long-term strategies and options for maintaining infrastructure in support of various missions. As part of these efforts, potential projects or actions are identified as options for future consideration. Many of these projects never go beyond the initial planning phases due to various factors such as insufficient justification or inadequate funding.

In order to perform the necessary long-term integrated planning for nuclear facilities capabilities at LANL, NNSA and LANL staff have established the INP effort. As previously stated in Section 1.5, INP is chartered to provide an integrated, coordinated plan for the consolidation of

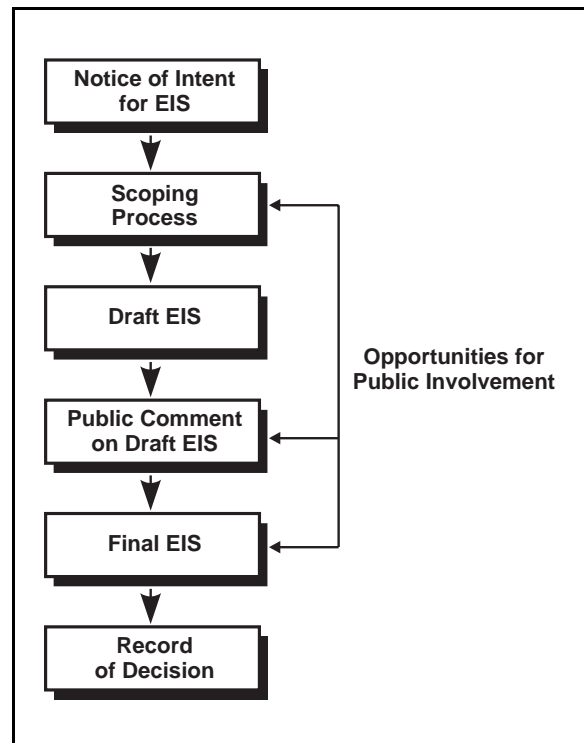
LANL nuclear facility construction, refurbishment and upgrade, and retirement activities, including those of the proposed CMRR Facility. Security Category I nuclear operations at the CMR Building are discussed in Section 1.1. While proposals regarding CMR activities may fall within the scope of this plan along with other activities such as analytical chemistry, security, and pit manufacturing, NNSA has determined that the CMRR proposal must move forward independent of this broader planning effort to ensure continuous mission support. Many of the activities in this planning effort are in the preliminary phase of consideration and the efforts are too speculative at the present time for NEPA analysis and decision making. To the extent sufficient information is available, this *CMRR EIS* discusses the potential cumulative impacts from other reasonably foreseeable activities at LANL.

## 1.7 THE SCOPING PROCESS

As a preliminary step in the development of an EIS, regulations established by the CEQ (40 CFR 1501.7) and DOE require “an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.” The purpose of this scoping process is: (1) to inform the public about a proposed action and the alternatives being considered, and (2) to identify and/or clarify issues that are relevant to the EIS by soliciting public comments.

On July 23, 2002, NNSA published a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* (67 FR 48160) to prepare the *CMRR EIS*. In this Notice of Intent, NNSA invited public comment on the *CMRR EIS* proposal. During the NEPA process, there are several opportunities for public involvement (see **Figure 1–3**). The Notice of Intent listed the issues initially identified by NNSA for evaluation in the EIS. Public citizens, civic leaders, and other interested parties were invited to comment on these issues and to suggest additional issues that should be considered in the EIS. The Notice of Intent informed the public that comments on the proposed action could be communicated via the U.S. mail, a special DOE website on the Internet, a toll-free phone line, a toll-free fax line, and in person at public meetings to be held in the vicinity of LANL.

Public scoping meetings were held on August 13, 2002, in Pojoaque, New Mexico and on August 15, 2002, in Los Alamos, New Mexico. As a result of previous experience and positive responses from attendees of other DOE NEPA public meetings and hearings, NNSA chose an interactive format for the scoping meetings. Each meeting began with a presentation by NNSA representatives who explained the proposed CMRR Facility project. Afterwards, the



**Figure 1–3 NEPA Process**

floor was opened to questions, comments, and concerns from the audience. NNSA representatives were available to respond to questions and comments. The proceedings and formal comments presented at each meeting were recorded verbatim, and a transcript of each meeting was produced. The public was also encouraged to submit written or verbal comments during the meetings, or to submit comments via letters, the DOE website, toll-free phone line, or toll-free fax line, until the end of the scoping period. All comments received during the scoping period were reviewed for consideration by NNSA in preparing this EIS.

It should be noted that, for EIS public scoping purposes, a comment is defined as a single opinion concerning a specific issue. An individual commentor's public statement may contain several such comments. Most of the verbal and written public statements submitted during the EIS scoping period contained multiple comments on various specific issues. These issues are summarized in the following section.

### **Summary of Major Comments**

Approximately 75 comments were received from citizens, interested groups, and local officials during the public scoping period. Many of the verbal and written comments received addressed the need to identify the decontamination and decommissioning of the existing CMR Building, including expected waste streams and volumes, its impact upon the Low-Level Radioactive Solid Waste Disposal Facility (TA-54), and the transportation and security risks that would be associated with transferring any existing inventories of SNM. Additional waste management concerns expressed by commentors included the need to identify the types and volumes of waste generated by the proposed action; the facilities available at each site to treat, store, or dispose of the waste; and compatibility of the proposed action with state and Federal regulations.

Many of the comments also addressed the need for NNSA to describe in detail the existing CMR Building capabilities and processes versus those of the proposed replacement building, as well as the specific NNSA mission requirements supporting the purpose and need for the proposed action. In particular, comments addressed the design and cost of any buildings to be constructed or modified, need for handling containment vessels, validity of experiments to evaluate aging effects on weapons materials, and controls to limit releases to the environment.

Several comments addressed the need for NNSA to describe the relationship of the proposed action to the Stockpile Stewardship Program, other existing DOE NEPA documentation, and proposed new plutonium pit production facilities. In particular, commentors expressed concern over the potential for improper segmentation of analyses and the possible need for an “*integrated TA-55 EIS.*”

Commentors also expressed concern about environmental, health, and safety risks associated with the new CMRR Facility operations. They requested that NNSA evaluate the potential consequences of the proposed action on the health and safety of area residents and address environmental justice issues, including the potential impacts to environmental, aesthetic, and cultural resources of adjacent Pueblo lands. Comments also suggested that the EIS quantify all radionuclides and chemicals used and emitted from the proposed replacement building. Concerns were raised about the safety and security of the facilities, including how NNSA would

address possible acts of sabotage, and the risks associated with transferring SNM inventories between the existing CMR Building and the new CMRR Facility.

Major issues identified by NNSA during the scoping process were addressed in this EIS in the following areas:

- Land use and visual resources
- Site infrastructure
- Air quality and noise
- Water resources, including surface water and groundwater
- Geology and soils
- Ecological resources, including terrestrial resources, wetlands, aquatic resources, and threatened and endangered species
- Cultural and paleontological resources, including prehistoric resources, historic resources, and Native American resources
- Socioeconomics, including regional economic characteristics, demographic characteristics, housing and community services, and local transportation
- Environmental justice
- Radiological and hazardous chemical impacts during routine normal operations and accidents
- Waste management and pollution prevention
- Emergency preparedness and security

In addition to these areas, the EIS also addresses monitoring and mitigation, unavoidable impacts and irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources, and impacts of long-term productivity.

## **1.8 ISSUES RAISED DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON THE DRAFT EIS**

In April 2003, NNSA published the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE/EIS-0350) (*CMRR Draft EIS*). A Notice of Availability and notification of public hearing times and locations was published in the *Federal Register* on May 15, 2003 (68 FR 26296). The regulations implementing NEPA mandate a minimum 45-day public comment period after publication of a draft EIS to provide an opportunity for comment on the draft EIS. In addition, CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1503.1), require NNSA to invite affected Federal, state and local governmental agencies; affected American Indian Tribes; and other interested parties and members of the public to comment on the draft EIS. DOE regulations implementing NEPA also require at least one public hearing be held during the public comment period for the purposes of soliciting public comment (10 CFR 1021.313).

The public comment period on the *CMRR Draft EIS* began on May 16, 2003, and ended on June 30, 2003. The public comment period began when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its Notice of Availability of the *CMRR Draft EIS* in the *Federal Register*

(68 FR 26606). Public hearings were held on June 3, 2003, at Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos, New Mexico and on June 4, 2003, at the Pablo Roybal Elementary School in Pojoaque, New Mexico. A court reporter and Spanish-language translator were present at the hearings to facilitate and record oral comments. In addition, the public was encouraged to submit written comments via the U.S. mail, e-mail, or by facsimile. A toll-free telephone number was also provided for persons who wished to make oral comments on the *CMRR Draft EIS* during the public comment period.

During the public comment period, 222 comments were received. Most of the comments focused on the following: opposition to all nuclear weapons related activities; opposition to construction and operation of a new CMRR Facility; and suggested revisions to the draft EIS. The reasons cited by commentors for their positions and NNSA's general response to these issues are summarized below.

- *Reasons cited for opposition to all nuclear weapons related activities that could be conducted by NNSA, including those nuclear weapons stockpile mission support activities that could be performed at a new CMRR Facility, included perceived violations of international treaties, philosophical opposition to the possession of or use of nuclear weapons, and a lack of justification for needing AC and MC, and other weapons-related capabilities, based on potential plutonium aging affects.*
- *Reasons cited for opposition to construction and operation of a new CMRR Facility included high cost and potential high radiological accident risks to the general public and adjacent Pueblo lands.*
- *Reasons cited for revising the CMRR Draft EIS included the use of a wildfire, such as the Cerro Grande Fire of May 2000, as an accident initiator, calculation of radiological risks resulting from a criticality accident, and more detailed explanation of liquid low-level radiological waste treatment and disposal.*

While the manufacture, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons is a subject of continuing national and international debate, this debate is beyond the scope of the *CMRR EIS*, which focuses on evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives. The U.S. Congress and the President ultimately direct the NNSA's national security missions, including AC and MC capabilities and activities. AC and MC mission support capabilities at LANL are conducted in compliance with state, Federal, and international laws and regulations, including the provisions of international treaties. Nuclear weapons are not constructed in the existing CMR Building and would not be constructed in the new CMRR Facility. Activities performed in a new CMRR Facility would support maintenance of the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, among other NNSA mission support functions. The need for a new facility to replace the 50-year old aging structure is independent of consideration of potential plutonium aging effects within nuclear weapons.

Although cost is one of several factors that will be considered by NNSA decision makers during preparation of the Record of Decision, it is beyond the scope of the *CMRR EIS*, which focuses on evaluating the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives. Detailed cost estimates

for such a construction project have not yet been prepared as it is too early in the planning process. An estimated range of costs (a “ball park” figure) has been prepared that places potential construction costs between \$420 million to \$955 million, consistent with DOE Order 413.3 requirements for this phase of a project. A detailed cost estimate for the project would be established at Critical Decision 2 (Approval of Performance Baseline) if project planning is allowed to proceed to that stage.

The facility accident impact analysis conducted for the *CMRR EIS* includes analyses of the unmitigated consequences that could result from severe accidents. These unmitigated accidents were included to bound the accident consequences. Such accidents are unlikely to occur, and would, in practice, be mitigated by safety features of and operating procedures for the new CMRR Facility. As discussed throughout Chapter 4 and Appendix C, radiological risks to the public and adjacent Pueblo of San Ildefonso lands would be small.

As discussed in Chapter 3 of this EIS, the Cerro Grande Fire of May 2000 burned approximately 7,684 acres (3,110 hectares) of forested area within the LANL boundary. Buildings at TA-55 were not burned by the fire, and no other key facilities at LANL were burned. The *CMRR EIS* analyzes the consequences of a fire in the main vault as well as a structure-wide fire. The consequences of these accident scenarios would be the same regardless of the initiating event(s) and no changes to the text of the EIS have been made. Criticality accidents were not presented in the *CMRR Draft EIS*, because such accidents are considered to be highly unlikely and would pose little risk to the public. Additional discussion about criticality accidents has been included in the final EIS in response to public comment (see Section C.3.3 of Appendix C). Also, as a result of public comment on the draft EIS, estimates of the volume and descriptive information about the treatment and disposal of liquid low-level radioactive waste generated by CMR operations were revised.

In total, 222 comments were received on the *CMRR Draft EIS* via public comment forms, letters, e-mail, and verbal comments provided at the public hearings. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to review and publically comment on environmental impacts by Federal Agencies; the EPA reviewed the draft *CMRR EIS* and classified the project and the document as an “LO”, Lack of Objection. Appendix E of this *CMRR EIS* provides copies of the actual comments received, including the EPA’s classification letter, and NNSA’s individual comment responses.

The following section identifies changes made to the *CMRR EIS* due, in part, to comments received on the draft *CMRR EIS*.

## **1.9 CHANGES SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT EIS**

In response to comments on the *CMRR Draft EIS*, the final EIS contains some revisions. These revisions are indicated by a double underline for minor word changes or by a side bar in the margin text additions that are a sentence or more in length. Appendix E contains the comments received on the *CMRR Draft EIS* and NNSA’s responses to those comments. The most important changes included in the final EIS are listed below.

### *Issues raised on the draft EIS*

A new Section 1.8 was added to summarize the issues raised during the public comment period.

### *Changes since the issuance of the draft EIS*

A new section 1.9 was added to list the changes included in the final EIS.

### *Other related NEPA reviews*

Section 1.6 was revised to include recent information from NEPA documents issued since the issuance of the *CMRR Draft EIS*. Since the issuance of the *CMRR Draft EIS*, the *Modern Pit Facility Draft EIS* was issued.

### *Nuclear Materials Operational Capabilities and Space for non-LANL Users*

Section 2.4.6 was revised to exclude the option of relocating and consolidating Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Hazard Category 2 operations at the new CMRR Facility.

### *Summary of Environmental Consequences for the CMRR Replacement Project*

The estimated volume of low-level radioactive waste generated by each of the alternatives was revised in Table 2–3 to account for additional solid low-level radioactive waste generated by the treatment of liquid low-level radioactive wastes generated by CMR operations.

### *Air Quality*

Sections 4.3.3, 4.4.3, 4.5.3, and 4.6.3 were revised to discuss the “General Conformity” rule and explained that no conformity analysis would be required, because LANL is located in an attainment area for all criteria pollutants and ambient air quality standards would not be exceeded by the proposed action alternatives. In addition, a paragraph was added to the discussion of the Clean Air Act in Section 5.3 that explains the purpose of conformity reviews.

### *Groundwater*

Section 3.6.2 was revised to clarify the requirements for sources of drinking water beneath LANL per New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Ground and Surface Water Protection Regulations (NMAC 20.6.2.3000).

### *Threatened and Endangered Species*

Section 3.7.4 was revised to remove the whooping crane (*Gras americana*) from the list of Federal endangered species at LANL. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that there are no natural populations of whooping cranes in the LANL area.

### *Cultural Resources*

Sections 3.8.1, 4.3.7.1, and 4.5.7.1 were revised to note the existence of a prehistoric site, eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, located a short distance outside the boundary of TA-55. The prehistoric site near TA-55 could potentially be impacted by the construction and operation of a new CMRR Facility. If demolition of the CMR Building were to occur, it would be an adverse affect on a register-eligible property. Sections 3.8.2, 4.2.7, 4.5.7.2, 4.6.7.2, and 4.7.2 were revised to address the CMR Building's probable eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

### *Radioactive Liquid Waste*

Sections 3.12, 3.12.4, and 4.3.11.1 were revised to clarify the treatment of liquid low-level radioactive waste generated by CMR operations at the TA-50 Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF). The estimated volume of low-level radioactive waste generated by CMR operations was revised in Tables 2–2, 3–15 and 4–16 to account for additional solid low-level radioactive waste generated by the treatment of liquid low-level radioactive wastes. Table 3–16 was also revised to include the RLWTF and its capacity for treating liquid low-level radioactive waste.

### *Criticality Accident*

Section C.3.3 was revised to explain why a criticality accident was excluded from analysis in the draft EIS.

### *Cumulative Impacts*

Section 4.8 was revised to include the cumulative and contributory effects of constructing and operating a proposed MPF at LANL based on information in the *MPF Draft EIS*.

### *Health Effects Risk Factors*

In response to guidance issued by the DOE's Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (DOE 2003a), health effects risk factors used to calculate radiological health impacts on the public were increased from 0.0005 latent cancer fatalities per rem or per person rem to 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per person or per person rem. For workers, the risk factors were changed from 0.0004 latent cancer fatalities per rem or per person rem to 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per rem or person rem. Radiological risks shown in the Summary, Chapter 2, Chapter 4, Appendix B, and Appendix C reflect the increased risk factors.



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## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Chapter 2 begins with a brief summary description of the current and future support that the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) analytical chemistry and materials characterization (AC and MC) capabilities are providing to the Stockpile Stewardship and Management (SSM) Program. It provides descriptions of the existing Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building and current AC and MC capabilities, as well as the proposed new Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Project (CMRR) Facility. The chapter includes a description of the reasonable alternatives, the alternatives considered and subsequently eliminated from detailed evaluation, the planning assumptions and bases for the analyses presented in the environmental impact statement (EIS), and the Preferred Alternative.

### 2.1 CURRENT AND FUTURE SUPPORT OF STOCKPILE STEWARDSHIP

LANL has been assigned a variety of science, research and development, and production missions that are critical to the accomplishment of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) national security objectives, as reflected in the *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Stockpile Stewardship and Management (SSM PEIS)*; the Record of Decision of which was published in the *Federal Register (FR)* on December 26, 1996 (61 FR 68014). Specific LANL assignments for the foreseeable future include production of War-Reserve (WR) products, assessment and certification of the nuclear weapons stockpile, surveillance of WR components and weapons systems, ensuring safe and secure storage of strategic materials, and management of excess plutonium inventories. In addition, LANL also supports actinide<sup>1</sup> science missions ranging from the plutonium-238 heat-source program for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to arms control and technology development.

The capabilities needed to execute the NNSA and DOE missions require facilities at LANL that can be used to handle actinide metals and other radioactive materials in a safe and secure manner. Of primary importance are the facilities located within Technical Area (TA) 3 (primarily the CMR Building) and TA-55 (primarily the Plutonium Facility) that are used for processing, characterizing, and storing large quantities of special nuclear material (SNM). In addition, the DOE Record of Decision for the *SSM PEIS* indicates that the Plutonium Facility and the CMR Building will require increased SNM storage and handling capabilities to support the pit fabrication mission. The operations in these key facilities, along with those in several support facilities, are critical to the SSM mission and to critical programs supporting the DOE Offices of Science, Environmental Management, Nonproliferation and National Security, and Nuclear Energy, Science, and Technology.

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<sup>1</sup>Actinides are any of a series of elements with atomic numbers ranging from actinium-89 through lawrencium-103.

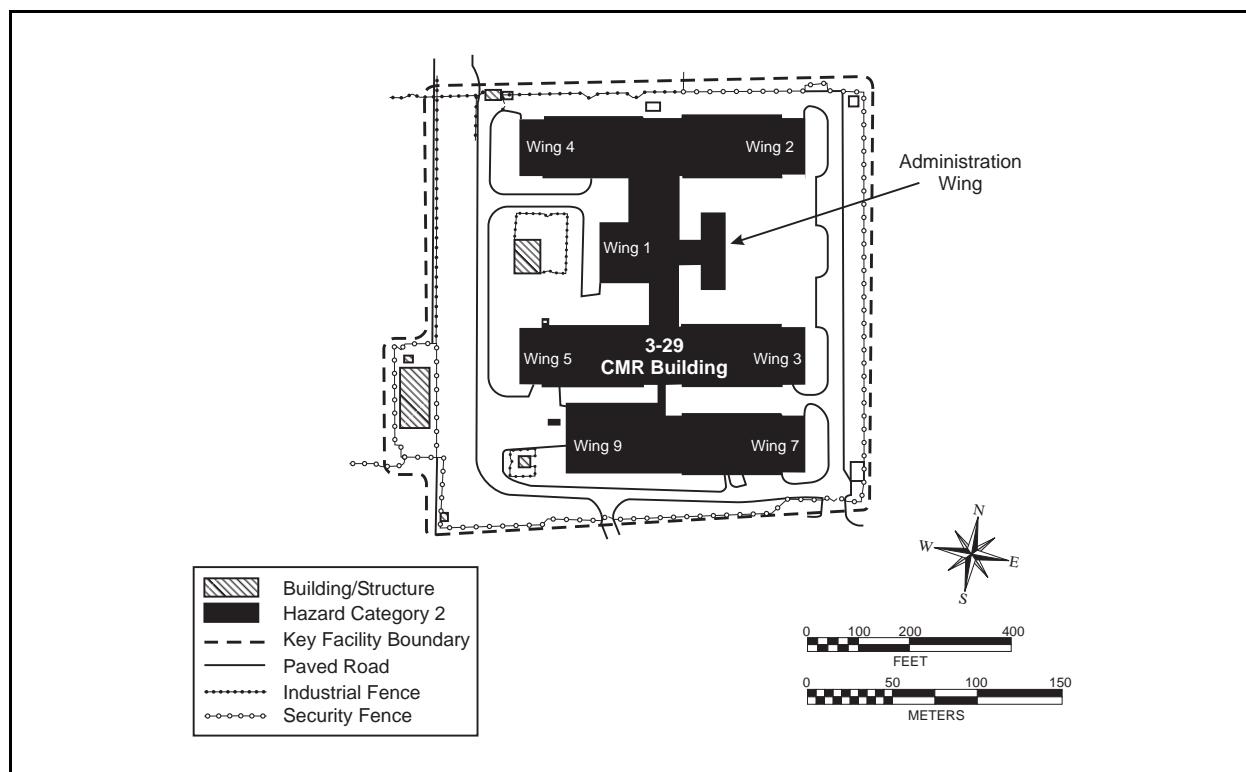
In January 1999, NNSA approved a strategy for managing risks at the CMR Building. This strategy recognized that the 50-year-old CMR Building could not continue its mission support at an acceptable level of risk to public and worker health and safety without operational restrictions. In addition, the strategy committed NNSA and the University of California (UC at LANL) to manage the facility to a planned end-of-life in or about the year 2010. Finally, it committed NNSA and UC at LANL to develop long-term facility and site plans to relocate CMR capabilities elsewhere in LANL, as necessary to maintain support of national security missions. Since this strategy was approved, CMR capabilities have been restricted substantially, both by planned NNSA actions and by unplanned facility outages that have included the operational loss of two of the eight wings of the CMR Building. With each year, additional CMR operations and capabilities are being restricted due to safety and security constraints. For example, the Security Category I SNM storage vault at the CMR Building has been reclassified to a Security Category III/IV storage vault, which limits material inventories. It is apparent that action is required immediately to ensure that LANL can maintain its support of critical national security missions. The CMRR project seeks to relocate and consolidate mission-critical CMR capabilities at LANL to ensure continuous support of NNSA SSM strategic objectives; these capabilities are necessary to support the current and future directed stockpile work and campaign activities at LANL beyond 2010. Given that such action is necessary, it is prudent to also establish any anticipated capabilities and capacities necessary for long-term mission support.

## **2.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING CMR BUILDING**

### **2.2.1 Overview**

The CMR Building (Building 3-29) was designed and built within TA-3 as an actinide chemistry and metallurgy research facility (see **Figure 2-1**). The main corridor with seven wings was constructed between 1949 and 1952. In 1960, a new wing (Wing 9) was added for activities that must be performed in hot cells. The planned Wings 6 and 8 were never constructed. In 1986, an SNM storage vault was added underground. The three-story building now has eight wings (Wings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 and an Administration Wing) connected by a spinal corridor, and contains a total of 550,000 square feet (51,097 square meters) of space. It is a multiple-user facility in which specific wings are associated with different activities and is now the only LANL facility with full capabilities for performing SNM AC and MC. The Plutonium Facility at TA-55 provides support to CMR in the areas of materials control and accountability, waste management, and SNM storage.

Waste treatment and pretreatment conducted within the CMR Building is designed to meet waste acceptance criteria for receiving waste management and disposal facilities, onsite or offsite. The aqueous waste from radioactive activities and other nonhazardous aqueous chemical wastes from the CMR Building are discharged from each wing into a network of drains specifically designated to transport waste solutions to the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF) at TA-50 for treatment and disposal. The primary sources of radioactive inorganic waste at the CMR Building include laboratory sinks, duct washdown systems, and overflows and blowdowns from circulating chilled water systems.



**Figure 2–1 TA-3 Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building**

The CMR Building infrastructure is designed with air, temperature, and power systems that are operational nearly 100 percent of the time. Power to these systems is backed up with an uninterruptible power supply.

The CMR Building was constructed between 1949 and 1952 to the industrial building code standards in effect at that time. Over the intervening years, DOE has systematically identified and corrected some deficiencies and upgraded some systems to address changes in standards or improve safety performance. However, over time, the effects of facility aging combined with changes to safety codes, standards, and requirements have resulted in a situation where the building cannot be operated at levels required to meet mission requirements without restrictions to activities and limits on material inventories. Although completed upgrades to the CMR Building will allow for continued safe nuclear operations at an acceptable level of risk through 2010, it cannot be relied upon to meet long-term mission support requirements beyond that timeframe. Major upgrades to building structural and safety systems would be required to sustain nuclear operations. Furthermore, geologic studies and seismic investigations completed at LANL from 1996 through 1998 identified possible connections between several faults in the surrounding area that could increase the likelihood of fault rupture in TA-3 and beneath the CMR Building. Upgrades to the structure of the CMR Building to address seismic code requirements were identified as being cost prohibitive.

The CMR Building was originally designated as a Hazard Category 2, Security Category II facility under the criteria contained in DOE-STD-1027-92 and DOE Order 474.1-1A. The Security Category designation of a facility is determined by the type, quantity, and attractiveness

level of the material of concern. A Hazard Category 2 facility is defined as a nuclear facility for which a hazard analysis shows the potential for significant onsite consequences. As noted previously, NNSA and UC at LANL have restricted CMR Building operations and have reduced SNM quantities allowed within the Building. As a result, the CMR Building is currently operated as a Hazard Category 3, Security Category III facility. A Hazard Category 3 facility is designated as a nuclear facility for which a hazard analysis estimates the potential for only significant localized consequences.

### **2.2.2 Administrative Wing**

The Administrative Wing and Wing 1 consist of individual office spaces, passageways, and conference rooms on three floors. Access to the CMR Building is through these wings and is controlled. The CMR Building Operations Center monitors all important system parameters and is housed in the Administration Wing.

### **2.2.3 Laboratories**

Each CMR Building wing consists of basement, first, and second floors. Laboratory Wings 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 consist of laboratory modules, passageways, office space, change rooms, and electrical and ventilation equipment rooms separated by interior walls. Change rooms are located on the first floor entrance to each wing. Radiological laboratory modules are located in the center of the first floor of the associated wing. Office spaces are typically located outside the laboratory modules, separated by passageways. Filter towers, which contain ventilation and electrical equipment rooms, are located at the end of each wing, opposite to the spinal corridor end of each wing. A large ventilation equipment room is located on the second floor of each wing adjoining the spinal corridor. Radiological labs contain gloveboxes and hoods required for individual processes. A radioactive liquid waste drainline system routes liquid waste from CMR Building laboratories to the RLWTF at TA-50.

### **2.2.4 Hot Cells (Wing 9)**

Wing 9 consists of office spaces, change rooms, hydraulic plant spaces, laboratories, hot cells, and associated operating areas, radioactive material transfer area, machine shop, and floor well storage. Typically, utility service sources are located in the attic with service piping or conduit dropping down to the serviced spaces.

Hot cell operations include transferring materials between the high bay area and the hot cell corridors; loading and unloading of radioactive materials or sources from shipping or storage casks; unpackaging and packaging of radioactive materials, sources, or wastes; inspections; remote machining operations; remote welding operations; remote sample preparation; chemical processing; mechanical testing; or any similar remote handling operation. These operations also include maintenance and setup activities associated with the hot cells and corridors.

## **2.3 CMR CAPABILITIES**

The operational CMR capabilities at LANL involve work with both radioactive and nonradioactive substances. Work involving radioactive material (including uranium-235, depleted uranium, thorium-231, plutonium-238, and plutonium-239) is performed inside specialized ventilation hoods, hot cells (enclosed, shielded areas that safely facilitate the remote manipulation of radioactive materials), and gloveboxes (enclosed areas with protective gloves that facilitate the safe handling of hazardous materials). Chemicals such as various acids, bases, and organic compounds are used in small quantities, generally in preparation of radioactive materials for processing or analysis.

The *Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for the Continued Operation of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL SWEIS)* described ongoing CMR Building capabilities at the time it was issued. Some of the capabilities are no longer performed at the CMR Building. The principal capabilities currently performed at the CMR Building are described below.

### **2.3.1 AC and MC**

AC and MC capabilities in the CMR Building involve the study, evaluation, and analysis of radioactive materials. In general terms, analytical chemistry is that branch of chemistry that deals with the separation, identification, and determination of the components in a sample. Materials characterization relates to the measurement of basic material properties and the change in those properties as a function of temperature, pressure, or other factors. These activities support research and development associated with various nuclear materials programs, many of which are performed at other LANL locations on behalf of or in support of other sites across the DOE, NNSA complex (such as the Hanford Site, Savannah River Site, and Sandia National Laboratories). Sample characterization activities include assay and determination of isotopic ratios of plutonium, uranium, and other radioactive elements; identification of major and trace elements in materials; the content of gases; constituents at the surface of various materials; and methods to characterize waste constituents in hazardous and radioactive materials.

### **2.3.2 Destructive and Nondestructive Analysis**

Destructive and nondestructive analysis employs analytical chemistry, metallographic analysis, measurement on the basis of neutron or gamma radiation from an item, and other measurement techniques. These activities are used in support of weapons quality, component surveillance, nuclear materials control and accountability, SNM standards development, research and development, environmental restoration, and waste treatment and disposal.

### **2.3.3 Actinide Research and Processing**

Actinide research and processing at the CMR Building typically involves small quantities of solid and aqueous solutions. However, any research involving highly radioactive materials or remote handling may use the hot cells in Wing 9 of the CMR Building to minimize personnel exposure to radiation or other hazardous materials. CMR actinide research and processing may include separation of medical isotopes from targets, processing of neutron sources, and research

into the characteristics of materials, including the behavior or characteristics of materials in extreme environments such as high temperature or pressure.

### **2.3.4 Fabrication and Metallography**

Fabrication and metallography at the CMR Building involves a variety of materials, including hazardous and nuclear materials. Much of this work is done with metallic uranium. A variety of parts, including targets, weapons components, and parts used for research and experimental tasks are fabricated and analyzed.

## **2.4 PROPOSED CMRR PROJECT CAPABILITIES**

This section presents the elements of the operational capabilities proposed to be included within the CMRR project, those elements of existing capabilities housed within the CMR Building that are not planned to carryover into the CMRR project, and a description of the CMRR project alternatives analyzed in this *EIS for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory (CMRR EIS)*.

### **2.4.1 AC and MC Capabilities**

These capabilities include the facility space and equipment needed to support nuclear operations, spectroscopic and analytical instrumentation, nonnuclear space and offices, and nonnuclear laboratory space for staging and testing equipment and experimental work with stable (nonradioactive) materials. Most of these capabilities are found at the CMR Building, although a subset of AC and MC capabilities reside in the TA-55 Plutonium Facility and other locations at LANL. This project element includes relocating all mission-essential CMR AC and MC capabilities and consolidation of AC and MC capabilities where possible to provide efficient and effective mission support.

### **2.4.2 AC and MC Capabilities Consolidated from the Plutonium Facility into the CMRR Facility**

An appropriate amount of space and equipment for the purpose of relocating AC and MC research capabilities currently located within the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 into the new CMRR Facility would be provided as part of the proposed action. These capabilities would be sized consistent with the mission capacity requirements. At the present time, a set of these capabilities is provided within the Plutonium Facility to: (a) streamline material processes associated with pit fabrication and pit surveillance programs, and (b) minimize security costs and lost time associated with shipping large SNM items to the CMR Building from the Plutonium Facility.

### **2.4.3 SNM Storage Capability**

An SNM storage capability would be provided sized to support CMRR Facility operations. The CMRR Facility storage capability would be designed to replace the current storage vault at the

CMR Building. The SNM storage requirements would be developed in conjunction with, and integrated into, a long-term LANL SNM storage strategy.

#### **2.4.4 Large Containment Vessel Handling Capability**

The CMRR Facility would provide large containment vessel handling capabilities in support of the Dynamic Experiments Program, including vessel cleanout and material recovery. These capabilities would be selected to complement the AC and MC capabilities already housed at the CMR Building, and the floor space occupied by these capabilities would be sized consistent with mission capacity requirements.

#### **2.4.5 Mission Contingency Space**

The CMRR Facility would be sized to include mission contingency space of approximately 30 percent net floor space for AC and MC operations. This mission contingency space would be available to accommodate future growth, expansion, or changes to existing capabilities. Hazard Category 2 or 3 nuclear facility construction typically requires large long-duration, high-cost projects that are not conducted on a regular routine basis by NNSA. Because new nuclear facility construction is not a routine process, mission contingency space is planned for CMRR to address minor changes in requirements that might occur over the duration of design and construction to accommodate future growth. Mission contingency space would not be equipped and made operational until required and would be subject to additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review.

#### **2.4.6 Nuclear Materials Operational Capabilities and Space for non-LANL Users**

This operational capability would provide research laboratory space for non-LANL users. Availability of research laboratory space within the CMRR Facility would be used by other NNSA and DOE nuclear sites to support Defense Programs related missions at LANL.

#### **2.4.7 Existing CMR Capabilities and Activities Not Proposed for Inclusion within the New CMRR Facility**

Not all capabilities either previously or currently performed within the existing CMR Building at LANL would be transferred into the new CMRR Facility. Such capabilities include the Wing 9 hot cell operations, medical isotope production, uranium production and surveillance activities, nonproliferation training, and other capabilities that are available elsewhere at DOE, NNSA sites other than at LANL. These capabilities could cease to exist at LANL, or could continue to exist within the existing CMR Building.

### **2.5 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION ALTERNATIVES**

The *CMRR EIS* analyzes five main alternatives for the CMRR project. While the No Action Alternative does not meet NNSA's purpose and need for action, the other four alternatives analyzed were identified as reasonable alternatives for NNSA's proposed action.

**No Action Alternative:** Continued use of the existing CMR Building at TA-3 with minimal maintenance and component replacements to allow continued operations, although CMR operations would be restricted. No new buildings to support LANL AC and MC capabilities would be constructed.

**Alternative 1:** Construct a new CMRR Facility at LANL TA-55 (Preferred Alternative).

**Alternative 2:** Construct a new CMRR Facility within a “greenfield” site at LANL TA-6.

**Alternative 3:** Hybrid Alternative involving construction of a new CMRR Facility for SNM Laboratory(s) at LANL TA-55, with continued use of the existing CMR Building at TA-3 for administrative offices and support functions including “lite”<sup>2</sup> laboratories and other general activities.

**Alternative 4:** Hybrid Alternative involving construction of a new CMRR Facility for SNM Laboratory(s) at LANL TA-6, with continued use of existing CMR Building at TA-3 for administrative offices and support functions (including lite laboratories and other general activities).

For each of the above-listed alternatives involving new construction, there are four different construction options considered with respect to the CMRR Facility. These construction options are driven by the Security and Hazard Categorization for the portion of the CMRR Facility that would house operations involving SNM. Operations that use relatively large amounts (several grams per sample) of SNM, such as sample management and plutonium assay, require designated Hazard Category 2 facility(ies), which have structures, systems, and components appropriate for such operations. Operations that use smaller amounts of SNM (gram to microgram per sample) require designated Hazard Category 3 facility(ies), which use structures, systems and components appropriate for this kind of facility. Safeguards and security issues may require that any building designated as a Hazard Category 2 facility be located below ground (specifically, below the elevation level of the surrounding land). These facility hazard categorization and safeguards and security requirements drivers have resulted in the identification of the following construction options for the four action alternatives listed above:

**Construction Option 1:** Construct a separate nuclear SNM-capable Hazard Category 2 laboratory building and a separate Hazard Category 3 laboratory building above ground, with a separate building to house administrative offices and support functions (total of three buildings).

**Construction Option 2:** Construct a separate nuclear SNM-capable Hazard Category 2 laboratory building below ground, construct a Hazard Category 3 laboratory building above ground, with a separate building to house administrative offices and support functions (total of three buildings).

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<sup>2</sup>The term “lite” is an informal, simplified spelling of the word “light.” In this context, the term “light” refers to occurring in small amounts, force, or intensity; specifically, the CMRR Facility lite laboratories would contain very small amounts of radioactive materials and nonradioactive materials and chemicals.



**Construction Option 3:** Construct a consolidated nuclear SNM-capable Hazard Category 2 laboratory above ground with a separate building to house administrative offices and support functions (total of two buildings).

**Construction Option 4:** Construct a consolidated nuclear SNM-capable Hazard Category 2 laboratory below ground with a separate building to house administrative offices and support functions (total of two buildings).

This EIS will also include an evaluation of environmental impacts that could result from construction of tunnels to connect the new buildings, SNM storage vaults, utility structures, security structures, and the construction of parking space for the occupants of the new CMRR Facility.

A more detailed description of the alternatives follows, and a more detailed description of the construction options is provided in Section 2.7.2.

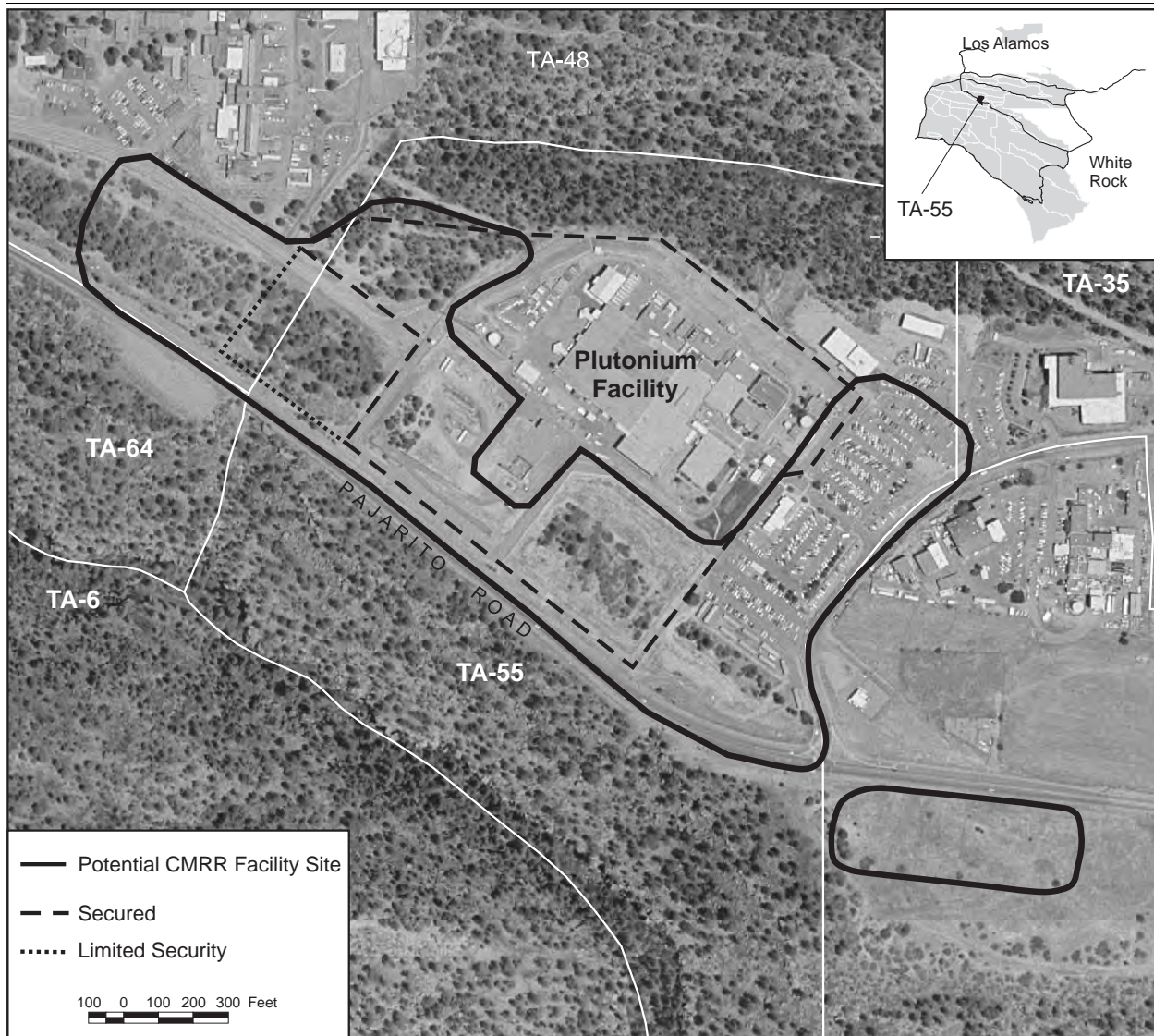
### **2.5.1 No Action Alternative: Continued Use of Existing CMR Building – No New Building Construction**

The No Action Alternative is to continue to use the existing CMR Building for SNM AC and MC operations, administrative support, office space, and lite laboratory functions. The CMR Building would receive minimal routine maintenance and limited component replacement, and repairs and no new buildings to support LANL AC and MC operations would be constructed. The CMR Building would continue to be operated as a Hazard Category 3, Security Category III facility, which limits the amount of SNM that can be used and the level of operations. These limitations do not currently support the level of operations required for the missions that NNSA has assigned to LANL through the *SSM PEIS* and *LANL SWEIS* Records of Decision.

### **2.5.2 Alternative 1 (the Preferred Alternative): Construct New CMRR Facility at TA-55**

The Preferred Alternative is to construct two or three buildings at the TA-55 site for the CMRR Facility. Based on planning completed to date, facility hazard categorization, and the safeguards and security requirements described above, there are two potential CMRR Facility layout scenarios; a three-building scenario, and a two-building scenario.

Under the three-building scenario, a Hazard Category 2, Security Category I building and a Hazard Category 3, Security Category II building would be constructed within a Perimeter Intrusion and Detection Alarm System (PIDAS) fence. The existing TA-55 PIDAS would be extended to enclose the CMRR Hazard Category 2 and 3 buildings. The exact amount of PIDAS extension required is dependent on final site selection at TA-55 (see **Figure 2–2**). Primary electrical and water services would be extended from existing TA-55 services. Fire protection systems for CMRR would be developed and integrated with the TA-55 sitewide fire protection service.



**Figure 2-2 Plan View of Area Available for Future CMRR Facility at TA-55 Locations**

The three-building scenario would be implemented with either Construction Option 1 or Construction Option 2. Under Construction Option 1, all three buildings would be built above ground with access between the buildings provided by aboveground walkways and doors, and also by underground access tunnels constructed to meet life-safety and appropriate security codes that would link the three buildings. The administrative offices and support functions building would be constructed and operated outside the PIDAS fence. This building would provide office and cafeteria space in addition to lite laboratory space used for such activities as glovebox mockup, process testing, chemical experimentation, training, and general research and development. The lite laboratory area(s) within this building would be allowed to contain only very small amounts of nuclear materials such that it would be designated a Radiological Facility.

The administrative offices and support functions building would be linked to the Hazard Category 3 laboratory building via the previously mentioned underground tunnel with its separate security station. The Hazard Category 2 laboratory building would in turn be linked to the Hazard Category 3 laboratory building through the underground tunnel; this would allow efficient transfer of samples from one building to the next. In addition, another underground tunnel would be constructed to connect the existing Plutonium Facility (Building 55-4) with the Hazard Category 2 building; this tunnel would also contain a vault spur for the CMRR Facility long-term SNM storage requirements.

The two-building scenario would be implemented with either Construction Option 3 or Construction Option 4. Under the two-building scenario, all nuclear AC and MC operations would be housed in one Hazard Category 2 nuclear laboratory building, and the administrative offices and support functions building would be the second building component. Tunnels and other features of the buildings and structures would be the same as those described for the three-building scenario, with some minor variation in locations and other features due to the differences in the location, size, and number of buildings constructed.

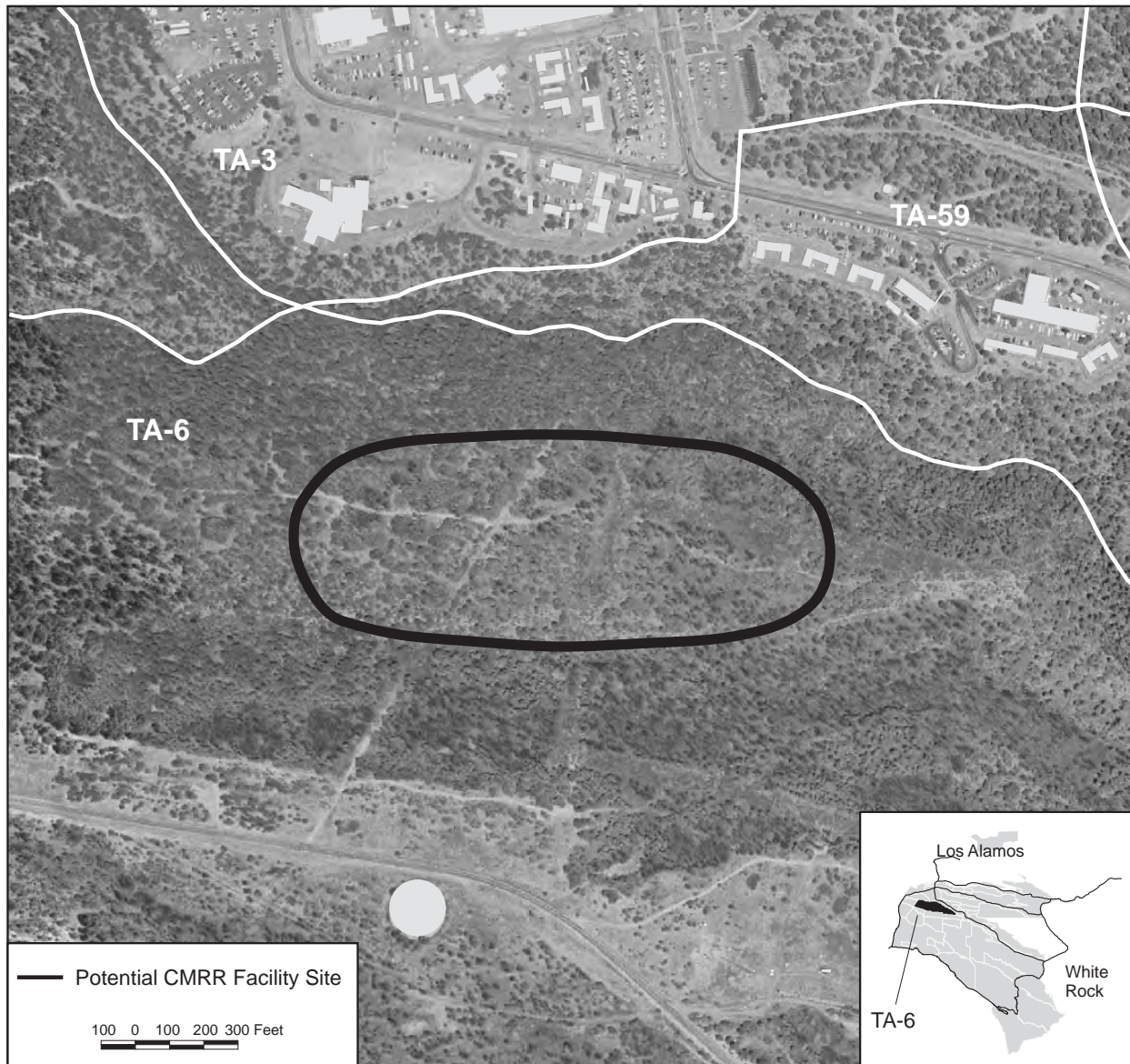
The location of the CMRR Facility within TA-55 would either be at the southeast corner of TA-55 near the intersection of Pajarito Road and Pecos Drive, at the west side of TA-55 between the Plutonium Facility and TA-48, or at the east side of TA-55 where the existing paved parking area is located. Construction of the CMRR Facility within TA-55 would eliminate or minimize the need for facility support space requirements for SNM shipping and receiving capabilities, as those functions would be conducted at the adjacent Plutonium Facility. Depending upon the exact location of the CMRR Facility within TA-55, some minor road realignment of Pecos Drive might be required.

Movement (transition) of operations from the existing CMR Building into the new CMRR Facility would be accomplished in carefully staged phases over a period of about 2 to 4 years, dependent on the final scope and schedule for CMRR Facility construction. During this transition period, both the new CMRR Facility and existing CMR Building would be operational.

The existing CMR Building would be dispositioned once all nuclear AC and MC operations and administrative support functions have been removed. Disposition could involve the renovation and reuse of the building for nonnuclear purposes (such as for administrative purposes, office spaces, and laboratory use involving nonnuclear work) together with the continued use of Wing 9 of the building for SNM hot cell work by non-Defense Program users. No definitive new building reuse purposes have been identified at this time; additional NEPA compliance review would be necessary when specific activities were identified for re-occupation and operation within the existing CMR Building. Disposition of the CMR Building could also result in demolition of the entire structure. A conceptual decommissioning and demolition of the CMR Building is discussed in Section 4.7.2 of this *CMRR EIS*.

### 2.5.3 Alternative 2 (Greenfield Site Alternative): Construct New CMRR Facility at TA-6

Alternative 2 is to construct the CMRR Facility at a “greenfield” location within Los Alamos National Laboratory. The proposed greenfield site is at TA-6, just south of the main technical area, TA-3. This site was identified as one that would be outside of necessary health and safety buffer zones associated with LANL explosives testing areas and other controlled operational sites, with most necessary utilities located nearby, and with appropriate access roads already available. **Figure 2–3** shows the TA-6 CMRR Facility site location.



**Figure 2–3 Plan View of Area Available for Future CMRR Facility at TA-6**

In this “Greenfield” Alternative, the CMRR Facility layout would consist of a three-building or a two-building scenario as described for Alternative 1, with the same construction options. Access between the CMRR Facility buildings constructed at TA-6 could occur above or below ground



through an access tunnel. While laboratory space requirements would be the same as in Alternative 1, facility support space requirements such as shipping and receiving capabilities would need to be expanded under this alternative, due to the physical separation between the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 and the TA-6 proposed CMRR Facility site location. Shipping and receiving elements, as well as an SNM vault similar to those existing in the CMR Building, would be replicated. This alternative differs in this respect from Alternative 1. Additionally, because TA-6 is physically separated from TA-55, transportation of SNM (namely samples coming in and residues and wastes leaving) would cover greater distances than exist between the existing CMR Building and the Plutonium Facility.

The construction site would need utilities and services; about 1.5 acres (0.6 hectares) of trenching would be required for electric power service, communications lines, natural gas lines, potable water, and sewage services. A new permitted discharge to Pajarito Canyon would be required for stormwater runoff. Liquid radioactive wastes would be collected and contained onsite until transported by tanker truck or a new buried waste line to the TA-50 RLWTF for treatment and disposal. This new pipeline, potentially requiring about 3 acres (1.2 hectares) of trenching and disturbance, would be directionally drilled and placed beneath Two-Mile Canyon or suspended across the canyon reach to avoid exposure along the sides of the canyon and shallow burial across the canyon bottom. Other site wastes would be transported to appropriate waste treatment and disposal facilities at LANL or offsite. A short access road would need to be constructed that would require the disturbance of about 1.5 acres (0.6 hectares) of land.

A new security fence and PIDAS would need to be constructed around the buildings designated as Hazard Category 2 and 3 facilities. This PIDAS installation would be more extensive at the TA-6 location than a PIDAS extension of the existing system at TA-55, not only because of the additional fencing, but also because of the communications infrastructure required to transmit PIDAS information back to the central LANL security facility.

The transfer of CMR operations to the new CMRR Facility would be the same as described for Alternative 1, as would the decommissioning and disposition of the existing CMR Building.

#### **2.5.4 Alternative 3 (Hybrid Alternative at TA-55): Construct New Hazard Category 2 and 3 SNM Laboratory Buildings (Above or Below Ground) at TA-55 and Continue Use of the CMR Building**

An alternative to constructing the new administrative offices and support functions building portion of the CMRR Facility would be to continue use of the existing CMR Building for these functions, together with construction of the AC and MC building(s) at TA-55. This alternative differs from Alternatives 1 and 2 in that it retains the administrative offices and support functions of the CMRR Facility in the existing CMR Building at LANL.

Under this alternative, construction of new SNM-capable Hazard Category 2 and 3 building(s) would occur consistent with Alternative 1. As with the other Alternatives, there are four basic construction options driven by the facility hazard categorization and safeguards and security requirements.

The nuclear materials building(s) where SNM would be used would be constructed as described in Alternative 1, with a set of one Hazard Category 2 and one Hazard Category 3 buildings or with a single Hazard Category 2 building. These Hazard Categories 2 and 3 nuclear operations buildings would be the same size and have the same physical construction parameters as in Alternative 1.

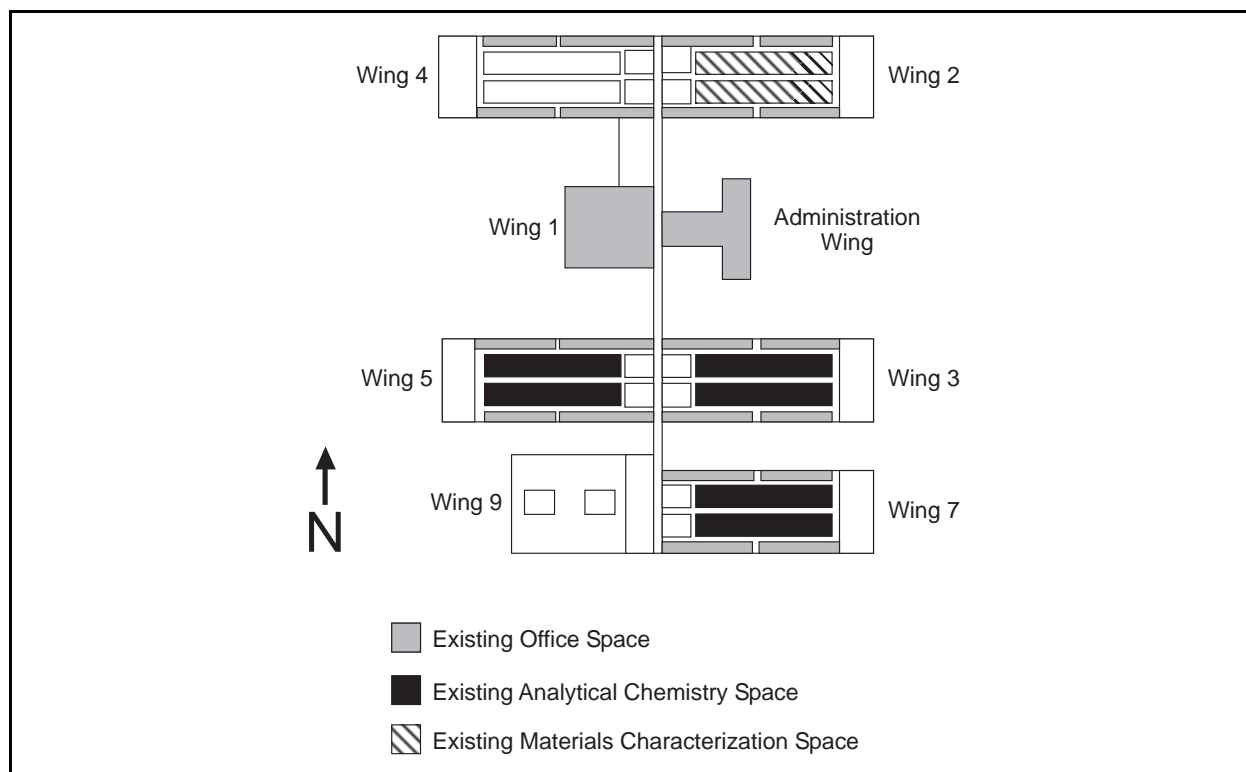
The existing TA-55 security fence and PIDAS would be extended to encompass the building(s) designated as Hazard Category 2 or 3 facilities. No additional fencing or security measures would be needed for the existing CMR Building.

The administrative offices and support functions for the CMRR Facility would remain at the existing CMR Building at TA-3. As noted earlier in Section 2.2.1, upgrades would be required to the CMR Building's structural and safety systems in order to sustain nuclear capabilities there. Irrespective of upgrades required for nuclear operations, any future use of the existing CMR Building beyond 2010 would require repairs and upgrades to meet minimal structural and life safety code requirements. Seismic conditions beneath the existing CMR Building could preclude the use of wings 2 and 4, requiring that they be decommissioned and unoccupied once decommissioning was completed. Wing 9 would not be used for office or lite laboratory space. The existing administrative areas (Administration Wing and Wing 1) and Wings 3, 5, and 7 could be used for CMR administrative support, office space, and lite laboratory space (see **Figure 2-4**).

Operationally, Alternatives 3 and 4 (described later) are quite inefficient and costly because staff and technicians would have offices in a facility that is very remote from the CMRR Facility laboratories where most of their work would be performed. Additionally, not providing offices near the laboratories would probably decrease the capacity of the facility and would be a detriment to the employee quality of work life. Finally, one of the uses of the lite laboratory function in the CMRR Facility's administrative offices and support functions building would be to mock up and set up gloveboxes while they are still uncontaminated, to test equipment, prove-in procedures, and train on the new equipment prior to moving the gloveboxes into the nuclear facilities. Placing the lite laboratories in the existing CMR Building would severely hinder, if not prohibit, this use of the lite laboratories due to structural upgrade requirements, inadequate or incompatible ventilation system, and operational inefficiency created by the physical separation between TA-3 and TA-55 (and TA-6). Utilities, waste management, and security requirements would be the same as those described in Alternative 1, with the exception that utility service requirements would be fewer due to the administrative offices and support functions remaining within the existing CMR Building.

#### **2.5.5 Alternative 4 (Hybrid Alternative at TA-6): Construct New Hazard Category 2 and 3 SNM Laboratories (Above or Below Ground) at TA-6 and Continue Use of the CMR Building**

An alternative to constructing a new administrative offices and support functions building portion of the CMRR Facility would be to continue use of the existing CMR Building for these functions, together with construction of the AC and MC building(s) at TA-6. This alternative



**Figure 2-4 Simple Layout of Existing CMR Building**

differs from Alternatives 1 and 2 in that it retains the administrative offices and support functions for the CMRR Facility in the existing CMR Building.

Under this alternative, construction of new SNM-capable Hazard Category 2 and 3 buildings would occur consistent with Alternative 2. As with the other alternatives, there are four basic construction options driven by the facility hazard categorization and safeguards and security requirements.

The nuclear materials building(s) where SNM would be used would be constructed as described for Alternative 2, with a single Hazard Category 2 building or a set of one Hazard Category 2 and one Hazard Category 3 building. These Hazard Category 2 and 3 nuclear operations buildings would be the same size and have the same physical construction parameters as in Alternative 2.

Utilities, waste management, and security requirements would be the same as those described in Alternative 2, with the exception that utility service requirements would be fewer due to the administrative offices and support functions remaining within the existing CMR Building.

Operationally, this alternative has the combined features of both Alternatives 2 and 3. The nuclear AC and MC operations would be physically segregated from their source of SNM, and personnel would be segregated from their laboratories. The alternative would also require additional construction for security fence and PIDAS installation and additional shipping and receiving capability requirements.

## **2.6 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND DISMISSED**

### **2.6.1 Removing CMR Capabilities from LANL or Altering the Operational Level of Capabilities**

The alternative of removing CMR capabilities from LANL or altering the operational level of these capabilities was considered and dismissed. As explained in Section 1.5, DOE considered the issue of maintaining CMR capabilities (along with other capabilities at LANL) in 1996 as part of the review of the SSM program and made programmatic decisions at that time that required the retention of CMR capabilities at LANL. In 1999, DOE concluded in the *LANL SWEIS* that, due to the lack of information on the proposal(s) for replacement of the CMR Building to provide for its continued operations and capabilities support, it was not the appropriate time to make specific decisions on the project. With the support of the *LANL SWEIS* impact analysis, however, DOE made a decision on the level of operations at LANL that included the level of operational capabilities housed by the CMR Building. Having made these critical decisions within the past 7 years, NNSA does not believe that it needs to revisit these decisions at this time related to the maintenance of CMR capabilities at LANL to support critical NNSA missions.

### **2.6.2 Considering the CMRR Project as Part of the “Integrated Nuclear Planning” Initiative at TA-55**

The option of including the CMRR project environmental review as part of the so-called “Integrated Nuclear Planning” initiative for TA-55 was considered and dismissed. As discussed in Section 1.5, the various potential LANL Security Category I nuclear facilities are independent of one another in terms of their individual operations and the capabilities they house. The existing structures are of differing ages and, therefore, replacement of the aging structures would become necessary at different times. The construction of major facilities within a relatively tight geographic area would require that they be staggered so that the area can physically accommodate the necessary construction laydown sites and storage areas needed. The additional security elements required for the construction and startup of operations in Hazard Category 2 nuclear facilities also predicates the need for their separate construction in terms of schedule.

NNSA recently completed an EIS for relocating LANL’s TA-18 capabilities and materials and to move these particular capabilities and materials to another DOE site away from LANL and TA-55. NNSA is separately considering the construction and operation of a pit manufacturing facility on a scale greater than can currently be accommodated in existing facilities at LANL, and is considering TA-55 as a possible site. NNSA will eventually need to consider decisions on relocating or upgrading the aging TA-55 LANL Plutonium Facility, which is about 30 years old; however, any proposal for such a project is very speculative and not ready for decision at this time.



### 2.6.3 Alternative LANL Sites

The sites at TA-55 reflect NNSA's goal to bring all nuclear facilities within a nuclear core area. Siting of the CMRR Facility at TA-55 would colocate the AC and MC capabilities near the existing Plutonium Facility where the programs operations that require these capabilities are located.

The greenfield site at TA-6 was chosen using data and maps from the *2000 Comprehensive Site Plan* (LANL 2000f), the *Core Area Development Plan* and the *Anchor Ranch Area Development Plan* (LANL 2000g). These documents contain detailed development opportunity maps, which were developed using a set of siting criteria or constraints. Using geographic information system (GIS) processing software, a set of physical and operational constraints were scored, combined, and used to identify sitewide development opportunities. The physical constraints contained information regarding various topographic features, seismic fault lines, Federally-protected threatened and endangered species habitat information, floodplains, and wetlands locations. Also considered were surface hydrology, cultural resources, climate, vegetation, soils, and geology of LANL. The operational constraints considered locations of radiological sources, the White Rock Canyon Reserve, solid waste landfill, hazardous waste sites, range of radio frequencies, and airspace and blast buffer zones. The screening results are documented on a set of sitewide development opportunities maps found within these three documents. These documents also contain summary planning maps that reflect existing land uses as well as undeveloped (so called "greenfield") lands. Combining the development opportunities maps and summary maps allows identification of potential greenfield sites that would be suitable for siting CMRR Facility building(s). The final siting step for locating the CMRR Facility outside of TA-55 was to consider NNSA's desire to bring all nuclear facilities within a nuclear core area; TA-6 is the only greenfield site available for consideration in the general area of TA-55.

### 2.6.4 Extensive Upgrades to the Existing CMR Building for Use Beyond 2010

The proposal to complete extensive upgrades to the existing CMR Building's structural and safety systems to meet current mission support requirements for the suite of capabilities that exist in the Building today for another 20 to 30 years of operations was considered and evaluated by DOE and UC at LANL in the 1998 to 1999 timeframe. This approach to maintaining these mission-critical nuclear support capabilities would require a capital investment in excess of several hundred million dollars for just two wings of the CMR Building. The cost of upgrading the entire structure would be the same or more for constructing the proposed CMRR Facility. Implementing this alternative would not reduce the overall footprint of the CMR Building, which is costly to maintain and operate in part due to the amount of wasted space incorporated into its design, nor would it change the underpinning seismic condition of the CMR Building. Additionally, implementing this alternative would not allow for the consolidation of like activities presently located within the Plutonium Facility into one facility. This alternative was not considered to be reasonable to meet NNSA's purpose and need for action.

## 2.7 PLANNING INFORMATION AND BASES FOR ANALYSES

This *CMRR EIS* evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that could result from relocating existing AC and MC capabilities currently residing in the CMR Building to new facilities at different locations at LANL. This involves: (1) the construction of new facilities with several construction options; (2) the relocation of materials and equipment from the existing CMR Building to new facilities; (3) the operation of new facilities for their design lifetime, following a transition period during which operations would be gradually transferred to the new facilities; (4) transportation of SNM (namely samples coming in and residues and wastes returning) between the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 and the new CMRR Facility; and (5) the disposition of the existing CMR Building. The operational characteristics for the CMRR Facility are based on the level of CMR Building operations identified by the Expanded Operations Alternative in the 1999 *LANL SWEIS*. Some of the more specific information and considerations that form the bases of the analyses and impact assessments in the *CMRR EIS* are presented below.

### 2.7.1 No Action Alternative

As required by Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, the *CMRR EIS* evaluates a No Action Alternative for comparison purposes. This alternative reflects the decisions reached by DOE for operations within the CMR Building described in the Record of Decision for the *LANL SWEIS*. No new construction under the No Action Alternative would be initiated.

The impacts associated with the No Action Alternative for each resource area consider the current level of CMR operations and capabilities that are currently restricted to a minimal level, as discussed in Section 2.5.1.

### 2.7.2 Construction Options

The new buildings proposed for the CMRR project are currently in the conceptual design stage and, as a result, are not described in great detail in this EIS. However, to support the EIS analysis, conservative information has been used such that construction requirements and operational characteristics of these buildings bound the environmental impacts. Thus, the potential impacts from implementation of the finalized design would be expected to be less severe than those analyzed in the *CMRR EIS*.

For each alternative involving new construction, four different construction options were considered for the Hazard Category 2, Hazard Category 3, and administrative offices and support functions buildings. These options are driven by facility hazard and security categorizations for the portion of the CMRR Facility that would conduct operations involving SNM. In addition, and common to all options, is the construction of tunnels to connect the new buildings, SNM storage vault(s), utility structures, security structures, and the construction of parking space for the occupants of the new CMRR Facility.

**Construction Option 1:** For the purpose of this EIS analysis, Construction Option 1 was considered to be the option that would bound the potential environmental impacts resulting from construction activities. Thus, Construction Option 1 is the reference case for estimating the impacts for all action alternatives. This construction option includes separate SNM-capable Hazard Category 2 and 3 laboratories constructed above ground with a separate administrative offices and support functions building also constructed above ground. The requirements for each facility are as follows:

- **Hazard Category 2 Building:** Total square footage of approximately 100,000 square feet (9,290 square meters), with total disturbed construction site of approximately 2.5 acres (1 hectare). The maximum depth of excavation for construction would be no more than 50 feet (15.2 meters).
- **Hazard Category 3 Building:** Total square footage of approximately 100,000 square feet (9,290 square meters), with total disturbed construction site of approximately 2.25 acres (0.9 hectares). The maximum depth of excavation for construction would be no more than 50 feet (15.2 meters).
- **Administrative Offices and Support Functions Building:** Total square footage of approximately 200,000 square feet (18,580 square meters) dispersed over several stories, with a total disturbed construction site of approximately 4.0 acres (1.6 hectares). One or more floors could be constructed below ground with a maximum depth of excavation approximately 50 feet (15.2 meters). The building would contain a lite laboratory capable of handling materials up to a Hazard Category designation of Radiological Facility (less than 8.4 grams of plutonium-239 equivalent radioactive material), and would also include a utility structure housing utility equipment and services for all elements of the CMRR Facility. This utility structure would house power, hot water, heat, sanitary sewer, and chilled water services for the entire CMRR Facility. The utility structure [approximately 25,000 square feet (2,323 square meters)] is included in the total estimated square footage for the administrative offices and support functions building. This building aboveground would be a maximum height of three stories, or approximately 35 feet (10.7 meters) aboveground level.

In implementing this construction option with either Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) or Alternative 3, connecting tunnels would be constructed. These tunnels would be used for belowground linkage of the CMRR Facility as well as linkage with the Plutonium Facility at TA-55. In Alternative 1, the estimated length of tunnels would be approximately 1,200 feet (366 meters), and depth of excavations would be no more than 50 feet (15 meters). In Alternative 3, the estimated length of tunnels would be approximately 750 feet (229 meters), with a depth of excavation of approximately 50 feet (15 meters). These tunnels would be constructed utilizing cut-and-cover construction methods requiring specialized safety, security, and waterproofing methods. Alternatives 2 and 4 would require slightly larger facility support space requirements for such capabilities as shipping and receiving of materials into and out of the CMRR Facility. This space would be no more than one percent of the total 200,000 square foot (18,580 square meters) total.

**Construction Option 2:** This construction option includes the same building elements as Construction Option 1, with the exception that the SNM-Capable Hazard Category 2 building would be constructed below grade. For the Hazard Category 2 building, the maximum depth of excavation would increase to approximately 75 feet (23 meters). Excavated materials would be stockpiled onsite and would be used for regrading and constructing berms for the PIDAS around the facility. All other assumptions for the Hazard Category 3 and the administrative offices and support functions building would be the same as described in Construction Option 1.

**Construction Option 3:** This construction option includes a single consolidated SNM-capable Hazard Category 2 laboratory and a separate administrative offices and support functions building.

In this option, all Hazard Category 2 and 3 operations would be housed in the single Hazard Category 2 laboratory. The Hazard Category 2 building would contain a total of approximately 200,000 square feet (18,580 square meters) and be constructed with one floor below grade containing the Hazard Category 2 operations, and one floor above grade containing Hazard Category 3 operations. All assumptions for the administrative offices and support functions building would be the same as described in Construction Option 1.

In implementing this construction option with Alternatives 1 and 3 (at TA-55), connecting tunnels between the CMRR Facility and the Plutonium Facility would be excavated to a maximum depth of 50 feet (15 meters), with the estimated total length of tunnels approximately 1,200 feet (366 meters) for Alternative 1, and 500 feet (152 meters) for Alternative 3.

**Construction Option 4:** This option includes a single consolidated SNM-capable Hazard Category 2 laboratory constructed below grade and a separate administrative offices and support functions building.

As with Construction Option 3, all Hazard Category 2 and 3 operations would be housed in the single Hazard Category 2 laboratory constructed below grade. Maximum depth of excavation would be 75 feet (23 meters). All assumptions for the administrative offices and support functions building would be the same as described in Construction Option 1. Assumptions with respect to the connecting tunnels between facility elements would be the same as Construction Option 3.

**General Construction Requirements for All Construction Options:** Construction methods and materials employed on the CMRR project would be typical conventional light<sup>3</sup>-industrial for the administrative offices and support functions building and heavy-industrial, nuclear facility construction for the CMRR project nuclear laboratory elements. Information that is common to all the construction activities encompassed by the four construction options and four action alternatives is presented in the following paragraphs. A summary of construction requirements is presented in **Table 2-1**.

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<sup>3</sup>*Light industry refers to the use of small-scale construction machinery.*

All construction work would be planned, managed, and performed to ensure that standard worker safety goals are met. All work would be performed in accordance with good management practices, with regulations promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and in accordance with various DOE Orders involving worker and site safety practices. To prevent serious injuries, all site workers (including contractors and subcontractors) would be required to submit and adhere to a Construction Safety and Health Plan. This Plan would be reviewed by UC at LANL staff before construction activities begin. Following approval of this Plan, UC and NNSA site inspectors would routinely verify that construction contractors and subcontractors were adhering to the Plan, including all Federal and state health and safety standards.

**Table 2–1 Summary of CMRR Construction Requirements**

<i>Building/Material Usage</i>	<i>Hazard Category 2 Building</i>	<i>Hazard Category 3 Building</i>	<i>Administrative Offices and Support Functions Building</i>	<i>Other Construction Elements</i>
Land (acres)	2.5	2.25	4.0	18 <sup>a</sup>
Water (gallons)	757,300	670,500	1,354,500	963,000
Electricity (megawatt-hours)	88.75	88.75	135	Not applicable
Concrete (cubic meters)	1,375	1,067	2,340	Not applicable
Steel (metric tons)	136	106	265	Not applicable
Peak construction workers	300			
Waste (nonhazardous) (metric tons)	130	99	295	10
Construction period (months)	17	17	26	6

Source: LANL 2002e.

<sup>a</sup> The land affected by other construction elements would include: parking (5 acres), laydown area (2 acres), concrete batch plant (5 acres) at either TA-55 or TA-6. Additionally 6 acres of land would be affected at TA-55 due to road realignment. An equal area (6 acres) at TA-6 would be affected for extensive trenching for utilities (1.5 acres), radioactive liquid waste pipeline (3 acres), and new road (1.5 acres).

Site preparation prior to the commencement of building construction at either the TA-55 site or TA-6 construction site, in whole or in part, would involve clearing the site of native vegetation. The TA-55 site would involve some removal of asphalt and concrete material at the construction site and removal of mostly grassy vegetation coverage with a few mature trees. The TA-6 construction site would require the removal of mature trees and shrubs as well as grassy vegetation coverage. No asphalt or concrete material are present at the proposed TA-6 construction site.

Noise at the site would occur mainly during daylight hours and would be audible primarily to the involved workers. Construction equipment would be maintained in accordance with applicable health and safety requirements and inspected on a regular basis. Workers would be required to use personal protective equipment (such as eye and hearing protection, hard hats, and steel-toed boots). Machinery guards would also be used as necessary based on activity-specific hazards analyses.

Clearing or excavation activities during site construction have the potential to generate dust and encounter previously buried materials that could include unknown potential release sites (PRS) containing hazardous, toxic, or radioactive materials, or objects of cultural significance. If buried materials or artifacts of cultural significance were encountered during construction, activities

would cease until their significance was determined and appropriate actions taken. Appropriate actions, in the case of the unexpected discovery of cultural resources, would include assessing the nature of the discovery, contacting the appropriate parties for consultation (such as the State Historic Preservation Officer and the group of individuals likely affiliated with the resource), making decisions about site data recovery, removal of the artifact or feature, or shifting construction away from the feature. Standard site dust suppression methods (such as spraying with water or use of soil tackifiers<sup>4</sup>) would be used onsite to minimize the generation of dust during all phases of construction activities. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) does not regulate dust from excavation or construction sites, but best achievable control measures (BACM) would be used to control fugitive dust and particulate emissions.

Any suspected or known PRS resulting from prior LANL activities would be evaluated to identify procedures for working within those site areas and to determine the need to remove site contamination. Contaminated soils would be removed as necessary to protect worker health or the environment before construction was initiated. Any contaminated soil removed would be either stored onsite and returned to the site as fill material or characterized and disposed of appropriately at LANL or an offsite waste management facility.

Engineering best management practices (BMP) would be implemented for each building and structure site as part of a site Storm Water Pollution Prevention (SWPP) Plan executed under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) construction permit. These BMPs could include the use of hay bales, plywood, or synthetic sedimentation fences with appropriate supports installed to contain excavated soil and surface water discharge during construction. After construction of each building and structure mounds of loose soil would be removed from the area and the site would be landscaped. The landscaping would incorporate to the maximum extent practicable a design to capture and utilize area precipitation to minimize the need for permanent watering systems. Low-pressure sprinklers could be required to supply water for the establishment of plants and grassy areas over the first year or two of growth. Plants native to the Pajarito Plateau would be used primarily where practicable. Other native New Mexico plants that require drip watering systems could be used minimally. All site revegetation would be performed in coordination with the LANL Wildfire Hazard Reduction Program and other LANL natural and cultural resource management plans under implementation at the time.

The site construction contractor would be prohibited from using chemicals that generate Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-regulated wastes. Non-RCRA-regulated wastes generated during construction, such as packaging and strapping material, excess gypsum board pieces, broken or bent nails and screws, and empty material containers, would be disposed of at the Los Alamos County Landfill or its replacement facility.

Parking within TA-55 would be shifted during the construction phase, and traffic flow would be altered for short periods during delivery of construction materials and by the addition of construction workers in the area. About 300 construction workers would be onsite during the

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<sup>4</sup>*Tackifiers are chemical dust suppressants often sprayed on construction sites. The chemical dust suppressants are mixed with water, which acts to disperse the chemicals and then evaporates after application. The chemicals that are left behind bind the soil particles together into larger particles that are less easily blown into the air.*

peak construction period, adding about 135 vehicles to local LANL roadways during construction. These workers would park their personal vehicles at parking areas located at the edge of the construction sites at either TA-55 or TA-6.

No construction would be conducted within a floodplain or wetland. No known cultural resource areas are located within the proposed building sites. Construction activities at either the TA-6 or TA-55 sites would have the potential to affect unoccupied habitats for sensitive animals that are designated as Federally-protected threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (50 CFR 17.11). Timing of some activities and exact work commencement could, in part, be determined by the provisions of the LANL *Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Management Plan* (HMP).

Each of the buildings and structures would be appropriately designed according to general design criteria for a new facility (DOE Order 413.3). The new CMRR Facility would be designed as a state-of-the-art facility. Consistent with DOE Order 413.3, sustainable facility designs would include features that would allow the structures to operate with improved electric and water use efficiency and would incorporate recycled and reclaimed materials into their construction. For example: the new office building (if constructed) would incorporate building and finish materials, and carpets and furnishings made of reclaimed and recycled materials, low-flow lavatory fixtures to minimize potable water use, and energy-efficient lighting fixtures and equipment to reduce electric consumption. The finished landscaping of the involved construction area would utilize captured precipitation, reused and recycled materials, and native plant species. Permanent safety and security exterior lighting at the buildings and structures, as well as along the facility's fenced boundary, would be designed so that it is directed toward the facility and away from roads and canyons as much as possible.

