

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

October 26, 2024

Dear friends and colleagues --

Unusually, I am sending this published comment and the short article which prompted it to this listserve, as the most efficient way to keep you up to date on this matter.

Published comment:

It is important for readers to understand that this lawsuit aims to delay pit production in South Carolina while allowing it to proceed unimpeded in New Mexico. The New Mexican and some other journalists are badly remiss in not pointing this out; the more experienced nuclear trade press has however done so (see [NNSA, antis, get more time to negotiate agreement after agency loses pit lawsuit](#), *Exchange Monitor*, Oct 8, 2024).

The goal of the plaintiffs including Nuclear Watch is to concentrate all U.S. pit production at LANL. That should be obvious at a glance from the lack of other New Mexico plaintiffs, the decision to file this lawsuit in South Carolina instead of New Mexico or Washington, DC, and from the conspicuous lack of opposition to pit production at LANL from Nuclear Watch. To the extent this is possible -- more sober heads will almost certainly prevail -- this would mean even greater plutonium investments and operations at LANL than we are seeing right now.

As the plaintiffs said to the judge, **"vacatur [annulment of the decisions supporting the dual-sit pit production mission, requested by plaintiffs] would not disrupt activities at [LANL]."** NNSA immediately agreed, saying **"Plaintiffs' NEPA claim challenges only the decision to produce pits at a second site; thus, any remedy should be limited to the second production site...this Court should not order relief that blocks previously authorized production at Los Alamos."** As a result, Judge Lewis is at the moment awaiting joint draft remedies that allow pit production at Los Alamos to proceed.

In a level of detail only lawyers and parties involved will want to read, see the discussion and references in [LASG Memorandum to Judge Lewis and the Parties in the South Carolina Plutonium Pit case](#), Oct 18, 2024, and the ["Joint Reply on Alternative Remedies,"](#) Aug 23, 2024, & ["Memorandum Opinion and Order,"](#) Sep 30, 2024 from the case.

The policy goal of seeking even more nuclear weapons money and plutonium for New Mexico allows these organizations to remain on good terms with the 100% pro-nuclear-weapons New Mexico congressional delegation. It was in fact primarily Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich who demanded this mission be brought to LANL, with the help of then-congresspersons Michelle Lujan Grisham, Ben Ray Lujan, and Steve Pearce.

Concentrating all the plutonium pit production in Los Alamos has been an explicit goal of many national organizations for two decades. The main forces of nuclear colonialism in New Mexico are Democratic. There's a lot of money behind it.

We at the Los Alamos Study Group have requested consent or non-opposition from all the parties including Nuclear Watch to submit a friend of the court (amicus) brief similar to the memorandum above. We believe the Court has received a skewed version of reality, and we certainly do think New Mexicans are not being adequately represented in this lawsuit. We'll see what happens.

Most peace-and-justice-oriented New Mexicans still have a kind of deer-in-the-headlights approach to the vast nuclear weapons enterprise being brought into the state, equivalent in size (as NNSA has said) of an entire new national laboratory.

Only it's not a lab. It's a production plant, for the new warhead LANL's pit production will enable, adding to -- not just maintaining -- the U.S. arsenal. Fortunately, it can be stopped and eventually will stop. But when, with what spirit, what renewal, and will it be before or after the widespread impacts and inevitably, the accidents?

There's a lot going on just now. Don't panic or despair, please. It is enough to be awake. "Stay calm, have courage, wait for signs." (Craig Johnson)

Greg

PS Trish has posted the video of [this past Thursday's town hall](#) we conducted at the SALA in Los Alamos. We'll put up the briefing slides separately in a day or so. If your business or better still your organization or religious community has not yet signed the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production](#) please do so. Recruiting others to endorse is one of the easiest things we can all do right now, even in this tense pre-election atmosphere.

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/court-extends-deadline-for-agreement-in-federal-lawsuit-over-nuclear-pit-production/article_380dac68-8fb6-11ef-9b3b-776b05e0ef32.html

Court extends deadline for agreement in federal lawsuit over nuclear pit production

● [The New Mexican](#)

● Oct 25, 2024

The deadline for a federal agency and a nationwide group of anti-nuclear organizations to agree on remedies in a lawsuit tied to plans for plutonium pit production has been extended — again.

Originally, U.S. District Judge Mary Geiger Lewis gave the National Nuclear Security Administration and groups including Nuclear Watch New Mexico 14 days to agree on the next steps, including the request for injunctive relief.

The initial deadline was Oct. 15. The groups filed a joint motion Oct. 5, which was granted, to extend the deadline until Friday. A few days earlier, the deadline was

extended once again to Nov. 4.

In September, Lewis ruled the NNSA had not appropriately considered alternatives to the plan to produce plutonium pits at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina and Los Alamos National Laboratory or the combined effects of the two-site plan on the environment.

"We've reviewed the Court's ruling and are supporting the Department of Justice as it prepares to meet and confer with the plaintiffs, as ordered," wrote Milli Mike, public affairs specialist with the National Nuclear Security Administration, in an email to *The New Mexican*.

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

October 1, 2024

Upcoming events, Santa Fe Reporter ads, unexpected confirmation of the power of New Mexico resistance

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

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

*****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!*****

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

Our [Ukraine crisis page](#), updated more or less daily with fresh news and analyses. Few Americans have any idea what is going on, or why it's happening, or the level of carnage and increasing danger to themselves, or its effects on our common future, or how to end the destruction.

They have been badly misinformed. Even many of the most educated people are propaganda victims. Don't be like them. Get informed!

This is a letter to our New Mexico-oriented activist mailing list, a subset of our whole mailing list.

