THE CALL FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The continued possession, further development and manufacture of nuclear weapons by the United States undermines the ethical basis of our society, breaks treaties our nation has signed, wastes our nation’s wealth, and permanently contaminates our environment, while providing no real contribution to U.S. national security.

In fact, implicit and explicit nuclear threats by the U.S. undermine global efforts to halt proliferation of not just nuclear weapons, but all weapons of mass destruction. Neither can our nuclear facilities ever be made fully secure from accident, internal sabotage, theft, nor attack.

New Mexico’s two nuclear weapons labs lead the world in spending for weapons of mass destruction. But as the labs have grown, our state’s relative economic standing has declined and now trails almost all other states.

We therefore call upon our elected leaders to:

• Stop the design and manufacture of all nuclear weapons, including plutonium bomb cores (“pits”) at Los Alamos and elsewhere.

• Dismantle our nuclear arsenal in concert with other nuclear powers, pursuant to Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. As the most powerful nation on earth, the U.S. must take the first steps in this process.

• Halt disposal of nuclear waste at Los Alamos, as thousands of citizens and dozens of environmental organizations have already requested.

We demand quite different priorities: affordable health care for everyone, better education, renewable energy, and economic opportunity for those who have none. We call for investment in our people and families, in our economy and environment, instead of in preparation for nuclear war.

Signature ________________________________
Printed name ________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ________________________________
Telephone ________________________________
Email ________________________________

For endorsements by businesses, organizations, and churches:
Organization ____________________________________________________________
Your title ____________________________________________________________

THE DISARMAMENT IMPERATIVE (continued from pg 2)

Federal and corporate managers now control or have veto power over too many New Mexico assets, loyalties and policies, leading to rule by bureaucratic administrators instead of representative government by and for New Mexicans. The result has been a decline in our economic prospects, health, and society.

To a considerable extent this is also a national problem. Military spending in all its forms now amounts to $7,600 per U.S. household. This heavy tribute goes to feed a national security state which provides far more violence, fear, and want than it does actual security. These trends are amplified in New Mexico, which has created only sparse, poorly-funded institutions to help its citizens.

If New Mexico is ever to turn this situation around, a new kind of politics is needed here, one based on a renewed social contract and renewed commitments to human dignity and to the environment.

For all these reasons and many more, New Mexico really has only one choice with respect to the nuclear weapons industry it harbors: either to be its continuing victim, or to forge a new political and moral identity based on respect for the human person and the environment. Such an identity is intellectually, morally, economically, environmentally, and politically incompatible with support for nuclear weapons.

The American novelist E.L. Doctorow remarked, “We have had the bomb on our minds since 1945. It was first our weaponry and then our diplomacy, and now it’s our economy. How can we suppose that something so monstrously powerful would not, after years, compose our identity?” Identification with “monstrous” violence isn’t healthy, isn’t good economics, and will never build a just and sustainable society here or anywhere.

“Remember your humanity, and forget the rest.”

In memory of
Sir Joseph Rotblat
(1908 - 2005)

He left Los Alamos in December 1944 for conscience’s sake and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995 for decades of nuclear disarmament leadership.

May many others follow his example.

“...it is clear that the use of such a weapon cannot be justified on any ethical ground which gives a human being a certain individuality and dignity even if he happens to be a resident of an enemy country… It is necessarily an evil thing considered in any light.”
— Enrico Fermi and Isidor Rabi on the hydrogen bomb, 1949

Los Alamos Study Group

NEW MEXICANS CALL FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, NOT PRODUCTION!
JUNE 9, 2006 EDITION

As of this writing, 109 New Mexico organizations, 301 New Mexico businesses, 93 national and international organizations, and thousands of individuals have endorsed the Call for Disarmament, as well as the city of Santa Fe and the town of Madrid.

If you and your business, non-profit organization, association, or church haven’t already endorsed the Call we urge you to do so right away. This brochure explains some of the reasons why, and offers other ways to effectively make your voice heard — as well as some information you can use. For more, see www.lasg.org.

The Call (see inside panel for text) demands nuclear disarmament pursuant to treaties the U.S. has signed, an end to the design and production of nuclear weapons, and no more disposal of nuclear waste at Los Alamos. It calls for investments in human and environmental security, not more preparations for nuclear war.

It is especially important and powerful to take a stand in New Mexico, since nuclear weapons are one of New Mexico’s most lucrative industries. If we remain silent, our silence will be taken as enthusiastic assent to these weapons and all they stand for. If we speak up, even by so small an act as endorsing the Call, we will inspire others to do so as well.