Utility services (including potable water, electric power, communications, sanitary waste, radioactive liquid waste, and natural gas services) are sufficient and available onsite at TA-55 to serve the new buildings and structures. Utility lines are located adjacent to the building sites at TA-55 and would require minimal trenching to connect them to the new structures. At TA-6, utility services would need to be routed over a distance to the proposed building site. Extensive trenching (approximately 1.5 acres [0.6 hectares]) would be required to connect them to the new structures. If a new radioactive liquid waste pipeline were constructed to connect TA-6 with the waste water treatment facility at TA-50, trenching of about 3 acres (1.2 hectares) would be necessary to accommodate that individual service line.

Each of the buildings constructed as part of the CMRR Facility would be appropriately designed and equipped to meet applicable facility environmental, safety, and health requirements and standards. Design features would include such items and systems as uninterruptible electric power supplies; backup diesel-powered generators; heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems with standard dust-type filters or specialty filters, including high efficiency particulate air filters (HEPA); and other facility health, safety, and security equipment as required and appropriate.

**Equipment:** Standard equipment used for light and heavy industrial construction activities would be used for the project. Not all construction equipment and machinery would be operating

at the same time. Equipment would be needed for excavation, trenching, earth moving, compaction, heavy and light lifting, paving, mechanical fabrication and installation, concrete forming, pumping and placement purposes, as well as portable power supplies, primary and secondary electrical installation and distribution. Dump trucks, bulldozers, drill rigs, cranes, cement mixer trucks, front-end loaders, lifts, compressors, trenchers, backhoes, paving equipment, excavators, tamper compactors, welders, water trucks, pickup trucks and other similar equipment and machinery would be used. General purpose hand-held equipment used during construction of the various buildings would include hammers, nail guns, various saws and other hand-held or hand-manipulated tools. These vehicles and pieces of equipment would operate primarily during the daylight hours and would be left onsite over night. If nighttime construction activities are required, additional exterior artificial lighting would be used. Temporary construction trailers would be present at the construction sites during the construction period. A lay down area for equipment and materials would be used at the construction site; this area would be about 2 acres (0.8 hectares) in size.

A dedicated concrete batch plant with a maximum production rate of 125 cubic yards per hour (96 cubic meters per hour) would be set up and utilized to meet concrete quantity and quality requirements during construction of the nuclear laboratory elements of the CMRR project. This dedicated batch plant would require a maximum of 5 acres (2 hectares) of land at TA-55, with a maximum of 100 workers.

**Materials:** Construction materials for the CMRR project would include standard materials used for light and heavy industrial construction applications. The administrative offices and support functions building component of the CMRR Facility, if built, would utilize standard construction materials typically used in office and lite-laboratory construction. These materials could include concrete masonry units (CMU), gypsum board, steel studs and beams, and wooden boards and trim pieces. No specialized construction materials would be needed. For the nuclear laboratories element of the CMRR Facility, significant quantities of standard construction elements would be anticipated, specifically, concrete and steel. The main structural elements for the nuclear laboratories would probably be constructed primarily of reinforced concrete cast-in-place and solid grout-filled CMUs. The foundation system for the buildings would mostly consist of cast-in-place concrete. Some specialized concrete additives could be required during construction dependent upon final design requirements and construction scheduling yet to be determined. As noted earlier, a dedicated concrete batch plant would be used to support construction of the nuclear laboratory elements of the CMRR Facility in order to meet supply and quality assurance requirements.

An asphalt parking area of about 5 acres (2 hectares) would be constructed as part of the CMRR project. The parking area would be constructed of standard materials including asphalt and concrete.

Construction materials would be procured primarily from New Mexico suppliers. Supplies would be delivered to and stored at existing LANL storage areas or at the construction site laydown area at either at TA-55 or TA-6.



**Construction Methods:** Standard construction methods for light and heavy industrial construction would be used for the CMRR Facility. Construction of the administrative offices and support functions building element of the CMRR Facility would employ construction methods and techniques for standard commercial or light-industrial construction. No specialized construction methods or procedures would be anticipated. The nuclear laboratories element of the CMRR Facility is expected to require specialized construction with regards to the cast-in-place reinforced concrete. This would be accomplished with traditional reinforced concrete construction methods subject to stringent quality assurance requirements associated with nuclear facilities. Although standard, traditional construction methods would be employed, the large volumes of concrete to be placed, combined with the quality assurance requirements and the need for close integration with existing facilities and other ongoing LANL projects would require significant project management oversight.

**Workers (Total and Peak):** Construction workers would mostly be drawn from communities across New Mexico. The total number of workers onsite at any one time could be as great as about 300 for the CMRR Facility building(s) and parking lot construction. Estimated peak construction worker numbers are listed in Table 2–1. CMRR Facility construction elements could be sequenced. If the administrative offices and support functions building were constructed, it would be built first, followed by the nuclear laboratories building(s) after the administrative offices and support functions building construction was well underway. Construction of the administrative offices and support functions building would engage a peak construction workforce of about 150 workers. Depending on the final positioning of the nuclear laboratories element of the CMRR Facility, the construction workforce for that effort could peak at about 300 workers. The estimated peak construction workforce for the associated parking area would be about 50 workers.

**Construction Schedule:** As noted, the construction activities for the CMRR Facility could be sequenced, commencing with the administrative offices and support functions building, followed by the construction of the nuclear laboratories element. Construction of the administrative offices and support functions building would commence in fiscal year (FY) 2004, with completion expected in FY 2007. The total construction duration of that element of the CMRR Facility would be about 26 months. Construction of the nuclear laboratory element of the CMRR Facility would begin in about FY 2008, with completion expected in FY 2011. The total duration of that element of the CMRR Facility would be about 34 months. Completion of the administrative offices and support functions building, would allow transition of some administrative functions and support for CMRR Facility construction activities. Construction of the nuclear laboratories element would be sequenced if the final design is based on separate Hazard Category 2 and 3 buildings. Transition from the existing CMR Building would occur as new CMRR Facility buildings were completed and approved for startup and operations.

### 2.7.3 Project Schedule

For the purpose of the analysis in the EIS, it was estimated that construction under any of the alternatives would start late in 2004 and last approximately 5 years. The new facilities would be designed for a lifetime performance of at least 50 years; therefore, operation is projected to range

from 2010 to 2060. It is also expected that simultaneous operation of the existing CMR Building and the new CMRR Facility would last a maximum of 4 years, between about 2010 and 2014.

### 2.7.4 Operational Characteristics

The operational characteristics of the CMRR Facility are based on the level of operations identified by the Expanded Operations Alternative in the 1999 SWEIS for the CMR Building; the Facility's capabilities were discussed in Section 2.4 of this EIS. The CMRR Facility's operational characteristics are summarized in **Table 2-2** and briefly discussed in the following paragraphs. The operational characteristics are estimated to be the same regardless of the location of the CMRR Facility; however, as noted in the text, the particulars of some operations may differ between geographic locations. Operational administrative controls and activities (such as recycling office wastes) would be employed at the Facility that would enhance the overall LANL waste minimization effort and efforts to reduce the use of potable water and energy sources. Every effort would be made to encourage recycling and reuse of waste materials. LANL has existing recycling contracts for the following materials: metal, paper, cardboard, concrete, asphalt, wire, smoke detectors, exit signs and light bulbs.

**Table 2-2 Operational Characteristics of the CMRR Facility (per year)**

Electricity usage (megawatt hours)	19,272
Water usage (million gallons)	10.4
Nonradiological gaseous effluent	very small <sup>a</sup>
Radiological gaseous/airborne effluent (curies)	Pu-239 = 0.00076; Kr-85 = 100; Xe-131m = 45; Xe-133 = 1,500; H-3 (water vapor) = 750; and H-3 (elemental) = 250
Nonradiological liquid effluent (gallons)	530,000
Radiological liquid effluent (gallons)	10,400 <sup>b</sup>
Workforce	550
Worker average dose and cumulative dose	110 millirem, and 50 person-rem
Waste generation:	
Transuranic waste (cubic yards)	61
Mixed transuranic waste (cubic yards)	26.7
Low level radioactive waste (cubic yards)	2,640 <sup>c</sup>
Mixed low-level radioactive waste (cubic yards)	25.6
Chemical waste (RCRA/TSCA) (pounds)	24,700
Sanitary waste (million gallons)	7.15 <sup>d</sup>

Pu = plutonium; Kr = krypton; Xe = xenon; H-3 = tritium; RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; TSCA = Toxic Substance Control Act

<sup>a</sup> The amount of chemical effluent through the facility stack would be very small, well below the screening levels used to determine the need for additional analysis (DOE 1999a).

<sup>b</sup> No direct discharge to the environment. Radiological liquid waste would be collected and transported to TA-50 for treatment.

<sup>c</sup> Includes low-level radioactive solid waste generated by the treatment of liquid low-level radioactive wastes produced by CMRR Facility operations.

<sup>d</sup> This estimate is based on the assumption of 550 workers generating 50 gallons per day and 260 working days per year. Source: DOE 1999a, LANL 2001b, LANL 2002e.

**Infrastructure Parameters:** Activities associated with operation of the CMRR Facility would not be energy- or water-use intensive. Use of potable water and electric power would represent small fractions of the sitewide energy and potable water use. Other use of nonwaste related

infrastructure utility services would be expected to remain at about the current level of use from operations at the CMR Building.

**Nonradiological Gaseous Effluent:** Activities in the CMRR Facility would involve use of many industrial-type nonradiological chemicals. The quantities of nonradiological chemicals at the CMRR Facility would be maintained at the minimum quantities needed for ongoing work and would not be stockpiled beyond a monthly use quantity. The potential gaseous effluent expected to result as a consequence of the use of nonradiological volatile chemicals through the facility stack would be very small. Emissions from emergency diesel generator testing and operation are included in the *CMRR EIS* environmental impacts analyses.

**Radiological Gaseous Effluent:** The various analytical and experimental activities at the CMRR Facility would be projected to generate the following maximum gaseous or airborne effluents annually: 0.00076 curies of airborne actinides (considered being plutonium-239 equivalent); 100 curies of krypton-85; 45 curies of xenon-131; 1,500 curies of xenon-133; and 1,000 curies of tritium (750 curies in oxide [as water vapor HTO] form, and 250 curies as gas [T<sub>2</sub>] form).

**Nonradiological Liquid Effluent:** It is estimated the CMRR Facility operations and supporting systems would generate the same level of nonradiological liquid effluent discharge as the CMR Building. The CMR Building discharges nonradiological liquid effluent seasonally at a rate of 1 gallon per minute, or about 530,000 gallons per year (2 million liters per year) through a single NPDES outfall.

**Radiological Liquid Effluent:** Activities at the CMRR Facility would generate radioactive wastes. If the CMRR Facility is located at TA-55, these wastes would be collected and discharged into a network of drains that would route the solutions to the RLWTF at TA-50 for treatment and disposal. If located at TA-6, these waters would be collected and either transported to the RLWTF by tanker trucks or by a newly constructed pipeline connecting the TA-6 CMRR Facility site to the TA-50 RLWTF through a tie-in to existing RLWTF waste lines present either at TA-3 or at TA-59. The treatment process at the RLWTF includes ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis that, in total, remove particulate materials as small as one nanometer (10<sup>-9</sup> meters) in size. The current CMR Building's radiological liquid effluent rate is not monitored, so information about the exact rate of production of this effluent type is unknown.

**Radioactive Waste Generation:** Activities at the CMRR Facility would generate radioactive wastes, including those disposed of as transuranic waste, low-level waste and mixed waste. The annual radioactive waste generation rates include 61 cubic yards (46.6 cubic meters) of transuranic waste; 26.7 cubic yards (20.4 cubic meters) of mixed transuranic waste; 2,433 cubic yards (1,860 cubic meters) of low-level radioactive waste; 25.6 cubic yards (19.6 cubic meters) of mixed low-level radioactive waste.

**Chemical Waste Generation:** Operations at the CMRR Facility would generate 24,692 pounds (11,200 kilograms) of chemical waste annually.

**Sanitary Waste Generation:** It is estimated the operations and personnel at the CMRR Facility would produce about 7.15 million gallons (27 million liters) of sanitary waste<sup>5</sup> annually.

**Workforce:** The operational workforce at the CMRR Facility would be about 550 people. If either of the Hybrid Alternatives were implemented, this workforce would be separated between TA-3, the existing CMR Building, and either TA-55 or TA-6. Work would typically be conducted over a 40-hour equivalent work week during daytime hours.

**Worker Dose:** The estimated worker doses are based on historical exposure data for LANL workers (*DOE Worker Occupational Exposure Annual Report for 2000*). Based on the reported data, the average annual dose to a LANL worker who received a measurable dose was 104 millirem. A value of 110 millirem has been used as the estimate of the average annual worker dose per year of operation at the new CMRR Facility.

### **2.7.5 Transportation**

Radioactive and SNM shipments would be conducted within the LANL site. Transport distances would vary across alternatives, from a very short distance, [about 100 to 300 feet (30 to 90 meters)] in Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative at TA-55), to about 3 to 5 miles (5 to 8 kilometers) in Alternative 2, at TA-6. Movement of materials outside TA-55 would occur on NNSA-controlled roads. DOE procedures and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations would not require the use of certified Type B casks within DOE sites. However, DOE procedures require closing the roads and stopping traffic for shipment of material (fissile or SNM) in noncertified packages. Shipment using certified packages, or smaller quantities of radioactive materials and SNM could be performed while site roads are open. As part of current security implementation at LANL, the roads to be used to transport the radioactive and SNM materials would have limited public access capabilities.

Material transport under the proposed action would include a one-time transport of some or all of the equipment at the CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility at TA-55 or TA-6. This movement would occur over a period of 2 to 4 years over open or closed roads.

### **2.7.6 Accident Analysis**

A core set of accident scenarios was selected for analysis in the *CMRR EIS*. The impacts of the accidents analyzed for each alternative reflect and bound the impacts of all reasonably foreseeable accidents that could occur if the alternative were implemented. More details on accident scenarios and assumptions used in the evaluation of human health impacts from facility accidents are presented in Appendix C.

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<sup>5</sup> This estimate is based on the annual sanitary waste production rate for 550 workers, each generating about 50 gallons (189 liters) per day of sanitary waste over 260 working days per year.

### 2.7.7 Disposition of the CMR Building

The disposition options for the existing CMR Building include:

**Disposition Option 1:** Reuse of the Building for administrative and other activities appropriate to the physical conditions of the structure with the performance of necessary structural and systems upgrades and repairs.

**Disposition Option 2:** Decontamination, decommission, and demolition of selected parts of the existing CMR Building, with some portions of the Building being reused.

**Disposition Option 3:** Decontamination, decommission, and demolition of the entire existing CMR Building.

Over the past 50 years of operation, certain areas within the existing CMR Building, pieces of equipment, and building systems have become contaminated with radioactive material and by operations involving SNM. These areas include about 3,100 square feet (290 square meters) of contaminated conveyors, gloveboxes, hoods and other equipment items; 760 cubic feet (20 cubic meters) of contaminated ducts; 580 square feet (50 square meters) of contaminated hot cell floor space; and 40,320 square feet (3,750 square meters) of laboratory floor space.

At this time, the existing CMR Building has not been completely characterized with regard to types and locations of contamination. In addition, project-specific work plans have not been prepared that would define the actual methods, timing, or workforce to be used for the decontamination and demolition of the Building. Instead, general or typical methods of decontamination and demolition are presented in general terms below. Additional NEPA compliance review would be required when the specific features of the disposition of the CMR Building actually become mature for decision in about 15 years.

#### 2.7.7.1 Decontamination and Demolition Process

The process that would be used to decontaminate and demolish the CMR Building is described in the text box in Section 2.9.1. Detailed project-specific work plans for the decontamination and demolition of the CMR Building would be developed and approved by NNSA before any actual work began. These plans would include those required for environmental compliance (such as an SWPP Plan) and monitoring activities (such as using a real-time gamma radiation monitor); all necessary legal and regulatory requirements in effect at the time would be undertaken before any decontamination or demolition activities were conducted. Some of the disposition work could involve technologies and equipment that have been used in similar operations, and some could use newly developed technologies and equipment. It is not likely that all of the decontamination and demolition work elements described in the following discussion would be utilized. All work would be carefully planned in accordance with established state and Federal laws and regulations (such as National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants [NESHAP]), DOE Orders, and LANL procedures and BMPs.

The decontamination and demolition work is estimated to require up to one million person-hours. At any given time, a workforce from 2 to 100 or more workers could be onsite (LANL 2003). The DOE and LANL limit for worker exposure is 5 rem per year (10 CFR 835).

### **2.7.7.2 CMR Building Decontamination**

The CMR Building consists of three levels, each essentially covering the full footprint of the structure. Radioactive contamination in the CMR Building is known or suspected in quantities that could require some level of decontamination or control for continued use or to control the spread of contamination during demolition. The three building levels include:

- **Attic**—Contains primarily facility equipment and is expected to be mostly free of radioactive contamination.
- **Main Floor**—Most of the CMR Building's laboratory and office space is on this level. The ceilings are expected to be mostly clean, with increasing potential for contamination toward the floor. It is estimated that 45 percent of the items and surfaces at this level are contaminated to some degree.
- **Basement**—Contains facility equipment, and has the highest potential for contamination. The ventilation ducts and piping in this area are on the contaminated side of the process flow, and it is expected that some contamination would migrate down into the basement. It is assumed that all equipment and surfaces in the basement are contaminated to some degree.

The CMR Building (except for Wing 9) is constructed of reinforced concrete floors (typically 4 inches [10 centimeters] thick), reinforced concrete walls (18 inches [46 centimeters] thick), reinforced concrete frame, and steel framing with a light-gauge metal deck roof. The entire facility is supported on reinforced concrete basement walls and columns on spread footings. Wing 9 is constructed differently with the above-grade walls consisting of lightly reinforced concrete masonry walls. The floor and grade slabs are thicker (approximately 11 inches [28 centimeters]), and the footings and concrete around and under the hot cells are massive (LANL 2003).

The overall footprint is estimated to be 195,000 square feet (18,116 square meters) and the average height from the bottom of the basement slab to the top of the roof is 50 feet (15 meters). The total volume of the Building is estimated to be 360,000 cubic yards (275,242 cubic meters) (LANL 2003).

**Ventilation System:** The exhaust side of the ventilation system is large and highly contaminated. Most of the contaminated ductwork is in the basement.

**Radioactive Liquid Waste Line:** The radioactive liquid waste system carries contaminated wastewater to the RLWTF at TA-50. This is a highly contaminated system and, due to leakage, is thought to be the largest contributing source of contamination within the CMR Building. It has been estimated that the radioactive liquid waste line consists of approximately 9,200 feet (2,804 meters) of 5-inch- (13-centimeter-) diameter and 16,100 feet (4,907 meters) of 2.5-inch-

(6-centimeter-) diameter stainless steel pipe. It is expected that the bulk of this piping would be transuranic waste, with some portions being mixed low-level radioactive waste due to mercury contamination. Also, in areas of leakage, surrounding concrete, walls, floors, and other adjacent surfaces there may be higher levels of contamination (LANL 2003).

**Vacuum Systems:** Of the two large vacuum systems in the CMR Building, one is highly contaminated. The second newer system is expected to have only low levels of contamination.

**Walls:** Leaks from the radioactive liquid waste line have resulted in contamination within the walls. It has been estimated that 432,000 square feet (40,134 square meters) would have to be replaced to achieve a level of decontamination adequate for reuse of the space for operations (LANL 2003).

**Floors:** Floor contamination is widespread and ranges from low to high levels. The basement floors have many areas of contamination, some of which have been painted over. Floor contamination in the attic is limited.

**Asbestos:** Approximately 73,000 feet (22,250 meters) of asbestos pipe insulation has been found in the CMR Building, with another 9,400 square feet (873 square meters) on ducts. Floor tile (up to 20,000 square feet [1,858 square meters]) and ceiling tile may also contain asbestos (LANL 2003).

Decontamination of the CMR Building would consist of the removal of nonradiological and radiological contamination from the building using vacuum blasting, sand blasting, carbon dioxide bead blasting, scabbling, and mechanical separation of radioactive and nonradioactive materials. This would include removal of flooring, ceiling tiles, insulation, and paint contaminated with asbestos, lead, and other toxic-contaminated materials. Some of these materials may also be contaminated with radionuclides and require special handling. Radiologically contaminated and uncontaminated debris would be segregated. The extent of decontamination performed would be limited to those activities required to minimize radiological and hazardous material exposure to workers, the public, and the environment.

Decontamination of the CMR Building would also include the removal of asbestos debris. About 50 percent of the asbestos debris is anticipated to be free of radiological contamination. The other 50 percent of the asbestos debris is expected to be radiologically contaminated and would require special handling.

Air emissions generated during asbestos removal would be controlled by tents enclosing highly contaminated areas and using high-efficiency particulate air-filtered collection devices to collect asbestos dust particles. Dust suppression techniques would also be used to ensure that particulate emissions are kept to a minimum. Asbestos decontamination workers would be protected by personal protective equipment and other engineering and administrative controls.

Worker exposure to ionizing radiation would be controlled to limit any individual's dose to less than 1 rem per year. Where practical, shielding and remotely operated equipment would be used to reduce radiation levels at worker locations.

### 2.7.7.3 Demolition of the CMR Building

Once the CMR Building has been decontaminated, demolition could proceed. All demolition debris would be sent to appropriate disposal sites. The CMR Building is not expected to be technically difficult to demolish and waste debris would be handled, transported, and disposed of in accordance with standard LANL procedures.

Demolition of uncontaminated portions of the Building would be performed using standard industry practices. A post-demolition site survey would be performed in accordance with the requirements of the *Nuclear Regulatory Commission Manual for Conducting Radiation Surveys* (NUREG/CR-5849).

### 2.7.7.4 Waste Management and Pollution Prevention Techniques

Waste management and pollution prevention techniques that could be implemented during the demolition of the CMR Building would include:

- Conducting routine briefings of workers;
- Segregating wastes at the point of generation to avoid mixing and cross-contamination;
- Decontaminating and reusing equipment and supplies;
- Removing surface contamination from items before discarding;
- Avoiding use of organic solvents during decontamination;
- Using drip, spray, squirt bottles or portable tanks for decontamination rinses;
- Using impermeable materials such as plastic liners or mats and drip pallets to prevent the spread of contamination;
- Avoiding areas of contamination until they are due for decontamination;
- Reducing waste volumes (by such methods as compaction); and
- Engaging in the use of recycling actions (materials such as lead, scrap metals, and stainless steel could be recycled to the extent practical).

Some of the wastes generated from the decontamination and demolition of the CMR Building would be considered residual radioactive material. DOE Order 5400.5 establishes guidelines, procedures, and requirements to enable the reuse, recycle, or release of materials that are below established limits. Materials that are below these limits are acceptable for use without restrictions. The residual radioactive material that would be generated by the decontamination and demolition of the CMR Building would include uncontaminated concrete, soil, steel, lead, roofing material, wood, and fiberglass. The concrete material could be crushed and used as backfill at LANL. Soil could also be used as backfill or as topsoil cover, depending on their characteristics. Steel and lead could be stored and reused or recycled at LANL. Wood, fiberglass, and roofing materials would be disposed at the Los Alamos County Landfill or its replacement facility. The total amount of waste generated from the disposition of the CMR Building is anticipated to be 36,000 cubic yards (27,500 cubic meters); this estimate does not include the amount of waste generated by the demolition of the outbuildings, parking lots, or soil removal. The total volume of solid waste, and recyclable materials generated from the disposition of the CMR Building is estimated at 20,000 cubic yards (15,300 cubic meters)



## Decontamination and Demolition Work Elements

**Characterization, Segregation of Work Areas, and Structural Evaluation:** Walls, floors, ceilings, roof, equipment, ductwork, plumbing, and other building and site elements would be tested to determine the type and extent of contamination present. The CMR Building would then be segregated into areas of contamination and noncontamination. Contaminated areas would be further subdivided by the type of contamination: radioactive materials, hazardous materials, toxic materials including asbestos, and any other RCRA listed or characteristic contamination. As part of the characterization and segregation of work areas, consideration would also be given to the structural integrity of the CMR Building. Some areas could require demolition work prior to decontamination.

**Removal of Contamination:** Workers would remove or stabilize contamination according to the type and condition of materials. If the surface of a wall was found to be contaminated, it might be physically stripped off. If contamination was found within a wall, a surface coating might be applied to keep the contamination from releasing contaminated dust during dismantlement and to keep the surface intact.

**Demolition of the CMR Building, Foundation, and Parking Lot:** After contaminated materials have been removed, wherever possible and practical, the demolition of all or portions of the CMR Building would begin. Demolition could involve simply knocking down the structure and breaking up any large pieces. Knocking down portions of the CMR Building, foundation, and parking lot could require the use of backhoes, front-end loaders, bulldozers, wrecking balls, shears, sledge and mechanized jack hammers, cutting torches, saws, and drills. If not contaminated, demolition material could be reused onsite at LANL or disposed of as construction waste onsite or offsite. Asphalt would be placed in containers and trucked to established storage sites within LANL, at TA-59 on Sigma Mesa.

**Segregating, Packaging, and Transport of Debris:** Demolition debris from the CMR Building would be segregated and characterized by size, type of contamination, and ultimate disposition. Debris that is still radiologically contaminated would be segregated as low-level radioactive waste if no hazardous<sup>1</sup> contamination is present. Radiologically-contaminated and non-contaminated asbestos debris would also be segregated separately. Other types of debris that would be segregated include mixed low-level radioactive waste,<sup>2</sup> noncontaminated construction debris, and debris requiring special handling. Segregation activities could be conducted on a gross scale using heavy machinery or could be done on a smaller scale using hand-held tools. Segregated waste would be packaged as appropriate and stored temporarily pending transport to an appropriate onsite or offsite disposal facility.

Debris would be packaged for transport and disposal according to waste type, characterization, ultimate disposition, and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) or DOE transportation requirements. Uncontaminated construction debris could be sent unpackaged to the local landfill by truck. Demolition debris would also be recycled or reused to the extent practicable. Debris would be disposed of either on or offsite depending on the available capacity of existing disposal facilities. Offsite disposal would involve greater transportation requirements depending on the type of waste, packaging, acceptance criteria, and location of the receiving facility.

**Testing and Cleanup of Soil and Contouring and Seeding:** The soils beneath the CMR Building would be sampled and tested for contamination. Any contaminated soil would undergo cleanup per applicable environmental regulations and permit requirements and would be packaged and transported to the appropriate disposal facility depending on the type and concentration of contamination. After clean fill and soil were brought to the site as needed, the site would be contoured. Contouring would be designed to minimize erosion and replicate or blend in with the surrounding environment. Subsequent seeding activities would utilize native plant seeds and the seeds of non-native cereal grains selected to hold the soil in place until native vegetation becomes stabilized.

<sup>1</sup> Hazardous waste is a category of waste regulated under the RCRA. Hazardous RCRA waste must be solid and exhibit at least one of four characteristics described in 40 CFR 261.20 through 40 CFR 261.24 (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity) or be specifically listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 40 CFR 261.31 through 40 CFR 261.33.

<sup>2</sup> Mixed low-level radioactive waste contains both hazardous RCRA waste and source, special nuclear, or byproduct material subject to the Atomic Energy Act.

(LANL 2003). The volume of radioactive waste generated from the disposition of the CMR Building is estimated to be 16,000 cubic yards (12,200 cubic meters).

Asbestos that is not radiologically contaminated would be packaged according to applicable requirements and sent to the LANL asbestos transfer station for shipment offsite to a permitted asbestos disposal facility along with other asbestos waste generated at LANL.

Radioactive contaminated soil, concrete, walls, and tiles would be packaged as low-level radioactive wastes and disposed of at TA-54, Area G, or an offsite commercial facility. Gloveboxes and radioactive liquid waste lines categorized as transuranic waste would be disposed at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

If any other RCRA-regulated hazardous wastes were generated by disposition activities, they would be handled, packaged, and disposed of according to LANL's hazardous waste management program. Hazardous wastes would be stored at TA-54, Area L, at LANL until sufficient quantities are accumulated for shipment to offsite treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. Any hazardous waste generated by the demolition of the CMR Building would be transferred to an appropriate offsite facility for disposal. All offsite shipments would be transported by a properly licensed and permitted shipper and conducted in compliance with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations and DOE standards.

### **2.7.8 Disposition of the CMRR Facility**

Disposition of the new CMRR Facility would be considered at the end of its designed lifetime operation of at least 50 years. It is anticipated that the impacts from the disposition of the CMRR Facility would be similar to those discussed for the disposition of the existing CMR Building.

## **2.8 THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

CEQ regulations require an agency to identify its preferred alternative, if one or more exists, in the final EIS [40 CFR 1502.14(e)]. The Preferred Alternative is the alternative that the agency believes would fulfill its statutory mission, giving consideration to environmental, economic, technical, and other factors. Alternative 1 (construct a new CMRR Facility at TA-55), is NNSA's Preferred Alternative for the replacement of the CMR capabilities. NNSA has identified as its preferred construction option the construction of a single consolidated SNM-capable Hazard Category 2 laboratory with a separate administrative offices and support functions building (Construction Option 3). NNSA's preferred option for the disposition of the CMR Building is to decontaminate, decommission and demolish the entire structure (Disposition Option 3).

## **2.9 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CMR BUILDING REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

This section comparatively summarizes the alternatives analyzed in this EIS in terms of their expected environmental impacts and other possible decision factors. The following subsections summarize the environmental consequences and risks by construction and operations impacts for

each alternative. In addition, environmental impacts common to all alternatives are also summarized. These include transportation risks and CMR Building and CMRR Facility disposition impacts.

**Table 2–3** presents a comparison of the environmental impacts for each of the alternatives discussed in detail in Chapter 4, including facility construction and operations impacts. For the most part, environmental impacts would be small and would be similar among the alternatives analyzed.

### 2.9.1 Construction Impacts

In evaluating construction impacts, Construction Option 1 was considered to be the option that would bound the potential environmental impacts from construction activities. The results in Table 2–3, therefore, represent Construction Option 1 for all alternatives.

**No Action Alternative:** Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no new construction and minimal necessary structural and systems upgrades and repairs. Accordingly, there would be no environmental impacts resulting from construction for this alternative.

**Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative):** The construction of new Hazard Category 2 and 3 buildings, the construction of an administrative offices and support functions building, SNM vaults and other utility and security structures, and a parking lot at TA-55 would affect 26.75 acres (10.8 hectares) of mostly disturbed land and would not change the area's current land use designation. The existing infrastructure resources (natural gas, water, electricity) would adequately support construction activities. Construction activities would result in temporary increases in air quality impacts, but resulting criteria pollutant concentrations would be below ambient air quality standards. Construction activities would not impact water, visual resources, geology and soils, or cultural and paleontological resources. Minor indirect effects to Mexican spotted owl habitat could result from the removal of a small amount of habitat area, increased site activities, and night-time lighting near the remaining Mexican spotted owl habitat areas. The socioeconomic impacts associated with construction would not cause any major changes to employment, housing, or public finance in the socioeconomic region of influence. Waste generated during construction would be adequately managed by the existing LANL capacity for handling waste.

**Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative):** The construction of new Hazard Category 2 and 3 buildings, the construction of an administrative offices and support functions building, SNM vaults and other utility and security structures, and a parking lot at TA-6 would affect 26.75 acres (10.8 hectares) of undisturbed land, and would change the area's current land use designation to nuclear material research and development, similar to that of TA-55. Infrastructure resources (natural gas, water, electricity) would need to be extended or expanded to TA-6 to support construction activities. Construction activities would result in temporary increases in air quality impacts, but resulting criteria pollutant concentrations would be below ambient air quality standards. Construction would also alter the existing visual character of the central portion of TA-6 from that of a largely natural woodland to an industrial site. Once completed, the new CMRR Facility would change the Visual Resource Contrast Rating of TA-6 from Class III to

Class IV. Construction activities would not impact water, biotic resources (including threatened and endangered species), geology and soils, or cultural and paleontological resources. The socioeconomic impacts associated with construction would not cause any major changes to employment, housing, or public finance in the region of influence. Waste generated during construction would be adequately managed by the existing LANL capacity for handling waste. In addition, a radioactive liquid waste pipeline might also be constructed across Two-Mile Canyon to tie in with an existing pipeline to the RLWTF at TA-50.

**Alternative 3 (Hybrid Alternative at TA-55):** The construction of new Hazard Category 2 and 3 buildings, the construction of SNM vaults and utility and security structures, and a parking lot at TA-55 would affect 22.75 acres (9.2 hectares) of disturbed land, and would not change the area's current land use designation. The existing infrastructure resources (natural gas, water electricity) would adequately support construction activities. Construction activities would result in temporary increases in air quality impacts, but resulting criteria pollutant concentrations would be below ambient air quality standards. Construction activities would not impact water, visual resources, geology and soils, or cultural and paleontological resources. Minor indirect effects on Mexican spotted owl habitat could result from the removal of a small amount of habitat area, increased site activities, and night-time lighting near the remaining Mexican spotted owl habitat areas. The socioeconomic impacts associated with construction would not cause any major changes to employment, housing, or public finance in the region of influence. Waste generated during construction would be adequately managed by the existing LANL capacity for handling waste.

**Alternative 4 (Hybrid Alternative at TA-6):** The construction of new Hazard Category 2 and 3 buildings, the construction of SNM vaults and utility and security structures, and a parking lot at TA-6 would affect 22.75 acres (9.2 hectares) of undisturbed land, and would change the area's current land use designation to nuclear material research and development, similar to that of TA-55. Infrastructure resources (natural gas, water, electricity) would need to be extended or expanded at TA-6 to support construction activities. Construction activities would result in temporary increases in air quality impacts, but resulting criteria pollutant concentrations would be below ambient air quality standards. It would alter the existing visual character of the central portion of TA-6 from that of a largely natural woodland to an industrial site. Once completed, the new CMRR Facility would change the Visual Resource Contrast Rating of TA-6 from Class III to Class IV. Construction activities would not impact water, biotic resources (including threatened and endangered species), geology and soils, or cultural and paleontological resources. The socioeconomic impacts associated with construction would not cause any major changes to employment, housing, or public finance in the region of influence. Waste generated during construction would be adequately managed by the existing LANL capacity for handling waste. In addition, a radioactive liquid waste pipeline might also be constructed across Two-Mile Canyon to tie in with an existing pipeline to the RLWTF at TA-50.

## **2.9.2 Operations Impacts**

Relocating CMR operations to either TA-55 or TA-6 at LANL would require similar facilities, infrastructure support procedures, resources, and numbers of workers during operations. For most environmental areas of concern, differences would be minor. There would be no

perceivable differences in impacts between the alternatives for land use and visual resources, air and water quality, biotic resources (including threatened and endangered species), geology and soils, cultural and paleontological resources, power usage, and socioeconomics. Additionally, the new CMRR Facility would use existing waste management facilities to treat, store, and dispose of waste materials generated by CMR operations. All impacts would be within regulated limits and would comply with Federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Any transuranic waste generated by CMRR Facility operations would be treated and packaged in accordance with the WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria and transported to WIPP or a similar type facility for DOE disposition.

Normal operations for each of the action alternatives would increase the amount of radiological releases as compared to current CMR Building operations. Current operations at the CMR Building are restricted, and do not support the levels of activity described for the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*. There would be small differences in potential radiological impacts to the public, depending on the location of the new CMRR Facility. However, radiation exposure to the public would be small and well below regulatory limits and limits imposed by DOE Orders. The maximally exposed offsite individual would receive a dose of less than or equal to 0.3 millirem per year, which translates to  $1.8 \times 10^{-7}$  latent cancer fatalities per year from normal operational activities at the new CMRR Facility. Statistically, this translates into a risk of one chance in five million of a fatal cancer for the maximally exposed offsite individual due to these operations. The total dose to the population within 50 miles (80 kilometers) would be a maximum of 2.0 person-rem per year, which translates to 0.0012 latent cancer fatalities per year in the entire population from normal operations at the new CMRR Facility. Statistically, this would equate to a chance of one additional fatal cancer among the exposed population in every 1,000 years.

Using DOE-approved computer models and analysis techniques, estimates were made of worker and public health and safety risks that could result from potential accidents for each alternative. For all CMRR Facility alternatives, the results indicate that there would statistically be no chance of a latent cancer fatality for a worker or member of the public. The CMRR Facility accident with the highest risk is a facility-wide spill of radioactive material caused by a severe earthquake that exceeds the design capability of the CMRR Facility under Alternative 1. The risk for the entire population for this accident was estimated to be 0.0005 latent cancer fatalities per year. This is statistically equivalent to stating that there would be no chance of a latent cancer fatality for an average individual in the population during the lifetime of the facility. Continued operation of the CMR Building under the No Action Alternative would carry a higher risk because of the building's location and greater vulnerability to earthquakes. The risk for the entire population associated with an earthquake at the CMR building would be 0.0024 latent cancer fatalities per year, which is also statistically equivalent to no chance of a latent cancer fatality for an average individual during the lifetime of the facility.

### **2.9.3 Environmental Impacts Common to All Alternatives**

As previously noted, overall CMR operational characteristics at LANL would not change regardless of the ultimate location of the replacement facility and the alternative implemented. Sampling methods and mission operations in support of AC and MC would not change and,

therefore, would not result in any additional environmental or health and safety impacts to LANL. Each of the alternatives would generally have the same amount of operational impacts. In other words, all of the alternatives would produce equivalent levels of emissions and radioactive releases into the environment, infrastructure requirements would be the same, and each alternative would generate the same amount of radioactive and nonradioactive waste, regardless of the ultimate location of the new CMRR Facility at LANL.

Other impacts that would be common to each of the action alternatives include transportation impacts and CMR Building and CMRR Facility disposition impacts. Transportation impacts could result from: (1) the one-time movement of SNM, equipment, and other materials during the transition from the existing CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility; and (2) the routine onsite shipment of AC and MC samples between the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 and the new CMRR Facility. Impacts from the disposition of the existing CMR Building and CMRR Facility would result from the decontamination and demolition of the Building and the transport and disposal of radiological and nonradiological waste materials.

### **Transportation Risks**

All alternatives except the No Action Alternative, would require the relocation and one-time transport of SNM equipment and materials. Transport of SNM, equipment, and other materials currently located at CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility at TA-55 or TA-6 would occur over a period of 2 to 4 years. The public would not be expected to receive any measurable exposure from the one-time movement of radiological materials associated with this action. Impacts of potential handling and transport accidents during the one-time movement of SNM, equipment, and other materials during the transition from the existing CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility would be bounded by other facility accidents for each alternative. For all alternatives, the environmental impacts and potential risks of transportation would be small.

Under each alternative, routine onsite shipments of AC and MC samples consisting of small quantities of radioactive materials and SNM samples would be shipped from the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 to the new CMRR Facility at either TA-55 or TA-6. The public would not be expected to receive any additional measurable exposure from the normal movement of small quantities of radioactive materials and SNM samples between these facilities. The potential risk to a maximally exposed individual member of the public from a transportation accident involving routine onsite shipments of AC and MC samples between the Plutonium Facility and CMRR Facility was estimated to be very small ( $9.0 \times 10^{-8}$ ). For all alternatives, the overall environmental impacts and potential risks of transporting AC and MC samples would be small.

### **Impacts During the Transition from the CMR Building to the New CMRR Facility**

During a 4-year transition period, CMR operations at the existing CMR Building would be moved to the new CMRR Facility. During this time both CMR facilities would be operating, although at reduced levels. At the existing CMR Building, where restrictions would remain in effect, operations would decrease as CMR operations move to the new CMRR Facility. At the new CMRR Facility, levels of CMR operations would increase as the facility becomes fully operational. In addition, the transport of routine onsite shipment of AC and MC samples would

continue to take place while both facilities are operating. With both facilities operating at reduced levels at the same time, the combined demand for electricity, water, and manpower to support transition activities during this period may be higher than what would be required by the separate facilities. Nevertheless, the combined total impacts during this transition phase from both these facilities would be expected to be less than the impacts attributed to the Expanded Operations Alternative and the level of CMR operations analyzed in the *LANL SWEIS*.

Also during the transition phase, the risk of accidents would change at both the existing CMR Building and the new CMRR Facility. At the existing CMR Building, the radiological material at risk and associated operations and storage would decline as material and equipment are transferred to the new CMRR Facility. This would have the positive effect of reducing the risk of accidents at the CMR Building. Conversely, at the new CMRR Facility, as the amount of radioactive material at risk and associated operations increases to full operations, the risk of accidents would also increase. However, the improvements in design and technology at the new CMRR Facility would also have a positive effect of reducing overall accident risks when compared to the accident risks at the existing CMR Building. The expected net effect of both of these facilities operating at the same time during the transition period would be for the risk of accidents to be lower than the accident risks at either the existing CMR Building or the fully operational new CMRR Facility.

### **CMR Building and CMRR Facility Disposition Impacts**

All action alternatives would require some level of decontamination and demolition of the existing CMR Building. Operational experience at the CMR Building indicates some surface contamination has resulted from the conduct of various activities over the last 50 years. Impacts associated with decontamination and demolition of the CMR Building are expected to be limited to the creation of waste within LANL site waste management capabilities. This would not be a discriminating factor among the alternatives.

Decontamination and demolition of the new CMRR Facility would also be considered at the end of its designed lifetime operation of at least 50 years. Impacts from the disposition of the CMRR Facility would be expected to be similar to those for the existing CMR Building.

**Table 2-3 Summary of Environmental Consequences for the CMR Replacement Project**

<i>Resource/Material Categories</i>	<i>No Action Alternative</i>	<i>Alternative 1 (relocate CMR AC and MC operations to TA-55) <sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Alternative 2 (relocate CMR AC and MC operations to TA-6) <sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Alternative 3 (relocate CMR AC and MC operations to TA-55) <sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Alternative 4 (relocate CMR AC and MC operations to TA-6) <sup>b</sup></i>					
<b>Land Resources</b>										
Construction <sup>c</sup> / Operations <sup>d</sup>	No impact	26.75 acres/ 13.75 acres	26.75 acres/ 15.25 acres	22.75 acres/ 9.75 acres	22.75 acres/ 11.25 acres					
<b>Air Quality</b>										
Construction <sup>c</sup>	No impact	Small temporary impact	Small temporary impact	Small temporary impact	Small temporary impact					
Operations	0.00003 curies of actinides	- 0.00076 curies of actinides - 2,645 curies of tritium and noble fission gases	- 0.00076 curies of actinides - 2,645 curies of tritium and noble fission gases	- 0.00076 curies of actinides - 2,645 curies of tritium and noble fission gases	- 0.00076 curies of actinides - 2,645 curies of tritium and noble fission gases					
<b>Water Resources</b>										
Construction <sup>c</sup>	No impact	Small temporary impact	Small temporary impact	Small temporary impact	Small temporary impact					
Operations	Small impact	Small impact	Small impact	Small impact	Small impact					
<b>Ecological Resources</b>										
Construction <sup>c</sup>	No impact	Indirect effect on Mexican spotted owl habitat	No impact	Indirect effect on Mexican spotted owl habitat	No impact					
Operations	No impact	Indirect effect on Mexican spotted owl habitat	No impact	Indirect effect on Mexican spotted owl habitat	No impact					
<b>Socioeconomics</b>										
Construction <sup>c</sup>	No impact	No noticeable changes; 300 workers (peak) 1,152 jobs	No noticeable changes; 300 workers (peak), 1,152 jobs	No noticeable changes; 300 workers (peak), 1,152 jobs	No noticeable changes; 300 workers (peak), 1,152 jobs					
Operations	No impact	No increase in workforce <sup>e</sup>	No increase in workforce <sup>e</sup>	No increase in workforce <sup>e</sup>	No increase in workforce <sup>e</sup>					
<b>Public and Occupational Health and Safety</b>										
<b>Normal Operations</b>	<i>Dose</i>	<i>LCF</i>	<i>Dose</i>	<i>LCF</i>	<i>Dose</i>	<i>LCF</i>	<i>Dose</i>	<i>LCF</i>	<i>Dose</i>	<i>LCF</i>
Population dose (person-rem per year)	0.04	0.000024	1.9	0.0011	2.0	0.0012	1.9	0.0011	2.0	0.0012
MEI (millirem per year)	0.006	$3.5 \times 10^{-9}$	0.33	$2.0 \times 10^{-7}$	0.35	$2.1 \times 10^{-7}$	0.33	$2.0 \times 10^{-7}$	0.35	$2.1 \times 10^{-7}$
Average individual dose (millirem per year)	0.0001	$7.9 \times 10^{-11}$	0.006	$3.8 \times 10^{-9}$	0.006	$4.0 \times 10^{-9}$	0.006	$3.8 \times 10^{-9}$	0.006	$4.0 \times 10^{-9}$
Total worker dose (person-rem per year)	22	0.013	61	0.04	61	0.04	61	0.04	61	0.04
Average worker dose (millirem per year)	110	0.00007	110	0.00007	110	0.00007	110	0.00007	110	0.00007
Hazardous chemicals	None		None		None		None		None	



<i>Resource/Material Categories</i>	<i>No Action Alternative</i>	<i>Alternative 1 (relocate CMR AC and MC operations to TA-55)<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Alternative 2 (relocate CMR AC and MC operations to TA-6)<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Alternative 3 (relocate CMR AC and MC operations to TA-55)<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Alternative 4 (relocate CMR AC and MC operations to TA-6)<sup>b</sup></i>
<b>Accidents (Maximum Annual Cancer Risk, LCF)</b>					
Population	0.0024	0.0005	0.00048	0.0005	0.00048
MEI	$4.3 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.5 \times 10^{-6}$	$3.3 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.5 \times 10^{-6}$	$3.3 \times 10^{-7}$
Noninvolved worker	0.00019	$5.0 \times 10^{-6}$	0.000054	$5.0 \times 10^{-6}$	0.000054
<b>Environmental Justice</b>	No disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations				
<b>Waste Management (cubic yards of solid waste per year unless otherwise indicated):</b> Waste would be disposed of properly with small impact.					
Transuranic waste	19.5	61	61	61	61
Mixed Transuranic waste	8.5	27	27	27	27
Low-level <sup>f</sup> radioactive waste	1,217	2,640	2,640	2,640	2,640
Mixed low-level radioactive waste	6.7	26	26	26	26
Hazardous waste (pounds per year)	10,494	24,692	24,692	24,692	24,692
<b>Transportation</b>					
<b>Accidents<sup>g</sup></b>	<i>Dose</i>	<i>Dose</i>	<i>Dose</i>	<i>Dose</i>	<i>Dose</i>
MEI (rem per year)	$7.7 \times 10^{-7}$	0	0.00015	0	0.00015

LCF = latent cancer fatality; MEI = maximally exposed individual member of the public.

<sup>a</sup> Relocate CMR AC and MC and actinide research and development activities to a new CMRR Facility consisting of an administrative offices and support functions building and Hazard Category 2 and 3 buildings.

<sup>b</sup> Relocate CMR AC and MC and actinide research and development activities to a new CMRR Facility consisting of only Hazard Category 2 and 3 buildings.

<sup>c</sup> Construction impacts are based on Construction Option 1, which is bounding.

<sup>d</sup> Acreage reflects building footprints, parking lot, and new roads as applicable.

<sup>e</sup> CMR operations would require no additional workers beyond what was projected by the Expanded Operations Alternative analyzed in the *LANL SWEIS*. Increased CMRR Facility operations at LANL would require up to 550 workers. This would be an increase of 346 workers over current requirements. The Expanded Operations Alternative presented in the *LANL SWEIS* addressed the impact of this increase in employment.

<sup>f</sup> Volumes of low-level radioactive waste includes solid waste generated by the treatment of liquid low-level radioactive waste generated by CMR operations.

<sup>g</sup> Population transportation impacts would be bounded by the normal operation and accident impacts evaluated for the various alternatives.

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### 3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Chapter 3 describes the affected environment at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). This information provides the context for understanding the environmental consequences described in Chapter 4 and serves as a baseline from which any environmental changes brought about by implementing the proposed action can be evaluated. The affected environment at LANL is described for the following impact areas: land use and visual resources; site infrastructure; climate, air quality, and noise; geology and soils; surface and groundwater quality; ecological resources; cultural and paleontological resources; socioeconomics; environmental justice; human health; and waste management and pollution prevention.

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations (40 CFR [*Code of Federal Regulations*] 1500 through 1508) for preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS), the affected environment is “interpreted comprehensively to include the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment.” The affected environment descriptions presented in this chapter provide the context for understanding the environmental consequences described in Chapter 4. They serve as a reference from which any environmental changes brought about by implementing the proposed action can be evaluated; the reference conditions are the currently existing conditions.

The proposed action considered in this *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement Project at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (CMRR EIS)*, would place chemistry and metallurgy research (CMR) activities at Technical Area (TA) 3 (the location of the existing CMR Building), TA-6 (the “greenfield” location), or TA-55 (the preferred new location). The affected environment at LANL is described for the following resource areas: land use and visual resources; site infrastructure; climate, air quality, and noise; geology and soils; surface and groundwater quality; ecological resources; cultural and paleontological resources; socioeconomics; environmental justice; human health; and waste management and pollution prevention. The level of detail varies depending on the potential for impacts resulting from each alternative.

The following site-specific and recent project-specific documents were important sources of information in describing the existing environment at LANL. Numerous other sources of site- and resource-related data were also used in the preparation of this chapter and are cited as appropriate:

- *Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL SWEIS)* (DOE 1999a)

- *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Relocation of Technical Area 18 Capabilities and Materials at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (DOE 2002e).*

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) evaluated the environmental impacts of the proposed action and other alternatives within defined regions of influence. The regions of influence are specific to the type of effect evaluated and encompass geographic areas within which any significant impact would be expected to occur. For example, human health risks to the general public from exposure to airborne contaminant emissions were assessed for an area within a 50-mile (80-kilometer) radius of the proposed facilities. Economic effects such as job and income changes were evaluated within a socioeconomic region of influence that includes the county in which LANL is located and nearby counties in which substantial portions of the site’s workforce reside. Brief descriptions of the regions of influence are given in **Table 3–1**. More detailed descriptions of the regions of influence and the methods used to evaluate impacts are presented in Appendix A.

**Table 3–1 General Regions of Influence for the Affected Environment**

<i>Environmental Resources</i>	<i>Region of Influence</i>
Land use and visual resources	LANL and the areas immediately adjacent to it
Site infrastructure	LANL
Air quality	LANL, nearby offsite areas within local air quality control regions where significant air quality impacts may occur, and Class I areas within 62 miles (100 kilometers)
Noise	LANL, nearby offsite areas, access routes to the sites, and the transportation corridors
Geology and soils	LANL and nearby offsite areas
Surface and groundwater quality	LANL and adjacent surface water bodies and groundwater
Ecological resources	LANL and adjacent areas
Cultural and paleontological resources	LANL and adjacent to the site boundary
Socioeconomics	The counties where approximately 90 percent of LANL employees reside
Environmental justice	The minority and low-income populations within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of LANL
Human health	The site and offsite areas within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of LANL
Waste management and pollution prevention	LANL

Reference conditions for each environmental resource area were determined for ongoing operations from information provided in previous environmental studies, relevant laws and regulations, and other Government reports and databases. More detailed information on the affected environment can be found in annual site environmental reports and site NEPA documents. Unless otherwise referenced, the following description of the affected environment at LANL, TA-3, TA-6, and TA-55 are based all or in part on information provided in the *LANL SWEIS* (DOE 1999a), which is incorporated by reference.

### **3.2 LAND USE AND VISUAL RESOURCES**

LANL is located on approximately 25,600 acres (10,360 hectares) of land in north central New Mexico (**Figure 3–1**). The site is located 60 miles (97 kilometers) north-northeast of Albuquerque, 25 miles (40 kilometers) northwest of Santa Fe, and 20 miles (32 kilometers) southwest of Española. LANL is owned by the Federal Government and administered by DOE’s

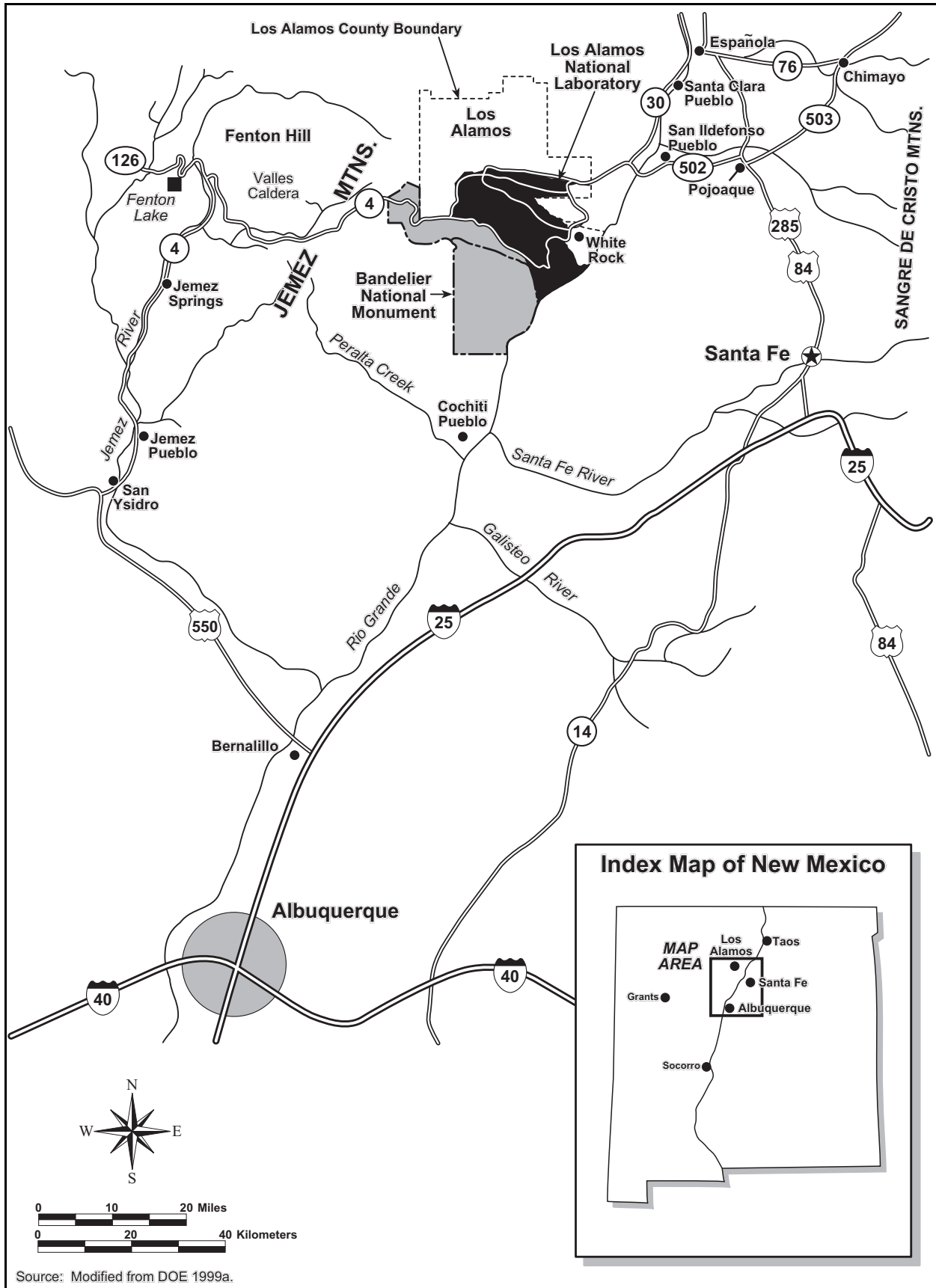


Figure 3-1 Location of LANL

NNSA. It is operated by the University of California under contract to DOE. Portions of LANL are located in Los Alamos and Santa Fe counties. DOE's principal missions are national security, energy resources, environmental quality, and science; each of these missions is supported by activities conducted at LANL. NNSA's national security mission includes maintaining and enhancing the safety, reliability, and performance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile; promoting international nuclear safety and nonproliferation; reducing global danger from weapons of mass destruction; and providing safe and reliable nuclear propulsion plants for the U.S. Navy.

LANL is divided into 49 separate TAs with location and spacing that reflect the site's historical development patterns, regional topography, and functional relationships (**Figure 3-2**). While the exact number of structures changes somewhat with time (for example, as a result of the Cerro Grande Fire; see Section 3.2.1), in 1999 there were 944 permanent structures, 512 temporary structures, and 806 miscellaneous buildings with approximately 5,000,000 square feet (465,000 square meters) that could be occupied. In addition to onsite office space, about 213,300 square feet (19,833 square meters) of space is leased within the Los Alamos town site and White Rock community.

### 3.2.1 Land Use

Land use in the LANL region is linked to the economy of northern New Mexico, which depends heavily on tourism, recreation (such as skiing and fishing), agriculture, and the state and Federal governments for its economic base. Area communities are generally small, such as the Los Alamos town site with under 12,000 residents, and primarily support urban uses including residential, commercial, lite industrial, and recreational facilities. The region also includes Native American communities; lands of the Pueblo of San Ildefonso shares LANL's eastern border, and other pueblos are located nearby. Major governmental bodies that serve as land stewards and determine land uses within Los Alamos and Santa Fe counties include county governments, DOE, Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest), the Department of the Interior (National Park Service, Bandelier National Monument, and the Bureau of Land Management), the State of New Mexico, and several Native American pueblos. Bandelier National Monument and Santa Fe National Forest border LANL primarily to the southwest and northwest, respectively; however, small portions of each also border the site to the northeast (see **Figure 3-3**).

The *LANL SWEIS* used a hazard-based land use approach to characterize land use at LANL. This approach is based on the most hazardous activities in each TA and is organized into six categories.

**Support:** Includes TAs with only support facilities that do not perform research and development activities and that are generally free from chemical, radiological, or explosive hazards; also includes undeveloped TAs, other than those that serve as buffers.

**Research and Development:** Includes TAs that perform research and development activities with associated chemical and radiological hazards, but that are generally free of explosives hazards; does not include waste disposal sites.

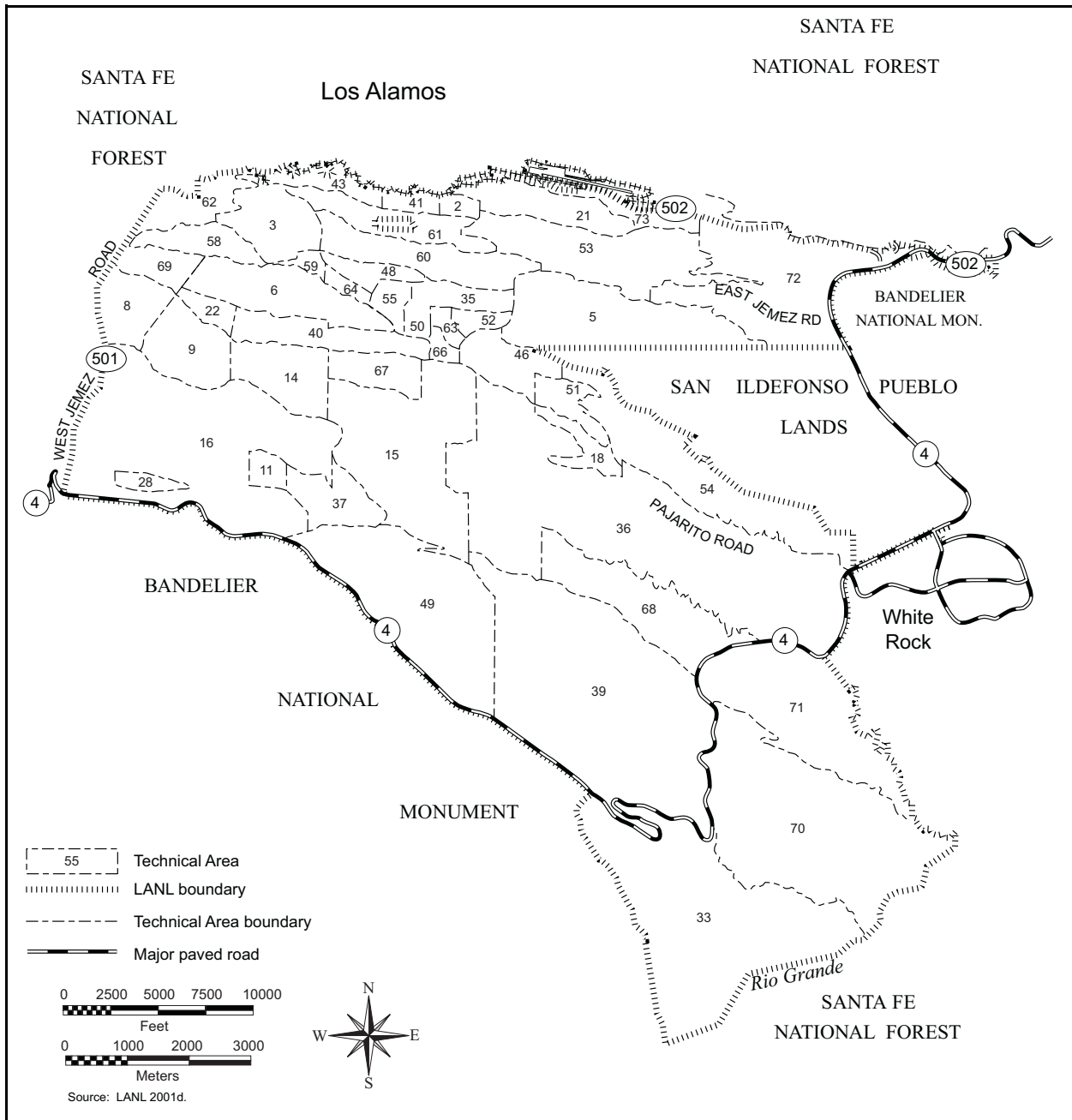


Figure 3–2 Technical Areas of LANL

**Research and Development/Waste Disposal:** The remaining research and development areas (i.e., those areas that are generally free of explosives hazards and have existing waste disposal sites).

**Explosives:** Includes TAs where explosives are tested or stored, but does not include waste disposal sites.

**Explosives/Waste Disposal:** The remaining sites where explosives are tested or stored (such as those with existing waste disposal sites).

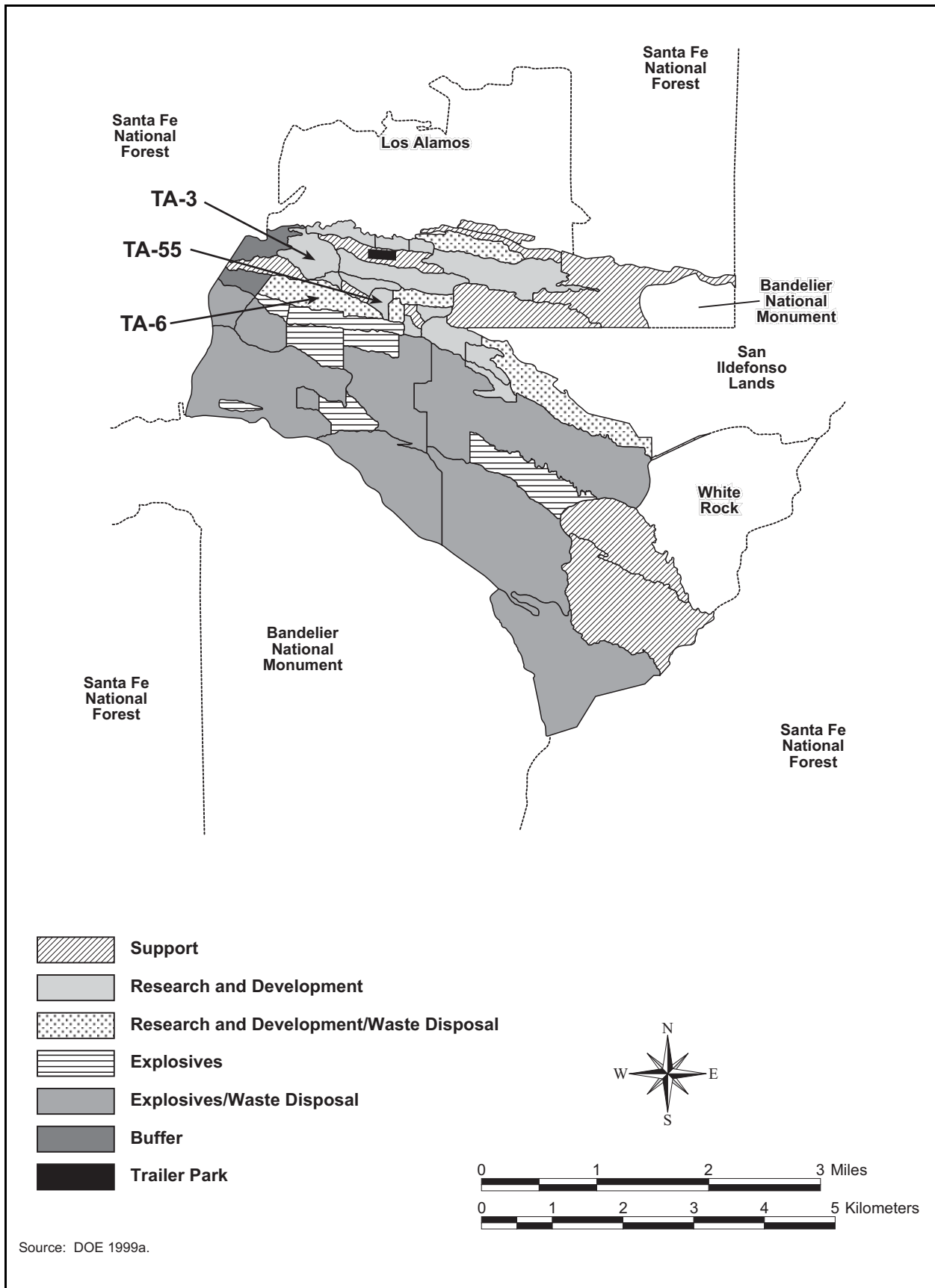


Figure 3-3 Land Use at and Adjacent to LANL

**Buffer:** Land identified in each of the usage types described above also may serve as a buffer area. This last land use category therefore includes areas that only serve as buffers for the safety or security of other TAs, usually explosives areas.

The *LANL Comprehensive Site Plan* (LANL 2000f) incorporated the *LANL SWEIS* hazard-based land use approach and augmented it by describing and mapping 10 land use categories. The entire Laboratory site is divided into the following land uses: administration, experimental science, high explosives research and development, high explosives testing, nuclear materials research and development, physical/technical support, public/corporate interface, reserve, theoretical/computational science, and waste management.

LANL is divided into TAs that are used for building sites, experimental areas, and waste disposal locations. However, those uses account for only a small part of the total land area of the site. In fact, only 5 percent of the site is estimated to be unavailable to most wildlife (because of security fencing). Most of the site is undeveloped to provide security, safety, and expansion possibilities for future mission-support requirements. There are no agricultural activities present at LANL, nor are there any prime farmlands in the vicinity. In 1977, DOE designated LANL as a National Environmental Research Park for use by the national scientific community as an outdoor laboratory to study the impacts of human activities on piñon-juniper woodland ecosystems (DOE 1996c). In 1999, the White Rock Canyon Reserve was dedicated. It is about 1,000 acres (405 hectares) in size and is located on the southeast perimeter of LANL. The reserve is managed jointly by DOE and the National Park Service for its significant ecological and cultural resources and research potential (LANL 2000e).

Beginning on May 5, 2000, a wildfire known as the Cerro Grande Fire burned across the Los Alamos area. By the time the fire was fully contained on June 6, it had burned a total of 43,150 acres (17,462 hectares), of which 7,684 acres (3,110 hectares) were within the boundaries of LANL (DOE 2002c). In general, impacts of the fire on land use in the region should be temporary. Access and use of certain recreation areas and trails will continue to be restricted over the next year or 2 within at least part of LANL and the surrounding forestlands. Within LANL, 45 structures (trailers, transportable and storage units) were totally destroyed and 67 were damaged. The fire also affected the Los Alamos town site, where about 230 housing units were totally destroyed. The Cerro Grande Fire at times threatened structures at TA-3 and TA-55; however, no permanent buildings were damaged or destroyed. Although the fire burned across TA-6, it did so at a generally low intensity and did not burn any buildings in the area (DOE 2000b, LANL 2000c).

The *Los Alamos County Comprehensive Plan*, which is presently being updated (Los Alamos County 2002), identifies land planning issues and establishes land planning objectives on private and county lands comprising 8,613 acres (3,486 hectares). Twenty-nine percent of this land is located within the Los Alamos town site (inclusive of Royal Crest Trailer Park) and 26 percent is located in the community of White Rock. The remaining 45 percent of the land is undeveloped and is used for recreational activities and open space. LANL, as a Federal Government property, is not addressed in the County Plan. Land-use designations in the Santa Fe County Plan are based on groundwater protection goals. Therefore, this plan designates LANL as “Agricultural



and Residential,” although, as noted above, there are no agricultural activities on the site, nor are there any residential uses within LANL boundaries (DOE 1996c).

TA-3 is situated in the west-central portion of LANL and is separated from the Los Alamos townsite by Los Alamos Canyon. It is located within the *LANL SWEIS* defined Research and Development land use category (see Figure 3-3) and is an area that has been designated for Experimental Science by the *LANL Comprehensive Site Plan* (LANL 2000f). TA-3 covers 357 acres (144 hectares), of which 69 percent has been developed. Site facilities are located on the top of a mesa between the upper reaches of Sandia and Mortandad Canyons. The administration complex within LANL contains the Director’s office, administrative offices, and support facilities. Major facilities within the area include the CMR Building, the Sigma Complex, the Main Shops, and the Materials Science Laboratory. Other buildings house central computing facilities, chemistry and materials science laboratories, Earth and space science laboratories, physics laboratories, technical shops, cryogenics laboratories, the main cafeteria, badge office, and the study center. A security fence to aid in physical safeguarding of special nuclear materials (SNM) bounds the CMR Building.

TA-6 is adjacent to and south of TA-3 and is located on a mesa between Twomile and Pajarito Canyons. It is situated about 0.6 miles (1 kilometer) south of Los Alamos. The area falls within the *LANL SWEIS* defined Research and Development/Waste Disposal land use category (Figure 3-3). Lands within TA-6 are designated in the *LANL Comprehensive Site Plan* for Experimental Science and High-Explosives Research and Development (LANL 2000f). TA-6 encompasses 500 acres (202 hectares) of which only 1 percent is occupied by a gas cylinder staging facility and vacant buildings pending decommissioning.

TA-55 is situated in the west-central portion of LANL approximately 1.1 miles (1.8 kilometers) south of Los Alamos townsite. It is located within the Research and Development land use category as defined in the *LANL SWEIS* (Figure 3–3). The area is designated for Nuclear Materials Research and Development by the *LANL Comprehensive Site Plan* (LANL 2000f). TA-55 encompasses 40 acres (16 hectares) of which 43 percent is developed. The main complex has five connected buildings including the Administration Building, Support Office Building, Support Building, Plutonium Facility, and Warehouse. The Nuclear Materials Storage Facility is separate from the main complex. TA-55 facilities provide research and applications in chemical and metallurgical processes of recovering, purifying, and converting plutonium and other actinides into many compounds and forms, as well as research into material properties and fabrication of parts for research and stockpile applications. A security fence to aid in physical safeguarding of SNM bounds the entire site.

### **3.2.2 Visual Resources**

The topography of northern New Mexico is rugged, especially in the vicinity of LANL. Mesa tops are cut by deep canyons, creating sharp angles in the land form. In some cases, slopes are nearly vertical. Often, little vegetation grows on these steep slopes, exposing the geology, with contrasting horizontal planes varying from fairly bright reddish orange to almost white in color. A variety of vegetation occurs in the region, the density and height of which may change over time and can affect the visibility of an area within the LANL viewshed. Undeveloped lands

within LANL have a Bureau of Land Management Visual Resource Contrast rating of Classes II and III. Management activities within these classes may be seen but should not dominate the view.

For security reasons, much of the development within LANL, which is generally austere and utilitarian, has occurred out of the public's view. Passing motorists or nearby residents can see only a small fraction of what is actually there. Prior to the Cerro Grande Fire, the view of most LANL property from many stretches of area roadways was that of woodlands and brushy areas. Views from various locations in Los Alamos County and its immediate surroundings have been altered by the Cerro Grande Fire. Although the visual environment is still diverse, interesting, and panoramic, portions of the visual landscape are dramatically stark. Rocky outcrops forming the mountains are now visible through the burned forest areas. The eastern slopes of the Jemez Mountains, instead of presenting a relatively uniform view of dense green forest, are now a mosaic of burned and unburned areas. Grasses and shrubs initially will replace forest stands and will contribute to the visual contrast between the burned and unburned areas for many years. University of California, current LANL Management and Operating contractor (UC at LANL) and neighboring land stewards are in the process of mechanically thinning the forests within LANL and nearby to reduce the existing fuel loads. This effort involves the removal of both burned and live trees. This tree thinning process will increase the visibility of industrial and residential areas within LANL and Los Alamos County. Local effects include reduced visual appeal of trails and recreation areas (DOE 2000b).

The most visible developments at LANL are a limited number of very tall structures, facilities at relatively high, exposed locations, or those beside well-traveled, publicly accessible roads. Developed areas within LANL are consistent with a Class IV Visual Resource Contrast rating, in which management activities dominate the view and are the focus of viewer attention.

At lower elevations, at a distance of several miles away from LANL, the site is primarily distinguishable in the daytime by views of its water storage towers, and white domes at TA-54. Similarly, the Los Alamos town site appears mostly residential in character, with the water storage towers very visible against the backdrop of the Jemez Mountains. At elevations above LANL, along the upper reaches of the Pajarito Plateau rim, the view of LANL is primarily of scattered austere buildings and groupings of several-storied buildings. Similarly, the residential character of the Los Alamos town site is predominantly visible from higher elevation viewpoints. At night, the lights of LANL, the Los Alamos town site, and White Rock are directly visible from various locations across the viewshed as far away as the towns of Española and Santa Fe.

TA-3 is located on a mesa at the base of the Jemez Mountains between the upper reaches of Sandia and Mortandad Canyons. TA-3 is heavily developed and contains numerous buildings that are austere and industrial in appearance. Multi-storied buildings within TA-3 are visible from the Los Alamos town site and from upper elevations of the Pajarito Plateau. The visual resources of TA-3 are consistent with a Class IV Visual Resource Contrast rating, that is, management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention (DOI 1986).

TA-6 is located on a mesa between Twomile and Pajarito Canyons. The area is largely undeveloped; however, it contains a gas cylinder staging facility and vacant buildings pending decommissioning. The heavily wooded area is visible from Pajarito Road and from higher elevations to the west along the upper reaches of the Pajarito Plateau rim. The visual resources of TA-6 are consistent with a Class III Visual Resource Contrast rating, that is, management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer (DOI 1986).

TA-55 is located on a mesa about 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) southeast of TA-3. While not visible from lower elevations, TA-55 is visible from higher elevations to the west along the upper reaches of the Pajarito Plateau rim, from where it appears as one of several scattered built-up areas among the heavily forested areas of the site. As is the case for TA-3, developed portions of TA-55 would have a Class IV Visual Resource Contrast rating.

### 3.3 SITE INFRASTRUCTURE

Site infrastructure characteristics for LANL are summarized in **Table 3–2**. Each infrastructure characteristic is further discussed in the following paragraphs.

**Table 3–2 LANL Sitewide Infrastructure Characteristics**

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Site Usage</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Site Capacity</i>
<b>Transportation</b>		
Roads (miles)	80 <sup>b</sup>	Not applicable
Railroads (miles)	0	Not applicable
<b>Electricity</b> <sup>c</sup>		
Energy (megawatt hours per year)	491,186	963,600
Peak load demand (megawatts)	85.5	110
<b>Fuel</b>		
Natural gas (cubic feet per year)	2,530,000,000 <sup>d</sup>	8,070,000,000 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Water</b> (gallons per year)	344,000,000	542,000,000 <sup>f</sup>

<sup>a</sup> All site usage values are for fiscal year except for water use, which is calendar year.

<sup>b</sup> Includes paved roads and paved parking areas only.

<sup>c</sup> Usage and capacity values are for the entire Los Alamos Power Pool.

<sup>d</sup> Usage value for LANL plus baseline usage for other Los Alamos County users.

<sup>e</sup> Entire service area capacity, which includes LANL and other Los Alamos area users.

<sup>f</sup> Equivalent to DOE's leased water rights.

Sources: DOE 1999a, DOE 1999c, LANL 2002d, LANL 2002e.

#### 3.3.1 Ground Transportation

About 80 miles (130 kilometers) of paved roads and parking surface have been developed at LANL (see Table 3–2). There is no railway service connection at the site. Local and linking regional transportation systems, including roadways, are detailed in Section 3.9.4.

