

# Los Alamos Study Group

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February 12, 2024

**Emergency Rally for Rafah TODAY at UNM Bookstore, Albuquerque / HB 117 died / Please come to a) the Santa Fe City Council THIS WEDNESDAY at 6 pm to oppose pit production and b) the Santa Fe Community College this Thursday to oppose LANL's new electrical transmission line**

Previous letter, 02/08/24: [More ways to testify against HB 117 tonight or tomorrow / Please come to the Santa Fe City Council next Wednesday 2/14/24, at 6 pm](#)

[Permalink](#) for this letter. Prior [letters](#) to this New-Mexico-oriented list.

**\*\*\*If you have not already done so, please endorse the [Call for Sanity not Nuclear Production!](#) Commitment is contagious. Please help us recruit businesses, organizations, and individuals!\*\*\***

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Our [Ukraine page](#), updated more or less daily

Dear friends --

**First**, please come if you can to an emergency rally for Rafah at the UNM Bookstore across from the Frontier Restaurant **TODAY AT 5 PM**. Israel's attacks on Palestinian civilians and infrastructure in Gaza is as most of you know getting worse. Hundreds were slaughtered yesterday during the Superbowl nonsense. It is utterly horrific.

Also during the Superbowl the U.S. Senate approved another [\\$14.1 billion for Israel](#) along with \$60 billion to continue the Ukraine death factory. This bill now goes to an uncertain fate in the Republican-controlled House, where the leadership supports Israeli genocide but not necessarily the Ukrainian meatgrinder.



**Second**, [HB 117](#) has died. The House Taxation and Revenue Committee couldn't get to it on Friday and didn't put it on the agenda for today. The Chair's secretary just told Trish that the Committee would not be taking it (or any other bills as yet unheard) up. There just isn't enough time left.

Thank you for all who wrote in opposition. A (very) few of us showed up as well. As mentioned previously all the Republican members of the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee voted against it.

Something like this may well be back next year.

**To repeat what we said last time, pit production at Los Alamos has been very much a Democratic Party project.** The Democratic Governor, and all the Democrats in our congressional delegation, support it. LANL would not have this mission if senators Heinrich and Udall, supported by the rest of our delegation at the time, had not demanded it in late 2017 and 2018, after NNSA's professional staff signaled that LANL pit production would not be cost-effective or enduring.

**Third** (repeated from last time), [please come to the Santa Fe City Council meeting next Wednesday, 2/14/24, at 200 Lincoln Ave. \(map\) at 6 pm to a\) meet about next steps \(very important!\) and b\) at about 7 pm, to show your support for a City resolution opposing all pit production at LANL.](#)

We will meet in the hallway to the immediate west of the council chambers. "Petitions from the Floor," when you can speak if you wish (please do!) is likely to be at approximately 7 pm.

You can call in as well. The Zoom instructions will be available on the meeting agenda, which will be posted [here](#) by Monday at the latest. Virtual attendees should use the "Raise Hand" function to be recognized by the Mayor to speak at the appropriate time.

So far we have had an excellent and increasing attendance at City Council hearings, and everyone has spoken eloquently.

**Despite this, there is no movement on the Council. A combination of forces has demoralized the Council. Not one single councilor is currently willing to introduce a resolution opposing pit production at LANL.**

In our conversations with city councilors, and also from the lips of the Director of LANL himself last week in Washington DC as well as from an earlier LANL presentation, we have learned that **LANL is seeking to build a new laboratory campus somewhere in or near South Santa Fe**. We don't know much more than this, but we do know there have been literally thousands of emails passing between LANL and the City. We will get them soon. None of the councilors have bothered to tell anyone about this, or bring it up for public discussion.

This new campus is being planned only because of pit production. It enables pit production. Pit production is overwhelming the LANL site as well as local roads and labor markets.

Director Mason also said that new LANL hires are snatching up 40% of the new housing units being built in Santa Fe. He said LANL has hired 5,000 new employees (on a net basis) over the last five years, with more to come (although hiring is slowing). This is not all for the pit mission, but the pit mission is the largest growth area. Affordable housing? Fuhgedaboutit.

Obviously, if LANL can move some work to Santa Fe the number of housing units in Santa Fe occupied by LANL employees will rise. It will also rise because retiring LANL employees (over 35% of LANL employees are eligible for retirement) tend to stay in Los Alamos if they already live there.

The Council, led by the Mayor and his political insider friends and staff, is putting its faith in the growth potential of nuclear weapons. Poor Santa Fe -- so far from God, so close to Los Alamos. Santa Fe is losing its identity, culture, and its livability. LANL is not the only reason but it's a big one.

Progressives on the Council -- if there are any real ones -- are failing to see that dreams of social justice are being sacrificed to the Moloch of militarism -- and in our case, plutonium. What City would embrace that horrible element? Santa Fe, apparently. We will be ruled by nuclear compradors until we demand otherwise.

The Council needs to hear from you about this. We aren't giving up, but we are hearing a peculiar narrative that social, environmental, and economic justice goals can be reconciled with a new nuclear arms race. The Council needs to understand why this is a mistake.

Please come. **To repeat, we are going to unveil and discuss next steps this coming Wednesday at 6 pm, outside the Council chambers.**

**Fourth**, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is hosting a public meeting about the proposed [new electrical transmission line to LANL across the Caja del Rio](#), from 4 pm to 7 pm in the Jemez Room at Santa Fe Community College (6401 Richards Ave., [map](#)). The meeting will start with a poster information session at 4 p.m., followed at 4:30 pm by a presentation on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and a comment period.

