



DOE/EA-1677FONSI

***Finding of No Significant Impact
for the Final Environmental Assessment
Addressing the Conveyance and Transfer of
the Two Land Tracts Pursuant to Public Law
111-11, Section 13005***

**National Nuclear Security Administration
Service Center**

May 2010



**Finding of No Significant Impact
for Proposed Conveyance and Transfer of
Two Land Tracts Pursuant to
Public Law 111-11, section 13005,
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

(DOE/EA-1677)

**U. S. Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Service Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

May 2010

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Proposed Conveyance and Transfer of Two Land Tracts
Pursuant to Public Law 111-11, Section 13005,
Albuquerque, New Mexico

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: The *Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Conveyance and Transfer of Two Land Tracts Pursuant to Public Law 111-11, Section 13005, Albuquerque, New Mexico* (DOE/EA-1677) (attached) provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate for the proposed conveyance and transfer actions. The attached EA has been prepared cooperatively amongst the Departments of Energy, Interior, and Air Force. All three agencies have categorical exclusions in their implementing regulations for which this proposed action qualifies. Jointly the three agencies determined to prepare an EA rather than individually apply categorical exclusions (CEQ1501.3 (b)). A detailed description of the proposed action and its environmental consequences is presented in the EA. The EA provides background and analyses in the following Chapters: 1. Purpose and Need; 2. Description of Alternatives; and 3. Environmental Impacts and Consequences of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternatives. The EA analyzes the effects on waste management; air quality; cultural resources; visual resources; transportation; traffic, infrastructure; geologic setting; water resources; human health and worker safety; noise; socioeconomics; land use; environmental justice; biologic resources; floodplains and wetlands; prime farmland; and accidents/intentional destructive acts; in addition to cumulative impacts. The environmental permit system and oversight by state, federal, and local regulatory agencies would serve to lessen any potential for adverse environmental effects to the land tracts under different ownership. Analyses performed in the subject EA allowed the U.S. Departments of Energy and U.S. Air Force to conclude that potential adverse environmental effects of the conveyance and transfer alternative (The Proposed Action) and No Action Alternative, under normal conditions, would be minimal.

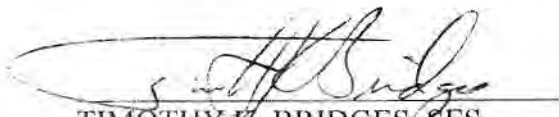
PREDECISIONAL DRAFT REVIEW & COMMENT: On March 19, 2010, the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration invited review and comment on the predecisional Draft EA from the State of New Mexico, and one nearby American Indian tribe, the Isleta Pueblo. The National Nuclear Security Administration also made the predecisional Draft EA available to the general public at the same time it was provided to the State and Tribe for review and comment. The general availability of the predecisional Draft EA to the public was accomplished by placing it in Public Reading Rooms in the University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library, Central New Mexico College's Montoya campus library, and the Kirtland Air Force Base library in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Additionally, more than 28 local and out of state stakeholder groups and individuals that have identified themselves as interested parties with respect to DOE activities were notified by letter of the availability of the predecisional Draft EA on March 18, 2010. A notice of the availability of the predecisional Draft EA for review was sent to several local media outlets. Copies of the predecisional Draft EA and Draft FONSI were posted electronically on the Service Center Web page: <http://www.doeal.gov/>. Copies of the predecisional draft EA were available upon request to all

interested parties for their review. The review and comment period was 30 days long and ended April 17, 2010. No comments were received during this period.

AGENCY CONSULTATIONS: The Kirtland Air Force Base Biological Resources Manager determined the conveyance and transfer activities would not affect individual threatened or endangered species at the applicable land tracts or their critical habitat. No consultation is required through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the provisions of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) unless new species were to be listed over the period of time required to implement the Proposed Action.

Similarly, the Kirtland Air Force Base Cultural Resources Manager determined that the Proposed Action would not affect recorded historic or prehistoric resources. No consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer pursuant to Section 106 requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act is required.

FINDING: Based on the evaluation presented in the EA and the lack of concerns of interested stakeholders, the U.S. Department of the Air Force and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration find there would be no significant impact from proceeding with their Proposed Action to convey and transfer two land tracts pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 111-11, Section 13005. The basis of this finding is that there are no direct and/or indirect environmental effects that would result from strictly administrative actions like real property ownership and control changes, and based on the analysis of relevant issues of environmental concern in the attached EA. The U.S. Department of the Air Force and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration approve this FONSI pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.]; the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA [40 CFR 1500]; the U.S. Department of Energy NEPA Implementing Procedures [10 CFR 1021], and the U.S. Department of the Air Force implementing procedures [32 CFR Part 989]. No Environmental Impact Statement is required for this proposal.



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Date 29 Apr 10



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Date 5.6.10