#### 3.3.2 Electricity

Electrical service to LANL is supplied through a cooperative arrangement with Los Alamos County, known as the Los Alamos Power Pool, that was established in 1985. Electric power is

supplied to the Power Pool through two existing regional 115-kilovolt electric power lines. The first line (the Norton-Los Alamos line) is administered by DOE and originates from the Norton Substation near White Rock, and the second line (the Reeves Line) is owned by the Public Service Company of New Mexico and originates from the Bernalillo-Algodones Substation. Both transmission substations are owned by the Public Service Company of New Mexico. DOE also operates a gas-fired steam and electrical power generating plant at TA-3 (TA-3 Co-generation Complex) that is used on an as-needed basis, primarily during peak demand periods of LANL operations and during Pool outages. DOE also maintains various low-voltage transformers at LANL facilities and approximately 34 miles (55 kilometers) of 13.8-kilovolt distribution lines (DOE 2000a). Within LANL, DOE also maintains two power distribution substations: the Eastern TA Substation and the TA-3 Substation. In mid-2001, LANL broke ground for construction of the new Western TA Substation as part of a project to provide overall electrical supply reliability across the site and to provide redundant capacity for LANL and the Los Alamos town site in the event of an outage at either of LANL's two existing substations. The Western TA Substation will be serviced by a new 115-kilovolt power transmission line originating at the existing Norton Substation. The new substation's main transformer is rated at 56-megavolt-amperes or about 45 megawatts (DOE 2000a, LANL 2002d).

Recent changes (as of August 1, 2002) in transmission agreements with the Public Service Company of New Mexico have resulted in the removal of contractual restraints on Power Pool resources import capability. Import capacity is now limited only by the physical capability (thermal rating) of the transmission lines. The import capacity is approximately 110 to 120 megawatts from a number of hydroelectric, coal, and natural gas power generators throughout the western United States (LANL 2002e). Onsite electrical generating capability for the Power Pool is limited by the existing TA-3 steam and electric power plant, which is capable of producing up to 20 megawatts of electric power that is shared by the Power Pool under contractual arrangement (DOE 2002g). However, an environmental assessment (DOE 2002g) has been prepared for a project that will support the installation of two new, gas-fired combustion turbine generators within the TA-3 Co-generation Complex and upgrade of the existing steam turbines. Each new unit will have an electric generating capacity of 20 megawatts, with the first unit to be installed in the Fiscal Year 2003 (FY 2003) to FY 2004 timeframe. The second unit is currently not planned for installation until FY 2007 at the earliest (DOE 2002g). Thus, construction and installation of the first combustion turbine generator will boost LANL's onsite electrical generating capacity by 20 megawatts in the near future.

Electricity consumption and peak demands by LANL have historically fluctuated, largely as a result of power demand by the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center. Electric power availability from the Pool (based on a peak load import capacity of 110 megawatts) is 963,600 megawatt-hours per year. In FY 2001, LANL used 375,143 megawatt-hours of electricity. Other Los Alamos County users consumed an additional 116,043 megawatt-hours. The FY 2001 peak load was about 70.9 megawatts for LANL and about 14.6 megawatts for the rest of the county (LANL 2002d). The CMR Building at TA-3 used 12,598 megawatt-hours of electricity in FY 2001, and TA-55 used 14,509 megawatt-hours of electricity in the same period (Johnson Controls 2002). Electricity usage within TA-6 is minimal, as there are no permanently occupied or operated facilities in the area.

### **3.3.3 Fuel**

Natural gas is the primary fuel used in Los Alamos County and at LANL. The natural gas system includes a high-pressure main and distribution system to Los Alamos County and pressure-reducing stations at LANL buildings. In August 1999, DOE sold the 130-mile- (209-kilometer-long) main gas supply line and associated metering stations serving Los Alamos and vicinity to the Public Service Company of New Mexico (LANL 2000d). The county and LANL both have delivery points where gas is monitored and measured. LANL burns natural gas to generate steam to heat buildings and to generate electric power. The natural gas delivery system servicing the Los Alamos area has a contractually-limited capacity of about 8.07 billion cubic feet (229 million cubic meters) per year (DOE 1999c). In FY 2001, LANL used approximately 1.49 billion cubic feet (42.3 million cubic meters) of natural gas (see Table 3–2). Some 90 percent of the natural gas used at LANL is for heating and the remainder for electricity generation to meet peak demands (LANL 2002d). The rest of the service area including Los Alamos County is estimated to use an average of 1.04 billion cubic feet (29.5 million cubic meters) of natural gas annually (DOE 1999c). Relatively small quantities of fuel oil are also stored at LANL as a backup fuel source, but use is negligible. TA-3 and TA-55 use natural gas to fire boilers and for other facility uses. There are no active facilities within TA-6 that consume natural gas. TA-55 is estimated to use approximately 45 million cubic feet (1.3 million cubic meters) of natural gas annually (DOE 2002e).

### **3.3.4 Water**

The Los Alamos water supply system consists of 14 deep wells, 153 miles (246 kilometers) of main distribution lines, pump stations, storage tanks, and 9 chlorination stations. This system supplies potable water to all of the county, LANL, and Bandelier National Monument. On September 8, 1998, DOE transferred operation of the water production system from DOE to Los Alamos County under a lease agreement. Under the lease agreement, DOE retained responsibility for operating the distribution system within LANL boundaries, whereas the county assumed full responsibility for operating the water system, including ensuring compliance with Federal and state drinking water regulations (DOE 2000a, LANL 2002d). On September 5, 2001, DOE completed the transfer of ownership of the water system to the county, along with 70 percent (3,879 acre feet [4.8 million cubic meters] or 1,264 million gallons [4,785 million liters] per annum) of its rights to water. The remaining 30 percent (1,662 acre feet [2.1 million cubic meters] or 542 million gallons [2.05 billion liters] per annum) of the water rights are leased by DOE to the county for 10 years, with the option to renew the lease for 4 additional 10-year terms. A contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for an additional 1,200 acre feet (1.5 million cubic meters) per year of San Juan-Chama Transmountain Diversion Project water was also transferred to Los Alamos County.

In 2001, LANL used approximately 344 million gallons (1.30 billion liters) of water (LANL 2002d) (see Table 3–2). Potable water is obtained from deep wells located in three well fields (Gauje, Otowi, and Pajarito). Water use at TA-6 is negligible as there are no permanently occupied or operated facilities.

### 3.4 CLIMATE, AIR QUALITY, AND NOISE

#### 3.4.1 Climate

Los Alamos has a semiarid, temperate mountain climate. This climate is characterized by seasonable, variable rainfall with precipitation ranging from 10 to 20 inches (25 to 51 centimeters) per year. The climate of the Los Alamos town site is not as arid (dry) as that part near the Rio Grande, which is arid continental. Meteorological conditions within Los Alamos are influenced by the elevation of the Pajarito Plateau. Climatological averages for atmospheric variables such as temperature, pressure, winds, and precipitation presented are based on observations made at the official Los Alamos meteorological weather station from 1961 to 1990. Normal (30-year mean) minimum and maximum temperatures for the community of Los Alamos range from a mean low of 17.4 degrees Fahrenheit (F) (-8.1 degrees Centigrade [C]) in January to a mean high of 80.6 degrees F (27 degrees C) in July. Normal (30-year mean) minimum and maximum temperatures for the community of White Rock range from a mean low of 14.6 degrees F (-9.7 degrees C) in January to a mean high of 85.6 degrees F (29.8 degrees C) in July. Temperatures in Los Alamos vary with altitude, averaging 5 degrees F (3 degrees C) higher in and near the Rio Grande Valley, which is 6,500 feet (1,981 meters) above sea level, and 5 to 10 degrees F (3 to 5.5 degrees C) lower in the Jemez Mountains, which are 8,500 to 10,000 feet (2,600 to 3,050 meters) above sea level. Los Alamos town site temperatures have dropped as low as -18 degrees F (-28 degrees C) and have reached as high as 95 degrees F (35 degrees C). The normal annual precipitation for Los Alamos is approximately 19 inches (48 centimeters). Annual precipitation rates within the county decline toward the Rio Grande Valley, with the normal precipitation for White Rock at approximately 14 inches (34 centimeters). The Jemez Mountains receive over 25 inches (64 centimeters) of precipitation annually. The lowest recorded annual precipitation in Los Alamos town site was 7 inches (17 centimeters) and the highest was 39 inches (100 centimeters).

Thirty-six percent of the annual precipitation for Los Alamos County and LANL results from thunderstorms that occur in July and August. Winter precipitation falls primarily as snow. Average annual snowfall is approximately 59 inches (150 centimeters), but can vary considerably from year to year. Annual snowfall ranges from a minimum of 9 inches (24 centimeters) to a maximum of 153 inches (389 centimeters).

Los Alamos County winds average 7 miles per hour (3 meters per second). Wind speeds vary throughout the year, with the lowest wind speeds occurring in December and January. The highest winds occur in the spring (March through June), due to intense storms and cold fronts. The highest recorded wind in Los Alamos County was 77 miles per hour (34 meters per second). Surface winds often vary dramatically with the time of day, location, and elevation, due to Los Alamos' complex terrain.

In addition to seasonal changes in wind conditions, surface winds often vary with the time of day. An up-slope air flow often develops over the Pajarito Plateau in the morning hours. By noon, winds from the south usually prevail over the entire plateau. The prevalent nighttime flow ranges from the west-southwest to northwest over the western portion of the plateau. These nighttime winds result from cold air drainage off the Jemez Mountains and the Pajarito Plateau. Analyses

of Los Alamos Canyon wind data indicate a difference between the atmospheric flow in the canyon and the atmospheric flow over the Pajarito Plateau. Cold air drainage flow is observed about 75 percent of the time during the night and continues for an hour or two after sunrise until an up-canyon flow forms. Wind conditions are discussed further in the *LANL SWEIS* (DOE 1999a).

Thunderstorms are common in Los Alamos County, with an average of 60 thunderstorms occurring in a year. Lightning can be frequent and intense. The average number of lightning-caused fires in the 2,727 acres (1,104 hectares) of Bandelier National Monument for the years 1990 through 1994 is 12 per year. There are no recorded instances of large-scale flooding in Los Alamos County. However, flash floods from heavy thunderstorms are possible in areas such as arroyos, canyons, and low-lying areas. No tornadoes are known to have touched the ground in the Los Alamos area.

### 3.4.2 Air Quality

#### 3.4.2.1 Nonradiological Releases

LANL operations can result in the release of nonradiological air pollutants that may affect the air quality of the surrounding area. LANL is within the Upper Rio Grande Valley Intrastate Air Quality Control Region (#157). The area encompassing LANL and Los Alamos County is classified as an attainment area for all six criteria pollutants (carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, lead, ozone, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter) (40 CFR 81.332).

In addition to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of New Mexico has established ambient air quality standards for carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, total suspended particulates, hydrogen sulfide, and total reduced sulfur. Additionally, New Mexico has established permitting requirements for new or modified sources of regulated air pollutants. Air quality permits have been obtained from the State Air Quality Bureau for beryllium operations, operation of an air curtain destructor, operation of an asphalt plant, open burning of high-explosive wastes, operation of a rock crusher, the TA-3 power plant and TA-33 generator that were modified or constructed after August 31, 1972. In accordance with Title V of the Clean Air Act, as amended, and New Mexico Administrative Code 20.2.70, UC at LANL and DOE submitted a sitewide operating permit application to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in December 1995. NMED has reviewed the application and issued a Notice of Completeness, but has not yet issued an operating permit. In November 2002, UC at LANL prepared and submitted a comprehensive update and replacement to the December 1995 application. NMED has reviewed the November 2002 application and issued a Notice of Completeness in December 2002, but has not yet issued an approved operating permit.

Criteria pollutants released from LANL operations are emitted primarily from combustion sources such as boilers, emergency generators, and motor vehicles. **Table 3-3** presents information regarding the primary existing sources. In October 2002, UC at LANL installed a flue gas recirculation system on the TA-3 steam plant boilers that will reduce nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions by 70 percent (LANL 2002c). LANL's sitewide operating permit application

requests voluntary facility-wide emission limits in order to ensure that LANL remains a minor stationary source for the purposes of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Construction Permit Program and the Clean Air Act Title III requirements for hazardous air pollutants. Toxic air pollutant emissions from LANL activities are released primarily from laboratory, maintenance, and waste management operations. Unlike a production facility with well-defined operational processes and schedules, LANL is a research and development facility with great fluctuations in both the types of chemicals emitted and their emission rates. LANL and DOE have a program to review new and modified operations for their potential to emit air pollutants.

**Table 3–3 Air Pollutant Emissions at LANL in 2001**

<i>Pollutant</i>	<i>LANL Sources (tons per year)</i>	<i>TA-3 Sources (tons per year)</i>	<i>TA-6 Sources (tons per year)</i>	<i>TA-55 Sources (tons per year)</i>
Carbon monoxide	29.1	18.6	(a)	1.65
Nitrogen dioxide	93.8	73.9	(a)	2.88
PM <sub>10</sub>	5.5	3.59	(a)	0.24
Sulfur dioxide	0.82	0.72	(a)	0.01
Volatile organic compounds	24.1	2.51	(a)	0.1
Hazardous air pollutants	7.4	0.41	(a)	0.67

PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter.

<sup>a</sup> No emission units exist at TA-6.

Source: LANL 2001d, LANL 2002d.

Only limited monitoring of the ambient air has been performed for nonradiological air pollutants within the LANL region. NMED operated an ambient air quality monitoring station adjacent to Bandelier National Monument between 1990 and 1994 to record sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and particulate matter (pm) with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>) levels (see **Table 3–4**).

NMED discontinued operation of this station in FY 1995 because recorded values were well below applicable standards. Beryllium monitoring performed in 1999 at 9 onsite stations, 10 perimeter stations, and 6 regional stations showed that beryllium levels were low. The New Mexico beryllium ambient standard has been repealed.

**Table 3–4 Nonradiological Ambient Air Monitoring Results**

<i>Pollutant</i>	<i>Averaging Period</i>	<i>Most Stringent Standard<sup>a</sup> (micrograms per cubic meter)</i>	<i>Ambient Concentration<sup>b</sup> (micrograms per cubic meter)</i>
Sulfur dioxide	Annual	41 <sup>c</sup>	2
	24 hours	205 <sup>c</sup>	18
	3 hours	1,030 <sup>d</sup>	Not applicable
Nitrogen dioxide	Annual	73.7 <sup>c</sup>	4
	24 hours	147 <sup>c</sup>	9
Ozone	1 hour	185 <sup>d</sup>	138
PM <sub>10</sub>	Annual	50 <sup>d</sup>	8
	24 hours	150 <sup>d</sup>	29

PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter.

<sup>a</sup> The most stringent of the state and Federal standards are shown.

<sup>b</sup> 1994 ambient concentrations from monitoring site near Bandelier National Monument at TA-49.

<sup>c</sup> State standard.

<sup>d</sup> Federal standard (NAAQS).

Source: DOE 1999a.



Criteria pollutant concentrations attributable to existing LANL activities would be below the concentrations estimated for the Expanded Operations Alternative, which were estimated for the *LANL SWEIS* and are presented in **Table 3–5**.

**Table 3–5 Modeled Ambient Air Concentrations from LANL Sources**

<i>Pollutant</i>	<i>Averaging Period</i>	<i>Most Stringent Standard<sup>a</sup> (micrograms per cubic meter)</i>	<i>Maximum Estimated Concentration<sup>b</sup> (micrograms per cubic meter)</i>
Carbon monoxide	8 hours	7,800	1,440
	1 hour	11,700	2,710
Lead	Calendar quarter	1.5	0.00007
Nitrogen dioxide	Annual	73.7	9
	24 hours	147	90
PM <sub>10</sub>	Annual	50	1
	24 hours	150	9
Sulfur dioxide	Annual	41	18
	24 hours	205	130
	3 hours	1,030	254
Total suspended particulates	Annual	60	2
	24 hours	150	18

PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter.

<sup>a</sup> The more stringent of the Federal and state standards is presented if both exist for the averaging period. The NAAQS (40 CFR Part 50), other than those for ozone, particulate matter, lead, and those based on annual averages, are not to be exceeded more than once per year. The annual arithmetic PM<sub>10</sub> mean standard is attained when the expected annual arithmetic mean concentration is less than or equal to the standard. Standards and monitored values for pollutants other than particulate matter are stated in parts per million (ppm). These values have been converted to micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) with appropriate corrections for temperature (70 degrees F [21 degrees C]) and pressure (elevation 7,005 feet [2,135 meters]), following New Mexico dispersion modeling guidelines (revised 1998) (NMAQB 1998).

<sup>b</sup> Based on the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*. The annual concentrations were analyzed at locations to which the public has access—the site boundary or nearby sensitive areas. Short-term concentrations were analyzed at the site boundary and at the fence line of certain TAs to which the public has short access.

Source: DOE 1999a.

For toxic air pollutants, a bounding analysis was performed for the *LANL SWEIS*, which indicated that the pollutants of concern for exceeding the guideline values at LANL were emissions from the High Explosives Firing Site operations and emissions that contributed to additive risk from all TAs on receptors near the Los Alamos Medical Center. These combined cancer risks were dominated by chloroform emissions from the Health Research Laboratory. It was shown that pollutants released under the No Action Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS* are not expected to cause air quality impacts that would affect human health and the environment.

As reported in a special environmental analysis for the Cerro Grande Fire in 2000 (DOE 2000b), there could be some temporary increase in suspended particulate matter as a result of removal of vegetation cover, but air quality would be expected to be within the parameters analyzed in the *LANL SWEIS*.

In accordance with the Clean Air Act, as amended, and New Mexico regulations, the Bandelier Wilderness Area has been designated as a Class I area (that is, wilderness areas that exceed 10,000 acres [4,047 hectares]), where visibility is considered to be an important value (40 CFR 81 and 20 New Mexico Administrative Code [NMAC] 2.74) and requires protection. Visibility is measured according to a standard visual range (i.e., how far an image is transmitted through the atmosphere to an observer some distance away). Visibility has been officially

monitored by the National Park Service at the Bandelier National Monument since 1988. The view distance at Bandelier National Monument has been recorded from approximately 40 to 103 miles (64 to 166 kilometers). The visual range has not deteriorated during the period for which data are available.

### 3.4.2.2 Radiological Releases

Radiological air emissions in 2001 from all LANL TAs are presented in **Table 3–6**. Radiological air emissions from TA-3, TA-6, and TA-55 are also shown in the table. Plutonium and uranium releases for the year did not change significantly from those experienced in 2000. A single release from TA-16 in January 2001 accounted for 7,600 curies (81 percent) of the tritium released at LANL for the entire year.

**Table 3–6 Radiological Airborne Releases to the Environment at LANL in 2001**

<i>Radionuclide</i>	<i>LANL (curies)</i>	<i>TA-3 (curies)</i>	<i>TA-6 (curies)</i>	<i>TA-55 (curies)</i>
Tritium	9,400	—	—	3.3
Americium-241	$2.7 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.6 \times 10^{-7}$	—	$6.2 \times 10^{-9}$
Plutonium (includes -238, -239, -240)	$9.3 \times 10^{-6}$	$9.2 \times 10^{-6}$	—	$4.3 \times 10^{-8}$
Uranium (includes -234, -235, -238)	$7.3 \times 10^{-6}$	$7.1 \times 10^{-6}$	—	$1.7 \times 10^{-7}$
Thorium	$7.7 \times 10^{-7}$	$5.1 \times 10^{-7}$	—	$2.7 \times 10^{-7}$
Particulates/vapor activation products	1.1	$2.7 \times 10^{-7}$	—	$1.2 \times 10^{-7}$
Gaseous/mixed activation products	6,100	—	—	—
Total	15,500	.000017	—	3.3

Note: Dashed lines indicate no measurable releases.

Source: LANL 2002b.

A radiological ambient air sampling network is fielded in Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Rio Arriba Counties and is designed to measure levels of airborne radionuclides (plutonium, tritium, and uranium) that may be emitted from Laboratory operations. Radionuclides emitted from stacked and/or diffuse sources may be captured. The network comprises more than 50 ambient air sampling stations. Each sampler is equipped with a filter to collect a particulate matter sample (for gross alpha/beta and radiochemical determination) and a silica gel cartridge to collect a water sample (for tritium determination). The average ambient air concentrations calculated from the field and analytical data for the last 5 years by the type of radioactivity and by specific radionuclide are presented in **Table 3–7**.

### 3.4.3 Noise

Existing LANL-related publicly detectable noise levels are generated by a variety of sources, including construction noise, truck and automobile movements to and from the LANL TAs, high explosives testing, and firearms practice by security guards. Noise levels within Los Alamos County unrelated to LANL are generated predominantly by traffic movements and, to a much lesser degree, other residential-, commercial-, and industrial-related activities. Limited data currently exist on the levels of routine background ambient noise levels, air blasts, or ground vibrations produced by LANL operations that include explosives detonations.

**Table 3-7 Average Background Concentration of Radioactivity in the Regional Atmosphere near LANL<sup>a</sup>**

	<i>Units</i>	<i>EPA Concentration limit<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>
Gross Alpha	Ci/m <sup>3</sup>	Not applicable	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8
Gross Beta	Ci/m <sup>3</sup>	Not applicable	14.1	12.4	13.4	13.0	13.9
Tritium	Ci/m <sup>3</sup>	1,500	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.8	-0.1
Plutonium 238	Ci/m <sup>3</sup>	2,100	0.0	0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.0
Plutonium 239, 240	Ci/m <sup>3</sup>	2,000	-0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1
Americium-241	Ci/m <sup>3</sup>	1,900	0.2	0.3	-0.2	0.3	-0.2
Uranium 234	Ci/m <sup>3</sup>	7,700	14.1	12.9	16.1	17.1	17.9
Uranium 235	Ci/m <sup>3</sup>	7,100	0.6	0.9	1.2	0.9	1.3
Uranium 238	Ci/m <sup>3</sup>	8,300	12.2	12.8	15.2	15.9	17.7

<sup>a</sup> Data from regional air sampling stations operated by LANL during the last 5 years. Locations can vary by year.

<sup>b</sup> Each EPA limit equals 10 mrem per year.

Note: negative numbers. Some values in the tables indicate measured negative concentrations, which is physically impossible. However, it is possible for measured concentrations to be negative because the measured concentrations are a sum of the true value and all random errors. As the true value approaches zero, the measured value approaches the total random errors, which can be negative or positive and overwhelm the true value. Arbitrarily discarding negative values when the true value is near zero will result in overestimated ambient concentrations.

Source: LANL 2002c.

Traffic noise contributes heavily to the background noise heard by humans over most of the county. Although some measurements of sound specifically targeting traffic-generated noise have been made at various county locations in recent studies, these sound levels are found to be highly dependent upon the exact measuring location, time of day, and meteorological conditions. There is, therefore, no single representative measurement of ambient traffic noise for the LANL site. Noise generated by traffic has been computer modeled to estimate the impact of incremental traffic for various studies, including recent NEPA analyses, without demonstrating meaningful change from current levels due to any new activities. While very few measurements of nonspecific background ambient noise in the LANL area have been made, two such measurements have been taken at a couple of locations near the LANL boundaries next to public roadways.

The standard unit used to report sound pressure levels is the decibel (dB); the A-weighted frequency scale (dBA) is an expression of adjusted pressure levels by frequency that accounts for human perception of loudness. Background noise levels were found to range from 31 to 35 decibels A-weighted (dBA) at the vicinity of the entrance to Bandelier National Monument and New Mexico Route 4 (NM 4). At White Rock, background noise levels range from 38 to 51 dBA (1-hour equivalent sound level); this is slightly higher than was found near Bandelier National Monument, probably due to higher levels of traffic and the presence of a residential neighborhood, as well as the different physical setting. The detonation of high explosives represents the peak noise level generated by LANL operations. The results of these detonations are air blasts and ground vibrations.

The primary source of detonation activities is the high explosives experiments conducted at the LANL Pulsed High-Energy Radiation Machine Emitting X-Rays Facility and surrounding TAs with active firing sites. The Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test Facility has begun operation (followed by a corresponding reduction of Pulsed High-Energy Radiation Machine Emitting X-Rays Facility operations) and is a source of high explosives testing. Explosives

detonations were performed in March 1995 for the *Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test Facility Final Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE 1995) analysis, and measurements of air blasts and ground vibrations were obtained for representative Pulsed High-Energy Radiation Machine Emitting X-Rays Facility explosives tests.

Air blasts consist of higher-frequency, audible air pressure waves that accompany an explosives detonation. This noise can be heard by both workers and the area public. The lower-frequency air pressure waves are not audible, but may cause secondary and audible noises within a testing structure that may be heard by workers. Air blasts and most LANL-generated ground vibrations result from testing activities involving aboveground explosives research. The effects of vibration from existing activities at LANL are discussed further in the *LANL SWEIS* (DOE 1999a).

The forested condition of much of LANL (especially where explosives testing areas are located), the prevailing area atmospheric conditions, and the regional topography that consists of widely varied elevations and rock formations all influence how noise and vibrations can be both attenuated (reduced) and channeled away from receptors. These regional features are jointly responsible for the lack of environmental noise pollution or ground vibration concerns to the area resulting from LANL operations. Sudden loud “booming” noises associated with explosives testing are similar to the sound of thunder and may occasionally startle members of the public and LANL workers alike.

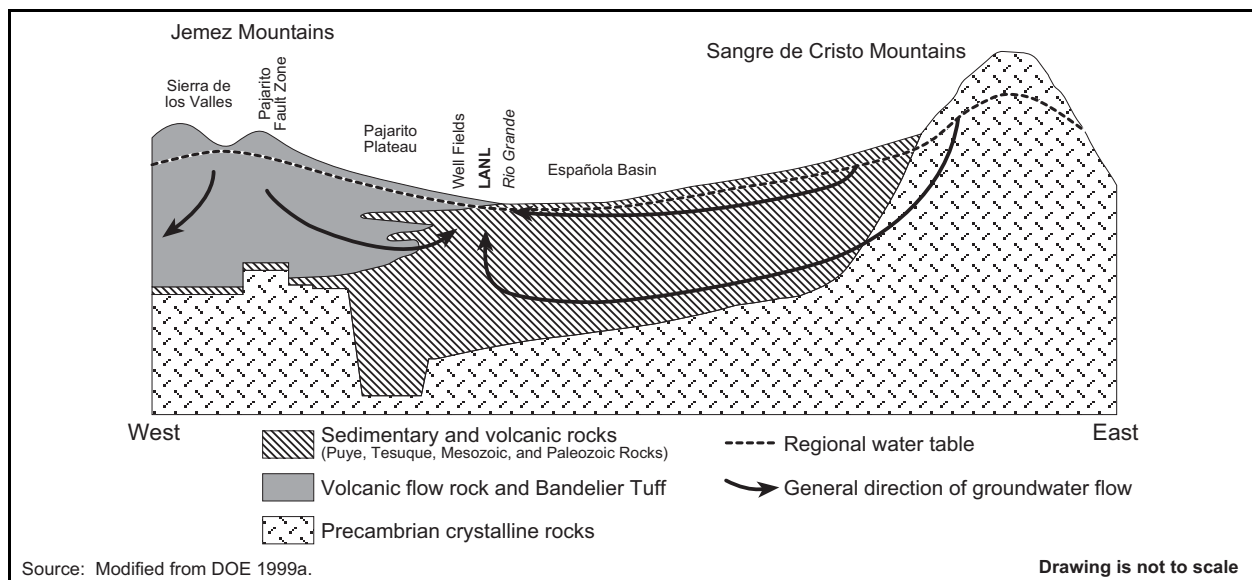
Loss of large forest areas from the Cerro Grande Fire in 2000 has had an adverse effect on the ability of the surrounding environment to absorb noise. However, types of noise and noise levels associated with LANL, and from activities in surrounding communities, have not changed significantly as a result of the fire (DOE 2000b).

Noise generated by LANL operations, together with the audible portions of explosives air blasts, is regulated by worker protection standards and is consistent with the Los Alamos County Code regarding noise generation. Los Alamos County has promulgated a local noise ordinance that establishes noise level limits for residential land uses. Noise levels that affect residential receptors are limited to a maximum of 65 dBA during daytime hours (between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m.) and 53 dBA during nighttime hours (between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.). Between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., the permissible noise level can be increased to 75 dBA in residential areas, provided the noise is limited to 10 minutes in any 1 hour. Activities that do not meet the noise ordinance limits require a permit.

The Los Alamos County Community Development Department has determined that LANL does not need a special permit under the Los Alamos County Code because noise related to explosives testing is not prolonged, nor is it considered unusual to the Los Alamos community. Traffic noise from truck and automobile movements around the LANL TAs is excepted under Los Alamos County noise regulations, as is traffic noise generated along public thoroughfares within the county. The vigor and well being of area wildlife and sensitive, Federally-protected bird populations suggest that sound levels at LANL are present within an acceptable tolerance range for most wildlife species and sensitive nesting birds found along the Pajarito Plateau.

### 3.5 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

LANL is located on the Pajarito Plateau within the Southern Rocky Mountains Physiographic Province. The Pajarito Plateau lies between the Valles Caldera in the Jemez Mountains to the west and the Rio Grande to the east (see **Figure 3-4**). The gently sloping surface of the Pajarito Plateau is divided into multiple narrow east-southeast trending mesas dissected by deep parallel canyons that extend from the Jemez Mountains to the Rio Grande. The major tectonic feature in the region is the Rio Grande Rift that begins in northern Mexico, trends northward across central New Mexico, and ends in central Colorado. The rift is comprised of a complex system of north-trending basins formed from down-faulted blocks of the Earth's crust. In the Los Alamos area, the rift is about 35 miles (56 kilometers) wide and contains the Española Basin. The Sangre de Cristo Mountains border the rift on the east. The Jemez Mountains lie west of the rift and the Pajarito Fault system.



**Figure 3-4 Geology and Hydrogeology of the Española Portion of the Northern Rio Grande Basin**

Rocks in the LANL region are volcanic in origin, or sedimentary deposits. Volcanic activity began forming the Jemez Mountains about 16.5 million years ago (Gardner et al. 1986) and continued sporadically to the most recent eruptions that produced the El Cajete Pumice Fall about 50,000 to 60,000 years ago (Reneau et al. 1996). Several independent lines of evidence indicate that future volcanic activity in the Jemez Mountains is likely (LANL 1999), but recurrence intervals have not been firmly established.

#### 3.5.1 Geology

##### 3.5.1.1 Surficial Geologic Units

In the LANL area, the youngest surficial geologic units consist of artificial fill due to modern development, colluvium, and alluvium along stream channels in canyons. Extensive areas on the Pajarito Fault escarpment show evidence of mass wasting and land slides. Detailed mapping and

trench studies in the Pajarito Fault zone have identified multiple alluvial fan deposits, the youngest of which contained detrital charcoal dated at 9,300 to 9,600 years old. The El Cajete Pumice, which dates from 50,000 to 60,000 years old, is contained within intermediate-aged alluvial fan deposits. Older surficial geologic deposits are remnants from once-extensive alluvial fans predating the incision of the present canyons. These older alluvial deposits contain pumice beds dated at approximately 1.1 million years old (LANL 2001a).

### 3.5.1.2 Bedrock Units

Bedrock outcrops typically occur on greater than 50 percent of the surface of LANL (DOE 1996c). Forming the Pajarito Plateau, the Bandelier Tuff is the bedrock upon which nearly all LANL facilities are constructed. The Bandelier Tuff consists of the upper Tshirege and lower Otowi Members that were violently erupted about 1.2 and 1.6 million years ago from the Valles and Toledo Calderas, respectively (see Figure 3–1). The Bandelier Tuff is generally thickest to the west near its source and thins eastward across the Pajarito Plateau. Likewise, the Tshirege Member is strongly welded and harder in the west and less welded farther from its source. In the LANL area, the Bandelier Tuff attains a thickness of more than 700 feet (200 meters) and consists of multiple ash-flow deposits of rhyolitic tuff and pumice. In particular, the Tshirege Member consists of multiple cooling units that create nearly horizontal light- and dark-colored strata on canyon walls throughout the LANL area that are visible to motorists. The dark-colored units are harder and more resistant to erosion; they form steep cliffs and cap the mesas. The light-colored softer units form the slopes. This alternating sequence of hard and softer strata creates a stair-step appearance to canyon walls.

Beneath the Bandelier Tuff, older rocks include the 1.7- to 4-million-year-old Puye Formation, which is a complex deposit consisting predominantly of poorly sorted coarse sands to boulders resulting from erosion of the Jemez Mountains. The Puye Formation also includes ash and pumice falls from Jemez Mountain volcanism, inter-bedded basalt flows and debris from the Cerros del Rio volcanic field (2 to 3 million years old), localized deposits of well-rounded cobbles and boulders of crystalline rocks from the ancestral Rio Grande, and fine-grained lake deposits in the eastern portions of the fan. The Tschicoma Formation (2 to 7 million years old) consists of intermediate composition volcanic rocks and forms the bulk of the Jemez Mountains. The Tschicoma Formation inter-fingers with the Puye Formation beneath the western portion of the Plateau. Older still, the Santa Fe Group (4 to 21 million years old) is the thickest and most extensive group of sedimentary deposits in the upper Española Basin. In the vicinity of the Pajarito Plateau, the Santa Fe Group consists of the Tesuque Formation and overlying Chamita Formation; each formation consists of fluvial, slightly consolidated sedimentary rocks derived from erosion of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains to the east. The Santa Fe Group also contains older volcanic tuff deposits and basalt flows, and overlies Precambrian age (greater than 570 million years old) crystalline basement rock.

The Pajarito Fault system defines the western boundary of the Rio Grande Rift. In Los Alamos County, the Pajarito Fault system consists of the Pajarito, Rendija Canyon, and Guaje Mountain Fault zones (see **Figure 3–5**). Of these three fault zones, the Pajarito is the largest and delineates the boundary between the Pajarito Plateau and Jemez Mountains. The Rendija Canyon Fault changes from a single-trace, down-to-the-west displacement in the northern part of Los Alamos

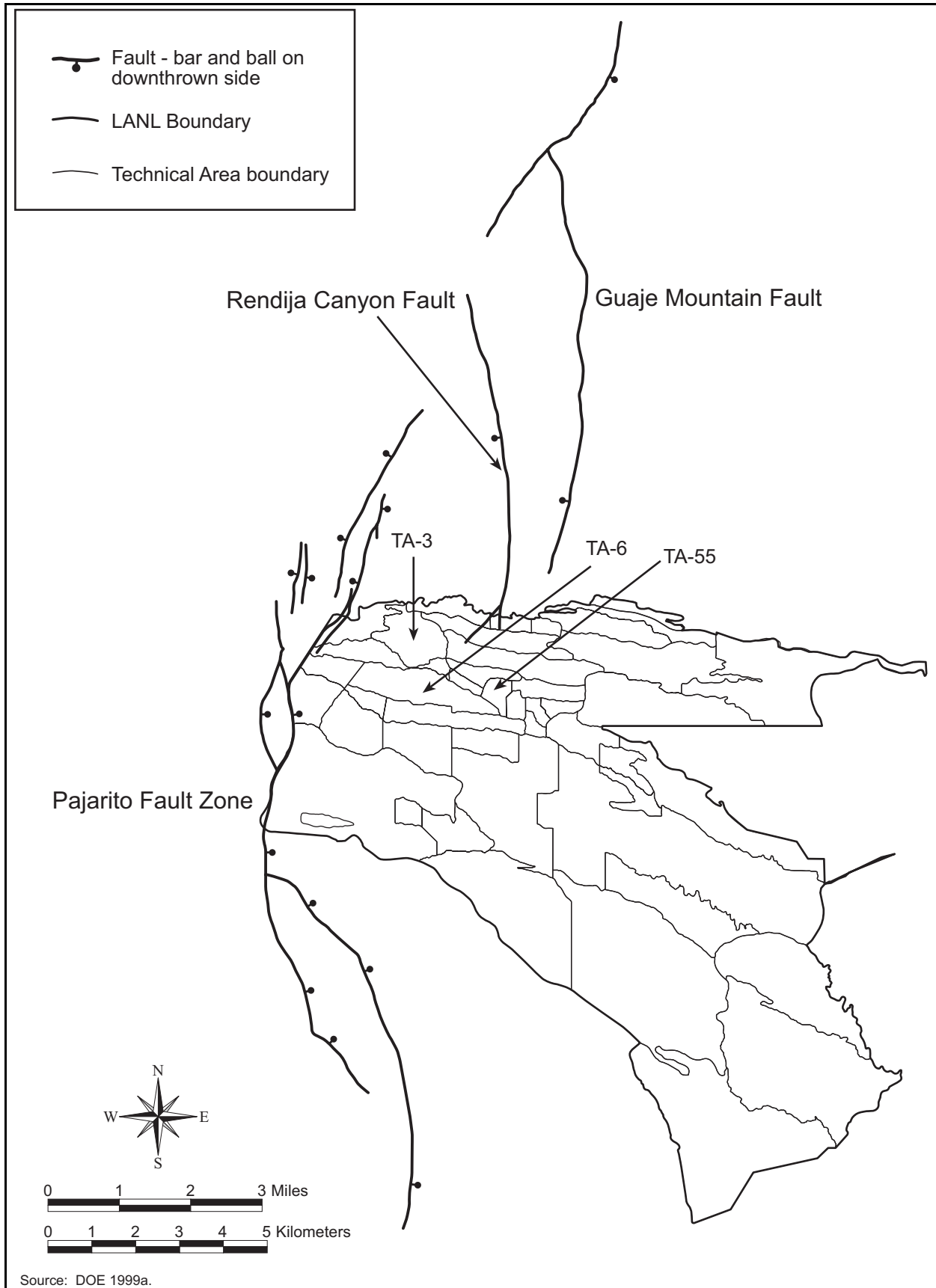


Figure 3-5 Major Faults at LANL

County to a broad zone of smaller faults within LANL property (see Figure 3–5). Locally, the Pajarito and Rendija Canyon Fault zones define a down-faulted block of the Bandelier Tuff that lies beneath the western part of the Los Alamos town site and TA-3. East-southeast trending cross structures define the southern end of the down-faulted block within this structurally complex area (LANL 1999).

The present CMR Building at TA-3 is located within this structurally complex area. Recent core drilling indicated 8 feet (2.4 meters) of high-angle, reverse-fault displacement located at the northeastern edge of the present CMR Building (LANL 1998a). In the same study, interpretation of data from other boreholes suggested that the surface fault trace trends southwest beneath the northern portion of the CMR Building. Based on this investigation, it was concluded that the CMR Building site has, in the past, been impacted by fault rupture. While the probabilistic assessment of the potential for surface rupture indicates that the probability is low (10,000- to 20,000-year recurrence interval), this site would not be considered adequate for a new nuclear facility (DOE 1999a). High-precision geologic mapping has connected the fault displacement at the CMR Building with marker-horizon displacements located 0.25 miles (0.4 kilometers) away in North Twomile Canyon and 0.5 miles (0.8 kilometers) away in Twomile Canyon, southwest of the CMR Building (LANL 1999). A concentration of secondary fault features in the southeast corner of TA-3 is inferred to define the southern end of the Rendija Canyon Fault (DOE 1999a). If the Rendija Canyon Fault zone extends southward along strike beyond its identified position, it would encroach upon TA-6 south of TA-3 (see Figure 3–5). More recent mapping by the LANL Seismic Hazards program, however, suggests that the Rendija Canyon faulting in TA-3 becomes diffuse and ceases in the vicinity of Twomile Canyon (Lewis 2002).

The Rendija Canyon Fault zone lies 0.8 miles (1.3 kilometers) northwest of TA-55 (see Figure 3–5). TA-55 is located within an area of relatively simple structure where virtually no fault deformation can be documented (LANL 1999). Detailed mapping has shown that the closest fault (not shown on Figure 3–5) is located 0.28 miles (0.45 kilometers) west of the Plutonium Facility (DOE 1999a).

As mapped, the Guaje Mountain Fault zone dies out within the Los Alamos town site approximately 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) north-northeast of TA-55; it has not been identified within LANL. Another LANL Seismic Hazards mapping project is ongoing in the central portion of the site (Gardner 2002).

Estimates of the most recent movements along the faults are based on trench studies exposing fault displacements of surficial geologic units. Based on radiocarbon dates obtained from charcoal found in fracture fill, a seismic event caused displacement within the Pajarito Fault zone sometime prior to 8,000 years ago (LANL 2001c). Detailed study in a seismic trench excavated near the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in TA-69 (see Figure 3–2) indicates that the most recent paleoseismic event in this area occurred about 8,600 years ago (LANL 2002c). Radiocarbon analyses from faulted and overlying alluvial units indicate that movement on the Guaje Mountain Fault occurred between 4,200 and 6,500 years ago (LANL 1990). The most recent seismic event on the Rendija Canyon Fault is poorly constrained between 8,000 and 23,000 years ago (Wong et al. 1995).



A capable fault is one that has had movement at or near the ground surface at least once within the past 35,000 years, or recurrent movement within the past 500,000 years (10 CFR Part 100, Appendix A). Therefore, the three major faults in Los Alamos County are considered active and capable per the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission definition of the term as used for seismic safety.

### 3.5.1.3 Seismicity

Although the LANL region is within an intra-continental rift zone, the area demonstrates low seismicity compared to regions bordering on active continental plate boundaries such as southern California. For example, since 1973 only 6 earthquakes have been recorded within a 62-mile (100-kilometer) radius of TA-3 at LANL (USGS 2002a). In the same period, the San Francisco area experienced 1,161 earthquakes by comparison (USGS 2002b). The LANL-area earthquakes ranged in magnitude from 1.6 to 4.5 while the San Francisco-area earthquakes ranged from 1.0 to 7.1.

From 1873 to the present, 46 earthquakes have occurred within 62 miles (100 kilometers) of TA-3 at LANL (USGS 2002c). Recurrence intervals for these earthquakes ranged from same-day events to a maximum of about 20 years. The closest recorded earthquake to TA-3 occurred on August 17, 1952. The epicenter of this earthquake was located approximately 5 miles (8 kilometers) south-southeast of TA-3. This earthquake predated magnitude determination but had a reported Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) of V. For reference, Table A-6 in Appendix A shows the MMI scale of observed earthquake effects and compares it with measures of earthquake magnitude and peak ground acceleration. The largest recorded earthquake within 62 miles (100 kilometers) of TA-3 at LANL was the May 1918 Cerrillos Earthquake. The epicenter of this earthquake was located 31 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of TA-3 and had a reported MMI of VII. The most recent earthquake occurred on December 25, 1988, at a distance of 56 miles (90 kilometers) south-southeast of TA-3. The magnitude was measured at 2.8 (USGS 2002a).

Seismic hazard analysis demonstrates that the highest seismic hazard at LANL would be to a site built atop a trace of the Pajarito Fault (LANL 2001a). Along the Pajarito Fault system, an earthquake with a magnitude greater than or equal to 6 is estimated to have an annual probability of occurrence of once every 4,000 years. An earthquake with a magnitude greater than or equal to 7 is estimated to have an annual probability of occurrence of once every 100,000 years (LANL 1999).

Measures of peak acceleration indicate what an object on the ground would experience during an earthquake. This motion is expressed in units of gravitational acceleration (g). The hazard study of facilities in eight LANL TAs found that earthquakes having an annual probability of occurrence of once in every 10,000 years would cause a horizontal peak ground acceleration ranging from 0.53 g to 0.57 g (Wong et al. 1995). Further, the U.S. Geological Survey has developed seismic hazard metrics and associated maps that are used by the new *International Building Code*. The National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program maps are based on the estimated natural periods of structural vibration due to earthquake activity and depict maximum considered earthquake (MCE) ground motions of 0.2- and 1.0-second spectral acceleration,

respectively, based on a 2 percent probability of exceedance in 50 years (corresponding to an annual probability of occurrence of about 1 in 2,500) (ICC 2000). The three alternative sites for the CMR Building are within a 1.25-mile- (2-kilometer-) wide area. Due to their proximity, calculated MCE ground motion values for the 3 sites are identical and range from 0.19 g for a 1.0-second spectral acceleration to 0.60 g for a 0.2-second spectral acceleration. The calculated peak ground acceleration for the given probability of exceedance at the site is 0.26 g (USGS 2002d). Maintenance and refurbishment activities at LANL are specifically intended to upgrade the seismic performance of older structures. Construction of new facilities must meet DOE Standard 1020-2002 that, in part, implements DOE Order 420.1, as superseded by DOE Order 420.1A. As stated in DOE Order 420.1A, DOE requires that nuclear or nonnuclear facilities be designed, constructed, and operated so that the public, the workers, and the environment are protected from the adverse impacts of natural phenomena hazards, including earthquakes. DOE Order 420.1A, Section 4.4, stipulates the natural phenomena hazards mitigation requirements for DOE facilities and specifically provides for the reevaluation and upgrade of existing DOE facilities when there is a significant degradation in the safety basis for the facility.

During seismic events, facilities near a cliff edge or in a canyon bottom below are potentially susceptible to slope instability, rock falls, and landslides. Slope stability studies have been performed at LANL facilities where a hazard has been identified. As for other geologic hazards due to seismic activity, the potential for land subsidence and soil liquefaction at LANL are considered low and negligible, respectively.

#### **3.5.1.4 Economic Geology**

No active mines, mills, pits, or quarries exist in Los Alamos County or at LANL. Rock and mineral resources, however, including sand, gravel, and volcanic pumice are mined throughout the surrounding counties. Sand and gravel are primarily used in construction for road building. Pumice aggregate is used in the textile industry to soften material. Pumice is also used as an abrasive, for building blocks, and in landscaping. The major sand and gravel quarry in the area is located in the lower member of the Puye Formation. The welded and harder units of the Bandelier Tuff are suitable as foundation rocks, structural and ornamental stone, or insulating material. Volcanic tuff has also been used successfully as aggregate in soil-cement subbases for roads.

#### **3.5.2 Soils**

Soils in Los Alamos County have developed from decomposition of volcanic and sedimentary rocks within a semi-arid climate and range in texture from clay and clay loam to gravel. Soils that form on mesa tops are well drained and range in thickness from 0 to 40 inches (0 to 102 centimeters). Those that develop in canyon settings can be locally much thicker. Soil erosion rates vary considerably at LANL due to the mesa and canyon topography. The highest erosion rates occur in drainage channels and on steep slopes. Roads, structures, and paved parking lots concentrate runoff. High erosion rates are also caused by past logging practices, livestock grazing, loss of vegetative cover, and decreased precipitation (DOE 1999a). The lowest erosion rates occur at the gently sloping central portions of the mesas away from the drainage

channels. Soils at LANL are acceptable for standard construction techniques. No prime farmland soils have been designated in Los Alamos County (DOE 2002e).

In May 2000, the Cerro Grande Fire burned the east-facing slope of the Jemez Mountains immediately upslope of LANL. The fire also burned significant areas within the western and central portions of the site. The loss of ground cover vegetation due to the fire increased the potential for soil erosion in these areas. Following the fire, the U.S. Forest Service Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation Team found no significant areas of hydrophobic (water repellent) soil conditions within LANL. Due to exposed soils in the Jemez Mountains upslope of LANL, prevention of possible flooding of high-risk LANL facilities during intense precipitation events became a high priority. The possibility for enhanced erosion will likely persist for some 3 to 5 years (DOE 2002e).

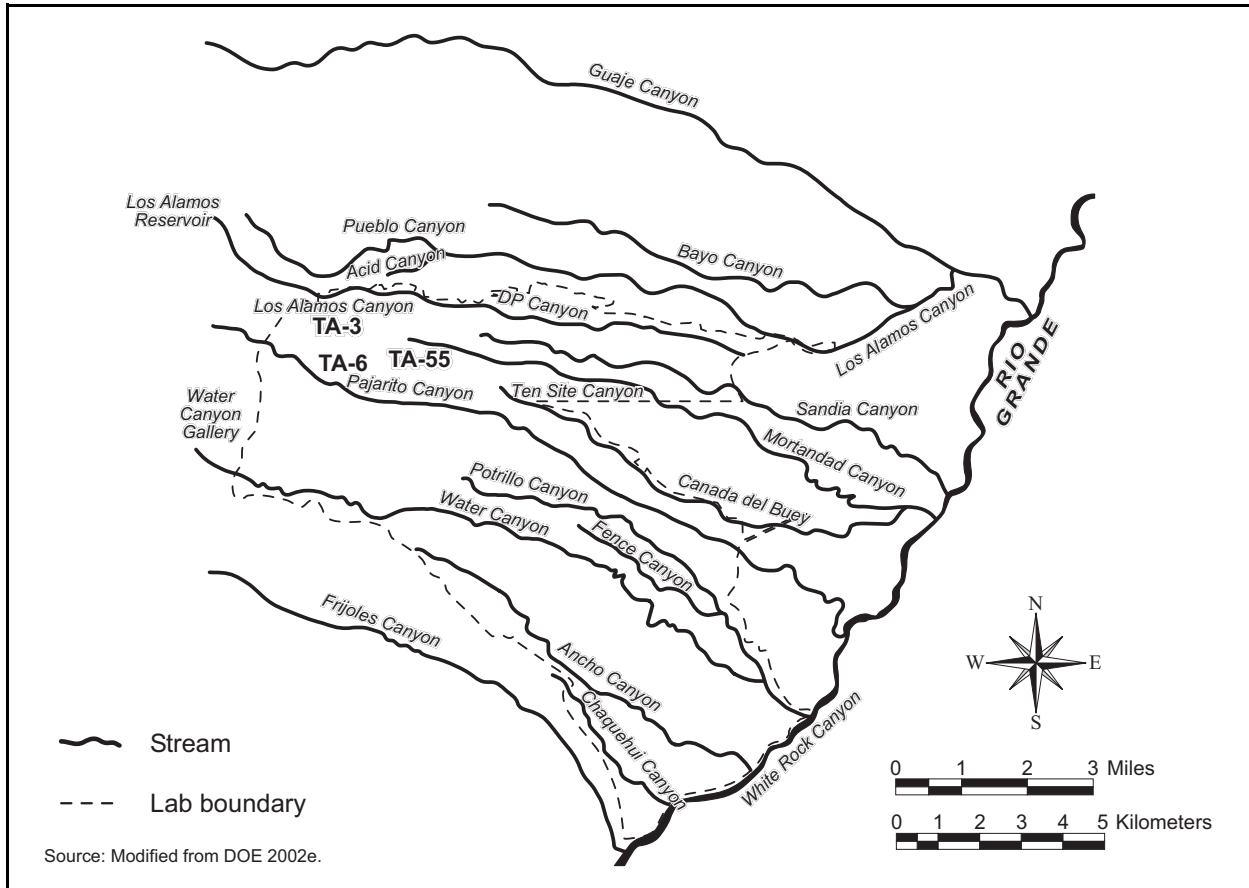
### **3.6 SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY**

#### **3.6.1 Surface Water**

Surface water in the Los Alamos area occurs primarily as short-lived or intermittent reaches of streams (locally these ordinarily dry stream beds are known as “arroyos”). Perennial springs on the flanks of the Jemez Mountains supply base flow into the upper reaches of some canyons, but the volume is insufficient to maintain surface flows across the LANL site before they are depleted by evaporation, transpiration, and infiltration. Runoff from heavy thunderstorms or snowmelt reaches the Rio Grande, the major river in north-central New Mexico, several times a year in some drainages. Effluents from sanitary sewage, industrial water treatment plants, and cooling tower blowdown enter some canyons at rates sufficient to maintain surface flows for varying distances. Major watersheds in the LANL region are shown in **Figure 3-6**. All of these watersheds are tributaries to an 11-mile (18-kilometer) segment of the Rio Grande between Otowi Bridge and Frijoles Canyon. The Rio Grande passes through Cochiti Lake, approximately 11 miles (18 kilometers) below Frijoles Canyon.

The Los Alamos Reservoir, in upper Los Alamos Canyon, has a capacity of about 41 acre-feet (51,000 cubic meters). The reservoir water was used for recreation, swimming, fishing, and landscape irrigation in the Los Alamos town site until the Cerro Grande Fire occurred in 2000; the reservoir is now used as a floodwater and silt retention structure and is closed to the public (DOE 2000b). The Pajarito Plateau Canyons, which serve as collection points for the regional watersheds, originate either along the eastern rim of the Sierra de Los Valles or on the Pajarito Plateau. Within LANL boundaries, only Los Alamos, Pajarito, Water, Ancho, Sandia, Pueblo, and Chaquehui Canyons contain reaches or streams with sections that have continuous flow. Intermittent streams within LANL boundaries are not classified, but are protected by the State of New Mexico for livestock watering and wildlife habitat use (NMAC 20.6.4.10). Surface water within LANL boundaries is not a source of municipal, industrial, or irrigation water, but is used by wildlife that live within, or migrate through, the region.

Most of LANL effluent is discharged into normally dry arroyos, and this LANL effluent discharge is required to meet effluent limitations under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program that requires routine effluent monitoring.



**Figure 3–6 Surface Water Features at LANL**

Therefore, the water quality of the intermittent streams is more characteristic of the quality of these discharges than of natural runoff, as reflected in the results of 2001 surface water and runoff monitoring. LANL's current NPDES permit (No. NM0028355), which was reissued in December 2000, covers all onsite industrial and sanitary effluent discharges. DOE and UC are co-permittees under the permit. As a result of an outfall reduction program, the number of outfalls requiring monitoring under the permit was reduced from 36 (including one sanitary outfall from the TA-46 Sanitary Wastewater Systems [SWS] Facility and 35 industrial wastewater outfalls) to 21 in the recently reissued permit. This reduction was achieved by removing process flows for seven industrial outfalls and completing the lease transfer of the drinking water system, including nine associated outfalls, to Los Alamos County. During 2001, permit compliance was determined from analysis of 1,085 industrial outfall samples and 134 samples from the SWS Facility (Outfall 13S) for such parameters as metals, radionuclides, and conventional parameters (such as pH and total suspended solids). Monitoring results are submitted to EPA and to the NMED. The NPDES permit compliance rate for all discharge points was nearly 100 percent, with a total of just 4 industrial outfall samples exceeding permit limits. These included one sample from the TA-3 Power Plant outfall (NPDES Outfall 001) in February 2001 that exceeded both the daily maximum and daily average effluent limit for total suspended solids. In addition, one sample from the TA-16 High-Explosive Waste Treatment Facility outfall (NPDES Outfall 05A055) exceeded the upper limit for pH in March 2001, and one sample from the TA-15 DARHT Cooling Tower outfall (NPDES Outfall 03A185) exceeded

the water quality-based effluent limitation for selenium in September 2001. In all four cases, the cause of the effluent limitation exceedance was investigated and a corrective action was implemented (LANL 2002c). Industrial and sanitary effluent management is discussed further in Section 3.12.7.

LANL also operated under 11 NPDES stormwater discharge permits in 2001, including 10 issued for specific construction projects and 1 site-wide NPDES Storm Water Multi-Sector General Permit for Industrial Dischargers for which DOE and UC are also co-permittees. As required under this general permit, LANL staff performed stormwater monitoring in 2001 and developed and implemented 20 stormwater pollution prevention plans for its industrial activities (LANL 2002c).

LANL staff monitors surface waters from regional and Pajarito Plateau stations to evaluate the environmental effects of facility operations. Historical activities and resulting effluent discharges have affected water courses and associated sediments particularly in Acid, Pueblo, Los Alamos, and Mortandad Canyons and, consequently, continue to affect surface water and runoff quality in these areas. Surface water grab samples are collected annually from locations where effluent discharges or natural runoff maintains stream flow. Runoff samples are also collected and, since 1996, they have been collected using stream gauging stations, some with automated samplers. Samples are collected when a significant rainfall event causes flow in a monitored portion of a drainage. Many runoff stations are located where drainages cross the LANL boundaries. Detailed information on surface water and stormwater runoff monitoring, including analytical results, are contained in the annual site environmental report (LANL 2002c).

Among the environmental effects produced by the Cerro Grande Fire was an increased potential for stormwater runoff through the canyons that cross LANL property as a result of the loss of vegetation and soil organic matter. It is expected that soil erosion rates and corresponding sediment loads in runoff from denuded watersheds will be much higher than prefire levels for many years resulting in the potential for sediment and debris-laden runoff to reach the Rio Grande. It is also likely that runoff and ambient water quality in canyon drainages will be temporarily reduced by the increase in suspended sediment and by the liberation of organic nitrogen from fire-burned soils, the latter of which can also impact shallow groundwater (DOE 2000b).

UC at LANL has delineated all 100-year floodplains within LANL boundaries, which are generally associated with canyon drainages. There are a number of structures within the 100-year floodplain. Most may be characterized as small storage buildings, guard stations, well heads, water treatment stations, and some lite laboratory buildings. There are no waste management facilities in the 100-year floodplain. Some facilities are characterized as “moderate hazard” due to the presence of sealed sources or x-ray equipment, but most are designated “low hazard” or “no hazard.” Overall, most laboratory development is on mesa tops, and development within canyons is light. Nevertheless, for practical purposes, the Cerro Grande Fire increased the extent of all delineated floodplains in and below burned watershed areas (predominantly Los Alamos, Sandia, Mortandad, Pajarito, and Water Canyons) due to vegetation loss. More stormwater runoff reaches the canyon bottoms and could subject LANL facilities located within or near the

prefire delineated floodplain areas to increased erosion or sediment and debris deposition (DOE 2000b).

TA-3 is situated on a portion of South Mesa and above the upper reaches of Sandia and Mortandad Canyons that border the area on the east. Twomile Canyon, which converges with Pajarito Canyon south and east of TA-3 near the border of TA-55 with TA-6, abuts TA-3 on the south and west. Los Alamos Canyon borders TA-3 to the north. Since the area is heavily developed, surface drainage primarily occurs as sheet flow runoff from the impervious surfaces within the complex either east toward Sandia and Mortandad Canyons or south and west toward Twomile Canyon. Only a small portion of the northern part of the area drains toward Los Alamos Canyon (USGS 1984). No developed areas of TA-3 lie within the delineated 100-year floodplains associated with Sandia and Mortandad Canyons. The associated 100-year floodplains are mapped as occupying the respective canyon bottom headlands originating in the eastern portion of TA-3 (DOE 2002d). In general, stream flow within the canyons is ephemeral in nature. A short reach of the upper part of Sandia Canyon flows continuously, due in part to discharges from the TA-3 Power Plant outfall (NPDES Outfall 001) that consists of cooling water from the power plant and recycled, treated effluent from the TA-46 SWS Facility. Mortandad Canyon also receives natural runoff as well as effluent from several NPDES outfalls, including from the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility (RLWTF) at TA-50 (DOE 1999a, LANL 2002c). In addition, cooling tower and related effluents are discharged to Sandia Canyon from four TA-3 facility outfalls and to Mortandad Canyon from two TA-3 facility outfalls, including from the CMR Building via NPDES Outfall 03A-021 (EPA 1999a, EPA 2000, LANL 2002d).

TA-6 encompasses a largely undeveloped area of Twomile Mesa situated between Twomile Canyon to the north and the larger Pajarito Canyon to the south (USGS 1984). As such, surface water drainage across TA-6 generally follows the shallow arroyos that convey runoff to the east and southeast to the canyons.

TA-55 is located on a narrow mesa (Mesita del Buey) about 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) southeast of TA-3. The mesa is flanked by Mortandad Canyon to the north and Twomile Canyon to the south (USGS 1984). Like TA-3, the site is largely comprised of a heavily developed facility complex with surface drainage primarily occurring as sheet flow runoff from the impervious surfaces within the complex. No developed portions of the complex are located within a delineated floodplain. One TA-55 facility discharges cooling tower blowdown directly to Mortandad Canyon (via NPDES Outfall 03A181) (EPA 1999b, EPA 2001). The RLWTF at TA-50, as mentioned above, specifically receives and treats plutonium processing and other wastes from TA-55 facilities with effluent discharged via NPDES Outfall 051 to Mortandad Canyon (LANL 2002c, LANL 2002d).

### 3.6.2 Groundwater

Groundwater in the Los Alamos area occurs as perched groundwater near the surface in shallow canyon bottom alluvium and at deeper levels in the main (regional) aquifer (LANL 2002c). All groundwater underlying LANL and the vicinity having a total dissolved solids concentration of 10,000 milligrams per liter (mg/L) or less is considered a potential source of water supply for domestic or other beneficial use (NMAC 20.6.2.3000). Alluvial groundwater bodies within

LANL boundaries have been primarily characterized by drilling wells on a localized basis where LANL operations are conducted. Wells in Mortandad, Los Alamos, Pueblo, and Pajarito Canyons and in Cañada del Buey indicate the presence of continually saturated alluvial groundwater bodies. Intermediate perched groundwater bodies of limited extent are known to occur within the conglomerates and basalts beneath the alluvium in portions of Pueblo, Los Alamos, and Sandia Canyons; in volcanic rocks on the sides of the Jemez Mountains to the west of LANL, discharged at spring heads; and on the western portion of the Pajarito Plateau (LANL 2002c).

The locations and extent of perched groundwater bodies have not been fully characterized at LANL, but investigations continue, and unidentified perched aquifers may exist. The depth to perched groundwater from the surface ranges from approximately 90 feet (27 meters) in the middle of Pueblo Canyon to about 450 feet (137 meters) in lower Sandia Canyon. The regional aquifer exists in the sedimentary and volcanic rocks of the Española Basin, with a lateral extent from the Jemez Mountains in the west to the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the east (see Figure 3–4). The hydrostratigraphic (water-bearing) units comprising the regional aquifer include the interconnected Puye Formation and the Tesuque Formation of the Santa Fe Group, with the top of the aquifer originating in the Cerros del Rio Formation, rather than in the Puye Formation, in some locations. Groundwater flow paths are conceptually illustrated in Figure 3–4. Groundwater flow is generally to the east.

The regional aquifer is hydraulically separated for practical purposes from the overlying perched alluvial and intermediate depth perched groundwater bodies by unsaturated volcanic tuff and sedimentary strata, with the regional water table surface lying at a depth that varies from approximately 1,200 feet (366 meters) along the western boundary of the Pajarito Plateau to approximately 600 feet (183 meters) along its eastern edge. Thus, these hydrogeologic conditions tend to insulate the regional aquifer from near-surface waste management activities. Water in the regional aquifer is under artesian conditions under the eastern part of the Pajarito Plateau near the Rio Grande.

Recharge of the regional aquifer has not been fully characterized and sources are uncertain; data suggest that the regional aquifer of the Española Basin is not strongly interconnected across its extent. Recent investigations further suggest that the majority of water pumped to date has been from storage, with minimal recharge of the regional aquifer. While the regional aquifer is present beneath all watersheds across the LANL region, it is also generally considered to receive negligible recharge from surface water streams in the watersheds. Springs in the LANL area originate from alluvial and intermediate perched groundwater bodies and the regional aquifer and occur in the Guaje, Pueblo, Los Alamos, Pajarito, Frijoles, and White Rock Canyon watersheds. Some 27 springs discharge from the regional aquifer into White Rock Canyon. A perched aquifer yields a relatively high flow to a former potable water supply gallery in Water Canyon (LANL 2002c).

Short-term effects of the Cerro Grande Fire on LANL groundwater resources include a potential increase in the prevalence of perched groundwater and springs. Also, as discussed for surface water, the liberation of organic nitrogen from burned soils could impact shallow groundwater in

the perched and alluvial zones, although the effects on deeper groundwater resources are not known (DOE 2000b).

Groundwater monitoring in support of groundwater management and protection efforts is conducted within and near LANL and encompasses the alluvial zone, intermediate perched groundwater zone, regional aquifer, and springs. The groundwater monitoring network for alluvial groundwater consists of shallow observation wells located in Mortandad, Los Alamos, Pueblo, and Pajarito Canyons and in Cañada del Buey. Perched groundwater is monitored from two test wells and one spring (specifically, the Water Canyon Gallery). The monitoring network for the regional aquifer includes 8 deep test wells completed by the U.S. Geological Survey, 12 deep supply wells that are part of the Los Alamos water supply system and produce water for all of LANL and the surrounding communities, and from numerous springs, including those in White Rock Canyon (LANL 2002c).

Effluent discharges have affected canyon bottom perched alluvial groundwater in Pueblo, Los Alamos, and Mortandad Canyons. Most notably, radionuclide constituents in effluents discharged to Mortandad Canyon from the RLWTF at TA-50 have often exceeded the DOE Derived Concentration Guides (DCGs) for public dose from drinking water. Nitrate also contained in the effluent has caused alluvial groundwater concentrations to exceed the New Mexico groundwater standard and EPA Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 (mg/L). The nitrate source is nitric acid from plutonium processing at TA-55 that enters the TA-50 waste stream. A reverse osmosis and ultrafiltration treatment system that removes additional radionuclides and nitrate from the effluent began operation in April 1999. As a result, effluent discharges from the RLWTF now meet the DOE DCGs for public dose and drinking water standards for nitrate; the RLWTF effluent has met DOE DCGs continuously since December 10, 1999 (LANL 2002c).

Groundwater monitoring results for perched alluvial and intermediate-depth groundwater in 2001 were similar to previous years with groundwater near the location of current or historic liquid waste discharges showing elevated contaminant levels, including in Los Alamos and Mortandad Canyons. In past years, the levels of tritium, strontium-90, and gross beta in alluvial groundwater in Mortandad Canyon have usually exceeded EPA drinking water criteria. In 2001, strontium-90 exceeded the EPA MCL in two alluvial monitoring wells in Mortandad Canyon and was also detected in surface water in the canyon. None of the other monitored radiochemical parameters exceeded either the DOE DCGs or EPA MCLs. During 2001, nitrate concentrations in alluvial groundwater were below the New Mexico groundwater standard and EPA MCL, except for one downstream well in Mortandad Canyon. Two wells in Mortandad Canyon also exceeded the New Mexico standard of 1.6 mg/L for fluoride. Perchlorate, a nonradiological contaminant (with a provisional drinking water standard of 0.018 mg/L) was detected in groundwater in every alluvial groundwater well sampled in Mortandad Canyon, with a maximum concentration of 0.22 mg/L. The perchlorate source is the RLWTF effluent; however, a treatment system was installed in 2001 at the RLWTF to remove perchlorate from the facility's effluent (LANL 2002c).

For regional aquifer samples from wells and springs in 2001, the radiochemical results were generally below the DOE drinking water DCGs and the EPA or New Mexico standards applicable to a drinking water system, with most results near or below the analytical detection



limit. This excludes relatively high detections of uranium isotopes and gross alpha emitters due to naturally occurring uranium. The only radionuclide consistently detected in samples from production wells or test wells within the regional aquifer is tritium, particularly beneath Los Alamos, Pueblo, and Mortandad Canyons. In 2001, groundwater samples taken from supply well O-1 had tritium concentrations averaging 31.6 pCi/L (maximum 40.2 pCi/L). While higher than background concentrations in the regional aquifer around LANL, maximum observed concentrations are about 500 times smaller than the EPA MCL (20,000 pCi/L). Tritium was either not detected or was found at background levels in other water supply wells. No high-explosive compounds or degradation products were detected in the regional aquifer in 2001, although LANL, along with regulatory agencies, continues to investigate detections of high-explosive constituents above EPA Health Advisory guidance values that were found beneath TA-16 in 1998 during drilling of characterization well R-25. Perchlorate was detected during 2001 from the O-1 water supply well at concentrations of 2 and 5 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ), depending on analytical method. The source of the perchlorate might be residual perchlorate from the now decommissioned radioactive liquid waste treatment plants that discharged effluents into upper Pueblo Canyon until 1964. Otherwise, no supply wells had any concentrations of nonradiochemical constituents exceeding drinking water limits (LANL 2002c). Additional information on groundwater monitoring, including analytical results, is presented in the annual site environmental report (LANL 2002c).

The main aquifer is the only body of groundwater in the region that is sufficiently saturated and permeable to transmit economic quantities of water to wells for public use. All drinking water for Los Alamos County, LANL, and Bandelier National Monument comes from the main aquifer. Water use is detailed in Section 3.3.4.

The depth to the top of the main aquifer is about 1,000 feet (300 meters) beneath the mesa tops in the central part of the Pajarito Plateau, which encompasses TA-3 and TA-6 (DOE 2002d). Groundwater within the main aquifer beneath the central plateau is expected to flow to the east and southeast. The depth to groundwater beneath TA-55 is approximately 1,280 feet (390 meters) and the flow direction is inferred as east and southeast (DOE 2002e). As discussed above, radioactive effluents from TA-3 and TA-55 are conveyed through RLWTF at the TA-50 wastewater treatment facility and then discharged to Mortandad Canyon. No industrial or radioactive effluents are generated at TA-6.

### **3.7 ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

#### **3.7.1 Terrestrial Resources**

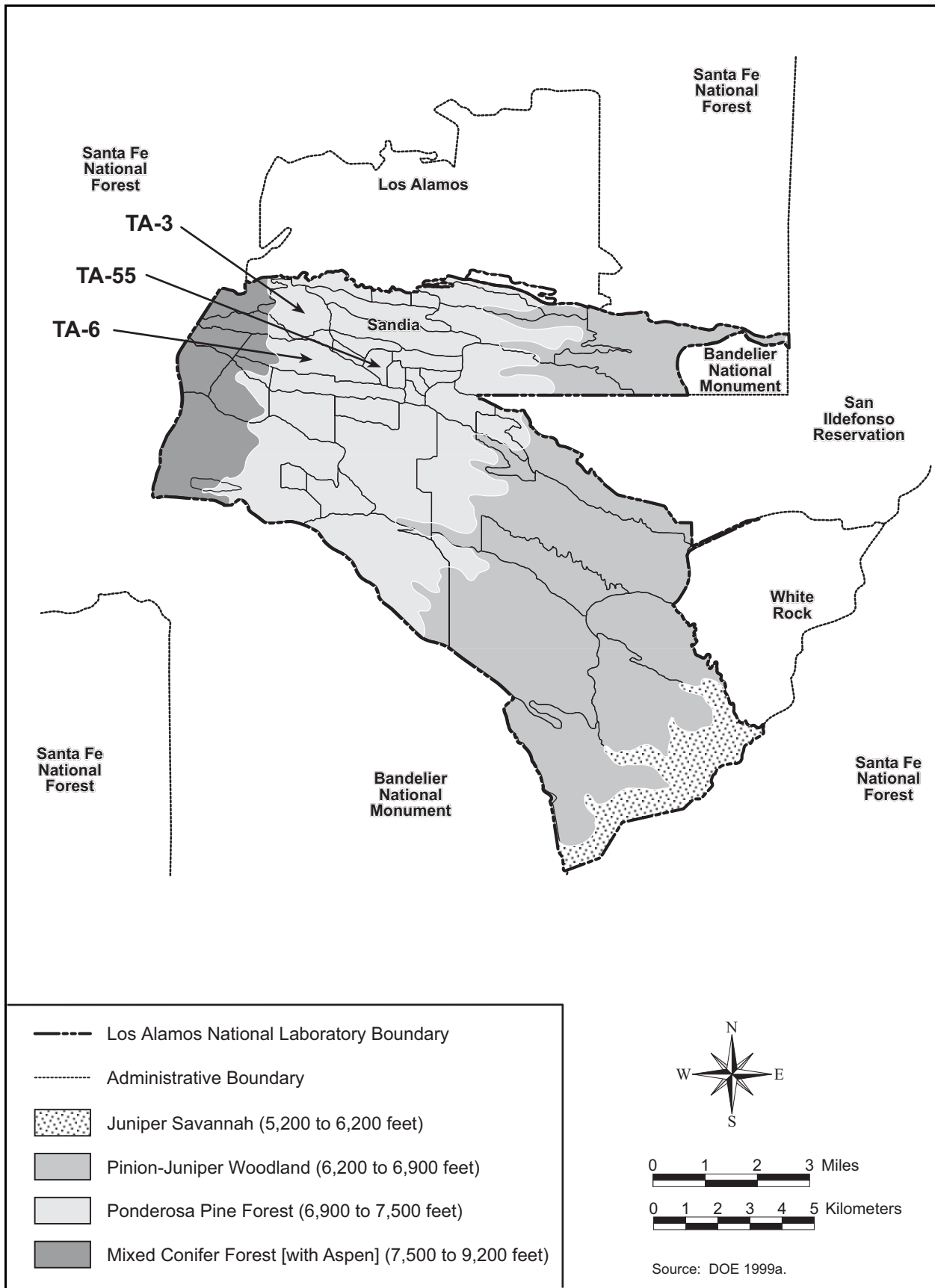
LANL lies within the Colorado Plateau Province. Ecosystems within the laboratory site itself are quite diverse, due partly to the increasing temperature and decreasing moisture along the approximately 12-mile (19-kilometer) wide, 5,000-foot (1,525-meter) elevational gradient from the peaks of the Jemez Mountains to the Rio Grande. Only a small portion of the total land area at LANL has been developed. In fact, only five percent of the site is estimated to be unavailable to most wildlife (because of security fencing). The remaining land has been classified into four major vegetation zones that are defined by the dominant plants present and occur within specific elevational zones. These include mixed juniper savannah (5,200 to 6,200 feet [1,600 to

1,900 meters]), piñon-juniper woodland (6,200 to 6,900 feet [1,900 to 2,100 meters]), ponderosa pine forest (6,900 to 7,500 feet [2,100 to 2,300 meters]), and mixed conifer forest (7,500 to 9,500 feet [2,300 to 2,900 meters]) (see **Figure 3–7**). The vegetative communities on and near LANL are very diverse, with over 900 species of vascular plants identified in the area. As noted in Section 3.2.1, the 1,000-acre (405-hectare) White Rock Canyon Reserve, located in the southeast portion of LANL, was dedicated in 1999 because of its ecological and cultural resources and research potential. DOE will continue to own and control access to the property. The National Park Service will cooperatively manage the reserve to enhance and ensure protection of habitat and wildlife (DOE 1999c).

Terrestrial animals associated with vegetation zones in the LANL area include 57 species of mammals, 200 species of birds, 28 species of reptiles, and 9 species of amphibians. Common animals found on LANL include the black-headed grosbeak (*Pheuclicus melanocephalus*), western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), elk (*Cervus elaphus*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). The most important and prevalent big game species at LANL are mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and elk. Elk populations have increased in the area from 86 animals introduced in 1948 and 1964 to an estimated population of over 10,000 animals. Hunting is not permitted onsite. Numerous raptors, such as the red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and great-horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), and carnivores, such as the black bear (*Ursus americanus*) and bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), are also found on LANL (DOE 1999c). A variety of migratory birds have been recorded at the site and are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

In May 2000, the Cerro Grande Fire burned across 7,684 acres (3,110 hectares) of forest area within LANL (DOE 2002c). Fire suppression activities resulted in the clearing of an additional 130 acres (52 hectares). Depending on fire intensity, vegetation will either be replaced by new species or recover in a relatively short period. Where the fire intensity was high, it is likely that recolonization will be by other than the original species, with the possibility that exotic plants may predominantly occur in areas previously dominated by native species (DOE 2000b).

Throughout LANL's history, developments within various TAs have caused significant alterations in the terrain and the general landscape of the Pajarito Plateau. These alterations have resulted in significant changes in land use by most groups of wildlife, particularly birds and large mammals that have large seasonal and daily ranges. Certain projects required the segregation of large areas such as mesa tops and, in some cases, project areas were secured by fences around their perimeters. These alterations have undoubtedly caused some species of wildlife, such as elk and mule deer, to alter their land-use patterns by cutting off or changing seasonal or daily travel corridors to wintering areas, breeding and foraging habitats, and bedding areas (DOE 1996c). The Cerro Grande Fire dramatically altered the habitat of many animals. While initially eliminating or fragmenting the habitats of many animals (such as reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, and birds), the habitat for other species (such as large mammals) will increase or improve by the newly created foraging areas. During the fire, individuals of many species died. Population recovery is expected within the next several breeding seasons. Elk and mule deer populations are expected to increase in response to the additional foraging areas resulting from postfire vegetation regrowth (DOE 2000b).



**Figure 3-7 LANL Vegetation Zones**

LANL recently proposed a Wildfire Hazard Reduction Project that would involve treating 250 acres (100 hectares) of mixed conifer, 6,150 acres (2,490 hectares) of ponderosa pine, and 3,600 acres (1,457 hectares) of piñon-juniper habitat in order to reduce future fire hazards (Marsh 2001). While the project would typically use both heavy equipment and hand tools, heavy equipment would not be used on slopes greater than 30 percent.

TA-3 is primarily located in the ponderosa pine forest vegetation zone, although the western-most portion of the area lies within the mixed conifer forest vegetation zone. Approximately 69 percent of the 357-acre (144-hectare) site is developed. Wildlife likely to be present in the area include elk, mule deer, raccoon, deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Steller's jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), white breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), and prairie lizard. Due to the presence of security fencing, no large animals are likely to be found within fenced portions of TA-3.

The eastern portion (approximately 80 percent) of TA-6 is located within the ponderosa pine forest vegetation zone, while the western portion falls within the mixed conifer forest vegetation zone. TA-6 encompasses 500 acres (202 hectares) of which only 1 percent is developed. Wildlife species found within TA-6 would be similar to those noted above for TA-3. Due to the undeveloped nature of the area, wildlife are free to migrate across the site.

TA-55 is located in the ponderosa pine forest vegetation zone; however, 43 percent of the 40-acre (16-hectare) site is developed. Animal species likely to be present in the area would be similar to those noted above for TA-3. Due to the presence of security fencing, no large animals would be found within developed portions of TA-55.

### **3.7.2 Wetlands**

Wetlands in the LANL region provide habitat for reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates (e.g., insects), and potentially contribute to the overall habitat requirements of a number of Federal- and State-listed species. The majority of the wetlands in the area are associated with canyon stream channels or are present on mountains or mesas as isolated meadows often in association with springs or seeps. There are also some springs bordering the Rio Grande within White Rock Canyon. Cochiti Lake, located downstream from LANL, supports lake-associated wetlands.