Please see:

- o [LASG letter](#) of January 9, 2024
- o [Posters and slides](#) from the Jan. 11, 2024 public hearing
- o [Energy officials grant more time to comment on LANL power line plan](#), Scott Wyland, *Santa Fe New Mexican*, with comment by me (Greg), Dec 28, 2023 (click on the logo to go to original)
- o [Public Meeting. Supplemental Comment Period Announced For Proposed LANL Transmission Line Upgraded Project](#), DOE/NNSA news release, Dec 27, 2023
- o [Critics, delegates call for more time to comment on power line](#), Scott Wyland, *Santa Fe New Mexican*, with several excellent comments at on line, Dec 23, 2023
- o [Scoping comments on the proposed EA for the Electrical Power Capacity Upgrade Project \(EPCU\) at LANL and the Santa Fe National Forest \(SFNF\)](#), LASG, May 21, 2021

Many organizations oppose this power line and are likely to have representatives present. Few of these actively oppose the expansion of LANL pit production. Going on Thursday is a good opportunity to talk to them about this.

A hybrid option is available for the meeting and will start at 4:30 pm. The link to the virtual meeting is: <http://tinyurl.com/LANLEPCUEA2>. The meeting ID is 216 364 231 301 and the passcode is KWf2M2.

To join the meeting by telephone, call: 719-283-1404. The phone conference ID is 660 740 035#.

Comments can be emailed to [EPCUEA@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:EPCUEA@nnsa.doe.gov).

**Fifth**, please help us publicize and recruit endorsers to the [Call for Sanity. Not Nuclear Production](#), currently running at 800 individuals and 178 businesses, organizations, and religious groups.

Please understand that being in favor of nuclear disarmament, or nuclear abolition, or nuclear safety, does not imply opposition to building a factory for plutonium pits at LANL. To effectively oppose something like this you actually have to oppose it specifically and actively, at a minimum! It is amazing how many people do not understand this.

Thank you,

Greg, Trish, Bex

# Los Alamos Study Group

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February 8, 2024

**Please come if you can to the legislature, Rm 317, TOMORROW 2/9, 8:30 am if you can to oppose HB 117, aimed at generating GRT revenue from plutonium pit production and other plutonium manufacturing**

Previous letter (02/05/24): [From New Energy Economy: Tell the Governor and the Legislature: New Mexico is not for sale!](#)

[Permalink](#) for this letter. Prior [letters](#) to this New-Mexico-oriented list.

\*\*\*If you have not already done so, please endorse the [Call for Sanity not Nuclear Production!](#) Commitment is contagious.\*\*\*

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Our [Ukraine page](#), updated more or less daily

Dear friends --

Apologies for this late notice but if you can, **please come to the State Capitol, Room 317, TOMORROW, February 9, at 8:30 am, to oppose [House Bill 117](#).**

This bill is currently 6th on the [agenda](#) of the House Taxation and Revenue Committee. Citizens and organizations may be allowed to speak to a limited degree, depending on the Chair of the Committee. Any comments allowed will need to be brief.

It is really impossible to tell exactly when this bill will be heard by the Committee.

**It is an opportunity to express opposition to pit production to New Mexico lawmakers.**

No state law can directly concern itself with nuclear weapons. This proposed law would remove an existing GRT exemption for manufacturing in the case of national laboratories or research facilities owned by the State, specifically referencing plutonium warhead core ("pit") production, the mission of the former Rocky Flats Plant near Denver. Presumably the bill applies to other plutonium manufacturing missions as well.

Some details of this bill and its impact are obscure, in part because the [present](#) tax situation for LANL and its subcontractors is obscure. Also, the applicability of existing law is unclear, which has created quite a bit of political turmoil in Los Alamos County, which relies on GRT from LANL -- all of LANL -- to generate an enormous income stream. Absent that income stream, Los Alamos County has proposed increasing GRT in the County to make up for the "loss" -- which is really not a loss but a loss of an expected [increase](#).

**What is clear is that if this bill passes, the State's finances will remain enmeshed with the pit production mission. The state, and Los Alamos County, are likely to profit more from pit production than could be the case without this proposed law.** Uncertainty would be removed, benefiting Los Alamos County especially.

On its face, the Fiscal Impact Report (FIR) produced for the bill greatly understates the fiscal impact of the present exemption, if that exemption were fully applied to the mission. This may be intentional, because stating the true potential impact of the present GRT exemption could be tantamount to saying the whole pit production is and has been exempt from GRT. Then, if this bill didn't pass, legislative analysts would be on record saying that a large and growing hunk of LANL's spending was, is, and will be untaxable. NNSA's budget request for last fiscal year pegs the future cost of pit production at more than \$1 billion per year, on top of the big (line-item) construction projects.

Legislative analysts wrongly state that LANL's pit production mission is "not divertible" to other states. In fact that was precisely what NNSA proposed to do in 2017, and it is what some congressional staff members have told us will eventually happen when LANL's aging plutonium facility becomes (i.e. is recognized as) unworkable for the mission.

This bill, [and pit production](#), have not been subjected to any up-to-date, realistic environmental analysis. At a minimum, this bill should be referred to the House and/or Senate environmental committees prior to floor votes, even if it receives a "do pass" recommendation tomorrow.

**By stating overtly that a plutonium pit production industry in northern New Mexico is "not divertible," i.e. inevitable, the legislature places our State's complicity in weapons of mass destruction, and our growing colonial subjugation by the plutonium industry, beyond all moral thought and political opposition.**

Only small handbags are allowed in the Capitol during the session. We will have sticky or pinned-on badges available to indicate opposition. I am sure you can also make your own!

Please remember: we citizens are standing up in a righteous cause. We are informed and we are not doing to be doormats or join in craven consent to the nuclear weapons industry.

There are more events coming next week, but more about those later.

Thank you,

Greg, Trish, Bex

# Los Alamos Study Group

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February 5, 2024

**From New Energy Economy: Tell the Governor and the Legislature: New Mexico is not for sale!**

Re: <https://www.newenergyeconomy.org/post/tell-the-governor-and-the-legislature-new-mexico-is-not-for-sale>

[Permalink](#) for this letter. Prior [letters](#) to this New-Mexico-oriented list.