- Our most recent Bulletin, sent to our whole mailing list Bulletin 350: [Ad with "Call for Sanity" endorsers published; upcoming New Mexico events; fresh warhead core \("pit"\) cost analyses](#) (9/25/24)
- Our most recent Letter, sent to this smaller mailing list: [Upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, the edge of darkness](#) (09/19/2024)

This letter:

- Upcoming events
- Santa Fe Reporter ads
- Unexpected confirmation of the power of New Mexico resistance from 14 years ago -- but the danger still lurks
- Volunteer opportunities
- To do our work we need financial support; THANK YOU

Dear friends --

Upcoming local events

Today, 10/1, 4:00 pm: Mildly educational New Mexico district court hearing regarding Study Group Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) request to the City of Santa Fe for emails between the City, LANL, and NNSA during 2023. You can observe at <https://meet.google.com/hdc-wqjx-wes>. More attendance probably won't help or hurt our case, but some may find it educational for their own public records requests in the future.

Saturday, 10/5: "Resistance until Liberation" rally and march against Israeli genocide, organized by several organizations, at 2 pm, Robinson Park, Albuquerque (map). U.S. funding and support for other wars including the current U.S. war against Russia and the threatened U.S. war against China, will also be a theme.

Tuesday, 10/8: Some of us will attend the Santa Fe County Board of Commissioners meeting (general information here, map), to discuss issues related to the expansion of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and plutonium warhead core ("pit") production. Issues include transportation and traffic, housing, the proposed power line, and more. Details and related issue discussion TBD.

Wednesday, 10/9: Some of us will attend the Santa Fe City Council meeting at City Hall (map) this evening, to again present on issues related to the expansion of LANL, pit production, and related transparency issues. Details and related issue discussion TBD.

Saturday, 10/12: Los Alamos Study Group in-depth community briefing and discussion on some key issues related to the new nuclear arms race, 1 to 5 pm at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 550 W. San Mateo (map). At this meeting:

Former senior CIA analyst and presidential daily briefer Ray McGovern will speak to us on U.S.-Russian relations, the Ukraine War, and related topics at 1:30 pm; and

Renowned international law authority Francis Boyle to speak at 3:00 pm (see for example his [Criminality of Nuclear Deterrence](#)). Francis has sent us an updated Chapter 12 from this book, which we have [uploaded for you at this link](#).

Please [write](#) or call Bex (505-545-9578) if you wish to attend!

Thursday 10/24: Briefing and community discussion on pit production, SALA Event Center, Los Alamos (map), 6-8 pm. Virtual attendance will be possible but we hope those of you in easy driving distance will attend in person. There will be no charge for admission.

Santa Fe Reporter ads

Thanks to some of you we have been able to place double-page ads in back-to-back issues of the *Santa Fe Reporter*:

In the center of the Sept. 25 issue: [Stop the Los Alamos Bomb Factory](#) (endorsers of [The Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production](#) (businesses, organizations, and religious groups only, as of Sept. 10).

In the center of the Oct. 2 issue: [End the Ukraine war, stop LANL's plutonium bomb factory \(again!\)](#). The "again" refers to the fact that we (and LANL's own bumbling, and above all the mountain gods) have stopped the acquisition of pit production capability at LANL three or four times already.

Please feel free to print out the second of these ads if you want to use it in your own outreach, or copy it from an issue of the *Reporter*.

Unexpected confirmation of the power of resistance from 14 years ago -- but the danger still lurks

Yesterday we received an interesting trove of internal LANL documents from a 5-year-old Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. Of course there were a lot of redactions, but there were also plenty of useful gems -- and some unexpected confirmation of the policy impacts of cancellation of LANL's previous attempt to add plutonium pit production infrastructure. The cancelled facility was called the [Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Nuclear Facility](#) (CMRR-NF). Congressional staff have informed us on multiple occasions that it was our litigation and analysis which stalled and then killed this project in 2010-2012. In early 2012 it was only "deferred," but everybody knew what that meant. NNSA stopped work then, and finally closed the books on CMRR-NF in 2014.

So it is interesting that in one late 2012 presentation given to the joint Livermore-Los Alamos "Mission Committee," LANL said:

- "The US strategy for plutonium must be reworked...

¶The US stockpile modernization strategy [for ballistic missile warheads]...relied on availability of new pits

- The 2010 DoD/DOE MOU [memorandum of understanding] stated a production need for 50-80 new pits per year
 - Deferral of the CMRR Nuclear Facility has impacted this LEP [warhead life extension program] strategy
 - As a result, both nuclear Labs are pursuing pit reuse"...

- The Deferral of the CMRR Nuclear facility erased a decade of Integrated Nuclear Planning virtually overnight."

Unfortunately these things never stay dead forever. They can reanimate with amazing vigor, and this too is evident in the LANL documents, which by early 2018 were making an almost manic -- and fallacious -- case for bringing the whole pit production mission to LANL, claiming that existing LANL facilities could produce over 80 pits per year without so much as a new congressional line item for construction. Then later, up to six underground workshops could be added, all linked by tunnels, where LANL's worker bees could hammer out pits for the nuclear gods (cue: Richard Wagner: "[Descent to Nibelheim](#)").

While this ugly proposal appears dead for now, there is little doubt that it -- or a worse proposal -- merely sleeps, awaiting the proper cues from a weak or desperate administration.

Meanwhile we have what has turned into a real monster of a \$22 billion factory for -- supposedly -- "at least 30" pits per year. However too many details are classified for us to know whether this LANL factory, which will be under construction until at least 2032 (and by that time more construction will have been requested), will actually be limited to that production rate. Neither NNSA nor LANL have ever been honest before. Why would they start now?

Local resistance been a successful bulwark against pit production for about 30 years so far. As a result of not having a pit factory and other factors, the U.S. has already lost the new nuclear arms race. It just hasn't figured that out yet.

Volunteer opportunities

Please [write](#) or call Bex (505-545-9578) if you wish to join our volunteer outreach teams.