Wetlands occurring at LANL were identified in 1990 as part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory and subsequently as part of ongoing environmental work at the site. Twenty-seven wetlands totaling 77 acres (31 hectares) have been identified on the site with more than 95 percent of these located in the Sandia, Mortandad, Pajarito, and Water Canyon watersheds (DOE 2002c).

About 13 acres (5 hectares) of wetlands within LANL boundaries are caused or enhanced by process effluent wastewater from 21 NPDES-permitted outfalls. These artificially created wetlands are afforded the same legal protection as wetlands that stem from natural sources. In 1996, the effluent from NPDES outfalls, both stormwater and process water, contributed

108 million gallons (407 million liters) to wetlands within LANL boundaries. Nearly half of the outfalls are probable sources of drinking water for large mammals.

During the Cerro Grande Fire, 16 acres (6.5 hectares), or 20 percent of the wetlands occurring at LANL, were burned at a low or moderate intensity. No wetlands within LANL were severely burned. Secondary effects from the fire to wetlands may also occur as a result of increased runoff due to the loss of vegetation. Wetlands were not disturbed by fire suppression activities; however, a number of projects were undertaken after the Cerro Grande Fire to control runoff and erosion. Two projects involving the enlargement of culverts in lower Pajarito Canyon, one about 0.25 miles (0.4 kilometers) downstream from TA-18 and the other at State Road 4, resulted in removal of about 1.5 acres (0.6 hectares) of wetland vegetation composed primarily of willow (*Salix* spp.) trees. Wetland vegetation is likely to regenerate over the next several years if the area is not silted in or scoured away by flood waters (DOE 2000b).

There are 8 wetlands located within TA-3 that total 1.1 acres (0.44 hectares). This includes Sandia wetlands, LANL's largest wetlands, located within both TA-3 and TA-60. Vegetation associated within the area wetlands is characterized by the presence of species such as rush (*Juncus* spp.), willow, and broad-leafed cattail (*Typha latifolia* L). Wildlife associated with these wetlands include raccoon, red-winged black birds (*Agelaius phoenice*), ravens (*Corvus corvax*), marsh wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*), song sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*), many-lined skinks (*Eumeces multivirgatus*), and canyon tree frogs (*Hyla arenicolor*).

There are no wetlands located within TA-6. However, there is a narrow band of riparian vegetation located along portions of the stream channel of Two Mile Canyon. Vegetation found along the stream includes coyote willow (*Salix exigua* Nutt.), water birch (*Betula occidentalis* Hook.), and inland rush (*Juncus interior* Wiegand). Animal species present are similar to those noted above for TA-3.

Three wetlands are located within TA-55, totaling 1.02 acres (0.41 hectares), all of which result from natural sources. Vegetation associated with these wetlands includes rush, willow, and broad-leafed cattail. Wildlife species using these areas are similar to those noted above for TA-3.

### 3.7.3 Aquatic Resources

While the Rito de Los Frijoles in Bandelier National Monument (located to the south of LANL) and the Rio Grande are the only truly perennial streams in the region, several of the canyon floors on LANL contain reaches of perennial surface water. Examples of perennial streams occur in lower Pajarito and Ancho Canyons, which flow to the Rio Grande. Surface water flow occurs in canyon bottoms seasonally, or intermittently, as a result of spring snowmelt and summer rain. A few short sections of riparian vegetation of cottonwood (*Populus deltoides* Bartr. ex. Marsh, ssp. *wislizeni*, [S. Wats.] Eckenwalder), willow, and other water-loving plants are present in scattered locations at LANL, as well as along the Rio Grande in White Rock Canyon. The springs and streams at LANL do not support fish populations; however, many other species utilize these waters (DOE 1999c). For example, terrestrial wildlife use onsite streams for drinking and associated riparian habitat for nesting and feeding.

Aquatic habitat present within TA-3 and TA-55 is minimal and is associated with ponding within wetland areas. Animal species using these areas would be similar to those noted in Section 3.7.2. No aquatic areas exist within TA-6.

### 3.7.4 Threatened and Endangered Species

The USFWS is responsible for listing Federally-protected plants and animals as endangered, threatened, and candidate, under provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and for designating critical habitat necessary for their survival. Species previously listed as Category 2 candidate species (i.e., those for which listing was possibly appropriate) are now listed as species of concern. The state separates the regulatory authority for plants and animals between the New Mexico State Forestry Division and the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, respectively. The Forestry Division lists plants as endangered, sensitive, and review, while the Game and Fish Department designates animals as endangered and threatened. The U.S. Forest Service lists species for special management consideration on lands under their jurisdiction and protects these species under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Only Federal and state threatened and endangered species are legally protected. Plants and animals receiving other designations do not receive legal protection, but should be considered during project planning.

A number of Federal and state protected and sensitive (rare or declining) species have been documented in the LANL region (see **Table 3–8**). These consist of two Federal endangered species (the black-footed ferret [*Mustela nigripes*], and southwestern willow flycatcher [*Empidonax traillii extimus*]), two Federal threatened species (the bald eagle [*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*] and Mexican spotted owl [*Strix occidentalis lucida*]), and 20 species of concern. Species listed as endangered, threatened, sensitive, or review by the State of New Mexico are also included in Table 3–8. No Federal critical habitat has been designated at LANL. However, areas of the Santa Fe National Forest near LANL have been designated as critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl.

The results of the Cerro Grande Fire likely will not cause a long-term change to the overall number of Federally-listed threatened and endangered species inhabiting the region. However, the results of the fire likely will change the distribution and movement of various species, including the Mexican spotted owl. The areas off LANL that have been proposed as critical habitat suffered heavy damage during the Cerro Grande Fire. Specifically, two primary areas considered as critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl located on Forest Service land near LANL suffered almost 100 percent vegetation mortality. The fire may also have long-term effects on the habitat of several State-listed species, including the Jemez Mountain salamander. As noted in Section 3.7.2, two projects undertaken after the fire to enlarge culverts in the lower Pajarito Canyon disturbed about 1.5 acres (0.6 hectares) of wetland vegetation composed primarily of willow trees. This wetland was potential habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher at LANL; however, it was not a confirmed nesting or roosting habitat and was of marginal quality (DOE 2000b).

**Table 3–8 Threatened, Endangered, and Other Sensitive Species of LANL**

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Federal Status</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>State Status</i>	<i>Potential to Occur</i> <sup>b</sup>
<b>Mammals</b>				
Black-footed ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	FE	-	Low
Spotted bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	-	T	High
New Mexico meadow jumping mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius luteus</i>	-	T	Moderate
Western small-footed myotis bat	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum melanorhinus</i>	SOC	SOC	High
Little brown occult bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus occultus</i>	SOC	SOC	Moderate
Little brown bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus carissima</i>	SOC	SOC	Moderate
Fringed bat	<i>Myotis thysanodes thysanodes</i>	SOC	SOC	High
Yuma bat	<i>Myotis yumanensis yumanensis</i>	SOC	SOC	High
Long-legged bat	<i>Myotis volans interior</i>	SOC	SOC	High
Long-eared bat	<i>Myotis evotis evotis</i>	SOC	SOC	High
Townsend's pale big-eared bat	<i>Plecotus townsendii pallescens</i>	SOC	SOC	High
Big free-tailed bat	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	SOC	SOC	Moderate
Ringtail	<i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	SOC	SOC	High
Western spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale gracilis</i>	SOC	SOC	Moderate
Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	SOC	SOC	Moderate
Goat peak pika	<i>Ochotona princeps nigrescens</i>	SOC	SOC	Low
American marten	<i>Martes americana origenes</i>	SOC	SOC	Low
<b>Birds</b>				
Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax trailii extimus</i>	FE	E	Moderate
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	FT	T	Moderate
Mexican spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	FT	-	Moderate
Mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	PT	-	Low
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	C	-	Moderate
Baird's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	-	T	Low
Northern goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	SOC	SOC	Low
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	SOC	SOC	Moderate
Gray vireo	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	SOC	SOC	Moderate
Black swift	<i>Cypseloides niger borealis</i>	SOC	SOC	Low
<b>Amphibians</b>				
Western boreal toad	<i>Bufo boreas boreas</i>	C	E	Low
Jemez mountain salamander	<i>Plethodon neomexicanus</i>	-	T	Moderate
<b>Fish</b>				
Flathead chub	<i>Hybopsis gracilis</i>	SOC	SOC	Low
<b>Invertebrates</b>				
Pearly checkerspot butterfly	<i>Charidryas acastus acastus</i>	SOC	SOC	Low

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status <sup>a</sup>	State Status	Potential to Occur <sup>b</sup>
<b>Plants</b>				
Mountain lily	<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>	-	E	Moderate
Yellow lady's slipper orchid	<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	-	E	Moderate
Heleborine orchid	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	-	S	Moderate
Checker-lily	<i>Fritillaria atropurpurea</i>	-	R	Moderate

<sup>a</sup> **Codes for Legal Status:**

FE = Federally endangered, species for which a final rule has been published in the *Federal Register* (FR) to list the species as endangered.

SOC = Species of Concern, species that have been proposed for listing in the past or could potentially be listed in the lifetime of the project. These species do not receive legal protection.

FE (Ex) = Federally endangered, but New Mexico population is an experimental nonessential population.

FT = Federally threatened, species for which a final rule has been published in the FR to list the species as threatened.

P = Proposed for listing.

T (State, animal) = Threatened, any animals species or subspecies that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range in New Mexico.

C = Candidate for listing, substantial information exists on biological vulnerability to support proposals to list as endangered or threatened.

E (State, animal) = Endangered, any animal species or subspecies whose prospects of survival or recruitment in New Mexico are in jeopardy.

E (State, plant) = Endangered, any plant species whose prospects of survival within the state are in jeopardy or are likely, within the foreseeable future, to become jeopardized.

S = Sensitive, any plant taxon that is considered to be rare because of restricted distribution or low numerical density.

R = Review, any plant taxon about which more information is needed. The species is either taxonomically questionable or poorly understood as to distribution or endangerment.

<sup>b</sup> **Potential to Occur**

High = The species is known to exist at LANL.

Moderate = Some species habitat components exist at LANL.

Low = Species habitat components do not exist at LANL.

Sources: Keller 2002, NMNHP 2002.

Habitat that is either occupied by Federally-protected species or that is potentially suitable for use by these species in the future has been delineated within LANL. The LANL Habitat Management Plan, implemented in 1998, identifies areas of environmental interest (AEI) for various Federally-listed threatened or endangered species. In general, an AEI consists of a core area that contains important breeding or wintering habitat for a specific species and a buffer area around the core area. The buffer protects the core area from disturbances that would degrade its value. The Plan defines the types and levels of activities that may be conducted within these areas. AEIs at LANL are managed and protected by DOE and UC because of their significance to biological or other resources. AEIs have been established for the Mexican spotted owl, bald eagle, and southwestern willow flycatcher (LANL 1998b). They have not been established for the whooping crane and black-footed ferret since suitable habitat for these species does not occur at LANL (LANL 2000b).

Although core and buffer AEIs for the Mexican spotted owl have been established within the northern half of TA-3, surveys have not identified this species as actually occurring within the area. The existing CMR Building does not fall within the AEI for the spotted owl. AEIs for the bald eagle and southwestern willow flycatcher do not coincide with TA-3.

Core and buffer areas for the Mexican spotted owl occur in the southern and eastern portions of TA-6. Surveys of these areas have not located any spotted owls. The CMRR Project facilities would be located within the central section of the site, which is outside of the designated



Mexican spotted owl AEI. AEIs for the bald eagle and southwestern willow flycatcher do not coincide with TA-6.

TA-55 falls completely within core and buffer AEIs for the Mexican spotted owl; however, as is the case for TA-3 and TA-6, surveys have not identified any owls within the area. The location of the proposed CMRR Facility within TA-55 falls within both core and buffer areas for this species. AEIs for the bald eagle and southwestern willow flycatcher do not coincide with TA-55.

### **3.8 CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

#### **3.8.1 Prehistoric Resources**

Prehistoric resources at LANL refer to any material remains and items used or modified by people before the establishment of a European presence in the upper Rio Grande Valley in the early seventeenth century. Archaeological surveys have been conducted of approximately 90 percent of the land within LANL (with 85 percent of the area surveyed receiving 100 percent coverage) to identify the cultural resources. The majority of these surveys emphasized prehistoric Native American archaeological sites, including pueblos, rock shelters, rock art, water control features, trails, and game traps. A total of 1,777 prehistoric sites have been recorded at LANL, of which 439 have been assessed for potential nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Of these, 379 sites were determined to be eligible, 60 sites ineligible, and two of undetermined status. The remaining 1,338 sites, which have not been assessed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, are assumed to be eligible until assessed. Three areas in the vicinity of LANL have been established as National Register of Historic Places sites or districts: Bandelier National Monument, Puye Cliffs Historic Ruins, and the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Historic District. The latter is the location of former TA-1 in downtown Los Alamos, which includes Fuller Lodge, the Bathtub Row Houses, and the Ice House Monument at Ashley Pond.

The Cerro Grande Fire directly impacted 215 prehistoric sites. Effects to cultural resource sites included effects originating from burned-out tree root systems forming conduits for modern debris and water to mix with subsurface archaeological deposits and for entry by burrowing animals. Also, snags or dead or dying trees have fallen and uprooted artifacts (DOE 2000b). Additionally, the leveling of a staging area in TA-49 during the fire destroyed one and damaged two other prehistoric sites. Areas at LANL burned by the Cerro Grande Fire have been surveyed for impacts and mitigation measures have been implemented.

TA-3 contains two prehistoric lithic scatter sites. The New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office has concurred that the sites are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

TA-6 contains one prehistoric one- to three-room structure. This site has yet to be assessed for eligibility status with regard to the National Register of Historic Places.

TA-55 contains no prehistoric sites. Within TA-48, a short distance from the TA-55 boundary (about 300 feet [100 meters]), there is a prehistoric site eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

### 3.8.2 Historic Resources

In April 2000, the DOE, NNSA entered into a programmatic agreement with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office concerning the management of LANL's historic properties (MOU DE-GM32-00AL77152). Historic resources present within LANL boundaries and on the Pajarito Plateau can be attributed to nine locally defined Periods: U.S. Territorial, Statehood, Homestead, Post Homestead, Historic Pueblo, Undetermined historic, Manhattan Project, Early Cold War, and Late Cold War. The number of sites identified from each period are as follows: 1 from the U.S. Territorial Period, 9 from the Statehood Period, 71 from the Homestead Period, 5 from the Post Homestead Period, 1 from the Historic Pueblo Period, 36 from the Undetermined Historic Period, 56 from the Manhattan Project Period, and 527 from the Early and Late Cold War Periods. Thus, a total of 706 historic sites have been identified at LANL.

The Cerro Grande Fire directly impacted 11 historic buildings and 56 historic sites. Structures and artifacts from the Homestead Period, Manhattan Project Period, and Cold War Period were adversely affected. The fire destroyed virtually all-wooden buildings associated with the Homestead Period, and the burned properties were largely reduced to rubble. V-Site, one of the last vestiges of the Manhattan Project Period remaining at Los Alamos, was the location where work was conducted on the Trinity device. This important historical site was partially destroyed by the fire. Also, a historic structure and building at TA-2 were adversely impacted by post-fire activities (DOE 2000b).

TA-3 contains 43 historic resources. The New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office has determined that two of these resources are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The remaining 41 have yet to be assessed for eligibility status. Under the programmatic agreement with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office, the CMR Building is part of a subset of LANL's buildings and structures dating from 1942 to 1963 (Manhattan Project and early Cold War Era to the signing of the Limited Test Ban Treaty) that will be identified and evaluated for effects from proposed LANL undertakings. Based on the historical importance of CMR Building operations, it is anticipated that the CMR Building will be determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

TA-6 contains 20 historic resources. The New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office has concurred that four of these resources are eligible and two are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The remaining 14 have yet to be assessed for eligibility status.

TA-55 contains 11 historic resources, 1 of which the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office has concurred with the determination that it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and 2 have been determined to be not eligible. The remaining eight have yet to be assessed.

### 3.8.3 Traditional Cultural Properties

Consultations to identify traditional cultural properties were conducted with 19 Native American tribes in connection with the preparation of the *LANL SWEIS*. Two Hispanic communities were also contacted. These consultations identified 15 ceremonial and archaeological sites, 14 natural

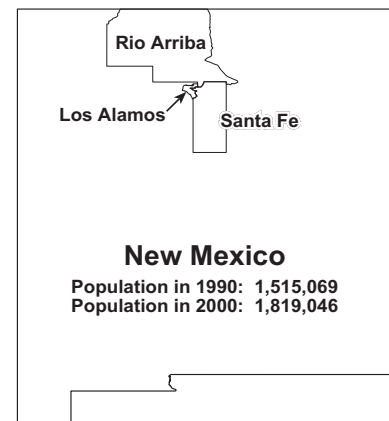
features, 10 ethnobotanical sites, 7 artisan material sites, and 8 subsistence features at LANL. In addition to physical cultural entities, concern has been expressed that “spiritual,” “unseen,” “undocumentable,” or “beingness” aspects can be present at LANL that are an important part of Native American culture and may be adversely impacted by LANL’s presence and operation. Additional consultations regarding traditional cultural properties are ongoing for LANL and other New Mexico properties administered by NNSA and DOE.

### 3.8.4 Paleontological Resources

A single paleontological artifact has been discovered at a site within LANL boundaries; however, in general the near-surface stratigraphy is not conducive to preserving plant and animal remains. The near-surface materials at LANL are volcanic ash and pumice that were extremely hot when deposited; most carbon-based materials (such as bones or plant remains) would likely have been vaporized or burned if present. No paleontological resources have been identified in the close vicinity of TA-3, -6, or -55.

### 3.9 SOCIOECONOMICS

Statistics for population, housing, community services, and local transportation are presented for the region of influence, a three-county area in New Mexico made up of Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Rio Arriba counties (**Figure 3–8**). The majority (89.7 percent) of all LANL employees reside in the Tri-County area (see **Table 3–9**).



**Figure 3–8 Counties in the LANL Region of Influence**

#### 3.9.1 Regional Economic Characteristics

Between 1990 and 1999, the civilian labor force in the Tri-County area increased 14.4 percent to 92,189. In 1999, the annual unemployment average in the region of influence was 3.7 percent, which was less than the annual unemployment average of 5.6 percent for New Mexico (DOL 2000).

In 1997, government agencies and enterprises represented the largest sector of employment in the Tri-County area (35.6 percent). This was followed by service activities (29.5 percent) and retail (20.7 percent). The totals for these employment sectors in New Mexico were 25.1 percent, 27.5 percent, and 23.7 percent, respectively (NMDL 1998).

**Table 3–9 Distribution of Employees by Place of Residence in the LANL Region of Influence in 1996**

<i>County</i>	<i>Number of Employees<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Total Site Employment (percent)</i>
Los Alamos	5,381	50.8
Rio Arriba	2,149	20.3
Santa Fe	1,967	18.6
Region of influence total	9,497	89.7

<sup>a</sup> Data not available for nontechnical contractors or consultants.

Source: DOE 1999a.

### 3.9.2 Demographic Characteristics

The 2000 demographic profile of the region of influence population and income information is included in **Table 3–10**. Persons self-designated as minority individuals comprise 57.9 percent of the total population. This minority population is composed largely of Hispanic or Latino and American Indian residents. The Pueblos of San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, San Juan, Nambe, Pojoaque, Tesuque, and part of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation are included in the region of influence.

**Table 3–10 Demographic Profile of the Population in the LANL Region of Influence**

	<i>Los Alamos County</i>	<i>Rio Arriba County</i>	<i>Santa Fe County</i>	<i>Region of Influence</i>
<b>Population</b>				
2000 population	18,343	41,190	129,292	188,825
1990 population	18,115	34,365	98,928	151,408
Percent change from 1990 to 2000	1.3	19.9	30.7	24.7
<b>Race (2000) (percent of total population)</b>				
White	90.3	56.6	73.5	71.5
Black or African American	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.5
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6	13.9	3.1	5.2
Asian	3.8	0.1	0.9	1.0
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Some other race	2.7	25.6	17.7	18.0
Two or more races	2.3	3.3	4.1	3.7
Percent minority	17.9	86.4	54.5	57.9
<b>Ethnicity (2000)</b>				
Hispanic or Latino	2,155	30,025	63,405	95,585
Percent of total population	11.7	72.9	49.0	50.6

Source: DOC 2001.

Income information for the LANL region of influence is included in **Table 3–11**. There are significant differences in the income levels among the three counties, especially between Rio Arriba County, at the low end, and Los Alamos County, at the upper end. The median household income in Los Alamos County is over double that of the New Mexico State average, while the median household income of Rio Arriba County is below the state average. In 1999, only 2.9 percent of the population in Los Alamos County was below the official poverty level, while in Rio Arriba County, 20.3 percent of the population was below the poverty level (DOC 2003).

**Table 3–11 Income Information for the LANL Region of Influence**

	<i>Los Alamos County</i>	<i>Rio Arriba County</i>	<i>Santa Fe County</i>	<i>New Mexico</i>
Median household income 1999 (\$)	78,993	29,429	42,207	34,133
Percent of persons below poverty line (1999)	2.9	20.3	12.0	18.4

Source: DOC 2003.

### 3.9.3 Housing and Community Services

**Table 3–12** lists the total number of occupied housing units and vacancy rates in the region of influence. In 1990, the Tri-County area contained 63,386 housing units, of which 56,514 were occupied. The median value of owner-occupied units was \$125,100 in Los Alamos County, which is higher than the other two counties and over twice the median value of units in Rio Arriba County. The vacancy rate was lowest in Los Alamos County (4.7 percent) and highest in Rio Arriba County (20.2 percent). During the Cerro Grande Fire in 2000, approximately 230 housing units were destroyed or damaged in northern portions of Los Alamos County (DOE 2000b). As a result, vacancy rates have decreased.

Community services include public education and healthcare (including hospitals, hospital beds, and doctors). In 1998, student enrollment totaled 26,290 in the region of influence and the average student-to-teacher ratio was 17:1 (Department of Education 2000). In 1998, three hospitals served the Tri-County area, with a hospital bed-to-population ratio of 1.9 hospital beds per 1,000 persons. The average region of influence’s physician-to-population ratio was 2.7 physicians per 1,000 persons (Gaquin and DeBrandt 2000).

**Table 3–12 Housing and Community Services in the LANL Region of Influence**

	<i>Los Alamos County</i>	<i>Rio Arriba County</i>	<i>Santa Fe County</i>	<i>Region of Influence</i>
<b>Housing (1990) <sup>a</sup></b>				
Total units	7,565	14,357	41,464	63,386
Occupied housing units	7,213	11,461	37,840	56,514
Vacant units	352	2,896	3,624	6,872
Vacancy rate (percent)	4.7	20.2	8.7	10.8
Median value (\$)	125,100	57,900	103,300	Not available
<b>Public Education (1998) <sup>b</sup></b>				
Total enrollment	3,674	6,917	15,699	26,290
Student-to-teacher ratio	14.8:1	18:1	17.2:1	17:1
<b>Community Healthcare (1998) <sup>c</sup></b>				
Hospitals	1	1	1	3
Hospital beds per 1,000 persons	2.9	2.1	1.7	1.9
Physicians per 1,000 persons	2.6	0.9	3.3	2.7

Sources:

<sup>a</sup> DOE 1999a.

<sup>b</sup> Department of Education 2000.

<sup>c</sup> Gaquin and DeBrandt 2000.

### 3.9.4 Local Transportation

Motor vehicles are the primary means of transportation to LANL. Regional transportation route(s) to LANL include: Albuquerque and Santa Fe – I-25 to U.S. 84/285 to NM 502; from Española – NM 30 to NM 502; and from Jemez Springs and western communities – NM 4. Hazardous and radioactive material shipments leave or enter LANL from East Jemez Road to NM 4 to NM 502 (see Figure 3–1). Only two major roads, NM 502 and NM 4, access Los Alamos County. Los Alamos County traffic volume on these two segments of highway is primarily associated with LANL activities.

A public bus service located in Los Alamos operates within Los Alamos County. The Los Alamos bus system consists of seven buses that operate 5 days a week. The nearest commercial bus terminal is located in Española. The nearest commercial rail connection is at Lamy, New Mexico, 52 miles (83 kilometers) southeast of LANL. LANL does not currently use rail for commercial shipments. The primary commercial international airport in New Mexico is located in Albuquerque. The small Los Alamos County Airport is owned by the Federal Government, and the operations and maintenance are performed by the County of Los Alamos under a lease agreement. The airport is located parallel to East Road at the southern edge of the Los Alamos community. Until January 1996, the airport provided regular passenger and cargo service through specialized contract carriers such as Ross Aviation, which were under contract to DOE to provide passenger and cargo air service to Los Alamos County and LANL. DOE continues to negotiate with various companies to provide for service to the Los Alamos Airport.

### 3.10 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Under Executive Order 12898, DOE is responsible for identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations. As discussed in Appendix D, minority persons are those who identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino, Asian, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or multi-racial (with at least one race designated as a minority race under Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Guidelines (CEQ 1997)). Persons whose income is below the Federal poverty threshold are designated as low income.

There are three locations at LANL being considered for the continued operation of CMR activities. These are TA-3, TA-6, and TA-55 (see Section 1.4). **Figure 3–9** shows locations for these activities. The location for the new CMRR Facility at TA-55 is approximately 1.2 miles (1.9 kilometers) southeast of the existing CMR Building. The location for the new CMRR Facility at TA-6 is approximately 0.5 miles (0.8 kilometers) south of the existing CMR Building.

Populations at risk include persons who live within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the existing CMR Building or the proposed locations for CMRR Facilities at TA-55 or TA-6. As indicated in **Figure 3–10**, eight counties are included or partially included in the potentially affected areas surrounding these locations: Bernalillo, Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Miguel, Santa Fe, and Taos.

Figure 3–10 shows the minority and non-minority populations by county living within the potentially affected area surrounding the existing CMR Building in the year 2000. Because CMRR Facility locations are relatively close to one another, the minority and non-minority populations living in potentially affected areas surrounding the TA-6 and TA-55 sites differ from those surrounding the existing CMR Building at TA-3 by less than three percent. Minorities living in the 8 counties comprised approximately 53 percent of the total population at risk. Nearly 70 percent of the total and minority populations at risk lived in Sandoval and Santa Fe counties.

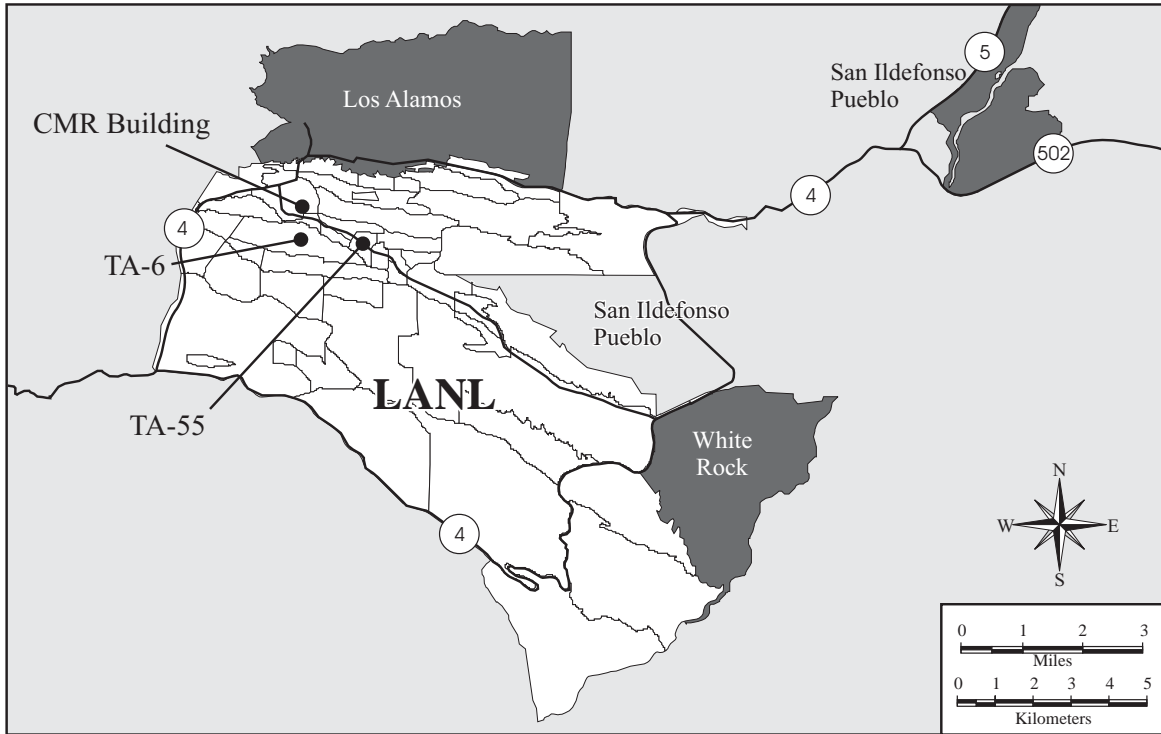


Figure 3-9 CMR Building and Sites for the New CMRR Facility

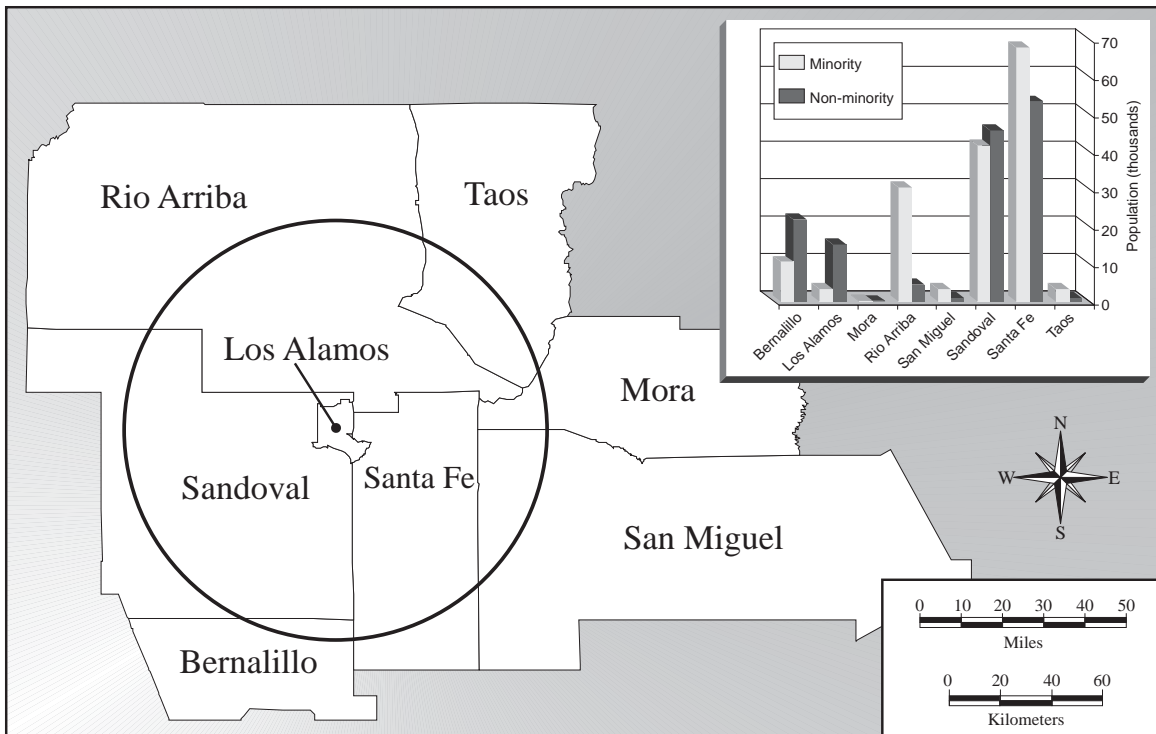
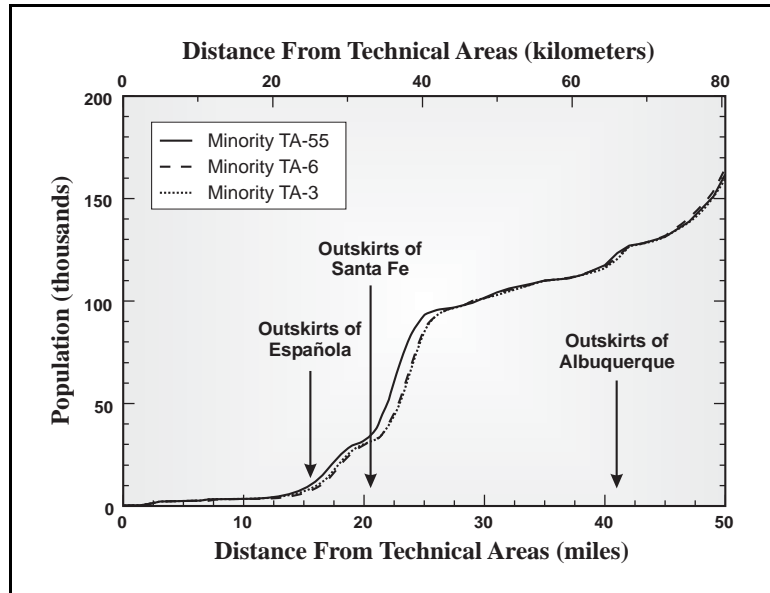


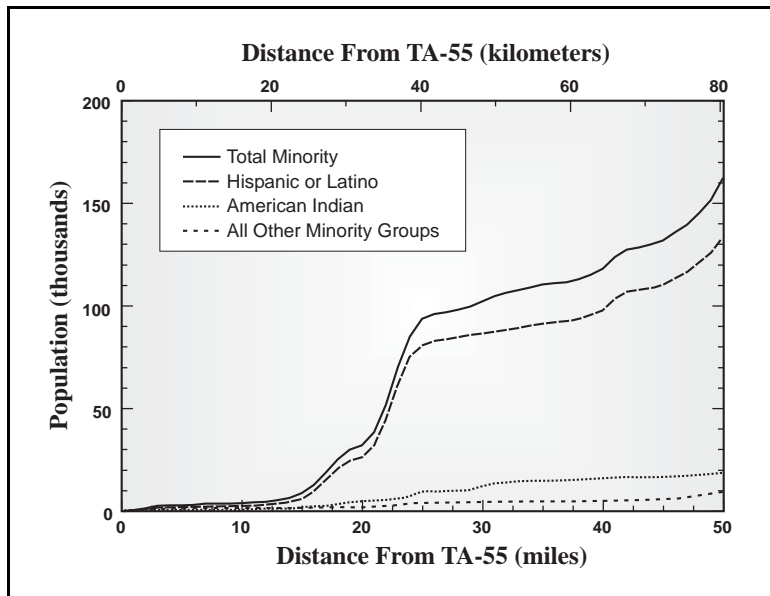
Figure 3-10 Minority and Non-Minority Populations by County Living in the Potentially Affected Area

**Figure 3–11** shows cumulative minority populations as a function of distance from TA-3, TA-6, and TA-55. Values along the vertical axis of Figure 3–11 show the minority population (in thousands) residing within a given distance from these technical areas. Moving outward from locations, the cumulative populations increase sharply in the Española, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque areas. Nearly 40 percent of the potentially affected minority population lived in the Santa Fe area in 2000. Cumulative minority populations surrounding TA-3 and TA-6 are almost identical as a function of distance from the site. Because the CMRR Facility could be located in TA-55, it would be approximately 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) closer to the Santa Fe area. The surge in minority population resulting from minority residents of Santa Fe occurs at a distance that is approximately 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) less than the corresponding distance for TA-3 and TA-6.



**Figure 3–11** Minority Populations as a Function of Distance from TA-3, TA-6, and TA-55

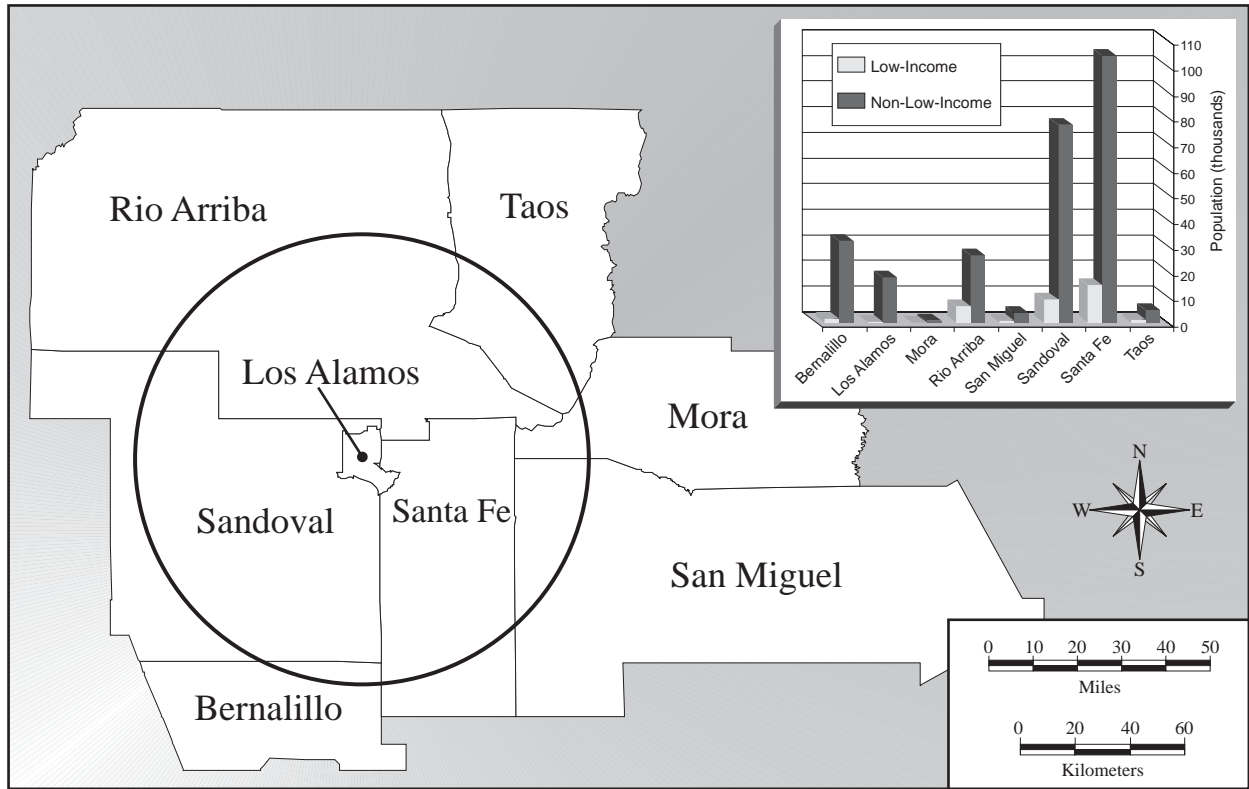
**Figure 3–12** shows the composition of the potentially affected minority population surrounding TA-55. Hispanics and American Indians comprised approximately 94 percent of the potentially affected minority population. Nearly one-half of the potentially affected Hispanic and American Indian populations lived in the Santa Fe area in 2000. The racial and Hispanic composition in the potentially affected area is reasonably representative of that for the State of New Mexico. Hispanics comprised approximately 76 percent of New Mexico’s minority population in 2000, and American Indians comprised nearly 16 percent of the State’s minority population. Among the 50 states, New Mexico has the second largest percentage minority population (55 percent). Only the State of Hawaii has a larger percentage minority population (77 percent).



**Figure 3–12** Minority Groups TA-55

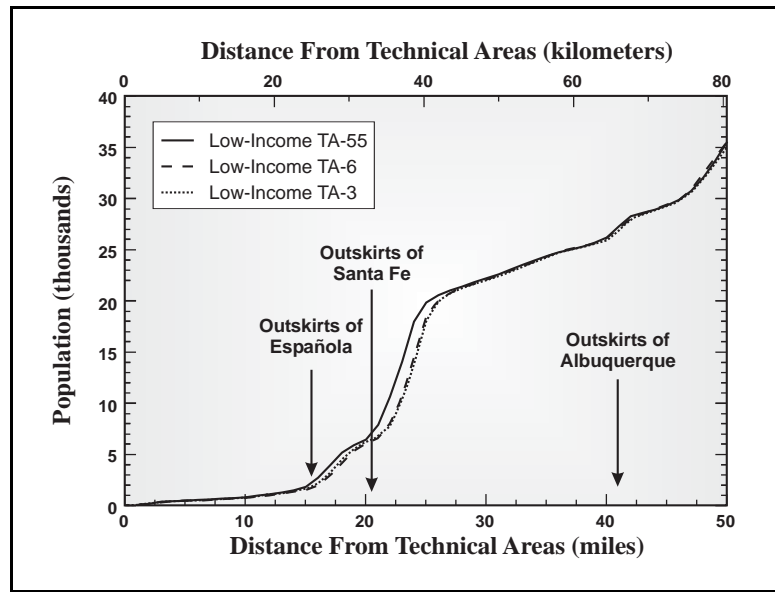


As indicated in **Figure 3-13** the largest potentially affected low-income populations reside in Sandoval and Santa Fe counties. Approximately 70 percent of the total potentially affected low-income population lived in these two counties in 2000. Low-income persons comprised approximately 13 percent of the total potentially affected population.



**Figure 3-13 Low-Income and Non-Low-Income Populations by County Living in the Potentially Affected Area**

**Figure 3-14** shows the cumulative low-income population as a function of distance from TA-3, TA-6, and TA-55. The overall shape of these curves is similar to those shown in Figures 3-11 and 3-12. Low-income populations surrounding TA-3, TA-6, and TA-55 are concentrated in the Española, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque areas. Nearly 40 percent of the potentially affected low-income population lived in the Santa Fe area in 2000.



**Figure 3-14 Cumulative Low-Income Population as a Function of Distance from TA-3, TA-6, and TA-55**

At the public scoping meetings on the CMRR EIS held in Pojoaque, New Mexico, on August 13, 2002 (see Section 1.7), the Director of Environmental and Cultural Preservation for the Pueblo San Ildefonso identified environmental justice concerns over the implementation of the Preferred Alternative. Pueblo of San Ildefonso land is located adjacent to the boundary of LANL TA-54. While no one resides on this land, members of the Pueblo use it for hunting, gathering, and ceremonial and cultural purposes. Residents of Pueblo San Ildefonso expressed concern that pollution resulting from implementation of the Preferred Alternative could contaminate Mortandad Canyon, which in turn drains onto Pueblo land and sacred areas. At the scoping meetings, the representative of the Pueblo San Ildefonso requested that this EIS evaluate alternatives that would locate the CMRR Facility farther away from their lands. Also, a former Governor of the Pueblo of Acoma expressed concern that implementation of the Preferred Alternative could contaminate areas surrounding LANL, and that LANL's record of compliance with environmental regulations was not satisfactory.

### 3.11 HUMAN HEALTH

Public and occupational health and safety issues include the determination of potential adverse effects on human health that could result from acute and chronic exposure to ionizing radiation and hazardous chemicals. The following subsections include a discussion of radiation exposure and chemical exposure and the associated human health risks from each.

#### 3.11.1 Radiation Exposure and Risk

Major sources and levels of background radiation exposure to individuals in the vicinity of LANL are shown in **Table 3–13**. Annual background radiation doses to individuals are expected to remain constant over time. Background radiation doses are unrelated to LANL operations.

**Table 3–13 Sources of Radiation Exposure to Individuals in the LANL Vicinity Unrelated to LANL Operations**

<i>Source</i>	<i>Effective Dose Equivalent (millirem per year)</i>
<b>Natural Background Radiation</b>	
External cosmic <sup>a</sup>	50 to 90
External terrestrial <sup>b</sup>	50 to 150
Internal terrestrial and global cosmogenic	40
Radon (in homes)	200
<b>Other Background Radiation</b>	
Diagnostic x-rays and nuclear medicine	50
Weapons test fallout	<1
Consumer and industrial products	10
Total	400 to 500

<sup>a</sup> Cosmic radiation doses are lower in the lower elevations and higher in the mountains.

<sup>b</sup> Variation in the external terrestrial dose is a function of the variability in the amount of naturally occurring uranium, thorium, and potassium in the soil.

Source: LANL 2001a.

Normal operational releases of radionuclides to the environment from LANL operations provide another source of radiation exposure to individuals in the vicinity of LANL. Types and

quantities of radionuclides released from LANL operations in 2001 are listed in *Environmental Surveillance at Los Alamos During 2001* (LANL 2002c), and are presented in Section 3.4.2.2.

The annual population dose for the public resulting from these releases is 1.6 person-rem, which corresponds to an average annual individual dose of 0.006 millirem for individuals residing within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the LANL site. (The estimated population for this region in 2001 was 277,000.) The dose to the offsite public is almost exclusively the result of airborne releases from LANL. The annual dose to the maximally exposed offsite individual was calculated to be 1.9 millirem. A calculation for a maximally exposed onsite individual was also made. This individual was assumed to be a member of the public who traveled along Pajarito Road on a relatively frequent basis and was therefore susceptible to a dose from the operation of facilities at TA-18 higher than that received by the general offsite public. The annual dose to this maximally exposed onsite individual was calculated to be 4.2 millirem (LANL 2002c). These doses fall within the radiological limits (individual dose limit of 10 millirem per year from airborne emissions and 100 millirem per year from all sources) given in DOE Order 5400.5, *Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment*, and are much lower than those from background radiation.

Using a risk estimator of one latent cancer death per 2,000 rem dose (see Appendix B), the estimated probability of this maximally exposed person developing a latent fatal cancer from radiation exposure associated with 1 year of LANL operations is less than one in one million ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ). According to the same risk estimator, 0.0008 excess latent fatal cancers are projected in the population living within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of LANL from 1 year of normal LANL operations. To place this number in perspective, it may be compared with the number of fatal cancers expected in the same population from all causes. The mortality rate associated with cancer for the entire U.S. population is 0.2 percent per year. Based on this mortality rate, the number of fatal cancers expected during 2001 from all causes in the population of 277,000 living within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of LANL was 554. This expected number of fatal cancers is much higher than the 0.0008 latent fatal cancers estimated from LANL operations in 2001.

LANL workers receive the same dose as the general public from background radiation, but they also receive an additional dose from working in facilities with nuclear materials. The average dose to the individual worker and the cumulative dose to all workers at LANL from operations in 2001 are presented in **Table 3-14**. These doses fall within the radiological limits established by 10 CFR 835, *Occupational Radiation Protection*. Using a risk estimator of one latent fatal cancer per 2,500 person-rem among workers (see Appendix B) and a total workers' dose of 113 person-rem, the number of estimated latent fatal cancers among LANL workers from normal operations in 2001 is 0.045. The risk estimator for workers is lower than the estimator for the public because of the absence from the workforce of the more radiosensitive infant and child age groups.

**Table 3–14 Radiation Doses to Workers from Normal LANL Operations in 2001  
(total effective dose equivalent)**

<i>Occupational Personnel</i>	<i>Onsite Releases and Direct Radiation</i>	
	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Average radiation worker (millirem)	(a)	85
Total workers (person-rem) <sup>b</sup>	None	113

<sup>a</sup> The radiological limit for an individual worker is 5,000 millirem per year (10 CFR 835). However, DOE's goal is to maintain radiological exposure as low as reasonably achievable. Therefore, DOE has recommended an administrative control level of 500 millirem per year (DOE 1999b); the site must make reasonable attempts to maintain individual worker doses below this level.

<sup>b</sup> There were 1,330 workers with measurable doses in 2001.

Source: DOE 2002h.

External radiation doses have been measured in areas of TA-3, TA-6, and TA-55 that may contain radiological sources for comparison with offsite natural background radiation levels. Measurements taken in 2001 showed doses within TA-3 (excluding some restricted locations within the area) to be between 110 and 129 millirem, within TA-6 to be 132 millirem, and within TA-55 to be between 142 and 150 millirem. Offsite doses from background radiation were measured to be as high as 144 millirem (LANL 2002c).

In 2001, the average concentration in air of plutonium-239, gross alpha, and gross beta radiation on the LANL site were measured to be  $1 \times 10^{-18}$  curies per cubic meter,  $8 \times 10^{-16}$  curies per cubic meter, and  $1.4 \times 10^{-14}$  curies per cubic meter, respectively. The concentration of plutonium-239 was about twice that measured at offsite regional locations; the concentrations of gross alpha and gross beta radiation were about the same as measured regionally (LANL 2002c). No specific measurements were reported for the TAs, but the concentrations would be expected to be similar to the average site values.

### 3.11.2 Chemical Environment

The background chemical environment important to human health consists of the atmosphere, which may contain hazardous chemicals that can be inhaled; drinking water, which may contain hazardous chemicals that can be ingested; and other environmental media with which people may come in contact (such as soil through direct contact or via the food pathway).

Adverse health impacts to the public are minimized through administrative and design controls to decrease hazardous chemical releases to the environment and to achieve compliance with permit requirements. The effectiveness of these controls is verified through the use of monitoring information and inspection of mitigation measures. Health impacts to the public could occur during normal operations at LANL via inhalation of air containing hazardous chemicals released to the atmosphere by LANL operations. Risks to public health from ingestion of contaminated drinking water or direct exposure are also potential pathways.

Baseline air emission concentrations for air pollutants and their applicable standards are presented in Section 3.4.2.1. These concentrations are estimates of the highest existing offsite concentrations and represent the highest concentrations to which members of the public could be exposed. These concentrations are compared with applicable guidelines and regulations.

Chemical exposure pathways to LANL workers during normal operations could include inhaling the workplace atmosphere, drinking LANL potable water, and possible other contact with hazardous materials associated with work assignments. Workers are protected from hazards specific to the workplace through appropriate training, protective equipment, monitoring, and management controls. LANL workers are also protected by adherence to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and EPA occupational standards that limit atmospheric and drinking water concentrations of potentially hazardous chemicals. Appropriate monitoring, which reflects the frequency and amounts of chemicals used in the operation processes, ensures that these standards are not exceeded. Additionally, DOE requirements ensure that conditions in the workplace are as free as possible from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause illness or physical harm. Therefore, worker health conditions at LANL are substantially better than required by standards.

### **3.11.3 Health Effects Studies**

Numerous epidemiological studies have been conducted in the LANL area. These studies have been summarized in the *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Stockpile Stewardship and Management (SSM PEIS)* (DOE 1996b). One study conducted by the New Mexico Department of Health reported elevations in brain cancer incidence during the mid to late 1980s, compared to state and national reference populations, but random fluctuation could not be ruled out. Breast cancer incidence rates in Los Alamos from 1970 to 1990 remained level, but higher than New Mexico rates. Reproductive and demographic factors known to increase the risk of breast cancer have been prevalent in the county. Ovarian cancer incidence in the county from 1986 to 1990 was approximately twofold greater than that observed in a New Mexico State reference population. In the mid to late-1980s, a twofold excess risk of melanoma was observed in Los Alamos County compared with a New Mexico State reference population. A more recent study observed a fourfold increase in thyroid cancer incidence during the late 1980s and early 1990s compared with the state as a whole, but the rate began to decline in 1994 and 1995. No statistically significant excess cancers were reported for male workers exposed to plutonium. However, statistically significant excesses in kidney cancer and lymphomatic leukemia were observed in male workers exposed to external radiation. For more detailed descriptions of studies reviewed and the findings, refer to Appendix Section D.1.2 of the *LANL SWEIS* (DOE 1999a) and to Appendix Section E.4.6 of the *SSM PEIS* (DOE 1996b).

### **3.11.4 Accident History**

Unanticipated incidents have occurred at the CMR Building that had the potential for impacts to workers and the public. However, the consequences of most of the incidents were minor, and none resulted in fatal worker injuries. In most of these incidents, no inhalation of radioactive material occurred, and it was possible to decontaminate the workers and areas near where the contamination occurred. The following is a list of historical incidents that are pertinent to this EIS:

- In 1981, a radiological incident occurred in Wing 3 of the CMR Building. Plutonium-238 heat source material was accidentally spilled. As a result, there was widespread wing

contamination and 15 laboratory employees, a public worker, and two residential houses in Santa Fe were contaminated.

- In 1971, an incident in Wing 9 involved an uptake of plutonium-238 during work on a heat source in an argon-purged atmosphere. The airborne radioactive material was released through a puncture in a boot around a manipulator in the operating area. Several personnel in the area received intake exposures. Intensive decontamination efforts were required to clean up the wing.
- There have been at least nine, and perhaps many more spills of radioactive materials during operations within ventilated hoods and operations outside of containment boxes. One typical spill occurred when a worker in a ventilated hood was splashed with a radioactive solution spilled inside the hood. Another spill occurred when a worker dropped a glass vial containing 140 micrograms of dried plutonium-238 residue.
- Several incidents occurred in the time period from 1992 through 1997 that caused contamination outside of the facility. These incidents were the result of stack releases in excess of DOE guidelines and of contaminated material sent to the Los Alamos landfill. Four other environmental contamination incidents occurred outside the CMR Building prior to this period. During 1995, there were two releases at the CMR Building involving 116 micro curies of uranium-235 from Wing 4 and 1.24 micro curies of plutonium-239 from Wing 3. Also, in this time period, a hot-cell manipulator seal leak and glove tear in Wing 9 resulted in both a stack release of 55 curies of plutonium-238 to the environment and an individual exposure of 15 rem in the lungs.
- Three incidents of small fires occurred in the time interval from 1996 through 1997. One fire was a result of the ignition of a container of isopropyl alcohol and potassium hydroxide. The incident occurred either by spontaneous ignition of the bath or the evolution of vapors that were ignited by an external source. A second fire occurred in Wing 5 involving an unattended electric oven that was being used to dry a potentially contaminated mop head. A third fire occurred in Wing 9 as a result of an explosion.

Investigations of these and other occurrences were conducted to determine root causes, implement corrective actions, evaluate trends, and communicate lessons learned. A review of incidents at the CMR Building verifies that accidents occur both during laboratory processes and during activities to operate and maintain the facility.

### **3.11.5 Emergency Preparedness and Security**

Each DOE site has established an emergency management program that is activated in the event of an accident. This program has been developed and maintained to ensure adequate response to most accident conditions and to provide response efforts for accidents not specifically considered. The emergency management program includes emergency planning, training, preparedness, and response.

NNSA maintains equipment and procedures to respond to situations where human health or the environment is threatened. These include specialized training and equipment for the local fire department, local hospitals, state public safety organizations, and other government entities that may participate in response actions, as well as specialized assistance teams (DOE Order 151.1, *Comprehensive Emergency Management System*). These programs also provide for notification of local governments whose constituencies may be threatened. Broad ranges of exercises are run to ensure the systems are working properly, from facility-specific exercises to regional responses. In addition, DOE has specified actions to be taken at all DOE sites to implement lessons learned from the emergency response to an accidental explosion at Hanford in May 1997.

The current EOC is located within TA-59 near TA-3. A new EOC is under construction within TA-69 near TA-8. The move to the new, state-of-the-art facility is expected to occur in early 2004. The new EOC incorporates many of the lessons learned from operation of the existing EOC during, and for 3 months following, the Cerro Grande Fire in 2000. The new EOC is planned as a multi-agency user facility that is capable of accommodating a large number of emergency responders simultaneously. The facility will also routinely accommodate 911 emergency workers of Los Alamos County, as well as LANL's emergency responder staff.

### **3.12 WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION PREVENTION**

Waste management includes minimization, characterization, treatment, storage, transportation, and disposal of waste generated from ongoing DOE activities. The waste is managed using appropriate treatment, storage, and disposal technologies, and in compliance with all applicable Federal and state statutes and DOE Orders. The following types of waste are managed at LANL: transuranic, mixed transuranic, low-level radioactive, mixed low-level radioactive, hazardous, and nonhazardous. Each of these waste types is generated by CMR activities. Section 3.12.1 discusses general waste inventories and the activities involved in their management. The following subsections discuss each waste type in greater detail.

#### **3.12.1 Waste Inventories and Activities**

CMR operations in the existing CMR Building generate transuranic waste, mixed transuranic waste, low-level radioactive waste, mixed low-level radioactive waste, hazardous waste, and nonhazardous waste. Transuranic waste, mixed transuranic waste, low-level radioactive waste, mixed low-level radioactive waste, hazardous waste, and nonhazardous waste are treated, stored, and disposed of in accordance with current LANL waste management practices. No high-level radioactive waste is generated from the CMR activities conducted at the CMR Building.

In accordance with the Records of Decision for the *Final Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Managing Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Radioactive and Hazardous Waste (Waste Management PEIS)* (DOE/EIS-0200-F, May 1997), waste could be treated and disposed of onsite at LANL or at other DOE sites or commercial facilities. Based on the Record of Decision for hazardous waste published on August 5, 1998 (63 FR 41810), nonwastewater hazardous waste will continue to be treated and disposed of at offsite commercial facilities. Based on the Record of Decision for low-level radioactive waste and mixed low-level radioactive waste published on February 18, 2000 (65 FR 10061), minimal treatment of low-level

radioactive waste will be performed at all sites, and to the extent practicable, onsite disposal of low-level radioactive waste will continue. Hanford and Nevada Test Site (NTS) will be made available to all DOE sites for disposal of low-level radioactive waste. Mixed low-level radioactive waste analyzed in the *Waste Management PEIS* will be treated at Hanford, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), the Oak Ridge Reservation and the Savannah River Site (SRS), and will be disposed of at Hanford and NTS. Based on the Record of Decision for transuranic waste (63 FR 3629), DOE has decided to treat LANL's transuranic waste onsite prior to disposal at an offsite facility. DOE is in the process of developing a policy for the management of mixed transuranic waste.

The existing CMR Building has established several capabilities for managing waste, including analyzing, packaging, storing, and transporting low-level, transuranic, and hazardous waste generated from programmatic operations. All liquid radioactive and inorganic chemical wastes meet LANL's waste acceptance criteria before the waste is sent via the industrial waste line to LANL's RLWTF at TA-50 for processing. Because the volume of liquid organic chemical wastes is very low, these wastes are collected in small containers in temporary holding areas, packaged, and transported from the CMR Building to TA-50 by truck. Low-level radioactive wastes in a solid physical state are also packaged in the CMR Building, where care is taken to avoid combining hazardous wastes with radioactive wastes to form mixed wastes. These low-level solid wastes and hazardous solid wastes are stored separately in temporary locations until they are shipped to waste storage and disposal locations at TA-54.

Waste generation rates from CMR activities are provided in **Table 3-15**; also included for comparison are total waste generation rates for all LANL activities. Selected waste management facilities at LANL are summarized in **Table 3-16**.

Although not listed on the National Priorities List, LANL adheres to Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act guidelines for environmental restoration projects that involve certain hazardous substances not covered by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). LANL's environmental restoration program originally consisted of approximately 2,100 potential release sites (DOE 1999d). At the end of 1999, there remained 1,206 potential release sites requiring investigation or remediation and 118 buildings awaiting decontamination and decommissioning.

Based on a review by LANL's Environmental Restoration Program, the boundary of Potential Release Site 48-001 overlaps a small area in the corner of the proposed relocation site at TA-55. This area of overlap involves possible surface soil contamination from TA-48 stack emissions. Further investigation and any necessary remediation of this site will be completed under LANL's Environmental Restoration Program (LANL 2001d) and in accordance with LANL's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. More information on regulatory requirements for waste disposal is provided in Chapter 5.



**Table 3–15 Selected Waste Generation Rates from CMR and LANL Activities**

Waste Type	Units	CMR Generation Rate	LANL Generation Rate
Transuranic	Cubic yards per year	19.5 <sup>a</sup>	169 <sup>a</sup>
Mixed transuranic	Cubic yards per year	8.5 <sup>a</sup>	41.2 <sup>a</sup>
Low-level radioactive	Cubic yards per year	1,217 <sup>a,b</sup>	3,714 <sup>a</sup>
Mixed low-level radioactive	Cubic yards per year	6.7 <sup>a</sup>	128 <sup>a</sup>
Hazardous	Pounds per year	10,494 <sup>a</sup>	1,897,304 <sup>a,c</sup>
<b>Nonhazardous</b>			
Liquid	Cubic yards per year	Not available	906,188 <sup>d</sup>
Solid	Cubic yards per year	Not available	7,132 <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> LANL SWEIS, Table 4.9.3.3-1.

<sup>b</sup> Volumes of low-level radioactive waste includes solid waste generated by the treatment of liquid low-level radioactive waste generated by CMR operations.

<sup>c</sup> This waste type also includes biomedical waste.

<sup>d</sup> DOE 1999d.

Note: The generation rates are attributed to facility operations and do not include the waste generated from environmental restoration actions.

**Table 3–16 Selected Waste Management Facilities at LANL**

Facility Name/Description	Capacity	Status	Applicable Waste Type					
			TRU	Mixed TRU	LLW	MLLW	HAZ	NHAZ
<b>Treatment Facility (cubic yards per year unless otherwise indicated)</b>								
Transuranic waste volume reduction	1,413	Online	X	X				
RAMROD and RANT facilities	1,373	Online	X	X				
Low-level radioactive waste compaction	99	Online			X			
Sanitary wastewater treatment	1,386,456	Online						X
Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility	9,240,000 gallons <sup>b</sup>	Online			X			
<b>Storage Facility (cubic yards)</b>								
Low-level radioactive waste storage	867	Online			X			
Mixed low-level radioactive waste storage	763	Online				X		
Hazardous waste storage	2,438	Online					X	
<b>Disposal Facility</b>								
TA-54, Area G low-level radioactive waste disposal (cubic yards)	330,245 <sup>a</sup>	Online			X			
Sanitary tile fields (cubic yards per year)	742,560	Online						X

<sup>a</sup> Current inventory of 326,975 cubic yards. Capacity will be expanded as part of the implementation of the LANL SWEIS Record of Decision.

<sup>b</sup> The RLWTF (9.24 million gallons [35 million liters]) is the amount of radioactive liquid waste projected to be treated under the Expanded Operations Alternative, see LANL SWEIS, page 3-29.

TRU = transuranic waste, LLW = low-level radioactive waste, MLLW = mixed low-level radioactive waste, HAZ = hazardous waste, NHAZ = non-hazardous waste, RAMROD = Radioactive Materials Research, Operations, and Demonstration; RANT = Radioactive Assay and Nondestructive Test.

Source: DOE 1999a, DOE 1999d.

### 3.12.2 Transuranic Waste

Transuranic waste is generated by analytical, processing, and fabrication activities in the CMR Building at LANL. All projects generating transuranic waste are required to implement waste minimization (64 FR 50797).

As part of the implementation of the Record of Decision for Transuranic Waste (TRU) Waste Treatment and Storage, part of the *Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE 1997b), LANL will treat transuranic waste onsite. Most transuranic waste will be disposed at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. However, WIPP commenced TRU waste disposal operations in March 1999, and the preferred alternative in the *WIPP Disposal Phase Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)* (DOE 1997c) included a 35-year operating period. The WIPP disposal phase is, therefore, assumed to end in 2034. Several DOE sites, including LANL, expect to generate transuranic waste beyond 2034 as a result of ongoing missions. The National Transuranic Waste Management Plan classifies transuranic waste generated after 2034 as waste having no current plan for disposal.

The CMRR Facility would start operations in 2010 with full operations planned for 2012. The operating life of the CMRR Facility is at least 50 years. To accommodate all projected transuranic waste from the CMRR Facility and other ongoing operations, DOE would need to extend the disposal phase for the WIPP repository or develop a new transuranic waste repository similar to the WIPP. Because sufficient lead time exists to develop such a repository, and given the fact that DOE has successfully demonstrated the capability of disposing transuranic waste, this EIS assumes that a transuranic waste repository similar to the WIPP would be available.

The total volume of transuranic waste currently managed by DOE (stored and projected) is estimated to be 249,949 cubic yards (191,100 cubic meters) of which 244,194 cubic yards (186,700 cubic meters) is contact handled transuranic and 5,755 cubic yards (4,400 cubic meters) is remote handled transuranic waste. A portion of this waste will be treated or repackaged prior to disposal, and the reported volumes may change depending on the selected processing or repackaging methodology. The estimated volume to be disposed of at WIPP is 151,853 cubic yards (116,100 cubic meters), of which 148,191 cubic yards (113,300 cubic meters) is contact handled transuranic (of which about 4,185 cubic yards [3,200 cubic meters] has already been disposed), and 3,662 cubic yards (2,800 cubic meters) is remote handled transuranic waste (DOE 2002b).

WIPP's total capacity for both contact handled and remote handled transuranic waste is set at 229,676 cubic yards (175,600 cubic meters) by the *WIPP Land Withdrawal Act*. The Consultation and Cooperation Agreement restricts the quantity of remote handled transuranic waste to only 5 percent by volume. Thus, the total volume of remote handled transuranic waste cannot exceed 9,260 cubic yards (7,080 cubic meters). If the maximum allowable remote handled transuranic waste volume were disposed, the available capacity for contact handled transuranic waste would be 220,416 cubic yards (168,520 cubic meters). CMR operations at LANL are expected to generate 61 cubic yards (47 cubic meters) per year of contact handled transuranic waste. Over a 50-year time period, this would result in a total of about 3,050 cubic yards (2,350 cubic meters) of contact handled transuranic waste. Based on current transuranic

waste forecasts, the available contact handled transuranic waste disposal capacity at WIPP is about 72,225 cubic yards (55,220 cubic meters). The available capacity or new capacity would be sufficient to accommodate the estimated volumes of transuranic waste from future LANL CMR operations.

### 3.12.3 Mixed Transuranic Waste

Transuranic waste that also contains hazardous components regulated under RCRA is managed as mixed transuranic waste. Once generated, the mixed transuranic waste generally is transferred to a satellite storage area at the existing CMR Building. Subsequent storage, bulking, and transportation operations are performed according to hazardous waste management and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations and DOE directives. The storage, bulking, and transportation preparation activities take place at TA-54. Most mixed transuranic waste will be disposed at WIPP or a similar facility.

### 3.12.4 Low-Level Radioactive Waste

Radioactive wastes that contain less than 100nCi/g of transuranic radionuclides are managed as low-level waste. Solid low-level radioactive waste generated by LANL's operating divisions is characterized and packaged for disposal at the onsite low-level radioactive waste disposal facility at TA-54, Area G, or sent to off-site licensed commercial facilities for disposal. Low-level radioactive waste minimization strategies are intended to reduce the environmental impact associated with low-level radioactive waste operations and waste disposal by reducing the amount of low-level radioactive waste generated or minimizing the volume of low-level radioactive waste that will require storage or disposal onsite. A 1998 analysis of the low-level radioactive waste landfill at TA-54, Area G, indicated that at previously planned rates of disposal, the disposal capacity would be exhausted in a few years. Reduction in low-level radioactive waste generation has extended this time to approximately 5 years; however, potentially large volumes of waste from planned construction upgrades and demolition activities at LANL could rapidly fill the remaining capacity (LANL 2000a).

As part of the implementation of the Record of Decision in the *LANL SWEIS*, DOE will continue onsite disposal of LANL-generated low-level radioactive waste using the existing footprint at the Area G low-level waste disposal area and will expand disposal capacity into Zones 4 and 6 at Area G. This expansion would cover up to 72 acres (29 hectares). Additional sites for low-level radioactive waste disposal at Area G would provide onsite disposal for an additional 50 to 100 years (64 FR 50797, LANL 2000a).

The primary sources of liquid low-level radioactive waste at the CMR Building are laboratory sinks, duct wash-down systems, and overflows and blowdowns from circulating chilled-water systems, generating approximately 10,400 gallons per day (LANL 2002f) (Internal Memorandum, Estimate of CMR Flows, Prepared by Pete Worland, LANL FWO-WFM, September 25, 2002). The liquid radioactive waste is transferred through a system of pipes and by tanker trucks to the RLWTF at TA-50, Building 1. The radioactive components are treated and the resulting solids are then disposed of as solid low-level radioactive waste at TA-54, Area G. The remaining liquid is discharged through a permitted outfall that empties into

Mortandad Canyon (LANL 2000a). Discharges of effluent through permitted outfalls must meet stringent discharge parameters and are sampled to verify the attainment of these parameters on a frequent basis. The RLWTF has been upgraded and modified in the past and additional upgrades and changes to the facility are being contemplated. The premise of the CMRR EIS analysis is that the RLWTF or a similar treatment capability would be available to treat LANL liquid low-level radioactive wastes.

### **3.12.5 Mixed Low-Level Radioactive Waste**

There are seven major mixed low-level radioactive waste streams at LANL: circuit boards, gloveboxes, lead parts, research and development chemicals, personal protective equipment, fluorescent tubes, and waste generated from spills and spill cleanup. Typically, mixed low-level radioactive waste is transferred to a satellite storage area once generated. Whenever possible, mixed low-level materials are surveyed to confirm the radiological contamination levels, and if decontamination will eliminate either the radiological or the hazardous component, materials are decontaminated and removed from the mixed low-level radioactive waste category (LANL 2000a).

Proper waste management and DOT documentation are provided for solid waste operations at TA-54, Area G or Area L, to process remaining mixed low-level radioactive waste for storage, bulking, and transportation. RCRA waste management operations at Area G involve storage of mixed low-level radioactive waste in above-grade container areas including buildings, sheds, and domes. There are currently no hazardous or mixed waste disposal operations at Area G. The storage units have operated under the LANL hazardous waste facility permit (expired 1999) and interim status. All the storage units will be included in the pending renewal of the permit. The renewed permit will also include provisions for final remediation of the past disposal operations. As part of the renewal process, NMED has recently requested a closure and post-closure plan to include groundwater monitoring for historic hazardous waste disposal units and an extensive information document regarding further details of Area G waste management operations. From TA-54, mixed low-level radioactive waste is sent to commercial and DOE treatment and disposal facilities. The waste is treated/disposed of by various processes (such as segregation of hazardous components, macroencapsulation, or incineration) (LANL 2000a).

In October 1995, the State of New Mexico issued a Federal Facility Compliance Order to both DOE and LANL requiring compliance with the site treatment plan. That plan documents the development of treatment capacities and technologies or use of offsite facilities for treating mixed waste generated at LANL that is stored beyond the 1-year timeframe (LANL 2000e). LANL has met, and continues to meet, the treatment goals of the plan without further milestones.

### **3.12.6 Hazardous Waste**

Hazardous waste commonly generated at LANL includes many types of laboratory research chemicals, solvents, acids, bases, carcinogens, compressed gases, metals, and other solid waste contaminated with hazardous waste. This may include equipment, containers, structures, and other items intended for disposal and contaminated with hazardous waste (such as compressed gas cylinders). After the hazardous waste is collected, it is sorted and segregated. Some

materials are reused within LANL, and others are decontaminated for reuse. Those materials that cannot be decontaminated or recycled are packaged and shipped to offsite RCRA-permitted treatment and disposal facilities (LANL 2000a).

### **3.12.7 Nonhazardous Waste**

Both LANL and Los Alamos County use the same landfill located within LANL boundaries. The landfill is operated under a special permit by Los Alamos County. The Los Alamos County Landfill received about 22,013 tons (20 million kilograms) of solid waste from all sources during the period July 1995 through June 1996, with LANL contributing about 22 percent of the solid waste. After the Cerro Grande Fire, the generation of wastes from community and LANL cleanup activities increased several fold. The Los Alamos County landfill is scheduled for closure in 2007. A replacement facility, which could be located either at LANL or offsite, would then be used by LANL for nonhazardous waste disposal. It is currently anticipated that, if located offsite, the replacement facility would be located within 100 miles (160 kilometers) of LANL. Both LANL and Los Alamos County could need to transport their wastes to the new facility.

Sanitary liquid waste is delivered by dedicated pipelines to the SWS Facility at TA-46. The plant has a design capacity of 600,000 gallons (2.27 million liters) per day, and in 2000 processed a maximum of about 250,000 gallons (950,000 liters) per day. Some septic tank pumpings are delivered periodically to the plant via tanker truck for treatment. Sanitary waste is treated by an aerobic digestion process. After treatment, the liquid from this process is recycled to the TA-3 power plant for use in cooling towers or is discharged to Sandia Canyon adjacent to the power plant under an NPDES permit and groundwater discharge plan. Under normal operating conditions, the solids from this process are dried in beds at the SWS Facility and are applied as fertilizer as authorized by the existing NPDES permit.

### **3.12.8 Waste Minimization**

LANL's Environmental Stewardship Office manages LANL's pollution prevention program. This is accomplished by eliminating waste through source reduction or material substitution; recycling potential waste materials that cannot be minimized or eliminated; and treating all waste that is generated to reduce its volume, toxicity, or mobility prior to storage or disposal. The achievements and progress have been updated at least annually. Implementing pollution prevention projects reduced the total amount of waste generated at LANL in 1999 by approximately 3,216 cubic yards (2,459 cubic meters). Examples of pollution prevention projects completed in 1999 at LANL include reduction of low-level radioactive waste and mixed low-level radioactive waste by 152 cubic yards (116 cubic meters), by decontaminating waste metal and reduction of transuranic waste by 4 cubic yards (3 cubic meters), and by using improved nondestructive assay instrumentation, which enabled the measurement and characterization of waste as either transuranic or low-level radioactive waste (DOE 2000c).

### 3.12.9 Waste Management PEIS Records of Decision

The *Final Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Managing, Treatment, Storage, and Disposal of Radioactive and Hazardous Waste (Waste Management PEIS)* resulted in several Records of Decision affecting waste management actions at LANL (**Table 3–17**). Decisions on the various waste types were announced in a series of Records of Decision published in the *Waste Management PEIS* (DOE 1997b). The hazardous waste Record of Decision was published on August 5, 1998 (63 FR 41810), and the low-level radioactive and mixed low-level radioactive waste Record of Decision was published on February 18, 2000 (65 FR 10061). The hazardous waste Record of Decision states that most DOE sites will continue to use offsite facilities for the treatment and disposal of major portions of the nonwastewater hazardous waste, with the Oak Ridge Reservation and the SRS continuing to treat some of their own nonwastewater hazardous waste onsite in existing facilities, where it is economically feasible. The low-level radioactive waste and mixed low-level radioactive waste Record of Decision states that, for the management of low-level radioactive waste, minimal treatment will be performed at all sites, and disposal will continue, to the extent practicable, onsite at INEEL, LANL, the Oak Ridge Reservation, and the SRS. In addition, Hanford and NTS will be available to all DOE sites for low-level radioactive waste disposal. Mixed low-level radioactive waste will be treated at Hanford, INEEL, the Oak Ridge Reservation, and the SRS and disposed of at Hanford and NTS. More detailed information concerning DOE's decisions for the future configuration of waste management facilities at LANL is presented in the hazardous waste and low-level radioactive and mixed low-level radioactive waste Records of Decision.

**Table 3–17 Waste Management PEIS Records of Decision Affecting LANL**

<i>Waste Type</i>	<i>Preferred Action</i>
Transuranic	DOE has decided to treat LANL's transuranic waste onsite prior to disposal at an offsite facility. <sup>c</sup>
Low-level radioactive	DOE has decided to treat LANL's low-level radioactive waste onsite and continue onsite disposal. <sup>a</sup>
Mixed low-level radioactive	DOE has decided to regionalize treatment of mixed low-level radioactive waste at the Hanford Site, INEEL, the Oak Ridge Reservation, and the SRS. DOE has decided to ship LANL's mixed low-level radioactive waste to either the Hanford Site or NTS for disposal. <sup>a</sup>
Hazardous	DOE has decided to continue to use commercial facilities for treatment of most of LANL's nonwastewater hazardous waste. <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> From the Record of Decision for low-level radioactive and mixed low-level radioactive waste (65 FR 10061).

<sup>b</sup> From the Record of Decision for hazardous waste (63 FR 41810).

<sup>c</sup> From the Record of Decision for transuranic waste (63 FR 3629).

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## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Chapter 4 describes the environmental consequences of the proposed action to replace the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), as well as the consequences of a No Action Alternative. Chapter 4 also describes the environmental consequences of impacts common to all alternatives, including transportation, CMR Building and CMRR Facility disposition, transition period, and sabotage as well as, cumulative impacts, mitigation measures, and resource commitments.

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

The environmental impacts analysis addresses all potentially affected areas in a manner commensurate with the importance of the effects on each area. The methodologies used for preparing the assessments for the following resource areas are discussed in Appendix A of this environmental impact statement (EIS): land use and visual resources; site infrastructure; air quality and noise; geology and soils; surface and groundwater quality; ecological resources; cultural and paleontological resources; socioeconomics; environmental justice; human health; and waste management and pollution prevention. The methodologies used to assess the human health effects from normal operations and facility accidents are presented in Appendices B and C, respectively. The environmental justice methodology is presented in Appendix D.

With the exception of the No Action Alternative, all alternatives would involve construction activities. All construction would take place on land already owned by the Federal Government and administered by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and, for the most part, on land that has already been disturbed by other DOE activities. This *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory (CMRR EIS)* addresses in detail the effects usually associated with land disturbance that construction activities would have on air and water resources and in lesser detail the effects on ecological, cultural and paleontological resources, and socioeconomic conditions.

As indicated in Chapter 2, the normal operations activities under the proposed action would not be characterized by any significant release of effluent, radiological or nonradiological, hazardous or nonhazardous. Therefore, the effects on the health and safety of workers, the public, and the environment from normal facility operations are presented in detail in deference to public interest rather than an indication of their significance. This is also true of the assessments presented for environmental justice and waste generation.