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Our [Ukraine page](#), updated more or less daily

Dear friends --

Please pardon two alerts in a single day, but the above excellent [legislative alert](#) from our respected ally [New Energy Economy](#) (NEE) merits our urgent collective attention.

Of the four bills highlighted, the horrible SB215 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Conservation Committee tomorrow, at 9 am. **Contact them TODAY if you can.**

Thank you,

Greg, Trish, Bex

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[^ back to top](#)

2901 Summit Place NE Albuquerque, NM 87106, Phone: 505-265-1200

# Los Alamos Study Group

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February 5, 2024

**Report-back and organizing meeting in Santa Fe Wednesday 2/7/24 6 pm, St. John's United Methodist Church / Please continue and step up your outreach!**

Previous letter (01/31/24): [Come to the Santa Fe City Council TONIGHT, Wednesday, Jan 31st, 6 pm, or call in](#)

[Permalink](#) for this letter. Prior [letters](#) to this New-Mexico-oriented list.

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**Good morning!**

**First**, we were very pleased with the turnout at this past Wednesday's Santa Fe City Council meeting. There were 27 or 28 people there to request that the City pass a resolution opposing plutonium warhead ("pit") production at LANL. This was more than ever before. Two of us called in (I, Greg, was in Washington DC). Many people spoke in opposition to pit production and in favor of re-introducing a new City resolution saying that, all eloquently.

Several new volunteers have expressed interest in working with us. Opposition to pit production is growing.

**Second**, please continue your outreach to businesses, organizations, religious communities, and individuals urging them to endorse the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production](#). In our information-saturated age, usually the biggest barrier is the lack of just a little bit of personal outreach, which pulls a message out of the background noise. A phone call, a flyer, a personal request from a friend, is often all that is needed. We now have 178 businesses and organizations and 792 individuals on board.

**Third**, if you want to work with other volunteers on outreach projects, please [write](#), text, or call Bex (505-545-9578) to find out more, or come to the meeting this Wednesday evening in Santa Fe (see next).

**Fourth**, we are having a report-back and organizing session in Santa Fe this Wednesday 2/7/24 at 6 pm in the Gathering Room at St. John's United Methodist Church (SJUMC) in Santa Fe, 1200 Old Pecos Trail ([map](#)). Come one, come all!

I was in Washington, DC last week at a (horrible) meeting of various nuclear weapons industry people, government watchdogs, administration officials, etc. I also met with a few others elsewhere. At this conference, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) made extra efforts to paint a smiley face on its pit production progress. LANL has begun lying blatantly and obviously to news media, not just at this conference but increasingly over the past half-year or so as we have noticed, hoping to use gullible reporters to spread information they could not say in front of Congress and dare not put in writing.

There is now a powerful and I would say dominant faction in government that is pushing for more deployed nuclear weapons, of more kinds. Two new kinds -- a high-yield precision-guided nuclear bunker-buster bomb (B61-13) and a sea-launched nuclear cruise missile (SLCM-N) -- were mandated by Congress in December in the fiscal year (FY)2024 Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which is now law. Others are contemplated. At this conference I heard a pitch to use stored pits (at Pantex, near Amarillo) to create new low-yield nuclear weapons for battlefield use, which (as the speaker said), would economize on (relatively scarce) cruise missiles. A more mainstream idea gaining traction is to "practice" increasing the number of deployed nuclear weapons in preparation for the U.S. breaking out of New START limits in February 2026, when uploading more warheads could be legally done for real.

Of special note, we now know that LANL is to be the only factory for pits for new warheads for the silo-based "Sentinel" intercontinental missile system.

We can and must halt this slide toward nuclear war. New Mexico has a special role to play. The people here in this state -- that's you and me -- can stop this deadly nuclear arms race, which apart from the large-scale dangers posed is already bankrupting households all over the country. The entire paradigm of threats and terror can and must be changed into one of respect and cooperation if our communities, our country, and our planet are to survive.

Greg, Trish, Bex

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[^ back to top](#)

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# Los Alamos Study Group

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January 31, 2024

**Come to the Santa Fe City Council TONIGHT, Wednesday, Jan 31st, 6 pm, or call in**

Previous letter (01/26/24): [Update to The Call for Sanity, please help! / Come to the Santa Fe City Council Wednesday, Jan 31st, 6 pm](#)

[Permalink](#) for this letter. Prior [letters](#) to this New-Mexico-oriented list.

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**Good morning!** Welcome to those new to this list!

I (Greg) am in Washington, about to attend a nuclear weapons industry conference, including some key individuals in government. My job here is to learn, cause some ripples, and meet with some of our allies and colleagues inside and outside this conference, in government and in NGO groups. Being here in the "belly of the beast" re-emphasizes the importance of local opposition. The federal government has been largely taken over by interests inimical to life and health.

So quickly, before this dog and pony show starts:

**Please come to the Santa Fe City Council meeting TONIGHT, January 31st, at City Hall (200 Lincoln Ave., [map](#)) at 6 pm or a little later to a) meet with Trish, Bex, and others, and above all to b) show your support for a City resolution opposing all pit production at LANL.** We will meet in the hallway to the immediate west of the council chambers. "Petitions from the Floor," when you can speak if you wish (please do!) is likely to be at approximately 7 pm (Mountain Time). You can call in as well, via Zoom: [Go to santafenmgov.zoom.us/j/85063759298](#). **\*Attendees should use the "Raise Hand" function to be recognized by the Mayor to speak at the appropriate time.**

Repeating from last time: As most of you know, Councilor Cassutt withdrew our proposed resolution against pit production at LANL, in part because she did not believe she had the votes, given the retirement of her co-sponsor Renee Villarreal. We have met with her along with brand-new councilor Alma Castro, and also with the Mayor and his new Senior Advisor Bernie Toon, a long-time Washington insider and lobbyist (including for Bechtel and LANL). These two articles will bring you up to date:

