More warheads would increase threats, keep military spending high, and maintain "unwarrented influence" 

As discussed last week (https://lasg.org/advertising/SFR-ad-13Dec2023.pdf), a plutonium warhead core ("pit") factory is under construction at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). At $20 billion, it is the largest capital project in New Mexico history — but it has nothing to do with our welfare. It already has significant local impacts on workforce availability, housing costs, traffic, and nuclear waste generation, clearing, and disposal. This giant project has nothing to do with "maintaining a nuclear deterrent," which it has everything to do with enabling an arms race in which the U.S. cannot possibly keep up, increasing military spending, and maintaining nuclear and military dominance over other government authorities.

$2+ trillion for nuclear weapons: assuring destruction forever

The U.S. has a huge nuclear arsenal about 5,244 warheads and bombs, of which about 3,708 are deployed or ready to deploy. They are deployed on ballistic missile submarines, on bombers, and on intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) in underground silos in 5 states (CO, NE, WY, MT, & ND).

Every warhead, bomb, delivery system, and factory for nuclear warheads is being replaced or upgraded while also continuing existing deployments, at a 30-year cost of more than $2 trillion, including environmental cleanup.

Every warhead and bomb has a pit. They last a long time but not forever. For now, warheads with existing pits can be modified and upgraded, but no all-new pits can be produced until the U.S. has an operating pit factory. Four attempts to build a LANL factory have failed. Local citizen opposition played a large role in at least two of these failures. Past efforts in Texas and South Carolina also failed. LANL's plutonium facility is too old and crowded to undertake pit manufacturing.

Augmented with new warheads built with new pits, the Sentinel fleet could carry up to 1,350 highly accurate warheads, more than triple the capability of current U.S. ICBMs.

One bomb would ruin your whole day

Even experts can be in denial about how destructive nuclear warheads are. As the graphic above shows, one 800-kiloton (kt) Russian warhead detonated at LANL would destroy a city, kill most people downwind in Santa Fe or Taos, and likely destroy the electricity of current U.S. ICBMs.

A nuclear war involving cities would destroy gigantic amounts of soot into the stratosphere, altering the weather, blocking the sun and lowering temperatures to far below those necessary for agriculture, for many years. Oxides of nitrogen created by the explosions would destroy the ozone layer, blinding humans and animals. Most people and animals would die. Ecosystems would die.

A handful of nuclear weapons detonated at high altitude would be sufficient to take out the U.S. electric grid. Likely, however, would no longer.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), in a landmark 1996 decision, unanimously determined that the U.S., as well as other nuclear states, has a positive obligation under international law to negotiate complete nuclear disarmament. This obligation is largely based on the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which, under the U.S. Constitution, is part of "the supreme Law of the Land."