

Los Alamos Study Group

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April 6, 2026

Dear friends --

1. Please help recruit organizations and businesses, and individuals to join us in opposing plutonium pit production at LANL! We can't do this without your help!

Opposition is growing. Eight businesses and 34 individuals have joined in the past 11 days. While this is encouraging it is still slow. **If those who have endorsed the "Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production" at StopTheBomb.org recruited just one other person, business or organization, it would be a game-changer. For reference, the list of signatories is [here](#).**

2. Emergency gathering at the Truman St. gate of Kirtland Air Force Base tomorrow, April 7, at 11 am ([map](#)).

Stop the War Machine and allied organizations are calling on everyone who would like to make a statement about Trump's war on Iran to join them at the above location and time. **Please go if you can, or attend another protest. In our opinion, we need to focus on activating our congressional delegation.**

We have been closely following this horrendous war but apart from the work of Steve Starr on our board we not been able to do that much about it.

We have also not been forwarding any of the news and commentary we follow and discuss among ourselves, or offering our own views. We assume you have your own sources of information and are keeping abreast of events through independent sources at least to some extent.

Now, many of us here have come to the conclusion that "President Trump's" mental condition has significantly deteriorated since this war began.

(I am using the quotation marks to remind us that, without wanting to lessen Trump's personal responsibility, what is happening is also the product of the people around him, who play a large role in controlling what he sees and hears and thinks.)

We believe Trump (and all we might mean by "Trump," in quotes) are by now truly mad -- *more* visibly crazy than he was (or they were) last week or last month or last year. There is now an clearly evident, urgent need for intervention of some kind. **The lives of millions of people, not just thousands, are at stake. Trump now, more than ever, has threatened those lives directly, starting *tomorrow*.**

No administration has ever invoked the 25th Amendment. It unlikely this one will either. Absent more substantive triggers than Trump's increasingly unhinged tirades (on Easter no less) it won't happen, and it wouldn't happen fast enough even in the best case.

It has probably occurred to you that if or when Trump realizes he has already lost the midterms, one of the remaining constraints on his actions will be gone.

As citizens we are not left with any straightforward ways to stop this war (or any of the empire's wars). We need to mobilize. Tomorrow's protest/press conference/gathering is a good place to start, or re-start as the case may be.

Remember, the members of the New Mexico delegation are federal officials of a kind. They are our representatives in government and they share some responsibility for what happens there. They need to step up to the plate now. They haven't done that yet and they won't do it unless we "ask" them in a very firm manner, with our physical presence.

3. Some of us will be at the Santa Fe City Council meeting tomorrow. Public comment generally occurs around 7 pm. We are asking the Council to oppose plutonium pit production at LANL.

They've done it before. See especially resolutions [2003-64](#), [2005-39](#), [2006-104](#), and [2008-17](#). We hope to have a draft resolution in hand tomorrow but we are suddenly in demand from many quarters, so we'll see. If not, we will soon and tomorrow's comments will be part of preparing the field.

As you know, LANL has been asked to double its pit production quota in future years ([Bulletin 374: LANL required to at least double plutonium pit production, new plutonium facility planned...](#) Feb 27, 2026) ("[LANL may be asked to double plutonium pit production, per federal memo](#)," *Santa Fe New Mexican*, Feb 27; [Federal memo urges increased plutonium pit production at LANL](#)," *Albuquerque Journal*, Mar 1, 2026)

Now, as of this past weekend, we have learned that Trump's NNSA has asked Congress to nearly double LANL's pit production budget for next year as well, from \$1.272 billion to \$2.423 billion. At LANL, the overall warhead budget is being increased to \$6.05 billion, more than a third. The total budget for LANL, including nonproliferation and cleanup, will probably soon be \$7 billion.

While housing costs, traffic congestion, labor shortages, worker risks, and water consumption are probably the most obvious local impacts of all this on the region, the moral and political impacts of being the world's best-funded facility for weapons of mass destruction are in our view even more serious and far-reaching. We are becoming the nation's nuclear weapons colony, with all that implies for our future. You just thought it was bad before.

As with the war, we all must decide whether we are going to take a stand or not. Having a merely private opinion is not enough.

4. A new *Santa Fe Reporter* ad will appear this coming Wednesday, April 8: "[Gigantic expansion would make Los Alamos nuclear weapons megacenters. Grandiose plans for nuclear weapons, plutonium expansion not yet authorized or funded; local opposition](#)"

[growing – will you join?"](#)

5. We will be hosting a community resistance meeting in Santa Fe on Tuesday April 14 at St. John's United Methodist Church at 6:00 pm. Mark your calendars.