The effects on the health and safety of workers, the public, and the environment from postulated accident conditions are presented in detail. The accidents selected for evaluation in this EIS are a subset of accidents that have been evaluated in detail and described in the *Basis for Interim*

## Radiological Health Effects Risk Factors Used in this EIS

Radiation can cause a variety of adverse health effects in people. Whether from external or internal sources, health impacts of radiation exposure can be “somatic” (affecting the exposed individual) or “genetic” (affecting descendants of the exposed individual). Somatic effects include the inducement of both fatal and nonfatal cancers. It may take years after the radiation exposure for a fatal cancer to develop, so these are referred to as “latent” cancers.

The International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) has developed estimates of the risk of somatic and genetic effects as shown below.

**Risk of Health Effects from Exposure to 1 Rem of Radiation <sup>a</sup>**

<i>Individual <sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Latent Cancer Fatalities</i>	<i>Nonfatal Cancers</i>	<i>Genetic Effects</i>	<i>Total Detriment</i>
Worker	0.0004	0.00008	0.00008	0.00056
Public	0.0005	0.0001	0.00013	0.00073

<sup>a</sup> When applied to an individual, units are lifetime probability of a latent cancer fatality per rem (1,000 millirem) radiation dose. When applied to a population, units are the excess number of cancers per person-rem of radiation dose. Genetic effects as used here apply to populations, not individuals.

<sup>b</sup> The general public risk is greater than the worker risk due to the presence in the general public of individuals less than 18 years old who are more sensitive to radiation effects.

These risk factors represent the probability that an individual would incur the indicated health effect during his or her lifetime as a result of being exposed to a unit of radiation dose (1 rem). For purposes of comparison, this EIS presents estimated doses and the associated potential latent cancer fatalities. The risk factors used are 0.0004 potential latent cancer fatalities per rem for workers and 0.0005 potential latent cancer fatalities per rem for individuals in the general public. The risk factor for the general public is slightly higher because the public includes children who are more sensitive to radiation than adults.

In March 2003, DOE’s Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance recommended using a risk factor of 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per rem for individuals and 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per person-rem for population exposures. This recommendation was based on guidance from the Interagency Steering Committee on Radiation Standards (ISCORS) technical report, *A method for estimating radiation risk from TEDE, ISCORS Technical Report No. 1*. While the *CMRR Draft EIS* used risk factors developed by the ICRP, this *CMRR Final EIS* uses the risk factors recommended by the Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance.

Examples (using the recommended risk factor of 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per rem or person-rem):

The latent cancer fatality risk for an individual (nonworker) receiving a dose of 0.1 rem would be 0.00006 (0.1 rem × 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per rem). This risk can also be expressed as 0.006 percent chance or 1 chance in 16,667 of developing a latent cancer.

The same concept is used to calculate the latent cancer fatality risk from exposing a group of individuals to radiation. The latent cancer fatality risk for individuals in a group of 100,000, each receiving a dose of 0.1 rem, would be 0.00006, as indicated above. This individual risk, multiplied by the number of individuals in the group, expresses the number of potential latent cancer fatalities that could occur among the individuals in the group as a result of the radiation dose. In this example, the number would be 6 potential latent cancer fatalities (100,000 × 0.00006).

The EIS provides estimates of the probability of a latent cancer fatality occurring for the general population, an average individual, the maximally exposed offsite individual, the involved, and noninvolved workers. These categories are defined as follows:

**Population**—Members of the public residing within a 50-mile (80-kilometer) radius of the facility

**Average individual**—A member of the public receiving an average dose of radiation or exposure to hazardous chemicals

**Maximally exposed offsite individual**—A hypothetical member of the public residing at the site boundary who could receive the maximum dose of radiation or exposure to hazardous chemicals

**Involved worker**—An individual worker participating in the operation of the facilities

**Noninvolved worker**—An individual worker at the site other than the involved worker



*Operations for the Los Alamos Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building (CMR BIO)* (DOE 2002f). The accidents include a spectrum of events caused by fire, explosion, criticality, natural phenomena (earthquake), and external events (aircraft crash). Specific discussions associated with the description of CMR operations and facilities, as well as the assumptions used for the health and safety impact assessments, are presented in appendices as follows:

Appendix A, Environmental Impacts Methodologies

Appendix B, Evaluation of Radiological Human Health Impacts From Routine Normal Operations

Appendix C, Evaluation of Human Health Impacts From Facility Accidents

Appendix D, Environmental Justice

Chapter 4 is organized by environmental resource areas for each alternative. These sections include discussions of construction (except for the No Action Alternative) and operations impacts on all environmental resources for these alternatives at LANL. Section 4.2 discusses the environmental consequences of the No Action Alternative. Section 4.3 discusses the environmental consequences of Alternative 1, the Preferred Alternative. Section 4.4 discusses the environmental consequences of Alternative 2, the “Greenfield” Alternative. Sections 4.5 and 4.6 discuss the environmental consequences of Alternatives 3 and 4, the “Hybrid Alternatives” at TA-55 and TA-6, respectively. For the CMRR Facility alternatives, the incremental effects of the proposed action at LANL are measured against the Expanded Operations Alternative presented in the *Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Operation of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL SWEIS)* (DOE 1999a).

Chapter 4 also presents a discussion of issues and impacts common to all or some of the alternatives.

*Section 4.7 Impacts Common to All Alternatives*—Discusses transportation impacts, the disposition of the existing CMR Building and CMRR Facility, impacts during the transition from the CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility, and radiological impacts of sabotage involving the CMRR Facility.

Other sections include:

*Section 4.8 Cumulative Impacts*—Discusses cumulative impacts at LANL.

*Section 4.9 Mitigation Measures*—Discusses mitigation measures that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate unavoidable environmental impacts.

*Section 4.10 Resource Commitments*—Discusses, in general, the resource commitments required for the proposed action including unavoidable adverse impacts, the relationship between short-term uses of the environment and maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.

## 4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FOR THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

This section presents a discussion of the environmental impacts associated with the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, overall activities at LANL would be maintained in accordance with the Expanded Operations Alternative described in the *LANL SWEIS* and its associated Record of Decision (64 FR 50797). The existing CMR Building at TA-3 would continue to be used for CMR operations with minimal necessary structural and systems upgrades and repairs. However, as previously discussed in Chapter 1, NNSA cannot continue to operate the assigned LANL mission-critical CMR support capabilities in the existing CMR Building at an acceptable level of risk to public and worker health and safety without operational restrictions. CMR Building operations and capabilities are currently being restricted to minimal levels and do not meet DOE and NNSA operational requirements. These operational restrictions preclude the full implementation of the level of CMR operations described in the *LANL SWEIS* Expanded Operations Alternative. Therefore, the impacts associated with the No Action Alternative presented below for each environmental resource area only consider the current level of CMR operations specified in the *LANL SWEIS* Record of Decision and not the level described for the Expanded Operations Alternative.

### 4.2.1 Land Use and Visual Resources

Since no new buildings or facilities would be built under the No Action Alternative and operations would not change, there would be no impact on land use at the laboratory. There would also be no impact on visual resources at LANL or TA-3, TA-6, or TA-55.

### 4.2.2 Site Infrastructure

Projected site infrastructure requirements of CMR operations under the No Action Alternative are presented in **Table 4-1**. CMR operations consume a relatively small percentage of current available site capacities for electricity and water, with operations under the No Action Alternative essentially reflecting a continuation of current activities. Thus, the net impact on infrastructure is expected to be negligible.

### 4.2.3 Air Quality and Noise

#### 4.2.3.1 Air Quality

#### Nonradiological Releases

Under the No Action Alternative criteria and toxic air pollutants would continue to be generated from the operation of the boilers, emergency diesel generators, and other activities at TA-3. The emissions generated are considered part of the baseline concentrations (see Table 3-5). No increases in emissions or air pollutant concentrations are expected under the No Action Alternative. Therefore, a Prevention of Significant Deterioration increment analysis is not required (see Appendix A, Section A.3.1). In addition, LANL is located in an attainment area for criteria air pollutants; therefore, no conformity analysis is required (see Appendix A, Section A.3.2).

**Table 4–1 Annual Site Infrastructure Requirements for LANL Operations under the No Action Alternative**

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Available Site Capacity</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>No Action Alternative Requirement</i> <sup>b</sup>	<i>Percent of Available Site Capacity</i>
<b>Electricity</b>			
Energy (megawatt-hours per year)	472,414	No change	0
Peak load demand (megawatts)	24.5	No change	0
<b>Fuel</b>			
Natural gas (cubic feet per year)	5,540,000,000	No change	0
<b>Water</b> (gallons per year)	198,000,000	No change	0

<sup>a</sup> Capacity minus the current site requirements, a calculation based on the data provided in Table 3–2, *CMRR EIS*.

<sup>b</sup> The No Action Alternative is a continuation of current CMR activities and, therefore, associated infrastructure requirements are already accounted for in the “Available Site Capacity.”

Source: Table 3–2, *CMRR EIS*. LANL 2002e.

## Radiological Releases

It has been estimated that 0.00003 curies per year of actinides could be released to the environment from CMR Building operations at LANL if the No Action Alternative were implemented (LANL 2000d). There would be no other types of radiological releases from CMR operations. Impacts from radiological releases are discussed in Section 4.2.9.1.

### 4.2.3.2 Noise

Continuing CMR operations at TA-3 would not involve any new building construction, major changes in activities, or major changes in employment levels. Thus, there would be no change in noise impacts on wildlife around the area or on the public under the No Action Alternative.

## 4.2.4 Geology and Soils

No additional impacts on geology and soils are anticipated at LANL beyond the effects of existing and projected activities independent of this proposed action. Hazards from large-scale geologic conditions, such as earthquakes, and from other site geologic conditions with the potential to affect existing LANL facilities are summarized in Section 3.5 and further detailed in the *LANL SWEIS* (DOE 1999a). In particular, core drilling studies and geologic mapping have established a number of secondary fault features at TA-3, including a southwest to northeast trending fault trace beneath the northern portion of the CMR Building. Although the potential for ground deformation from fault rupture is relatively low, the presence of identified fault structures in association with an identified active and capable fault zone (per 10 CFR 100, Appendix A) restricts the operational capability of the existing CMR Building without substantial upgrades and repairs.

## 4.2.5 Surface and Groundwater Quality

No additional impacts on surface water resources and groundwater availability or quality are anticipated at LANL under the No Action Alternative beyond the effects of existing and projected activities described in the *LANL SWEIS* Record of Decision. These existing and projected activities are independent of this proposed action.

#### **4.2.6 Ecological Resources**

There would be no new impact to terrestrial and aquatic resources, wetlands, or threatened and endangered species at LANL, since no new facilities would be built under the No Action Alternative. The CMR Building at TA-3 does not produce emissions or effluent of a quality or at levels that would likely affect wildlife and other ecological resources.

#### **4.2.7 Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

Since there would be no major modifications to the CMR Building, other than minimal necessary structural and systems upgrades and repairs, and CMR operations would not change, there would be no impact on cultural and paleontological resources at LANL nor the historic eligibility of the CMR Building for possible listing on the National Register of Historic Places under this alternative.

#### **4.2.8 Socioeconomics**

Under the No Action Alternative, the current employment of approximately 200 workers at the CMR Building would continue. No new employment or in-migration of workers would be required. Therefore, there would be no additional impact on the socioeconomic conditions around LANL.

#### **4.2.9 Human Health Impacts**

##### **4.2.9.1 Normal Operations**

#### **Radiological Impacts**

Routine CMR operations at the CMR Building at TA-3 would not be expected to result in an increase in latent cancer fatalities. Under the No Action Alternative, expected radiological releases would be 0.00003 curies per year of actinides to the atmosphere (*LANL SWEIS Yearbook 1999*) and radioactive material in liquid effluents. Radioactive liquid effluents would be transferred to the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility in TA-50 where they would be treated along with other LANL site liquid wastes. Following treatment, the liquids would be released through an existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)-permitted outfall. The treatment residues would be solidified and disposed of as radioactive waste (see Section 4.2.11).

The inventory of radioactive material released in air emissions is less for the No Action Alternative than for other alternatives. Whereas a new CMRR Facility would be designed to support the needs of the Expanded Operations Alternative of the *LANL SWEIS*, current operations at the CMR Building are limited as discussed in Chapter 2. Therefore, the inventory of radionuclides emitted for the No Action Alternative includes only actinides and none of the fission products and tritium associated with a fully operating CMRR Facility.

The air emissions would be in the form of plutonium, uranium, thorium, and americium isotopes. In estimating the human health impacts, all emissions were considered to be plutonium-239. This is conservative because the human health impacts on a per curie basis are greater for plutonium-239 than for the other actinides associated with CMR activities. The associated calculated impacts on the public are presented in **Table 4–2** for the general public living within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the CMR Building; an average member of the public; and a maximally exposed offsite individual (a hypothetical member of the public residing at the LANL site boundary who receives the maximum dose). The dose pathways for these receptors include: inhalation, ingestion, and direct exposure from immersion in the passing plume and from materials deposited on the ground. To put the doses into perspective, comparisons with natural background radiation levels are included in the table.

Table 4–2 shows that the annual collective dose to the population living within a 50-mile (80-kilometer) radius of the CMR Building is estimated to be 0.04 person-rem for the No Action Alternative. This population dose increases the annual risk of a fatal cancer in the population by 0.000024. Another way of stating this is that the likelihood of one fatal cancer occurring in the population of over 300,000 people as a result of radiological releases associated with this alternative is about 1 chance in 41,667 per year.

**Table 4–2 Annual Radiological Impacts on the Public from CMR Operations under the No Action Alternative**

	<i>Population within 50 Miles (80 kilometers)</i>	<i>Average Individual within 50 Miles (80 kilometers)</i>	<i>Maximally Exposed Individual</i>
Dose	0.04 person-rem	0.00013 mrem	0.0059 mrem
Cancer fatality risk <sup>a</sup>	0.000024	$7.9 \times 10^{-11}$	$3.5 \times 10^{-9}$
Regulatory dose limit <sup>b</sup>	Not applicable	10 mrem	10 mrem
Dose as a percent of regulatory limit	Not applicable	0.001	0.06
Dose from background radiation <sup>c</sup>	136,000 person-rem	450 mrem	450 mrem
Dose as a percent of background dose	0.0007	0.00003	0.001

<sup>a</sup> Based on a risk estimate of 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per person-rem (see Appendix B).

<sup>b</sup> 40 CFR 61 establishes an annual limit of 10 mrem via the air pathway to any member of the public from DOE operations. There is no standard for a population dose.

<sup>c</sup> The annual individual dose from background radiation at LANL is 400 to 500 millirem (mrem) (see Section 3.11.1). The population living within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of TA-3 is estimated to be 302,120.

The average annual dose to an individual in the population is 0.0001 millirem. The corresponding increased risk of an individual developing a fatal cancer from receiving the average dose is  $7.9 \times 10^{-11}$ , or about 1 chance in 12.7 billion per year.

The maximally exposed individual member of the public would receive an estimated annual dose of 0.0059 millirem. This dose corresponds to an increased annual risk of developing a fatal cancer of  $3.5 \times 10^{-9}$ . In other words, the likelihood of the maximally exposed individual developing a fatal cancer is about 1 chance in 287 million for each year of CMR Building operation.

Estimated annual doses to workers involved with CMR activities under the No Action Alternative are provided in **Table 4–3**. The estimated worker doses are based on historical exposure data for LANL workers (*DOE Occupational Radiation Exposure 2001 Report*). Based

on the reported data, the average annual dose to a LANL worker who received a measurable dose was 104 millirem. A value of 110 millirem has been used as the estimate of the average annual worker dose per year of operation at the CMR Building.

**Table 4-3 Annual Radiological Impacts to Workers from CMR Activities under the No Action Alternative**

	<i>Individual Worker</i>	<i>Worker Population</i> <sup>a</sup>
Dose <sup>b</sup>	110 mrem	22 person-rem
Fatal cancer risk <sup>c</sup>	0.000066	0.013
Dose limit <sup>d</sup>	5,000 mrem	Not applicable
Administrative control level <sup>e</sup>	500 mrem	Not applicable

<sup>a</sup> Based on a worker population of approximately 200 for the CMR Building. Dose limits and administrative control levels do not exist for worker populations.

<sup>b</sup> Based on the average dose to LANL workers who received a measurable dose in the period 1998 to 2000. A program to reduce doses to as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) would be employed to reduce doses to the extent practicable.

<sup>c</sup> Based on a worker risk estimate of 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per person-rem (see Appendix B).

<sup>d</sup> 10 CFR 835.202.

<sup>e</sup> DOE 1999b.

The average annual worker dose of 110 millirem is well below the DOE worker dose limit of 5 rem (5,000 millirem) (10 CFR 835) and is significantly less than the recommended Administrative Control Level of 500 millirem (DOE 1999b). This average annual dose corresponds to an increased risk of a fatal cancer of 0.000066. In other words, the likelihood of a CMR worker developing a fatal cancer from work-related exposure is about 1 chance in 15,000 for each year of operation.

Based on a worker population of approximately 200 for the No Action Alternative, the estimated annual worker population dose would be 22 person-rem. This worker population dose would increase the likelihood of a fatal cancer within the worker population by 0.013 per year. In other words, on an annual basis there is less than 1 chance in 77 of one fatal cancer developing in the entire worker population as a result of exposures associated with this alternative.

## **Hazardous Chemicals Impacts**

No chemical-related health impacts would be associated with this alternative. As stated in the *LANL SWEIS*, the quantities of chemicals that could be released to the atmosphere during routine normal operations are minor and would be below the screening levels used to determine the need for additional analysis. There would be no construction and operational increase in the use of chemicals under the No Action Alternative. Workers would be protected from hazardous chemicals by adherence to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) occupational standards that limit concentrations of potentially hazardous chemicals.

### **4.2.9.2 Facility Accidents**

This section presents a discussion of the potential health impacts to members of the public and workers from postulated accidents at the CMR Building under the No Action Alternative. Under

the No Action Alternative, the CMR Building and operations would remain unchanged. Additional details supporting the information presented here are provided in Appendix C.

**Radiological Impacts**

**Table 4–4** presents the frequencies and consequences of a postulated set of accidents for the public, represented by the maximally exposed offsite individual and the general population living within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the CMR Building and a noninvolved worker located at a distance of 304 yards (278 meters) from the CMR Building. **Table 4–5** presents the cancer risks, obtained by multiplying each accident’s consequences by the likelihood (frequency per year) that the accident would occur. The accidents listed in these tables were selected from a wide spectrum of accidents described in Appendix C. The selection process and screening criteria used (see Appendix C) ensure that the accidents chosen for evaluation in this EIS bound the impacts of all reasonably foreseeable accidents that could occur at the existing CMR Building. Thus, in the event that any other accident that was not evaluated in this EIS were to occur, its impacts on workers and the public would be expected to be within the range of the impacts evaluated here.

The accident with the highest potential risk to the offsite population (see Table 4–5) would be an earthquake that would severely damage the CMR Building, with a risk of a latent cancer fatality for the maximally exposed offsite individual of  $4.3 \times 10^{-6}$ . In other words, the maximally exposed offsite individual’s likelihood of developing a fatal cancer from this event is about 1 chance in 232,000. The dose to the offsite population would increase the number of fatal cancers in the entire population by 0.0024. In other words, the likelihood of developing one fatal cancer from this event in the entire population would be about 1 chance in 400. Statistically, the radiological risk for the average individual in the population would be small. The risk of a latent cancer fatality to a noninvolved worker located at a distance of 304 yards (278 meters) from the CMR Building would be 0.00019, or about 1 chance in 5,000.

**Table 4–4 Accident Frequency and Consequences under the No Action Alternative**

Accident	Frequency (per year)	Maximally Exposed Offsite Individual		Offsite Population <sup>a</sup>		Noninvolved Worker	
		Dose (rem)	Latent Cancer Fatality <sup>b</sup>	Dose (person-rem)	Latent Cancer Fatalities <sup>c</sup>	Dose (rem)	Latent Cancer Fatality <sup>b</sup>
Wing-wide fire <sup>d</sup>	0.00005	0.55	0.00033	1020	0.61	2.67	0.0016
Severe earthquake	0.0024	2.92	0.0018	1680	1.0	66.9	0.080
Flammable gas explosion	0.0001	0.073	0.000044	135	0.081	0.35	0.00021
HEPA filter fire	0.01	0.12	0.000072	66.5	0.040	2.65	0.0016
Fire in main vault	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	2.15	0.0013	4000	2.4	10.5	0.0063
Propane/hydrogen transport explosion	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	0.53	0.00032	304	0.18	12.1	0.0072
Natural gas pipeline rupture	$1.0 \times 10^{-7}$	0.55	0.00033	1020	0.61	2.67	0.0016
Radioactive spill	0.1	0.00054	$3.2 \times 10^{-7}$	0.31	0.00019	0.012	$7.2 \times 10^{-6}$

<sup>a</sup> Based on a population of 302,130 persons residing within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the site.

<sup>b</sup> Increased likelihood of latent cancer fatality for an individual assuming the accident occurs.

<sup>c</sup> Increased number of latent cancer fatalities for the offsite population assuming the accident occurs.

<sup>d</sup> Building design factors limit a major fire to a single wing.

**Table 4-5 Annual Accident Risks under the No Action Alternative**

<i>Accident</i>	<i>Risk of Latent Cancer Fatality</i>		
	<i>Maximally Exposed Offsite Individual</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Offsite Population</i> <sup>b, c</sup>	<i>Noninvolved Worker</i> <sup>a</sup>
Wing-wide fire	$1.7 \times 10^{-8}$	0.000031	$8.0 \times 10^{-8}$
Severe earthquake	$4.2 \times 10^{-6}$	0.0024	0.00019
Flammable gas explosion	$4.4 \times 10^{-9}$	$8.1 \times 10^{-6}$	$2.1 \times 10^{-8}$
HEPA filter fire	$7.2 \times 10^{-7}$	0.00040	0.000016
Fire in main vault	$1.3 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.4 \times 10^{-6}$	$6.3 \times 10^{-9}$
Propane/hydrogen transport explosion	$3.2 \times 10^{-10}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-7}$	$7.3 \times 10^{-9}$
Natural gas pipeline rupture	$3.3 \times 10^{-11}$	$6.1 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-10}$
Radioactive spill	$3.2 \times 10^{-8}$	0.000019	$7.2 \times 10^{-7}$

<sup>a</sup> Risk of increased likelihood of a latent cancer fatality to the individual.

<sup>b</sup> Risk of the increased number of latent cancer fatalities for the offsite population.

<sup>c</sup> Based on a population of 302,130 persons residing within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the site.

Approximately 200 workers (including security guards) would be at the CMR Building during operations in the event of an accident. Workers near an accident could be at risk of serious injury or death. The impacts from the high-efficiency particulate air filter fire provide an indication of typical worker impacts during accident conditions. Following initiation of accident and site emergency alarms, workers in adjacent areas of the facility would evacuate the area in accordance with technical area and facility emergency operating procedures and training in place.

### **Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives Impacts**

Some of the chemicals used in the CMR Building are both toxic and carcinogenic. The quantities of the regulated hazardous chemicals and explosive materials stored and used in the facility are well below the threshold quantities set by the EPA (40 CFR 68), and pose minimal potential hazards to the public health and the environment in an accident condition. These chemicals are stored and handled in small quantities (10 to a few hundred milliliters), and would only be a hazard to the involved worker under accident conditions.

#### **4.2.9.3 Emergency Preparedness and Security Impacts**

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change to the emergency management and response program at LANL. Security arrangements for the existing CMR Building would not change.

#### **4.2.10 Environmental Justice**

Under the No Action Alternative, CMR activities would continue in the existing CMR Building and no new facilities would be constructed. As discussed in Section 4.2.9.1, radiological and hazardous chemical risks to the public resulting from normal operations would be small. As shown in Table 4-2, the health risks associated with these releases would be small. Routine normal operations at the existing CMR Building would not be expected to cause fatalities or illness among the general population surrounding TA-3, including minority and low-income populations living within the potentially affected area.



The annual radiological risks to the offsite population that could result from accidents at the existing CMR Building are estimated to be less than 0.002 latent cancer fatalities (see Table 4–5). Hence, the annual risks of a latent cancer fatality in the entire offsite population resulting from an accident under the No Action Alternative would be less than 1 in 500 or essentially no chance of cancer for the average individual in the population.

In summary, implementation of the No Action Alternative would not pose disproportionately high and adverse health and safety risks to low-income or minority populations living in the potentially affected area surrounding the existing CMR Building.

#### **4.2.11 Waste Management and Pollution Prevention**

##### **4.2.11.1 Waste Management**

The impacts of managing waste from the existing CMR Building under the No Action Alternative would be the same as those currently experienced at LANL. This is because waste generation during CMR operations would not change due to operational restrictions and, therefore, the same types and volumes of waste would be generated. See Section 3.12.1 for waste types and quantities generated by current CMR activities.

##### **4.2.11.2 Pollution Prevention**

At the CMR Building, wastes are minimized, where feasible, by:

- Recycling;
- Processing waste to reduce its quantity, volume, or toxicity;
- Substituting materials or processes that generate hazardous wastes with materials or processes that result in fewer hazardous wastes being produced, and
- Segregating waste materials to prevent contamination of nonhazardous materials.

#### **4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FOR ALTERNATIVE 1 (PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE)**

This section presents a discussion of the environmental impacts associated with Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative). Under Alternative 1, CMR operations at LANL would be relocated and consolidated at TA-55 in a new CMRR Facility consisting of two or three buildings. One of the new buildings would provide space for administrative offices and support activities. The other building(s) would provide secure laboratory spaces for research and analytical support activities. The buildings would be expected to operate for a minimum of 50 years, and tunnels might be constructed to connect them. The impacts from construction and operation of these proposed facilities are described below. Disposition of the existing CMR Building is discussed later in Section 4.7.2.

CMRR Facility operations at TA-55 under this alternative would be conducted at the levels of activity described for the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*. The Expanded Operations Alternative presented in the *LANL SWEIS* provides the reference point from which incremental effects of this proposed action are measured.

### 4.3.1 Land Use and Visual Resources

#### 4.3.1.1 Land Use

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Total land disturbance during construction of the new CMRR Facility at TA-55, would involve 26.75 acres (10.8 hectares). Permanent disturbance, consisting of land used for buildings and parking lots, would impact 13.75 acres (5.6 hectares). The remaining 13 acres (5.26 hectares) would consist of a construction laydown area of 2 acres (0.8 hectares), an area for a concrete batch plant of 5 acres (2 hectares) maximum, and land affected by a road realignment of 6 acres (2.4 hectares). Potential development sites at TA-55 include some areas that have already been disturbed, as well as others that are currently covered with native vegetation including some mature trees that would have to be cleared prior to construction. Construction and operation of a new CMRR Facility at TA-55 would be consistent with both the *LANL SWEIS* and *LANL Comprehensive Site Plan* designations of the area for Research and Development and Nuclear Materials Research and Development, respectively (see Section 3.2.1).

#### 4.3.1.2 Visual Resources

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Impacts to visual resources resulting from the construction of the new CMRR Facility at TA-55 would be temporary in nature and could include increased levels of dust and human activity. Once completed, the administrative offices and support functions building would be three stories above grade. Regardless of the construction option selected under this alternative, the Hazard Category 2 and Hazard Category 3 Laboratory Building(s) would be no more than one story in height. The general appearance of the new CMRR Facility would be consistent with other buildings located within TA-55. Facilities would be readily visible from Pajarito Road and from the upper reaches of the Pajarito Plateau rim. Although the new CMRR Facility would add to the overall development at TA-55, it would not alter the industrial nature of the area. Accordingly, the current Class IV Visual Resource Contrast rating for TA-55 would not change.

### 4.3.2 Site Infrastructure

Annual site infrastructure requirements for current LANL operations, as well as current site infrastructure capacities, are presented in **Table 4–6**. These values provide the reference point for the LANL site infrastructure impact analyses presented in this section. The table also presents projected site infrastructure requirements that incorporate both the forecasted demands of the *LANL SWEIS* Expanded Operations Alternative and those of non-LANL users relying on the same utility systems. The *LANL SWEIS* identified that peak electrical demand could exceed site electrical capacity. In addition, whereas the *LANL SWEIS* had projected that water use would remain within DOE water rights, DOE recently conveyed 70 percent of its water rights to

Los Alamos County, and leases the remaining 30 percent to the County (see Section 3.3.4). As a result, site electric peak load and water capacities could also be exceeded at LANL in the future, even in the absence of new demands, should projected site requirements be realized. However, no infrastructure capacity constraints are anticipated in the near term, as LANL operational demands to date on key infrastructure resources (natural gas, water, and electricity) have been well below projected levels and well within the site capacities shown in Table 4–6. DOE is currently pursuing actions to increase the reliability and availability of electrical power to LANL (see Section 3.3.2). DOE could also purchase additional water from the county, if needed and available. Any potential shortfalls in available capacity would be addressed as increased site requirements are realized.

**Table 4–6 Current and Projected Site Infrastructure Requirements for LANL Operations**

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Site Capacity</i>	<i>Current Site Requirement</i>	<i>Projected Site Requirement</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Potential Exceeded Capacity</i>
<b>Electricity</b> <sup>b</sup>				
Energy (megawatt-hours per year)	963,600	491,186	898,043	0
Peak load demand (megawatts)	110	85.5	128	18
<b>Fuel</b>				
Natural gas (cubic feet per year)	8,070,000,000	2,530,000,000	1,840,000,000	0
<b>Water</b> (gallons per year)	542,000,000 <sup>c</sup>	344,000,000	759,000,000	217,000,000

<sup>a</sup> Projected requirements over 25 years under the LANL SWEIS Expanded Operations Alternative (DOE 1999a). Projections for electrical energy, peak load, and natural gas also include usage for other Los Alamos County users that rely upon the same utility system (DOE 1999c).

<sup>b</sup> Electrical site capacity and current requirements are for the entire Los Alamos Power Pool, which includes LANL and other Los Alamos County users.

<sup>c</sup> Equivalent to DOE’s leased water rights.

Source: Table 3–2, CMRR EIS.

**Construction Impacts**—The projected demands on key site infrastructure resources associated with construction under this alternative on an annualized basis are presented in **Table 4–7**. Existing LANL infrastructure would easily be capable of supporting the construction requirements for the new CMRR Facility proposed under this alternative without exceeding site capacities. Although gasoline and diesel fuel would be required to operate construction vehicles, generators, and other construction equipment, fuel would be procured from offsite sources and, therefore, would not be a limited resource. Construction Impacts on the local transportation network would be negligible.

**Operations Impacts**—Resources needed to support operations under Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) are presented in **Table 4–8**. It is projected that existing LANL infrastructure resources would be adequate to support proposed mission activities over 50 years. In general, infrastructure requirements for the new CMRR Facility under this alternative would approximate and would be bound by those of the Expanded Operations Alternative presented in the LANL SWEIS for the CMR Building.

**Table 4–7 Site Infrastructure Requirements for Facility Construction under Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)**

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Available Site Capacity</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Total Requirement</i> <sup>b</sup>	<i>Percent of Available Site Capacity</i>
<b>Electricity</b>			
Energy (megawatt-hours per year)	472,414	312.5	0.07
Peak load demand (megawatts)	24.5	0.3	1.2
<b>Fuel</b>			
Natural gas (cubic feet per year)	5,540,000,000	0	0
<b>Water</b> (gallons per year)	198,000,000	3,745,300	1.9

<sup>a</sup> Capacity minus the current site requirements, a calculation based on the data provided in Table 3–2, *CMRR EIS*.

<sup>b</sup> Total estimated infrastructure requirements for the projected construction period.

Source: Table 2–1, Table 3–2, *CMRR EIS*.

**Table 4–8 Annual Site Infrastructure Requirements for Facility Operations under Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)**

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Available Site Capacity</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Percent of Available Site Capacity</i>
<b>Electricity</b>			
Energy (megawatt-hours per year)	472,414	19,272	4.1
Peak load demand (megawatts)	24.5	2.6	10.6
<b>Fuel</b>			
Natural gas (cubic feet per year)	5,540,000,000	Not available	Not available
<b>Water</b> (gallons per year)	198,000,000	10,400,000	5.3

<sup>a</sup> Capacity minus the current site requirements, a calculation based on the data provided in Table 3–2, *CMRR EIS*.

Sources: Table 2–2, Table 3–2, *CMRR EIS*.

### 4.3.3 Air Quality and Noise

Overall air quality at LANL would remain within standards during construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility. In addition, overall noise levels at LANL during construction and operation would also remain within regulatory limits. NNSA also determined that the “General Conformity” rule would not apply and no conformity analysis would be required (see Appendix A), because LANL is located in an attainment area for all criteria pollutants and ambient air quality standards would not be exceeded by the proposed action alternatives (see DOE 2000d).

#### 4.3.3.1 Air Quality

##### Nonradiological Releases

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of a new CMRR Facility at TA-55 would result in temporary emissions from construction equipment, trucks, and employee vehicles. Criteria pollutant concentrations were modeled for the construction of the new CMRR Facility at TA-55 and compared to the most stringent standards (**Table 4–9**). The maximum ground-level concentrations offsite or along the perimeter road to which the public has regular access would be below the ambient air quality standards. Concentrations along Pajarito Road adjacent to the construction site would be higher and could exceed the 24-hour ambient standards for nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and total suspended particulates. However, the public would not be allowed access to this section of

road during construction. Actual criteria pollutant concentrations are expected to be less, since conservative emission factors and other assumptions were used in the modeling of construction activities and tend to overestimate impacts. The maximum short-term concentrations for construction would occur at the eastern site boundary for points at which the public has regular access. Air quality modeling considered particulate emissions from construction activities in an area of 20.75 acres (8.4 hectares) and emissions from various earthmoving and material-handling equipment. This is the area consisting of land that would be used for building and parking lot construction (13.75 acres [5.6 hectares]) and laydown and the concrete batch plant (7 acres [2.8 hectares]). The maximum annual criteria pollutant concentrations occur at a receptor located to the north at the Royal Crest Trailer Park.

**Table 4–9 Nonradiological Air Quality Concentrations at the Site Boundary at TA-55 (Alternative 1, Preferred Alternative) – Construction**

<i>Criteria Pollutant</i>	<i>Averaging Period</i>	<i>Most Stringent Standard or Guideline (micrograms per cubic meter)<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Maximum Incremental Concentration (micrograms per cubic meter)<sup>b</sup></i>
Carbon monoxide	8 hours	7,800	22.8
	1 hour	11,700	182
Nitrogen dioxide	Annual	73.7	0.86
	24 hours	147	23.1
PM <sub>10</sub>	Annual	50	2.02
	24 hours	150	34.4
Sulfur dioxide	Annual	41	0.079
	24 hours	205	2.26
	3 hours	1,030	18.1
Total suspended particulates	Annual	60	3.96
	24 hours	150	66.7

PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter.

<sup>a</sup> The more stringent of the Federal and state standards is presented if both exist for the averaging period. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (40 CFR 50), other than those for ozone, particulate matter, and lead, and those based on annual averages, are not to be exceeded more than once per year. The annual arithmetic mean PM<sub>10</sub> standard is attained when the expected annual arithmetic mean concentration is less than or equal to the standard. Standards and monitored values for pollutants other than particulate matter are stated in parts per million (ppm). These values have been converted to micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) with appropriate corrections for temperature (21 degrees C [60 degrees F]) and pressure (elevation 7,005 feet [2,135 meters]) following New Mexico dispersion modeling guidelines (revised 1998) (NMAQB 1998).

<sup>b</sup> The annual concentrations were analyzed at locations to which the public has access – the site boundary and nearby sensitive areas. Short-term concentrations were analyzed at the site boundary and at the fence line of the technical area to which the public has short-term access.

Source: DOE 1999a.

*Operations Impacts*—Under Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative), criteria and toxic air pollutants would be generated from operation and testing of an emergency generator at TA-55.

**Table 4–10** summarizes the concentrations of criteria pollutants from CMR operations at TA-55. The concentrations are compared to their corresponding ambient air quality standards. The maximum ground-level concentrations that would result from CMR operations at TA-55 would be below the ambient air quality standards. Actual criteria pollutant concentrations are expected to be less because conservative stack parameters were assumed in the modeling of the diesel emergency generator. The maximum annual criteria pollutant concentrations would occur at the Royal Crest Trailer Park. The maximum short-term concentrations would also occur at receptors at the Royal Crest Trailer Park and north of TA-55 at the LANL site boundary. No major change in emissions or air pollutant concentrations at LANL are expected under this alternative.

**Table 4–10 Nonradiological Air Quality Concentrations at the Site Boundary at TA-55 (Alternative 1, Preferred Alternative) – Operations**

<i>Criteria Pollutant</i>	<i>Averaging Period</i>	<i>Most Stringent Standard or Guideline (micrograms per cubic meter)<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Maximum Incremental Concentration (micrograms per cubic meter)<sup>b</sup></i>
Carbon monoxide	8 hours	7,800	53.2
	1 hour	11,700	23.9
Nitrogen dioxide	Annual	73.7	0.0182
	24 hours	147	45.1
PM <sub>10</sub>	Annual	50	0.001
	24 hours	150	1.39
Sulfur dioxide	Annual	41	0.0113
	24 hours	205	28.1
	3 hours	1,030	207
Total suspended particulates	Annual	60	0.001
	24 hours	150	2.43

PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter.

<sup>a</sup> The more stringent of the Federal and state standards is presented if both exist for the averaging period. The NAAQS (40 CFR 50), other than those for ozone, particulate matter, and lead, and those based on annual averages, are not to be exceeded more than once per year. The annual arithmetic mean PM<sub>10</sub> standard is attained when the expected annual arithmetic mean concentration is less than or equal to the standard. Standards and monitored values for pollutants other than particulate matter are stated in parts per million (ppm). These values have been converted to micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) with appropriate corrections for temperature (21 degrees C [60 degrees F]) and pressure (elevation 7,005 feet [2,135 meters]) following New Mexico dispersion modeling guidelines (revised 1998) (NMAQB 1998).

<sup>b</sup> The annual concentrations were analyzed at locations to which the public has access – the site boundary and nearby sensitive areas. Short-term concentrations were analyzed at the site boundary and at the fence line of the technical area to which the public has short-term access.

Source: DOE 1999a.

## Radiological Releases

*Construction Impacts*—While no radiological releases to the environment would be expected in association with construction activities at TA-55, the potential exists for contaminated soils and possibly other media to be disturbed during excavation and other site activities. Prior to commencing ground disturbance, NNSA would survey potentially affected areas to determine the extent and nature of contamination and would be required to remediate contamination in accordance with procedures established under LANL's environmental restoration program and LANL's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit.

*Operations Impacts*—Approximately 0.00076 curies per year of actinides and 2,645 curies of fission products and tritium would be released to the environment from relocated CMR operations at TA-55 (DOE 1999a, LANL 2000d). Releases of radiological air pollutants are discussed in section 4.3.9.1.

### 4.3.3.2 Noise

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of the new CMRR Facility at TA-55 would result in some temporary increase in noise levels near the area from construction equipment and activities. Some disturbance to wildlife near the area could occur as a result of the operation of construction equipment. There would be no change in noise impacts on the public outside of LANL as a result of construction activities, except for a small increase in traffic noise levels from

construction employees' vehicles and materials shipment. Noise sources associated with construction at TA-55 are not expected to include loud impulsive sources such as from blasting.

*Operations Impacts*—Noise impacts from CMRR Facility operations at TA-55 would be similar to those from existing operations at TA-55. Although there would be a small increase in traffic and equipment noise (such as heating and cooling systems) near the area, there would be little change in noise impacts on wildlife and no change in noise impacts to the public outside of LANL as a result of moving CMR activities to TA-55.

#### **4.3.4 Geology and Soils**

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of the CMRR Facility under this alternative would be expected to disturb a total of 26.75 acres (10.8 hectares) of land at TA-55. Aggregate and other geologic resources would be required to support construction activities at TA-55, but these resources are abundant in Los Alamos County. Relatively deep sub-surface excavation would be required to construct below-grade portions of the new CMRR Facility.

A site survey and foundation study would be conducted as necessary to confirm site geologic characteristics for facility engineering purposes. The potential also exists for contaminated soils to be encountered during excavation and other site activities. Prior to commencing ground disturbance, NNSA would survey potentially affected contaminated areas to determine the extent and nature of any contamination and required remediation in accordance with procedures established under the LANL environmental restoration program. Other buried objects would be surveyed and removed as appropriate.

As discussed in Section 3.5, LANL is located in a region of low to moderate seismicity overall. Ground shaking of Modified Mercalli Intensity (MMI) VII (see Appendix A, Table A-6) associated with postulated earthquakes is possible and supported by the historical record for the region. MMI VII would be expected to primarily affect the integrity of inadequately designed or nonreinforced structures, but damage to properly designed or specially designed or upgraded facilities would not be expected. The Rendija Canyon Fault terminates approximately 0.8 miles (1.3 kilometers) northwest of TA-55, but may extend further south near TA-6 (see Section 3.5.1.3). However, the new CMRR Facility proposed under this alternative would be designed and constructed in accordance with DOE Order 420.1A and other applicable DOE orders and standards (DOE Standard 1020-2002) to ensure that workers, the public, and the environment are protected from any adverse impacts caused by the CMRR Facility from natural phenomena including earthquakes.

*Operations Impacts*—CMR operations under this alternative would not impact geologic and soil resources at LANL. As discussed above, new buildings would be designed and constructed in accordance with DOE Order 420.1A and sited to minimize the risk from geologic hazards. Thus, site geologic conditions would be unlikely to affect the facilities over the 50-year operational life expectancy.

### 4.3.5 Surface and Groundwater Quality

#### 4.3.5.1 Surface Water

*Construction Impacts*—There are no natural surface water drainages in the vicinity of the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 or Mesita del Buey and no surface water would be used to support facility construction. It is expected that portable toilets would be used for construction personnel, resulting in no onsite discharge of sanitary wastewater and no impact on surface waters. Waste generation and management activities are detailed in Section 4.3.11.

Storm water runoff from construction areas could potentially impact downstream surface water quality. Appropriate soil erosion and sediment control measures (such as sediment fences, stacked hay bales, and mulching disturbed areas) and spill prevention practices would be employed during construction to minimize suspended sediment and material transport and potential water quality impacts. An NPDES General Permit Notice of Intent would be filed to address storm water discharges associated with construction activity. Also, development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan would be required for the construction activity, and the existing Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the TA-55 Plutonium Facility would have to be updated before construction is completed. TA-55 is not in an area prone to flooding and the nearest floodplains are located in Mortandad and Two Mile Canyon to the north and south, respectively.

*Operations Impacts*—No impacts on surface water resources are expected as a result of CMR operations at TA-55 under this alternative. No surface water would be used to support facility activities and there would be no direct discharge of sanitary or industrial effluent to surface waters. Sanitary wastewater would be generated by facility staff use of lavatory, shower, and break room facilities and from miscellaneous potable and sanitary uses. It is planned that this wastewater would be collected and conveyed by an expanded TA-55 sanitary sewer system for ultimate disposal via appropriate wastewater treatment facilities. Radioactive liquid waste would be transported via a radioactive liquid waste pipeline to the existing TA-50 Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility. Waste generation and management activities are detailed in Section 4.3.11. The design and operation of new buildings would incorporate appropriate storm water management controls to safely collect and convey storm water from facilities while minimizing washout and soil erosion. Overall, operational impacts on site surface waters and downstream water quality would be expected to be negligible.

#### 4.3.5.2 Groundwater

*Construction Impacts*—Groundwater would be required to support construction activities at TA-55. It is estimated that construction activities under Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) would require approximately 3.7 million gallons (14 million liters) of groundwater (see Table 4-7). The volume of groundwater required for construction would be small compared to site availability and historic usage, and there would be no onsite discharge of wastewater to the surface or subsurface. Also, appropriate spill prevention controls, countermeasures, and procedures would be employed to minimize the potential for releases of materials to the surface



or subsurface. No impact on groundwater availability or quality is anticipated from construction activities in TA-55.

*Operations Impacts*—Relocated CMR operations and activities at TA-55 under Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) would use groundwater primarily to meet the potable and sanitary needs of facility support personnel, as well as for miscellaneous building mechanical uses. It is estimated that new building operations under this alternative would require about 10.4 million gallons (39.4 million liters) per year of groundwater. This demand is a small fraction of total LANL usage and would not exceed site availability (see Table 4–8). Therefore, no additional impact on regional groundwater availability would be anticipated.

No sanitary or industrial effluent would be discharged directly to the surface or subsurface. Waste generation and management activities are detailed in Section 4.3.11. Thus, no operational impacts on groundwater quality would be expected.

### **4.3.6 Ecological Resources**

#### **4.3.6.1 Terrestrial Resources**

*Construction Impacts*—Although TA-55 is located within the ponderosa pine forest vegetation zone, few trees exist in developed portions of the area. However, several potential sites for locating the new CMRR Facility at TA-55 contain small patches of woodland. Since the specific building locations within TA-55 would be established based on site-studies that would not occur until NNSA reached its decision on the CMRR Facility, it is not possible to determine how much of the 26.75 acres (10.8 hectares) of land to be disturbed during construction is wooded. Where construction would occur on previously disturbed land, there would be little or no impact to terrestrial resources. However, construction would remove some previously undisturbed ponderosa pine forest, resulting in the loss of less mobile wildlife such as reptiles and small mammals, and causing more mobile species, such as birds or large mammals, to be displaced. The success of displaced animals would depend on the carrying capacity of the area into which they move. If the area were at its carrying capacity, displaced animals would not be likely to survive. Indirect impacts from construction, such as noise or human disturbance, could also impact wildlife living adjacent to the construction zone. Although temporary, such disturbance would span the construction period. The work area would be clearly marked to prevent construction equipment and workers from disturbing adjacent natural habitat.

*Operations Impacts*—CMRR Facility operations would have minimum impact on terrestrial resources within or adjacent to TA-55. Since wildlife residing in the area has already adjusted to current levels of noise and human activity associated with current TA-55 operations, it is unlikely that it would be adversely affected by similar types of activity involved with CMRR Facility operations what about loss of physical space occupied by operations. Areas not permanently disturbed by the new CMRR Facility (for example, construction laydown areas) would be landscaped. While these areas would provide some habitat for wildlife, it is likely that species composition and density would differ from preconstruction conditions.

#### **4.3.6.2 Wetlands**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Although there are three areas of wetlands located within TA-55, none are present in the proposed CMRR Facility construction area. Thus, there would be no direct impacts to wetlands. Further, indirect impacts to these wetlands due to erosion should not occur since water from the site drains into the Pajarito watershed and not the Mortandad watershed in which these wetlands are located. Further, a sediment and erosion control plan would be implemented to control stormwater runoff during construction and operation, thus preventing impacts to wetlands located further down Pajarito Canyon.

#### **4.3.6.3 Aquatic Resources**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—As noted in Section 3.7.3, the only aquatic resources present at TA-55 are small pools associated with wetlands. There would be no impact to these resources from the construction or operation of a new CMRR Facility.

#### **4.3.6.4 Threatened and Endangered Species**

*Construction Impacts*—As noted in Section 3.7.4, areas of environmental interest (AEIs) have been established for the Mexican spotted owl, bald eagle, and southwestern willow flycatcher. Portions of TA-55 include both core and buffer zones for the Federally threatened Mexican spotted owl (see Section 3.7.4); however, surveys have not identified the spotted owl within these zones. Construction of the new CMRR Facility would not be expected to directly affect individuals of this species but could remove a small portion of the Mexican spotted owl habitat area; this affect to potential Mexican spotted owl habitat would not likely be an adverse affect. Core and buffer zones for the bald eagle and southwestern willow flycatcher do not overlap TA-55.

*Operation Impacts*—CMRR Facility operations at TA-55 would not directly affect any endangered, threatened, or special status species. Noise levels associated with a new CMRR Facility would be low and human disturbance would be similar to that which already occurs within TA-55; however, parking activities at the CMRR Facility could be in close proximity to the Mexican spotted owl potential habitat area and may indirectly affect that potential habitat. In addition, nighttime lighting at the parking lot could also indirectly affect prey species activities. These affects are not likely to be adverse affects to the Mexican spotted owl potential habitat areas.

### **4.3.7 Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

#### **4.3.7.1 Prehistoric Resources**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—As noted in Section 3.8.1, there are no prehistoric sites located within TA-55. There is one prehistoric site located near the boundary of TA-55 within TA-48 that is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This site would be avoided during construction and operation of the CMRR Facility. If additional prehistoric

resources were uncovered during construction, work would stop and appropriate assessment, regulatory compliance, and recovery measures would be undertaken.

#### **4.3.7.2 Historic Resources**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*— Adverse impacts to historic resources at TA-55 from construction and operation of the CMRR Facility would not be expected. However, some of the 10 historic sites located within TA-55 could be disturbed by the construction of the new CMRR Facility, the extent of which would not be determined until planning details were finalized. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer would be undertaken, if necessary, in order to determine the eligibility of any potentially disturbed sites for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and, if appropriate, data and artifact recovery would be conducted.

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, abandonment of the CMR Building would constitute an adverse effect. In conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office, DOE, NNSA has developed documentation measures to reduce adverse effects to Register-eligible properties at LANL. These measures are incorporated into formal memoranda of agreement between the DOE, NNSA and the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division. Typical memoranda of agreement terms include the preparation of a detailed report containing the history and description of the affected properties. Other terms include the identification of all drawings for each property, the production of medium-format archival photographs, and the preparation of LANL historic building survey forms. Documentation measures include in LANL memoranda of agreements are carried out to the standards of the Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record. Specific levels of Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record documentation are determined on a case-by-case basis.

#### **4.3.7.3 Traditional Cultural Properties**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—The area at TA-55 proposed to house the new CMRR Facility has not been surveyed for traditional cultural properties. Prior to construction, a traditional cultural properties consultation would be undertaken and, if needed, site removal or avoidance would be conducted. If any traditional cultural properties were located during construction, work would stop while appropriate action would be undertaken.

#### **4.3.7.4 Paleontological Resources**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—As noted in Section 3.8.4, there are no known paleontological resources present at TA-55 at LANL. Thus, there would be no impacts to these resources.

#### **4.3.8 Socioeconomics**

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of new buildings at TA-55 to house CMR activities would require a peak construction employment level of 300 workers. This level of employment would generate about 852 indirect jobs in the region around LANL. The potential total employment

increase of 1,152 direct and indirect jobs represents an approximate 1.3 percent increase in the workforce and would occur over the 60 months of construction. It would have little or no noticeable impact on the socioeconomic conditions of the region of influence.

*Operations Impacts*—As previously noted in Section 2.7.4, the operational characteristics of the CMRR Facility are based on the level of CMR operations required to support the Expanded Operations Alternative analyzed in the *LANL SWEIS*. As noted in Table 2–2, CMRR Facility operations would require a workforce of approximately 550 workers. This would be an increase of 346 workers over currently restricted CMR operational requirements, but approximately equal to the number of CMR workers projected for the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*. The *LANL SWEIS* presents a discussion of the socioeconomic impacts from an increase in total employment at LANL under the Expanded Operations Alternative, which includes the contributory affect of expanded CMR operations and an increase in workforce.

Nevertheless, the increase in the number of workers in support of expanded CMR operations would have little or no noticeable impact on socioeconomic conditions in the LANL Tri-County region of influence. Workers assigned to the new CMRR Facility would be drawn for the most part from existing LANL missions, including consolidated AC and MC activities. The contributory effect of the remaining new employment, in combination with the potential effects from other industrial and economic sectors within the regional economic area, would serve to reduce or mask any effect on the regional economy. New LANL employees hired to support CMRR facilities would comprise a small fraction of the LANL workforce (more than 9,000 in 1996), and an even smaller fraction of the regional workforce (more than 92,000 in 1999).

### **4.3.9 Human Health Impacts**

#### **4.3.9.1 Construction and Normal Operations**

##### **Radiological Impacts**

*Construction Impacts*—No radiological risks would be incurred by members of the public from construction activities. Construction workers would be at a small risk for construction related accidents and radiological exposures. They could receive doses above natural background radiation levels from exposure to radiation from other past or present activities at the site. However, these workers would be protected through appropriate training, monitoring, and management controls. Their exposure would be limited to ensure that doses were kept as low as is reasonably achievable.

*Operations Impacts*—Routine operation of the CMRR Facility at TA-55 would not be expected to result in an increase in latent cancer fatalities. Under this alternative, the radiological releases to the atmosphere from the new CMRR Facility at TA-55 would be those shown in **Table 4–11**. The actinide emissions listed in this table are in the form of plutonium, uranium, thorium, and americium isotopes. In estimating the human health impacts, all emissions were considered to be plutonium-239. This is conservative because the human health impacts on a per-curie basis are greater for plutonium-239 than for the other actinides associated with CMR activities. Liquid radiological effluents would be routed through an existing pipeline to the TA-50 Radioactive

Liquid Waste Treatment Facility where they would be treated along with other LANL site liquid wastes. Following treatment, the liquid would be released through an existing NPDES-permitted outfall. The treatment residues would be solidified and disposed of as radioactive waste (see Section 4.3.11).

**Table 4–11 Emissions from the CMRR Facility under Alternative 1**

<i>Nuclide</i>	<i>Emission (curies per year)</i>
Actinides	0.00076
Krypton-85	100
Xenon-131m	45
Xenon-133	1,500
H-3 (Tritium) <sup>a</sup>	1,000

<sup>a</sup> The tritium release is in the form of both tritium oxide (750 curies) and elemental tritium (250 curies). Tritium oxide is more readily absorbed by the body and, therefore, the health impact of tritium oxide on a receptor is greater than that for elemental tritium. Therefore, all of the tritium release has been conservatively modeled as if it were tritium oxide.  
Source: DOE 1999a, LANL 2000d.

**Table 4–12** shows that the annual collective dose to the population living within a 50-mile (80-kilometer) radius of the new CMRR Facility at TA-55 is estimated to be 1.9 person-rem for Alternative 1. This population dose increases the annual risk of a fatal cancer in the population by 0.0011. Another way of stating this is that the likelihood of one fatal cancer occurring in the population as a result of radiological releases associated with this alternative is about 1 chance in 900 per year. Statistically, latent cancer fatalities would not be expected to occur in the population from CMR operations at TA-55.

**Table 4–12 Annual Radiological Impacts on the Public from CMRR Operations under Alternative 1**

	<i>Population within 50 Miles (80 kilometers)</i>	<i>Average Individual within 50 Miles (80 kilometers)</i>	<i>Maximally Exposed Individual</i>
Dose	1.9 person-rem	0.0063 mrem	0.33 mrem
Cancer fatality risk <sup>a</sup>	0.0011	$3.8 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-7}$
Regulatory dose limit <sup>b</sup>	Not applicable	10 mrem	10 mrem
Dose as a percent of the regulatory limit	Not applicable	0.06	3.3
Dose from background radiation <sup>c</sup>	139,000 person-rem	450 mrem	450 mrem
Dose as a percent of background dose	0.0014	0.0014	0.07

<sup>a</sup> Based on a risk estimate of 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per person-rem (see Appendix B).  
<sup>b</sup> 40 CFR 61 establishes an annual limit of 10 mrem via the air pathway to any member of the public from DOE operations. There is no standard for a population dose.  
<sup>c</sup> The annual individual dose from background radiation at LANL is 400 to 500 millirem (see Section 3.11.1). The population living within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of TA-3 is estimated to be 309,143.

The average annual dose to an individual in the population is 0.0063 millirem. The corresponding increased risk of an individual developing a fatal cancer from receiving the average dose is  $3.8 \times 10^{-9}$  or about 1 chance in 260 million per year.

The maximally exposed individual member of the public would receive an estimated annual dose of 0.33 millirem. This dose corresponds to an increased annual risk of developing a fatal cancer of  $2.0 \times 10^{-7}$ . In other words, the likelihood of the maximally exposed individual developing a fatal cancer is about 1 chance in 5 million for each year of operation.

Estimated annual doses to workers involved with CMRR Facility operations under Alternative 1 are provided in **Table 4–13**. The estimated worker doses are based on historical exposure data for LANL workers (*DOE Occupational Radiation Exposure 2001 Report*). Based on the reported data, the average annual dose to a LANL worker who received a measurable dose was 104 millirem. A value of 110 millirem has been used as the estimate of the average annual worker dose per year of operation at the new CMRR Facility at TA-55.

The average annual worker dose of 110 millirem is well below the DOE worker dose limit of 5 rem (5,000 millirem) (10 CFR 835), and is significantly less than the recommended Administrative Control Level of 500 millirem (DOE 1999b). This average annual dose corresponds to an increased risk of a fatal cancer of 0.000066 for each year of operation. In other words, the likelihood of a worker at the new CMRR Facility developing a fatal cancer from annual work-related exposure is about 1 chance in 15,000.

**Table 4–13 Annual Radiological Impacts to Workers from CMRR Facility Operations under Alternative 1**

	<i>Individual Worker</i>	<i>Worker Population</i> <sup>a</sup>
Dose <sup>b</sup>	110 mrem	61 person-rem
Fatal cancer risk <sup>c</sup>	0.000066	0.04
Dose limit <sup>d</sup>	5,000 mrem	Not available
Administrative control level <sup>e</sup>	500 mrem	Not available

<sup>a</sup> Based on a worker population of 550 for the new CMRR Facility at TA-55. Dose limits and administrative control levels do not exist for worker populations.

<sup>b</sup> Based on the average dose to LANL workers that received a measurable dose in the period 1998 to 2000. A program to reduce doses to as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) would be employed to reduce doses to the extent practicable.

<sup>c</sup> Based on a worker risk estimate of 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per person-rem (see Appendix B).

<sup>d</sup> 10 CFR 835.202.

<sup>e</sup> DOE 1999b.

Based on a worker population of 550 for Alternative 1, the estimated annual worker population dose would be 61 person-rem. This would increase the likelihood of a fatal cancer within the worker population by 0.04 per year. In other words, on an annual basis there is less than 1 chance in 25 of one fatal cancer developing in the entire worker population as a result of exposures associated with this alternative.

### **Hazardous Chemicals Impacts**

No chemical-related health impacts to the public would be associated with this alternative. As stated in the *LANL SWEIS*, the laboratory quantities of chemicals that could be released to the atmosphere during routine normal operations are minor quantities and would be below the screening levels used to determine the need for additional analysis. Workers would be protected from adverse effects from the use of hazardous chemicals by adherence to OSHA and EPA occupational standards that limit concentrations of potentially hazardous chemicals.

### 4.3.9.2 Facility Accidents

This section presents a discussion of the potential health impacts to members of the public and workers from postulated accidents at the new CMRR Facility under Alternative 1. Additional details supporting the information presented here are provided in Appendix C.

Under Alternative 1, the CMR Building capabilities and materials would be relocated to a new CMRR Facility to be constructed at LANL TA-55. The new CMRR Facility would include safety features that would reduce the risks of accidents that currently exist under the No Action Alternative. From an accident perspective, the proposed CMRR Facility would be designed to meet the Performance Category 3 seismic requirements, and have a full confinement system that includes tiered pressure zone ventilation and high-efficiency particulate air filters.

### Radiological Impacts

**Table 4–14** presents the frequencies and consequences of the postulated set of accidents for a noninvolved worker and the public (maximally exposed offsite individual and the general population living within 50 miles [80 kilometers] of the facility), and a noninvolved worker located at a distance of 239 yards (219 meters) from the CMRR Facility. **Table 4–15** presents the accident risks, obtained by multiplying each accident's consequences by the likelihood (frequency per year) that the accident would occur. The accidents listed in these tables were selected from a wide spectrum of accidents described in Appendix C. The selection process and screening criteria used (see Appendix C) ensure that the accidents chosen for evaluation in this EIS bound the impacts of all reasonably foreseeable accidents that could occur at the new CMRR Facility at TA-55. Conservative estimates were also made for data used to calculate the source terms for low frequency – high consequence accidents (e.g., facility-wide fire) for CMRR Facility alternatives. These included assumptions that the most hazardous form of the radioactive material (e.g., metal, liquid or powder depending on the accident conditions) was present at the time of the accident, all of the material at risk was damaged in the accident (damage ratio = 1.0) and containment and filtration of airborne radioactive material was lost (leak path factor = 1.0). Thus, in the event that any other accident that was not evaluated in this EIS were to occur, its impacts on workers and the public would be expected to be within the range of the impacts evaluated.

The accident with the highest potential risk to the offsite population and maximally exposed offsite individual (see Table 4–15) would be a facility-wide spill caused by an earthquake that would severely damage the CMRR Facility with a risk of a latent cancer fatality for the maximally exposed offsite individual of  $1.5 \times 10^{-6}$ . In other words, the maximally exposed offsite individual's likelihood of developing a fatal cancer from this event is about 1 chance in 666,000. The dose to the offsite population would increase the number of fatal cancers in the entire population by 0.00050; the likelihood of developing one fatal cancer from this event in the entire population would be about 1 chance in 2,000. Statistically, latent cancer fatalities would not be expected to occur in the population. The risk of a latent cancer fatality to a noninvolved worker located at a distance of 239 yards (219 meters) from the new CMRR Facility would be  $5.0 \times 10^{-6}$  or about 1 chance in 200,000.

**Table 4–14 Accident Frequency and Consequences under Alternatives 1 and 3**

<i>Accident</i>	<i>Frequency (per year)</i>	<i>Maximally Exposed Offsite Individual</i>		<i>Offsite Population<sup>a</sup></i>		<i>Noninvolved Worker</i>	
		<i>Dose (rem)</i>	<i>Latent Cancer Fatality<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Dose (person-rem)</i>	<i>Latent Cancer Fatalities<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>Dose (rem)</i>	<i>Latent Cancer Fatality<sup>b</sup></i>
Facility-wide fire	$5.0 \times 10^{-6}$	7.0	0.0042	17,018	10.2	51.4	0.062
Process fire	0.001	0.004	$2.4 \times 10^{-6}$	9.78	0.0059	0.03	0.000018
Fire in the main vault	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	5.92	0.004	14,500	8.70	43.88	0.053
Process explosion	0.001	0.0036	$2.2 \times 10^{-6}$	2.5	0.0015	0.15	0.00009
Process spill	0.1	0.0046	$2.8 \times 10^{-6}$	3.19	0.0019	0.19	0.000011
Seismic-induced laboratory spill	0.0001	12.1	0.0073	8,394	5.0	495	0.59
Seismic-induced fire	0.00001	2.5	0.0015	6,110	3.7	18.5	0.011
Facility-wide spill	$5.0 \times 10^{-6}$	243.1	0.29	167,705	100.6	9,352	1.0

<sup>a</sup> Based on a population of 309,154 persons residing within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the site.

<sup>b</sup> Increased likelihood of latent cancer fatality for an individual assuming the accident occurs.

<sup>c</sup> Increased number of latent cancer fatalities for the offsite population assuming the accident occurs.

**Table 4–15 Annual Accident Risks under Alternatives 1 and 3**

<i>Accident</i>	<i>Risk of Latent Cancer Fatality</i>		
	<i>Maximally Exposed Offsite Individual<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Offsite Population<sup>b,c</sup></i>	<i>Noninvolved Worker<sup>a</sup></i>
Facility-wide fire	$2.1 \times 10^{-8}$	0.000051	$3.1 \times 10^{-7}$
Process fire	$2.4 \times 10^{-9}$	$5.9 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-8}$
Fire in the main vault	$4.0 \times 10^{-9}$	$8.7 \times 10^{-6}$	$5.3 \times 10^{-8}$
Process explosion	$2.2 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.5 \times 10^{-6}$	$9.0 \times 10^{-8}$
Process spill	$2.8 \times 10^{-7}$	0.00019	0.000011
Seismic-induced laboratory spill	$7.3 \times 10^{-7}$	0.0005	0.000059
Seismic-induced fire	$1.5 \times 10^{-8}$	0.000037	$1.1 \times 10^{-7}$
Facility-wide spill	$1.5 \times 10^{-6}$	0.0005	$5.0 \times 10^{-6}$

<sup>a</sup> Risk of increased likelihood of a latent cancer fatality to the individual.

<sup>b</sup> Risk of the increased number of latent cancer fatalities for the offsite population.

<sup>c</sup> Based on a population of 309,154 persons residing within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the site.

*Involved Worker Impacts* – Approximately 550 workers (including security guards) would be at the new CMRR Facility during operations. Workers near an accident could be at risk of serious injury or death. The impacts from a process spill accident provides an indication of typical worker impacts during accident conditions. Following initiation of accident and site emergency alarms, workers in adjacent areas of the facility would evacuate the area in accordance with technical area and facility emergency operating procedures and training in place.

### **Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives Impacts**

Some of the chemicals used in LANL CMR operations are toxic and carcinogenic. The quantities of the regulated hazardous chemicals and explosive materials stored and used in the new CMRR Facility would be well below threshold quantities set by the EPA (40 CFR 68), and would pose minimal potential hazards to the public health and the environment in an accident condition. These chemicals would be stored and handled in small quantities (10 to a few hundred milliliters), and would only be a hazard to the involved worker under accident conditions.



### 4.3.9.3 Emergency Preparedness and Security Impacts

There would be no impacts on the emergency management and response program at LANL from the construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility at TA-55. Existing memoranda of understanding between NNSA, Los Alamos County, and the State of New Mexico to provide mutual assistance during emergencies and to provide open access to medical facilities would continue with minor administrative updates. Equipment and procedures used to respond to emergencies would continue to be maintained by NNSA.

### 4.3.10 Environmental Justice

*Construction Impacts*—Under Alternative 1, a new administration building and new laboratory buildings would be constructed at TA-55. As discussed throughout the other subsections of Section 4.4, environmental impacts due to construction for all of the construction options would be temporary and would not extend beyond the boundary of LANL. Under Alternative 1, construction at TA-55 would not result in adverse environmental impacts on the public living within the potentially affected area surrounding TA-55, including low-income and minority populations.

*Operations Impacts*—As discussed in Section 4.3.9.1, radiological and hazardous chemical risks to the public resulting from normal operations would be small. Table 4–12 shows the health risks associated with these releases would be small. Routine normal operations at the new CMRR Facility would not be expected to cause fatalities or illness among the general population surrounding TA-55, including minority and low-income populations living within the potentially affected area.

Radiological risks to the public that could result from accidents at new laboratory buildings are estimated to be less than 0.0042 latent cancer fatalities (see Table 4–15). Hence, the likelihood of a latent cancer fatality resulting from an accident under Alternative 1 would be less than 1 in 238. As described in Section 4.3.9.2, accidents involving hazardous chemicals or explosives would not result in airborne or water-borne contamination beyond the LANL boundary that would be hazardous to human health.

Residents of Pueblo San Ildefonso have expressed concern that pollution from CMR operations could contaminate Mortandad Canyon, which drains onto Pueblo land and sacred areas. As discussed in Sections 4.3.3, 4.3.5, and 4.3.9, CMR operations under this alternative would not be expected to adversely affect air or water quality, or result in contamination of Tribal lands adjacent to the LANL boundary. In summary, implementation of Alternative 1 would not pose disproportionately high and adverse environmental risks to low-income or minority populations living in the potentially affected area around the new CMRR Facility at TA-55.

### 4.3.11 Waste Management and Pollution Prevention

This section presents an analysis of waste management and pollution prevention impacts for Alternative 1.

#### 4.3.11.1 Waste Management

*Construction Impacts*—Before construction activities would begin at TA-55, LANL's Environmental Restoration Project would perform a radiological survey of the construction area to determine whether the Potential Release Sites are located in the construction area. Based on these survey results, further actions, including appropriate documentation and contaminate removal, if necessary, would be completed by the LANL Environmental Restoration Project in accordance with LANL's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. Potential wastes generated from such remediation activities have not been included in this impact analysis, because the type and amount of waste are unknown and cannot be adequately projected. Impacts from waste disposal of contaminated soil could be similar to the waste management impacts from CMRR Facility operation.

Only nonhazardous waste would be generated from the construction activities to relocate CMR operations and materials to a new facility at TA-55. No radioactive or hazardous waste would be generated during construction activities.

Solid nonhazardous waste generated from construction activities associated with the new CMRR Facility would be disposed of at the Los Alamos County Landfill located at LANL or its replacement facility. Approximately 578 tons (524 metric tons) of solid nonhazardous waste, consisting primarily of gypsum board, wood scraps, non-recyclable scrap metals, concrete, steel, and other construction waste would be generated from the construction activities. This represents about 20 percent of the current annual solid nonhazardous waste generation rate at LANL of 2,860 tons (2,600 metric tons) per year. Management of this additional waste at LANL would be within the capabilities of the LANL waste management program, but additional waste management personnel may be required.

Construction debris would be collected in appropriate waste containers and transported to the receiving landfill on a regular basis. This additional construction waste would only increase LANL's total wastes going to the landfill by 3 percent.

Sanitary wastewater generated as a result of construction activities would be managed using portable toilet systems. No other nonhazardous liquid wastes are expected.

*Operations Impacts*—The expected waste generation rates for the new CMRR Facility at TA-55 would be consistent with the Expanded Operations Alternative as described in the *LANL SWEIS* (DOE 1999a) for 10 years of continued operations (from 2000 to 2010). These waste generation rates are compared with LANL's treatment, storage, and disposal capacities in the following sections for each category of waste. The impacts on the LANL waste management systems, in terms of managing the waste, are discussed in this section. Waste generation rates, by waste type, are summarized in **Table 4-16** for CMR operations and overall LANL activities. Radioactive solid and liquid wastes from CMR operations would constitute only a portion of the total amounts of these wastes generated, treated, and/or disposed of at LANL (see Table 4-16). The radiological and chemical impacts on workers and the public from managing CMRR radioactive wastes have been evaluated along with the other LANL site wastes in other environmental documentation (DOE 1999a).

**Table 4–16 Selected Waste Generation Rates from CMR Operations and LANL Activities**

<i>Waste Type</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>CMR Generation Rate</i>	<i>LANL Generation Rate</i>
Transuranic	Cubic yards per year	61 <sup>a</sup>	556 <sup>a</sup>
Mixed Transuranic	Cubic yards per year	27 <sup>a</sup>	160 <sup>a</sup>
Low-level radioactive	Cubic yards per year	2,640 <sup>a,b</sup>	16,009 <sup>a</sup>
Mixed low-level radioactive	Cubic yards per year	26 <sup>a</sup>	828 <sup>a</sup>
Hazardous	Pounds per year	24,692 <sup>a,c</sup>	7,163,407 <sup>a,c</sup>
Sanitary	Gallons per day	27,500 <sup>d</sup>	250,000 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> LANL SWEIS DOE 1999a, Expanded Operations Alternative, Table 5.3.9.3-1.

<sup>b</sup> Volumes of low-level radioactive waste include solid wastes generated by the treatment of low-level radioactive liquid wastes generated by CMR operations.

<sup>c</sup> This waste type also includes biomedical waste and Toxic Substance Control Act waste.

<sup>d</sup> Calculated assuming 550 CMR workers, each generating 50 gallons per day.

<sup>e</sup> TA-18 Relocation EIS (DOE 2002e).

Note: The generation rates are attributed to facility operations and do not include the waste generated from environmental restoration actions.

### Transuranic Waste

Analytical, processing, fabrication, and research and development activities at the new CMRR Facility would generate transuranic waste. Approximately 61 cubic yards (47 cubic meters) of transuranic waste would be generated each year. This transuranic waste represents about 2.2 percent of the current transuranic and mixed transuranic waste compactions and volume reduction capacity of 2,786 cubic yards (2,130 cubic meters) per year at LANL. Transuranic waste would be compacted at the new CMRR Facility. Any TRU waste generated by CMRR Facility operations would be treated and packaged in accordance with the WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria and transported to WIPP or a similar facility for disposition. Transuranic waste volumes generated through CMRR operations over the life of the facility are estimated to be less than two percent of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant capacity. Offsite disposal capacities for transuranic waste are expected to be adequate for LANL, including CMR operations, disposal needs.

### Mixed Transuranic Waste

Approximately 27 cubic yards (20 cubic meters) of mixed transuranic waste would be generated each year. This would represent about 1.0 percent of the current transuranic and mixed transuranic waste compactions and volume reduction capacity of 2,786 cubic yards (2,130 cubic meters) per year at LANL. Most mixed transuranic waste would continue to be disposed of at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

### Low-Level Radioactive Waste

Solid low-level radioactive waste generated from CMR operations at TA-55 would continue to be characterized and packaged for disposal at the onsite Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility at TA-54, Area G. About 2,640 cubic yards (2,020 cubic meters) of solid low-level radioactive waste would be generated each year. Volumes of low-level radioactive waste include the solid low-level radioactive component of liquid wastes treated through the RLWTF or a

similar facility. This would represent about 0.8 percent of the current disposal capacity of 330,257 cubic yards (252,500 cubic meters) in the TA-54 Area G Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility. As part of the implementation of the Record of Decision for the LANL SWEIS, the disposal capacity of the TA-54 Area G Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility will be expanded into Zones 4 and 6 at Area G. The impacts of managing this waste at LANL would be minimal.

CMRR operations would also generate liquid low-level radioactive waste, which would be transferred to the RLWTF at TA-50 for treatment. The treatment process would remove radioactive solids, which would then be managed as low-level radioactive waste. Since the exact amount of liquid low-level radioactive waste that would be generated by the new CMRR Facility is not known, the 10,400 gallons (39,400 liters) per day associated with current operations in the CMR Building were estimated to be generated by operations at the CMRR Facility as well. Therefore, the amount of solid low-level radioactive waste resulting from RLWTF treatment of liquid low-level radioactive waste generated by CMRR operations would then be estimated to be 200 cubic yards (150 cubic meters) annually and are included as low-level radioactive waste in Table 4-16. RLWTF capacity has been expanded through system upgrades and improved technologies, and is expected to be sufficient to manage the liquid low-level radioactive waste generated by CMRR Facility operations.

### **Mixed Low-level Radioactive Waste**

Mixed low-level radioactive waste generated from CMR operations at TA-55 would continue to be surveyed and decontaminated on site, if possible. The remaining waste would be stored and processed at TA-54, Area G or Area L, and transported to a commercial or DOE offsite treatment and disposal facility. This waste would be managed in accordance with the LANL Site Treatment Plan. About 26 cubic yards (20 cubic meters) of mixed low-level radioactive waste would be generated each year. This represents about 3.4 percent of the current mixed low-level radioactive waste storage capacity at LANL. The impacts of managing this waste at LANL would be minimal.

### **Hazardous Waste**

Hazardous waste generated from CMR operations at TA-55 would continue to be decontaminated or recycled, if possible. The remaining waste would be packaged and shipped to offsite Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-permitted treatment and disposal facilities. Typically, hazardous waste is not held in long-term storage at LANL. Approximately 24,692 pounds (11,200 kilograms) of hazardous waste would be generated each year. This represents about 1.3 percent of the annual hazardous waste generation rate of 1,896,000 pounds (860,000 kilograms) for the entire LANL site. The impacts of managing this waste at LANL would be minimal.

### **Nonhazardous Waste**

Sanitary wastewater generated from CMR operations at TA-55 would continue to be sent to the Sanitary Wastewater Systems Consolidation Plant. Approximately 27,500 gallons per day (for

260 working days per year) of sanitary wastewater would be generated. This would represent about 4.6 percent of the 600,000 gallons-per-day (2.27 million liters-per-day) design capacity of the Sanitary Wastewater Systems Consolidation Plant.

#### 4.3.11.2 Pollution Prevention

At the new CMRR Facility, wastes would be minimized, where feasible, by:

- Recycling;
- Processing waste to reduce its quantity, volume or toxicity;
- Substituting materials or processes that generate hazardous wastes with materials or processes that result in less hazardous wastes being produced, and
- Segregating waste materials to prevent contamination of nonhazardous materials.

#### 4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FOR ALTERNATIVE 2 (THE “GREENFIELD” ALTERNATIVE)

This section presents a discussion of the environmental impacts associated with Alternative 2 (“Greenfield” Alternative). Under the Greenfield Alternative, CMR operations at LANL would be relocated and consolidated at TA-6 in a new CMRR Facility consisting of two or three buildings. One of the new buildings would provide space for administrative offices and support functions activities. The other building(s) would provide secure laboratory spaces for research and analytical support activities. The buildings would be expected to operate for a minimum of 50 years, and roads would be constructed to connect them. The impacts from construction and operation of these proposed facilities are described below. Deposition of the existing CMR Building is discussed later in Section 4.7.2.

CMR operations at TA-6 under this alternative would be conducted at the levels of activity described for the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*. The Expanded Operations Alternative presented in the *LANL SWEIS* provides the reference point from which incremental effects of this proposed action are measured.

#### 4.4.1 Land Use and Visual Resources

##### 4.4.1.1 Land Use

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—The new CMRR Facility would be constructed within the north central wooded portion of TA-6. The area to be disturbed during construction, would be 26.75 acres (10.8 hectares). During CMR operations, 15.25 acres (6.2 hectares) would be permanently disturbed at TA-6 including building footprints, parking lot, and access road. The remaining 11.5 acres (4.65 hectares) would consist of a construction laydown area of 2 acres (0.8 hectares), an area for a concrete batch plant of 5 acres (2 hectares) maximum, trenching for utility lines of 1.5 acres (0.6 hectares), and trenching for a potential radioactive liquid waste pipeline of 3 acres (1.2 hectares). Most of the acreage to be disturbed within TA-6 is covered

with native vegetation including many mature trees, which would have to be cleared prior to construction. As noted in Section 3.2.1, TA-6 falls within the *LANL SWEIS* defined Research and Development/Waste Disposal land use category and is designated in the *LANL Comprehensive Site Plan* for Experimental Science and High-Explosives Research and Development. Therefore, the use of TA-6 for CMR operations would be consistent with both the *LANL SWEIS* and *LANL Comprehensive Site Plan* designations for the area.

