We call for sanity, not nuclear production

Further development and manufacturing 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 undermining true U.S. national security.

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 are now ranked the worst state in the U.S. in which to raise a child.

We cannot build our society, nurture our children, inspire our youth, or improve our communities by investing in apocalyptic nightmares.

We call upon our elected officials to:

- **Oppose** plutonium warhead core (“pit”) production at LANL first and foremost, but also elsewhere.
- **Reject** any NNSA or LANL presence in Santa Fe’s Midtown Project.
- **Oppose** the design, testing, and production of new and “upgraded” nuclear weapons.
- **Prioritize** removal of approximately 20,000 drums of legacy plutonium waste from LANL over production of additional nuclear waste from nuclear weapons.
- **Demand** a new Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) for LANL, which would examine the impacts of LANL’s proposed industrial plutonium warhead core (“pit”) production mission and its overall nuclear weapons expansion, compared to the impacts of alternatives.
- **Choose** human security, community resilience, and environmental protection over nuclear weapons production and our bloated military, which consume over half of federal discretionary spending. We can no longer delay. We must use every opportunity, at every level of government, to prioritize human needs, invest in our communities, and build a more just and sustainable society.
Background

In 2006, hundreds of organizations, businesses, and religious institutions in New Mexico, nearly a hundred national and international organizations, and thousands of individuals joined the “Call for Nuclear Disarmament,” demanding “Disarmament, Not Production!” (brochure).

We are reopening that Call now in an updated form, to reflect current pressing issues.

Plans for plutonium warhead core (“pit”) production at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) collapsed in 2012, in no small part due to litigation by this organization. But the danger is back. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is now planning a vast expansion of LANL’s nuclear weapons programs, especially pit production.

LANL is gearing up for round-the-clock pit production, involving thousands of additional radiation workers and support staff. Under this plan – the full scope of which has not been made public, and which is proceeding without any environmental analysis – LANL would become a new, mid-sized “Rocky Flats Plant.” Other LANL nuclear weapons missions are also slated to expand dramatically, along with nuclear waste production and shipping. This is a form of “development” we cannot afford or allow.

Now is the time to resist. Decisions are being made for us. We must speak up and inspire others to do so with us. If we do not, our silence will be taken for enthusiastic assent, because that is how our congressional delegation is characterizing New Mexico’s wishes. There is a very real danger that New Mexico’s future will be defined by nuclear weapons, preparations for war on earth and in space, and nuclear waste.

LANL, the Pajarito Plateau, and the area’s roads are in many ways “full,” so LANL and NNSA have at various times proposed to expand into surrounding communities, including into Santa Fe. The status of these negotiations has been kept from the public.

We will not let northern New Mexico become a physical, political, and cultural sacrifice zone for the nuclear weapons industry.

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