



Los Alamos Study Group

Nuclear Disarmament • Environmental Protection • Social Justice • Economic Sustainability

For Immediate Release July 22, 2004

Workshops Offered on Current Lab Programs; Public Invited To Join in Oversight and “Citizen Inspection” at Los Alamos

Contact: Greg Mello or Darwin BondGraham, 505-265-1200

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The Los Alamos Study Group announced today it will offer two free public workshops in the first week of August as part of its call for increased citizen oversight of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). The workshops are meant to help citizens better understand the labs and to give citizens the tools they need to become active in the effort to bring openness and accountability to nuclear laboratory programs.

The first public workshop will be held on Monday, August 2 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Unitarian Church of Santa Fe at 107 West Barcelona Road in Santa Fe, and will be entitled “Normalizing Terror: Los Alamos, Sandia, and the Resurgence of the Nuclear Option.”

The second workshop will be held from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm (with breaks for lunch and dinner) at Woodward Hall on the main campus of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. It will cover the same ground as the Santa Fe workshop and have the same title, but will include a more complete “virtual tour” of U.S. nuclear weapons facilities and a special briefing on Sandia National Laboratories, along with a detailed, critical analysis of the new nuclear weapons proposed by Sandia managers. There will be a press conference at 4:00 pm at the same location, and at 7:00 pm there will be a public discussion and debate entitled “Sandia and New Nuclear Weapons.” Representatives from Sandia have been invited to present an official perspective at this event (contact: Rod Geer, 844-6601).

On Thursday, August 5, after an aerial tour of LANL facilities in the morning and a briefing by former Rocky Flats worker Jacque Brever and former pit production supervisor Ron Avery, at 1:00 pm the Study Group, its guests, and members of the public will come to LANL for a “citizen inspection” – a walk-around in which citizens can see for themselves some of the facilities involved in Los Alamos weapons programs, barring interruption by LANL security forces. The inspectors will reconvene at 3:00 pm for a press conference in or near the main LANL technical area (TA-3).

Finally, the Study Group will host a panel discussion that same evening in Los Alamos from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Fuller Lodge, 2132 Central Avenue, entitled “Plutonium Pit Production in Los Alamos: Issues and Prospects.” LANL program offices have been contacted requesting laboratory participation (contacts: John Immele, National Security, 667-6120; Richard Mah, Weapons Engineering and Manufacturing, 667-1929; and Patrick Woehrle, Government Relations, 665-7778), with no answer as of this writing.

Over the past few years, LANL has declined invitations from the Study Group to present on its pit production program in public meetings. The Study Group has therefore asked Senator Bingaman’s office to assist in overcoming LANL’s lack of interest in explaining this important program, or for that matter any weapons program, to the public (contact: Helen Dorado-Gray: 988-6647). The Study Group will be meeting with Mr. Woehrle this afternoon in Senator Bingaman’s Santa Fe office.

More information about citizen inspections can be found on the attached fact sheet and at www.lasg.org.

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