CIVIL SOCIETY HAS REJECTED NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Nuclear weapons are by far the most destructive kind of weapon. The conscience of humanity has rejected them.

Nuclear threat and use have been declared generally illegal by the International Court of Justice. They have been widely condemned in numerous treaties, U.N. resolutions, and multilateral agreements, as well as by religious leaders, leading scientists and humanists, and many senior military leaders.

Most Americans agree. Even without knowing that the U.S. has binding treaty obligations to achieve complete disarmament, fully 61% of Americans want their country to eliminate its nuclear arsenal, either unilaterally (6%) or with other nations (55%). Only 9% prefer keeping a large nuclear stockpile, our current policy. When they hear about U.S. disarmament obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), 84% agree with them.

The NPT, ratified by the U.S. in 1970, subscribed to by 188 nations (all but 4), is the foundation of global non-proliferation efforts today. It requires complete nuclear disarmament by the U.S. and other nuclear weapons signatories.

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1362 A-2 Trinity Drive, Los Alamos, NM 87544
try to promote peace in New Mexico without clearly and publicly rejecting the growing nuclear weapons industry for which our state is known all over the world, is like trying to clean up our house without moving the huge pile of manure in the kitchen. No one will take such feckless work seriously. Therefore we must first and foremost concern ourselves with militarism and war here in New Mexico, which means specifically rejecting nuclear weapons, if working for peace and justice is to have any meaning at all.

As noted on the cover of this brochure, most Americans in fact do reject nuclear weapons. But attitudes mean little unless they are expressed in effective political organization, such as that expressed in the Call and related activities (see reverse side).

THE DISARMAMENT IMPERATIVE

In 2003, a Fordham University study of the overall social health of each state ranked New Mexico dead last. We received an “F” grade from the Fordham researchers in poverty, health insurance coverage, teenage drug abuse, average weekly wages, suicide, and high school completion.

Morgan Quinto Press ranks our education system as the worst in the nation; from 1993 to 2004, their assessment of the relative rank of our health care system fell precipitously from #22 to #49 — concurrent, as it turned out, with huge growth in nuclear weapons spending in New Mexico.

New Mexico has the second highest rate of poverty — and child poverty — in the nation.

From 1929 to 1960, New Mexico consistently ranked 37th or so among the states in per capita personal income. By 1970, we had fallen to 42nd where we stayed through 1980. By 1990 we had fallen to 48th.

Perhaps most ominous for the health of our society and democracy, especially when coupled with both widespread and deep poverty, by 1997 New Mexico had achieved the third-greatest gap between rich and poor of any state. Why? The money has been flowing in, lots of it. And we have had the political clout. Senator Domenici is one of the most powerful persons in the U.S. Congress. What has been the fruit of the enormous efforts that he, Senator Anderson before him, and to a lesser extent Senator Bingaman and others, have devoted to the weapons laboratories and the military in New Mexico?

The economic benefits of our six decades of fealty to the labs have been minimal. Instead of real economic development, we have allowed ourselves to become an economic and political colony, exercising little actual sovereignty of our own in return for the federal dole.

Our state’s acquiescence to nuclear weapons has not brought us wealth. For more than 20 years, we have received more net public capital federal funds than any other state. But as the labs have grown — through the largesse of congressional committees often led by our state’s representatives — New Mexico’s relative standing in economic and human well-being has declined to at or near the very bottom of all U.S. states.

IN NEW MEXICO MILITARISM IS MOSTLY NUCLEAR

In New Mexico, militarism comes primarily in the shape of a mushroom cloud. It is a shape that has been particularly damaging to our nation’s, and our state’s society, political institutions, and environment.

Our state is home to the two best-funded nuclear weapons facilities in the world: Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). Half of U.S. nuclear warhead spending occurs in New Mexico, making nuclear warheads roughly our state’s second largest industry in dollar terms. The nuclear weapons share of our state’s total economic activity is about 20 times more than that of any other state. There are also more intact nuclear weapons stored in New Mexico (at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque) than in any other state — or for that matter, at any other location in the world.

For all these reasons New Mexico is the “world capital of weapons of mass destruction,” and we are the people who tolerate this state of affairs, undertcutting any and all of our other efforts for peace, justice, social uplift, and environmental sustainability.

