

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

Los Alamos National Laboratory (the Laboratory) is a multidisciplinary research facility owned by the Department of Energy (DOE) and managed by the University of California. The Laboratory is located in north-central New Mexico approximately 35 miles northwest of Santa Fe. The Laboratory covers 40 square miles of the Pajarito Plateau; the Plateau consists of a series of finger-like mesas that are separated by deep canyons containing perennial and intermittent streams running from west to east. ❁

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT

The Laboratory's Environmental Restoration (ER) Project (implemented by the Environmental Programs) is a part of a DOE nationwide program. DOE's environmental restoration efforts began in 1989. The ER Project investigates whether hazardous chemicals and/or radioactive wastes are present as a result of past Laboratory operations and cleans up and restores such sites as needed. ❁

LAND TRANSFER DESCRIPTION

The United States Congress enacted Public Law 105-119 on November 27, 1997. This Act requires that lands be identified which are no longer needed or prospectively needed to support the national security mission of the DOE, and which are suitable for the following purposes: "historic, cultural, or environmental preservation purposes, economic diversification purposes, or community self-sufficiency purposes." The parcels must be conveyed or transferred by November 2007—within ten years of the enactment of PL 105-119. ❁

STATUS

In February 1998, the DOE identified 10 parcels of land (4,796 acres) to be considered for conveyance and transfer. Since that time, the original 10 parcels listed were further subdivided into 32 sub-parcels to accelerate the land transfer process. Potential land recipients are Los Alamos County, the New Mexico Highway Department and the Department of Interior (in trust for San Ildefonso Pueblo). Before any parcel can be conveyed or leased, all necessary environmental restoration and/or remediation must be completed. The Laboratory must comply with other environmental laws as well. To date, remedial actions have been completed on 13 sub-parcels, which are scheduled for conveyance by the end of September 2002. ❁



Above is the Manhattan Monument parcel (Pond Monument), view from Trinity Drive.

LAND TRANSFER PROJECT

TIMELINE

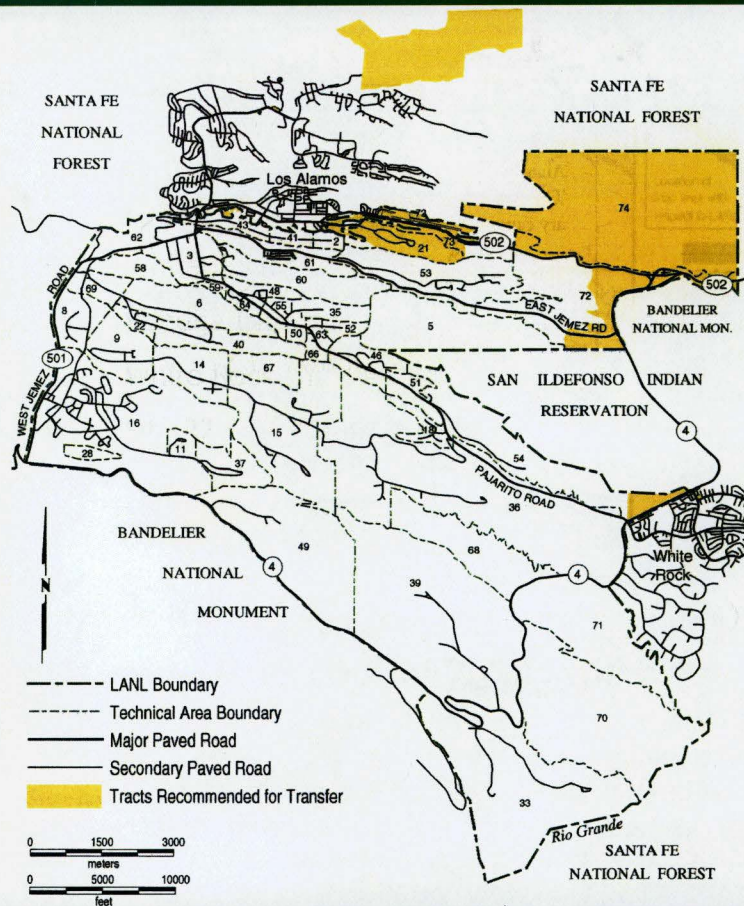
- 1940s** The Laboratory was founded in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project. Processes used to carry out the Laboratory's past and present missions involve the use of hazardous and radioactive materials.
- 1950s** During and after World War II, materials were disposed of on the Laboratory site or otherwise released into the environment.
- 1960s** Congress enacted basic legislation to protect the environment. The Department of Energy's predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Laboratory began to conduct surveys and to clean up areas where spills and disposal had occurred.
- 1970s** Congress enacted the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) that governs the day-to-day operations of hazardous waste generation, treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (sites).
- 1980s** Congress amended RCRA by passing the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA). HSWA prescribes a corrective action process that focuses primarily on the investigation and cleanup, if required, of inactive sites.
- 1990s** Environmental restoration began at the Laboratory to clean up sites that were formerly involved in weapons research and production.
- 2000s** The ER Project investigates and cleans up sites that have the potential to affect human health or the environment, in accordance with the Laboratory's RCRA permit.

ORIGINAL TEN LAND TRANSFER PARCELS

1. DP Road (50 acres)
2. Technical Area 21 (260 acres)
3. Los Alamos Site Office (15 acres)
4. Airport (205 acres)
5. White Rock (100 acres)
6. Rendija (910 acres)
7. White Rock "Y" (540 acres)
8. Site 22 (<1 acre)
9. Technical Area 74 (2,715 acres)
10. Manhattan Monument (<1 acre)

NOTE:

- ▶ The original 10 parcels were further subdivided into 28 subparcels in 2001.
- ▶ In 2004-2005, the 28 subparcels were further divided into 32 subparcels.



ACTIVITIES

The amount of work on the land transfer sub-parcels varies, depending on whether potential release sites (PRSs) are present on the sub-parcel, and the type of remedial actions that may be required. Remedial actions may range from desktop surveys to detailed investigations to the treatment or removal of contamination, such that the site can be approved for No Further Action. ❁

CERCLA 120(H) REPORTS

In the final step of the land transfer process, the Laboratory must prepare a report under Section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). This report summarizes all known information about hazardous substances that have been present on the sub-parcel. This CERCLA report becomes part of the documents provided to the new landowner during the property transfer. ❁



TA-74 and Bayo Canyon from Camp Hamilton Trail view to northwest.

Opportunities
For Public
Involvement



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