Or just pick up the phone and start calling (these days it's a lot easier, though hardly less important, than [Paul Revere's midnight ride](#)). Ask your business and organizational friends to sign the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production!](#) Keep asking!

To do our work we need financial support

As most of you know we are a 501(c)(3) organization, supported primarily by many small and medium-sized donations. Our work has been uniquely successful on the national stage, and is needed now more than ever. We are grateful to be able to work with you. THANK YOU for your generosity -- and not just in making our work possible, but for work you may be able to do in direct service and on other important issues.

Best wishes,

Greg

Los Alamos Study Group

[About us](#) · [Home](#) · [Contact](#) · [Contribute](#) · [Blog](#) · [Twitter](#) · [Search](#)

September 19, 2024

Upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, the edge of darkness

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

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

*****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!*****

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

Our [Ukraine crisis page](#), updated more or less daily with fresh news and analyses. Few Americans have any idea what is going on, or why it's happening, or the level of carnage and increasing danger to themselves, or its effects on our common future, or how to end the destruction. They have been badly misinformed. Even many of the most educated people are propaganda victims. Don't be like them. Get informed!

This is a letter to our New Mexico-oriented activist mailing list, a subset of our whole mailing list.

- Our most recent Bulletin, sent to our whole mailing list (Bulletin 349): [Please help us gain organizational and business endorsements to our national call to halt plutonium pit production](#) (08/29/2024)
- Our most recent Letter, sent to this smaller mailing list: [USC-led UNM forum undermines opposition to nuclear weapons in New Mexico -- we are disgusted and will protest](#) (09/02/2024)

This letter:

- **Upcoming events**
- **Volunteer opportunities**
- **Skirting the edge of open war with Russia: learn, protest**
- **Flyer from the UNM rearmament forum protest**
- **To do our work we need financial support**

Dear friends --

Thanks especially to some of you, resistance to [nuclear rearmament](#) is rising.

Upcoming events

The following near-term *stage-setting* events may be of interest to you. We hope so! Mark your calendars!

- Tuesday, 9/24: Some of us will attend the presentation and discussion by Ted Wyka (National Nuclear Security Administration [NNSA] Los Alamos Field Office Manager) at the Los Alamos County (LAC) Council at 6 pm, in the LAC Municipal Building ([map](#)). We believe Ted will present an update on plutonium warhead core ("pit") production at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). There will be Q&A from the Council that we believe will touch upon some of the local impacts and...difficulties...relating to pit production.

Some of us will be in Los Alamos somewhat earlier that afternoon for other related work. We are planning to rendezvous at the Bradbury Science Museum ([map](#)) at 3:00 pm for some educational atomic tourism and related discussion, followed by dinner together, and then the LAC meeting. **If you are interested in the museum visit and/or dinner please [write](#) or call Bex (505-545-9578).**

- Wednesday, 9/25: Watch for our double-page ad in the *Santa Fe Reporter* this coming Wednesday. Another, and different double-page blast will follow on 10/2/24. Far too few people know the magnitude or importance of what is happening here, how they can help stop it, or even that it can be stopped.
- Saturday, 10/5: "Resistance until Liberation" rally and march against Israeli genocide, organized by several organizations, at 2 pm, Robinson Park, Albuquerque ([map](#)). U.S. funding and support for other wars including the current U.S. war against Russia and the threatened U.S. war against China, will also be a theme.
- Tuesday, 10/8: Some of us will attend the Santa Fe County Board of Commissioners meeting ([general information here](#), [map](#)), to discuss issues related to the expansion of LANL and pit production. Issues include transportation and traffic, housing, the proposed power line, and more. Details and related issue discussion TBD.
- Wednesday, 10/9: Some of us will attend the Santa Fe City Council meeting at City Hall ([map](#)) this evening, to again present on issues related to the expansion of LANL, pit production, and related transparency issues. Details and related issue discussion TBD.
- Saturday, 10/12: **Los Alamos Study Group in-depth volunteer training and community briefing** on issues related to nuclear rearmament, 1 pm to

5-6 pm. Renowned international law authority [Francis Boyle](#) to speak at 3:00 pm (see for example his [Criminality of Nuclear Deterrence](#)

). We expect one or two other well-known authorities to speak as well on other topics; stay tuned. Healthy food will be served. Details TBD. **Please [write](#) or call Bex (505-545-9578) if you wish to attend.** Location in Santa Fe, TBD.

Thursday 10/24: Briefing and community discussion on pit production, [SALA Event Center](#), Los Alamos ([map](#)), 6-8 pm. Virtual attendance will be possible but we hope those of you in easy driving distance will attend in person. There will be no charge for admission. We are naturally aiming for a big Los Alamos crowd. Few people who work at LANL have much of an idea of what they are working on, or why.

November, TBD: Study Group pit seminar for Congress, journalists, and NGOs, Washington, DC.

In that regard, we had a few interesting Zoom meetings with various official parties last week. The DC "weather" regarding nuclear weapons and pit production is...unsettled. Levels of partisanship and a nervous kind of militarism are high. Nuclear advocates in Washington DC in both parties, including the so-called "arms control" community, will get away with as much as they can as regards pit production in Los Alamos. Expect continued efforts to build up pit production at LANL. And expect these efforts to continue to fail. The questions are more when and how failure will occur and with what casualties, in what forms.

You might be interested in this short [comparison](#) of the costs of pit production at LANL vs. at the Savannah River Site (SRS), which would start production ten years after LANL. That ten years, we remind you, is more or less the difference between attempting a nuclear arms race and retiring from one.

As stated above, these are *stage-setting* events. Stay tuned, more will follow -- more, and more trenchant, God willing.

Volunteer opportunities

Please [write](#) or call Bex (505-545-9578) if you wish to join our volunteer outreach teams.