As noted above, in order to provide access to the new CMRR Facility at TA-6, it would be necessary to construct an access road from Pajarito Road into the site. In addition, it would be necessary to bring utilities into the site. Electric power service, communications lines, potable water, sewage, and radioactive liquid waste pipelines would all be brought to the site.

#### 4.4.1.2 Visual Resources

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Due to the undeveloped nature of TA-6, construction activity and CMRR Facility operations would alter the existing visual character of the proposed site from natural woodland to an industrial site. Impacts to visual resources resulting from construction activity would be temporary in nature and would include increased levels of dust and human activity. Once completed, the administrative offices and support functions building would be three stories above grade while the Hazard Category 2 and 3 laboratory buildings would be no more than one story in height. All buildings would be readily visible from Pajarito Road and the upper reaches of the Pajarito Plateau rim. At night, security lighting would add to the overall glow produced by facilities at LANL. Construction of the new CMRR Facility would result in a change in the Visual Resource Contrast rating of TA-6 from Class III to Class IV.

While most of the utilities would be placed underground and not impact visual resources, the access road would alter the visual environment and would change the Visual Resource Contrast rating of the area from Class III to Class IV.

#### 4.4.2 Site Infrastructure

*Construction Impacts*—The projected demands on key site infrastructure resources associated with construction under this alternative are presented in **Table 4-17**. Existing LANL infrastructure would easily be capable of supporting the construction requirements for the new CMRR Facility proposed under this alternative without exceeding site capacities. Although gasoline and diesel fuel would be required to operate construction vehicles, generators, and other construction equipment, fuel would be procured from offsite sources and, therefore, would not be a limited resource. Construction impacts on the local transportation network would be negligible.

*Operations Impacts*—Resources needed to support operations under Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative) are presented in **Table 4-18**. It is projected that existing LANL infrastructure resources would be adequate to support proposed mission activities over 50 years. In general, CMR infrastructure requirements under this alternative would approximate those of the Expanded Operations Alternative presented in the *LANL SWEIS* for the CMR Building.

**Table 4–17 Site Infrastructure Requirements for Facility Construction under Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative)**

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Available Site Capacity</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Total Requirement</i> <sup>b</sup>	<i>Percent of Available Site Capacity</i>
<b>Electricity</b>			
Energy (megawatt-hours per year)	472,414	312.5	0.07
Peak load demand (megawatts)	24.5	0.3	1.2
<b>Fuel</b>			
Natural gas (cubic feet per year)	5,540,000,000	0	0
<b>Water</b> (gallons per year)	198,000,000	3,745,300	1.9

<sup>a</sup> Capacity minus the current site requirements, a calculation based on the data provided in Table 3–2, *CMRR EIS*.

<sup>b</sup> Total estimated infrastructure requirements for the projected construction period.

Sources: Table 2–1, Table 3–2, *CMRR EIS*.

**Table 4–18 Annual Site Infrastructure Requirements for Facility Operations under Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative)**

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Available Site Capacity</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Percent of Available Site Capacity</i>
<b>Electricity</b>			
Energy (megawatt-hours per year)	472,414	19,272	4.1
Peak load demand (megawatts)	24.5	2.6	10.6
<b>Fuel</b>			
Natural gas (cubic feet per year)	5,540,000,000	Not available	Not available
<b>Water</b> (gallons per year)	198,000,000	10,400,000	5.3

<sup>a</sup> Capacity minus the current site requirements, a calculation based on the data provided in Table 3–2, *CMRR EIS*.

Sources: Table 2–2, Table 3–2, *CMRR EIS*.

### 4.4.3 Air Quality and Noise

#### 4.4.3.1 Air Quality

Overall air quality at LANL would remain within standards during construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility. In addition, overall noise levels at LANL during construction and operation would also remain within regulatory limits. NNSA also determined that the “General Conformity” rule would not apply and no conformity analysis would be required (see Appendix A), because LANL is located in an attainment area for all criteria pollutants and ambient air quality standards would not be exceeded by the proposed action alternatives (see DOE 2000d).

### Nonradiological Releases

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of the new CMRR Facility at TA-6 would result in temporary emissions from construction equipment, trucks, and employee vehicles. Criteria pollutant concentrations were modeled for the construction of the new CMRR Facility at TA-6 and compared to the most stringent standards (**Table 4–19**). The maximum ground-level concentrations offsite or along the perimeter road to which the public has regular access would be below the ambient air quality standards. Concentrations along Pajarito Road north and east of the construction area would be higher and could exceed the 24-hour ambient standards for particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) and total

suspended particulates. However, the public would not be allowed access to this section of road during construction. Actual criteria pollutant concentrations are expected to be less, since conservative emission factors and other assumptions were used in the modeling of construction activities and tend to overestimate impacts. The maximum short-term and annual criteria pollutant concentrations for construction would occur north of the construction site along Highway 501 and at the Royal Crest Trailer Park. Air quality modeling considered particulate emissions from construction activities in an area of 20.75 acres (8.4 hectares) and emissions from various earthmoving and material-handling equipment. This is the area consisting of land that would be used for building and parking lot construction (13.75 acres [5.6 hectares]) and laydown and the concrete batch plant (7 acres [2.8 hectares]).

**Table 4–19 Nonradiological Air Quality Concentrations at the Site Boundary at TA-6 (Alternative 2, Greenfield Alternative) – Construction**

<i>Criteria Pollutant</i>	<i>Averaging Period</i>	<i>Most Stringent Standard or Guideline (micrograms per cubic meter)<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Maximum Incremental Concentration (micrograms per cubic meter)<sup>b</sup></i>
Carbon monoxide	8 hours	7,800	96.9
	1 hour	11,700	775
Nitrogen dioxide	Annual	73.7	0.92
	24 hours	147	24.1
PM <sub>10</sub>	Annual	50	2.11
	24 hours	150	35
Sulfur dioxide	Annual	41	0.084
	24 hours	205	2.33
	3 hours	1,030	18.7
Total suspended particulates	Annual	60	4.14
	24 hours	150	67.8

PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter.

<sup>a</sup> The more stringent of the Federal and state standards is presented if both exist for the averaging period. The NAAQS (40 CFR 50), other than those for ozone, particulate matter, and lead, and those based on annual averages, are not to be exceeded more than once per year. The annual arithmetic mean PM<sub>10</sub> standard is attained when the expected annual arithmetic mean concentration is less than or equal to the standard. Standards and monitored values for pollutants other than particulate matter are stated in parts per million (ppm). These values have been converted to micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) with appropriate corrections for temperature (21 degrees C [60 degrees F]) and pressure (elevation 7,005 feet [2,135 meters]) following New Mexico dispersion modeling guidelines (revised 1998) (NMAQB 1998).

<sup>b</sup> The annual concentrations were analyzed at locations to which the public has access – the site boundary and nearby sensitive areas. Short-term concentrations were analyzed at the site boundary and at the fence line of the technical area to which the public has short-term access.

Source: DOE 1999a.

*Operations Impacts*—Under Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative), criteria and toxic air pollutants would be generated from operation and testing of an emergency generator at TA-6.

**Table 4–20** summarizes the concentrations of criteria pollutants from CMR operations at TA-6. The concentrations are compared to their corresponding ambient air quality standards. The maximum ground-level concentrations that would result from CMR operations at TA-6 would be below the ambient air quality standards. Actual criteria pollutant concentrations are expected to be less because conservative stack parameters were assumed in the modeling of the diesel emergency generator. The maximum annual criteria pollutant concentrations would occur north of the proposed TA-6 CMRR Facility operations area along Highway 501. The maximum short-term concentrations would also occur north of the CMRR Facility along Highway 501 and to the south along the LANL site boundary. Concentrations along Pajarito Road north of the proposed CMRR Facility would be higher and could exceed the 24-hour ambient standards for nitrogen



dioxide. However, the public would not be allowed access to this section of road for periods of that duration. No major change in emissions or air pollutant concentrations at LANL are expected under this alternative.

## Radiological Releases

*Construction Impacts*—While no radiological releases to the environment would be expected in association with construction activities at TA-6, the potential exists for contaminated soils and possibly other media to be disturbed during excavation and other site activities. Prior to commencing ground disturbance, NNSA would survey potentially affected areas to determine the extent and nature of any contamination and would remediate any contamination in accordance with procedures established under LANL’s environmental restoration program and LANL’s Hazardous Waste Facility Permit.

**Table 4–20 Nonradiological Air Quality Concentrations at the Site Boundary at TA-6 (Alternative 2, Greenfield Alternative) – Operations**

<i>Criteria Pollutant</i>	<i>Averaging Period</i>	<i>Most Stringent Standard or Guideline (micrograms per cubic meter)<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Maximum Incremental Concentration (micrograms per cubic meter)<sup>b</sup></i>
Carbon monoxide	8 hours	7,800	71.4
	1 hour	11,700	414
Nitrogen dioxide	Annual	73.7	0.0141
	24 hours	147	56.3
PM <sub>10</sub>	Annual	50	0.0004
	24 hours	150	1.74
Sulfur dioxide	Annual	41	0.0088
	24 hours	205	35
	3 hours	1,030	260
Total suspended particulates	Annual	60	0.0008
	24 hours	150	3.03

PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter.

<sup>a</sup> The more stringent of the Federal and state standards is presented if both exist for the averaging period. The NAAQS (40 CFR 50), other than those for ozone, particulate matter, and lead, and those based on annual averages, are not to be exceeded more than once per year. The annual arithmetic mean PM<sub>10</sub> standard is attained when the expected annual arithmetic mean concentration is less than or equal to the standard. Standards and monitored values for pollutants other than particulate matter are stated in parts per million (ppm). These values have been converted to micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) with appropriate corrections for temperature (21 degrees C [60 degrees F]) and pressure (elevation 7,005 feet [2,135 meters]) following New Mexico dispersion modeling guidelines (revised 1998) (NMAQB 1998).

<sup>b</sup> The annual concentrations were analyzed at locations to which the public has access – the site boundary and nearby sensitive areas. Short-term concentrations were analyzed at the site boundary and at the fence line of the technical area to which the public has short-term access.

Source: DOE 1999a.

*Operations Impacts*—Approximately 0.00076 curies per year of actinides and 2,645 curies of fission products and tritium would be released to the environment from relocated CMR operations at TA-6 (DOE 1999a, LANL 2000d). Releases of radiological air pollutants are discussed in Section 4.4.9.1.

#### 4.4.3.2 Noise

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of the new CMRR Facility at TA-6 would result in some temporary increase in noise levels near the area from construction equipment and activities. Some disturbance to wildlife near the area may occur as a result of the operation of construction equipment. There would be no change in noise impacts on the public outside of LANL as a result of construction activities, except for a small increase in traffic noise levels from construction employees and materials shipment. Noise sources associated with construction at TA-6 are not expected to include loud impulsive sources such as from blasting.

*Operations Impacts*—Noise impacts from CMR operations at TA-6 would increase from those at existing operations at TA-6. There would be an increase in traffic and equipment noise (such as heating and cooling systems) in the area. The increase of noise from CMR operations at TA-6 would impact wildlife in the area. There would be little or no change in noise impacts to the public outside of LANL as a result of moving CMR activities to TA-6.

#### 4.4.4 Geology and Soils

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of the CMRR Facility under this alternative would be expected to disturb a total of approximately 26.75 acres (10.8 hectares) of land in north central TA-6. Aggregate and other geologic resources would be required to support construction activities at TA-6, but these resources are abundant in Los Alamos County. Relatively deep sub-surface excavation would be required to construct below-grade portions of the new CMRR Facility. In addition, excavation and trenching would be required to extend utilities to the site and to remove and replace some existing utility systems. However, as explosives blasting should not be necessary and the land area to be disturbed is relatively limited, the impact on geologic and soil resources would be relatively minor.

A site survey and foundation study would be conducted as necessary to confirm site geologic characteristics for facility engineering purposes. The potential also exists for contaminated soils to be encountered during excavation and other site activities. Prior to commencing ground disturbance, NNSA would survey potentially affected areas to determine the extent and nature of any contamination and required remediation in accordance with procedures established under the LANL environmental restoration program. Other buried objects would be surveyed and removed as appropriate.

As discussed in Section 3.5, LANL is located in a region of low to moderate seismicity overall. Ground shaking of MMI VII (see Appendix A, Table A-6) associated with postulated earthquakes is possible and supported by the historical record for the region. MMI VII would be expected to affect primarily the integrity of inadequately designed or nonreinforced structures, but damage to properly designed or specially designed or upgraded facilities would not be expected. The Rendija Canyon Fault terminates approximately 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) north of TA-6 but may extend further south encroaching on the northern portion of TA-6 (see Section 3.5.1.3). However, the new CMRR Facility proposed under this alternative would be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable DOE orders and standards (DOE Standard 1020-2002 that implements DOE Order 420.1A) to provide criteria for the design of

new structures, systems, and components and for evaluation, modification, or upgrade of existing structures, systems, and components so that DOE facilities safely withstand the effects of natural phenomena, such as earthquakes. As stated in DOE Order 420.1A, DOE is required to ensure that nuclear and nonnuclear facilities be designed, constructed, and operated so that workers, the public, and the environment are protected from any adverse impacts caused by the CMRR Facility from natural phenomena hazards, including earthquakes.

*Operations Impacts*—CMR operations under this alternative would not impact geologic and soil resources at LANL. As discussed above, new buildings would be designed and constructed in accordance with DOE Order 420.1A and sited to minimize the risk from geologic hazards. Thus, site geologic conditions would be unlikely to affect the facilities over the 50-year operational life expectancy.

#### **4.4.5 Surface and Groundwater Quality**

##### **4.4.5.1 Surface Water**

*Construction Impacts*—There are no natural surface water drainages in the vicinity of the TA-6 construction site on South Mesa and no surface water would be used to support facility construction. It is expected that portable toilets would be used for construction personnel, resulting in no onsite discharge of sanitary wastewater and no impact on surface waters. Waste generation and management activities are detailed in Section 4.4.11.

Storm water runoff from construction areas could potentially impact downstream surface water quality. Appropriate soil erosion and sediment control measures (sediment fences, stacked hay bales, and mulching disturbed areas) and spill prevention practices would be employed during construction to minimize suspended sediment and material transport and potential water quality impacts. An NPDES General Permit Notice of Intent would be filed to address storm water discharges associated with construction activity. Also, development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan would be required for the construction activity. TA-6 is not in an area prone to flooding, and no floodplains exist in the immediate vicinity of the proposed construction site.

*Operations Impacts*—No impacts on surface water resources are expected as a result of CMR operations at TA-6 under this alternative. No surface water would be used to support facility activities and there would be no direct discharge of sanitary or industrial effluent to surface waters. Sanitary wastewater would be generated as a result of facility operations stemming from facility staff use of lavatory, shower, and break room facilities and from miscellaneous potable and sanitary uses. This wastewater would be collected and conveyed by a new sanitary sewer system for ultimate disposal via appropriate wastewater treatment facilities. Radioactive liquid waste would either be contained onsite and transported by truck to the existing TA-50 Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility, or transported via a radioactive liquid waste pipeline extended to the site. An NPDES Permit and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for facility operations would also be required to address storm water discharges associated with the operation of the new CMRR Facility. Waste generation and management activities are detailed in Section 4.4.11. The design and operation of new buildings would incorporate appropriate

storm water management controls to safely collect and convey storm water from facilities while minimizing washout and soil erosion. Overall, operational impacts on site surface waters and downstream water quality would be expected to be negligible.

#### **4.4.5.2 Groundwater**

*Construction Impacts*—Groundwater would be required to support construction activities at TA-6. It is estimated that construction activities under Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative) would require approximately 3.7 million gallons (14 million liters) of groundwater (see Table 4–17). The volume of groundwater required for construction would be small compared to site availability and historic usage, and there would be no onsite discharge of wastewater to the surface or subsurface. Appropriate spill prevention controls, countermeasures, and procedures would be employed to minimize the potential for releases of materials to the surface or subsurface. No impact on groundwater availability or quality is anticipated from construction activities in TA-6.

*Operations Impacts*—Relocated CMR operations and activities at TA-6 under Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative) would use groundwater primarily to meet the potable and sanitary needs of facility support personnel, as well as for miscellaneous building mechanical uses. It is estimated that new building operations under this alternative would require about 10.4 million gallons (39.4 million liters) per year of groundwater. This demand is a small fraction of total LANL usage and would not exceed site availability (see Table 4–18). Therefore, no additional impact on regional groundwater availability would be anticipated.

No sanitary or industrial effluent would be discharged directly to the surface or subsurface. Waste generation and management activities are detailed in Section 4.4.11. Thus, no operational impacts on groundwater quality would be expected.

#### **4.4.6 Ecological Resources**

##### **4.4.6.1 Terrestrial Resources**

*Construction Impacts*—As noted in Section 3.7.1, TA-6 lies within both the mixed conifer forest and ponderosa pine forest zones of LANL. However, since the new CMRR Facility would be placed in the north central portion of the area, only ponderosa pine forest would be removed during clearing operations. The total area to be cleared, including the access road and utility corridors would require 26.75 acres (10.8 hectares). Following construction, 13.75 acres (5.6 hectares) for building and parking lot construction would be permanently disturbed. Clearing operations would result in the loss of less mobile wildlife such as reptiles and small mammals, and cause more mobile species such as birds or large mammals to be displaced. The success of displaced animals would depend on the carrying capacity of the area into which they move. If the area were at its carrying capacity, displaced animals would likely survive. Indirect impacts from construction, such as from noise or human disturbance, could also impact wildlife living adjacent to the construction zone. Although temporary, such disturbance would span the construction period. The work area would be clearly marked to prevent construction equipment and workers from disturbing adjacent natural habitat.

*Operations Impacts*—CMR operations would have minimal impact on terrestrial resources within or adjacent to TA-6. Since wildlife residing in the area would not have previously adjusted to the noise and human disturbance associated with CMR operations, some species could be permanently displaced. However, many animals would become accustomed to the disturbance and would return to the vicinity of the CMRR Facility following construction. Since the CMRR Facility would be permanently fenced, larger mammals would be excluded from future use of developed portions of TA-6. Areas not permanently disturbed by the new CMRR Facility (for example, construction laydown area) would be landscaped. While this would provide some habitat for wildlife, it is likely that species composition would differ from preconstruction conditions.

#### **4.4.6.2 Wetlands**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—As noted previously in Section 3.7.2, there are no wetlands located within TA-6. Therefore, impacts to wetlands would not occur. Although some riparian habitat exists along stream channels, it would not be impacted by the project since all construction would take place on the mesa tops. In order to prevent indirect impacts, a sediment and erosion control plan would be implemented to control stormwater runoff during construction and operations.

#### **4.4.6.3 Aquatic Resources**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—There are no aquatic resources at TA-6. Therefore, no aquatic resources would be impacted by this alternative.

#### **4.4.6.4 Threatened and Endangered Species**

*Construction Impacts*—As noted in Section 3.7.4, AEIs have been established at LANL for the Mexican spotted owl, bald eagle, and southwestern willow flycatcher. However, core and buffer areas for the Federally threatened Mexican spotted owl do not overlap the proposed location of the new CMRR Facility within TA-6. Core and buffer areas for the Federally threatened bald eagle and Federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher also do not overlap any portion of TA-6. Therefore, neither individual animals of these three species nor their designated habitat areas would be impacted by the implementation of this alternative.

*Operations Impacts*—CMR operations at TA-6 would not affect any Federally endangered or threatened species since none of these species occur within the area to be developed. Noise levels associated with CMRR Facilities would be low and would be similar to other technical areas at LANL.

## 4.4.7 Cultural and Paleontological Resources

### 4.4.7.1 Prehistoric Resources

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Adverse impacts to prehistoric resources from construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility at TA-6 would not be expected. However, as noted in Section 3.8.1, one prehistoric site has been identified within TA-6. The extent to which this site may be disturbed cannot be determined until planning details for the new CMRR Facility are finalized. If unexpected prehistoric resources were uncovered during construction, work would stop and appropriate assessment, regulatory compliance, and recovery measures would be undertaken.

### 4.4.7.2 Historic Resources

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Adverse impacts to historic resources from construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility at TA-6 would not be expected. However, some of the 20 historic sites located within TA-6 may be disturbed by the construction of the new CMRR Facility, the extent of which would not be determined until planning details were finalized. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, if necessary, would be undertaken in order to determine the eligibility of any potentially disturbed sites for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and, if appropriate, data and artifact recovery would be conducted.

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, abandonment of the CMR Building would constitute an adverse effect. In conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office, DOE, NNSA has developed documentation measures to reduce adverse effects to Register-eligible properties at LANL. These measures are incorporated into formal memoranda of agreement between the DOE, NNSA and the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division. Typical memoranda of agreement terms include the preparation of a detailed report containing the history and description of the affected properties. Other terms include the identification of all drawings for each property, the production of medium-format archival photographs, and the preparation of LANL historic building survey forms. Documentation measures include in LANL memoranda of agreements are carried out to the standards of the Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record. Specific levels of Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record documentation are determined on a case-by-case basis.

### 4.4.7.3 Traditional Cultural Properties

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—The area at TA-6 proposed to house the new CMRR Facility has not been surveyed for traditional cultural properties. Prior to construction, a traditional cultural properties consultation would be undertaken and site removal or avoidance, if needed, would be conducted. If any traditional cultural properties were located during construction, work would stop while appropriate action would be undertaken.

#### 4.4.7.4 Paleontological Resources

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—As noted in Section 3.8.4, there are no known paleontological resources present at TA-6 at LANL. Thus, there would be no impacts to these resources.

#### 4.4.8 Socioeconomics

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of new buildings at TA-6 to house CMR activities would require a peak construction employment level of 300 workers. This level of employment would generate about 852 indirect jobs in the region around LANL. The potential total employment increase of 1,152 direct and indirect jobs represents an approximate 1.3 percent increase in the workforce and would occur over the 60 months of construction. It would have little or no noticeable impact on the socioeconomic conditions of the region of influence.

*Operations Impacts*—As previously noted in Section 2.7.4, the operational characteristics of the CMRR Facility are based on the level of CMR operations required to support the Expanded Operations Alternative analyzed in the *LANL SWEIS*. As noted in Table 2–2, CMRR Facility operations would require a workforce of approximately 550 workers. This would be an increase of 346 workers over currently restricted CMR operational requirements, but approximately equal to the number of CMR workers projected for the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*. The *LANL SWEIS* presents a discussion of the socioeconomic impacts from an increase in total employment at LANL under the Expanded Operations Alternative, which includes the contributory affect of expanded CMR operations and an increase in workforce.

Nevertheless, the increase in the number of workers in support of expanded CMR operations would have little or no noticeable impact on socioeconomic conditions in the LANL Tri-County region of influence. Workers assigned to the new CMRR Facility would be drawn for the most part from existing LANL missions, including consolidated AC and MC activities. The contributory effect of the remaining new employment, in combination with the potential effects from other industrial and economic sectors within the regional economic area, would serve to reduce or mask any effect on the regional economy. New LANL employees hired to support CMRR facilities would comprise a small fraction of the LANL workforce (more than 9,000 in 1996), and an even smaller fraction of the regional workforce (more than 92,000 in 1999).

#### 4.4.9 Human Health Impacts

##### 4.4.9.1 Construction and Normal Operations

##### Radiological Impacts

*Construction Impacts*—No radiological risks would be incurred by members of the public from construction activities. Construction workers would be at a small risk for construction related accidents and radiological exposures. They could receive doses above natural background radiation levels from exposure to radiation from other past or present activities near the site. However, these workers would be protected through appropriate training, monitoring, and

management controls. Their exposure would be limited to ensure that doses were kept as low as is reasonably achievable.

*Operations Impacts*—Routine operation of the CMRR Facility at TA-6 would not be expected to result in an increase in latent cancer fatalities. Under this alternative, the radiological releases to the atmosphere from the CMRR Facility would be those shown in **Table 4–21**. The actinide emissions listed in this table are in the form of plutonium, uranium, thorium, and americium isotopes. In estimating the human health impacts for actinides, all emissions were considered to be plutonium-239. This is conservative because the human health impacts on a per-curie basis are greater for plutonium-239 than for the other actinides associated with CMR activities. Liquid radioactive effluents would be transported by tanker truck or routed through a new pipeline to the TA-50 Radioactive Liquid Effluent Treatment Facility where they would be treated along with other LANL site liquid wastes. Following treatment, the liquid would be released through an existing NPDES-permitted outfall. The treatment residues would be solidified and disposed of as solid waste (see Section 4.4.11).

**Table 4–21 Emissions from the CMRR Facility under Alternative 2**

<i>Nuclide</i>	<i>Emissions (curies per year)</i>
Actinides	0.00076
Kr-85	100
Xe-131m	45
Xe-133	1,500
H-3 (Tritium) <sup>a</sup>	1,000

<sup>a</sup> The tritium release is in the form of both tritium oxide (750 curies) and elemental tritium (250 curies). Tritium oxide is more readily absorbed by the body; therefore, the health impact of tritium oxide on a receptor is greater than that for elemental tritium. Therefore, all of the tritium release has been modeled as if it were tritium oxide.

Source: DOE 1999a, LANL 2000d.

**Table 4–22** shows that the annual collective dose to the population living within a 50-mile (80-kilometer) radius of the CMRR Facility is estimated to be 2.0 person-rem for Alternative 2. This population dose increases the annual risk of a fatal cancer in the population by 0.0012. Another way of stating this is that the likelihood of one fatal cancer occurring in the population as a result of radiological releases associated with this alternative is about 1 chance in 900 per year. Statistically, latent cancer fatalities would not be expected to occur in the population from CMR operations at TA-6.

The average annual dose to an individual in the population is 0.0063 millirem. The corresponding increased risk of an individual developing a fatal cancer from receiving the average dose is  $3.8 \times 10^{-9}$  or about 1 chance in 260 million per year.

The maximally exposed individual member of the public would receive an estimated annual dose of 0.33 millirem. This dose corresponds to an increased annual risk of developing a fatal cancer of  $2.0 \times 10^{-7}$ . In other words, the likelihood of the maximally exposed individual developing a fatal cancer is about 1 chance in 5 million during each year of operation.



**Table 4–22 Annual Radiological Impacts on the Public from CMRR Facility Operations under Alternative 2**

	<i>Population within 50 Miles (80 kilometers)</i>	<i>Average Individual within 50 Miles (80 kilometers)</i>	<i>Maximally Exposed Individual</i>
Dose	1.9 person-rem	0.0063 mrem	0.33 mrem
Cancer fatality risk <sup>a</sup>	0.0011	$3.8 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-7}$
Regulatory dose limit <sup>b</sup>	Not available	10 mrem	10 mrem
Dose as a percentage of the regulatory limit	Not available	0.06	3.5
Dose from background radiation <sup>c</sup>	139,000 person-rem	450 mrem	450 mrem
Dose as a percentage of background dose	0.0014	0.0014	0.08

<sup>a</sup> Based on a risk estimate of 0.0005 latent cancer fatalities per person-rem (see Appendix B).

<sup>b</sup> 40 CFR 61 establishes an annual limit of 10 mrem via the air pathway to any member of the public from DOE operations. There is no standard for a population dose.

<sup>c</sup> The annual individual dose from background radiation at LANL is 400 to 500 millirem (see Section 3.11.1). The population living within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of TA-3 is estimated to be 308,062.

Estimated annual doses to workers involved with CMR activities under Alternative 2 are provided in **Table 4–23**. Estimated worker doses are based on historical exposure data for LANL workers (*DOE Occupational Radiation Exposure 2001 Report*). Based on the reported data, the average annual dose to a LANL worker who received a measurable dose was 104 millirem. A value of 110 millirem has been used as the estimate of the average annual worker dose per year of operation at the new CMRR Facility.

**Table 4–23 Annual Radiological Impacts to Workers from CMRR Facility Operations under Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative)**

	<i>Individual Worker</i>	<i>Worker Population <sup>a</sup></i>
Dose <sup>b</sup>	110 mrem	61 person-rem
Fatal cancer risk <sup>c</sup>	0.000066	0.04
Dose limit <sup>d</sup>	5,000 mrem	Not available
Administrative control level <sup>e</sup>	500 mrem	Not available

<sup>a</sup> Based on a worker population of 550 for the new CMRR Facility. Dose limits and administrative control levels do not exist for worker populations.

<sup>b</sup> Based on the average dose to LANL workers who received a measurable dose in the period 1998 to 2000. A program to reduce doses to as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) would be employed to reduce doses to the extent practicable.

<sup>c</sup> Based on a worker risk estimate of 0.0006 latent cancer fatalities per person-rem (see Appendix B).

<sup>d</sup> 10 CFR 835.202.

<sup>e</sup> DOE 1999b.

The average annual worker dose of 110 millirem is well below the DOE worker dose limit of 5 rem (5,000 millirem) (10 CFR 835) and is significantly less than the recommended Administrative Control Level of 500 millirem (DOE 1999b). This average annual dose corresponds to an increased risk of a fatal cancer of 0.000066. In other words, the likelihood of a worker at the CMRR Facility developing a fatal cancer from work-related exposure is about 1 chance in 15,000 for each year of operation.

Based on a worker population of 550 for Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative), the estimated annual worker population dose would be 61 person-rem. This worker population dose would increase the likelihood of a fatal cancer within the worker population by 0.04 per year. In other

words, on an annual basis there is less than 1 chance in 25 of one fatal cancer developing in the entire worker population as a result of exposures associated with this alternative.

## **Hazardous Chemicals Impacts**

No chemical-related health impacts to the public would be associated with this alternative. As stated in the *LANL SWEIS*, the laboratory quantities of chemicals that could be released to the atmosphere during routine normal operations are minor quantities and would be below the screening levels used to determine the need for additional analysis. There would be no construction and operational increase in the use of chemicals as a result of the alternative. Construction workers would be protected from adverse effects from the use of hazardous chemicals by adherence to OSHA and EPA occupational standards that limit concentrations of potentially hazardous chemicals.

### **4.4.9.2 Facility Accidents**

This section presents a discussion of the potential health impacts to members of the public and workers from postulated accidents at the new CMRR Facility under the Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative). Additional details supporting the information presented here are provided in Appendix C.

Under the Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative), CMR capabilities and materials would be relocated to a new CMRR Facility to be constructed at LANL TA-6. The new CMRR Facility would include safety features that would reduce the risks of accidents that currently exist under the No Action Alternative. From an accident perspective, the proposed CMRR Facility would be designed to meet the performance Category 3 seismic requirements, and have a full confinement system that would include tiered pressure zone ventilation and high-efficiency particulate air filters.

## **Radiological Impacts**

**Table 4–24** shows the frequencies and consequences of the postulated set of accidents for the public, represented by the maximally exposed offsite individual and the general population living within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the CMRR Facility, and a noninvolved worker located at a distance of 264 yards (241 meters) from the CMRR Facility. **Table 4–25** presents the accident risks, obtained by multiplying each accident's consequences by the likelihood (frequency per year) that the accident would occur. The accidents listed in these tables were selected from a wide spectrum of accidents described in Appendix C. The selection process and screening criteria used (see Appendix C) ensure that the accidents chosen for evaluation in this EIS bound the impacts of all reasonably foreseeable accidents that could occur at existing CMRR Facility. Conservative estimates were also made for data used to calculate the source terms for low frequency – high consequence accidents (e.g., facility-wide fire) for CMRR Facility alternatives. These included assumptions that the most hazardous form of the radioactive material (e.g., metal, liquid or powder depending on the accident conditions) was present at the time of the accident, all of the material at risk was damaged in the accident (damage ratio = 1.0) and containment and filtration of airborne radioactive material was lost (leak path factor = 1.0). Thus, in the event that

any other accident that was not evaluated in this EIS were to occur, its impacts on workers and the public would be expected to be within the range of the impacts evaluated.

**Table 4–24 Accident Frequency and Consequences under Alternatives 2 and 4**

Accident	Frequency (per year)	Maximally Exposed Offsite Individual		Offsite Population <sup>a</sup>		Noninvolved Worker	
		Dose (rem)	Latent Cancer Fatality <sup>b</sup>	Dose (person-rem)	Latent Cancer Fatalities <sup>c</sup>	Dose (rem)	Latent Cancer Fatality <sup>b</sup>
Facility-wide fire	$5.0 \times 10^{-6}$	4.0	0.002	15,173	9.10	44.98	0.054
Process fire	0.001	0.0023	$1.4 \times 10^{-6}$	8.71	0.0052	0.026	0.000016
Fire in the main vault	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	3.41	0.0020	12,938	7.76	38.3	0.046
Process explosion	0.001	0.0017	$1.0 \times 10^{-6}$	2.37	0.0014	0.08	0.000048
Process spill	0.1	0.002	$1.2 \times 10^{-6}$	3.01	0.0018	0.172	0.00010
Seismic-induced laboratory spill	0.0001	5.54	0.0033	7,920	4.75	453	0.54
Seismic-induced fire	0.00001	1.44	0.00086	5,440	3.26	16.1	0.0097
Facility-wide Spill	$5.0 \times 10^{-6}$	111.3	0.13	158,000	94.8	9,100	1.0

<sup>a</sup> Based on a population of 315,296 persons residing within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the site.

<sup>b</sup> Increased likelihood of latent cancer fatality for an individual assuming the accident occurs.

<sup>c</sup> Increased number of latent cancer fatalities for the offsite population assuming the accident occurs.

**Table 4–25 Annual Accident Risks under Alternatives 2 and 4**

Accident	Risk of Latent Cancer Fatality		
	Maximally Exposed Offsite Individual <sup>a</sup>	Offsite Population <sup>b,c</sup>	Noninvolved Worker <sup>a</sup>
Facility-wide fire	$1.2 \times 10^{-8}$	0.000046	$2.7 \times 10^{-7}$
Process fire	$1.4 \times 10^{-9}$	$5.2 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-8}$
Fire in the main vault	$2.0 \times 10^{-9}$	$7.8 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.6 \times 10^{-8}$
Process explosion	$1.0 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.8 \times 10^{-8}$
Process spill	$1.2 \times 10^{-7}$	0.00018	0.00001
Seismic-induced laboratory spill	$3.3 \times 10^{-7}$	0.00048	0.000054
Seismic-induced fire	$8.6 \times 10^{-9}$	0.000033	$9.7 \times 10^{-8}$
Facility-wide spill	$6.7 \times 10^{-7}$	0.00048	$5.0 \times 10^{-6}$

<sup>a</sup> Risk of increased likelihood of a latent cancer fatality to the individual.

<sup>b</sup> Risk of the increased number of latent cancer fatalities for the offsite population.

<sup>c</sup> Based on a population of 315,296 persons residing within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the site.

The accident with the highest potential risk to the offsite population (see Table 4–25) would be a seismic-induced laboratory spill caused by an earthquake that would severely damage the new CMRR Facility, resulting in with a risk of a latent cancer fatality for the maximally exposed offsite individual of  $3.3 \times 10^{-7}$ . In other words, the maximally exposed offsite individual's likelihood of developing a fatal cancer from this event is about 1 chance in 3.0 million. The dose to the offsite population would increase the number of fatal cancers in the entire population by 0.00048; the likelihood of developing one fatal cancer from this event in the entire population would be about 1 chance in 2,100. Statistically, latent cancer fatalities would not be expected to occur in the population. The risk of a latent cancer fatality to a noninvolved worker located at a distance of 264 yards (241 meters) from the new CMRR Facility would be 0.000054 or about 1 chance in 18,000 of a latent cancer fatality.

*Involved Worker Impacts* – Approximately 550 workers (including security guards) would be at CMRR Facilities during operations. Workers near an accident could be at risk of serious injury or death. The impacts from a process spill accident provides an indication of typical worker impacts during accident conditions. Following initiation of accident and site emergency alarms, workers in adjacent areas of the facility would evacuate the area in accordance with technical area and facility emergency operating procedures and training.

### **Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives Impacts**

Some of the chemicals used in CMR operations are toxic and carcinogenic. The quantities of the regulated hazardous chemicals and explosive materials stored and used in the new CMRR Facility would be well below the threshold quantities set by the EPA (40 CFR 68), and would pose minimal potential hazards to public health and the environment in an accident condition. These chemicals would be stored and handled in small quantities (10 to a few hundred milliliters), and would only be a hazard to the involved worker under accident conditions.

#### **4.4.9.3 Emergency Preparedness and Security Impacts**

There would be no impacts on the emergency management and response program at LANL from the construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility at TA-6. Existing memoranda of understanding among NNSA, Los Alamos County, and the State of New Mexico to provide mutual assistance during emergencies and to provide open access to medical facilities would continue with minor administrative updates. Equipment and procedures used to respond to emergencies would continue to be maintained by NNSA.

#### **4.4.10 Environmental Justice**

*Construction Impacts*—Under Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative), a new CMRR Facility would be constructed at TA-6. As discussed throughout the other subsections of Section 4.5, environmental impacts under all of the construction options would be temporary and would not extend beyond the boundary of LANL. Under Alternative 2, construction at TA-6 would not result in adverse environmental impacts on the public living within the potentially affected area surrounding TA-6, including low-income and minority populations.

*Operations Impacts*—As discussed in Section 4.4.9.1, radiological and hazardous chemical risks to the public resulting from normal operations would be small. As shown in Table 4–22, the health risks associated with these releases would be small. Routine normal operations at the new CMRR Facility would not be expected to cause fatalities or illness among the general population surrounding TA-6, including minority and low-income populations living within the potentially affected area.

Radiological risks to the public that could result from accidents at new laboratory buildings are estimated to be less than 0.004 latent cancer fatalities (see Table 4–25). Hence, the likelihood of a latent cancer fatality resulting from an accident under Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative) would be less than 1 in 250. As described in Section 4.4.9.2, accidents involving hazardous

chemicals or explosives would not result in airborne or water-borne contamination beyond the LANL boundary that would be hazardous to human health.

Residents of Pueblo San Ildefonso have expressed concern that pollution from CMR operations could contaminate Mortandad Canyon, which drains onto Pueblo land and sacred areas. As discussed in Sections 4.4.3, 4.4.5, and 4.4.9, CMR operations under this alternative would not be expected to adversely affect air or water quality, or result in contamination of Tribal lands adjacent to the LANL boundary. In summary, implementation of Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative) would not pose disproportionately high and adverse environmental risks to low-income or minority populations living in the potentially affected area around the new CMRR Facility at TA-6.

#### **4.4.11 Waste Management and Pollution Prevention**

This section presents an analysis of waste management and pollution prevention impacts for Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative).

##### **4.4.11.1 Waste Management**

*Construction Impacts*—Before construction activities would begin at TA-6, LANL's Environmental Restoration Project would perform a radiological survey of the area to determine whether the Potential Release Sites are located in the construction area. Based on these survey results, further actions, including appropriate documentation, and contaminate removal, if necessary, would be completed by the LANL Environmental Restoration Project in accordance with LANL's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. Potential wastes generated from such remediation activities have not been included in this impact analysis, because the type and amount of waste are unknown and cannot be adequately projected. Impacts from the disposal of contaminated soil could be similar to waste management impacts from CMRR Facility operations.

Only nonhazardous waste would be generated from the construction activities to relocate CMR operations and materials to a new CMRR Facility at TA-6. No radioactive or hazardous waste would be generated during construction activities.

Solid nonhazardous waste generated from construction activities associated with the new CMRR Facility would be disposed of at the Los Alamos County Landfill located at LANL or its replacement facility. Approximately 578 tons (524 metric tons) of solid nonhazardous waste, consisting primarily of gypsum board, wood scraps, scrap metals, concrete, steel and other construction waste would be generated from the construction activities. This waste represents about 20 percent of the current annual solid nonhazardous waste generation rates at LANL of 2,860 tons (2,600 metric tons) per year. Management of this additional waste at LANL would be within the capabilities of the LANL waste management program, but additional waste management personnel may be required. The construction debris would be collected in appropriate waste containers and transported to the landfill on a regular basis. This additional construction waste would only increase LANL's proportion of total wastes going to the landfill by three percent.

Sanitary wastewater generated as a result of construction activities would be managed using portable toilet systems. No other nonhazardous liquid wastes are expected.

*Operations Impacts*—The impacts of managing waste associated with relocated CMR operations under this Alternative are assumed to be the same as for Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative). This is because waste generation by CMRR Facility operations would not be affected by the relocation of these activities to new facilities and, therefore, the same types and volumes of waste would be generated. See Section 4.3.11.1, Table 4–16, for waste types and quantities generated by CMR activities. Small quantities of waste would be generated during the transition phase to the new CMRR Facility, resulting from the shutdown of operations in the existing CMR Building, decontamination of equipment prior to movement, packaging of SNM, and preoperational testing activities.

Locating the new CMRR Facility at TA-6 would result in new impacts related to management of radioactive liquid wastes generated during CMR operations. Radioactive liquid wastes would be transferred to the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility in TA-50 by truck transport or via a new pipeline across Two Mile Canyon. Possible transportation impacts arise from additional truck trips on public roads. Possible pipeline impacts include construction costs and disturbance of the pipeline corridor.

#### **4.4.11.2 Pollution Prevention**

At the new CMRR Facility, wastes would be minimized, where feasible, by:

- Recycling;
- Processing waste to reduce its quantity, volume or toxicity;
- Substituting materials or processes that generate hazardous wastes with materials or processes that result in less hazardous wastes being produced; and
- Segregating waste materials to prevent contamination of nonhazardous materials.

#### **4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FOR ALTERNATIVE 3 (THE “HYBRID ALTERNATIVE AT TA-55”)**

This section presents a discussion of the environmental impacts associated with Alternative 3 (the Hybrid Alternative at TA-55). Under Alternative 3, CMR administrative offices and support functions activities would remain in a portion of the existing CMR Building at TA-3, with only necessary structural and system upgrades and repairs. The balance of CMR operations at LANL would be relocated to TA-55 in a new CMRR Facility consisting of one or two buildings that would provide secure laboratory spaces for research and analytical support activities. The buildings would be expected to operate for a minimum of 50 years, and tunnels could or might be constructed to connect the buildings. The impacts from construction and operation of these

proposed facilities are described below. Disposition of the remaining unused portions of the CMR Building is discussed later in Section 4.7.2.

CMR operations at TA-55 under this alternative would be conducted at the levels of activity described for the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*. The Expanded Operations Alternative presented in the *LANL SWEIS* provides the reference point from which incremental effects of this proposed action are measured.

#### **4.5.1 Land Use and Visual Resources**

##### **4.5.1.1 Land Use**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Under this alternative, space within Wings 1, 3, 5, and 7 of the existing CMR Building at TA-3 would be used for the administrative offices and support functions building. Wings 2 and 4 would be decommissioned and used for storage. Since this would not represent a change in the present use of those portions of the building, and would be consistent with current *LANL SWEIS* and *LANL Comprehensive Site Plan* designations of the area for Research and Development, and Nuclear Materials Research and Development, respectively (see Section 3.2.1), there would be no impact on land use under this alternative.

In addition, new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) would be constructed at TA-55. This would disturb 22.75 acres (9.2 hectares) of land during construction. During CMR operations, 9.75 acres (3.9 hectares) would be permanently disturbed at TA-55. Impacts to land use at TA-55 from this alternative would be the same as those addressed in Section 4.3.1.1.

##### **4.5.1.2 Visual Resources**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Under this alternative, there would be no external change to the present CMR Building at TA-3. Thus, there would be no impact to visual resources or the current Class IV Visual Resource Contrast rating.

Visual impacts related to the construction of the new CMRR laboratory building(s) at TA-55 would be the same as those described in Section 4.3.1.2, except the three-story administrative offices and support functions building would not be constructed. The Class IV Visual Resource Contrast rating for the area would remain unchanged.

#### **4.5.2 Site Infrastructure**

*Construction Impacts*—The projected demands on key site infrastructure resources associated with construction under this alternative would be the same as, but less than, those presented for construction under Alternative 1 (Section 4.3.2). Existing LANL infrastructure would easily be capable of supporting the construction requirements for the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) proposed under this alternative without exceeding site capacities. Although gasoline and diesel fuel would be required to operate construction vehicles, generators, and other construction equipment, fuel would be procured from offsite sources and, therefore, would not be a limited resource. Impacts on the local transportation network are expected to be negligible.

*Operations Impacts*—Resources needed to support operations under Alternative 3 would be the same as those presented for Alternative 1 operations. As such, it is likewise projected that existing LANL infrastructure resources would be adequate to support proposed mission activities over 50 years, and that CMR infrastructure requirements under this hybrid alternative would generally approximate those of the Expanded Operations Alternative presented in the *LANL SWEIS* for the CMR Building.

### **4.5.3 Air Quality and Noise**

#### **4.5.3.1 Air Quality**

No change to overall air quality would result from the construction and operation of the proposed new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s). In addition, NNSA determined that the “General Conformity” rule would not apply and no conformity analysis would be required (see Appendix A), because LANL is located in an attainment area for all criteria pollutants and ambient air quality standards would not be exceeded by the proposed action alternatives (see DOE 2000d).

#### **Nonradiological Releases**

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55 would result in temporary emissions from construction equipment, trucks, and employee vehicles. Construction activities would be the same as those described for Alternative 1, except that the administrative offices and support functions building would not be constructed. Criteria pollutant concentrations from construction would be less than for Alternative 1.

*Operations Impacts*—Under this alternative, criteria and toxic pollutants would be generated from operation and testing of an emergency generator at TA-55. Air emissions from CMR operations at TA-55 under Alternative 3 are expected to be similar to or slightly less than for Alternative 1. Air emissions from the existing CMR Building at TA-3 would likely be reduced.

#### **Radiological Releases**

*Construction Impacts*—While no radiological releases to the environment would be expected in association with construction activities at TA-55, the potential exists for contaminated soils and possibly other media to be disturbed during excavation and other site activities. Prior to commencing ground disturbance, NNSA would survey potentially affected areas to determine the extent and nature of any contamination and would be required to remediate any contamination in accordance with procedures established under LANL’s environmental restoration program and in accordance with LANL’s Hazardous Waste Facility Permit.

*Operations Impacts*—Releases of radionuclides under this alternative would be the same as those described for Alternative 1 (see Section 4.3.3.1).



### 4.5.3.2 Noise

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55 would result in some temporary increase in noise levels near the area from construction equipment and activities. Some disturbance of wildlife near the area could occur as a result of the operation of construction equipment. Noise impacts from construction under this alternative would be similar to those described for Alternative 1 (see section 4.3.3.2).

*Operations Impacts*—Noise impacts from CMRR Facility operations at TA-55 are expected to be similar to existing operations at TA-55. Although there will be a small increase in traffic noise and equipment noise (such as heating and cooling systems) near the area, there would be little change in noise impacts on wildlife and no change in noise impacts to the public outside of LANL as a result of moving these activities to TA-55. Noise impacts would be similar to those described for Alternative 1.

### 4.5.4 Geology and Soils

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Construction of the CMRR Facility and its operation would not impact geologic resources at LANL. As discussed previously, new buildings would be designed and constructed in accordance with DOE Order 420.1A and sited to minimize the risk from geologic hazards. Thus, site geologic conditions would be unlikely to affect the facilities over the 50-year operational life expectancy.

The potential also exists for contaminated soils to be encountered during excavation and other site activities. Prior to commencing ground disturbance, NNSA would survey potentially affected contaminated areas to determine the extent and nature of any contamination and required remediation in accordance with procedures established under the LANL environmental restoration program.

### 4.5.5 Surface and Groundwater Quality

#### 4.5.5.1 Surface Water

*Construction Impacts*—Impacts to surface water associated with construction of Alternative 3 would be the same as those presented for Alternative 1 (Section 4.3.5.1). There are no natural surface water drainages in the vicinity of the TA-55 Plutonium Facility Complex and no surface water would be used to support facility construction. It is also expected that portable toilets would be used for construction personnel, resulting in no onsite discharge of sanitary wastewater and no impact on surface waters. Although storm-water runoff from construction areas could potentially impact downstream surface water quality, appropriate soil erosion and sediment control measures and spill prevention practices would similarly be employed during construction to minimize potential water quality impacts.

*Operations Impacts*—Impacts to surface water associated with operation of Alternative 3 would be identical to those presented for Alternative 1 (Section 4.3.5.1). Overall, operational impacts on site surface waters and downstream water quality would be expected to be negligible.

#### **4.5.5.2 Groundwater**

*Construction Impacts*—Groundwater required to support construction activities for Alternative 3 would be similar to, but less than, that presented for Alternative 1 (Section 4.3.5.2). The volume of groundwater required for construction of this hybrid alternative would also be small compared to site availability and historic usage, and there would be no onsite discharge of wastewater to the surface or subsurface. Appropriate spill prevention controls, countermeasures, and procedures would similarly be employed, and no impact on groundwater availability or quality from construction activities in TA-55 would be anticipated.

*Operations Impacts*—Under Alternative 3, buildings housing CMR operations and activities at TA-3 and TA-55 would use the same volume of groundwater as used to support Alternative 1. Therefore, no additional impact on regional groundwater availability would be anticipated. Similarly, no sanitary or industrial effluent would be discharged directly to the surface or subsurface, and no operational impacts on groundwater quality would be expected.

#### **4.5.6 Ecological Resources**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Since the existing CMR Building would continue to be used for administrative offices and support functions, there would be no new development within the already highly developed TA-3. Thus, impacts to ecological resources would not occur within TA-3.

Although less acreage would be disturbed, impacts on terrestrial resources, wetlands, aquatic resources, and threatened and endangered species from the construction and operation of new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55 would be the same as those described in Section 4.3.6.

#### **4.5.7 Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

##### **4.5.7.1 Prehistoric Resources**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—As previously noted in Section 3.8.1, there are two prehistoric sites located within TA-3. However, these prehistoric sites, which the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office has determined to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, would not be affected by the continued use of the existing CMR Building under this alternative.

| There are no prehistoric sites located within TA-55. There is one prehistoric site located near the  
| boundary of TA-55 within TA-48 that is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic  
| Places. This site would be avoided during construction and operation of the CMRR Facility  
| laboratory building(s). If additional prehistoric resources were uncovered during construction,  
| work would stop and appropriate assessment, regulatory compliance, and recovery measures  
| would be undertaken.

#### 4.5.7.2 Historic Resources

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—The use of the existing CMR Building under this alternative would involve internal modifications to the existing structure, which has been modified and changed over the last 60 years. There would be no adverse impact to the eligibility of the CMR Building for possible listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

As noted in Section 3.8.2, there are 10 historic sites located within TA-55. Adverse impacts to historic resources at TA-55 from construction or operation of the CMRR Facility would not be expected. Potential impacts from the construction and operation of new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) to these historic resources would be similar to those described for Alternative 1 in Section 4.3.7.2.

#### 4.5.7.3 Traditional Cultural Properties

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Under this alternative, the existing CMR Building at TA-3 would continue to be used. Thus, there would be no impact to traditional cultural properties within the TA-3 area.

The area at TA-55 proposed to house the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) has not been surveyed for traditional cultural properties. Prior to construction, traditional cultural properties consultations would be undertaken and site removal or avoidance, if needed, would be conducted. If any traditional cultural properties were located during construction, work would stop while appropriate action would be undertaken.

#### 4.5.7.4 Paleontological Resources

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—As noted in Section 3.8.4, there are no paleontological resources present at TA-55 or TA-3. Thus, there would be no impacts to these resources from the use of the existing CMR building at TA-3 and the construction and operation of new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55.

#### 4.5.8 Socioeconomics

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of new buildings at TA-55 to house CMR activities under Alternative 3 would require a peak construction employment level of 300 workers. This level of employment would generate about 852 indirect jobs in the region around LANL. The potential total employment increase of 1,152 direct and indirect jobs represents an approximate 1.3 percent increase in the workforce and would occur over the 34 months of construction. Under Alternative 3, fewer new buildings would be constructed at TA-55 than under Alternative 1 (the Preferred Alternative), but the peak number of construction workers would remain the same, while the duration of construction activities would be shorter. As such, little or no noticeable impact on the socioeconomic conditions of the region of influence would be expected.

*Operations Impacts*—As previously noted in Section 2.7.4, the operational characteristics of the CMRR Facility are based on the level of CMR operations required to support the Expanded

Operations Alternative analyzed in the *LANL SWEIS*. As noted in Table 2–2, CMRR Facility operations would require a workforce of approximately 550 workers. This would be an increase of 346 workers over currently restricted CMR operational requirements, but approximately equal to the number of CMR workers projected for the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*. The *LANL SWEIS* presents a discussion of the socioeconomic impacts from an increase in total employment at LANL under the Expanded Operations Alternative, which includes the contributory affect of expanded CMR operations and an increase in workforce.

Nevertheless, the increase in the number of workers in support of expanded CMR operations would have little or no noticeable impact on socioeconomic conditions in the LANL Tri-County region of influence. Workers assigned to the new CMRR Facility would be drawn for the most part from existing LANL missions, including consolidated AC and MC activities. The contributory effect of the remaining new employment, in combination with the potential effects from other industrial and economic sectors within the regional economic area, would serve to reduce or mask any effect on the regional economy. New LANL employees hired to support CMRR facilities would comprise a small fraction of the LANL workforce (more than 9,000 in 1996), and an even smaller fraction of the regional workforce (more than 92,000 in 1999).

#### **4.5.9 Human Health Impacts**

##### **4.5.9.1 Construction and Normal Operations**

###### **Radiological Impacts**

Alternative 3 involves the continued use of the existing CMR Building in addition to the construction of new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55. The activities to be moved to TA-55 would include most of the activities that would result in routine normal radiological releases identified for Alternative 1. The activities that would remain at the existing CMR Building would be primarily administrative and support functions activities. Therefore, there is no difference between the human health impacts from normal operations associated with this alternative and Alternative 1. These impacts are summarized in Section 4.3.9.1.

###### **Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives Impacts**

No chemical-related health impacts to the public would be associated with Alternative 3. As stated in the *LANL SWEIS*, the laboratory quantities of chemicals that could be released to the atmosphere during routine normal operations are minor quantities and would be below the screening levels used to determine the need for additional analysis. There would also be no construction and operational increase in the use of chemicals as a result of this hybrid alternative. Construction workers would be protected from adverse effects from the use of hazardous chemicals by adherence to OSHA and EPA occupational standards that limit concentrations of potentially hazardous chemicals.

#### **4.5.9.2 Facility Accidents**

This section addresses the potential impacts to workers at the facility and others onsite and the public due to accidents for Alternative 3. Additional details supporting the information presented here are provided in Appendix C.

Under Alternative 3, the existing CMR Building would continue to be used for administrative offices and support functions together with construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55 where CMR capabilities and materials would be relocated. The new CMRR Facility would include safety features that would reduce the risks of accidents that currently exist under the No Action Alternative. From an accident perspective, the proposed CMRR Facility would be designed to meet the performance category 3 seismic requirements, and have a full confinement system that includes tiered pressure zone ventilation and high-efficiency particulate air filters.

#### **Radiological Impacts**

The frequencies and consequences of potential accidents are the same as those described for the new CMRR Facility under Alternative 1 in Section 4.3.9.2. Continued use of the CMR Building for administrative offices and support functions purposes would involve small quantities of radioactive materials, and the consequences of any accident would be dominated by the consequences of postulated accidents at the new CMRR Facility.

#### **Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives Impacts**

Some of the chemicals used in LANL CMR operations are toxic and carcinogenic. The quantities of the regulated hazardous chemicals and explosive materials stored and used in the CMRR Facility would be well below the threshold quantities set by the EPA (40 CFR 68), and would pose minimal potential hazards to the public health and the environment in an accident condition. These chemicals would be stored and handled in small quantities (10 to a few hundred milliliters), and would only be a hazard to the involved worker under accident conditions.

#### **4.5.9.3 Emergency Preparedness and Security Impacts**

There would be no impacts on the emergency management and response program at LANL from the construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55. Existing memoranda of understanding among NNSA, Los Alamos County, and the State of New Mexico to provide mutual assistance during emergencies and to provide open access to medical facilities would continue with minor administrative updates. Equipment and procedures used to respond to emergencies would continue to be maintained by NNSA. Security arrangements for the existing CMR Building would not change.

#### **4.5.10 Environmental Justice**

*Construction Impacts*—Under Alternative 3, CMR administrative offices and support activities would continue in the existing CMR Building, and new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) would be constructed in TA-55. Construction impacts would be less than those presented for Alternative 1 because no new administration building would be constructed. Thus, under Alternative 3, construction at TA-55 would not result in adverse environmental impacts on the public living within the potentially affected area surrounding TA-55, including low-income and minority populations.

*Operations Impacts*—Environmental impacts due to normal operations at the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55 would be identical to those presented for Alternative 1. Routine normal operations at the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) would not be expected to cause fatalities or illness among the general population surrounding TA-55, including minority and low-income populations living within the potentially affected area.

Radiological risks to the public that could result from accidents at the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55 would also be identical to those presented for Alternative 1. Accidents that could occur under implementation of this hybrid alternative would therefore not pose adverse environmental risks to low-income or minority populations living in the potentially affected area surrounding TA-55.

Residents of Pueblo San Ildefonso have expressed concern that pollution from CMR operations could contaminate Mortandad Canyon, which drains onto Pueblo land and sacred areas. As discussed in Sections 4.5.3, 4.5.5, and 4.5.9, CMR operations under this alternative would not be expected to adversely affect air or water quality, or result in contamination of Tribal lands adjacent to the LANL boundary. In summary, implementation of Alternative 3 would not pose disproportionately high and adverse environmental risks to low-income or minority populations living in the potentially affected area around the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55.

#### **4.5.11 Waste Management and Pollution Prevention**

This section presents an analysis of waste management and pollution prevention impacts for Alternative 3 (Hybrid Alternative at TA-55).

##### **4.5.11.1 Waste Management**

*Construction Impacts*—Before construction activities would begin at TA-55, LANL's Environmental Restoration Project would perform a radiological survey of the construction area to determine whether the Potential Release Sites are located in the construction area. Based on these survey results, further actions, including appropriate documentation, and contaminate removal, if necessary, would be completed by the LANL Environmental Restoration Project in accordance with LANL's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. Potential wastes generated from such remediation activities have not been included in this impact analysis, because the type and amount of waste are unknown and cannot be adequately projected. Impacts from the disposal of

contaminated soil could be similar to waste management impacts from CMRR Facility operations.

Only nonhazardous waste would be generated from the construction activities to relocate CMR operations and materials to new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55. No radioactive or hazardous waste would be generated during construction activities.

Solid nonhazardous waste generated from construction activities associated with new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) would be disposed of at the Los Alamos County Landfill located at LANL or its replacement facility. Approximately 263 tons (239 metric tons) of solid nonhazardous waste, consisting primarily of gypsum board, wood scraps, scrap metals, concrete, steel and other construction waste would be generated from the construction activities for the new laboratory facilities. This waste represents about 9 percent of the current annual solid nonhazardous waste generation rates at LANL of 2,860 tons (2,600 metric tons) per year. Management of this additional waste at LANL would be within the capabilities of the LANL waste management program, but additional waste management personnel may be required. The construction debris would be collected in appropriate waste containers and transported to the landfill on a regular basis. This additional construction waste would only increase LANL's proportion of total wastes going to the landfill by three percent.

Sanitary wastewater generated as a result of construction activities would be managed using portable toilet systems. No other nonhazardous liquid wastes are expected.

*Operations Impacts*—The impacts of managing waste associated with relocated CMR operations under this Alternative are assumed to be the same as for Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative). This is because waste generation by CMRR Facility operations would not be affected by the relocation of these activities to new facilities, and therefore, the same types and volumes of waste would be generated. See Section 4.3.11.1, Table 4-16, for waste types and quantities generated by CMR activities. Small quantities of waste would be generated during the transition phase to the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-55, resulting from the shutdown of operations in the existing CMR Building, decontamination of equipment prior to movement, packaging of SNM, and preoperational testing activities.

#### **4.5.11.2 Pollution Prevention**

At the new CMRR Facility, wastes would be minimized, where feasible, by:

- Recycling;
- Processing waste to reduce its quantity, volume or toxicity;
- Substituting materials or processes that generate hazardous wastes with materials or processes that will result in less hazardous wastes being produced; and
- Segregating waste materials to prevent contamination of nonhazardous materials.

## **4.6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FOR ALTERNATIVE 4 (THE “HYBRID ALTERNATIVE AT TA-6”)**

This section presents a discussion of the environmental impacts associated with Alternative 4 (the Hybrid Alternative at TA-6). Under Alternative 4, CMR administrative offices and support functions activities would remain in a portion of the existing CMR Building at TA-3 with only necessary structural and systems upgrades and repairs. The balance of CMR operations at LANL would be relocated to TA-6 in a new CMRR Facility consisting of one or two buildings that would provide secure laboratory spaces for research and analytical support activities. The buildings would be expected to operate for a minimum of 50 years, and roads would be constructed to connect the buildings. The impacts from construction and operation of these proposed facilities are described below. Disposition of the remaining unused portions of the CMR Building is discussed later in Section 4.7.2.

CMR operations at TA-6 under this alternative would be conducted at the levels of activity described for the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*. The Expanded Operations Alternative presented in the *LANL SWEIS* provides the reference point from which incremental effects of this proposed action are measured.

### **4.6.1 Land Use and Visual Resources**

#### **4.6.1.1 Land Use**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Under this alternative, space within Wings 1, 3, 5, and 7 of the existing CMR Building at TA-3 would be used for the administrative offices and support functions building. Wings 2 and 4 would be decommissioned and used for storage. Since this would not represent a change in the present use of those portions of the building, and would be consistent with current *LANL SWEIS* and *LANL Comprehensive Site Plan* designations of the area for Research and Development and Nuclear Materials Research and Development, respectively (see Section 3.2.1), there would be no impact on land use under this alternative.

In addition, new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) would be constructed on undeveloped land within the north central portion of TA-6. This would disturb 22.75 acres (9.2 hectares) of land during construction. During CMR operations, 11.25 acres (4.55 hectares) would be permanently disturbed at TA-6. Impacts to land use at TA-6 from this alternative would be the same as those previously addressed in Section 4.4.1.1.

#### **4.6.1.2 Visual Resources**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Under this alternative, there would be no external change to the present CMR Building at TA-3. Thus, there would be no impact to visual resources or the current Class IV Visual Resource Contrast rating.

Visual impacts related to the construction of the CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6 would be the same as those described in Section 4.4.1.2, except the three-story administrative



offices and support functions building would be not constructed. The Visual Resource Contrast rating for the area would change from Class III to Class IV.

## 4.6.2 Site Infrastructure

*Construction Impacts*—The projected demands on key site infrastructure resources associated with construction under this alternative would be similar to, but less than, those presented for construction of Alternative 2 (Section 4.4.2). Existing LANL infrastructure would easily be capable of supporting the construction requirements for the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6 proposed under this alternative without exceeding site capacities. Although gasoline and diesel fuel would be required to operate construction vehicles, generators, and other construction equipment, fuel would be procured from offsite sources and, therefore, would not be a limited resource. Impacts on the local transportation network are expected to be negligible.

*Operations Impacts*—Resources needed to support operations under Alternative 4 would be the same as those presented for Alternative 2 operations. As such, it is likewise projected that existing LANL infrastructure resources would be adequate to support proposed mission activities over 50 years, and that CMR infrastructure requirements under this hybrid alternative would generally approximate those of the Expanded Operations Alternative presented in the *LANL SWEIS* for the CMR Building.

## 4.6.3 Air Quality and Noise

### 4.6.3.1 Air Quality

No changes to overall air quality would result from the construction and operation of the proposed new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s). In addition, NNSA determined that the “General Conformity” rule would not apply and no conformity analysis would be required (see Appendix A), because LANL is located in an attainment area for all criteria pollutants and ambient air quality standards would not be exceeded by the proposed action alternatives (DOE 2000d).

## Nonradiological Impacts

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6 would result in temporary emissions from construction equipment, trucks, and employee vehicles. Construction activities would be the same as those for Alternative 2, except that the administrative offices and support functions building would not be constructed. Criteria pollutant concentrations from construction would be less than for Alternative 2.

*Operations Impacts*—Under this alternative, criteria and toxic pollutants would be generated from operation and testing of an emergency generator at TA-6. Air emissions from CMR operations at TA-6 under Alternative 4 are expected to be similar to or slightly less than for Alternative 2. Air emissions from the existing CMR Building at TA-3 would be reduced.

## **Radiological Releases**

*Construction Impacts*—While no radiological releases to the environment would be expected in association with construction activities at TA-6, the potential exists for contaminated soils and possibly other media to be disturbed during excavation and other site activities. Prior to commencing ground disturbance, NNSA would survey potentially affected areas to determine the extent and nature of any contamination and would be required to remediate any contamination in accordance with procedures established under LANL's environmental restoration program and in accordance with LANL's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit.

*Operations Impacts*—Releases of radionuclides under this alternative would be the same as those described for Alternative 2 (see Section 4.4.3.1).

### **4.6.3.2 Noise**

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6 would result in some temporary increase in noise levels near the area from construction equipment and activities. Some disturbance of wildlife near the area could occur as a result of the operation of construction equipment. Noise impacts from construction under this alternative would be similar to those described for Alternative 2 (see Section 4.4.3.2).

*Operations Impacts*—Noise impacts from CMR operations at TA-6 would increase from those at existing operations at TA-6. There would be an increase in traffic and equipment noise (such as heating and cooling systems) in the area. The increase of noise from CMR operations at TA-6 could impact wildlife in the area. There would be little or no change in noise impacts to the public outside of LANL as a result of moving CMR activities to TA-6. These impacts would be similar to those for Alternative 2.

### **4.6.4 Geology and Soils**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Construction of the CMRR Facility and its operation would not impact geologic resources at LANL. As discussed previously, new buildings would be designed and constructed in accordance with DOE Order 420.1A and sited to minimize the risk from geologic hazards. No known fault traces are located within the potential TA-6 site for the proposed new CMRR Facility. Thus, site geologic conditions would be unlikely to affect the facilities over the 50-year operational life expectancy.

The potential also exists for contaminated soils to be encountered during excavation and other site activities. Prior to commencing ground disturbance, NNSA would survey potentially affected contaminated areas to determine the extent and nature of any contamination and required remediation in accordance with procedures established under the LANL environmental restoration program.

## 4.6.5 Surface and Groundwater Quality

### 4.6.5.1 Surface Water

*Construction Impacts*—Impacts to surface water associated with construction of Alternative 4 would be the same as those presented for Alternative 2 (Section 4.4.5.1). There are no natural surface water drainages in the vicinity of the TA-6 construction site, and no surface water would be used to support facility construction. It is expected that portable toilets would be used for construction personnel, resulting in no onsite discharge of sanitary wastewater and no impact on surface waters. Although storm water runoff from construction areas could potentially impact downstream surface water quality, appropriate soil erosion and sediment control measures and spill prevention practices would similarly be employed during construction to minimize potential water quality impacts.

*Operations Impacts*—Impacts to surface water associated with operation of Alternative 4 would be identical to those presented for Alternative 2 (Section 4.4.5.1). Overall, operational impacts on site surface waters and downstream water quality would be expected to be negligible.

### 4.6.5.2 Groundwater

*Construction Impacts*—Groundwater required to support construction activities for Alternative 4 would be similar to, but less than, those presented for Alternative 2 (Section 4.4.5.2). The volume of groundwater required for construction would also be small compared to site availability and historic usage, and there would be no onsite discharge of wastewater to the surface or subsurface. Appropriate spill prevention controls, countermeasures, and procedures would similarly be employed, and no impact on groundwater availability or quality from construction activities in TA-6 would be anticipated.

*Operations Impacts*—Under Alternative 4, buildings housing CMR operations and activities at TA-3 and TA-6 would use the same volume of groundwater as used to support Alternative 2. Therefore, no additional impact on regional groundwater availability would be anticipated. Similarly, no sanitary or industrial effluent would be discharged directly to the surface or subsurface, and no operational impacts on groundwater quality would be expected.

## 4.6.6 Ecological Resources

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Since the existing CMR Building would be used for lite laboratory/office functions, there would be no new development within the already highly developed TA-3 area. Thus, impacts to ecological resources would not occur.

Although less acreage would be disturbed, impacts to terrestrial resources, wetlands, aquatic resources, and threatened and endangered species would be the same as those described in Section 4.4.6 from the construction and operation of new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6.

## **4.6.7 Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

### **4.6.7.1 Prehistoric Resources**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—As previously noted in Section 3.8.1, there are two prehistoric sites located within TA-3. However, these prehistoric sites, which the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office has determined to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, would not be affected by the continued use of the existing CMR Building under this alternative.

As noted in Section 3.8.1, one prehistoric site exists within TA-6. Adverse impacts to this prehistoric resource from construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6 would not be expected. Potential impacts to this resource from the construction and operation of new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) would be the same as those described for Alternative 2 in Section 4.4.7.1. If unexpected prehistoric resources were uncovered during construction, work would stop and appropriate assessment, regulatory compliance, and recovery measures would be undertaken.

### **4.6.7.2 Historic Resources**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—The use of the existing CMR Building under this alternative would only involve internal modifications to the existing structure, which has been modified and changed over the last 60 years. There would be no adverse impact to the eligibility of the CMR Building for possible listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

As noted in Section 3.8.2, there are 20 historic sites located within TA-6. Adverse impacts to historic resources at TA-6 from construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) would not be expected. Potential impacts to these historic resources from the construction and operation of new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) would be the same as those described for Alternative 2 in Section 4.4.7.2.

### **4.6.7.3 Traditional Cultural Properties**

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—Under this alternative, the existing CMR Building at TA-3 would continue to be used. Thus, there would be no impact to traditional cultural properties within the area.

The area at TA-6 proposed to house the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) has not been surveyed for traditional cultural properties. Prior to construction, a traditional cultural properties would be undertaken and site removal or avoidance, if needed, would be conducted. If any traditional cultural properties were located during construction, work would stop while appropriate action would be undertaken.

#### 4.6.7.4 Paleontological Resources

*Construction and Operations Impacts*—As noted in Section 3.8.4, there are no paleontological resources present at TA-3 or TA-6. Thus, there would be no impacts to these resources from the use of the existing CMR Building at TA-3 and the construction of new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6.

#### 4.6.8 Socioeconomics

*Construction Impacts*—Construction of new buildings at TA-6 to house CMR activities would require a peak construction employment level of 300 workers. This level of employment would generate about 852 indirect jobs in the region around LANL. The potential total employment increase of 1,152 direct and indirect jobs represents an approximate 1.3 percent increase in the workforce and would occur over the 34 months of construction. Under Alternative 4, fewer new buildings would be constructed at TA-6 than under Alternative 2 (Greenfield Alternative), but the peak number of construction workers would remain the same while the duration of construction activities would be shorter. Similarly, little or no noticeable impact on the socioeconomic conditions of the region of influence would be expected.

*Operations Impacts*—As previously noted in Section 2.7.4, the operational characteristics of the CMRR Facility are based on the level of CMR operations required to support the Expanded Operations Alternative analyzed in the *LANL SWEIS*. As noted in Table 2–2, CMRR Facility operations would require a workforce of approximately 550 workers. This would be an increase of 346 workers over currently restricted CMR operational requirements, but approximately equal to the number of CMR workers projected for the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*. The *LANL SWEIS* presents a discussion of the socioeconomic impacts from an increase in total employment at LANL under the Expanded Operations Alternative, which includes the contributory affect of expanded CMR operations and an increase in workforce.

Nevertheless, the increase in the number of workers in support of expanded CMR operations would have little or no noticeable impact on socioeconomic conditions in the LANL Tri-County region of influence. Workers assigned to the new CMRR Facility would be drawn for the most part from existing LANL missions, including consolidated AC and MC activities. The contributory effect of the remaining new employment, in combination with the potential effects from other industrial and economic sectors within the regional economic area, would serve to reduce or mask any effect on the regional economy. New LANL employees hired to support CMRR facilities would comprise a small fraction of the LANL workforce (more than 9,000 in 1996), and an even smaller fraction of the regional workforce (more than 92,000 in 1999).

## **4.6.9 Human Health Impacts**

### **4.6.9.1 Construction and Normal Operations**

#### **Radiological Impacts**

Alternative 4 involves the continued use of the existing CMR Building in addition to the construction of new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6. The activities to be moved to TA-6 would include most of the activities that would result in routine normal radiological releases identified for Alternative 2. The activities that would remain at the existing CMR Building would be primarily administrative and support functions activities. Therefore, the human health impacts from routine normal operations associated with this alternative would be the same as those associated with Alternative 2. These impacts are summarized in Section 4.4.9.1.

#### **Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives Impacts**

No chemical-related health impacts to the public would be associated with Alternative 4. As stated in the *LANL SWEIS*, the laboratory quantities of chemicals that could be released to the atmosphere during routine normal operations are minor quantities and would be below the screening levels used to determine the need for additional analysis. There would also be no construction and operational increase in the use of chemicals as a result of this hybrid alternative. Construction workers would be protected from adverse effects from the use of hazardous chemicals by adherence to OSHA and EPA occupational standards that limit concentrations of potentially hazardous chemicals.

### **4.6.9.2 Facility Accidents**

This section addresses the potential impacts to workers at the facility and others onsite and the public due to accidents for Alternative 4. Additional details supporting the information presented here are provided in Appendix C.

Under Alternative 4, the existing CMR Building would continue to be used for administrative offices and support functions together with construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6 where CMR capabilities and materials would be relocated. The new CMRR Facility would include safety features that would reduce the risks of accidents that currently exist under the No Action Alternative. From an accident perspective, the proposed CMRR Facility would be designed to meet performance Category 3 seismic requirements, and have a full confinement system that includes tiered pressure zone ventilation and high-efficiency particulate air filters.

#### **Radiological Impacts**

The frequency and consequences of potential accidents are the same as those described for the new CMRR Facility under Alternative 2 in Section 4.4.9.2. Continued use of the CMR Building for administrative offices and support functions purposes would involve small quantities of

radioactive materials and the consequences of any accident would be dominated by the consequences of postulated accidents at the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s).

### **Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives Impacts**

Some of the chemicals used in LANL CMR operations are toxic and carcinogenic. The quantities of the regulated hazardous chemicals and explosive materials stored and used in the new CMRR Facility would be well below the threshold quantities set by the EPA (40 CFR 68), and would pose minimal potential hazards to the public health and the environment in an accident condition. These chemicals would be stored and handled in small quantities (10 to a few hundred milliliters), and would only be a hazard to the involved worker under accident conditions.

#### **4.6.9.3 Emergency Preparedness and Security Impacts**

There would be no impacts on the emergency management and response program at LANL from the construction and operation of the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6. Existing memoranda of understanding among NNSA, Los Alamos County, and the State of New Mexico to provide mutual assistance during emergencies and to provide open access to medical facilities would continue with minor administrative updates. Equipment and procedures used to respond to emergencies would continue to be maintained by NNSA. Security arrangements for the existing CMR Building would not change.

#### **4.6.10 Environmental Justice**

*Construction Impacts*—Under Alternative 4, CMR administrative offices and support functions activities would continue in the existing CMR Building, and new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) would be constructed in TA-6. Construction impacts would be less than those presented for Alternative 2 because no new administration building would be constructed. Thus, under Alternative 4, construction at TA-6 would not result in adverse environmental impacts on the public living within the potentially affected area surrounding TA-6, including low-income and minority populations.

*Operations Impacts*—Environmental impacts due to normal operations at the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6 would be identical to those presented for Alternative 2. Routine normal operations at the new CMRR Facility would not be expected to cause fatalities or illness among the general population surrounding TA-6, including minority and low-income populations living within the potentially affected area.

Radiological risks to the public that could result from accidents at the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6 would also be identical to those presented for Alternative 2, and would not pose adverse environmental risks to low-income or minority populations living in the potentially affected area surrounding TA-6.

Residents of Pueblo San Ildefonso have expressed concern that pollution from CMR operations could contaminate Mortandad Canyon, which drains onto Pueblo land and sacred areas. As

discussed in Sections 4.6.3, 4.6.5, and 4.6.9, CMR operations under this alternative would not be expected to adversely affect air or water quality, or result in contamination of Tribal lands adjacent to the LANL boundary. In summary, implementation of Alternative 4 would not pose disproportionately high and adverse environmental risks to low-income or minority populations living in the potentially affected area around the new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6.

#### **4.6.11 Waste Management and Pollution Prevention**

This sections presents an analysis of waste management and pollution prevention impacts for Alternative 4 (Hybrid Alternative at TA-6).

##### **4.6.11.1 Waste Management**

*Construction Impacts*—Before construction activities would begin at TA-6, LANL's Environmental Restoration Project would perform a radiological survey of the construction area to determine whether the Potential Release Sites are located in the construction area. Based on these survey results, further actions, including appropriate documentation, and contaminate removal, if necessary, would be completed under the LANL Environmental Restoration Project in accordance with LANL's Hazardous Waste Facility Permit. Potential wastes generated from such remediation activities have not been included in this impact analysis, because the type and amount of waste are unknown and cannot be adequately projected. Impacts from the disposal of contaminated soil could be similar to waste management impacts from CMRR Facility operations.

Only nonhazardous waste would be generated from construction activities to relocate CMR operations and materials to new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6. No radioactive or hazardous waste would be generated during construction activities.