NEW MEXICO’S LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE ATOM IS LINKED TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DECLINE

Thirty-six years after the entry into force of the NPT, the five nuclear weapon states parties to the treaty have failed in their duty to achieve disarmament through negotiation. There is currently a risk for a new phase in nuclear arms competition through the further modernization of weapons. Many non-nuclear-weapon states feel cheated by the nuclear-weapon states’ retreating from commitments made in 1995 in order to get the treaty extended to unlimited duration…There must be no compromise on the goal of outlawing nuclear weapons.

This goal was accepted as a legally binding commitment as early as 1968, through the further modernization of weapons. Many non-nuclear-weapon states feel cheated by the nuclear-weapon states’ retreating from commitments made in 1995 in order to get the treaty extended to unlimited duration…There must be no compromise on the goal of outlawing nuclear weapons.

In 2006, “Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons.”

— Weapons of Terror: Freeing the World of Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Arms, Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, 6/1/06.

“Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and of a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.” — Article VI, Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, ratified by the United States and entered into force in 1970.

“Each of the Parties...”

— from the consensus agreement of all NPT signatories present at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, including the U.S., Russia, China, France, and the U.K.

“Each of the Parties...”

— Unanimous judgment of the International Court of Justice, 1996, “Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons.”

There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

We received an “F” grade from the Fordham researchers in poverty, health insurance coverage, teenage drug abuse, average weekly wages, suicide, and high school completion.

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(continued on page 1)
PLUTONIUM PIT PRODUCTION — LANL’S PIVOTAL NEW MISSION

The first plutonium (Pu) atomic bomb core (“pit”) was made at Los Alamos in 1945 and detonated near Alamogordo on July 16. The second core was detonated over Nagasaki, Japan a few days later, destroying the city and 74,000 of its inhabitants.

Los Alamos continued to make all the pits for the U.S. nuclear stockpile, first at Building D (where the Quality Inn is today) and then at DP Site (TA-21) until 1949, when the Hanford site in WA began pit production, supplemented by Rocky Flats in 1952. “Rocky” took over plutonium machining completely in 1965. LANL and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) continued to make pits for nuclear testing (and possibly for the stockpile at times) until 1992.

In 1988 the Department of Energy (DOE) realized that the mounting environmental, safety, and moral protest problems at “Rocky” would doom the plant and issued the first of many plans to replace it in December of that year. Rocky Flats stopped production in 1989 after an FBI/EPA raid and extensive public protest. Partial cleanup there has cost taxpayers about $12 billion.

DOE HAS TRIED TO RESTART PRODUCTION AGAIN AND AGAIN

DOE’s December 1988 plan for nuclear weapons production was followed by a stealth 1989 plan, a February 1991 plan, a July 1993 plan, and a May 1995 plan that was finalized in late 1996. All have been defeated so far by citizen intervention, Congressional skepticism, and the facts on the ground.

In the 1995/1996 plan, DOE announced that LANL would re-establish the capacity to make up to 50 pits/year with single-shift operations, a capacity which DOE also said at the time LANL already had. But in September 1997, internal revelations about serious LANL seismic problems (obtained and publicized by LASG) caused DOE to downscale and delay production, aiming instead for 20 pits/yr by 2007.

LANL pit production is housed in Building PF-4 at TA-55, built in 1978. Pit production per se occupies about 30% of the Available PF-4 space, with an additional 25% devoted to Pu metal preparation.

After the 1997 decision to downscale and delay, six years passed before Los Alamos manufactured its first “certifiable” pit in 2003 — meaning that the pit could have been used in the stockpile if needed. Since then, LANL has been tuning up its production processes and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA, that part of DOE which manages the nuclear weapons program) now expects to begin producing an initial 10 pits/yr by FY08, down from its earlier 20 pits/yr target and delayed one year.

As long as LANL is the only pit production facility, NNSA is keeping LLNL as a pit production backup and has taken steps to increase its Pu inventory.

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE “MODERN PIT FACILITY”

Meanwhile in September 2002 NNSA issued a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a big new pit production facility called the Modern Pit Facility (MPF), with a proposed capacity of 125-450 pits/yr. This facility was estimated to cost $2-4 billion and would be built at one of five sites, one of which was LANL. It was to begin production in 2019 (later, 2021).

The MPF siting decision was expected in April 2004 but congressional appropriators led by the House concluded in late 2003 that it was premature to pursue further decisions on MPF given that NNSA had no firm plan for the future of the stockpile at that time. Congress trimmed the project’s FY04 budget accordingly.

In FY05 Congress again tied NNSA’s hands on MPF, directing the agency to focus on producing pits at LANL. The MPF budget was slashed by almost 80%. In FY06 Congress took away all MPF funds, instead requesting NNSA to look hard into a consolidated production center that would allegedly save money, provide greater security, and be safer to operate. In the meantime, LANL would make what pits might be needed.