Or just pick up the phone and start calling (these days it's a lot easier, though hardly less important, than [Paul Revere's midnight ride](#)). Ask your business and organizational friends to sign the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production!](#) Keep asking!

The U.S. and U.K. are skirting the edge of open war with Russia

Please see our [Ukraine War](#) page for up-to-the-day details. IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD, YOU SHOULD. We thankfully missed our appointment with World War III a few days ago, when the Pentagon intervened to stop the White House from allowing U.S. personnel and weapons to attack targets deep in Russia. Unfortunately, we are still on the "waiting list."

Nuclear war dangers are now higher than at any time since 1983. Senator Heinrich is always adding to those dangers. See his blood-curdling letter [here](#). Don't think that writing a letter to him will make any difference. It will take a lot more than a few, or even hundreds, or even thousands, of letters. That's not how to do it.

Our flyer from the UNM "rearmament" Forum

Is here: [Elephants and the Unicorn: Canceling Peace at the Nuclear Strategy Forum](#) (LASG protest flyer, Sep 7, 2024). There is much more to say about this, but this letter is already more than full enough.

To do our work we need financial support

As most of you know we are a 501(c)(3) organization, supported primarily by many small and medium-sized donations. Our work has been uniquely successful on the national stage, and is needed now more than ever. We are grateful to be able to work. You have made that possible.

Best wishes,

Greg

Los Alamos Study Group

[About us](#) · [Home](#) · [Contact](#) · [Contribute](#) · [Blog](#) · [Twitter](#) · [Search](#)

September 2, 2024

USC-led UNM forum undermines opposition to nuclear weapons in New Mexico -- we are disgusted and will protest

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

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

*****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!*****

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

Our [Ukraine crisis page](#), updated more or less daily with fresh news and analyses. Few Americans have any idea what is going on, or why it's happening, or the level of carnage and increasing danger to themselves, or its effects on our common future, or how to end the destruction. They have been badly misinformed. Even many of the most educated people are propaganda victims. Don't be like them. Get informed!

This is a letter to our New Mexico-oriented activist mailing list, a subset of our whole mailing list.

Our most recent Bulletin, sent to our whole mailing list (Bulletin 349): [Please help us gain organizational and business endorsements to our national call to halt plutonium pit production](#) (08/29/2024)

Our most recent Letter, sent to this smaller mailing list: [Will the 2024 elections alter the course of the new nuclear arms race and ? Join us Monday Aug. 19, 6:30 pm...](#)(08/14/2024)

Dear friends --

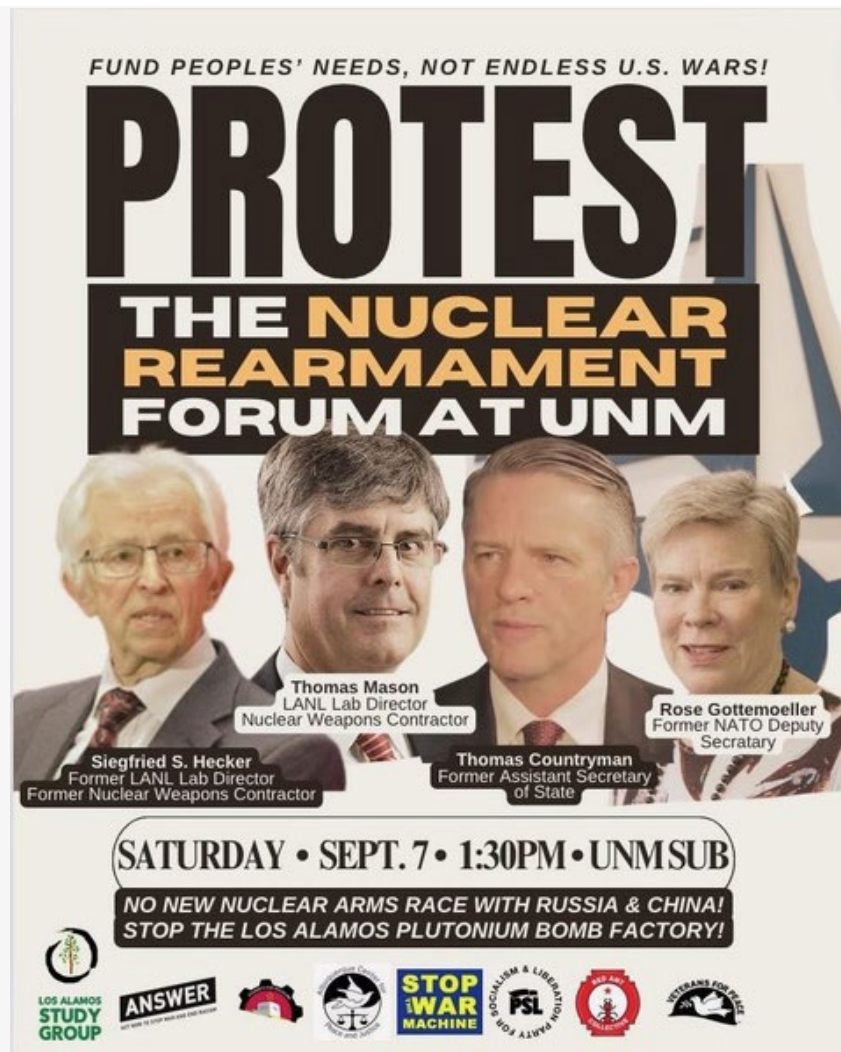
The Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies (IACS) and the Dornsife College at the University of Southern California (USC, a private school for those who may have forgotten), have organized a day-long "[Forum on Nuclear Strategy: Disarmament & Deterrence in a Dangerous World](#)" to take place this coming Saturday, Sept. 7, at the University of New Mexico (UNM), which is co-sponsoring the event.