- [Santa Fe city councilor pulls resolution opposing plutonium pit production at LANL](#), Carina Julig, *Santa Fe New Mexican* (w/comments by Greg), Jan 4, 2024
- [Nuclear Option](#), Evan Chandler, *Santa Fe Reporter*, Jan 3, 2024

What we have not mentioned up to now is that Mayor Webber and his advisor Mr. Toon brought to our meeting a copy of the executive summary of the [The Final Report of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States](#) (Oct 2023). As discussed [here](#), this report proposes a radical increase in scale and pace of modernization, along with an increase in the size of nuclear forces. This report makes the claim that unless the U.S. greatly increases its nuclear weapons efforts along with other strategic system acquisitions over the 2027-2035 period, "deterrence" vis-a-vis Russia and China will be lost. This happens to be the same period of time in which LANL is expected to make all the pits for what these authors hope will be an expanding U.S. nuclear arsenal. Absent new pits from LANL, no new warheads will be possible.

We believe Mr. Toon is helping Mayor understand that the "pit business" is *big* business, something Santa Fe can count on as a basis of its economy and growth. There's more on this topic, which we will leave to another time. Let's just say that it looks to us as if this resolution is being brought forward in the nick of time. **So to repeat, please don't hang back and please come on Wednesday evening!** Some central talking points:

- We don't want delay or evasion. **We want the City to oppose all pit production at LANL, now.** This resolution is not about a new site-wide environmental impact statement (which NNSA is already doing). It is not about non-proliferation. It is not about cleanup, although halting pit production would greatly speed removal of legacy waste. It is not about "workers' rights," regarding which the City has no jurisdiction whatsoever. It is not about empty "support" for the Tularosa Basin Downwinders, which the City is not going to actually pay. It is a non-binding resolution that says something *about the City itself*. It says the City wants to remain "The Royal City of the Holy Faith of Saint Francis," not the City that got sucked into the same black hole that engulfed that sad military tool, Robert Oppenheimer. It says Santa Fe does not want to be the city that "learned to stop worrying and love the bomb." It says Santa Fe doesn't believe in a future "Plutopia" for its economic development paradigm.
- We are asking for the resignation of Mr. Toon, whose \$119,000/year salary appears to be an unnecessary City expense. Regardless of his other DC experience, we believe Mr. Toon's former role as Vice President and Manager of Governmental Affairs for Bechtel disqualifies him for any City role bearing on the future of Santa Fe.

Bechtel, formerly the world's largest engineering and construction company, not only was a major part of LANL management from 2006 to 2018 but also is now part of the team managing Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as well as the team managing the Pantex and Y-12 nuclear weapons production sites. Bechtel has [a major role](#) in the troubled Sentinel ICBM, the largest civil works project in the U.S. since the completion of the interstate highway system. The Sentinel system comprises the entire "market" for LANL pits for the foreseeable future. Bechtel has been more or less deeply involved with the CIA and various "Deep State" machinations for its entire post-1945 existence. Bechtel lobbied for, and gained lucrative contracts from, the Iraq War.

(Please see [Friends in High Places: The Bechtel Story: The Most Secret Corporation and How It Engineered the World](#) by Layton McCartney and [The Profiteers: Bechtel and the Men Who Built the World](#), by Santa Fe's own Sally Denton).

- Will Santa Fe be a city run by and for Santa Feans, or a city run by politicians serving the interests of the federal government, which is powerfully interested in pit production? **The resistance to actually opposing pit production shows how important it is to do so.**
- The City of Santa Fe will suffer considerable reputational damage by being associated with nuclear weapons production, and plutonium. Some possibilities will be foreclosed, while other bad possibilities related to plutonium and nuclear weapons will open, as is already happening. One dirty industry attracts others.
- We have already discussed the local impacts on many occasions -- the perpetuation and increasing of inequality, impacts to housing markets, traffic congestion, fiscal solvency (bedroom communities cost money), water resources, waste haulage, the dreadful impact on skilled labor markets, the proposed new transmission line to LANL through the semi-wild and culturally-priceless Caja del Rio, the inappropriate type and poor quality of residential construction under LANL "boomtown" conditions (viz: ugly cheap apartment buildings), access to affordable, timely services, and so on.

**Please come tonight if you can! Pack the Council chambers!**

Greg

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[^ back to top](#)

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# Los Alamos Study Group

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January 26, 2024

## Update to The Call for Sanity, please help! / Come to the Santa Fe City Council Wednesday, Jan 31st, 6 pm

Previous letter, 01/09/24, [Four upcoming events in Santa Fe: a\) volunteer mtg TOMORROW, Jan 10, noon: b\) City Council mtg Jan 10, 6 pm: c\) study session re new LANL power line Jan 11, noon: c\) public meeting re power line, 4 pm](#)

[Permalink](#) for this letter. Prior [letters](#) to this New-Mexico-oriented list.

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**Good afternoon!**

We hope you are all well, and encouraged. Welcome to those new to this list!

**First**, our public registry of opposition to plutonium warhead core ("pit," or "nuclear trigger") production, the ["Call for Sanity. Not Nuclear Production"](#), is growing. As of this morning we had 169 businesses and 755 individuals on board. Many nuclear disarmament, social justice, anti-war, and peace-making organizations are already on board. Others will join them in the coming days.

**We find that the primary barrier to rapidly growing this registry is simply that people are busy and have many distractions. Most of us need a little nudge to do things that may be important but don't seem urgent. Wherever and whenever you can help provide that nudge, please do!**

**Many people ask, how can I help? This is one very good and easy way.**

Many people don't quite understand the importance of the [Call](#). *There is really no other standing democratic process in which opposition can be registered or heard.* We entirely lack democratic fora and representative government, as far as federal national security policies are concerned. Here in New Mexico, writing our congressional delegation about those policies is worse than useless, because the illusion of representative government encourages passivity among those who might be more effective if they knew how hair-on-fire awful the situation truly is.

