

**Public Involvement Plan**

**for**

**LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY  
LOS ALAMOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO  
EPA ID# NM NM0890010515**

**Hazardous Waste Management Activities**

Prepared by:

Hazardous Waste Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

## **I. Public Involvement Plan Overview**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Hazardous Waste Bureau (Bureau or HWB) has developed this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for hazardous waste management activities required by 20.4.1.901 NMAC such as permit issuance, denial, permit renewal, permit modifications, and activities associated with FFCO and Consent Order at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL or the Facility). The Permittees for LANL include U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Triad National Security LLC (Triad), and Newport News Nuclear BWXT-Los Alamos, LLC (N3B).

LANL is located in Los Alamos County approximately 60 miles north-northeast of Albuquerque and 25 miles northwest of Santa Fe and occupies approximately 40 square miles. The Facility is situated on the Pajarito Plateau which consists of a series of finger-like mesas separated by deep east-west trending canyons. The Facility is divided up into small geographic areas known as technical areas (TAs).

This PIP integrates information about the community and identifies resources needed by the Bureau to successfully incorporate community participation activities into the decision-making process. The PIP identifies NMED staff and resources needed to accomplish these activities.

In developing this PIP, community participation needs at the site were assessed to ensure appropriate promotion of public outreach by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors (*e.g.*, low income, minority, limited English proficiency, linguistically isolated households) that may affect public participation actions. This assessment identifies community outreach needs based on the type of activity and potential effects to the surrounding community and addresses the provision of public access to information about the activity.

To the extent possible, public participation and informational activities related to the implementation of this PIP will be held within the timelines outlined below. Public notice activities are subject to statutory or regulatory deadlines.

Draft documents issued for public comment will generally be made available for a 30 to 60-day period (depending upon regulatory requirements of a specific activity) to allow for formal public review and comments. Based on the demographics of the area, the Bureau will provide pertinent information in both English and Spanish in public notices, public informational meeting notices, and other announcements (*e.g.*, newspaper notices, mailings.).

The Bureau encourage the public to learn about and get involved in regulatory decision-making opportunities for these activities. The purpose of this PIP is to provide public participation opportunities and information that may be needed to participate in this activity.

This PIP was developed by the Hazardous Waste Bureau and may be amended to address specific actions at LANL and after considering public comments and feedback. The Bureau will make the

final approval of the PIP and amendments.

## **II. Contacts**

The Bureau contact for LANL related activities is:

Neelam Dhawan, LANL Group Manager  
NMED - Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313

Phone: (505) 476-6000

Fax: (505) 476-6030

E-Mail: [neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us](mailto:neelam.dhawan@state.nm.us)

Hazardous Waste Bureau notices issued for public comment will include specific instructions for submitting comments related to these activities.

## **III. Assistance for Non-English Language Speakers and Persons with Disabilities**

The Bureau will include information about how persons may request non-English speaker language assistance and accommodations for persons with disabilities (*e.g.*, deaf and/or non-English language interpreters) in public notices related to these activities. Public notices will direct public requests for assistance to the Bureau contact, who will notify the Department's Non-Discrimination Coordinator. Arrangements will be made by the Bureau for document translation, interpretation, or disability services related to the activity or proceeding, as necessary. The following information will be provided in public notices so that hearing-impaired callers and persons with a disability can contact the Bureau and ask questions about the activity or proceeding:

Toll-free numbers are available for Telecommunication Device for Deaf (TDD) or TeleType (TTY) users to access the New Mexico Relay Network at 1-800-659-1779 (voice); TTY users: 1-800-659-8331. HWB public notices will include Bureau contact information for persons with a disability who require assistance or auxiliary air to participate in this process.

## **IV. Department Websites**

Public notices and outreach materials will include links to the following websites:

New Mexico Environment Department - [www.env.nm.gov](http://www.env.nm.gov)

Hazardous Waste Bureau - [www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste](http://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste)

.