There are many things that are terribly wrong with this event. It's important to lay them out as clearly as we can, because in many ways this forum is a microcosm of what has gone wrong, and is going wrong, with nuclear disarmament and peace efforts in the U.S. and especially New Mexico. This letter will be fairly long and even so it does not touch on all the important issues.

We are joining the ANSWER Coalition, Stop the War Machine (SWM), Veterans for Peace (VFP), the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice (ACPJ), the Red Ant Collective, and Students for Socialism at UNM (SFSUNM) in protesting this event, which we regard as entirely misguided (and misleading).

If you can, please come to the UNM Student Union Building (SUB) on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 pm to protest this event.

Each of the co-sponsoring organizations doubtless has their own reasons for protesting this particular event, reasons which will be somewhat distinct but overlapping. I will tell you our reasons, after also stating that [we agree completely with the issues raised by PSL in their flyer calling for protest](#). That flyer is available from them on Instagram (abqpsl on Instagram) and was circulated on the SWM mailing list. Before getting to our own *additional* reasons for objecting to this forum, here are PSL's poster and Call to Action:



PSL's Call to Action:

Under the guise of "disarmament and deterrence" the University of New Mexico has invited nuclear weapons contractors, state department officials, a former NATO official, and former assistant secretaries of state to discuss nuclear rearmament at the Student Union Building (SUB) in Ballroom A on Saturday, September 7th. The "Forum on Nuclear Strategy: Disarmament & Deterrence in a Dangerous World," is framing China & Russia as existential threats to discuss increasing the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

One of the speakers, Thomas Mason, is overseeing the construction and operation of a nuclear bomb factory as the current director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, meaning he is playing an active role in building the New Cold War.

According to the event page, organizers are welcoming these nefarious pro-U.S. war speakers who "argue that deterrence of adversaries via a strong nuclear weapons profile is the rational and ethical response to the above realities." The realities they are referring to are the New Cold War with Russia & China, which the United States unilaterally provoked by constant U.S. aggression, endless funding of U.S. war, enacting sanctions on countries who try to develop their economies independently, and intervening in the internal affairs of China, Russia and countless other nations.

As NATO, led by the U.S., escalates its proxy war with Russia and aggression towards China, this forum is an example of a dangerous new escalation -- a new and unnecessary nuclear arms race with Russia & China.

The world is headed towards a catastrophic, unprecedented conflict because of the unmitigated aggressiveness and recklessness of the politicians and Pentagon generals.

The new Cold War against China and Russia must end, along with associated aggression like the proxy war in Ukraine, massive military shipments to Taiwan, or any and all military build up against any targeted nation.

New Mexico is where the first atomic bomb was created and test and to this day is the place where the majority of nuclear weapons components are designed (Sandia Laboratory). The largest nuclear waste plant is also in our state (Waste Isolation Pilot Plant WIPP).

Now, New Mexico is slated to be home to a new Rocky Flats--an industrial scale plutonium warhead core ("pit") factory at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

As New Mexicans are being driven into poverty and homelessness, the Democrat and Republican parties always find funding for weapons & war in our state, but the peoples needs are not prioritized.

The approximately \$1 trillion that the U.S. taxpayers spend every year on war should instead be spent to address the dire crises facing working people.

The price of key goods, especially gas, could be dramatically lowered if the suffocating economic sanctions the U.S. government imposes on countries around the world were lifted. Humanity needs a world order based on cooperation and peace, not domination and war.

Picket with us & demand:

1. Stop the Los Alamos Plutonium Bomb Factory, No New Rocky Flats!
2. No New Nuclear Arms Race with Russia & China! No new Cold war! Dismantle NATO!
3. Cancel the Sentinel ICBM program and the LANL Pit Mission supporting it. Shut Down the Los Alamos Plutonium Pit Production Project (LAP4) for good!
4. Dispose of legacy nuclear waste & don't make more by producing pits!
5. Fund housing, food, healthcare and education for New Mexicans' not a nuclear bomb factory!

Regarding the picket specifically

First, it's important to say that we are very strong free-speech advocates and support the idea of controversial speakers being able to say almost anything, definitely including things with which we disagree -- especially in a university setting. That's not the issue for us here.

New Mexico has been hearing from officials at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), its predecessor agencies, and its prime contractors at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) for decades. Throughout all this time, these officials have been constantly privileged over other interests and people in this state. The results of this misplaced respect have been nothing short of catastrophic for New Mexico, which has fallen to the rock-bottom of all states in many if not most important measures of human development.

We believe there is no reason to extend for any longer an implicit promise of respectful listening to the official representatives of these nuclear institutions, which are now engaged in [arguably illegal nuclear rearmament](#). As we [explained](#), the new agenda of our nuclear laboratories now appears, more than ever, to violate the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), a *U.S. law since 1970* and an important foundation of international security. Even prior to the rearmament proposed and underway in the Biden Administration, many legal scholars have found that the continuing practice of nuclear deterrence, relying as it does on the continued threat of mass annihilation, to be illegal.

As discussed briefly in our last [Bulletin](#), according to the unanimous opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), *whether* complete nuclear disarmament is good "strategy" (referring to the forum title) is not something to reasonably ponder amongst selected "experts" and "authorities." According to all the judges of the ICJ in 1996, including the U.S. judge, complete nuclear disarmament is a [binding legal obligation](#). You would never know that from the self-promotional blather introducing this forum. It's just not an open question any more, legally speaking.

This raises a pertinent question: are institutions conducting activities in defiance of international treaties fully lawful -- that is, *legitimate*? If they are not, why are they treated with such respect?

There may be, on selected occasions, reasons to listen politely to what LANL Director Thom Mason (for example) has to say. Yet he is paid (over \$2 million per year, almost certainly, with performance bonuses), to promote and help achieve U.S. nuclear rearmament. The Triad LLC contract (to manage LANL) does not allow Mason to sit around and ponder any other ethical conclusion than to do what Congress and the President have tasked NNSA to do, or to break his contract and quit.

