

INTERAGENCY DISPATCH OPTIMIZATION PROJECT (IDOP)

NORTHERN NEW MEXICO TEAM

BRIEFING PAPER

Date:

January 23, 2014

Topic:

Alternative #5, Los Alamos National Laboratory Emergency Operations Center (LANL EOC)

Background:

During discussions regarding IDOP, some congressional staffers asked about the possibility of combining dispatch centers in the LANL EOC facility. This building was constructed post-Cerro Grande fire and is considered a state-of-the-art facility.

Detailed Analysis (Facts, findings, methodology, participants):

Marla Rodgers (Northern New Mexico IDOP Core Team Member) interviewed Manny L'Esperance, LANL Wildland Fire Program Manager. There is limited space in the LANL EOC for additional dispatch operations. For example, there would only be room for two radio consoles, while 4-5 consoles are needed for a combined dispatch center. New construction (an addition to the building) is not an option due to the secure design of the building. The building is designed to be secure from unauthorized access as well as secure from all risks such as wildfire, radiation leaks, etc.

Security considerations may affect the ability to conduct fire dispatch operations at this location. The national laboratory requires a high level of security for workers and visitors. Additionally the Laboratory is subject to further elevated security due to internal/external threats that could preclude access to the facility during emergency operations. The nature of fire dispatch, in which numerous outsiders including detailers, vendors, fire crews, media etc. visit the dispatch center would potentially be a security issue.

The relative remoteness of the LANL EOC from major highways and transportation systems makes this less than an ideal location. Vendors and fire crews must frequently report to a dispatch center for various reasons.

Conclusions:

The LANL EOC lacks sufficient space to house the combined Santa Fe/Taos Dispatch Center. Security issues would be an ongoing concern. The relatively remote location and lack of easy highway access makes the location of the LANL EOC less than desirable for a regional fire dispatch center.

Recommendations:

Recommend removing this alternative from further consideration.

Final Disposition:

The Southwest Coordinating Group was briefed on this alternative and accepted the recommendation.