*Another barrier is that many people don't understand that we will never get adequate, or even any, climate protection while also indulging in militarism and empire.* It's not just the money wasted and the emissions spewed, which are certainly huge, bigger than the economies and emissions of most countries. It is also that these priorities shape our political system, even as they shape our thoughts and narratives. They stunt our imaginations, inserting death-oriented solutions where life-giving social and environmental commitments should be. Meanwhile tsunamis of military -- and in New Mexico, nuclear -- campaign cash help put the wrong people in charge.

**The Call signals to local (and national) political actors that there is local and national opposition to pit production, "first and foremost at Los Alamos," since pit production is slated to begin a decade earlier here than elsewhere.**

We also hope that some local governments will join us in opposition to pit production, and this registry makes that easier. **Each endorsement makes it easier for other organizations to stand up.**

To make it very local, here in New Mexico nuclear weapons destroy our sovereignty. Nuclear warhead work comprises roughly ten times as much of our GDP as the next most "nuclearized" state (TN), but the effect on our politics is even more disproportionate than that. Colonization is not a process that ended in the 20th century. It is rapidly picking up speed right now.

New Mexico's ability to chart its own future and nurture its children is being "horse-traded" away for federal favors, with northern New Mexico's required acceptance of its assigned role as "plutonium foundry for the nation" front and center.

**Second**, if you can volunteer to help us reach out, please do! [Write Bex](#), or call 505-265-1200. Leave a message if we don't answer right away, and we'll get back to you.

**Third**, please come to the Santa Fe City Council meeting this coming Wednesday, January 31st, at City Hall (200 Lincoln Ave., [map](#)) at 6 pm to show your support for a City resolution opposing all pit production at LANL. We will meet in the hallway to the immediate west of the council chambers. Trish and Bex will be there; I (Greg) will be in DC, calling in to the Council during Petitions from the Floor at circa 7 pm Mountain Time. **We hope you will speak at that time, in person or via Zoom.**

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- [Santa Fe city councilor pulls resolution opposing plutonium pit production at LANL](#), Carina Julig, *Santa Fe New Mexican* (w/comments by Greg), Jan 4, 2024



- [Nuclear Option](#), Evan Chandler, *Santa Fe Reporter*, Jan 3, 2024

What we have not mentioned up to now is that Mayor Webber and his advisor Mr. Toon brought to our meeting a copy of the executive summary of the [The Final Report of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States](#) (Oct 2023). As discussed [here](#), this report proposes a radical increase in scale and pace of modernization, along with an increase in the size of nuclear forces. This report makes the claim that unless the U.S. greatly increases its nuclear weapons efforts along with other strategic system acquisitions over the 2027-2035 period, "deterrence" vis-a-vis Russia and China will be lost. This happens to be the same period of time in which LANL is expected to make all the pits for what these authors hope will be an expanding U.S. nuclear arsenal. Absent new pits from LANL, no new warheads will be possible.

We believe Mr. Toon is helping Mayor understand that the "pit business" is *big* business, something Santa Fe can count on as a basis of its economy and growth. There's more on this topic, which we will leave to another time. Let's just say that it looks to us as if this resolution is being brought forward in the nick of time. **So to repeat, please don't hang back and please come on Wednesday evening!** Some central talking points:

- We don't want delay or evasion. **We want the City to oppose all pit production at LANL, now.** This resolution is not about a new site-wide environmental impact statement (which NNSA is already doing). It is not about non-proliferation. It is not about cleanup, although halting pit production would greatly speed removal of legacy waste. It is not about "workers' rights," regarding which the City has no jurisdiction whatsoever. It is not about empty "support" for the Tularosa Basin Downwinders, which the City is not going to actually pay. It is a non-binding resolution that says something *about the City itself*. It says the City wants to remain "The Royal City of the Holy Faith of Saint Francis," not the City that got sucked into the same black hole that engulfed that sad military tool, Robert Oppenheimer. It says Santa Fe does not want to be the city that "learned to stop worrying and love the bomb." It says Santa Fe doesn't believe in a future "Plutopia" for its economic development paradigm.
- We are asking for the resignation of Mr. Toon, whose \$119,000/year salary appears to be an unnecessary City expense. Regardless of his other DC experience, we believe Mr. Toon's former role as Vice President and Manager of Governmental Affairs for Bechtel disqualifies him for any City role bearing on the future of Santa Fe.

Bechtel, formerly the world's largest engineering and construction company, not only was a major part of LANL management from 2006 to 2018 but also is now part of the team managing Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as well as the team managing the Pantex and Y-12 nuclear weapons production sites. Bechtel has [a major role](#) in the troubled Sentinel ICBM, the largest civil works project in the U.S. since the completion of the interstate highway system. The Sentinel system comprises the entire "market" for LANL pits for the foreseeable future. Bechtel has been more or less deeply involved with the CIA and various "Deep State" machinations for its entire post-1945 existence. Bechtel lobbied for, and gained lucrative contracts from, the Iraq War. (Please see [Friends in High Places: The Bechtel Story: The Most Secret Corporation and How It Engineered the World](#) by Layton McCartney and [The Profiteers: Bechtel and the Men Who Built the World](#), by Santa Fe's own Sally Denton).

- Will Santa Fe be a city run by and for Santa Feans, or a city run by politicians serving the interests of the federal government, which is powerfully interested in pit production? **The resistance to actually opposing pit production shows how important it is to do so.**
- The City of Santa Fe will suffer considerable reputational damage by being associated with nuclear weapons production, and plutonium. Some possibilities will be foreclosed, while other bad possibilities related to plutonium and nuclear weapons will open, as is already happening. One dirty industry attracts others.
- We have already discussed the local impacts on many occasions -- the perpetuation and increasing of inequality, impacts to housing markets, traffic congestion, fiscal solvency (bedroom communities cost money), water resources, waste haulage, the dreadful impact on skilled labor markets, the proposed new transmission line to LANL through the semi-wild and culturally-priceless Caja del Rio, the inappropriate type and poor quality of residential construction under LANL "boomtown" conditions (viz: ugly cheap apartment buildings), access to affordable, timely services, and so on.