In solidarity,

Greg Mello

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February 26, 2026

Dear friends --

1. Zoom meeting Monday about the dramatic NEW changes in LANL's mission, and in NNSA's nuclear weapons mission overall

The National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA's) Feb. 11 plan for more nuclear weapons as fast as possible ("[Responsive Today, Dominant Tomorrow: Enhancing American Nuclear Dominance](#)") was leaked to us this week.

It lays out the Administration's "framework" strategy to accelerate U.S. nuclear warhead design and production to support the "continued supremacy" of U.S. nuclear weapons so the United States can "prevail in an era of renewed great power competition." (For avid readers, see the resources below, after the double line. By Monday we expect there will be more press accounts.)

This shocking memo was issued 6 days after the expiration of New START. It was clearly written earlier. It is possibly the single most important leaked document we have obtained in 30 years.

At Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), the principal "acceleration" required is to at least double the rate of planned plutonium warhead core ("pit") production, from at least 30 pits per year (ppy) to at least 60 ppy, with (apparently) the capacity to go to "100."

Most of the environmental impacts would scale along with production rate, if these plans succeed.

At the same time, across NNSA's warhead complex, safety and security rules are being "streamlined" to enable higher warhead production. (*Just in this afternoon: "Secretly rewritten nuclear safety rules are made public,"* Geoff Brumfiel, *National Public Radio*, Feb. 26, 2026). At LANL, the allowable radiation dose has been increased from 1 and 5 rem/year, among other changes.

We can't help but recall Robert Peters of the Heritage Foundation telling us LANL workers *must be willing to risk their very lives to make pits* (said at [our National Press Club panel](#) in 2024). That was prophetic. That's now the policy.

This policy is the nuclear complement to Marco Rubio's speech in Munich, in which he unabashedly called for renewal of the West's 500 years of colonization and domination. (For one of many succinct reviews see Moon of Alabama, "[U.S. Calls For New Colonial Era](#)," Feb 16, 2026).

To enable this external domination, internal colonies are also needed -- places where administrative expedience reigns, not human development. That's us.

This coming Monday, March 2, at 10 am MST, we will review and discuss this rapidly-evolving situation and what can be done to stop it.

Time: Mar 2, 2026 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89730509443?pwd=HZbClbBzLykw3Dx8j6FsmJKp2PPOEh.1>

Meeting ID: 897 3050 9443 / Passcode: 915967

Join instructions: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/89730509443/invitations?signature=bWxT7RiUMZyodwDpMMfUTR3ATNsMW40ElfEmNhIsFIY>

We hope you will be able to attend. We will record the meeting and post it on our [YouTube channel](#) for those unable to do so. We aren't going to allow anonymous call-ins.

2. Will you join us?

We are pleased that more organizations, businesses, and individuals are quietly joining the opposition to LANL's pit factory via the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production](#) (equally accessible via [stopthebomb.org](#)). We are hoping to have 300 businesses and organizations with us by Monday. Recent signers include State Rep. Andrea Romero (D-46) and the New Mexico Environmental Law Center.

But how can this largely latent resistance be brought into full and visible flower, along with NNSA's proposed nuclear mission expansion? The latter is slated to begin in earnest with the first of 11 3-month "execution periods" remaining in the Trump Administration, starting April 1.

Meanwhile we expect to see Trump's proposed \$1.5 trillion defense budget some time next month. For reference, \$1.5 trillion is about \$11,200 per U.S. household in new public debt and taxes, including tariffs.

At this point, there isn't much visible resistance in this state. It's there, but hidden away. Let's bring it out!

Right now is what you might call a "teachable moment." The Beast has it least partially shown itself. This is the silver lining in our present situation.

The flip side is that if New Mexico does not push back hard, the dirty missions at LANL (and elsewhere) will grow even *further*. Even "at least 60" pits per year is only half of what NNSA wants and says it needs. (Why? Quickly, the LANL "at least 30" was always really ~41 on average. The Savannah River "at least 50" was always really ~84. Add these together to get the full mission.) You can be assured that many people are working behind the scenes to bring the whole pit mission -- the "Rocky Flats mission" -- to LANL.

It is almost inconceivable that the nightmare of a nuclear arms race could happen again. But it is, and Santa Fe is enabling it. That's the reality. Besides tourism experiences and state governance, nuclear weapons are Santa Fe's biggest export.

Right now, the easiest way to help is to help the [Call for Sanity](#) blow past 300 businesses and organizations and 1,300 individuals. All that requires is *conversations*. "Only connect," said E.M. Forster. That's what we are asking for. Human connections.