## V. EJSCREEN Summary

To assess the need to specifically reach and inform Limited English Proficient (LEP) community populations to encourage public participation, the Bureau utilized Environmental Justice mapping and screening (EJSCREEN) tool. EJSCREEN was developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EJSCREEN provides up to 11 environmental indexes and six demographic indexes. Through EJSCREEN, demographic data is available for 2011-2015 via the American Community Survey (ACS) (See Attachment A), the EJSCREEN Report (See Attachment B).

To meet the search criteria specified in NMED policy 07-13, preliminary screening was conducted using EPA's EJSCREEN tool to generate reports from the ACS by tracing a line around the boundary of the Facility and then adding a four-mile radius around the LANL Facility boundary.

This report, which is included as Appendix A to this PIP, indicated that there are 7,694 households within a four-mile radius around the facility boundary (considered the affected community) and the per capita income for the population within a four-mile radius was \$46,400. The U.S. per capita income is \$24,459.

The percent of minority population within a four-mile radius was 27%, and percent of population by race was 86% white (16% of the population listed as white is Hispanic), 0% black, 2% American Indian, 7% Non-Hispanic Asian, and 1% identified as two or more races.

The percentage of linguistically isolated households within a four-mile radius was 3%. The portion of households who spoke Spanish was 65%, 31% spoke other Asian-Pacific Island languages, and the remaining 4% spoke other Indo-European languages. The results from the 4-mile radius ACS Report did not provide a breakdown of individual languages spoken at home.

The percentage of the population who were age 5+ who spoke only English or were able to speak English very well was 96%. These results indicate that for the affected community, the percentage of persons who speak English less than very well (4%) is considerably less than the state (10%) or national percentages (8.7%) based on 2010 U.S. census data.

<b>4-Mile Radius: Population and Income Data</b>			
Total Population	18,216	Per Capita Income of Community	\$46,400
Minority Population %	27%	US Per Capita Income	\$29, 829*
Total Number of Households	7,694	Total Number of Linguistically Isolated Households	222 (~2.8%)**

(See Attachment A-EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report 2011-2015)

\*US per capita income 2012-2016, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/facts/table/US/HSG030210>

\*\* Calculated by (Total number linguistically isolated household/ Total number households) \*100

<b>4-Mile Radius:</b>			
<b>Total Population by Race (%)</b>		<b>Population by ability to speak English (%)</b>	
White	87%	Speaks only English	81%
Reporting as Hispanic	16%		
Black	0%	Non-English at Home	19%
American Indian	2%	Speaks English "very well"	14%
Asian	7%	Speaks English "well"	2%
Pacific Islander	0%	Speaks English "not well"	1%
Some Other Race	3%	Speaks English "not at all"	1%
Reporting Two or More	2%	Speaks English "less than very well"	4%

(See Attachment A-EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report 2011-2015)

<b>4-Mile Radius:</b>			
<b>Linguistically Isolated Household Details (%)</b>		<b>List Other Languages (of total languages (p.3 of Report))</b>	
Speaks English	65%	Not Applicable (NA)	
Speaks Other Indo-European Languages	4%	NA	
Speaks Asian Pacific Languages	31%	NA	
Speaks Other Languages	0%	NA	

(See Attachment A-EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report 2011-2015)

Based on the EJSCREEN results, along with the history of public involvement at the site and the site background, the Bureau has determined that public notice documents will provide basic information concerning public involvement opportunities in both English and Spanish. The Bureau has determined that information will be disseminated to American Indian communities by sending public notices to the members of those communities, and stakeholder groups on the Facility Mailing List. This information will include how to request materials in languages other than English or how to speak with Hazardous Waste Bureau staff through an interpreter.

## **VI. Public Participation Activities**

The Bureau will conduct the following public participation and outreach activities associated with these activities:

- Postal mailings and email notices to the Facility mailing list
- Radio announcements
- Newspaper publications

## **VII. Postal Mailing or E-Mailing of Notices to Persons on the Facility-Specific Mailing List**

The Hazardous Waste Bureau maintains a facility mailing list for LANL that includes individuals and local, state, and federal government and tribal agencies interested in RCRA-related facility

activities. The Bureau maintains contact information which is updated or supplemented if additional information becomes available. Individuals, organizations, and other interested parties are added to the list as requested. If the Bureau receives returned mail subsequent to the issuance of a public notice indicating the recipient is no longer at the listed address, the name may be removed from a facility mailing list.

