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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-__

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilwoman Renee Villarreal

Councilwoman Jamie Cassutt

A RESOLUTION

**OBJECTING TO LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY’S (“LANL”) PLUTONIUM
WARHEAD CORE OR "PIT" PRODUCTION AND EXPANSION OF OPERATIONS AND
SUPPORTING THE PRIORITIZING OF REMOVAL OF LEGACY NUCLEAR WASTE
OVER GENERATING NEW NUCLEAR WASTE AT LANL.**

WHEREAS, the National Nuclear Security Administration (“NNSA”), which is the
Department of Energy’s (“DOE”) semi-autonomous nuclear weapons agency, is expanding
nuclear weapons activities at LANL, including the construction and operation of plutonium pit
production facilities; and

WHEREAS, this expansion is for the production of plutonium pits, which are the fissile
cores or triggers for nuclear warheads and bombs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Fe (“City”) has previously declared its clear opposition to
pit production at LANL in Resolutions No. 2003-64, 2005-39, 2006-104, and 2008-17; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2005-39, in particular, establishes the City as supporting
and leading in advocacy for nuclear disarmament; and

1 **WHEREAS**, plutonium pit manufacturing is dangerous to workers when proper safety
2 measures are not taken and, in the event of accidents, plutonium pit manufacturing may also be
3 dangerous to the public and the environment; and

4 **WHEREAS**, plutonium should have extensive security measures in place at all times,
5 including during transportation, to guard against theft and potential terrorist attacks; and
6 creation of a plutonium pit factory at LANL has potential to raise LANL’s priority as a target in
7 the event of a war; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the location of offices or laboratories associated with LANL’s plutonium
9 pit production within or near the city of Santa Fe could also pose a threat to the safety of
10 residents; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the City of Santa Fe (“Governing Body”) does not
12 support the creation of further health, environmental, or security hazards related to nuclear
13 weapons for the citizens of northern New Mexico; and

14 **WHEREAS**, increased production of new plutonium pits at LANL also increases its
15 emphasis as a nuclear weapons production agency rather than having a focus on research and
16 development; and

17 **WHEREAS**, NNSA now predicts that, should the United States of America’s President
18 and Congress decide to continue expanding production of pits, that expansion will require more
19 than a decade’s further demolition, construction, equipment installation, and waste handling
20 disposal at enormous taxpayer expense; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the NNSA reported in its FY 2024 Congressional budget justification that
22 LANL’s plutonium facility falls short of current DOE safety standards; and

23 **WHEREAS**, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency,
24 transuranic (“TRU”) waste is “radioactive waste...produced during nuclear fuel assembly,
25 nuclear weapons research and production, and during the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel”; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office identifies TRU
2 waste as being the “most challenging legacy waste at LANL”; and

3 **WHEREAS**, according to NNSA, the disposal of new TRU waste takes precedence over legacy
4 TRU waste; and

5 **WHEREAS**, according to the DOE, thousands of cubic meters of legacy TRU waste
6 remain buried on site at LANL; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of
8 Nuclear Terrorism, which was already in place in 2005, ninety-three countries have signed the
9 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which requires good faith efforts to negotiate and
10 complete the process of nuclear disarmament, sixty-nine of which have concluded their respective
11 ratification processes; and

12 **WHEREAS**, nuclear weapons activities at LANL have caused permanent environmental
13 contamination and desecration of ancestral tribal lands including sacred sites.

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
15 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the Governing Body, on behalf of its constituents, states its
16 opposition to all plutonium warhead core production at LANL and to locating any laboratories or
17 offices associated with LANL pit production operations on public property in the city of Santa Fe.

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body calls on the government of
19 the United States of America to take the following actions and for the New Mexico Congressional
20 Delegation and Governor of New Mexico to support these steps:

- 21 1. Halt all preparations for plutonium pit production at LANL, including but not limited to
22 the Los Alamos Plutonium Pit Production Project (“LAP4”).
- 23 2. Prioritize removal and disposal of legacy plutonium waste from LANL over production
24 of additional nuclear waste from nuclear weapons activities, including manufacturing and
25 preparations for manufacturing.

1 3. Decrease federal spending currently allocated for nuclear weapons activities and increase
2 funding to support human security, community resilience, and environmental protection.

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Governing Body directs the City Clerk to send
4 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States
5 Department of Energy, the Secretary for Nuclear Security and Administration, the New Mexico
6 Congressional Delegation, and the Governor of New Mexico.

7 PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

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9 _____
10 ALAN WEBBER, MAYOR

11
12 ATTEST:

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14 _____
15 GERALYN F. CARDENAS, INTERIM CITY CLERK

16 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
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18 _____
19 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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25 *Legislation/2023/Resolutions/Objecting to Plutonium Warhead Core (PIT) Production*