We can discuss the next steps Monday. See you then if you can swing it.

In solidarity,

Greg Mello

*We have been all over this acceleration. For avid readers please see:

- ["Responsive Today, Dominant Tomorrow: Enhancing American Nuclear Dominance:" Nuclear agency outlines ambitious near-term goals for nuclear warheads, labs, factories, and operations: Pit production at Los Alamos to be at least doubled if not tripled; other NNSA sites to help Los Alamos do so, details TBD](#), press release, Feb 23, 2026
- [U.S. nuclear warhead agency to "go fast" to fill "deterrence gaps" to achieve "peace through atomic strength;" safety, security standards loosened to enable faster production. Safety and security standards being loosened to enable faster production](#), press release, Feb 19, 2026
- [Not Satire: "Peace through Atomic Strength" is the nuclear mission now. Allowable radiation exposure at LANL increased 5x to speed plutonium "pit" production for new warheads: no more treaty constraints on nuclear forces](#), LASG ad in the *Santa Fe Reporter*, Feb 18, 2026
- [Demise of New START limits on deployed strategic nuclear weapons: plenty of blame to go around](#), press release, Feb 5, 2026
- ["At Nuclear Deterrence Summit, Lab Directors Frame Regulatory Reform As Key To Modernization,"](#) *LA Daily Post*, Feb 5, 2026
- [Bulletin 373: NNSA to leave "life extension," "stewardship" paradigm to build new weapons: LANL pit aspirations triple: LANL rad exposure standards loosened fivefold: Zoom discussion this Thursday noon MST](#), Feb 2, 2026

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February 17, 2026

Friends --

Apologies for the late notice, but we've been going fast here and the overall situation, including our own tactical situation, often changes week to week and sometimes day to day, partly in ways we cannot control.

The "movie nights" with discussions (two so far) have been going OK -- but only OK. There's a lot going on for all of us. What we have found that there is an enormous appetite for discussion in the community, and even excellent movies take up too much of the precious discussion and conversational time we have when people come together.

We need to have those discussions -- especially for those of us working on war and peace, nuclear colonialism, arms control and disarmament, and nuclear safety and related environmental concerns.

The present situation is unprecedented. Also and related, new threats to New Mexico are upon us, which some of you are thankfully working on more than we can.

So tomorrow we would like to invite those who live reasonably near by, have time, and are interested over to our office and home to discuss

- a) the dramatic recent developments in nuclear weapons plans and policies now under way,
- b) New Mexico's role, and
- c) what can be done.

We will meet at 6:00 pm at our offices (2901 Summit Place NE, Albuquerque). Please [write Trish](#) to RSVP if you want to come. We can seat about 20 people. This event is open to everyone.

By way of background, here is the double-page advertisement that will appear tomorrow in the *Santa Fe Reporter*: [Not Satire: "Peace through Atomic Strength" is the nuclear mission now. Allowable radiation exposure at LANL increased 5x to speed plutonium "pit" production for new warheads: no more treaty constraints on nuclear forces.](#)

As you may by now know, Secretary Rubio's recent speech at the Munich Security Conference laid bare some of the true lineaments of U.S. foreign policy, of which nuclear weapons policy is a subset. Please see our [Ukraine War page](#) for text, references, and our informal comments. As we wrote there yesterday,

While not strictly about Ukraine, these comments from our Secretary of State AND National Security Adviser Marco Rubio really lay the cards on the table. I am tempted to say all the cards, but we can be sure there are many more. (Yesterday Simplicius zeroed in on the same thing.) I never imagined I would see anything like this in my lifetime. It was unthinkable. As foreign policy, this dog won't hunt, but a lot of people may die because of it. When has anyone of this rank openly talked like this in the U.S.? Since the Spanish-American War perhaps? This needs to be widely discussed, where it will widely appall. There is a need for internal colonies as well, to enable this fantasy. Places where administrative expedience reigns, not human development.

And the day before:

I think Trump was always going to have world domination as his goal. The peace-oriented, avoiding-foreign-wars stance was a ruse. Alternatively or complementarily, Trump has been "turned" by not just Adelson and Netanyahu but the larger Deep State, which has had energy dominance on its mind since the beginning of the Age of Oil. Oil was and is necessary for naval power, because oil-fired ships go faster than coal-fired ones, etc. Anglo-American domination and in fact European domination too is inherently naval-oriented because of geography, as recognized for centuries now, hence access to oil and potential denial of oil to others has always been among its very highest goals. Oil is not abundant. The world has used at least half its oily geologic patrimony. What's left is harder to get, which means more energy must be expended in getting it. We are already past the point where our waste-riddled economy can grow under these oil-related conditions, except in nominal (fictional) terms. Hence the Biden and now Trump push for nuclear power, the outcome of which remains to be seen. Right now, the tech lords are claiming all the new energy and more for their AI bid to control the world.