### **VIII. Notices in the State Newspaper and Local Newspapers**

Public notices that are required to be published in state and local newspapers will be published in English and Spanish in the Albuquerque Journal (state-wide circulation) and the Santa Fe New Mexican. There is no local Spanish Language newspaper in New Mexico. Websites for these publications are listed below.

Albuquerque Journal: <https://www.abqjournal.com/>

Santa Fe New Mexican: <https://www.santafenewmexican.com/>

### **IX. Public Notices**

Public notices are issued for public comment periods related to various hazardous waste management activities, public informational meetings, and selected other public notifications. Public notices are mailed to persons included on the facility mailing list, published in the Albuquerque Journal and the Santa Fe New Mexican, broadcast as public service announcements on radio, and posted on the Hazardous Waste Bureau website. The notifications will be issued in Spanish and English. These notices will provide general information about the specific activity and contact information for submitting comments, and if held, the time and location of public informational meetings.

### **X. Public Comment Periods**

The Hazardous Waste Bureau generally provides 30-60 days for public review and comment for these activities. The Hazardous Waste Bureau may extend the public comment period, if a request is received during the public comment period to extend the comment period based on significant interest. The Hazardous Waste Bureau will provide public notice of any extension to a public comment period as described in Section IX above.

### **XI. Public Information Meetings**

The LANL facility is inaccessible to the public, access is restricted by fencing and security of the DOE which prohibits access by unauthorized persons.

Because the contact with the public, and therefore members of the public with limited English proficiency is infrequent, the Bureau does not plan to hold an additional public informational meeting to provide information regarding these activities, and will publish the public notice for this action in accordance with 20.4.1.901.C NMAC.

## **XII. Other Outreach**

Depending on the cost and a radio station's public service broadcast availability, the Bureau may use commercial radio announcements or informational broadcasts in both Spanish and English.

Because the contact with the public, and therefore members of the public with limited English proficiency is infrequent, the Bureau does not plan to provide additional public outreach for these activities.

## **XIII. Site Repositories**

During public comment period, in addition to information being posted on the Hazardous Waste Bureau website, copies of relevant documents will be accessible in print or online at the following location:

NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau  
Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505  
(505) 476-6000

<https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/>

## **XIV. Responses to Comments**

The HWB must ensure that the approved documents are consistent with the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations. All written comments submitted will become part of the administrative record, will be considered in formulating a final decision, and may cause the document to be revised. The HWB will respond in writing to all significant public comments. The response will specify which provisions, if any, of the document has been changed in the final administrative decision, and the reasons for the change. This response will also be posted on the Bureau's website and the Bureau will notify all persons who have provided written comments.

After consideration of all written public comments received, the Bureau will approve or deny the document. If the Bureau disapproves the document, the Permittees will be provided by mail a copy of the disapproval and will be required to submit a revised document for Bureau approval. The Bureau will make the final response publicly available. All persons that provided written comments, or who requested notification in writing, will be notified of the final decision by mail.

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report**  
**4-Mile Radius**  
**(2011-2015)**



Location: User-specified linear location  
 Ring (buffer): 4-mile radius  
 Description: LANL2

Summary of ACS Estimates		2011 - 2015
Population		18,216
Population Density (per sq. mile)		73
Minority Population		4,925
% Minority		27%
Households		7,694
Housing Units		8,405
Housing Units Built Before 1950		739
Per Capita Income		46,400
Land Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		250.76
% Land Area		100%
Water Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		0.43
% Water Area		0%