The assumption that citizens will be "good boys and girls" and listen subordinately to what this interest-conflict expert and other "experts" have to say on "nuclear strategy" needs to be consigned to a nuclear-colonial past.

Please understand: in their sphere of interest (I do not say expertise) the directors of the nuclear labs have more power than cabinet officials, yet they are neither appointed by the president nor can they be fired by him or her, or by the Secretary of Energy, or the NNSA Administrator, or any other government official. In 2021, as the nuclear posture of the United States was being written, they were brought to the literal cabinet table, even though they are contractors representing corporations which profit immensely from nuclear rearmament. Of course, that power would disappear the moment Mason or any other lab director expressed dissent with the overall consensus of the national security state.

The nuclear weapons industry has never been democratically overseen. Only political infants would think it is. It is a "separate sovereignty," in the phrase of the Atomic Energy Commission's first General Counsel Herbert Marks, "one that can bring an end to all other sovereignties." (And it nearly has, in New Mexico.) Officially, this [short analysis](#) prepared for Vice President Biden and leaked to Greg will give you part of the picture. In reality, the situation is far worse than described there.

Another example of fora which do not merit respect are the upcoming hearings (when?) on the draft LANL Site Wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) ([Federal Register notice](#) of the process, [our scoping comments](#) pointing out its illegality, etc). Despite appearances, these hearings and this process are not designed to give the public a democratic voice. *They are designed to take away that voice*. Given all that has come before, these SWEIS hearings should be a catalyst for protest and a locus for protest, not for co-opted compliance. That road, the passive road, goes toward cultural if not civilizational death.

Regarding the forum overall

The organizers describe what will happen as follows:

On Saturday, September 7, 2024, we will convene the *intellectual architects* of disarmament and deterrence approaches to nuclear weapons policy from Catholic and secular strategic perspectives to engage in a structured dialogue at the University of Mexico. Due to the *sensitivity* of the issues to be discussed, *the dialogue will not be fully public* and will include an expectation that the interlocutors not quote or represent others' views outside the dialogue setting. However, *a closing public forum will invite the participants to reflect on the dialogue, profile their own pre-existing stances and new insights emerging from the conversation*, and engage with the broader public both in New Mexico and beyond via livestreaming. (*emphasis added*)

Most of the invited speakers are hardly "intellectual architects" of *any* approach to nuclear weapons policy. The fact the main conference organizer referred to "two," rather than three, major U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories in [one of his video introductions](#) is not a good sign either.

We believe the conference description makes little sense, incorporates unwarranted hawkish and Russophobic assumptions, and -- most important given the Catholic context -- gravely misrepresents and undercuts the Pope's teaching on nuclear weapons and disarmament.

The [more personal of the two video introductions](#) suggests that unresolved issues from personal and family history play a motivational role, along with the usual selfish factors we need not explain.

From a functional point of view, this is all about side-tracking and neutralizing potential opposition to nuclear rearmament and preventing nuclear disarmament, whether the organizers and attendees understand that or not. (Some may later, after it's over and they wonder what in the world it was all about.)

Epecially in the New Mexico context, this a psyop -- a psychological operation aimed at a political outcome. The main nuclear deterrence advocates on the playbill simply would not be attending if they thought this forum would not be worth their time and advance their cause. Those who think it won't help weaken opposition are just being naive.

One question we are just beginning to ask is this: who is paying for this conference? Travel for all these speakers is expensive.

From the [introduction](#):

This project explores one of the urgent but *undebated* issues of our time: The reality that the geo-political rivalry between the U.S., a rising China, and *revanchist Russia* threatens to break out in nuclear war...(emphasis added)

"Undebated?" Where have these people been? What insufferable ignorance and arrogance!

Many of us have been debating them in Congress, in the executive branch, in New Mexico, and at the UN for the past 35 years. The Los Alamos Study Group was founded in 1989 for the initial purpose of conducting precisely the kind of discussion promoted at this conference, and we have done and continue to do a lot of it. We quickly graduated to having discussions with the actual federal decisionmakers, from the Secretary of Energy on down. Over in Texas, Trish was doing the same thing. We were soon involved in multilateral international negotiations as well, over the course of two decades, something Archbishop Wester and the organizers of this conference suggest should be the repository of all our hopes. Dream on.

How foolish, distracting, and disempowering!

The phrase "*revanchist Russia*" gives away the game for the hawkish organizers, right along with the conference title, "Disarmament and Deterrence *in a Dangerous World*." To the extent "a dangerous world" is not a vacuous phrase selected more for its alliterative sound than any actual meaning, we have to ask, why is the world so allegedly "dangerous"?

It looks to me that this phrase cannot but refer to the dangers created by the U.S. empire itself, with its 800 or so military bases and attendant imperial ambitions all over the world. A Heritage Foundation issue brief from March of this year is entitled "[The World is Becoming Ever More Dangerous: the President Must Revitalize the U.S. Strategic Arsenal](#)." The "dangerousness" of the world is largely a U.S. construction, as for example in the case of the [Ukraine War](#), a war for which that poor country was groomed over many years. The U.S. makes most of the war danger on this planet.

Why not do something real?

Why aren't these Catholic leaders taking their arguments directly to our Catholic President? He might even listen. He is undertaking terrible nuclear initiatives, which will be difficult to undo in the next administration (a theme in our recent public discussions; see these [briefing slides](#)). If he wouldn't meet with such a delegation, that would be news. The timing -- right before an election -- is ideal. Is Biden a man of peace? Is his Party a party of peace, or of war -- nuclear war, for which Biden's recent decisions are preparing?