The nuclear weapons situation under Trump, now that his people have been confirmed by the (very hawkish, industry- and Deep State-controlled) Senate is accordingly dire as well. The changing situation at Los Alamos and Sandia discussed in that ad is part and parcel of that.

In solidarity,

Greg

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January 13, 2026

Friends --

First, challenge coins! We ordered a limited number of commemorative glow-in-the-dark [challenge coins](#), as you see below. They are now en route, arrival date unknown.

These coins are a small, "solid" way to show your commitment to confronting the nuclear weapons complex and to show your solidarity and support for the Study Group's research, organizing, outreach, and lobbying.

There have been a lot of successes through the years. We'd love to give them to those of you who have been involved with us during those successes but they do cost money. We therefore need to sell at least most of them.

For now, we are offering these coins for \$30 each, plus shipping costs if that is necessary. (We hope to see many of you at upcoming events, if you can wait.) **If you want to order one, be sure and write [Trish](#) ASAP.**

If they start to sell out we will need to hike the price, or just stop selling them altogether, so please do let Trish know if you want one. **You can pay for them via PayPal at [this link](#). We need your pre-orders by Saturday, Jan. 24.**

We expect to issue other challenge coins in the near future for those taking part in the campaigns "seasons" we are beginning to flesh out for this year. See 3. below.

Second, nuclear movie night! Some of us will be meeting at our offices (2901 Summit Place NE, Albuquerque) a week from tomorrow (Wednesday, Jan. 21) at 6 pm to watch and discuss the film "[The Day After](#)." Wikipedia tells us that "more than 100 million people, in nearly 39 million households, watched the film when it first aired on November 20, 1983, on the ABC television network." The film was important in the evolution of President Reagan's attitudes toward nuclear weapons -- which is to say, in the end of the Cold War.

Let us know if you want to come, because we only have room for about fifteen people in all. There will be food. In the future, if there is sufficient interest, we will consider larger venues.

On successive, alternate Wednesdays we'd like to discuss current events and actions, followed by watching and discussing iconic nuclear films and their relation to what is happening now, in the new Cold War.

Third, the winter-spring fellowship program. On Monday, February 2, the President's proposed FY2027 budget is legally required to be presented to Congress. President Trump has declared that he wants a \$1.5 trillion military budget, more than \$11,100 per U.S. household (in the face of a public debt of more than \$38 trillion).

On February 6, that Friday, the NEW START treaty limiting deployed strategic nuclear weapons will expire if Russia's offer to extend it is not accepted by the U.S. Should New START expire, there will be no treaty limits whatsoever on deployed nuclear weapons among the 9 current nuclear weapons states.

At the beginning of that same week, on Feb. 2, the Study Group will begin a 3-month intensive training and action program, aimed at building capacity and alliances to resist militarism, empire, and the new nuclear arms race. The program will conclude with a group lobbying trip for participants to Washington, DC in late April. The Study Group will pay for travel, housing, and meals in DC.

Core activities during the 12-week program will include research and writing, organizing and outreach, education and alliance-building, field trips, and actions. Some of the activity will be regionally focused, and some will be focused on Congress, in part preparatory for the April trip.

We anticipate that participants will work hard and learn a great deal through direct engagement in high-impact policy work. We will be networking across political camps and geographies. Some of our allies are on the political left; others on the right. Participants will be working with both. This program will quietly emphasize a shift from an "age of rage" to dialogue and constructive engagement. But as you know we will be firm.

Today's announcement is preliminary to a more formal one to follow, but we wanted to get some of these dates and this general outline out to the people on this list in particular.

Some people living elsewhere may be able to telework part of the time in this program, but they must plan on coming here for part of the time. We do have some housing space available for visitors.

Local participants who are working will need to consider how much time they might have available. We aren't sure what the minimum participation intensity should be but are inclined to think that at least 15 hours per week would be necessary, possibly 20. The more participants put into this program, the more they will get out.

We will be offering stipends to help defray some personal costs, and as stated we will be able to offer housing in some cases. We cannot offer more. This is not an employment situation.

This program is not for everybody, and we have to be somewhat selective.

Stay tuned for more details. If you think you might be interested, write [Trish](#).

At the present time, we anticipate a summer and a fall programs as well. This is the pilot.

More soonest then, and a wonderful new year to everybody,

Greg Mello, for the Los Alamos Study Group



GLOW IN THE DARK



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