NNSA asked for no MPF funds for FY07 and none are contemplated in Congress. It should be noted that the entire New Mexico congressional delegation supported the MPF.

A SHINY NEW BOMB FACTORY VS. A ‘STEALTH’ FACTORY VS. NO FACTORY

In March 2004, DOE promised in House testimony to study consolidating the nuclear weapons complex. The study began in January 2005 and was completed in July of that year by the Secretary of Energy’s Advisory Board (SEAB), since disbanded. The SEAB concluded it was in the nation’s interest to build a Consolidated Nuclear Production Center (CNPC) and close down most nuclear materials operations at LANL, Y-12, and other sites by roughly 2030, with CNPC construction costs to be more than offset in the long run by reduced overhead.

Meanwhile many parties, including Senator Domenici, were engaged in trying to expand LANL’s pit production capacity and thereby commit the U.S. to large-scale pit production at LANL.

The centerpiece of this plan is the proposed Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) facility, to be located at TA-55 adjacent and connected to PF-4. The CMRR replaces an old facility at TA-3 which was to be used for pit production in DOE’s 1996 plan but which was found to be situated over an active earthquake fault. The CMRR is similar to a facility proposed in 1989 that was defeated by New Mexico activists in 1990.

The CMRR, a $900+ million project, has been opposed by House appropriators but promoted by Senator Domenici – so far successfully. Construction on the first phase could begin at any time, despite that fact that the House Appropriations Committee proposes to remove $100 million (out of $112 million) in next year’s project funding, calling the project “irrational.” They argue that there is no current need to make pits in any quantity and they also argue that if the CMRR is built, it might operate for only a few years before being superseded by the CNPC.

By the end of FY06, DOE/NNSA will have spent about $2.5 billion on pit production at LANL alone. With the CMRR and related expenses needed to rebuild PF-4 and other facilities, sunk pit production costs at LANL would be less $5 billion by 2012, more than the estimated cost of the MPF! A renewed PF-4 plus CMRR plus the other facilities needed would be in fact a kind of crazy-quilt MPF, with key facilities and systems not designed for production and already quite old when production would begin.

WHY DOES NNSA WANT TO MAKE MORE PITS?

The U.S. has about 23,000 pits, of which about 10,000 are in weapons and roughly 13,000 are in storage at the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, TX.

Nearly all the pits in the stockpile were made between 1978 and 1989. No one knows how long pits will ultimately last, but weapons experts and congressional studies have said that pits will last at least 60 years. No signs of degradation or any upper limit on working age have been found. All deployed pits will thus last through 2038 at a minimum. Through accelerated aging experiments, NNSA is gathering an additional 14-16 years of pit “longevity” data each year, raising serious questions about the rush to spend billions of dollars on a new pit production factory.

At LANL, pit production is being established to build W88 pits, an existing type used in warheads for Trident submarine missiles. NNSA now plans to curtail W88 production in favor of a new type of pit, called the “Reliable Replacement Warhead” (RRW), which is to be the prototype of a family of new (and untested) warheads meant to replace all existing U.S. warheads.

Despite occasional denials, NNSA has stated that the evolving nuclear arsenal, for which evolution RRW is to be the primary means, will provide new military capabilities as well as foster a “responsive” production infrastructure.

NNSA hopes to begin trial production of RRW pits at LANL.
in the 2009-2012 period, proceeding in parallel at first with W88 manufacture and then replacing W88 production entirely by 2015.

We should be careful, because no one outside NNSA and LANL can be sure exactly what pits LANL is making now or is preparing to make in the future, since these programs are classified. Many details can be withheld even from Congress in a variety of ways. Most workers in these programs have no access to this information.

The first RRW pits are meant to replace pits in W76 Trident warheads, which are currently near the beginning of an extensive and militarily significant $2.5 billion upgrade.

Missile upgrades are also underway, with dramatic improvements in accuracy now tested and approaching possible deployment. These accuracy improvements are said to be for “conventional” warheads but it is virtually certain they will also be applied to nuclear warheads sooner or later as well, enabling new “warfighting” uses for nuclear warheads with “mininuke” yields. It is very unlikely that RRW warheads would be incompatible with these striking developments.