	2011 - 2015 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
<b>Population by Race</b>			
Total	18,216	100%	402
Population Reporting One Race	17,815	98%	1,076
White	15,612	86%	404
Black	87	0%	32
American Indian	387	2%	257
Asian	1,201	7%	229
Pacific Islander	17	0%	25
Some Other Race	510	3%	129
Population Reporting Two or More Races	401	2%	152
Total Hispanic Population	2,973	16%	319
Total Non-Hispanic Population	15,242		
White Alone	13,291	73%	361
Black Alone	87	0%	32
American Indian Alone	361	2%	256
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone	1,201	7%	229
Pacific Islander Alone	17	0%	25
Other Race Alone	84	0%	74
Two or More Races Alone	201	1%	70
<b>Population by Sex</b>			
Male	9,336	51%	285
Female	8,880	49%	261
<b>Population by Age</b>			
Age 0-4	981	5%	99
Age 0-17	4,273	23%	175
Age 18+	13,943	77%	252
Age 65+	3,015	17%	128

**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. N/A means not available.

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 - 2015.

Location: User-specified linear location  
 Ring (buffer): 4-mile radius  
 Description: LANL2

	2011 - 2015 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
<b>Population 25+ by Educational Attainment</b>			
Total	12,907	100%	244
Less than 9th Grade	195	2%	60
9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma	212	2%	55
High School Graduate	1,460	11%	99
Some College, No Degree	2,839	22%	142
Associate Degree	981	8%	89
Bachelor's Degree or more	8,202	64%	187
<b>Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English</b>			
Total	17,235	100%	356
Speak only English	14,016	81%	270
Non-English at Home <sup>1+2+3+4</sup>	3,219	19%	243
<sup>1</sup> Speak English "very well"	2,487	14%	169
<sup>2</sup> Speak English "well"	347	2%	222
<sup>3</sup> Speak English "not well"	199	1%	112
<sup>4</sup> Speak English "not at all"	186	1%	137
<sup>3+4</sup> Speak English "less than well"	385	2%	154
<sup>2+3+4</sup> Speak English "less than very well"	732	4%	222
<b>Linguistically Isolated Households*</b>			
Total	222	100%	90
Speak Spanish	144	65%	89
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	8	4%	13
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	69	31%	37
Speak Other Languages	1	0%	11
<b>Households by Household Income</b>			
Household Income Base	7,694	100%	140
< \$15,000	492	6%	88
\$15,000 - \$25,000	230	3%	42
\$25,000 - \$50,000	1,131	15%	119
\$50,000 - \$75,000	775	10%	87
\$75,000 +	5,067	66%	156
<b>Occupied Housing Units by Tenure</b>			
Total	7,694	100%	140
Owner Occupied	5,716	74%	114
Renter Occupied	1,978	26%	119
<b>Employed Population Age 16+ Years</b>			
Total	14,585	100%	250
In Labor Force	9,419	65%	234
Civilian Unemployed in Labor Force	355	2%	58
Not In Labor Force	5,165	35%	179

**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 - 2015.

\*Households in which no one 14 and over speaks English "very well" or speaks English only.

Location: User-specified linear location  
 Ring (buffer): 4-mile radius  
 Description: LANL2

	2011 - 2015 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
<b>Population by Language Spoken at Home*</b>			
Total (persons age 5 and above)	17,235	100%	356
English	N/A	N/A	N/A
Spanish	N/A	N/A	N/A
French	N/A	N/A	N/A
French Creole	N/A	N/A	N/A
Italian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portuguese	N/A	N/A	N/A
German	N/A	N/A	N/A
Yiddish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other West Germanic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scandinavian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greek	N/A	N/A	N/A
Russian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Polish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Serbo-Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Slavic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armenian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Persian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gujarathi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hindi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urdu	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indo-European	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chinese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Japanese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Korean	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hmong	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thai	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laotian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vietnamese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Asian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tagalog	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Pacific Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
Navajo	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Native American	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hungarian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arabic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hebrew	N/A	N/A	N/A
African	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other and non-specified	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Non-English	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Data Note:** Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race. N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2011 - 2015.

\*Population by Language Spoken at Home is available at the census tract summary level and up.