**Please come on Wednesday!**

Best wishes,

Greg, Trish, and Bex

# Los Alamos Study Group

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January 10, 2024

## **(LANL): Adjustments made to proposed LANL transmission line public meeting**

FYI.

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** Adjustments made to proposed LANL transmission line public meeting  
**Date:** Wed, 10 Jan 2024 18:23:54 +0000  
**From:** Los Alamos National Laboratory <[lanl@service.govdelivery.com](mailto:lanl@service.govdelivery.com)>  
**Reply-To:** [lanl@service.govdelivery.com](mailto:lanl@service.govdelivery.com)  
**To:** [gmello@lasg.org](mailto:gmello@lasg.org)

### **Adjustments made to LANL transmission line public meeting, weather could impact in-person accessibility**

The National Nuclear Security Administration has made adjustments to the Thursday, January 11, public meeting for the Los Alamos National Laboratory Electrical Power Capacity Upgrade Project Draft Environmental Assessment to accommodate crowd-size and a potential snowstorm.

The meeting will be in the **Jemez Rooms** in the West Wing of Santa Fe Community College, 6401 Richards Ave. Attendees are encouraged to enter via the Main Entrance. A campus map is available at the bottom of this notification and at [https://www.sfcc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Map-w\\_rooms-working\\_outlines.pdf](https://www.sfcc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Map-w_rooms-working_outlines.pdf)

There will also be signs and meeting hosts to direct attendees to the correct room.

The in-person meeting is scheduled for 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The virtual session begins at 4:30 p.m.

NNSA offers virtual access to the meeting for those unable to attend in person. If weather causes college administration to close the campus, NNSA will continue to hold the meeting virtually. Please check the college homepage for any announcement that the campus is closed: <https://www.sfcc.edu/>

The link to the virtual meeting is: <http://tinyurl.com/LANLEPCUEA> Meeting ID: 228 221 321 784 Passcode: VjHXeB

To join the meeting by telephone, call: 719-283-1404 Phone Conference ID: 386 130 995#

The draft environmental assessment is available online at: <https://energy.gov/nepa/doeea-2199-los-alamos-national-laboratory-electrical-power-capacity-upgrade-project>

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[^ back to top](#)

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# Los Alamos Study Group

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January 9, 2024

**Four upcoming events in Santa Fe: a) volunteer mtg TOMORROW, Jan 10, noon; b) City Council mtg Jan 10, 6 pm; c) study session re new LANL power line Jan 11, noon; c) public meeting re power line, 4 pm**

Previous letter, 01/05/24: [Four upcoming events in Santa Fe: a\) volunteer mtg Monday, Jan 8, 11 am; b\) City Council mtg Jan 10, 6 pm; c\) study session re new LANL power line Jan 11, noon; c\) public meeting re power line, 4 pm](#). We canceled the Jan. 8 meeting due to weather.

[Permalink](#) for this letter. Prior [letters](#) to this New-Mexico-oriented list.

**\*\*\*If you have not already done so, please endorse the [Call for Sanity not Nuclear Production](#)! Commitment is contagious.\*\*\***

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Our blog: [Remember your Humanity](#). [Twitter](#).

[Contribute](#), [Volunteer](#). Contact [Greg or Trish](#).

Our [Ukraine page](#), updated more or less daily

Good afternoon!

Apologies for the late notice but **[tomorrow \(Wednesday, January 10\), we will have a volunteer work meeting at Chomp \(505 Cerrillos Road, \[map\]\(#\)\), from 12 noon to 2 pm](#)**. We will be working on recruiting endorsers for the "[Call for Sanity. Not Nuclear Production](#)," plus there will be time for some discussion and meeting new friends. We have several approaches in mind and will look forward to seeing those of you who can come.

Then, **[please come to the Santa Fe City Council meeting at City Hall \(200 Lincoln Ave., \[map\]\(#\)\) on tomorrow at 6 pm to show your support for a City resolution opposing all pit production at LANL](#)**. As we said last time, after the 1/1/24 installation of new city councilors, only Jamie Cassutt remained to support the original [resolution](#). These two good articles will give you an update on most recent developments:

- [Santa Fe city councilor pulls resolution opposing plutonium pit production at LANL](#), Carina Julig, *Santa Fe New Mexican* (w/comments by Greg), Jan 4, 2024
- [Nuclear Option](#), Evan Chandler, *Santa Fe Reporter*, Jan 3, 2024

We can provide more of an update on the status of this resolution tomorrow.

Then on Thursday, January 11, **[we will have a noon study session in Santa Fe, again at Chomp, re LANL's proposed new transmission line across the Caja del Rio](#)**.

**[THEN, that evening, the National Nuclear Security Administration \(NNSA\) is hosting a public meeting about this power line at 4 pm at Santa Fe Community College \(6401 Richards Ave., \[map\]\(#\)\)](#)**.

We will send out talking points tomorrow or Thursday. We are noticing that while there seems to be a fair amount of opposition to this power line, a lot of the opposition takes the form of asking for more time to comment, or different or better environmental analysis on the part of the Department of Energy. That is fine and proper and we agree. HOWEVER [it is not opposition to the power line](#).

These hearings under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are important public fora because they are often (and in this case so far) the ONLY public fora. They are for us to network and to protest, and for the news media to witness on behalf of all parties as is their job. Unfortunately these hearings also serve the function of fooling many people into thinking that somebody at DOE or the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is going to listen and take the public's sincere comments to heart. It would be foolish to think that.