Solid nonhazardous waste generated from construction activities associated with new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) would be disposed of at the Los Alamos County Landfill located at LANL or its replacement facility. Approximately 263 tons (239 metric tons) of solid nonhazardous waste, consisting primarily of gypsum board, wood scraps, scrap metals, concrete, steel and other construction waste would be generated from the construction activities for the new laboratory facilities. This waste represents about 9 percent of the current annual solid nonhazardous waste generation rates at LANL of 2,860 tons (2,600 metric tons) per year. Management of this additional waste at LANL would be within the capabilities of the LANL waste management program, but additional waste management personnel may be required.

The construction debris would be collected in appropriate waste containers and transported to the landfill on a regular basis. This additional construction waste would only increase LANL's proportion of total wastes going to the landfill by three percent.

Sanitary wastewater generated as a result of construction activities would be managed using portable toilet systems. No other nonhazardous liquid wastes are expected.



*Operations Impacts*—The impacts of managing waste associated with relocated CMR operations under this Alternative are assumed to be the same as for Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative). This is because waste generation by CMRR Facility operations would not be affected by the relocation of these activities to new facilities, and therefore, the same types and volumes of waste would be generated. See Section 4.3.11.1, Table 4–16, for waste types and quantities generated by CMR activities. Small quantities of waste would be generated during the transition phase to the new CMRR Facility, resulting from the shutdown of operations in the existing CMR Building, decontamination of equipment prior to movement, packaging of SNM, and preoperational testing activities.

Locating new CMRR Facility laboratory building(s) at TA-6 would result in new impacts related to management of radioactive liquid wastes generated during CMR operations. Radioactive liquid wastes would be transferred to the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility in TA-50 by truck transport or via a new pipeline installed across Two Mile Canyon. Possible transportation impacts arise from additional truck trips on public roads. Possible pipeline impacts include construction costs and disturbance of the pipeline corridor.

#### **4.6.11.2 Pollution Prevention**

At the new CMRR Facility, wastes would be minimized, where feasible, by:

- Recycling;
- Processing waste to reduce its quantity, volume or toxicity;
- Substituting materials or processes that generate hazardous wastes with materials or processes that would result in less hazardous wastes being produced; and
- Segregating waste materials to prevent contamination of nonhazardous materials.

#### **4.7 IMPACTS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES**

As previously stated in Chapter 2, overall CMR operational characteristics at LANL would not change, regardless of the ultimate location of the replacement facility and the alternative implemented. Sampling methods and mission support operations associated with AC and MC would not change and, therefore, would not result in any additional environmental or health and safety impacts at LANL. Each of the alternatives would generally have the same number of operational impacts. In other words, all of the alternatives would have the same levels of emissions and releases into the environment, infrastructure requirements would be the same, and the same levels of radioactive and nonradioactive waste would be generated from CMR operations regardless of the ultimate location of the new CMRR Facility at LANL.

Other impacts not previously discussed in this chapter that would also be common to each of the proposed alternatives include transportation impacts (see Section 4.7.1), CMR Building disposition impacts (see Section 4.7.2), CMRR Facility disposition impacts (see Section 4.7.3), impacts during the transition from the CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility (see

Section 4.7.4), and radiological impacts of sabotage involving the CMRR Facility (see Section 4.7.5). Transportation impacts could result from: (1) the one-time movement of SNM, equipment, and other materials during the transition from the existing CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility, and (2) the routine onsite shipment of AC and MC samples between the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 and the new CMRR Facility. Impacts from the disposition of the existing CMR Building and ultimately the CMRR Facility when no longer needed, would result from the decontamination and demolition of the building and the transport and disposal of radiological and nonradiological waste materials. Radiological impacts of sabotage involving the CMRR Facility could result in building damage, loss of material containment and confinement, dispersion of radioactive materials, and population exposure.

#### **4.7.1 Transportation Impacts**

A transportation impact assessment was conducted for: (1) the one-time movement of SNM, equipment, and other materials during the transition from the existing CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility, and (2) the routine onsite shipment of AC and MC samples between the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 and the new CMRR Facility. The results of this impact assessment are presented below for incident-free and transportation accident impacts to the public and workers.

*One-time Movement of SNM, Equipment, and Other Materials*—Under each alternative, SNM, equipment, and other materials would be moved during the transition from the existing CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility. Transport would be conducted within the LANL site. Movement distances would vary among the alternatives, from a very short distance, (about 100 to 300 feet [30 to 90 meters]) for Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) and Alternative 3 at TA-55, to about 3 to 5 miles (5 to 8 kilometers) for Alternatives 2 and 4 at TA-6. Movement of SNM outside of TA-55 would occur on DOE-controlled roads. DOE procedures and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations do not require the use of certified Type B casks within DOE sites. However, DOE procedures require closing the roads and stopping traffic for shipment of material (fissile or SNM) in noncertified packages. Shipment using certified packages, or smaller quantities of radioactive materials and SNM, could be performed while site roads are open. Under current LANL security procedures, the roads used to transport SNM and other radioactive materials under this EIS would have limited public access capability.

*Routine Onsite Shipment of AC and MC Samples*—Under each alternative, small quantities of radioactive materials and SNM samples would be shipped from the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 to the new CMRR Facility for AC and MC operations at either TA-55 or TA-6. This movement of samples would be performed on DOE-controlled roads, or on limited public access roads under current LANL security procedures.

##### **4.7.1.1 Incident-free Transportation Impacts**

*One-time Movement of SNM, Equipment, and Other Materials*—Transport of SNM, equipment, and other materials currently located at the CMR Building to a new CMRR Facility at TA-55 or TA-6 would occur over a period of 2 to 4 years on open or closed roads. The public is not

expected to receive any measurable exposure from the one-time movement of radiological materials associated with this action.

CMR workers could receive a minimal dose from shipping and handling of SNM during the transition from the existing CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility. Based on a review of radiological exposure information in calendar year 2001, the average dose to CMR workers (including material handlers) is about 110 millirem per year. Since the transition to operations at the new CMRR Facility would occur over a 2- to 4-year period, the material handler worker dose would be similar to those for routine operations currently performed at the CMR Building.

*Routine Onsite Shipment of AC and MC Samples*—The public would not be expected to receive any additional measurable exposure from the movement of small quantities of radioactive materials and SNM samples between the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 and the new CMRR Facility. These include metal, liquid, or powder samples of weapons-grade plutonium, plutonium-238, uranium-235, uranium-233, and other actinide isotopes.

CMR workers routinely receive minimal doses from the shipping and handling of SNM samples between the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 and the CMR Building. Estimates of radiation doses likely to be received by CMRR Facility workers (which includes handling, packaging, loading, and unloading) were based on a review of workforce doses at CMR and TA-55 facilities. As previously noted, based on a review of radiological exposure information in calendar year 2001, the average dose to CMR workers (including material handlers) is about 110 millirem per year. Since the distance for shipping small quantities of radioactive material and samples between the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 and the existing CMR Building at TA-3 and shipping to TA-6 are not that different, additional worker dose impacts would not be expected.

#### **4.7.1.2 Impacts From Transportation Accidents**

*One-time Movement of SNM, Equipment, and Other Materials*—Potential handling and transport accidents during the one-time movement of SNM, equipment, and other materials during the transition from the existing CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility would be bounded in frequency and consequence by other facility accidents, for each alternative presented earlier in this Chapter. Once a shipment is prepared for low-speed movement, the likelihood and consequence of any foreseeable accident are considered to be very small.

*Routine Onsite Shipment of AC and MC Samples*—For all alternatives, sample quantities of SNM transported between the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 and the new CMRR Facility would be small. These include metal, liquid, or powder samples of weapons-grade plutonium, plutonium-238, uranium-235, uranium-233, and other actinide isotopes. The *LANL SWEIS* included a bounding transportation accident scenario involving shipments of liquid plutonium-238 samples between the Plutonium Facility at TA-55 and the existing CMR Building at TA-3, which resulted in a calculated dose of 8.7 rem to a maximally exposed individual standing very close to the evaporating liquid for 10 minutes. Under this scenario, a truck accident rate for a closed road under administrative controls was also estimated to be  $8.59 \times 10^{-9}$  per kilometer (*LANL SWEIS*, DOE 1999a). Therefore the accident rate for a 5-mile (8-kilometer) distance (such as the movement of SNM between TA-55 and TA-6) would be  $7.16 \times 10^{-8}$  per

trip. The estimate provided for the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*, assumed that there would be about 240 shipments of liquid plutonium-238 per year. Using this data, the onsite transportation accident risk to the maximally exposed individual member of the public is presented in **Table 4–26** below.

**Table 4–26 Transportation Accident Impacts to the Maximally Exposed Individual Member of the Public**

<i>Factor</i>	<i>No Action</i>	<i>Alternatives 1 and 3 at TA-55</i>	<i>Alternatives 2 and 4 at TA-6</i>
Accident frequency (per year)	$8.85 \times 10^{-8}$ <sup>a</sup>	0 <sup>b</sup>	0.0000172
Dose (rem per year)	$7.7 \times 10^{-7}$ <sup>a</sup>	0 <sup>b</sup>	0.00015
Risk (latent cancer fatality per year)	$4.6 \times 10^{-10}$ <sup>a</sup>	0 <sup>b</sup>	$9.0 \times 10^{-8}$

<sup>a</sup> Values are taken from *LANL SWEIS* under no Action Alternative.

<sup>b</sup> The distance between the Plutonium Facility and the new CMRR Facility at TA-55 would be very short, and no truck would be used.

## 4.7.2 CMR Building Disposition Impacts

As previously discussed in Chapter 2, certain areas within the existing CMR Building, pieces of equipment, and building systems have become contaminated over the past 50 years of operation, with radioactive material and operations involving SNM. These areas include about 3,100 square feet (290 square meters) of contaminated conveyors, gloveboxes, hoods and other equipment items; 760 cubic feet (20 cubic meters) of contaminated ducts; 580 square feet (50 square meters) of contaminated hot cell floor space; and 40,320 square feet (3,750 square meters) of laboratory floor space.

The disposition options for the existing CMR Building include:

- *Disposition Option 1:* reuse of the building for administrative and other activities appropriate to the physical conditions of the structure with the performance of necessary structural and systems upgrades and repairs. No demolition of any portions of the CMR Building would occur under this option.
- *Disposition Option 2:* decontamination, decommission and demolition of selected parts of the existing CMR Building with some reuse of portions of the CMR Building.
- *Disposition Option 3:* decontamination, decommission and demolition of the entire existing CMR Building.

For the purpose of this EIS only Disposition Option 3 is discussed in detail with regard to its potential impacts, because activities associated with this option would have the greatest potential environmental consequence, including generating the largest volume of waste material.

Disposition impacts from the demolition of the CMR Building are discussed qualitatively below for air quality and noise, surface and groundwater quality, ecological resources, human health, and transportation. Quantitative information has not been presented for these resource areas, since project-specific work plans have not been prepared nor has the CMR Building been completely characterized with regards to types and locations of contamination. Preliminary

estimates on the amount of waste material that could be generated by the demolition of the CMR Building are discussed in waste management in this section.

### **Air Quality and Noise**

Removal of the existing CMR Building would result in emissions associated with equipment and vehicle exhaust as well as particulate emissions (fugitive dust) from demolition activities. The demolition effects would be expected to result in elevated concentrations of particulate matter in the immediate vicinity of TA-3. Concentrations of other criteria pollutants would increase but would not be expected to exceed the ambient standards in areas to which the public has regular access. Demolition activities may also result in radiological releases.

Noise levels during disposition activities at the CMR Building would be consistent with those typical of construction activities. As appropriate, workers would be required to wear hearing protection to avoid adverse effects on hearing. Non-involved workers at nearby facilities within TA-3 would be able to hear some of the activities; however, the level of noise would not likely be distracting. Construction noise at LANL is common. Some wildlife species may avoid the immediate vicinity of the CMR Building as demolition proceeds due to noise; however, any effects on wildlife resulting from noise associated with demolition activities would be temporary.

### **Surface and Groundwater Quality**

Little or no effect on water resources would be anticipated. The demolition of the CMR Building would not disturb surface water or generate liquid effluents that would be released to the surrounding environment. Silt fences, hay bales, or other appropriate Best Management Practices would be employed to ensure that fine particulates are not transported by stormwater into surface water features in the vicinity of the CMR Building. Potable water use at the site would be limited to that necessary for washing equipment, dust control, and sanitary facilities for workers.

### **Ecological Resources**

All disposition activities would take place within TA-3, an area that has been dedicated to industrial use since the early 1940s. There are some small trees and shrubs around the CMR Building, but it is mostly roads, parking areas, and concrete pads. Wildlife in the vicinity could be disturbed by demolition activity and noise when the building is razed, building foundation and buried utilities removed, contaminated soils excavated, and waste trucked to disposal sites.

### **Cultural Resources**

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), any adverse effects to Register-eligible properties must be resolved prior to commencement of project activities. In the case of the CMR Building, any of the following proposed actions would constitute an adverse effect: removal of equipment, decontamination, decommissioning, or demolition. In conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office, NNSA has developed documentation measures to reduce adverse effects to Register-eligible properties at LANL. These measures are

incorporated into formal memoranda of agreement (MOAs) between the NNSA and the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division. Typical MOA terms include the preparation of a detailed report containing the history and description of the affected properties. Other terms include the identification of all drawings for each property, the production of medium-format archival photographs, and the preparation of LANL historic building survey forms. Documentation measures included in NNSA MOAs are carried out to the standards of the Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER). Specific levels of HABS/HAER documentation are determined on a case-by-case basis.

## **Human Health**

The primary source of potential consequences to workers and members of the public would be associated with the release of radiological contaminants during the demolition process. The only radiological effect on noninvolved workers or members of the public would be from radiological air emissions. Any emissions of contaminated particulates would be reduced by the use of plastic draping and contaminate containment coupled with HEPA filters. Contaminate releases of radioactive particulate from disposition activities are expected to be lower than releases from past CMR operations.

The demolition of the CMR Building would also involve the removal of some asbestos-contaminated material. Removal of asbestos-contaminated material would be conducted according to existing asbestos management programs at LANL in compliance with strict asbestos abatement guidelines. Workers would be protected by personal protective equipment and other engineered and administrative controls, and no asbestos would likely be released that could be inhaled by members of the public.

## **Transportation**

Demolition wastes would need to be transported to storage or disposal sites at LANL or offsite location(s). Transport of contaminated waste material would present potential risks to workers and the public from radiation exposure as the waste packages are transported along roads and highways. There would also be increased risk from traffic accidents (without release of radioactive material) and radiological accidents (in which radioactive material is released).

## **Waste Management**

The amount and type of waste material that would be generated by the demolition of the CMR Building would be expected to be within the capacity of existing waste management systems, and would not be expected to substantially impact existing waste management disposal operations at LANL. Waste minimization and pollution prevention principles would be used to the maximum extent practicable under DOE policy. It is anticipated that the majority of waste material produced by the demolition of the CMR Building would be solid waste and recyclable materials (about 20,000 cubic yards [15,300 cubic meters]). The amount of radioactive waste material is anticipated to be slightly less (about 16,000 cubic yards [12,200 cubic meters]) (LANL 2003 - *Preliminary Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Disposition Study*, February 11, 2003, LA-UR-03-1122). Solid waste would be disposed of at the Los Alamos County Landfill at

LANL or at a replacement facility. It is expected that the low-level radioactive waste could be transported offsite to commercially-licensed facilities for disposal or disposed of onsite at LANL's TA-54, Area G. For the purposes of this discussion, NNSA has evaluated using both onsite and offsite disposal options for low-level radioactive waste and that the potential environmental consequences of these two waste management disposition options would be bounding.

It is anticipated that most of the low level radioactive waste, including concrete, soil, steel, and personal protective equipment, could be accepted at commercially-licensed offsite waste disposal facilities, and that NNSA would likely pursue this offsite disposal. Some of the low level radioactive waste would be disposed of at LANL's TA-54, Area G. It is anticipated that this amount of material would not affect Area G operations. Therefore, most of the low-level radioactive waste generated by the demolition of the CMR Building, would likely be disposed of at facilities at the Nevada Test Site, the existing commercial facility at Clive, Utah, or other commercial facilities with the capacity to accept this low-level radioactive waste. Using either of these two offsite facilities (or other facilities that may become available in the future when NNSA makes a decision on the disposition of the CMR Building) would result in only a small impact on LANL's TA-54, Area G low-level radioactive waste disposal capacity.

All other wastes generated by the CMR Building disposition activities would be handled, managed, packaged, and disposed of in the same manner as the same wastes generated by other activities at LANL (see Section 3.12). Any contaminated debris that would be characterized as mixed low-level radioactive waste would also be stored onsite at TA-54, Area G pending identification of an offsite treatment and disposal facility. Currently, most of LANL's mixed low-level radioactive waste is sent offsite to other DOE or commercial facilities for treatment and disposal. It is anticipated that the demolition of the CMR Building would likely generate an amount of mixed low-level radioactive waste that would be within the current disposal capacity of both the Nevada Test Site and the commercial facility at Clive, Utah. If either of these sites were closed by the time of the CMR Building demolition, alternate waste disposal facilities would be sought.

Asbestos contaminated radioactive material from the demolition of the CMR Building would be disposed of in a disposal cell in TA-54, Area G, which is dedicated to the disposal of radioactively contaminated asbestos waste. It is anticipated that the amount of this material would be within the current capacity of the disposal cell. Asbestos that is not radiologically contaminated would be packaged and sent to the LANL asbestos transfer station for shipment offsite to a permitted asbestos disposal facility along with other asbestos waste generated at LANL. It is anticipated that the amount of asbestos generated by the demolition of the CMR Building would not exceed the disposal capacity of existing facilities.

Some of the wastes generated from the CMR Building disposition activities would be considered residual radioactive material. Some of these materials can be recycled or reused as backfill, or topsoil cover. Steel and lead could be stored, reused, or recycled at LANL to the extent practicable and in accordance with DOE policy. It is not expected that the amount of lead would be beyond the management or storage capacity at LANL. Any radioactive liquid waste generated during disposition activities would be transferred to the RLWTF at TA-50 at LANL for

treatment. It is anticipated that the amount of radioactive liquid waste from the demolition of the CMR Building would be well within the treatment and disposal capacity of the RLWTF. No affect on RLWTF is anticipated.

Although not anticipated, any hazardous waste generated during the demolition of the CMR Building would be handled, packaged, and disposed of according to LANL's hazardous waste management program. The amount is expected to be well within the management capacity of LANL's hazardous waste management and disposal program.

#### **4.7.3 Disposition of the CMRR Facility**

The ultimate disposition of the new CMRR Facility would be considered at the end of its design life-time operation of at least 50 years. It is anticipated that the impacts from the disposition of the CMRR Facility would be similar to those discussed for the disposition of the existing CMR Building.

#### **4.7.4 Impacts During the Transition from the CMR Building to the New CMRR Facility**

During a four-year transition period, CMR operations at the existing CMR Building would be moved to the new CMRR Facility. During this time both CMR facilities would be operating, although at reduced levels. At the existing CMR Building, where restrictions would remain in effect, operations would decrease as CMR operations move to the new CMRR Facility. At the new CMRR Facility, levels of CMR operations would increase as the facility becomes fully operational. In addition, the transport of routine onsite shipment of AC and MC samples would continue to take place while both facilities are operating. Transportation impacts from the one-time movement of SNM, equipment, and other materials from the CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility and the routine onsite shipment of AC and MC samples are discussed in Section 4.7.1. With both facilities operating at reduced levels at the same time, the combined demand for electricity, water, and manpower to support transition activities during this period may be higher than what would be required by the separate facilities. Nevertheless, the combined total impacts during this transition phase from both these facilities would be expected to be less than the impacts attributed to the Expanded Operations Alternative and the level of CMR operations analyzed in the *LANL SWEIS*.

Also during the transition phase, the risk of accidents would be changing at both the existing CMR Building and the new CMRR Facility. At the existing CMR Building, the radiological material at risk and associated operations and storage would decline as material and equipment are transferred to the new CMRR Facility. This would have the positive effect of reducing the risk of accidents at the CMR Building. Conversely, at the new CMRR Facility, as the amount of radioactive material at risk and associated operations increases to full operations, the risk of accidents would also increase. However, the improvements in design and technology at the new CMRR Facility would also have a positive effect of reducing overall accident risks when compared to the accident risks at the existing CMR Building. The expected net effect of both of these facilities operating at the same time during the transition period would be for the risk of accidents to be lower than the accident risks at either the existing CMR Building or the fully operational new CMRR Facility. Transportation accident impacts from the one-time movement



of SNM, equipment, and other materials from the CMR Building to the new CMRR Facility and the routine onsite shipment of AC and MC samples are discussed in Section 4.7.1.2.

#### 4.7.5 Radiological Impacts of Sabotage Involving the CMRR Facility

An act of sabotage involving the CMRR Facility is not predictable, although the possibility cannot be dismissed. Furthermore, the nature of such an act and the extent of damage can be postulated to cover a wide range of possibilities. If an act of sabotage were directed at the CMRR Facility with the intent of releasing radioactive materials, it could involve building damage including loss of material containment and confinement followed by the dispersion of radioactive materials and exposure of the population.

The consequences of an act of sabotage have not been analyzed in this EIS. However, the consequences of a facility-wide spill and facility-wide fire involving the entire CMRR Facility's radioactive material inventory have been provided. These accidents, along with a vault spill accident, were determined to have the greatest potential consequences. To the extent that an act of sabotage could involve the entire CMRR Facility's radioactive material inventory, it would be expected that the consequences would be similar. In addition, there would be no large inventories of hazardous chemicals at the CMRR Facility. A discussion of severe accident scenarios and their consequences for the CMRR Facility can be found in Appendix C.4 and C.5, respectively.

#### 4.8 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

As previously discussed in Chapter 4, impacts associated with the Expanded Operations Alternative presented in the *LANL SWEIS* provide the reference point from which incremental effects of the proposed action at LANL are measured. In this section, the projected incremental environmental impacts of constructing a new CMRR Facility at TA-55 were added to the environmental impacts of other present and reasonably foreseeable future actions to determine cumulative impacts at LANL.

Most present and reasonably foreseeable future actions planned for LANL were addressed in the *LANL SWEIS* and were included in the impacts discussed for Alternative 1 presented in Section 4.4. However, a number of NNSA proposed actions affecting LANL and TA-55 have been identified since the publication of the *LANL SWEIS* in January 1999. Impacts resulting from these actions were or will be addressed in the following environmental documents:

- *Special Environmental Analysis for the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration: Actions Taken in Response to the Cerro Grande Fire at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE/SEA-03) (DOE 2000b)
- *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Construction and Operation of a New Interagency Emergency Operations Center at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE/EA-1376) (DOE 2001)

- *Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Disposition of the Omega West Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE/EA-1410) (DOE 2002a)
- *Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Future Disposition of Certain Cerro Grande Fire Flood and Sediment Retention Structures at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE/EA-1408) (DOE 2002c)
- *Environmental Assessment for Proposed Access Control and Traffic Improvements at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE/EA-1429) (DOE 2002d)
- *Environmental Assessment for the Installation and Operation of Combustion Turbine Generators at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE/EA-1430) (DOE 2002g)
- *Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Relocation of Technical Area 18 Capabilities and Materials at the Los Alamos National Laboratory* (DOE/EIS-319) (DOE 2002e)
- | • *Environmental Assessment for Partial Conversion of an Existing TA-55 Building into a Nondestructive Examination Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE/EA-1428).
- | • *Environmental Assessment for the Proposal Issuance of a Special Use Permit to the Incorporated County of Los Alamos for the Development and Operation of a New Solid Waste Landfill at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE/EA-1460).

| In addition, DOE NNSA recently published a *Draft Supplemental Programmatic EIS on Stockpile and Stewardship for a Modern Pit Facility (MPF EIS)* (DOE/EIS-236-S2) (DOE 2003b). This MPF EIS will support two decisions: (1) whether to proceed with the Modern Pit Facility (MPF), and (2) if so, where to locate the MPF. LANL is one of the potential locations for the MPF, evaluated in the MPF EIS. The MPF EIS also evaluates the reasonability of upgrading existing LANL facilities to increase pit production capacity. The contributory effect of this action at LANL is discussed in this section.

These completed and ongoing actions at LANL were identified and discussed in Sections 1.6.1 and 1.6.2, respectively. Impacts from these actions were factored into the estimates of total cumulative impacts, where possible, for the 50-year operating period for the potentially affected resource areas presented in this section. The potential cumulative impacts of present and reasonably foreseeable future actions at LANL in the area of TA-3, TA-6, and TA-55 are discussed below. The cumulative impacts of relocating CMR operations to TA-55 are not expected to exceed the level of operations and impacts described by the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*.

In this section, cumulative site impacts are presented only for those “resources” that reasonably could be expected to be affected by the proposed action. These include site infrastructure

requirements, air quality, human health, and waste management. The methodology for assessing cumulative impacts is presented in Appendix A.

*Site Infrastructure Requirement Impacts*—As previously discussed in Section 4.4.2, site electrical capacity in terms of peak load demand and available site water capacity could be exceeded in the future, even in the absence of any new demands associated with expanded CMR operations. This potential exists based on the projected infrastructure requirements of the LANL SWEIS Expanded Operations Alternative and the forecasted demands of other non-LANL users. Should these projections be fully realized over the 50-year timeframe analyzed in this document, LANL could cumulatively require 118 percent of the current peak load capacity, 95 percent of its total available electrical capacity, and 142 percent of the available water capacity. Thus, additional peak load and water supply capacity would be needed.

Implementation of Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) would account for about two percent of the site's electric peak load capacity, total electrical capacity, and water supply, respectively. A new MPF producing 450 pits per year, if located at LANL, could require another 33 percent of the peak electrical load and 25 percent of the water supply. **Table 4–27** presents the estimated combined infrastructure requirements of operating both a new CMRR Facility and a MPF at LANL. If both facilities were to be located at LANL, the combined electrical demand could exceed the peak load site capacity by 113 percent. However, in the near term no infrastructure capacity constraints are anticipated, as LANL operational demands to date on key infrastructure resources, including electricity and water, have been well below projected levels and well within site capacities.

**Table 4–27 Estimated Combined Infrastructure Requirements at LANL**

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Site Capacity</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Current site Requirement</i> <sup>a</sup>	<i>Available Site Capacity</i> <sup>b</sup>	<i>CMRR EIS Alternative 1</i> <sup>b</sup>	<i>Modern Pit Facility EIS 450 Pits Per Year Alternative</i> <sup>c</sup>	<i>Remaining Capacity</i>
<b>Electricity</b>						
Energy (megawatt-hours per year)	963,600	491,186	472,414	19,272	178,814	274,328
Peak load demand (megawatts)	110	85.5	24.5	2.6	36.5	-14.6
<b>Water</b> (gallons per year)	542,000,000	344,000,000	198,000,000	10,400,000	133,278,810	54,321,190

<sup>a</sup> Date from Table 4–6 *CMRR EIS*.

<sup>b</sup> Date from Table 4–8 *CMRR EIS*.

<sup>c</sup> Tables 5.2.2.2-2 and 5.2.4-1 *MPF EIS* (DOE 2003b).

Source: DOE 2003b.

DOE and NNSA are currently pursuing actions to increase the reliability and availability of electric power at LANL including the construction and installation of new gas-fired combustion turbine generators at the TA-3 Co-generation Complex. This project would increase LANL's onsite electric generation capacity by 20 megawatts by the end of fiscal year 2004 and by an additional 20 megawatts after fiscal year 2007 (see Section 3.3.2). Los Alamos County, as owner and operator of the Los Alamos Water Supply System, is now the primary water supplier serving LANL. DOE transferred ownership of 70 percent of its water rights to the county and leases the

remaining 30 percent. Los Alamos County is currently pursuing the use of San Juan-Chama Transmountain Diversion Project water to secure additional water rights and supply for its remaining water customers. Any potential shortfalls in available capacity would be addressed as increased site requirements are realized.

*Air Quality Impacts*—The contributory effect of expanded CMR operations at the new CMRR Facility on air quality conditions at LANL would be within the levels of concentrations analyzed for the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS*. As such, LANL would remain in compliance with all Federal and state ambient air quality standards. Criteria pollutant air emissions from a MPF and other proposed reasonably foreseeable future actions in combination with expanded CMR operations at LANL would not be expected to result in cumulatively significant impacts. Effects on air quality from associated construction and excavation activities would be temporary and localized.

**Table 4–28** presents the estimated maximum cumulative air quality concentrations at the TA-55 site boundary if both a new CMRR Facility and a MPF were operating. If both facilities were to be located at LANL, the combined concentration of nitrogen dioxide could exceed the 24 hours standard at the TA-55 site boundary. However, this concentration is not likely to occur since the LANL baseline concentrations are based on conservative projections developed for the *LANL SWEIS* Expanded Operations Alternative, and actual air emissions at LANL have remained below the levels projected in the *LANL SWEIS*. The cumulative concentrations of the other criteria pollutants, including the annual standard for nitrogen dioxide, would remain in compliance with Federal and state ambient air quality standards and guidelines. Effects on air quality from associated construction and excavation activities would be temporary and localized.

*Public and Occupational Health and Safety – Normal Operations Impacts*—Cumulative impacts in terms of radiation exposure to the public and workers at LANL would be expected to remain within the level of impacts forecasted under the Expanded Operations Alternative described in the *LANL SWEIS*. There would be no increase expected in the number of latent cancer fatalities in the population from site operations if CMR and MPF operations were both located at LANL. The dose limits for individual members of the public are given in DOE Order 5400.5. As discussed in that Order, the dose limit from airborne emissions is 10 millirem per year, as required by the Clean Air Act; the dose limit from drinking water is 4 millirem per year, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act; and the dose limit from all pathways combined is 100 millirem per year. Therefore, the dose to the maximally exposed offsite individual would be expected to remain well within the regulatory limits. No increase in the number of latent cancer fatalities among onsite workers would be expected due to radiation from CMR and MPF operations, regardless of location, over the 50-year operating period. The contribution to cumulative public and occupational health and safety impacts from other proposed actions at LANL is expected to be minor.

**Table 4–28 Estimated Maximum Cumulative Air Quality Concentrations at the TA-55 Site Boundary (micrograms per cubic meter)**

<i>Criteria Pollutant</i>	<i>Averaging Period</i>	<i>Most Stringent Standard or Guideline<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>LANL Baseline<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>CMRR EIS Alternative 1<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>MPF EIS 450 Pits Per Year Alternative<sup>d</sup></i>	<i>Cumulative Concentrations</i>
Carbon monoxide	8 Hours	7,800	1,440	53.2	12	1,505.2
	1Hour	11,700	2,701	23.9	17	2,741.9
Nitrogen dioxide	Annual	73.7	9	0.0182	5.7	14.7
	24 Hours	147	90	45.1	28.7	163.8
PM <sub>10</sub>	Annual	50	1	0.001	0.17	1.2
	24 Hours	150	9	1.39	0.84	11.2
Sulfur dioxide	Annual	41	18	0.0113	0.42	18.4
	24 Hours	205	130	28.1	2.1	160.2
	3 Hours	1,030	254	207	4.8	465.8
Total suspended particulates	Annual	60	2	0.001	0.46	2.5
	24 Hours	150	18	2.43	2.3	22.7

PM<sub>10</sub> = particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter.

<sup>a</sup> The more stringent of the Federal and state standards is presented if both exist for the averaging period. The NAAQA (40 CFR 50), other than those for ozone, particulate matter, and lead, and those based on annual averages, are not to be exceeded more than once per year. The annual arithmetic mean PM<sub>10</sub> standard is attained when the expected annual arithmetic mean concentration is less than or equal to the standard. Standards and monitored values for pollutants other than particulate matter are stated in parts per million (ppm). These values have been converted to micrograms per cubic meter (Fg/m<sup>3</sup>) with appropriate corrections for temperature (21 degrees C [60 degrees F]) and pressure (elevation 7,005 feet [2,135 meters]) following New Mexico dispersion modeling guidelines (revised 1998) (NMAQB 1998).

<sup>b</sup> Based on the Expanded Operations Alternative in the *LANL SWEIS* (see also Table 3–5 of this EIS). The annual concentrations were analyzed at locations to which the public has access – the site boundary or nearby sensitive areas. Short-term concentrations were analyzed at the site boundary and at the fence line of certain TAs to which the public has short access.

<sup>c</sup> Data from Table 4–10 of this EIS.

<sup>d</sup> Data from Table 5.2.3.1–3 of the *MPF EIS* (DOE 2003b).

Sources: DOE 1999a, DOE 2003b.

**Waste Management Impacts**—Cumulative amounts of waste generated at LANL from CMR operations would remain within the levels forecast under the Expanded Operations Alternative described in the *LANL SWEIS*. **Table 4–29** presents the estimated annual amount of radioactive waste that would be generated at LANL if both a new CMRR Facility and a MPF were operating. If both of these facilities were to be located at LANL, the total amount of transuranic waste generated could exceed the amount of transuranic waste projected in the *LANL SWEIS* by at least 300 percent. The other estimated amounts of radioactive waste would be expected to remain within the volumes projected for the *LANL SWEIS*. However, it is unlikely that increased CMRR Facility and MPF or upgraded plutonium facility operations would have a major impact on waste management at LANL, because sufficient capacity exists to manage waste from these operations. Nevertheless, the contribution to cumulative waste management impacts from other proposed actions at LANL, particularly the overall waste generation at LANL during the next 10 years from the disposition of buildings and environmental restoration efforts, could be large. Construction and demolition wastes would be recycled and reused to the extent practicable. Existing waste treatment and disposal facilities would be used according to specific waste types. Solid wastes would be disposed of at the Los Alamos County Landfill or other appropriate permitted solid waste landfills. Demolition wastes would similarly be disposed of at appropriate facilities. In addition, the impacts from the transportation and disposition of wastes generated by CMR operations under the Expanded Operations Alternative have already been evaluated in the *LANL SWEIS*.

**Table 4–29 Estimated Annual Cumulative Radioactive Waste Generated at LANL (cubic yards)**

<i>Waste Type</i>	<i>LANL Baseline Operations<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>CMRR EIS Alternative 1<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Modern Pit Facility EIS 450 Pits Per Year Alternative<sup>c</sup></i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>LANL SWEIS Projected Total<sup>d</sup></i>
Transuranic	150	61	1,478	1,689	556
Mixed transuranic	33	27	Not available	60	160
Low-level radioactive	2,497	2,640	6,579	11,716	16,009
Mixed low-level radioactive	121	26	5	152	828

<sup>a</sup> Data from Table 3–15 *CMRR EIS* (see also *LANL SWEIS*, Table 4.9.3.3–1, based on historical LANL waste generation ranges and annual baseline generation rates [1990 through 1995] less the contribution from the CMR Building).

<sup>b</sup> Data from Table 4–16 *CMRR EIS* (see also *LANL SWEIS*, Table 5.3.9.3–1).

<sup>c</sup> Data from Table 5.2.13.2–2 *MPF EIS* (DOE 2003b).

<sup>d</sup> Data from Table 4–16 *CMRR EIS* (see also *LANL SWEIS*, Table 5.3.9.3–1) based on *LANL SWEIS* Expanded Operations Alternative.

Source: DOE 2003b.

As previously noted, transuranic wastes generated during the operational phases of the CMRR Facility would be within the level of impacts forecast under the Expanded Operations Alternative described in the *LANL SWEIS*, however MPF operations over 50 years, depending upon the manufacturing level, could result in the generation of very large amounts of TRU waste. The available capacity of WIPP, or the new capacity of its replacement facility, is expected to be sufficient to accommodate the estimated cumulative volumes of TRU waste from CMRR, MPF, and other DOE facility operations.

#### 4.9 MITIGATION MEASURES

Following the completion of an EIS and its associated Record of Decision, NNSA is required to prepare a Mitigation Action Plan that addresses any mitigation commitments expressed in the Record of Decision (10 CFR 1021.331). The Mitigation Action Plan would explain how certain measures would be planned and implemented to mitigate any adverse environmental impacts identified in the Record of Decision. The Mitigation Action Plan would be prepared before NNSA would take any action requiring mitigation.

Based on the analyses of the environmental consequences resulting from the proposed action, no mitigation measures would be necessary since all potential environmental impacts would be substantially below acceptable levels of promulgated standards. Activities associated with the proposed construction of the new CMRR Facility would follow standard procedures for minimizing construction impacts to air and surface water quality, noise, operational and public health and safety, and accident prevention. These practices are required by Federal and state licensing and permitting requirements, as discussed in Chapter 5.

#### 4.10 RESOURCE COMMITMENTS

This section describes the unavoidable adverse environmental impacts that could result from the proposed action; the relationship between short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity; and irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources. Unavoidable adverse environmental impacts are impacts that would

occur after implementation of all feasible mitigation measures. The relationship between short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity addresses issues associated with the condition and maintenance of existing environmental resources used to support the proposed action and the utility of these resources after their use. Resources that would be irreversibly and irretrievably committed are those that cannot be recovered or recycled and those that are consumed or reduced to unrecoverable forms.

#### **4.10.1 Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Impacts**

Implementing the alternatives considered in this EIS would result in unavoidable adverse impacts on the human environment. In general, these impacts are expected to be minimal and would come from incremental impacts attributed to the operations of either the existing CMR Building or new CMRR buildings at LANL.

CMR operations at LANL would result in unavoidable radiation exposure to workers and the general public. Workers would be exposed to radiation and other chemicals associated with analytical chemistry, and materials characterization, uranium processing, actinide research and processing and fabrication and metallography. The incremental annual dose contribution from CMR operations to the maximally exposed offsite individual, general population, and workers is discussed in Sections 4.2.9, 4.3.9, 4.4.9, 4.5.9, and 4.6.9.

The generation of fission products would also be unavoidable. Any other waste generated during operations would be collected, treated and stored, and eventually removed for suitable recycling or disposal in accordance with applicable EPA regulations.

CMR operations in new CMRR Facility buildings at LANL have minimal unavoidable adverse impacts related to air emissions. Air emissions would include various chemical or radiological constituents in the routine emissions typical of nuclear facility operations, although CMR activities do not release major emissions to the atmosphere at the laboratory. Air emissions at LANL would occur regardless of CMR activities. These routine impacts have been addressed in various LANL NEPA documents. Overall air quality at LANL would not be changed by implementing any of the alternatives analyzed in this EIS. The decontamination and decommissioning of the CMR Building would result in the one-time generation of radioactive and non-radioactive waste material that could affect storage requirements. This would be an unavoidable impact on the amount of available and anticipated storage space and the requirements of disposal facilities at LANL.

Temporary construction impacts associated with the construction of the new CMRR Facility at LANL would also be unavoidable. These impacts would include the generation of fugitive dust, noise, and increased construction vehicle traffic.

#### **4.10.2 Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of the Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity**

Implementation of the alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, would cause short-term commitments of resources and would permanently commit certain resources (such as energy).

For each alternative, the short-term use of resources would result in potential long-term benefits to the environment and the enhancement of long-term productivity by decreasing overall health risks to workers, the public, and the surrounding environment by reducing their exposure to hazardous and radioactive substances.

Under the No Action Alternative, environmental resources have already been committed to operations at the CMR Building. This commitment would serve to maintain existing environmental conditions with little or no impact on the long-term productivity of the environment.

Under the proposed action, overall CMR operations would not change from those operations described by the *LANL SWEIS Expanded Operations Alternative* for the CMR Building. Therefore, each of the alternatives would exhibit similar relationships between local short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, with minimal differences in resource commitments. The short-term use of environmental resources at LANL would be greater than for the No Action Alternative. The short-term commitments of resources would include the space and materials required to construct new buildings, the commitment of new operations support facilities, transportation, and other disposal resources and materials for CMR operations. Workers, the public, and the environment would be exposed to increased amounts of hazardous and radioactive materials over the short term from the relocation of CMR operations and the associated materials, including process emissions and the handling of waste from equipment refurbishment.

Regardless of location, air emissions associated with the new CMRR Facility would introduce small amounts of radiological and nonradiological constituents to the air of the regions around LANL. Over the 50-year operating period, these emissions would result in additional loading and exposure, but would not impact compliance with air quality or radiation exposure standards at LANL. There would be no significant residual environmental effects on long-term environmental viability.

The management and disposal of sanitary solid waste and nonrecyclable radiological waste over the project's life would require a small increase in energy and space at LANL treatment, storage, or disposal facilities or their replacement offsite disposal facilities. Regardless of the location, the land required to meet the solid waste needs would require a long-term commitment of terrestrial resources. Upon the closure of the CMR Building and the new CMRR Facility, NNSA could decontaminate and decommission the buildings and equipment and restore them to brown-field sites, which could be available for future reuse.

Regardless of location, continued employment, expenditures, and tax revenues generated during the implementation of any of the alternatives would directly benefit the local, regional, and state economies over the short term. Long-term economic productivity could be facilitated by local governments investing project-generated tax revenues into infrastructure and other required services.

The short-term resources needed to operate the new CMRR Facility at LANL would not affect the long-term productivity of the laboratory.



### 4.10.3 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources for each alternative, including the No Action Alternative, potentially would include mineral resources during the life of the project and energy and water used in operating the existing CMR Building and the new CMRR Facility. The commitments of capital, energy, labor, and materials during the implementation of the alternatives generally would be irreversible.

Energy expended would be in the form of fuel for equipment and vehicles, electricity for facility operations, and human labor. The energy consumption of facilities to support CMR operations would be a small fraction of the total energy used at the laboratory. None of the alternatives evaluated in this EIS would require significantly higher or lower energy consumption. CMR operations would generate nonrecyclable waste streams, such as radiological and nonradiological solid waste and some wastewater. However, certain materials and equipment used during operations could be recycled when the buildings are decontaminated and decommissioned.

The implementation of the alternatives considered in this EIS, including the No Action Alternative, would require water, electricity, and diesel fuel. Water would be obtained from onsite sources. Electricity and diesel fuel would be purchased from commercial sources. These commodities are readily available and the amounts required would not have an appreciable impact on available supplies or capacities. From a material and energy resource commitment perspective, resource requirements would be minimal.

The disposal of hazardous and radioactive waste would also cause irreversible and irretrievable commitments of land, mineral, and energy resources. Hazardous waste and low-level radioactive waste disposal would irreversibly and irretrievably commit land for its disposal. For each of the alternatives analyzed in this document, the No Action Alternative would require the least commitment of land, mineral, and energy resources.

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## 5. APPLICABLE LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Chapter 5 presents the applicable laws, regulations, and other requirements that apply to the proposed action and alternatives. Federal laws and regulations are summarized in Section 5.3; Executive Orders in Section 5.4; U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) regulations and orders in Section 5.5; and New Mexico laws and agreements in Section 5.6. Emergency management and response laws, regulations, and Executive Orders are discussed in Section 5.7. Consultations with Federal, state, and local agencies and federally-recognized American Indian Nations are discussed in Section 5.8.

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, an environmental impact statement (EIS) must consider whether actions described under its alternatives would result in a violation of any Federal, state, or local law or requirement [40 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR)1508.27] or require a permit, license, or other entitlement (40 CFR 1502.25). This chapter provides a baseline summary assessment of major environmental requirements, agreements, and permits that relate to consolidation and relocation of mission-critical chemistry and metallurgy research (CMR) capabilities.

There are a number of Federal environmental laws that affect environmental protection, health, safety, compliance, and/or consultation at every DOE location. In addition, certain environmental requirements have been delegated to state authorities for enforcement and implementation. Furthermore, state legislatures have adopted laws to protect health and safety and the environment. It is DOE policy to conduct its operations in a manner that ensures the protection of public health, safety, and the environment through compliance with all applicable Federal and state laws, regulations, orders, and other requirements.

The various action alternatives analyzed in this *Environmental Impact Statement for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory (CMRR EIS)* involve either the operation of existing DOE facilities or the construction and operation of new DOE facilities, and the transportation of materials. Actions required to comply with statutes, regulations, and other Federal and New Mexico state requirements may depend on whether a facility is newly built (preoperational) or is incorporated in whole or in part into an existing facility. Section 2.5 provides a detailed discussion of these alternatives.

### 5.2 BACKGROUND

Requirements governing the consolidation and relocation of CMR operations arise primarily from six sources: Congress, Federal agencies, Executive Orders, legislatures of the affected states, state agencies, and local governments. In general, Federal statutes establish national

policies, create broad legal requirements, and authorize Federal agencies to create regulations that conform to the statutes. Detailed implementation of these statutes is delegated to various Federal agencies such as DOE, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For many environmental laws under EPA jurisdiction, state agencies may be delegated responsibility for the majority of program implementation activities, such as permitting and enforcement, but EPA usually retains oversight of the delegated program.

Some applicable laws such as NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act require specific reports and/or consultations rather than ongoing permits or activities. These would be satisfied through the legal/regulatory process, including the preparation of the *CMRR EIS*, leading to the consolidation and relocation of CMR operations.

Other applicable laws establish general requirements that must be satisfied, but do not include processes (such as the issuance of permits or licenses) to consider compliance prior to specific instances of violations or other events that trigger their provisions. These include the Toxic Substances Control Act (affecting polychlorinated biphenyl transformers and other designated substances); the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (affecting pesticide/herbicide applications); the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act; and (if there were to be a spill of a hazardous substance) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund).

Executive Orders establish policies and requirements for Federal agencies. Executive Orders are applicable to Executive branch agencies, but do not have the force of law or regulation.

In addition to implementing some Federal programs, state legislatures develop their own laws. State statutes supplement as well as implement Federal laws for protection of air and water quality and for groundwater. State legislation may address solid waste management programs, locally rare or endangered species, and local resource, historic, and cultural values. The laws of local governments add a level of protection of the public, often focusing on zoning, utilities, and public health and safety concerns.

Regulatory agreements and compliance orders may also be initiated to establish responsibilities and timeframes for Federal facilities to come into compliance with provisions of applicable Federal and state laws. There are also other agreements, memoranda of understanding, or formalized arrangements that establish cooperative relationships and requirements.

The alternatives being considered for the consolidation and relocation of CMR operational capabilities and materials are all within the state of New Mexico. Each of the alternatives is located on Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) property controlled by DOE. For a broader review of environmental regulations and compliance issues at LANL, see the 1999 *Final Los Alamos National Laboratory Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement* (DOE/EIS-0238).

DOE has authority to regulate some environmental activities, as well as the health and safety aspects of nuclear facilities operations. The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, is the

principal authority for DOE regulatory activities not externally regulated by other Federal or state agencies. Regulation of DOE activities is primarily established through the use of DOE Orders and regulations.

External environmental laws, regulations, and Executive Orders can be categorized as applicable to either broad environmental planning and consultation requirements or regulatory environmental protection and compliance activities, although some requirements are applicable to both planning and operations compliance.

Section 5.3 of this chapter discusses the major applicable Federal laws and regulations that impose nuclear safety and environmental protection requirements on the subject facilities and might require the facilities to obtain a permit or license (or amendment thereof) prior to initiation of the relocation project. Each of the applicable regulations and statutes establishes how activities are to be conducted or how potential releases of pollutants are to be controlled or monitored. They include requirements for the issuance of permits or licenses for new operations or new emission sources and for amendments to existing permits or licenses to allow new types of operations at existing sources.

Section 5.4 discusses applicable Executive Orders. Section 5.5 identifies applicable DOE regulations and Orders for compliance with the Atomic Energy Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and other environmental, safety, and health requirements. Section 5.6 identifies state and local laws, regulations, and ordinances, as well as local agreements potentially affecting the consolidation and relocation of CMR operations. Section 5.7 discusses emergency management and response laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. Consultations with applicable agencies and federally-recognized American Indian Nations are discussed in Section 5.8.

### **5.3 APPLICABLE FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

This section describes the Federal environmental, safety, and health laws and regulations that could apply to the proposed action and alternatives.

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 *United States Code* [U.S.C.] 4321 *et seq.*)**—NEPA establishes a national policy promoting awareness of the environmental consequences of human activity on the environment and consideration of environmental impacts during the planning and decisionmaking stages of a project. It requires Federal agencies to prepare a detailed EIS for any major Federal action with potentially significant environmental impact.

This EIS has been prepared in accordance with NEPA requirements, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500 *et seq.*), and DOE (10 CFR 1021, DOE Order 451.1B) provisions for implementing the procedural requirements of NEPA. It discusses reasonable alternatives and their potential environmental consequences.

**Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*)**—The Atomic Energy Act authorizes DOE to establish standards to protect health or minimize dangers to life or property for activities under DOE's jurisdiction. Through a series of DOE Orders, an extensive system of standards and

requirements has been established to ensure safe operation of DOE facilities. DOE regulations are found in 10 CFR.

The Atomic Energy Act establishes regulatory control of the disposal of radioactive waste as well as production, possession, and use of three types of radioactive material: source, special nuclear, and byproduct materials. The Atomic Energy Act authorizes DOE to set radiation protection standards for itself and its contractors at DOE nuclear facilities and provides exclusions from U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing for defense production facilities.

The Atomic Energy Act authorizes DOE to establish standards that protect health and minimize danger to life and property from activities under DOE's jurisdiction. DOE manages its facilities through regulations (set forth in 10 CFR 830) and issuance of DOE Orders and associated standards and guidance. Requirements for environmental protection, safety, and health are implemented at DOE sites primarily through contractual mechanisms that establish the applicable DOE requirements for management and operating contractors.

Nuclear safety regulations are found in CFR. Several nuclear safety rules and environmental procedural rules are in effect (for example, 10 CFR 835, "Occupational Radiation Protection"), and more are in final stages of development. Nuclear safety regulations are effective under the schedule and implementing requirements of each rule, regardless of whether they are included in DOE contracts. DOE contractors are also required to comply with all applicable external laws and regulations, regardless of contract language.

Chapter 4 discusses the application of DOE procedures to the management and control of radioactive waste for each alternative. Potential occupational radiation doses and doses to the general public would be well within DOE limits.

**Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*)**—The Clean Air Act is intended to "protect and enhance the quality of the Nation's air resources so as to promote the public health and welfare and the productive capacity of its population." Section 118 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7418) requires that each Federal agency with jurisdiction over any property or facility engaged in any activity that might result in the discharge of air pollutants comply with "all Federal, state, interstate, and local requirements" with regard to the control and abatement of air pollution.

The Clean Air Act: (1) requires EPA to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards as necessary to protect the public health, with an adequate margin of safety, from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a regulated pollutant (42 U.S.C. 7409 *et seq.*); (2) requires establishment of national standards of performance for new or modified stationary sources of atmospheric pollutants (42 U.S.C. 7411); (3) requires specific emission increases to be evaluated so as to prevent a significant deterioration in air quality (42 U.S.C. 7470 *et seq.*); and (4) requires specific standards for releases of hazardous air pollutants (including radionuclides) (42 U.S.C. 7412). These standards are implemented through implementation plans developed by each state with EPA approval. The Clean Air Act requires sources to meet standards and obtain permits to satisfy those standards.

Emissions of air pollutants are regulated by EPA under 40 CFR Parts 50 through 99. Radionuclide emissions from DOE facilities are regulated under the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants Program under 40 CFR 61. Approval to construct a new facility or to modify an existing one may be required by these regulations under 40 CFR 61.07.

In compliance with state and Federal programs, the air quality impact analysis conducted for this EIS demonstrated that concentrations of air pollutants during the construction and operation of a new CMRR Facility would not exceed ambient air quality standards, nor contribute to unacceptable increases in pollutant levels. If the new CMRR Facility were to be located in an area designated as nonattainment for an ambient standard or has a maintenance plan for continuing to meet ambient air quality standards, the proposed alternative would be subject to Clean Air Act conformity review. A conformity review serves as a means to ensure that a Federal action does not hinder or interfere with programs developed by state and Federal agencies to bring the area into compliance with ambient air quality standards or continue to meet ambient standards. As described in Section 3.4.2, LANL is located in an attainment area for all criteria pollutants. Although construction and operations of a new CMRR Facility would result in criteria pollutant emissions, a conformity review would not be necessary.

Chapter 4 compares expected releases at each site with applicable standards. Some releases would result from construction activities at those alternatives requiring construction. During operation, small releases would result during testing of emergency diesel generators and from other sources. At both of the potential construction sites, it was found that the magnitude of the releases would not warrant a Prevention of Significant Deterioration analysis.

**Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*)**—The Clean Water Act, which amended the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, was enacted to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s water.” The Clean Water Act prohibits the “discharge of toxic pollutants in toxic amounts” to navigable waters of the United States. Section 313 of the Clean Water Act requires all Branches of the Federal Government engaged in any activity that might result in a discharge or runoff of pollutants to surface waters to comply with Federal, state, interstate, and local requirements.

The Clean Water Act provides water quality standards for the Nation’s waterways, guidelines and limitations for effluent discharges from point-source discharges, and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. The NPDES program is administered by EPA, pursuant to regulations in 40 CFR 122 *et seq.* Sections 401 through 405 of the Water Quality Act of 1987 added Section 402(p) to the Clean Water Act requiring that EPA establish regulations for permits for storm water discharges associated with industrial activities. Storm water provisions of the NPDES program are set forth at 40 CFR 122.26. Permit modifications are required if discharge effluent is altered. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires permits for the discharge of dredge or fill materials into navigable waters.

Chapter 3 discusses existing waste water treatment facilities and the NPDES status at each site. Chapter 4 discusses management of waste water during construction and operation at each of the alternatives. Sanitary waste would be managed by use of portable toilet facilities during construction. During operation, sanitary wastes would be processed through existing facilities

under all of the alternatives. It is anticipated that there would be no new discharges at TA-55 (Alternatives 1 and 3) requiring a new NPDES permit. If the new CMRR facility were to be located at TA-6 (Alternatives 2 and 4), new storm water discharge structures would be constructed requiring a new NPDES permit.

**Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300(f) *et seq.*)**—The primary objective of the Safe Drinking Water Act is to protect the quality of public drinking water supplies and sources of drinking water. The implementing regulations, administered by EPA unless delegated to states, establish standards applicable to public water systems. These regulations include maximum contaminant levels (including those for radioactivity) in public water systems, which are defined as water systems that have at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serve at least 25 year-round residents. The EPA regulations implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act are found at 40 CFR 100 through 149. For radioactive material, the regulations specify that the average annual concentration of manmade radionuclides in drinking water, as delivered to the user by such a system, shall not produce a dose equivalent to the total body or an internal organ greater than 4 millirem per year beta activity (40 CFR Section 141.16[a]). Other programs established by the Safe Drinking Water Act include the Sole Source Aquifer Program, the Wellhead Protection Program, and the Underground Injection Control Program.

Chapter 3 discusses groundwater resources and current groundwater protection programs at each site. Chapter 4 discusses protection of groundwater for each alternative. No alternative would involve a direct discharge to the surface or subsurface of sanitary or industrial effluent.

**Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2021 *et seq.*)**—This legislation amended the Atomic Energy Act to specify that the Federal Government is responsible for disposal of low-level radioactive waste generated by its activities, and that states are responsible for disposal of other low-level radioactive waste. It provides for and encourages interstate compacts to carry out the state responsibilities.

Low-level radioactive waste is expected to be generated from activities conducted under all of the alternatives.

Chapter 3 discusses existing programs for management of low-level waste at each site. Chapter 4 discusses the volume of low-level radioactive waste and its management for each of the alternatives.

**Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*)**—The Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965, as amended, governs the transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous and nonhazardous waste. Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA), that amended the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965, EPA defines and identifies hazardous waste; establishes standards for its transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal; and requires permits for persons engaged in hazardous waste activities. Section 3006 of RCRA (42 U.S.C. 6926) allows states to establish

and administer these permit programs with EPA approval. The EPA regulations implementing RCRA are found in 40 CFR Parts 260 through 283.

Regulations imposed on a generator or on a treatment, storage, and/or disposal facility vary according to the type and quantity of material or waste generated, treated, stored, and/or disposed. The method of treatment, storage, and/or disposal also impacts the extent and complexity of the requirements.

Chapter 3 provides information on the management of hazardous and mixed radioactive waste for each of the alternative sites. Chapter 4 discusses the management of this waste for each of the alternatives.

**Federal Facility Compliance Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 6961 *et seq.*)**—The Federal Facility Compliance Act, enacted on October 6, 1992, amended RCRA. Section 102(a)(3) of the Federal Facility Compliance Act waives sovereign immunity for Federal facilities from fines and penalties for violations of RCRA, state, interstate, and local hazardous and solid waste management requirements. This waiver was delayed for 3 years following enactment for violations of the land disposal restrictions on storage and prohibition (RCRA Section 3004[j]) involving mixed radioactive waste at DOE facilities. This legislation further delays the waiver of sovereign immunity beyond the 3-year period at a facility if DOE is in compliance with an approved plan for developing treatment capacity and technologies for mixed radioactive waste generated or stored at the facility, as well as a DOE Order requiring compliance with the plan.

The Waste Management sections of Chapter 3 and 4 provide information on the generation and management of mixed radioactive waste and the site-specific Orders for each of the alternatives.

**Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13101 *et seq.*)**—The Pollution Prevention Act establishes a national policy for waste management and pollution control. Source reduction is given first preference, followed by environmentally safe recycling, with disposal or releases to the environment as a last resort. In response to the policies established by the Pollution Prevention Act, DOE committed to participation in the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, Section 313, EPA 33/50 Pollution Prevention Program. The goal for facilities involved in compliance with Section 313 is to achieve a 33-percent reduction (from a 1993 baseline) in the release of 17 priority chemicals by 1997. On November 12, 1999, U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson issued 14 pollution prevention and energy efficiency goals for DOE. These goals were designed to build environmental accountability and stewardship into DOE's decisionmaking process. Under these goals, DOE will strive to minimize waste and maximize energy efficiency as measured by continuous cost-effective improvements in the use of materials and energy, using the years 2005 and 2010 as interim measurement points.

Radioactive, hazardous, and nonhazardous waste types may be generated from all the alternatives; if so, efforts would be made to minimize their generation. As discussed in the Waste Management sections of Chapter 3, waste minimization programs are in place at each site to reduce waste and to recycle where possible.



**Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 2601 *et seq.*)**—The Toxic Substances Control Act provides EPA with the authority to require testing of chemical substances entering the environment and to regulate them as necessary. The law complements and expands existing toxic substance laws such as Section 112 of the Clean Air Act and Section 307 of the Clean Water Act. The Toxic Substances Control Act requires compliance with inventory reporting and chemical control provisions of the legislation to protect the public from the risks of exposure to chemicals. The Toxic Substances Control Act also imposes strict limitations on the use and disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls, chlorofluorocarbons, asbestos, dioxins, certain metal-working fluids, and hexavalent chromium.

Activities under all the alternatives would need to be conducted in compliance with the Toxic Substances Control Act.

**Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136 *et seq.*)**—This legislation regulates the use, registration, and disposal of several classes of pesticides to ensure that pesticides are applied in a manner that protects the applicators, workers, and the environment. Implementing regulations include recommended procedures for the disposal and storage of pesticides (40 CFR 165 [proposed regulation]) and worker protection standards (40 CFR 170).

Activities under all of the alternatives would need to be conducted in compliance with this act.

**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)**—The National Historic Preservation Act provides that sites with significant national historic value be placed on the *National Register of Historic Places*, maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. The major provisions of the act for DOE consideration are Sections 106 and 110. Both sections aim to ensure that historic properties are appropriately considered in planning Federal initiatives and actions. Section 106 is a specific, issue-related mandate to which Federal agencies must adhere. It is a reactive mechanism driven by a Federal action. Section 110, in contrast, sets out broad Federal agency responsibilities with respect to historic properties. It is a proactive mechanism with emphasis on ongoing management of historic preservation sites and activities at Federal facilities. No permits or certifications are required under the act.

Section 106 requires the head of any Federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally-assisted undertaking to ensure compliance with the provisions of the act. It compels Federal agencies to “take into account” the effect of their projects on historical and archaeological resources and to give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the opportunity to comment on such effects. Section 106 mandates consultation during Federal actions if the undertaking has the potential to affect a historic property. This consultation normally involves State and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and may include other organizations and individuals such as local governments, Native American tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations. If an adverse effect is found, the consultation often ends with the execution of a memorandum of agreement that states how the adverse effect will be resolved.

The regulations implementing Section 106, found in 30 CFR 800, were revised on December 12, 2000 (65 FR 77697), and became effective January 11, 2001. This revision modified the process by which Federal agencies consider the effects of their undertakings on

historic properties and provides the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation with a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such undertakings, as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In promulgating the new regulations, the Council has sought to better balance the interests and concerns of various users of the Section 106 process, including Federal agencies, State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Native Americans and Native Hawaiians, industry, and the public.

Chapter 3 describes cultural and paleontological resources at each alternative site. Chapter 4 discusses the potential impacts to those resources of each alternative.

**American Antiquities Act of 1906, as amended (16 U.S.C. 431 to 433)**—This act protects historic and prehistoric ruins, monuments, and antiquities, including paleontological resources, on federally-controlled lands from appropriation, excavation, injury, and destruction without permission.

Chapter 3 describes cultural and paleontological resources at each alternative site. Chapter 4 discusses the potential impacts to those resources of each alternative.

**Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, as amended (16 U.S.C. 469 to 469c)**—This act protects sites that have historic and prehistoric importance.

Chapter 3 describes cultural and paleontological resources at each alternative site. Chapter 4 discusses the potential impacts to those resources of each alternative.

**Archaeological and Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)**—This act requires a permit for any excavation or removal of archaeological resources from Federal or Native American lands. Excavations must be undertaken for the purpose of furthering archaeological knowledge in the public interest, and resources removed remain the property of the United States. The law requires that whenever any Federal agency finds that its activities may cause irreparable loss or destruction of significant scientific, prehistoric, or archaeological data, the agency must notify the U.S. Department of the Interior and may request that the Department undertake the recovery, protection, and preservation of such data. Consent must be obtained from the Native American tribe or the Federal agency having authority over the land on which a resource is located before issuance of a permit; the permit must contain the terms and conditions requested by the tribe or Federal agency.

Chapter 3 describes cultural and paleontological resources at each alternative site. Chapter 4 discusses the potential impacts to those resources of each alternative.

**Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)**—The Endangered Species Act is intended to prevent the further decline of endangered and threatened species and to restore those species and their critical habitats. Section 7 of the act requires Federal agencies having reason to believe that a prospective action may affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of the U.S. Department of the Interior or the National Marine Fisheries Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce to ensure that the action does not jeopardize the species or destroy its habitat

(50 CFR 17). Despite reasonable and prudent measures to avoid or minimize such impacts, if the species or its habitat would be jeopardized by the action, a formal review process is specified.

Threatened or endangered species in the regions of each alternative have been identified and listed in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 discusses the potential impact to these species.

**Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*)**—The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended, is intended to protect birds that have common migration patterns between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia. It regulates the harvest of migratory birds by specifying conditions such as the mode of harvest, hunting seasons, and bag limits. The act stipulates that it is unlawful at any time, by any means, or in any manner, to “kill ... any migratory bird unless and except as permitted by regulation.” Although no permit for this project is required under the act, DOE is required to consult with the USFWS regarding impacts to migratory birds, and to avoid or minimize these effects in accordance with the USFWS Mitigation Policy. Chapter 3 identifies species known at each alternative site. Chapter 4 discusses impacts to ecological resources for each alternative.

**Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 668 through 668d)**—The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, as amended, makes it unlawful to take, pursue, molest, or disturb bald (American) and golden eagles, their nests, or their eggs anywhere in the United States (Section 668, 668c). A permit must be obtained from the U.S. Department of the Interior to relocate a nest that interferes with resource development or recovery operations.

The bald eagle occupies or uses portions of LANL. Chapter 4 discusses the impacts to ecological resources of each alternative.

**Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*)**—The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act promotes more effectual planning and cooperation among Federal, state, public, and private agencies for the conservation and rehabilitation of the Nation’s fish and wildlife and authorizes the U.S. Department of the Interior to provide assistance. This act requires consultation with the USFWS on the possible effects on wildlife if there is construction, modification, or control of bodies of water in excess of 10 acres in surface area.

Chapter 3 describes the water resources at each of the alternative sites.

**Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981 (7 U.S.C. 4201 *et seq.*)**—The Farmland Protection Policy Act requires Federal agencies to consider prime or unique farmlands when planning major projects and programs on Federal lands. Federal agencies are required to use prime and unique farmland criteria developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service. Under the Farmland Protection Policy Act, the Soil Conservation Service is authorized to maintain an inventory of prime and unique farmlands in the United States to identify the location and extent of rural lands important in the production of food, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops (7 CFR 657).

Chapter 3 identifies agricultural activities at each alternative site. No cultivated farming is reported.

**American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 1996)**—This act reaffirms Native American religious freedom under the First Amendment and sets U.S. policy to protect and preserve the inherent and constitutional right of Native Americans to believe, express, and exercise their traditional religions. The act requires that Federal actions avoid interfering with access to sacred locations and traditional resources that are integral to the practice of religions.

Chapter 3 describes Traditional Cultural Properties resources known to exist at each site. Chapter 4 discusses the potential impacts to Traditional Cultural Properties resources of each alternative.

**Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000(bb) *et seq.*)**—This act prohibits the U.S. Government, including Federal Departments, from substantially burdening the exercise of religion unless the Government demonstrates a compelling Governmental interest, the action furthers a compelling Governmental interest, and the action is the least restrictive means of furthering that interest.

**Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 3001)**—This act establishes a means for Native Americans to request the return or repatriation of human remains and other cultural items presently held by Federal agencies or federally-assisted museums or institutions. The act also contains provisions regarding the intentional excavation and removal of, inadvertent discovery of, and illegal trafficking in Native American human remains and cultural items. Major actions under this law include: (a) establishing a review committee with monitoring and policymaking responsibilities; (b) developing regulations for repatriation, including procedures for identifying lineal descent or cultural affiliation needed for claims; (c) providing oversight of museum programs designed to meet the inventory requirements and deadlines of this law; and (d) developing procedures to handle unexpected discoveries of graves or grave goods during activities on Federal or tribal lands. All Federal agencies that manage land and/or are responsible for archaeological collections obtained from their lands or generated by their activities must comply with the act. DOE managers of ground-disturbing activities on Federal and tribal lands should make themselves aware of the statutory provisions treating inadvertent discoveries of Native American remains and cultural objects. Regulations implementing the act are found at 43 CFR 10.

Chapter 3 describes Native American resources known to exist at each site. Chapter 4 discusses the potential impacts to Native American resources of each alternative.

**Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 *et seq.*)**—The Occupational Safety and Health Act establishes standards for safe and healthful working conditions in places of employment throughout the United States. The act is administered and enforced by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), a U.S. Department of Labor agency. Although OSHA and EPA both have a mandate to reduce exposures to toxic substances, OSHA's jurisdiction is limited to safety and health conditions that exist in the workplace environment.

Under the act, it is the duty of each employer to provide a workplace free of recognized hazards that are likely to cause death or serious physical harm. Employees have a duty to comply with the occupational safety and health standards and rules, regulations, and orders issued under the act. OSHA regulations (29 CFR 1910) establish specific standards telling employers what must be done to achieve a safe and healthful working environment. Government agencies, including DOE, are not technically subject to OSHA regulations, but are required under 29 U.S.C. 668 to establish their own occupational safety and health programs for their places of employment consistent with OSHA standards. DOE emphasizes compliance with these regulations at its facilities and prescribes, through DOE Orders, the OSHA standards that contractors must meet, as applicable to their work at Government-owned, contractor-operated facilities (DOE Order 440.1A). DOE keeps and makes available the various records of minor illnesses, injuries, and work-related deaths as required by OSHA regulations.

Activities under all the alternatives would be conducted in compliance with this act.

**Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*)**—Section 4 of the Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended, directs all Federal agencies to carry out “to the fullest extent within their authority” programs within their jurisdictions in a manner that furthers a national policy of promoting an environment free from noise jeopardizing health and welfare.

DOE programs to promote control of noise at the alternative sites are discussed in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 discusses the potential noise impact of each of the alternatives.

#### **5.4 APPLICABLE EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

**Executive Order 11514 (Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality, March 5, 1970)**—This Order (regulated by 40 CFR 1500 through 1508) requires Federal agencies to continually monitor and control their activities to: (1) protect and enhance the quality of the environment, and (2) develop procedures to ensure the fullest practicable provision of timely public information and understanding of the Federal plans and programs that may have potential environmental impacts so that the views of interested parties can be obtained. DOE has issued regulations (10 CFR 1021) and DOE Order 451.1B for compliance with this Executive Order.

As previously discussed in Section 5.3, this EIS has been prepared in accordance with NEPA requirements (specifically, 40 CFR 1500 through 1508, 10 CFR 1021, and DOE Order 451.1B).

**Executive Order 11593 (National Historic Preservation, May 13, 1971)**—This Order directs Federal agencies to locate, inventory, and nominate qualified properties under their jurisdiction or control to the *National Register of Historic Places*. This process requires DOE to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the opportunity to comment on the possible impacts of the proposed activity on any potential eligible or listed resources.

Chapter 3 identifies historic resources at each of the alternative sites. Chapter 4 discusses potential impacts to historic resources at each site.

**Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management, May 24, 1977)**—This Order (regulated by 10 CFR 1022) requires Federal agencies to establish procedures to ensure that the potential effects of flood hazards and floodplain management are considered for any action undertaken in a floodplain, and that floodplain impacts be avoided to the extent practicable.

Chapter 3 identifies the delineated floodplains at each of the alternative sites.

**Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands, May 24, 1977)**—This Order (regulated by 10 CFR 1022) requires Federal agencies to avoid any short- or long-term adverse impacts on wetlands wherever there is a practicable alternative.

Chapter 3 identifies the wetlands at each alternative site. Chapter 4 discusses the measures to be taken to protect wetlands where applicable.

**Executive Order 12088 (Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards, October 13, 1978, as amended by Executive Order 12580, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards, January 23, 1987)**—This Order directs Federal agencies to comply with applicable administrative and procedural pollution control standards established by, but not limited to, the Clean Air Act, Noise Control Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, and RCRA.

Activities under all of the alternatives would need to be conducted to comply with this Order.

**Executive Order 12580 (Superfund Implementation, August 28, 1996)**—This Order delegates to the heads of Executive Departments and agencies the responsibility of undertaking remedial actions for releases or threatened releases that are not on the National Priorities List and for removal actions, other than emergencies, where the release is from any facility under the jurisdiction or control of Executive Departments and agencies.

Activities under all of the alternatives would need to be conducted in compliance with this Order.

**Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, February 11, 1994)**—This Order requires each Federal agency to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

The Environmental Justice sections of Chapters 3 and 4 and Appendix F of this EIS provide information that demonstrates compliance with this Order.

**Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites, May 24, 1996)**—This Order requires: “In managing Federal lands, each executive branch agency with statutory or administrative responsibility for the management of Federal lands shall, to the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions, (1) accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and (2) avoid adversely

affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. Where appropriate, agencies shall maintain the confidentiality of sites.”

Chapter 3 identifies Native American resources at each alternative site. Chapter 4 discusses the potential impacts to Native American resources. A TCP consultation for the selected site would be conducted prior to any construction activity.

**Executive Order 13101 (Greening the Government through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition, September 14, 1998)**—This Order requires each Federal agency to incorporate waste prevention and recycling in its daily operations and to work to increase and expand markets for recovered materials. It also states that it is national policy to prefer pollution prevention, whenever feasible. Pollution that cannot be prevented should be recycled; pollution that cannot be prevented or recycled should be treated in an environmentally safe manner. Disposal should be employed only as a last resort.

Activities under all of the alternatives would need to be conducted to comply with this Order.

**Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species, February 3, 1999)**—This Order requires Federal agencies to prevent the introduction of invasive species, to provide for their control, and to minimize their economic, ecological, and human health impacts.

Activities under all of the alternatives would need to be conducted to comply with this Order.

**Executive Order 13123 (Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management, June 3, 1999)**—This Order directs Federal agencies to improve energy management in order to save taxpayer dollars and reduce emissions that contribute to air pollution and global climate change.

Activities under all of the alternatives would need to be conducted to comply with this Order.

**Executive Order 13148 (Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management, April 21, 2000)**—This Order sets new goals for pollution prevention, requires all Federal facilities to have an environmental management system, and requires compliance or environmental management system audits.

Activities under all of the alternatives would need to be conducted to comply with this Order.

## **5.5 APPLICABLE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY REGULATIONS AND ORDERS**

The Atomic Energy Act authorizes DOE to establish standards to protect health and/or minimize the dangers to life or property from activities under DOE’s jurisdiction. Through a series of DOE Orders and regulations, an extensive system of standards and requirements has been established to ensure safe operation of DOE facilities.

DOE regulations are found in 10 CFR. These regulations address such areas as energy conservation, administrative requirements and procedures, nuclear safety, and classified

information. For the purpose of this EIS, relevant regulations include: “Procedural Rules for DOE Nuclear Activities” (10 CFR 820), “Nuclear Safety Management” (10 CFR 830), “Occupational Radiation Protection” (10 CFR 835), “Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act” (10 CFR 1021), and “Compliance with Floodplains/Wetlands Environmental Review Requirements” (10 CFR 1022).

DOE Orders are issued in support of environmental, safety, and health programs. Many DOE Orders have been revised and reorganized to reduce duplication and eliminate obsolete provisions. The new DOE Directives System is organized by series, with each Order identified by three digits, and is intended to include all DOE Orders, policies, manuals, requirement documents, notices, and guides. Existing DOE Orders, that are identified by four digits, are expected to be revised and converted to the new DOE numbering system. The major DOE Orders pertaining to the alternatives of this EIS are listed in **Table 5–1**.

**Table 5–1 Applicable DOE Orders and Directives**

<i>DOE Order/Number</i>	<i>Subject (Date)</i>
<b>Leadership/Management/Planning</b>	
O 151.1A	Comprehensive Emergency Management System (11/01/00)
<b>Information and Analysis</b>	
O 231.1	Environment, Safety, and Health Reporting (09/30/95; Change 2, 11/07/96)
O 232.1A	Occurrence Reporting and Processing of Operations Information (07/21/97)
<b>Work Process</b>	
O 411.1-1B	Safety Management Functions, Responsibilities, and Authorities Manual (05/22/01)
O 413.3	Program and Project Management for the Acquisition of Capital Assets (10/13/00)
O 414.1A	Quality Assurance (09/29/99; Change 1, 07/12/01)
O 420.1	Facility Safety (10/13/95; Change 3, 11/22/00)
O 430.1A	Life Cycle Asset Management (10/14/98)
O 433.1	Maintenance Management Program for DOE Nuclear Facilities (06/01/01)
O 435.1	Radioactive Waste Management (07/09/99; Change 1, 08/28/01)
O 440.1A	Worker Protection Management for DOE Federal and Contractor Employees (03/27/98)
O 451.1B	National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Program (10/26/00)
O 460.1A	Packaging and Transportation Safety (10/02/96)
O 460.2	Departmental Materials Transportation and Packaging Management (09/27/95; Change 1, 10/26/95)
O 461.1	Packaging and Transfer or Transportation of Materials of National Security Interest (09/29/00)
O 470.1	Safeguards and Security Program (09/28/95; Change 1, 06/21/96)
O 470.2A	Security and Emergency Management Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance Program (03/01/00)
O 473.2	Protective Force Program (06/30/00)
O 474.1A	Control and Accountability of Nuclear Materials (11/22/00)
<b>External Relationships</b>	
1230.2	American Indian Tribal Government Policy (04/08/92)
<b>Personnel Relations and Services</b>	
3790.1B	Federal Employee Occupational Safety and Health Program (01/07/93)
<b>Environmental Quality and Impact</b>	



<i>DOE Order/Number</i>	<i>Subject (Date)</i>
5400.1	General Environmental Protection Program (11/09/88; Change 1, 06/29/90)
5400.5	Radiation Protection of the Public and the Environment (02/08/90; Change 2, 01/07/93)
5480.4	Environmental Protection, Safety, and Health Protection Standards (05/15/84; Change 4, 01/07/93)
5480.19	Conduct of Operations Requirements for DOE Facilities (07/09/90; Change 1, 05/18/92; Change 2, 10/23/01)
5480.20A	Personnel Selection, Qualification, and Training Requirements for DOE Nuclear Facilities (11/15/94; Change 2, 07/12/01)
5480.30	Nuclear Reactor Safety Design Criteria (01/19/93; Change 1, 03/14/01)
<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	
5530.3	Radiological Assistance Program (01/14/92; Change 1, 04/10/92)
5530.5	Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (07/10/92; Change 1, 12/02/92)
<b>Office of National Nuclear Security Administration</b>	
5632.1C	Protection and Control of Safeguards and Security Interests (07/15/94)
5660.1B	Management of Nuclear Materials (05/26/94)

## 5.6 APPLICABLE STATE OF NEW MEXICO LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND AGREEMENTS

Certain environmental requirements, including some discussed in Section 5.3, have been delegated to state authorities for implementation and enforcement. It is DOE policy to conduct its operations in an environmentally safe manner that complies with all applicable laws, regulations, and standards, including state laws and regulations. A list of applicable State of New Mexico laws, regulations, and agreements is provided in **Table 5–2**.