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**EJSCREEN Report**  
**(Version 2017)**

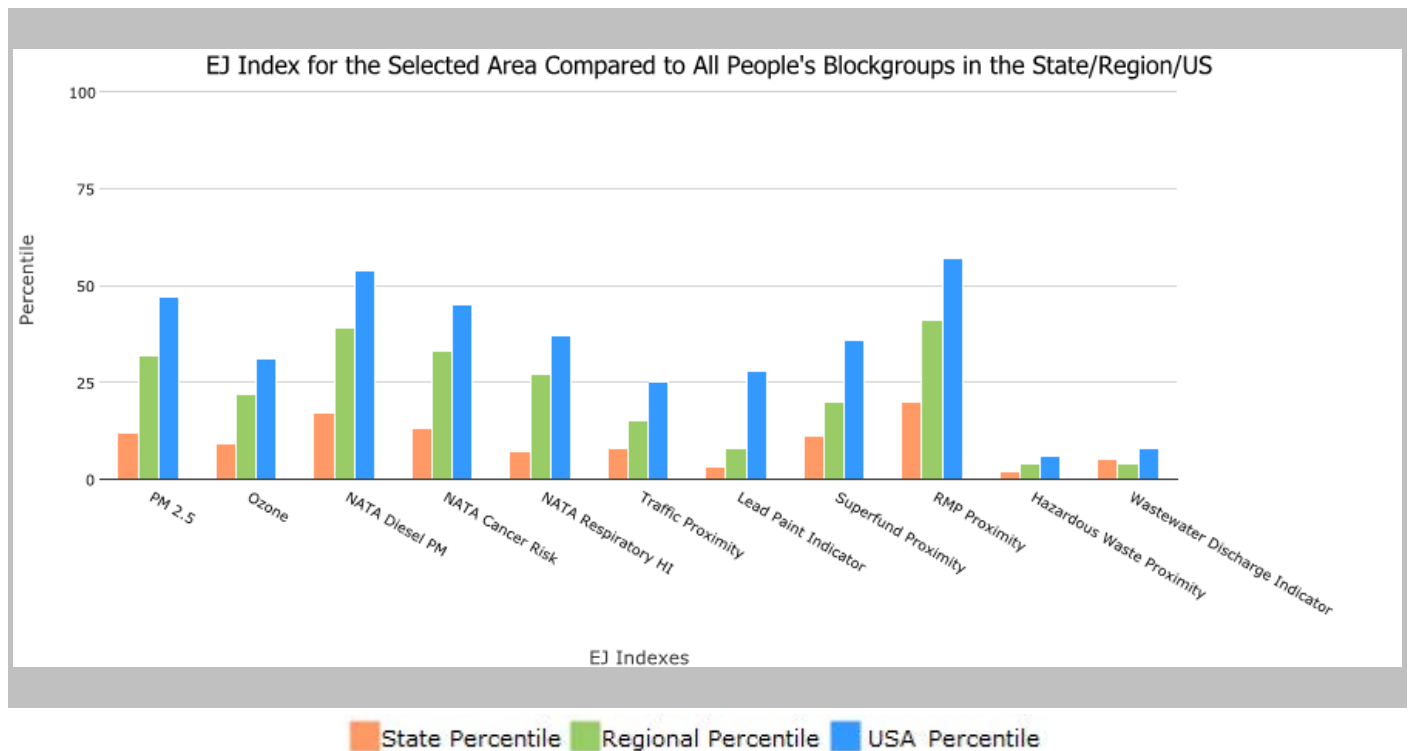
4 mile Ring around the Corridor, NEW MEXICO, EPA Region 6

Approximate Population: 18,216

Input Area (sq. miles): 226.13

LANL2 (The study area contains 1 blockgroup(s) with zero population.)