NNSA, the nation's nuclear weapons agency, will get away with precisely as much tyranny over public resources (money, land, sacred sites, careers) as they need and believe they can get away with. [It is up to us to change what they can get away with](#).

As you will shortly see from us, LANL's "power grab," to be carried out via this transmission line, is costly to other electricity users, especially if renewable energy is involved. And the power capacity increase is all -- 100% -- for nuclear weapons. No other LANL mission, and nothing in the civilian Los Alamos power grid, requires the growth in capacity that LANL wants.

Don't even think about solar panels supplying this. The power LANL needs would (ballpark) a million solar panels. You can do the math yourself. And then the batteries. There isn't a useful wind resource at LANL.

Perhaps some of you may propose that LANL build itself a nuclear power plant to power its nuclear weapons enterprise. Nuclear power is after all LANL's largest "clean power" program.

**[If you can go in person on the 11th, it would be important to do so even if you know little or nothing about the proposed power line. This is our meeting as much as it is NNSA's and we can use it to our benefit](#)**.

If you can't, here's how to show up virtually along with other details, [via LANL](#) (go to the link for more background; again we will be putting out a fact sheet/talking points in the next day or two):

The Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and cooperating agencies will hold a public meeting **Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, from 4-7 pm**, regarding the *Los Alamos National Laboratory Electrical Power Capacity Upgrade Project Draft Environmental Assessment* (DOE/EA-2199) (EA),

The public meeting will take place at **Santa Fe Community College, Room 216, West Wing, 6401 Richards Ave., Santa Fe, NM, 87508**. The meeting will start with a poster information session at 4 p.m., followed at 4:30 pm by a presentation on the draft EA and a comment period.

A hybrid option is available for the meeting and will start at 4:30 pm. The link to the virtual meeting is: <http://tinyurl.com/LANLEPCUEA>  
Meeting ID: 228 221 321 784 Passcode: VjHXeB

To join the meeting by telephone, call: 719-283-1404 Phone Conference ID: 386 130 995#

PowerPoint Presentation from the January 11, 2024 Public Meeting (pdf) (*available after January 11, 2024*).

Posters from the January 11, 2024 Public Meeting (pdf) (*available after January 11, 2024*).

The first official comment period opened on Dec. 19, 2023, and runs through Jan. 17, 2024. A second comment period will be open from Jan. 22, 2024, for 30 days calculated with the publication of the legal notice in the newspaper of record. The comment period will close Feb. 20, 2024.

More soonest, and best wishes to all,

Greg

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[^ back to top](#)

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# Los Alamos Study Group

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January 5, 2024

**Four upcoming events in Santa Fe: a) volunteer mtg Monday, Jan 8, 11 am; b) City Council mtg Jan 10, 6 pm; c) study session re new LANL power line Jan 11, noon; c) public meeting re power line, 4 pm**

(Previous letter, (01/01/24): [Discussion in Santa Fe tomorrow, Tuesday 1/2/24, 6 pm, St. John's United Methodist Church: other meetings this month: "Call for Sanity" and City of Santa Fe resolution status](#)

[Permalink](#) for this letter. Prior [letters](#) to this New-Mexico-oriented list.

\*\*\*If you have not already done so, please endorse the [Call for Sanity not Nuclear Production](#)! Commitment is contagious.\*\*\*

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Our blog: [Remember your Humanity](#). [Twitter](#).

[Contribute](#). Volunteer. Contact [Greg or Trish](#).

Our [Ukraine page](#), updated daily

Good afternoon!

We hope you are all doing well, and a warm welcome to the new people on this list!

"Local" resistance to the new nuclear arms race is visibly building. As you know, the U.S. cannot even pretend to conduct such a race without the plutonium warhead core ("pit") factory at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), so I (Greg) have put "local" in quotes.

- **We will have a volunteer work meeting in the Community Room of the Main Public Library in Santa Fe (145 Washington Ave., [map](#)) from 11 am to 3 pm Monday, January 8.** We will be working on recruiting endorsers for the "[Call for Sanity. Not Nuclear Production](#)." Come one, come all! Bring a cell phone if you have one, otherwise a pen! *As of this writing we are up to 147 businesses and organizations and 692 individuals.*
- **Please come to the Santa Fe City Council meeting at City Hall (200 Lincoln Ave., [map](#)) on Wednesday, January 10, at 6 pm to show your support for a City resolution opposing all pit production at LANL.** After the 1/1/24 installation of new city councilors, only Jamie Cassutt remained to support the original [resolution](#). Previous citizen testimony and displays of interest at the City Council have really made a difference.

These two good articles will give you an update on most recent developments:

- [Santa Fe city councilor pulls resolution opposing plutonium pit production at LANL](#), Carina Julig, *Santa Fe New Mexican* (w/comments by Greg), Jan 4, 2024
- [Nuclear Option](#), Evan Chandler, *Santa Fe Reporter*, Jan 3, 2024

We have met with the Mayor and will be meeting with councilors Cassutt and Castro soon. See the above articles for more on how that is going. We are pleased with the increasing attention on Santa Fe's plight. That attention -- local, national, and international -- is likely to increase. We all can help.

- On the next day, Thursday Jan. 11, **we will have a noon study session in Santa Fe, location TBD but probably Chomp (505 Cerrillos Road, [map](#)), re LANL's proposed new transmission line across the Caja del Rio. THEN, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is hosting a public meeting about this power line at 4 pm at Santa Fe Community College (6401 Richards Ave., [map](#)).**

It seems most people don't know that this power line, part of LANL's effort to *double* its electrical supply capacity, is all about nuclear weapons. We will send out more information and talking points about the power line in the coming days. In the meantime see:

- [Energy officials grant more time to comment on LANL power line plan](#), Scott Wyland, *Santa Fe New Mexican*, with comment by me (Greg), Dec 28, 2023 (click on the logo to go to original)
- [Public Meeting. Supplemental Comment Period Announced For Proposed LANL Transmission Line Upgraded Project](#), DOE/NNSA news release, Dec 27, 2023
- [Critics, delegates call for more time to comment on power line](#), Scott Wyland, *Santa Fe New Mexican*, with several excellent comments at on line, Dec 23, 2023
- [Scoping comments on the proposed EA for the Electrical Power Capacity Upgrade Project \(EPCU\) at LANL and the Santa Fe National Forest \(SFNF\)](#), LASG, May 21, 2021

Opposition to this unnecessary power line is widespread but that doesn't mean it won't be built. It will take more than public comments to stop it, yet it certainly can be stopped.

