Plutonium warhead factory under construction near Santa Fe

Despite climate collapse, scaring debt, and crying social needs, can Santa Fe be a City of Peace, or a City of War?

Twenty-two miles from the Santa Fe Plaza, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is pursuing a crash program to build a plutonium processing center and nuclear weapons factory at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Its purpose: to manufacture new warheads for existing U.S. ICBMs. It's a crash program to build new warheads to America's doomsday arsenal.

LANL pit production has nothing to do with maintaining existing U.S. ICBMs. It's a crash program to build new warheads to America's doomsday arsenal. Pits are radioactive and they age, albeit very slowly. After a few more decades, pit aging could make warheads unuseable, existing pits were not replaced. But replacing the pits is essential to the warhead's safety. LANL’s existing depots has nothing to do with LANL’s new pit mission. New, modern pits, if production ever gets off the ground, are to augment the total number of very accurate warheads available for U.S. ICBMs, allowing more targeted attacks in a world where Russia and China.

A new, safer pit factory is being built in South Carolina. The LANL factory would have huge regional impacts. Without LANL pit production no entirely new warheads could be produced until LANL’s new factory comes online. LANL has failed four times already in its attempts to build a pit factory. By design, the LANL factory appeared to offer a rapid start to the production of pits and new warheads, adding new military capabilities in the process. To do this, new pits are available in and from a nuclear arms race. For contractors, it's a bonanza. Another dramatic impact the entire region would have huge regional impacts.

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How can we build strong, resilient communities with priorities such as these? How can we address the serious crises we face? How can we provide real vocations, with prioritized over an arms race? In addition to these bloated sectors, interest on the federal debt now roughly equals defense spending and is rising exponentially. We simply cannot go on like this. We have to face our converging crises head on. Our youth need vocations that help build a sustainable society, worthwhile vocations they can and should believe and invest in themselves. How can we expect them to do that when we are not meeting those needs? We need to say "No" to all institutions of nuclear violence that would impress their template over our state, and "yes" to real investing in our young people, not just talking about it.

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Elected officials consistently overvalue LANL's benefits and fear its political power. Their imaginations are sapped. Responsible social and environmental plans – the antithesis of LANL’s core mission – are derided. LANL’s largely-secret, doomsday mission, with its impossible-to-measure costs and long-term liabilities, is not even considered. Our state & country desperately need wholesome priorities, not an arms race. How can we build strong, resilient communities with priorities such as these? How can we address the serious crises we face? How can we provide real vocations, with prioritized over an arms race? In addition to these bloated sectors, interest on the federal debt now roughly equals defense spending and is rising exponentially. We simply cannot go on like this. We have to face our converging crises head on. Our youth need vocations that help build a sustainable society, worthwhile vocations they can and should believe and invest in themselves. How can we expect them to do that when we are not meeting those needs? We need to say "No" to all institutions of nuclear violence that would impress their template over our state, and "yes" to real investing in our young people, not just talking about it.

Building strong communities – not plutonium bombs

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