Or is all this talk just that -- empty talk? Will the Archbishop oppose LANL's nuclear weapons factory, so essential for the new nuclear arms race, or will he continue to use the nuclear issue in public statements, triangulating between the Pope and the labs, without ever taking a tough stand in his own archdiocese? The hypocrisy is hard to bear.

The contrast between our Archbishop, and Trish's mentor Bishop Matthiesen, is striking. "Bishop Matt" told all the Catholic workers at the Pantex nuclear weapons plant that making nuclear weapons was a sin, and they should therefore quit. The Diocese, he said, would help them find other work. In the end two Pantex workers did quit, and the Diocese helped them both get jobs. Prior to taking that stand, Bishop Matt was the parish priest of the St. Francis church, located in the shadow of the Pantex plant and heavily dependent on plant workers for membership and support. He knew the people who would be affected. It was personal for him.

We want Archbishop Wester to take a stand against the \$22 billion nuclear weapons factory being built right under his nose.

The conference organizers are misrepresenting the evolution of Catholic thought about nuclear weapons under the leadership of Pope Francis.

Given their unmistakably conservative bent, the forum organizers basically ignore and undercut Pope Francis's teachings on this topic, which represent a clear break from prior Catholic teachings. Here's what the organizers say:

Meanwhile, through the last four decades some nuclear strategists — in part prompted by the American Catholic bishops' 1983 pastoral letter [The Challenge of Peace](#) — have argued that the only rational and ethical response to these realities is multilateral and verifiable nuclear arms control and disarmament. More recently, Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis have all endorsed something *approximating* the latter approach, in the service of both peace and [integral human development](#) among broader sectors of human society. (emphasis added)

First off, relatively few "strategists" with real-world diplomatic experience have argued for "multilateral and verifiable nuclear arms control and disarmament." Why? *There have never been any concrete, multilateral nuclear disarmament treaties between nuclear weapons states*. Nor are there likely to ever be any for the foreseeable future. There have however been quite a few *bilateral* treaties, all but one of them in the dust bin today.

Holding up "multilateral negotiations" as the only or main approach to nuclear arms control and disarmament is so peculiar and so uninformed that it looks mischievous. It's hard to tell where naivete ends and insincerity begins.

Calling for "multilateral" negotiations is the same as calling for no negotiations, as all but the most devious diplomats understand. The U.S. and Russia have roughly 90% of the nuclear weapons in the world. The Chinese nuclear arsenal stands at roughly 10% the size of the total U.S. arsenal. Why in the world would China negotiate nuclear disarmament or even arms control with such a disparity, especially given that there are two other nuclear powers in NATO -- which now wants to operate in East Asia? Expecting China to come to the negotiating table to limit or decrease its nuclear weapons, while the U.S. is improving its plans to destroy them, is just silly.

If disarmament is what we want, and we do, we have to first get along with Russia, not insult them ("revanchist") for not being our impoverished vassal, as Russia under Yeltsin was. That term suggests Russia's present state of affairs -- its relative security, prosperity, and overall social health -- is something bad, something fearful, something we don't like.

Where are the Russian participants at this forum, we might ask? Are they being Zoomed in? Or would that offend the seven or so nuclear establishment speakers or the sponsors paying for all this -- whoever they are?

Getting back to Catholic teaching, those of us participating in the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons Conference in 2014 (HINW14) heard something quite new in the Pope's message, carried to the Conference by his representative. The Pope's message rejected the "interim" ethic of the American Catholic bishops' 1983 pastoral letter, which accepted nuclear deterrence and the possession of nuclear weapons, pending successful disarmament negotiations. It didn't "approximate" that 1983 message at all, contra the forum organizers. Pope Francis said that the very possession of nuclear weapons, not just the use, must now be rejected. In our judgment, this new Catholic teaching on nuclear weapons played an important role in the successful negotiation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which commenced in earnest following HINW14.

Forum organizers should have understood that this Pope broke with 30 years of Catholic tradition, a fact widely reported in the Catholic press. It is impossible to miss. Failure to acknowledge this suggests that one of the purposes of this very expensive forum might well be to undercut that message.

The differences between the new and older Catholic teaching on nuclear weapons are thoroughly discussed in an excellent paper by Christian Braun that was sent our way by Suzanne Schwartz ("[Francis and the Bomb: On the Immorality of Nuclear Deterrence](#)" (*Journal of Military Ethics*, February 2024). As Braun notes, the Holy See's contribution to HINW14, entitled "Nuclear Disarmament: Time for Abolition," brought this new thinking into international fora for the first time.

Written by an expert commission, this document, for the first time, broke with the Holy See's reluctant acceptance of deterrence, which had permitted the possession of nuclear weapons as part of an interim ethic until nuclear abolition was achieved: "(...) it must be admitted that the very possession of nuclear weapons, even for purposes of deterrence, is morally problematic. (...) It is now time to question the distinction between possession and use which has long been a governing assumption of much ethical discourse on nuclear deterrence" (The Holy See [Citation2015](#), 89) Underlying the changed attitude toward the Bomb was a distinction between two types of peace. The document distinguishes between the "peace of a sort" (The Holy See [Citation2015](#), 92) that underpins nuclear deterrence and "genuine peace" (The Holy See [Citation2015](#), 90) that should be the ultimate goal of humankind.[Footnote3](#) Regarding the former type of peace, the document argues that while such a peace may have helped to avoid a nuclear confrontation during the Cold War, it no longer constitutes a viable option in today's multipolar world. More importantly, the "peace of a sort" shows no promise of human progress toward a world without nuclear weapons as the second element of the Church's interim ethic on deterrence, namely, the call for disarmament, has not been met. "(...) the argument that nuclear deterrence preserves the peace is specious. The 'peace of a sort' provided by nuclear deterrence is a misnomer and tends to cloud our collective vision. (...) While recognizing how these concepts can provide a prudent curb on unwarranted exuberance, we must ultimately reject them as the defining outlook for our common political future (The Holy See [Citation2015](#), 93–97)." In contrast, "genuine peace" seeks to transcend the logic that underpins the "peace of a sort." It requires a focus on "positive peace" and seeks to go beyond the "negative peace" advocated by political realists who advocate nuclear deterrence in order to achieve a peace defined in terms of the absence of nuclear war.[Footnote4](#) "A genuine peace cannot grow out of an instrumental prudence that establishes a precarious ethics focused narrowly on the technical instruments of war. What is needed is a constructive ethics rooted in a deeper vision of peace, an ethic in which means and ends coincide more closely, where the positive components of peace inform and limit the use of force" (The Holy See [Citation2015](#), 90).