**If you can go in person on the 11th, it would be important to do so even if you know little or nothing about the proposed power line.**

More soonest, and best wishes to all,

Greg

# Los Alamos Study Group

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January 1, 2024

**Discussion in Santa Fe tomorrow, Tuesday 1/2/24, 6 pm, St. John's United Methodist Church; other meetings this month; "Call for Sanity" and City of Santa Fe resolution status**

(Previous letter, 12/19/23: [City of Santa Fe resolution status; volunteer meeting in Santa Fe tomorrow evening 12/20/23 \(call if interested\); new ad in SF Reporter; thank you for your support and reach out to others if you can](#))

[Permalink](#) for this letter. Prior [letters](#) to this New-Mexico-oriented list.

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Our [Ukraine page](#), updated daily

Good morning, and happy New Year, friends --

**First**, we are going to meet tomorrow, January 2, at 6 pm in the Gathering Room at St. John's United Methodist Church (SJUMC) in Santa Fe ([map](#)), to discuss issues related to the runaway expansion of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). If you have questions about our last two centerfold ads in the *Santa Fe Reporter* ([here](#) and [here](#)), bring those questions.

**Second**, mark your calendars. We have a number of other events planned for this month, including but not limited to these:

- Jan. 4 (Thurs): National/local Zoom seminar on plutonium warhead core ("pit") production myths and realities (this is Part II of the 12/7/23 seminar). Newcomers to this list may not know that re-starting pit production is the largest warhead-related project in the U.S. since the Cold War, and is entirely unnecessary for many years to come for "nuclear deterrence" at the same level the U.S. "enjoys" now. Zoom coordinates will be sent to our main listserv (if you got this email from us you are on that list).
- Jan. 10 (Wed.) National/local Zoom seminar on pit production myths and realities (Part III and last for now; we will send Zoom coordinates closer to the date) *OR ELSE* a Santa Fe City Council meeting on the proposed resolution opposing pit production, if that resolution makes it through the Quality of Life committee. *If* this resolution is on the agenda for the 10th we will need as many of you as we can muster to be there.
- Jan. 11 (Thurs.): Noon study session in Santa Fe re the proposed new Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) transmission line through the Caja del Rio, venue TBD; *THEN* 4 pm National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) meeting re that same transmission line at Santa Fe Community College. We need a lot of people at this meeting; references, further preparations, and other details to follow in subsequent emails. Meanwhile see [Energy officials grant more time to comment on LANL power line plan](#), 12/28/23 *Santa Fe New Mexican*, with our published comment. There are also some very good public comments posted on the *SFNM* article, at their website.
- Jan. 16 (Tues) Meeting at 6 pm meeting in Santa Fe at SJUMC unless there is a venue change.
- Jan. 23 (Tues) Los Alamos meeting, TBD. Details to follow on this list and/or at the Jan. 16 meeting.

**Third**, our "registry of resistance," the "[Call for Sanity. Not Nuclear Production](#)" is growing. *If you don't want New Mexico to host a new plutonium factory, or alternatively if you don't want a new arms race, for which LANL pit production is absolutely essential, please help it grow!*

*How* can you help? It's very simple. Just ask any business, nonprofit organization, or religious organization you know, or frequent, to endorse this Call! As of this writing we have 138 businesses and "orgs" and 656 individuals on-board. We'd like to have at least a dozen more businesses, churches and orgs, and at least 44 more individual endorsers, by the time the City Quality of Life Committee meets this Wednesday evening.

It's super-simple. Here's [what it says](#):

**We call upon our elected officials to:**

- **Oppose** plutonium warhead core ("pit") production at LANL first and foremost, but also elsewhere.
- **Oppose** the design, testing, and production of new and "upgraded" nuclear weapons.
- **Prioritize** removal and disposal of legacy plutonium waste from LANL over production of additional nuclear waste from nuclear weapons.
- **Choose** human security, community resilience, and environmental protection over nuclear weapons production and our bloated military. 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.

This is really, really important because there are a lot of people who want LANL to be a pit factory, including most (all?) arms control groups and some "antinuclear" nonprofits. This political support, amplified by a colonial and "company-town" reticence to speak up against "The Power on The Hill," obscures the factual realities that would normally bring a swift end to this cockamamie plan. That is half the reason this dumb plan maintains momentum even as it struggles managerially, with 6 years



delay already baked in. (The other half of its irrational support is the war frenzy in DC.) *Our silence is taken as assent and indeed encouragement for a new nuclear arms race.* LANL pit production will fail if there is significant opposition in New Mexico, or in DC. They need support in *both* places.

Meanwhile northern New Mexico will never thrive, with LANL so greedy, toxic, and obese.

**Fourth**, the City of Santa Fe resolution against pit production has hit snags. We will be meeting with the Mayor and others tomorrow about it and can report further in the evening. Given the sensitivity of negotiations, that's all I can say now, except this: we will publicly oppose any LANL resolution that does not categorically oppose plutonium pit production at LANL. Weaselly, incoherent formulations we have seen before, like "no pit production until it is certified to be safe," are pathetic, as pit production will never be safe. They are basically green lights for pit production. Silence would be better.

Best wishes to all,

Greg

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[^ back to top](#)

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