Selected Variables	State Percentile	EPA Region Percentile	USA Percentile
<b>EJ Indexes</b>			
EJ Index for PM2.5	12	32	47
EJ Index for Ozone	9	22	31
EJ Index for NATA* Diesel PM	17	39	54
EJ Index for NATA* Air Toxics Cancer Risk	13	33	45
EJ Index for NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index	7	27	37
EJ Index for Traffic Proximity and Volume	8	15	25
EJ Index for Lead Paint Indicator	3	8	28
EJ Index for Superfund Proximity	11	20	36
EJ Index for RMP Proximity	20	41	57
EJ Index for Hazardous Waste Proximity	2	4	6
EJ Index for Wastewater Discharge Indicator	5	4	8



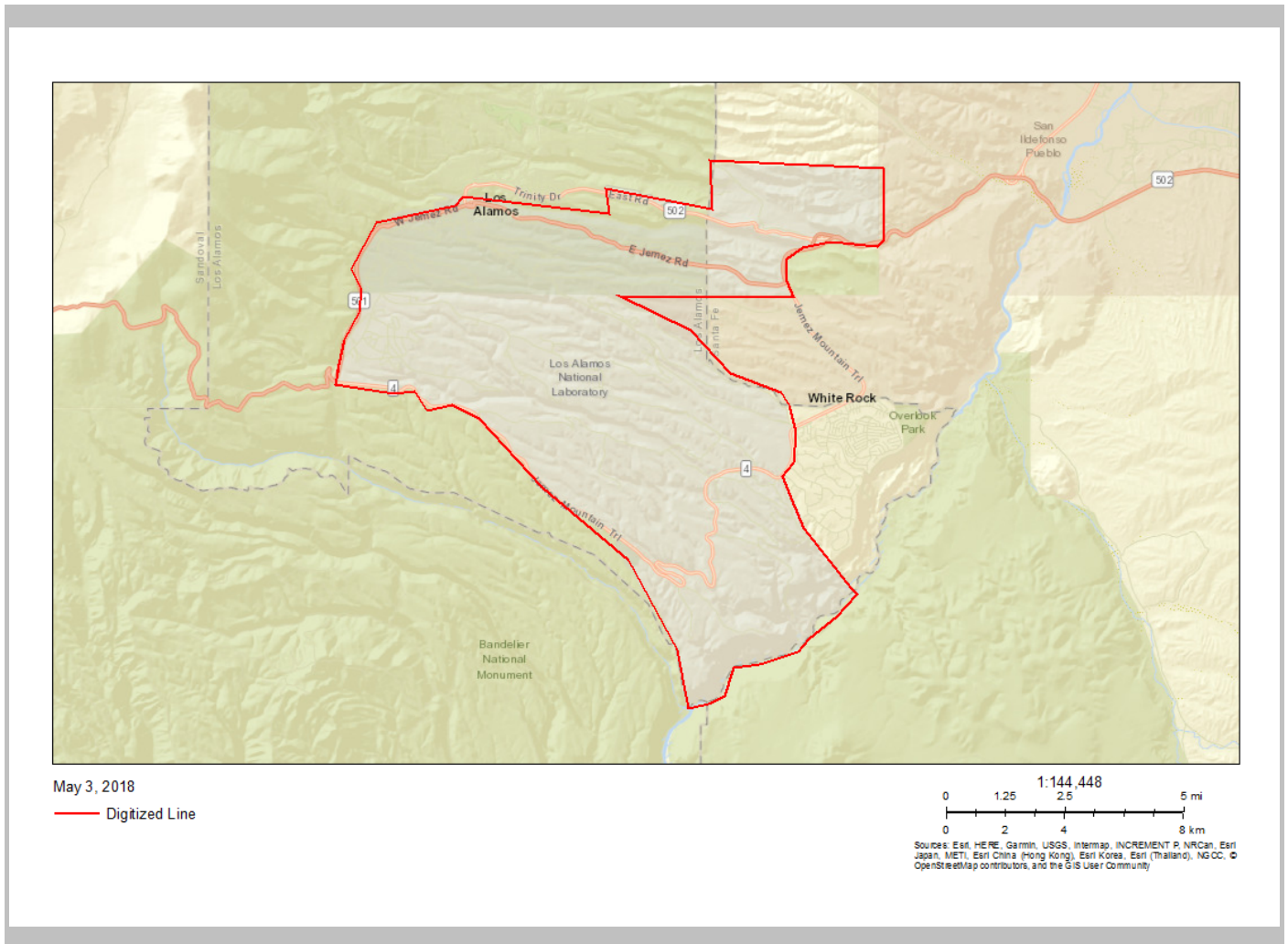
This report shows the values for environmental and demographic indicators and EJSCREEN indexes. It shows environmental and demographic raw data (e.g., the estimated concentration of ozone in the air), and also shows what percentile each raw data value represents. These percentiles provide perspective on how the selected block group or buffer area compares to the entire state, EPA region, or nation. For example, if a given location is at the 95th percentile nationwide, this means that only 5 percent of the US population has a higher block group value than the average person in the location being analyzed. The years for which the data are available, and the methods used, vary across these indicators. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports.