**Table 5–2 Applicable State of New Mexico Laws, Regulations, and Agreements**

<i>Law/Regulation/Agreement</i>	<i>Citation</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
New Mexico Air Quality Control Act	New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA), Chapter 74, Environmental Improvement, Article 2, Air Pollution, and Implementing Regulations at New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) Title 20, Environmental Protection, Chapter 2, Air Quality	Establishes air quality standards and requires a permit prior to construction or modification of an air contaminant source. Also requires an operating permit for major producers of air pollutants and imposes emission standards for hazardous air pollutants.
New Mexico Radiation Protection Act	NMSA, Chapter 74, Article 3, Radiation Control	Establishes state requirements for worker protection.
New Mexico Water Quality Act	NMSA, Chapter 74, Article 6, Water Quality, and Implementing Regulations Found in NMAC, Title 20, Chapter 6, Water Quality	Establishes water quality standards and requires a permit prior to the construction or modification of a water discharge source.
New Mexico Groundwater Protection Act	NMSA, Chapter 74, Article 6B, Groundwater Protection	Establishes state standards for protection of groundwater from leaking underground storage tanks.
New Mexico Solid Waste Act	NMSA, Chapter 74, Article 9, Solid Waste Act, and Implementing Regulations Found in NMAC Title 20, Environmental Protection, Chapter 9, Solid Waste	Requires permit prior to construction or modification of a solid waste disposal facility.

<b>Law/Regulation/Agreement</b>	<b>Citation</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act	NMSA, Chapter 74, Article 4, Hazardous Waste, and Implementing Regulations Found in NMAC Title 20, Environmental Protection, Chapter 4, Hazardous Waste	Requires a permit prior to construction or modification of a hazardous waste disposal facility.
New Mexico Hazardous Chemicals Information Act	NMSA, Chapter 74, Article 4E-1, Hazardous Chemicals Information	Implements the hazardous chemical information and toxic release reporting requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (SARA Title III) for covered facilities.
New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act	NMSA, Chapter 17, Game and Fish, Article 2, Hunting and Fishing Regulations, Part 3, Wildlife Conservation Act	Requires permit and coordination if a project may disturb habitat or otherwise affect threatened or endangered species.
New Mexico Raptor Protection Act	NMSA, Chapter 17, Article 2-14	Makes it unlawful to take, attempt to take, possess, trap, ensnare, injure, maim, or destroy any of the species of hawks, owls, and vultures.
New Mexico Endangered Plant Species Act	NMSA, Chapter 75, Miscellaneous Natural Resource Matters, Article 6, Endangered Plants	Requires coordination with the state.
Threatened and Endangered Species of New Mexico	NMAC, Title 19, Natural Resources and Wildlife, Chapter 33, Endangered and Threatened Species, 19.33.6.8	Establishes the list of threatened and endangered species.
Endangered Plant Species	NMAC, Title 19, Chapter 21, Endangered Plants	Establishes plant species list and rules for collection.
New Mexico Cultural Properties Act	NMSA, Chapter 18, Libraries and Museums, Article 6, Cultural Properties	Establishes State Historic Preservation Office and requirements to prepare an archaeological and historic survey and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office.
Environmental Oversight and Monitoring Agreement	Agreement in Principle Between DOE and the State of New Mexico, renewed October 1, 2000	Provides DOE support for state activities in environmental oversight, monitoring, access, and emergency response.
Pueblo Accords	DOE 1992 Cooperative Agreements with each of four Pueblos	Sets forth the government-to-government relationship between DOE and the four closest Pueblos.
Los Alamos County Noise Restrictions	Los Alamos County Code, Chapter 8.28	Imposes noise restrictions and makes provisions for exceedances.
Federal Facility Compliance Order	October 1995 (issued to both DOE and LANL)	Requires compliance with the site treatment plan that documents the development of treatment capacities and technologies or use of offsite facilities for treating mixed radioactive waste.
Draft Corrective Action Order	May 2, 2002 (issued to DOE and LANL)	Investigation and cleanup requirements for waste sites at LANL

## **5.7 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

This section discusses the laws, regulations, and Executive Orders that address the protection of public health and worker safety and require the establishment of emergency plans. These laws, regulations, and Executive Orders relate to the operation of facilities, including DOE facilities, that engage directly or indirectly in the production of special nuclear material.

### **5.7.1 Federal Emergency Management and Response Laws**

**Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (U.S.C. 11001 *et seq.*) (also known as “SARA Title III”)**—This act requires emergency planning and notice to communities and government agencies concerning the presence and release of specific chemicals. EPA implements this act under regulations found in 40 CFR 355, 370, and 372. Under Subtitle A of this act, Federal facilities are required to provide various information (such as inventories of specific chemicals used or stored and releases that occur from these sites) to the state emergency response commission and to the local emergency planning committee to ensure that emergency plans are sufficient to respond to unplanned releases of hazardous substances. Implementation of the provisions of this act began voluntarily in 1987, and inventory and annual emissions reporting began in 1988. DOE requires compliance with Title III as a matter of DOE policy at its contractor-operated facilities.

Chapter 3 describes emergency planning for each alternative site at LANL. LANL has established an emergency management program that would be activated in the event of an accident. The program has been developed and maintained to ensure adequate response to most accident conditions and to provide response efforts for accidents not specifically considered. The emergency management plan includes emergency planning, training, preparedness, and response.

Chapter 4 discusses the impacts of potential accidents for each alternative.

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(I) (also known as “Superfund”)**—This act provides authority for Federal and state governments to respond directly to hazardous substance incidents. The act requires reporting of spills, including radioactive spills, to the National Response Center.

It will be necessary to comply with this requirement for any alternative.

**Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 5121)**—This act, as amended, provides an orderly, continuing means of providing Federal Government assistance to state and local governments in managing their responsibilities to alleviate suffering and damage resulting from disasters. The President, in response to a state governor’s request, may declare an “emergency” or “major disaster” to provide Federal assistance under this act. The President, in Executive Order 12148, delegated all functions except those in Sections 301, 401, and 409 to the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The act provides for the appointment of a Federal coordinating officer

who will operate in the designated area with a state coordinating officer for the purpose of coordinating state and local disaster assistance efforts with those of the Federal Government.

**Justice Assistance Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 3701-3799)**—This act establishes Emergency Federal law enforcement assistance to state and local governments in responding to a law enforcement emergency. The act defines the term “law enforcement emergency” as an uncommon situation which requires law enforcement, which is or threatens to become of serious or epidemic proportions, and with respect to which state and local resources are inadequate to protect the lives and property of citizens or to enforce the criminal law. Emergencies that are not of an ongoing or chronic nature (for example, the Mount Saint Helens volcanic eruption) are eligible for Federal law enforcement assistance including funds, equipment, training, intelligence information, and personnel.

**Price-Anderson Act (42 U.S.C. 2210)**—This act allows DOE to indemnify its contractors if the contract involves the risk of public liability from a nuclear incident.

## 5.7.2 Federal Emergency Management and Response Regulations

**Quantities of Radioactive Materials Requiring Consideration of the Need for an Emergency Plan for Responding to a Release (10 CFR 30.72, Schedule C)**—This section of the regulations provides a list that is the basis for both the public and private sector to determine whether the radiological materials they handle must have an emergency response plan for unscheduled releases, and is one of the threshold criteria documents for DOE hazards assessments required by DOE Order 5500.3A, “Planning and Preparedness for Operational Emergencies.” The “Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan,” dated November 1995, primarily discusses offsite Federal response in support of state and local governments with jurisdiction during a peacetime radiological emergency.

Chapter 3 describes emergency preparedness for each alternative.

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration Emergency Response, Hazardous Waste Operations, and Worker Right to Know (29 CFR 1910)**—This regulation establishes OSHA requirements for employee safety in a variety of working environments. It addresses employee emergency and fire prevention plans (Section 1910.38), hazardous waste operations and emergency response (Section 1920.120), and hazards communication (Section 1910.1200) to make employees aware of the dangers they face from hazardous materials in their workplace. These regulations do not directly apply to Federal agencies. However, Section 19 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (29 U.S.C. 668) requires all Federal agencies to have occupational safety programs “consistent” with Occupational Safety and Health Act standards.

Chapter 3 describes DOE emergency programs.

**Emergency Management and Assistance (44 CFR Section 1.1)**—This regulation contains the policies and procedures for the Federal Emergency Management Act, National Flood Insurance Program, Federal Crime Insurance Program, Fire Prevention and Control Program, Disaster

Assistance Program, and Preparedness Program, including radiological planning and preparedness.

**Hazardous Materials Tables and Communications, Emergency Response Information Requirements (49 CFR 172)**—This regulation defines the regulatory requirements for marking, labeling, placarding, and documenting hazardous material shipments. The regulation also specifies the requirements for providing hazardous material information and training.

Chapter 4 discusses transportation impacts for each alternative.

### **5.7.3 Emergency Response and Management Executive Orders**

**Executive Order 12148 (Federal Emergency Management, July 20, 1979)**—This Order transfers functions and responsibilities associated with Federal emergency management to the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Order assigns the Director the responsibility to establish Federal policies for, and to coordinate all civil defense and civil emergency planning, management, mitigation, and assistance functions of, Executive agencies.

**Executive Order 12656 (Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities, November 18, 1988)**—This Order assigns emergency preparedness responsibilities to Federal Departments and agencies.

**Executive Order 12938 (Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, November 14, 1994)**—This Order states that the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons (“weapons of mass destruction”) and the means of delivering such weapons constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, and that a national emergency would be declared to deal with that threat.

## **5.8 CONSULTATIONS WITH AGENCIES AND FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED AMERICAN INDIAN NATIONS**

Certain laws, such as the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act, require consultation and coordination by DOE with other governmental entities including other Federal agencies, state and local agencies, and federally-recognized American Indian Nations. These consultations must occur on a timely basis and are generally required before any land disturbance can begin. Most of these consultations are related to biotic resources, cultural resources, and American Indian rights.

The biotic resource consultations generally pertain to the potential for activities to disturb sensitive species or habitats. Cultural resource consultations relate to the potential for disruption of important cultural resources and archaeological sites. American Indian consultations are concerned with the sovereign rights of tribal Nations pertaining to the potential for disturbance of ancestral American Indian sites and the traditional practices of American Indians.

With respect to biotic resources, DOE has determined that the proposed action would be similar to those described as acceptable in the *Los Alamos National Laboratory Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Management Plan* (LANL 1998b), however, informal consultation by NNSA is necessary to comply with the provisions of 50 CFR 402, Interagency Cooperation - Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. NNSA initiated consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) as the Agency with regulatory responsibility for the Endangered Species Act, in early April 2003 regarding the CMRR Facility. Consultation was completed in mid-May 2003 upon concurrence by the Service with NNSA's determination the construction and operation of the CMRR Facility at either TA-55 or TA-6 would not be likely to adversely affect either individuals of threatened or endangered species currently listed by the Service, or their critical habitat at LANL.

With respect to cultural resources, LANL staff would perform a historic building eligibility assessment of the CMR Building, which is over 50 years old. The building would be evaluated for adverse effects, and the evaluation would be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for concurrence. After issuance of the Record of Decision on this EIS, DOE would work with these organizations and the public to develop the resolution of adverse effects and a Memorandum of Agreement, if needed.

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## 7. GLOSSARY

***absorbed dose*** — For ionizing radiation, the energy imparted to matter by ionizing radiation per unit mass of the irradiated material (e.g., biological tissue). The units of absorbed dose are the rad and the gray. (See *rad* and *gray*.)

***accident sequence*** — In regard to nuclear facilities, an initiating event followed by system failures or operator errors, which can result in significant core damage, confinement system failure, and/or radionuclide releases.

***actinide*** — Any member of the group of elements with atomic numbers from 89 (actinium) to 103 (lawrencium) including uranium and plutonium. All members of this group are radioactive.

***activation products*** — Nuclei, usually radioactive, formed by bombardment and absorption in material with neutrons, protons, or other nuclear particles.

***active fault*** — A fault that is likely to have another earthquake sometime in the future. Faults are commonly considered to be active if they have moved one or more times in the last 10,000 years (i.e., during the Quaternary Period).

***acute exposure*** — The exposure incurred during and shortly after a radiological release. Generally, the period of acute exposure ends when long-term interdiction is established, as necessary. For convenience, the period of acute exposure is normally assumed to end one week after the inception of a radiological accident.

***administrative control level*** — A dose level that is established well below the regulatory limit to administratively control and help reduce individual and collective radiation doses. Facility management should establish an annual facility administrative control level that should, to the extent feasible, be more restrictive than the more general administrative control level.

***air pollutant*** — Generally, an airborne substance that could, in high-enough concentrations, harm living things or cause damage to materials. From a regulatory perspective, an air pollutant is a substance for which emissions or atmospheric concentrations are regulated or for which maximum guideline levels have been established due to potential harmful effects on human health and welfare.

***air quality control region*** — Geographic subdivisions of the United States, designed to deal with pollution on a regional or local level. Some regions span more than one state.

***alluvium (alluvial)*** — Unconsolidated, poorly sorted detrital sediments ranging from clay to gravel sizes deposited by streams.

***alpha activity*** — The emission of alpha particles by radioactive materials.

**alpha particle** — A positively charged particle ejected spontaneously from the nuclei of some radioactive elements. It is identical to a helium nucleus and has a mass number of 4 and an electrostatic charge of +2. It has low penetrating power and a short range (a few centimeters in air). (See *alpha radiation*.)

**alpha radiation** — A strongly ionizing, but weakly penetrating, form of radiation consisting of positively charged alpha particles emitted spontaneously from the nuclei of certain elements during radioactive decay. Alpha radiation is the least penetrating of the three common types of ionizing radiation (alpha, beta, and gamma). Even the most energetic alpha particle generally fails to penetrate the dead layers of cells covering the skin and can be easily stopped by a sheet of paper. Alpha radiation is most hazardous when an alpha-emitting source resides inside an organism. (See *alpha particle*.)

**ambient** — Surrounding.

**ambient air** — The surrounding atmosphere as it exists around people, plants, and structures.

**ambient air quality standards** — The level of pollutants in the air prescribed by regulations that may not be exceeded during a specified time in a defined area. Air quality standards are used to provide a measure of the health-related and visual characteristics of the air.

**analytical chemistry** — The branch of chemistry that deals with the separation, identification, and determination of the components of a sample.

**aquatic** — Living or growing in, on, or near water.

**aquifer** — An underground geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation capable of yielding a significant amount of water to wells or springs.

**aquitard** — A less-permeable geologic unit that inhibits the flow of water.

**archaeological sites (resources)** — Any location where humans have altered the terrain or discarded artifacts during either prehistoric or historic times.

**artifact** — An object produced or shaped by human workmanship of archaeological or historical interest.

**as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA)** — An approach to radiation protection to manage and control worker and public exposures (both individual and collective) and releases of radioactive material to the environment to as far below applicable limits as social, technical, economic, practical, and public policy considerations permit. ALARA is not a dose limit but a process for minimizing doses to as far below limits as is practicable.

**atmospheric dispersion** — The process of air pollutants being dispersed in the atmosphere. This occurs by wind that carries the pollutants away from their source, by turbulent air motion that results from solar heating of the Earth's surface, and by air movement over rough terrain and surfaces.



**Atomic Energy Commission** — A five-member commission, established by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, to supervise nuclear weapons design, development, manufacturing, maintenance, modification, and dismantlement. In 1974, the Atomic Energy Commission was abolished, and all functions were transferred to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Administrator of the Energy Research and Development Administration. The Energy Research and Development Administration was later terminated, and functions vested by law in the Administrator were transferred to the Secretary of Energy.

**atomic number** — The number of positively charged protons in the nucleus of an atom or the number of electrons on an electrically neutral atom.

**attainment area** — An area that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated as being in compliance with one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and particulate matter. An area may be in attainment for some pollutants but not for others. (See *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*, *nonattainment area*, and *particulate matter*.)

**attractiveness level** — A categorization of nuclear material types and compositions that reflects the relative ease of processing and handling required to convert that material to a nuclear explosive device.

**background radiation** — Radiation from: cosmic sources; naturally occurring radioactive materials, including radon (except as a decay product of source or special nuclear material); global fallout as it exists in the environment (e.g., from the testing of nuclear explosive devices); air travel; consumer and industrial products; and diagnostic x-rays and nuclear medicine.

**badged worker** — A worker equipped with an individual dosimeter who has the potential to be exposed to radiation.

**barrier** — Any material or structure that prevents or substantially delays movement of radionuclides toward the accessible environment.

**basalt** — The most common volcanic rock, dark gray to black in color, high in iron and magnesium and low in silica. It is typically found in lava flows.

**baseline** — The existing environmental conditions against which impacts of the proposed action and its alternatives can be compared. For this EIS, the environmental baseline is the site environmental conditions as they exist or are estimated to exist in the absence of the proposed action.

**becquerel** — A unit of radioactivity equal to one disintegration per second. Thirty-seven billion becquerels equal 1 curie.

**BEIR V** — Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation; referring to the fifth in a series of committee reports from the National Research Council.

**beryllium** — An extremely lightweight element with the atomic number 4. It is metallic and is used in reactors as a neutron reflector.

**best available control technology (BACT)** — A term used in the Federal Clean Air Act that means the most stringent level of air pollutant control considering economics for a specific type of source based on demonstrated technology.

**beta emitter** — A radioactive substance that decays by releasing a beta particle.

**beta particle** — A particle emitted in the radioactive decay of many radionuclides. A beta particle is identical to an electron. It has a short range in air and a small ability to penetrate other materials.

**beyond-design-basis accident** — An accident postulated for the purpose of generating large consequences by exceeding the functional and performance requirements for safety structures, systems, and components. (See *design-basis accident*.)

**beyond-design-basis events** — Postulated disturbances in process variables due to external events or multiple component or system failures that can potentially lead to beyond-design-basis accidents. (See *design-basis events*.)

**block** — U.S. Bureau of the Census term describing small areas bounded on all sides by visible features or political boundaries; used in tabulation of census data.

**bound** — To use simplifying assumptions and analytical methods in an analysis of impacts or risks such that the result overestimates or describes an upper limit on (i.e., “bounds”) potential impacts or risks.

**burial ground** — In regard to radioactive waste, a place for burying unwanted radioactive materials in which the earth acts as a receptacle to prevent the escape of radiation and the dispersion of waste into the environment.

**Cambrian** — The earliest geologic time period of the Paleozoic era, spanning between about 570 and 505 million years ago.

**cancer** — The name given to a group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled cellular growth, with cells having invasive characteristics such that the disease can transfer from one organ to another.

**canister** — A general term for a container, usually cylindrical, used in handling, storage, transportation, or disposal of waste.

**capable fault** — A fault that has exhibited one or more of the following characteristics: (1) movement at or near the ground surface at least once within the past 35,000 years, or movement of a recurring nature within the past 500,000 years; (2) macroseismicity instrumentally determined with records of sufficient precision to demonstrate a direct relationship with the fault; (3) a structural relationship to a capable fault according to characteristic (1) or (2) above, such that movement on one could reasonably be expected to be accompanied by movement on the other.

**capacity factor** — The ratio of the annual average power production of a power plant to its rated capacity.

**carbon dioxide** — A colorless, odorless gas that is a normal component of ambient air; it results from fossil fuel combustion and is an expiration product.

**carbon monoxide** — A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete fossil fuel combustion.

**carcinogen** — An agent that may cause cancer. Ionizing radiation is a physical carcinogen; there are also chemical and biological carcinogens, and biological carcinogens may be external (e.g., viruses) or internal (genetic defects).

**cask** — A heavily shielded container used to store or ship radioactive materials.

**categories of special nuclear material (Categories I, II, III, and IV)** — A designation determined by the quantity and type of special nuclear material or a designation of a special nuclear material location based on the type and form of the material and the amount of nuclear material present. A designation of the significance of special nuclear material based upon the material type, form of the material, and amount of material present in an item, grouping of items, or in a location.

**cation** — A positively charged ion.

**cell** — See *hot cell*.

**chain reaction** — A reaction that initiates its own repetition. In nuclear fission, a chain reaction occurs when a neutron induces a nucleus to fission and the fissioning nucleus releases one or more neutrons, which induce other nuclei to fission.

**cladding** — The outer metal jacket of a nuclear fuel element or target. It prevents fuel corrosion and retains fission products during reactor operation and subsequent storage, as well as providing structural support. Zirconium alloys, stainless steel, and aluminum are common cladding materials. In general, a metal coating bonded onto another metal.

**Class I areas** — A specifically designated area where the degradation of air quality is stringently restricted (e.g., many national parks and wilderness areas). (See *Prevention of Significant Deterioration*.)

**Class II areas** — Most of the country not designated as Class I is designated as Class II. Class II areas are generally cleaner than air quality standards require, and moderate increases in new pollution are allowed after a regulatory-mandated impacts review.

**classified information** — (1) information that has been determined pursuant to Executive Order 12958, any successor order, or the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011) to require protection against unauthorized disclosure; (2) certain information requiring protection against unauthorized disclosure in the interest of national defense and security or foreign relations of the United States pursuant to Federal statute or Executive Order.

**clastic** — Refers to rock or sediment made up primarily of broken fragments of preexisting rocks or minerals.

**collective dose** — The sum of the individual doses received in a given period of time by a specified population from exposure to a specified source of radiation. Collective dose is expressed in units of person-rem or person-sieverts.

**colluvium (colluvial)** — A loose deposit of rock debris accumulated at the base of a cliff or slope.

**committed dose equivalent** — The dose equivalent to organs or tissues that will be received by an individual during the 50-year period following the intake of radioactive material. It does not include contributions from external radiation sources. Committed dose equivalent is expressed in units of rem or sieverts.

**committed effective dose equivalent** — The dose value obtained by: multiplying the committed dose equivalents for the organs or tissues that are irradiated and the weighting factors applicable to those organs or tissues, and summing all the resulting products. Committed effective dose equivalent is expressed in units of rem or sieverts. (See *committed dose equivalent* and *weighting factor*.)

**committed equivalent dose** — The committed dose in a particular organ or tissue accumulated in a specific period after intake of a radionuclide.

**community (biotic)** — All plants and animals occupying a specific area under relatively similar conditions.

**community (environmental justice)** — A group of people or a site within a spatial scope exposed to risks that potentially threaten health, ecology, or land values or who are exposed to industry that stimulates unwanted noise, smells, industrial traffic, particulate matter, or other nonaesthetic impacts.

**Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)** — A proposed treaty prohibiting nuclear tests of all magnitudes.

**computational modeling** — Use of a computer to develop a mathematical model of a complex system or process and to provide conditions for testing it.

**conformity** — Conformity is defined in the Clean Air Act as the action's compliance with an implementation plan's purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, expeditious attainment of such standards, and that such activities will not: cause or contribute to any new violation of any standard in any area; increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area; or delay timely attainment of any standard, required interim emission reduction, or other milestones in any area.

**contact-handled waste** — Radioactive waste or waste packages whose external dose rate is low enough to permit contact handling by humans during normal waste management activities (e.g., waste with a surface dose rate not greater than 200 millirem per hour). (See *remote-handled waste*.)

**container** — In regard to radioactive waste, the metal envelope in the waste package that provides the primary containment function of the waste package, which is designed to meet the containment requirements of 10 CFR 60.

**contamination** — The deposition of undesirable radioactive material on the surfaces of structures, areas, objects, or people.

**cooperating agency** — Any Federal agency, other than a lead agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

**credible accident** — An accident that has a probability of occurrence greater than or equal to once in a one-million-year time period.

**Cretaceous** — The final geologic time period of the Mesozoic era, spanning between about 144 and 66 million years ago. The end of this period also marks the end of dinosaur life on Earth.

**criteria pollutants** — Six air pollutants for which the National Ambient Air Quality Standards are established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Title I of the Federal Clean Air Act: sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and two size classes of particulate matter [less than or equal to 10 micrometers (0.0004 inch) in diameter and less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers (0.0001 inch) in diameter]. New pollutants may be added to, or removed from, the list of criteria pollutants as more information becomes available.

**critical assembly** — A critical assembly is a system of fissile material (uranium-233, uranium-235, plutonium-239, or plutonium-241) with or without a moderator in a specific proportion and shape. The critical assembly can be gradually built up by adding additional fissile material and/or moderator until this system achieves the dimensions necessary for a criticality condition. A continuous neutron source is placed at the center of this assembly to measure the fission rate of the critical assembly as it approaches and reaches criticality.

**critical habitat** — Defined in the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as “specific areas within the geographical area occupied by (an endangered or threatened) species..., essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection; and specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species...that are essential for the conservation of the species.”

**critical mass** — The smallest mass of fissionable material that will support a self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction.

**criticality** — The condition in which a system is capable of sustaining a nuclear fission chain reaction.

**cultural resources** — Archaeological sites, historical sites, architectural features, traditional use areas, and Native American sacred sites.

**cumulative impacts** — The impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of the agency or person who undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

**curie** — A unit of radioactivity equal to 37 billion disintegrations per second (i.e., 37 billion becquerels); also a quantity of any radionuclide or mixture of radionuclides having 1 curie of radioactivity.

**day-night average sound level** — The 24-hour, “A-weighted” equivalent sound level expressed in decibels. A 10-decibel penalty is added to sound levels between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. to account for increased annoyance due to noise during night hours.

**decay (radioactive)** — The decrease in the amount of any radioactive material with the passage of time, due to spontaneous nuclear disintegration (i.e., emission from atomic nuclei of charged particles, photons, or both).

**decibel (dB)** — A unit for expressing the relative intensity of sounds on a logarithmic scale where 0 is below human perception and 130 is above the threshold of pain to humans. For traffic and industrial noise measurements, the A-weighted decibel, a frequency-weighted noise unit, is widely used. The A-weighted decibel scale corresponds approximately to the frequency response of the human ear and thus correlates well with loudness.

**decibel, A-weighted (dBA)** — A unit of frequency-weighted sound pressure level, measured by the use of a metering characteristic and the “A” weighting specified by the American National Standards Institution (ANSI S1.4-1983 [R1594]) that accounts for the frequency response of the human ear.

**decommissioning** — Retirement of a facility, including any necessary decontamination and/or dismantlement.

**decontamination** — The actions taken to reduce or remove substances that pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment, such as radioactive or chemical contamination from facilities, equipment, or soils by washing, heating, chemical or electrochemical action, mechanical cleaning, or other techniques.

**defense-in-depth** — The use of multiple, independent protection elements combined in a layered manner so that the system capabilities do not depend on a single component to maintain effective protection against defined threats.

**degrees C (degrees Celsius)** — A unit for measuring temperature using the centigrade scale in which the freezing point of water is 0 degrees and the boiling point is 100 degrees.

**degrees F (degrees Fahrenheit)** — A unit for measuring temperature using the Fahrenheit scale in which the freezing point of water is 32 degrees and the boiling point is 212 degrees.

**delayed critical devices** — A critical assembly designed to reach the condition of delayed supercriticality. Delayed criticality is the nuclear physics supercriticality condition, where the neutron multiplication factor of the assembly is between 1 (critical) and 1 plus the delayed neutron fraction. (See *multiplication factor* and *delayed neutrons*.)

**delayed neutrons** — Neutrons emitted from fission products by beta decay following fission by intervals of seconds to minutes. Delayed neutrons account for approximately 0.2 to 0.7 percent of all fission neutrons. For uranium-235, the delayed neutron fraction is about 0.007; for plutonium-239, it is about 0.002.

**depleted uranium** — Uranium whose content of the fissile isotope uranium-235 is less than the 0.7 percent (by weight) found in natural uranium, so that it contains more uranium-238 than natural uranium.

**deposition** — In geology, the laying down of potential rock-forming materials; sedimentation. In atmospheric transport, the settling out on ground and building surfaces of atmospheric aerosols and particles (“dry deposition”), or their removal from the air to the ground by precipitation (“wet deposition” or “rainout”).

**design basis** — For nuclear facilities, information that identifies the specific functions to be performed by a structure, system, or component, and the specific values (or ranges of values) chosen for controlling parameters for reference bounds for design. These values may be: restraints derived from generally accepted state-of-the-art practices for achieving functional goals; requirements derived from analysis (based on calculation and/or experiments) of the effects of a postulated accident for which a structure, system, or component must meet its functional goals; or requirements derived from Federal safety objectives, principles, goals, or requirements.

**design-basis accident** — An accident postulated for the purpose of establishing functional and performance requirements for safety structures, systems, and components.

**design-basis events** — Postulated disturbances in process variables that can potentially lead to design-basis accidents.

**design-basis threat** — The elements of a threat postulated for the purpose of establishing requirements for safeguards and security programs, systems, components, equipment, and information. (See *threat*.)

**dewatering** — The removal of water. Saturated soils are “dewatered” to make construction of building foundations easier.

**direct economic effects** — The initial increases in output from different sectors of the economy resulting from some new activity within a predefined geographic region.

**direct jobs** — The number of workers required at a site to implement an alternative.

**diversion** — The unauthorized removal of nuclear material from its approved use or authorized location.

**dolostone** — A carbonate rock made up predominately of the mineral dolomite,  $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ .

**dose (radiological)** — A generic term meaning absorbed dose, dose equivalent, effective dose equivalent, committed dose equivalent, committed effective dose equivalent, or committed equivalent dose, as defined elsewhere in this glossary. It is a measure of the energy imparted to matter by ionizing radiation. The unit of dose is the rem or rad.

**dose equivalent** — A measure of radiological dose that correlates with biological effect on a common scale for all types of ionizing radiation. Defined as a quantity equal to the absorbed dose in tissue multiplied by a quality factor (the biological effectiveness of a given type of radiation) and all other necessary modifying factors at the location of interest. The units of dose equivalent are the rem and sievert.

**dose rate** — The radiation dose delivered per unit of time (e.g., rem per year).

**dosimeter** — A small device (instrument) carried by a radiation worker that measures cumulative radiation dose (e.g., a film badge or ionization chamber).

**drinking water standards** — The level of constituents or characteristics in a drinking water supply specified in regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act as the maximum permissible.

**ecology** — A branch of science dealing with the interrelationships of living organisms with one another and with their nonliving environment.

**ecosystem** — A community of organisms and their physical environment interacting as an ecological unit.



***effective dose equivalent*** — The dose value obtained by multiplying the dose equivalents received by specified tissues or organs of the body by the appropriate weighting factors applicable to the tissues or organs irradiated, and then summing all of the resulting products. It includes the dose from internal and external radiation sources. The effective dose equivalent is expressed in units of rem or sieverts. (See *committed dose equivalent* and *committed effective dose equivalent*.)

***effluent*** — A waste stream flowing into the atmosphere, surface water, ground water, or soil. Most frequently the term applies to wastes discharged to surface waters.

***electron*** — An elementary particle with a mass of  $9.107 \times 10^{-28}$  gram (or 1/1,837 of a proton) and a negative charge. Electrons surround the positively charged nucleus and determine the chemical properties of the atom.

***emission*** — A material discharged into the atmosphere from a source operation or activity.

***emission standards*** — Legally enforceable limits on the quantities and/or kinds of air contaminants that can be emitted into the atmosphere.

***endangered species*** — Plants or animals that are in danger of extinction through all or a significant portion of their ranges and that have been listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service following the procedures outlined in the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 424).

***engineered safety features*** — For a nuclear facility, features that prevent, limit, or mitigate the release of radioactive material from its primary containment.

***enriched uranium*** — Uranium whose content of the fissile isotope uranium-235 is greater than the 0.7 percent (by weight) found in natural uranium. (See *uranium*, *natural uranium*, and *highly enriched uranium*.)

***Environment, Safety, and Health Program*** — In the context of DOE, encompasses those requirements, activities, and functions in the conduct of all DOE and DOE-controlled operations that are concerned with impacts on the biosphere; compliance with environmental laws, regulations, and standards controlling air, water, and soil pollution; limiting the risks to the well-being of both the operating personnel and the general public; and protecting property against accidental loss and damage. Typical activities and functions related to this program include, but are not limited to, environmental protection, occupational safety, fire protection, industrial hygiene, health physics, occupational medicine, process and facility safety, nuclear safety, emergency preparedness, quality assurance, and radioactive and hazardous waste management.

**environmental impact statement (EIS)** — The detailed written statement required by Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act for a proposed major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. A DOE EIS is prepared in accordance with applicable requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality National Environmental Policy Act regulations in 40 CFR 1500–1508 and the DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations in 10 CFR 1021. The statement includes, among other information, discussions of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and all reasonable alternatives; adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented; the relationship between short-term uses of the human environment and enhancement of long-term productivity; and any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.

**environmental justice** — The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of Federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. Executive Order 12898 directs Federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of agency programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

**ephemeral stream** — A stream that flows only after a period of heavy precipitation.

**epidemiology** — Study of the occurrence, causes, and distribution of disease or other health-related states and events in human populations, often as related to age, sex, occupation, ethnicity, and economic status, to identify and alleviate health problems and promote better health.

**exposure limit** — The level of exposure to a hazardous chemical (set by law or a standard) at which or below which adverse human health effects are not expected to occur.

*Reference dose* is the chronic-exposure dose (milligrams or kilograms per day) for a given hazardous chemical at which or below which adverse human noncancer health effects are not expected to occur.

*Reference concentration* is the chronic exposure concentration (milligrams per cubic meter) for a given hazardous chemical at which or below which adverse human noncancer health effects are not expected to occur.

**fault** — A fracture or a zone of fractures within a rock formation along which vertical, horizontal, or transverse slippage has occurred. A normal fault occurs when the hanging wall has been depressed in relation to the footwall. A reverse fault occurs when the hanging wall has been raised in relation to the footwall.

***fissile materials*** — An isotope that readily fissions after absorbing a neutron of any energy. Fissile materials are uranium-233, uranium-235, plutonium-239, and plutonium-241. Uranium-235 is the only naturally occurring fissile isotope.

***fission*** — The splitting of the nucleus of a heavy atom into two lighter nuclei. It is accompanied by the release of neutrons, gamma rays, and kinetic energy of fission products.

***fission products*** — Nuclei (fission fragments) formed by the fission of heavy elements, plus the nuclides formed by the fission fragments' radioactive decay.

***floodplain*** — The lowlands and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters and the flood-prone areas of offshore islands. Floodplains include, at a minimum, that area with at least a 1.0 percent chance of being inundated by a flood in any given year.

The *base floodplain* is defined as the area that has a 1.0 percent or greater chance of being flooded in any given year. Such a flood is known as a 100-year flood.

The *critical action floodplain* is defined as the area that has at least a 0.2 percent chance of being flooded in any given year. Such a flood is known as a 500-year flood. Any activity for which even a slight chance of flooding would be too great (e.g., the storage of highly volatile, toxic, or water-reactive materials) should not occur in the critical action floodplain.

The *probable maximum flood* is the hypothetical flood considered to be the most severe reasonably possible flood, based on the comprehensive hydrometeorological application of maximum precipitation and other hydrological factors favorable for maximum flood runoff (e.g., sequential storms and snowmelts). It is usually several times larger than the maximum recorded flood.

***formation*** — In geology, the primary unit of formal stratigraphic mapping or description. Most formations possess certain distinctive features.

***fugitive emissions*** — (1) Emissions that do not pass through a stack, vent, chimney, or similar opening where they could be captured by a control device, or (2) any air pollutant emitted to the atmosphere other than from a stack. Sources of fugitive emissions include pumps; valves; flanges; seals; area sources such as ponds, lagoons, landfills, piles of stored material (e.g., coal); and road construction areas or other areas where earthwork is occurring.

***gamma radiation*** — High-energy, short wavelength, electromagnetic radiation emitted from the nucleus of an atom during radioactive decay. Gamma radiation frequently accompanies alpha and beta emissions and always accompanies fission. Gamma rays are very penetrating and are best stopped or shielded by dense materials, such as lead or depleted uranium. Gamma rays are similar to, but are usually more energetic than, x-rays.

**genetic effects** — Inheritable changes (chiefly mutations) produced by exposure of the parts of cells that control biological reproduction and inheritance to ionizing radiation or other chemical or physical agents.

**GENII** — A computer code used to predict the radiological impacts on individuals and populations associated with the release of radioactive material into the environment during normal operations and postulated accidents.

**geology** — The science that deals with the Earth: the materials, processes, environments, and history of the planet, including rocks and their formation and structure.

**gigaelectron volts** — 1,000 million electron volts (MeV). (See *MeV*.)

**glovebox** — A large enclosure that separates workers from equipment used to process hazardous material while allowing the workers to be in physical contact with the equipment; normally constructed of stainless steel, with large acrylic/lead glass windows. Workers have access to equipment through the use of heavy-duty, lead-impregnated rubber gloves, the cuffs of which are sealed in portholes in the glovebox windows.

**gray** — The International System of Units (SI) unit of absorbed dose. One gray is equal to an absorbed dose of 1 joule per kilogram (1 gray is equal to 100 rad). (The joule is the SI unit of energy.) (See *absorbed dose*.)

**ground shine** — The radiation dose received from an area on the ground where radioactivity has been deposited by a radioactive plume or cloud.

**groundwater** — Water below the ground surface in a zone of saturation.

**habitat** — The environment occupied by individuals of a particular species, population, or community.

**half-life** — The time in which one-half of the atoms of a particular radioactive isotope disintegrate to another nuclear form. Half-lives vary from millionths of a second to billions of years.

**Hazard Index** — A summation of the Hazard Quotients for all chemicals being used at a site and those proposed to be added to yield cumulative levels for a site. A Hazard Index value of 1.0 or less means that no adverse human health effects (noncancer) are expected to occur.

**Hazard Quotient** — The value used as an assessment of non-cancer-associated toxic effects of chemicals, e.g., kidney or liver dysfunction. It is a ratio of the estimated exposure to that exposure at which it would be expected that adverse health effects would begin to be produced. It is independent of cancer risk, which is calculated only for those chemicals identified as carcinogens.

**hazards classification** — The process of identifying the potential threat to human health of a chemical substance.

***hazardous air pollutants*** — Air pollutants not covered by National Ambient Air Quality Standards but which may present a threat of adverse human health or environmental effects. Those specifically listed in 40 CFR 61.01 are asbestos, benzene, beryllium, coke oven emissions, inorganic arsenic, mercury, radionuclides, and vinyl chloride. More broadly, hazardous air pollutants are any of the 188 pollutants to be regulated or renewed under Section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act. Very generally, hazardous air pollutants are any air pollutants that may realistically be expected to pose a threat to human health or welfare.

***hazardous chemical*** — Under 29 CFR 1910, Subpart Z, hazardous chemicals are defined as “any chemical which is a physical hazard or a health hazard.” Physical hazards include combustible liquids, compressed gases, explosives, flammables, organic peroxides, oxidizers, pyrophorics, and reactives. A health hazard is any chemical for which there is good evidence that acute or chronic health effects occur in exposed individuals. Hazardous chemicals include carcinogens, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, agents that act on the hematopoietic system, and agents that damage the lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes.

***hazardous material*** — A material, including a hazardous substance, as defined by 49 CFR 171.8, which poses a risk to health, safety, and property when transported or handled.

***hazardous substance*** — Any substance subject to the reporting and possible response provisions of the Clean Water Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

***hazardous waste*** — A category of waste regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. To be considered hazardous, a waste must be a solid waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and must exhibit at least one of four characteristics described in 40 CFR 261.20 through 261.24 (i.e., ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity) or be specifically listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 40 CFR 261.31 through 261.33.

***high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter*** — An air filter capable of removing at least 99.97 percent of particles 0.3 micrometers (about 0.00001 inches) in diameter. These filters include a pleated fibrous medium, typically fiberglass, capable of capturing very small particles.

***high-level radioactive waste*** — High-level waste is the highly radioactive waste material resulting from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, including liquid waste produced directly in reprocessing and any solid material derived from such liquid waste that contains fission products in sufficient concentrations, and other highly radioactive material that is determined, consistent with existing law, to require permanent isolation.

***high-multiplication devices*** — A critical assembly for producing nondestructive superprompt critical nuclear excursions. These types of devices are sometimes called prompt burst devices.

**highly enriched uranium** — Uranium whose content of the fissile isotope uranium-235 has been increased through enrichment to 20 percent or more (by weight). (See *natural uranium*, *enriched uranium*, and *depleted uranium*.)

**historic resources** — Physical remains that postdate the emergence of written records; in the United States, they are architectural structures or districts, archaeological objects, and archaeological features dating from 1492 and later.

**hot cell** — A shielded facility that requires the use of remote manipulators for handling radioactive materials.

**hydrology** — The science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of natural water systems.

**indirect jobs** — Within a regional economic area, jobs generated or lost in related industries as a result of a change in direct employment.

**ion** — An atom that has too many or too few electrons, causing it to be electrically charged.

**ionizing radiation** — Alpha particles, beta particles, gamma rays, high-speed electrons, high-speed protons, and other particles or electromagnetic radiation that can displace electrons from atoms or molecules, thereby producing ions.

**irradiated** — Exposure to ionizing radiation. The condition of reactor fuel elements and other materials in which atoms bombarded with nuclear particles have undergone nuclear changes.

**isotope** — Any of two or more variations of an element in which the nuclei have the same number of protons (i.e., the same atomic number) but different numbers of neutrons so that their atomic masses differ. Isotopes of a single element possess almost identical chemical properties, but often different physical properties.

**joule** — A metric unit of energy, work, or heat, equivalent to 1 watt-second, 0.737 foot-pounds, or 0.239 calories.

**latent cancer fatalities** — Deaths from cancer occurring some time after, and postulated to be due to, exposure to ionizing radiation or other carcinogens.

**limestone** — A sedimentary rock composed mostly of the mineral calcite,  $\text{CaCO}_3$ .

**long-lived radionuclides** — Radioactive isotopes with half-lives greater than 30 years.

**low-income population** — Low-income populations, defined in terms of U.S. Bureau of the Census annual statistical poverty levels (*Current Population Reports*, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty), may consist of groups or individuals who live in geographic proximity to one another or who are geographically dispersed or transient (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect. (See *environmental justice* and *minority population*.)

**low-level radioactive waste** — Radioactive waste that is not high-level waste, transuranic waste, spent nuclear fuel, or byproduct tailings from processing of uranium or thorium ore. Low-level waste is generated in many physical and chemical forms and levels of contamination.

**Magnitude** — A number that reflects the relative strength or size of an earthquake. Magnitude is based on the logarithmic measurement of the maximum motion recorded by a seismograph. An increase of one unit of magnitude (for example, from 4.6 to 5.6) represents a 10-fold increase in wave amplitude on a seismograph recording or approximately a 30-fold increase in the energy released. Several scales have been defined, but the most commonly used are: local magnitude (ML), commonly referred to as “Richter magnitude,” surface-wave magnitude (Ms), body-wave magnitude (Mb), and moment magnitude (Mw). Each is valid for a particular type of seismic signal varying by such factors as frequency and distance. These magnitude scales will yield approximately the same value for any given earthquake within each scale’s respective range of validity.

**material access area** — A type of security area that is authorized to contain a security Category I quantity of special nuclear material and which has specifically defined physical barriers, is located within a Protected Area, and is subject to specific access controls.

**material characterization** — The measurement of basic material properties, and the change in those properties as a function of temperature, pressure, or other factors.

**material control and accountability** — The part of safeguards that detects or deters theft or diversion of nuclear materials and provides assurance that all nuclear materials are accounted for appropriately.

**maximally exposed individual (transportation analysis)** — A hypothetical individual receiving radiation doses from transporting radioactive materials on the road. For the incident-free transport operation, the maximally exposed individual would be an individual stuck in traffic next to the shipment for 30 minutes. For accident conditions, the maximally exposed individual is assumed to be an individual located approximately 33 meters (100 feet) directly downwind from the accident.

**maximally exposed offsite individual** — A hypothetical individual whose location and habits result in the highest total radiological or chemical exposure (and thus dose) from a particular source for all exposure routes (e.g., inhalation, ingestion, direct exposure).

**maximum contaminant level** — The designation for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards for drinking water quality under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The maximum contaminant level for a given substance is the maximum permissible concentration of that substance in water delivered by a public water system. The primary maximum contaminant levels (40 CFR 141) are intended to protect public health and are federally enforceable. They are based on health factors, but are also required by law to reflect the technological and economic feasibility of removing the contaminant from the water supply. Secondary maximum contaminant levels (40 CFR 143) are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect the public welfare. The secondary drinking water regulations control substances in drinking

water that primarily affect aesthetic qualities (such as taste, odor, and color) relating to the public acceptance of water. These regulations are not federally enforceable, but are intended as guidelines for the states.

***megawatt*** — A unit of power equal to 1 million watts. Megawatt-thermal is commonly used to define heat produced, while megawatt-electric defines electricity produced.

***meteorology*** — The science dealing with the atmosphere and its phenomena, especially as relating to weather.

***MeV (million electron volts)*** — A unit used to quantify energy. In this EIS, it describes a particle's kinetic energy, which is an indicator of particle speed.

***micron*** — One-millionth of 1 meter.

***migration*** — The natural movement of a material through the air, soil, or groundwater; also, seasonal movement of animals from one area to another.

***millirem*** — One-thousandth of 1 rem.

***minority population*** — Minority populations exist where either: the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent, or the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis (such as a governing body's jurisdiction, a neighborhood, census tract, or other similar unit). "Minority" refers to individuals who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic. "Minority populations" include either a single minority group or the total of all minority persons in the affected area. They may consist of groups of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another or a geographically dispersed/transient set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect. (See *environmental justice* and *low-income population*.)

***Miocene*** — An epoch of the upper Tertiary period, spanning between about 24 and 5 million years ago.

***mitigate*** — Mitigation includes: avoiding an impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of an action and its implementation; rectifying an impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of an action; or compensating for an impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

***mixed waste*** — Waste that contains both nonradioactive hazardous waste and radioactive waste, as defined in this glossary.



**Modified Mercalli Intensity** — A level on the modified Mercalli scale. A measure of the perceived intensity of earthquake ground shaking with 12 divisions, from I (not felt by people) to XII (nearly total damage). It is a unitless expression of observed effects.

**multiplication factor ( $k_{eff}$ )** — For a chain-reacting system, the mean number of fission neutrons produced by a neutron during its life within the system. For the critical system, the multiplication factor is equal to 1. If the multiplication factor is less than 1, the system is called “subcritical.” Conversely, if the multiplication factor is greater than 1, the system is called “supercritical.”

**National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants** — Standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for air pollutants that are not covered by National Ambient Air Quality Standards and that may, at sufficiently high levels, cause increased fatalities, irreversible health effects, or incapacitating illness. These standards are given in 40 CFR 61 and 63. National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants are given for many specific categories of sources (e.g., equipment leaks, industrial process cooling towers, dry-cleaning facilities, petroleum refineries). (See *hazardous air pollutants*.)

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System** — A provision of the Clean Water Act that prohibits discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States unless a special permit is issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a state, or, where delegated, a tribal government. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit lists either permissible discharges, the level of cleanup technology required for wastewater, or both.

**National Register of Historic Places** — The official list of the Nation’s cultural resources that are worthy of preservation. The National Park Service maintains the list under direction of the Secretary of the Interior. Buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts are included in the National Register for their importance in American history, architecture, archaeology, culture, or engineering. Properties included on the National Register range from large-scale, monumentally proportioned buildings to smaller-scale, regionally distinctive buildings. The listed properties are not just of nationwide importance; most are significant primarily at the state or local level. Procedures for listing properties on the National Register are found in 36 CFR 60.

**natural uranium** — Uranium with the naturally occurring distribution of uranium isotopes (approximately 0.7-weight percent uranium-235 with the remainder essentially uranium-238). (See *uranium, depleted uranium, enriched uranium, highly enriched uranium, and low-enriched uranium*.)

**neutron** — An uncharged elementary particle with a mass slightly greater than that of the proton. Neutrons are found in the nucleus of every atom heavier than hydrogen-1.

**nitrogen** — A natural element with the atomic number 7. It is diatomic in nature and is a colorless and odorless gas that constitutes about four-fifths of the volume of the atmosphere.

**nitrogen oxides** — Refers to the oxides of nitrogen, primarily nitrogen oxide and nitrogen dioxide. These are produced in the combustion of fossil fuels and can constitute an air pollution problem. Nitrogen dioxide emissions contribute to acid deposition and the formation of atmospheric ozone.

**noise** — Undesirable sound that interferes or interacts negatively with the human or natural environment. Noise may disrupt normal activities (e.g., hearing, sleep), damage hearing, or diminish the quality of the environment.

**nonattainment area** — An area that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated as not meeting (i.e., not being in attainment of) one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and particulate matter. An area may be in attainment for some pollutants, but not for others.

**nonproliferation** — Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear weapon materials, and nuclear weapon technology.

**normal operations** — All normal (incident-free) conditions and those abnormal conditions that frequency estimation techniques indicate occur with a frequency greater than 0.1 events per year.

**Notice of Intent** — The notice that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered. The notice is intended to briefly: describe the proposed action and possible alternatives; describe the agency's proposed scoping process including whether, when, and where any scoping meeting will be held; and state the name and address of a person within the agency who can answer questions about the proposed action and the environmental impact statement.

**nuclear component** — A part of a nuclear weapon that contains fissionable or fusionable material.

**nuclear criticality** — See *criticality*.

**nuclear explosive** — Any assembly containing fissionable and/or fusionable materials and main-charge high-explosive parts or propellants capable of producing a nuclear detonation.

**nuclear facility** — A facility subject to requirements intended to control potential nuclear hazards. Defined in DOE directives as any nuclear reactor or any other facility whose operations involve radioactive materials in such form and quantity that a significant nuclear hazard potentially exists to the employees or the general public.

**nuclear grade** — Material of a quality adequate for use in a nuclear application.

**nuclear material** — Composite term applied to: special nuclear material; source material such as uranium, thorium, or ores containing uranium or thorium; and byproduct material, which is any radioactive material that is made radioactive by exposure to the radiation incident or to the process of producing or using special nuclear material.

**nuclear radiation** — Particles (alpha, beta, neutrons) or photons (gamma) emitted from the nucleus of unstable radioactive atoms as a result of radioactive decay.

**nuclear weapon** — The general name given to any weapon in which the explosion results from the energy released by reactions involving atomic nuclei, either fission, fusion, or both.

**Nuclear Regulatory Commission** — The Federal agency that regulates the civilian nuclear power industry in the United States.

**nuclear weapons complex** — The sites supporting the research, development, design, manufacture, testing, assessment, certification, and maintenance of the Nation's nuclear weapons and the subsequent dismantlement of retired weapons.

**nuclide** — A species of atom characterized by the constitution of its nucleus and hence by the number of protons, the number of neutrons, and the energy content.

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration** — The U.S. Federal Government agency that oversees and regulates workplace health and safety; created by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

**offsite** — The term denotes a location, facility, or activity occurring outside of the boundary of a DOE complex site.

**onsite** — The term denotes a location or activity occurring within the boundary of a DOE complex site.

**outfall** — The discharge point of a drain, sewer, or pipe as it empties into a body of water.

**ozone** — The triatomic form of oxygen; in the stratosphere, ozone protects Earth from the Sun's ultraviolet rays, but in lower levels of the atmosphere, ozone is considered an air pollutant.

**package** — For radioactive materials, the packaging, together with its radioactive contents, as presented for transport (the packaging plus the radioactive contents equals the package).

**packaging** — The assembly of components necessary to ensure compliance with Federal regulations. It may consist of one or more receptacles, absorbent materials, spacing structures, thermal insulation, radiation shielding, and devices for cooling or absorbing mechanical shocks. The vehicle tie-down system and auxiliary equipment may be designated as part of the packaging.

**paleontological resources** — The physical remains, impressions, or traces of plants or animals from a former geologic age; may be sources of information on ancient environments and the evolutionary development of plants and animals.

**particulate matter (PM)** — Any finely divided solid or liquid material, other than uncombined (i.e., pure) water. A subscript denotes the upper limit of the diameter of particles included. Thus, PM<sub>10</sub> includes only those particles equal to or less than 10 micrometers (0.0004 inches) in diameter; PM<sub>2.5</sub> includes only those particles equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers (0.0001 inches) in diameter.

**peak ground acceleration** — A measure of the maximum horizontal acceleration (as a percentage of the acceleration due to the Earth's gravity) experienced by a particle on the surface of the earth during the course of earthquake motion.

**Pennsylvanian** — A geologic time period of the Paleozoic era, spanning between about 320 and 286 million years ago.

**perched aquifer/groundwater** — A body of groundwater of small lateral dimensions separated from an underlying body of groundwater by an unsaturated zone.

**Permian** — The final geologic time period of the Paleozoic era, spanning between about 286 and 245 million years ago.

**permeability** — In geology, the ability of rock or soil to transmit a fluid.

**perennial stream** — A stream that flows throughout the year.

**person-rem** — A unit of collective radiation dose applied to populations or groups of individuals (see collective dose); that is, a unit for expressing the dose when summed across all persons in a specified population or group. One person-rem equals 0.01 person-sieverts (Sv).

**PIDAS (Perimeter Intrusion Detection and Assessment System)** — A mutually supporting combination of barriers, clear zones, lighting, and electronic intrusion detection, assessment, and access control systems constituting the perimeter of the Protected Area and designed to detect, impede, control, or deny access to the Protected Area.

**pit** — The central core of a primary assembly in a nuclear weapon typically composed of plutonium-239 and/or highly-enriched uranium and other materials.

**placer** — A surficial mineral deposit formed by mechanical concentration of valuable minerals from weathered debris, usually through the action of stream currents or waves.

**playa** — A dry lake bed in a desert basin or a closed depression that contains water on a seasonal basis.

**Pleistocene** — The geologic time period of the earliest epoch of the Quaternary period, spanning between about 1.6 million years ago and the beginning of the Holocene epoch at 10,000 years ago. It is characterized by the succession of northern glaciations and also called the "Ice Age."

**plume** — The elongated pattern of contaminated air or water originating at a source, such as a smokestack or a hazardous waste disposal site.

**plutonium** — A heavy, radioactive, metallic element with the atomic number 94. It is produced artificially by neutron bombardment of uranium. Plutonium has 15 isotopes with atomic masses ranging from 232 to 246 and half-lives from 20 minutes to 76 million years.

**plutonium-239** — An isotope of plutonium with a half-life of 24,110 years that is the primary radionuclide in weapons-grade plutonium. When plutonium-239 decays, it emits alpha particles.

**population dose** — See *collective dose*.

**Precambrian** — All geologic time before the beginning of the Paleozoic era. This includes about 90 percent of all geologic time and spans the time from the beginning of the Earth, about 4.5 billion years ago, to about 570 million years ago.

**prehistoric resources** — The physical remains of human activities that predate written records; they generally consist of artifacts that may alone or collectively yield otherwise inaccessible information about the past.

**Prevention of Significant Deterioration** — Regulations required by the 1977 Clean Air Act amendments to limit increases in criteria air pollutant concentrations above baseline in areas that already meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Cumulative increases in pollutant levels after specified baseline dates must not exceed specified maximum allowable amounts. These allowable increases, also known as increments, are especially stringent in areas designated as Class I areas (e.g., national parks, wilderness areas) where the preservation of clean air is particularly important. All areas not designated as Class I are currently designated as Class II. Maximum increments in pollutant levels are also given in 40 CFR 51.166 for Class III areas, if any such areas should be so designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Class III increments are less stringent than those for Class I or Class II areas. (See *National Ambient Air Quality Standards*.)

**probabilistic risk assessment** — A comprehensive, logical, and structured methodology that accounts for population dynamics and human activity patterns at various levels of sophistication, considering time-space distributions and sensitive subpopulations. The probabilistic method results in a more complete characterization of the exposure information available, which is defined by probability distribution functions. This approach offers the possibility of an associated quantitative measure of the uncertainty around the value of interest.

**process** — Any method or technique designed to change the physical or chemical character of the product.

**Protected Area** — A type of security area defined by physical barriers (i.e., walls or fences), to which access is controlled, used for protection of security Category II special nuclear materials and classified matter and/or to provide a concentric security zone surrounding a Material Access Area (security Category I nuclear materials) or a Vital Area.

**proton** — An elementary nuclear particle with a positive charge equal in magnitude to the negative charge of the electron; it is a constituent of all atomic nuclei, and the atomic number of an element indicates the number of protons in the nucleus of each atom of that element.

**pulsed assemblies** — A critical assembly designed to produce a brief emission of neutrons and gamma radiation associated with a critical condition that lasts a fraction of a second.

**Quaternary** — The second geologic time period of the Cenozoic era, dating from about 1.6 million years ago to the present. It contains two epochs: the Pleistocene and the Holocene. It is characterized by the first appearance of human beings on Earth.

**rad** — See *radiation absorbed dose*.

**radiation (ionizing)** — See *ionizing radiation*.

**radiation absorbed dose (rad)** — The basic unit of absorbed dose equal to the absorption of 0.01 joule per kilogram (100 ergs per gram) of absorbing material.

**radioactive waste** — In general, waste that is managed for its radioactive content. Waste material that contains source, special nuclear, or byproduct material is subject to regulation as radioactive waste under the Atomic Energy Act. Also, waste material that contains accelerator-produced radioactive material or a high concentration of naturally occurring radioactive material may be considered radioactive waste.

**radioactivity** —

*Defined as a process:* The spontaneous transformation of unstable atomic nuclei, usually accompanied by the emission of ionizing radiation.

*Defined as a property:* The property of unstable nuclei in certain atoms to spontaneously emit ionizing radiation during nuclear transformations.

**radioisotope or radionuclide** — An unstable isotope that undergoes spontaneous transformation, emitting radiation. (See *isotope*.)

**radon** — A gaseous, radioactive element with the atomic number 86, resulting from the radioactive decay of radium. Radon occurs naturally in the environment and can collect in unventilated enclosed areas, such as basements. Large concentrations of radon can cause lung cancer in humans.

**Record of Decision** — A document prepared in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR 1505.2 and 10 CFR 1021.315 that provides a concise public record of DOE's decision on a proposed action for which an EIS was prepared. A Record of Decision identifies the alternatives considered in reaching the decision; the environmentally preferable alternative; factors balanced by DOE in making the decision; and whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted, and, if not, the reasons they were not adopted.

**reference concentration** — An estimate of a toxic chemical daily inhalation of the human population (including sensitive subgroups) likely to be without an appreciable risk of harmful effects during a lifetime. Those effects are both to the respiratory system (portal-of-entry) and the peripheral to the respiratory system (extra-respiratory effects). It is expressed in units of micrograms per cubic meter.

**region of influence** — A site-specific geographic area in which the principal direct and indirect effects of actions are likely to occur and are expected to be of consequence for local jurisdictions.

**regulated substances** — A general term used to refer to materials other than radionuclides that may be regulated by other applicable Federal, state, or local requirements.

**rem (roentgen equivalent man)** — A unit of dose equivalent. The dose equivalent in rem equals the absorbed dose in rad in tissue multiplied by the appropriate quality factor and possibly other modifying factors. Derived from “roentgen equivalent man,” referring to the dosage of ionizing radiation that will cause the same biological effect as 1 roentgen of x-ray or gamma-ray exposure. One rem equals 0.01 sievert. (See *absorbed dose* and *dose equivalent*.)

**remediation** — The process, or a phase in the process, of rendering radioactive, hazardous, or mixed waste environmentally safe, whether through processing, entombment, or other methods.

**remote-handled waste** — In general, refers to radioactive waste that must be handled at a distance to protect workers from unnecessary exposure (e.g., waste with a dose rate of 200 millirem per hour or more at the surface of the waste package). (See *contact-handled waste*.)

**rhyolite** — A fine-grained silica-rich igneous rock, the extrusive equivalent of granite.

**rightsizing** — Facility modification, rearrangement, and refurbishment necessary to size future weapon manufacturing facilities appropriately for the workload to be accomplished. In general, rightsizing involves reduction in the size of facilities, but not in their capabilities. Rightsizing is not driven by assumptions about future DOE budget levels, but rather by the need to size facilities at the level necessary for long-term workload accomplishment.

**riparian** — Of, on, or relating to the banks of a natural course of water.

**risk** — The probability of a detrimental effect from exposure to a hazard. To describe impacts, risk is often expressed quantitatively as the probability of an adverse event occurring multiplied by the consequence of that event (i.e., the product of these two factors). However, a separate presentation of probability and consequence to describe impacts is often more informative.

**risk assessment (chemical or radiological)** — The qualitative and quantitative evaluation performed in an effort to define the risk posed to human health and/or the environment by the presence or potential presence and/or use of specific chemical or radiological materials.

**roentgen** — A unit of exposure to ionizing x-ray or gamma radiation equal to or producing one electrostatic unit of charge per cubic centimeter of air. It is approximately equal to 1 rad.

**runoff** — The portion of rainfall, melted snow, or irrigation water that flows across the ground surface and eventually enters streams.

**safe, secure trailer** — A specially modified semitrailer, pulled by an armored tractor truck, that DOE uses to transport nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons components, or special nuclear material over public highways.

**safeguards** — An integrated system of physical protection, material accounting, and material control measures designed to deter, prevent, detect, and respond to unauthorized access, possession, use, or sabotage of nuclear materials.

**safety analysis report** — A report that systematically identifies potential hazards within a nuclear facility, describes and analyzes the adequacy of measures to eliminate or control identified hazards, and analyzes potential accidents and their associated risks. Safety analysis reports are used to ensure that a nuclear facility can be constructed, operated, maintained, shut down, and decommissioned safely and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Safety analysis reports are required for DOE nuclear facilities and as a part of applications for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission licenses. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations or DOE orders and technical standards that apply to the facility type provide specific requirements for the content of safety analysis reports. (See *nuclear facility*.)

**sandstone** — A sedimentary rock composed mostly of sand-size particles cemented usually by calcite, silica, or iron oxide.

**sanitary waste** — Waste generated by normal housekeeping activities, liquid or solid (includes sludge), which are not hazardous or radioactive.

**scope** — In a document prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered.

**scoping** — An early and open process for determining the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in an EIS and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. The scoping period begins after publication in the *Federal Register* of a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS. The public scoping process is that portion of the process where the public is invited to participate, and includes holding at least one public meeting and requesting written comments on issues and environmental concerns that an EIS should address. DOE also conducts an early internal scoping process for environmental assessments or EISs. For EISs, this internal scoping process precedes the public scoping process. DOE's scoping procedures are found in 10 CFR 1021.311.

**security** — An integrated system of activities, systems, programs, facilities, and policies for the protection of restricted data and other classified information or matter, nuclear materials, nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons components, and/or DOE contractor facilities, property, and equipment.



**seismic** — Earth vibration caused by an earthquake or an explosion.

**seismicity** — The relative frequency and distribution of earthquakes.

**severe accident** — An accident with a frequency of less than  $10^{-6}$  per year that would have more severe consequences than a design-basis accident in terms of damage to the facility, offsite consequences, or both.

**shielding** — In regard to radiation, any material of obstruction (e.g., bulkheads, walls, or other construction) that absorbs radiation to protect personnel or equipment.

**short-lived activation products** — An element formed from neutron interaction that has a relatively short half-life that is not produced from the fission reaction (e.g., a cobalt isotope formed from impurities in the metal of the reactor piping).

**short-lived nuclides** — Radioactive isotopes with half-lives no greater than about 30 years (e.g., cesium-137 and strontium-90).

**shutdown** — For a DOE reactor, the condition in which a reactor has ceased operations, and DOE has officially declared that it does not intend to operate it further.

**sievert** — The International System of Units (SI) unit of radiation dose equivalent. The dose equivalent in sieverts equals the absorbed dose in grays multiplied by the appropriate quality factor (1 sievert is equal to 100 rem). (See *gray*.)

**silica gel** — An amorphous, highly adsorbent form of silicon dioxide.

**soils** — All unconsolidated materials above bedrock. Natural earthy materials on the earth's surface, in places modified or even made by human activity, containing living matter, and supporting or capable of supporting plants out of doors.

**somatic effect** — Any effect that may manifest in the body of the exposed individual over his or her lifetime.

**source material** — Depleted uranium, normal uranium, thorium, or any other nuclear material determined, pursuant to Section 61 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to be source material, or ores containing one or more of the foregoing materials in such concentration as may be determined by regulation.

**source term** — The amount of a specific pollutant (e.g., chemical, radionuclide) emitted or discharged to a particular environmental medium (e.g., air, water) from a source or group of sources. It is usually expressed as a rate (i.e., amount per unit time).

**special nuclear material(s)** — A category of material subject to regulation under the Atomic Energy Act, consisting primarily of fissile materials. It is defined to mean plutonium, uranium-233, uranium enriched in the isotopes of uranium-233 or -235, and any other material that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission determines to be special nuclear material, but it does not include source material.

**spectral (response) acceleration** — An approximate measure of the acceleration (as a percentage of the acceleration due to Earth's gravity) experienced by a building, as modeled by a particle on a massless vertical rod having the same natural period of vibration as the building.

**spectral characteristics** — The natural property of a structure as it relates to the multidimensional temporal accelerations.

**staging** — The process of using several layers to achieve a combined effect greater than that of one layer.

**START I and II** — Terms that refer to negotiations between the United States and Russia (formerly the Soviet Union) during Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) I negotiations aimed at limiting and reducing nuclear arms. START I discussions began in 1982 and eventually led to a ratified treaty in 1988. START II protocol, which has not been fully ratified, will attempt to further reduce the acceptable levels of nuclear weapons ratified in START I.

**stockpile** — The inventory of active nuclear weapons for the strategic defense of the United States.

**stockpile stewardship program** — A program that ensures the operational readiness (i.e., safety and reliability) of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile by the appropriate balance of surveillance, experiments, and simulations.

**sulfur oxides** — Common air pollutants, primarily sulfur dioxide, a heavy, pungent, colorless gas (formed in the combustion of fossil fuels, considered a major air pollutant), and sulfur trioxide. Sulfur dioxide is involved in the formation of acid rain. It can also irritate the upper respiratory tract and cause lung damage.

**surface water** — All bodies of water on the surface of the earth and open to the atmosphere, such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, seas, and estuaries.

**Tertiary** — The first geologic time period of the Cenozoic era (after the Mesozoic era and before the Quaternary period), spanning between about 66 and 1.6 million years ago. During this period, mammals became the dominant life form on Earth.

**threat-1** — (1) A person, group, or movement with intentions to use extant or attainable capabilities to undertake malevolent actions against DOE interests; (2) the capability of an adversary coupled with his intentions to undertake any actions detrimental to the success of program activities or operation.

***threatened species*** — Any plants or animals likely to become endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges and which have been listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service following the procedures set in the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 424). (See *endangered species*.)

***threshold limit values*** — The recommended highest concentrations of contaminants to which workers may be exposed according to the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.

***total effective dose equivalent*** — The sum of the effective dose equivalent from external exposures and the committed effective dose equivalent from internal exposures.

***transuranic*** — Refers to any element whose atomic number is higher than that of uranium (atomic number 92), including neptunium, plutonium, americium, and curium. All transuranic elements are produced artificially and are radioactive.

***transuranic waste*** — Radioactive waste not classified as high-level radioactive waste and that contains more than 100 nanocuries (3,700 becquerels) per gram of alpha-emitting transuranic isotopes with half-lives greater than 20 years.

***tuff*** — A fine-grained rock composed of ash or other material formed by volcanic explosion or aerial expulsion from a volcanic vent.

***Type B packaging*** — A regulatory category of packaging for transportation of radioactive material. The U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission require Type B packaging for shipping highly radioactive material. Type B packages must be designed and demonstrated to retain their containment and shielding integrity under severe accident conditions, as well as under the normal conditions of transport. The current U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission testing criteria for Type B packaging designs (10 CFR 71) are intended to simulate severe accident conditions, including impact, puncture, fire, and immersion in water. The most widely recognized Type B packages are the massive casks used for transporting spent nuclear fuel. Large-capacity cranes and mechanical lifting equipment are usually needed to handle Type B packages.

***uranium*** — A radioactive, metallic element with the atomic number 92; one of the heaviest naturally occurring elements. Uranium has 14 known isotopes, of which uranium-238 is the most abundant in nature. Uranium-235 is commonly used as a fuel for nuclear fission. (See *natural uranium, enriched uranium, highly enriched uranium, and depleted uranium*.)

***vault (special nuclear material)*** — A penetration-resistant, windowless enclosure having an intrusion alarm system activated by opening the door and which also has: walls, floor, and ceiling substantially constructed of materials that afford forced-penetration resistance at least equivalent to that of 20-centimeter- (8-inch-) thick reinforced concrete; and a built-in combination-locked steel door, which for existing structures is at least 2.54-centimeters (1-inch)

thick exclusive of bolt work and locking devices, and which for new structures meets standards set forth in Federal specifications and standards.

**viewshed** — The extent of an area that may be viewed from a particular location. Viewsheds are generally bounded by topographic features such as hills or mountains.

**vital area** — A type of DOE security area that is located within the Protected Area and that has a separate perimeter and access controls to afford layered protection, including intrusion detection, for vital equipment.

**Visual Resource Management class** — Any of the classifications of visual resources established through application of the Visual Resources Management process of the Bureau of Land Management. Four classifications are employed to describe different degrees of modification to landscape elements: Class I areas where the natural landscape is preserved, including national wilderness areas and the wild sections of national wild and scenic rivers; Class II areas with very limited land development activity, resulting in visual contrasts that are seen but do not attract attention; Class III areas in which development may attract attention, but the natural landscape still dominates; and Class IV areas in which development activities may dominate the view and may be the major focus in the landscape.

**volatile organic compounds** — A broad range of organic compounds, often halogenated, that vaporize at ambient or relatively low temperatures, such as benzene, chloroform, and methyl alcohol. In regard to air and water pollution, any organic compound that participates in atmospheric photochemical reaction, except for those designated by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as having negligible photochemical reactivity.

**waste classification** — Waste is classified according to DOE Order 435.1, *Radioactive Waste Management* and includes high-level radioactive, transuranic, and low-level radioactive waste.

**waste management** — The planning, coordination, and direction of those functions related to the generation, handling, treatment, storage, transport, and disposal of waste, as well as associated surveillance and maintenance activities.

**waste minimization and pollution prevention** — An action that economically avoids or reduces the generation of waste and pollution by source reduction, reducing the toxicity of hazardous waste and pollution, improving energy use, or recycling. These actions will be consistent with the general goal of minimizing present and future threats to human health, safety, and the environment.

**watt** — A unit of power equal to 1 joule per second. (See *joule*.)

**weapons grade** — Fissionable material in which the abundance of fissionable isotopes is high enough that the material is suitable for use in thermonuclear weapons.

**weighting factor** — Generally, a method of attaching different importance values to different items or characteristics. In the context of radiation protection, the proportion of the risk of effects resulting from irradiation of a particular organ or tissue to the total risk of effects when the whole body is irradiated uniformly (e.g., the organ dose weighting factor for the lung is 0.12, compared to 1.0 for the whole body). Weighting factors are used for calculating the effective dose equivalent.

**wetland** — Wetlands are “... those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas” (33 CFR 328.3).

**whole-body dose** — In regard to radiation, dose resulting from the uniform exposure of all organs and tissues in a human body. (See *effective dose equivalent*.)

**wind rose** — A circular diagram showing, for a specific location, the percentage of the time the wind is from each compass direction. A wind rose for use in assessing consequences of airborne releases also shows the frequency of different wind speeds for each compass direction.

**X/Q (Chi/Q)** — The relative calculated air concentration due to a specific air release; units are seconds per cubic meter (sec/m<sup>3</sup>).

**yield** — The force in tons of TNT of a nuclear or thermonuclear explosion.

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University of Pennsylvania  
B.A., English, DePauw University

*Experience/Technical Specialty:*

Sixteen years. NEPA compliance, regulatory compliance and permitting, socioeconomics, environmental justice, comprehensive land-use and development planning, and cultural resources.

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ADMINISTRATION (NEPA COMPLIANCE OFFICER, ALBUQUERQUE SERVICE CENTER)  
*EIS Responsibilities:* DOCUMENT REVIEW**

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*Education:* Graduate Studies, University of Massachusetts and Utah State University  
B.S., Biology, University of Maine

*Experience/Technical Specialty:*

Twenty-eight years. Environmental investigations and NEPA compliance.

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*EIS RESPONSIBILITIES:* LAND, ECOLOGICAL, CULTURAL, AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

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*Education:* Ph.D., Wildlife Management, Michigan State University  
M.S., Zoology, University of Cincinnati  
B.S., Zoology, University of Cincinnati

*Experience/Technical Specialty:*

Twenty-nine years. Ecological field assessments, NEPA documentation, and regulatory reviews.

**ELLEN TAYLOR, LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
*EIS RESPONSIBILITIES:* LANL EIS COORDINATOR**

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*Education:* Ph.D., Biology, University of Pennsylvania  
B.A., Zoology, University of Vermont

*Experience/Technical Specialty:*

Twenty-one years. Environmental compliance and NEPA assessments.

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ADMINISTRATION (COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, LOS ALAMOS SITE OFFICE)  
*EIS RESPONSIBILITIES:* PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

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*Education:* Undergraduate Studies, University of New Mexico

*Experience/Technical Specialty:*

Seven years. Public affairs, public involvement, Tribal liaison.

**ROBERT H. WERTH, SCIENCE APPLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION  
*EIS RESPONSIBILITIES:* NOISE ANALYSIS, AIR QUALITY MODELING**

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*Education:* B.A., Physics, Gordon College

*Experience/Technical Specialty:*

Twenty-seven years. Acoustics and air quality analysis, regulatory reviews, and NEPA documentation.

**JOHN W. WILLIAMS, SCIENCE APPLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION**

***EIS RESPONSIBILITIES:* PROJECT MANAGER**

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*Education:* Ph.D., Physics, New Mexico State University  
M.S., Physics, New Mexico State University  
B.S., Mathematics, North Texas State University

*Experience/Technical Specialty:*

Thirty years. Geographical information systems, demographics.

**ELIZABETH WITHERS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY  
ADMINISTRATION (NEPA COMPLIANCE OFFICER, LOS ALAMOS SITE OFFICE)**

***EIS RESPONSIBILITIES:* EIS DOCUMENT MANAGER, CHAPTER 1**

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*Education:* M.S., Life Sciences, Louisiana Tech University  
B.S., Botany, Louisiana Tech University

*Experience/Technical Specialty:*

Twenty years. Environmental investigations and NEPA compliance.

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## 10. DISTRIBUTION LIST

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is providing copies of the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory (CMRR EIS)* (or Summary) to Federal, state, and local elected and appointed officials and agencies of government; Native American representatives; Federal, state, and local environmental and public interest groups; and other organizations and individuals listed in this Chapter. Approximately 175 copies of the final *CMRR EIS* and 232 copies of the Summary of the final *CMRR EIS* were sent to interested parties. Copies will be provided to others upon request.

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### *United States Congress*

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#### **U.S. House of Representatives**

Steve Pearce, R-New Mexico  
Tom Udall, D-New Mexico

Heather A. Wilson, R-New Mexico

#### **U.S. House of Representatives Committees**

Roscoe G. Bartlett, Subcommittee on Energy  
Joe Barton, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality  
Michael Bilirakis, Subcommittee on Health and Environment  
Sherwood L. Boehlert, Committee on Science  
Rick Boucher, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality  
Sonny Callahan, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
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Paul E. Gillmor, Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials  
Hilda Solis, Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials  
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Sarah Cobb, Office of Congressman Tom Udall  
Michelle Hacquez-Ortiz, Office of Congressman Tom Udall

#### **U.S. Senate**

Jeff Bingaman, D-New Mexico  
Pete V. Domenici, R-New Mexico

Harry Reid, D-Nevada

#### **U.S. Senate Committees**

Jeff Bingaman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Christopher S. Bond, Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
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Lincoln Chafee, Subcommittee on Superfund and Waste Management  
Pete Domenici, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Bryon L. Dorgan, Subcommittee on Water and Power  
Bob Graham, Subcommittee on Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation  
Lisa Murkowski, Subcommittee on Water and Power  
Don Nickles, Subcommittee on Energy Research Development, Production and Regulation  
George V. Voinovich, Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety  
Veronica Rodriquez, Office of Senator Pete Domenici  
Helen Dorado-Gray, Office of Senator Bingaman



***Federal Agencies***

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Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board	U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Department of the Interior	Bandelier National Monument
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Santa Fe National Forest
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	

***Local Government***

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**New Mexico**

**Mayors**

Martin Chavez, Albuquerque	Donna Dreska, Interim Administrator
Richard Lucero, Española	Incorporated County of Los Alamos
Larry Delgado, Santa Fe	Mr. Lorenzo Valdez, Rio Arriba County Manager

***Native American Representatives***

---

**New Mexico**

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Donna Stern-McFadden, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Mescalero  
Jerry Pardilla, National Tribal Environmental Council  
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Raymond Loretto, Governor, Pueblo of Jemez  
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Jacob Viarrial, Governor, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Santa Fe  
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Joseph Michael Chavarria, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Española  
Joseph Mark Chavarria, Director, Office of Environmental Affairs, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Española  
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***Citizen Advisory Boards***

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***Public Interest Groups***

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Joni Arends, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety

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Steve Schmidt, New Mexico Green Party  
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Alden Meyer, Union of Concerned Scientists  
Giuseppe Quinn, Zoom Productions  
Geoff Petrie, Nuclear Watch of New Mexico  
Kathy Sanchez, Tewa Women United  
Colin King, Nuclear Watch of New Mexico

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***Public Reading Rooms and Libraries***

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A complete copy of the Draft EIS may be reviewed at any of the Public Reading Rooms and Libraries listed below.

Freedom of Information Reading Room  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW, 1E-90  
Washington, DC 20585-0001  
(202) 586-3142

Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Community Relations Office  
1619 Central Avenue  
Los Alamos, NM 87545  
(505) 665-4400

Mesa Public Library  
2400 Central Avenue  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
(505) 662-8250

Santa Fe Main Library  
145 Washington Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 955-6780

Oliver La Farge Branch Library  
1730 Llano Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 955-4862

Española Public Library  
314-A Oñate NW  
Española, NM 87532  
(505) 747-6087

Government Information Department  
General Library  
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Sierra Fernandez	Miles Jones	
Raymond Finck	Kate Keely	

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