

Kirk Owens  
SAIC  
phone: (301) 353-8228  
fax: (301) 353-8300

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**From:** Cummings, Lisa [mailto:lcummings@doeal.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 09, 2007 4:37 PM  
**To:** Owens, Kirk W.  
**Subject:** RE: BSL-3 Summary update for LANL SWEIS

Hi, Kirk -

Reporting back on the (rather frustrating) meeting we had today re: the impact of the new seismic study....Unfortunately, there was some confusion re: action to take after publication of the new study, and LANL had not been working on re-evaluating their study of slope stability under the BSL over the past few weeks. They are just now going to do so, and we hope to have the results in mid-September. So I will not be able to answer your question until then - assuming they actually meet that schedule - of which I'm not hopeful based on past experience. But I'll put a tickler on my calendar to send you an email updating you on the status in mid-September.

Lisa

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**From:** Owens, Kirk W. [mailto:KIRK.W.OWENS@saic.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 08, 2007 6:02 PM  
**To:** Cummings, Lisa  
**Subject:** RE: BSL-3 Summary update for LANL SWEIS

Thank you Lisa,

Probably some confusion because you have provided us with numerous versions along the way. Please let me know the outcome of your discussions regarding slope stability and the new understanding of seismic risk.

Thanks,

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**From:** Cummings, Lisa [mailto:lcummings@doeal.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 07, 2007 5:19 PM  
**To:** Owens, Kirk W.  
**Cc:** Withers, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: BSL-3 Summary update for LANL SWEIS

Kirk -

8/14/2007

I thought I had previously responded to you re: the summary you sent me. It looks fine - the concepts remain the same, although the text has been modified from that you had. One thing you may want to change - we are now using the term "biohazardous materials" throughout the EIS - you may want to use that rather than "biological agents." Let me know if you have any questions.

Lisa

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**From:** Owens, Kirk W. [mailto:KIRK.W.OWENS@saic.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 07, 2007 3:16 PM  
**To:** Cummings, Lisa  
**Cc:** Withers, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** RE: BSL-3 Summary update for LANL SWEIS

Lisa,

Thank you for the response. I am interested in how your meeting will come out.

What is your reaction to the summary of impacts that was developed from previously provided information.

Thank you,

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**From:** Cummings, Lisa [mailto:lcummings@doeal.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 07, 2007 11:17 AM  
**To:** Owens, Kirk W.; Barr, Ralph (HQ)  
**Cc:** pergler@att.net  
**Subject:** RE: BSL-3 Summary update for LANL SWEIS

Kirk (and Ralph) -

I am unsure re: this. We are trying to schedule a meeting for this week to discuss the issue of how the new study affects the slope stability report. I will report back once I know the answer.

Lisa

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**From:** Owens, Kirk W. [mailto:KIRK.W.OWENS@saic.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 06, 2007 7:42 AM  
**To:** Cummings, Lisa  
**Cc:** Withers, Elizabeth; pergler@att.net  
**Subject:** RE: BSL-3 Summary update for LANL SWEIS

Lisa,

A related question – is the statement about the slope stability studies finding that the slope beneath the BSL-3 Facility are adequate to withstand a performance category 2 (PC-2) level earthquake still valid in light of the recently issued probabilistic seismic hazard analysis?

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**From:** Owens, Kirk W.  
**Sent:** Monday, August 06, 2007 9:23 AM  
**To:** Cummings, Lisa  
**Cc:** Elizabeth Withers (EWithers@doeal.gov); pergler@att.net  
**Subject:** RE: BSL-3 Summary update for LANL SWEIS

Lisa,

With various combinations of us on vacation over the last month, we never quite got closure on the BSL-3 impacts for use in the LANL SWEIS. To make this easier, I have attached a summary of impacts for operating the BSL-3 Facility based on earlier communications you had sent to Elizabeth. This is to go in the cumulative impacts section of the LANL SWEIS. Would you please review and make any corrections that are needed using track changes.

Note that the reference used (Cummings 2007) is intended to be this communication with you.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

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## BSL-3 Impact Summary

DOE is preparing an *Environmental Impact Statement for the Operation of a Biosafety Level-3 Facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico* (DOE/EIS-0388D). Operation of the Biosafety Level 3 Facility would be consistent with the land use designation of Research & Development for Experimental Science. The facility is visually compatible with surrounding structures, therefore there are no impacts to visual resources. There would be no impacts to geology and soils and water resources from operations. Slope stability studies found that the slope beneath the site was adequate to withstand a performance category 2 level earthquake. Air emissions from the Biosafety Level 3 Facility laboratories are HEPA filtered, resulting in very minor air quality effects. Noise impacts would be limited to noise from heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system operations, consistent with other buildings in the area. Facility operations would have no effect upon ecological resources or prehistoric, historic, traditional or paleontological resources in the area. Facility personnel would come primarily from the existing LANL workforce, leading to no socioeconomic impacts. Operations would be well within LANL infrastructure capability to provide utilities requirements such as electricity, water, and natural gas. There would be no discernable effects on local traffic conditions. There have been no reported cases of illnesses in the U.S. due to the release of diagnostic specimens during transport (Cummings 2007).

There would be a low potential risk of illness to site workers or visitors from routine operations involving biological agents and no public human health effect. Accident conditions would result in minimal or no impact to the public primarily because there would be severely limited opportunity for transport of an infectious dose of a biological agent to the public. Biological agents would be handled in open cultures only in a biosafety cabinet, where a spill would be contained. In addition, biological agents would be handled in a liquid or solid culture container that would release very few organisms to the air if dropped or spilled. This means that one of the most critical risk factors, public exposure to an infectious dose from a biological agent is greatly minimized, and therefore, the potential risk of disease would be very low (Cummings 2007).