**4 mile Ring around the Corridor, NEW MEXICO, EPA Region 6**

**Approximate Population: 18,216**

**Input Area (sq. miles): 226.13**

**LANL2 (The study area contains 1 blockgroup(s) with zero population.)**



<b>Sites reporting to EPA</b>	
Superfund NPL	0
Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF)	1

## EJSCREEN Report (Version 2017)



4 mile Ring around the Corridor, NEW MEXICO, EPA Region 6

Approximate Population: 18,216

Input Area (sq. miles): 226.13

**LANL2 (The study area contains 1 blockgroup(s) with zero population.)**

Selected Variables	Value	State Avg.	%ile in State	EPA Region Avg.	%ile in EPA Region	USA Avg.	%ile in USA
<b>Environmental Indicators</b>							
Particulate Matter (PM 2.5 in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	5.19	6.35	13	9.15	0	9.14	1
Ozone (ppb)	49.1	47.4	99	40.2	99	38.4	98
NATA* Diesel PM ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	0.0814	0.473	14	0.721	<50th	0.938	<50th
NATA* Cancer Risk (lifetime risk per million)	22	32	15	42	<50th	40	<50th
NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index	1.4	1.4	60	1.8	<50th	1.8	<50th
Traffic Proximity and Volume (daily traffic count/distance to road)	140	290	57	320	59	590	57
Lead Paint Indicator (% Pre-1960 Housing)	0.3	0.19	76	0.18	79	0.29	61
Superfund Proximity (site count/km distance)	0.045	0.14	45	0.078	56	0.13	39
RMP Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.013	0.24	5	0.8	0	0.73	0
Hazardous Waste Proximity (facility count/km distance)	0.31	0.13	89	0.083	96	0.093	95
Wastewater Discharge Indicator (toxicity-weighted concentration/m distance)	0.022	2.1	73	0.37	89	30	84
<b>Demographic Indicators</b>							
Demographic Index	21%	52%	6	45%	16	36%	31
Minority Population	27%	61%	9	50%	29	38%	48
Low Income Population	14%	43%	8	39%	15	34%	19
Linguistically Isolated Population	3%	5%	47	6%	53	5%	62
Population With Less Than High School Education	3%	16%	13	17%	13	13%	17
Population Under 5 years of age	5%	7%	42	7%	35	6%	44
Population over 64 years of age	17%	15%	65	12%	75	14%	68

\* The National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) is EPA's ongoing, comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. EPA developed the NATA to prioritize air toxics, emission sources, and locations of interest for further study. It is important to remember that NATA provides broad estimates of health risks over geographic areas of the country, not definitive risks to specific individuals or locations. More information on the NATA analysis can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment>.

For additional information, see: [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice)

EJSCREEN is a screening tool for pre-decisional use only. It can help identify areas that may warrant additional consideration, analysis, or outreach. It does not provide a basis for decision-making, but it may help identify potential areas of EJ concern. Users should keep in mind that screening tools are subject to substantial uncertainty in their demographic and environmental data, particularly when looking at small geographic areas. Important caveats and uncertainties apply to this screening-level information, so it is essential to understand the limitations on appropriate interpretations and applications of these indicators. Please see EJSCREEN documentation for discussion of these issues before using reports. This screening tool does not provide data on every environmental impact and demographic factor that may be relevant to a particular location. EJSCREEN outputs should be supplemented with additional information and local knowledge before taking any action to address potential EJ concerns.