

# Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety Los Alamos Study Group

## **Newly-Released DOE Data Undercuts DARHT, Labs' Plans to Expand Nuclear R&D Program**

### **Report Issued by IEER Blasts "Safety," "Reliability" Rationales for DOE Nuke Weapon Spending Spree**

Simultaneous Voice-Linked Press Conference linking with IEER at the National Press Club, Washington, DC will be held **Wednesday**, May 22, 1996 **at CCNS** offices, 107 Cienega St., Santa Fe, at **11:00 am** MDT. Copies of IEER report and related studies will be available.

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[IEER Press Release Available]

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER) will issue an important report tomorrow which shows that DOE's own nuclear stockpile surveillance data undercuts its proposed "science-based stockpile stewardship" program, on which the future of Los Alamos and Sandia labs is now based.

The report, written by Staff Scientist Hisham Zerriffi and Director Dr. Arjun Makhijani, concludes that the utility of DOE's proposed SBSS facilities for maintaining the U.S. arsenal is highly questionable in some cases and entirely absent in others. What's worse, they conclude that the SBSS program could lead to a dangerous new arms race and the breakdown of the world's nonproliferation regime.

"This report reiterates the conclusions of studies done in the Reagan and Bush administrations at Livermore and Sandia labs which showed that the stockpile, for what it's worth, could be maintained without either underground nuclear testing or new lab facilities. More recently, however, the DOE and labs have attempted to confuse Congress and the public with highly misleading statements designed to get at money, not the truth. Neither DOE's proposed billions in new facilities, nor the vast nuclear stockpile they are designed to "improve," really contribute to our national security. These people need to be stopped before they start a new arms race in order to perpetuate their own jobs," said Study Group Director Mello.

"There is no need for grandiose, expensive, and environmentally-damaging new facilities like DARHT [the Dual-Axis Radiographic Hydrotest Facility] in Los Alamos, let alone the billions of dollars of additional facilities DOE hopes to build around the country. These so-called "surrogate" testing machines are designed to give weaponeers the ability to continue the arms race even with a test ban. Congress and the American people need to wake up and help bring an end to nuclear weapons, rather than perpetuate them indefinitely," said Jay Coghlan, Program Director at CCNS.

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