**IN ALL THESE PLANS, LANL IS THE PIVOTAL SITE**

Of all the nuclear weapons facilities, Los Alamos is the most pivotal because it is only at Los Alamos that pits can be made. And this will remain true for at least the next 15 years. With no new pits, new weapon designs can only be made from recycled pits, limiting design options and constraining the future stockpile as well as the weapons complex itself.

Unfortunately, innovative weapons based on RRW designs or other clandestine designs may be requested in small quantities only, as LANL managers, military staff, and DoD officials have frequently discussed over the last 14 years. It has happened already. Only 50 B61-11 earth-penetrating bombs were produced in 1997 – and these were ordered in secret, without congressional approval. Only 50 B61-11 earth-penetrating bombs were produced in 1997 – and these were ordered in secret, without congressional approval. Other clandestine designs may be requested in small quantities as well as the weapons complex itself.

Today LANL and SNL are key players in the proposed worldwide resurgence of nuclear power. They have been working for many years to promote nuclear technologies through the semi-secret Global Nuclear Vision Project and by many other means. They have especially promoted fantastically expensive, exotic, and unproven nuclear technologies using plutonium and spent nuclear fuel, approaches which create large amounts of nuclear and hazardous waste, but which also happen to create more work for themselves (viz. the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership).

To summarize a longer argument, the identities and cultures of the nuclear weapons labs have been built around technologies of mass environmental destruction, developed in a Faustian quest for power over nature that has no place for humble human stewardship of the earth. Pollution – here, there, or everywhere – is not an accidental byproduct of these ambitions but rather an inherent aspect of them.

**WEAPONS PRODUCTION POLLUTES THE ENVIRONMENT**

Needless to say, pit production creates a great deal of nuclear waste, currently disposed at LANL and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) near Carlsbad. LANL’s nuclear waste dump, “Area G,” is already the largest nuclear dump in New Mexico and three surrounding states and is slated to expand indefinitely as more waste is generated from LANL’s nuclear missions. This is a dump located on a narrow mesa adjacent to springs which is not lined, not licensed, not externally regulated, and not subject to cleanup. Management of the dump was recently taken from environmental scientists and given to LANL’s pit production chief.

As long as such dumping continues, LANL’s billion-dollar “cleanup” program is really running in reverse, notwithstanding a great deal of distracting rhetoric and more than a billion dollars spent so far. The dumping won’t end until nuclear weapons design and production, which produce nearly all the waste at Los Alamos, likewise come to an end. Once nuclear waste is made it must be disposed somewhere. Better not to make it.

The greater environmental impact of the New Mexico nuclear labs occurs in other ways, however. Historically, the nuclear labs led the way in polluting the entire biosphere with radioactive fallout, reliably estimated to have caused several hundred thousand early deaths so far. These labs have played key roles in promoting nuclear technologies worldwide, the global effects of which, from mining to spent fuel disposal to weapons proliferation and everything in between, have been vast.

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**WAYS TO HELP STOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION — BEFORE IT STARTS!**

- Sign up my business or organization to the Call for Nuclear Disarmament at www.lasg.org
- Recruit other businesses & organizations to join the Call
- Host a small billboard at my home or business
- Host a Study Group speaker at my church, organization, or at a gathering in my home
- Volunteer as a docent and organizer at the Study Group’s Los Alamos Disarmament Center
- Write letters to editors and recruit my friends to do the same
- Be a host for visiting scholars, students, and activists
- Help in another way: _______________________________

- My business or organization has signed the Call for Nuclear Disarmament and I want to get more involved by:
  - taking part in press events or in meetings with federal and elected officials
  - sponsoring print or radio ads that mention my business
  - approaching local jurisdictions to support disarmament/real security resolutions
  - joining in petitions for international intervention and inspections
  - supporting the Los Alamos Study Group and these programs financially from my business

- Donate to the Los Alamos Study Group (yes, it takes money!)
  - make a one-time contribution of $ __________
  - be a sustaining donor at $25/month $50/month $100/month other: $ /month
  - sponsor small billboards: $1 @ $75 2 @ $150 more small billboards @ $ __________
  - sponsor radio ads: $1 @ $50 2 @ $100 more radio ads @ $ __________
  - make a stock donation (please contact me)
  - support the Study Group’s programs in another way

The Los Alamos Study Group is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

If you wish to endorse the Call, please sign and return this portion of the brochure to the address below. You can also sign the Call at www.lasg.org. If you checked any of the boxes above we will contact you. Please call or write if you have any questions or want to help.

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“Mere praise of peace is easy, but ineffective. What is needed is active participation in the fight against war and everything that leads to it.” — Albert Einstein