That's all for now. There are a few more issues we can take up another time.

Best wishes,

Greg



Los Alamos Study Group

[About us](#) · [Home](#) · [Contact](#) · [Contribute](#) · [Blog](#) · [Twitter](#) · [Search](#)

August 14, 2024

Will the 2024 elections alter the course of the new nuclear arms race and ? Join us on Monday Aug. 19, 6:30 pm at the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice for presentation and discussion!

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

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

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!

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

Our [Ukraine crisis page](#), updated more or less daily with fresh news and analyses

Dear friends --

First, please join us on Monday, August 19, at the [Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice](#) (202 Harvard SE, [map](#)) to discuss the question of whether the 2024 elections are likely to alter the course of the new nuclear arms race -- and the U.S.-supported wars in Europe and the Middle East.

Would a new face in the White House make a difference, and if so how? How is government actually functioning on these issues? What can we expect during the next administration on these issues? And meanwhile, what can we do? (Hint: [plenty!](#)).

We are looking forward to a terrific discussion this coming Monday. Please join us!

CALL TO ALBUQUERQUE PROGRESSIVES & ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS:
JOIN THE OPPOSITION TO THE NEW NUCLEAR ARMS RACE WITH RUSSIA & CHINA!

WILL THE 2024 ELECTIONS ALTER THE COURSE OF THE NEW NUCLEAR ARMS RACE?

Join the Los Alamos Study Group for a presentation & discussion in Albuquerque regarding the impact of a Donald Trump or Kamala Harris presidency this November on U.S. wars and nuclear weapons production.

MONDAY • AUG. 19 • 6:30PM
ALBUQUERQUE CENTER FOR PEACE & JUSTICE
202 HARVARD DR SE

FUND NEW MEXICANS' NEEDS, NOT THE LOS ALAMOS PLUTONIUM BOMB FACTORY!

LOS ALAMOS STUDY GROUP

By the way, we had an excellent discussion on these same topics on August 6. We have slightly edited and extended some of the slides we used and posted them [here](#).

Second, one powerful thing that any of us can do to help is to recruit organizations and businesses (and individuals!) to endorse the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production](#).

It is because of the outreach some of you have been doing that plutonium warhead core ("pit") production is now a major issue at every public meeting NNSA has held in the past year. Our collective voice is growing stronger with each endorsement, and with every conversation you have. *Many people, businesses, and organizations want to help stop the bomb factory. They just need to be asked.*

"We" -- especially some of us in New Mexico -- have managed to keep the U.S. from building a new facility for pit production for 30 years. This is causing an enormous amount of hand-wringing in nuclear circles. For nuclear hawks, those 30 years can never be recovered. They are in a bad place, and they know it. Now, given the perilous state of the U.S. economy and society, we believe any U.S. attempt to conduct an arms race will fail. With your help, we at the Los Alamos Study Group have won in the past, decisively, and we now need to consolidate those past victories -- gifts from those who resisted before, of whom many are in poor health today or have died. We can win again today, for what turn out to be very concrete reasons they cannot BS away, no matter how much money they have. In fact we are winning -- if we just carry through. Our greatest adversary is the belief that we are helpless and weak.

Best wishes,

Greg

Los Alamos Study Group

[About us](#) · [Home](#) · [Contact](#) · [Contribute](#) · [Blog](#) · [Twitter](#) · [Search](#)

August 2, 2024

Reminder! Reception for new mural tomorrow, Aug. 3, 2-4 pm, CloudCliff Building in Santa Fe. ALSO: Join us Tuesday Aug. 6 in Santa Fe to discuss whether the 2024 elections are likely to alter the course of the new nuclear arms race and if so how

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

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! **To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).**

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!

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

Our [Ukraine crisis page](#), updated more or less daily with fresh news and analyses

Dear friends --

First, don't forget tomorrow's (8/3/24) reception from 2-4 pm for [jetsonorama](#) (Chip Thomas) and the new mural that he and volunteers are creating at the Cloud Cliff Building (1805 2nd Street, Santa Fe, [map](#)).

For more about this event see this past Wednesday's [letter](#) and the [article](#) in today's *Santa Fe New Mexican*.

Now we hear that in addition to Chip's mural and Axle Contemporary's [Art & Activism](#) exhibition, the [Kodama Jazz Trio](#) will also be performing!

Come one, come all!

Then, please join us next week on Tuesday, August 6, to discuss the question of whether the 2024 elections are likely to alter the course of the new nuclear arms race. Could a new face in the White House make a difference, and if so how? What can we expect? Meanwhile, what can we do? (Hint: Especially if you live in New Mexico, plenty!)

We will meet at St. John's United Methodist Church, 1200 Old Pecos Trail ([map](#)), from 6-8 pm.

It's important to repeat what we said earlier this week: *voices are now calling for Los Alamos National Laboratory to more than double its pit production goals AND expand nuclear weapons development to build a much larger, more "diverse," and more "usable" nuclear arsenal.*

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI:
JOIN THE OPPOSITION TO THE NEW NUCLEAR ARMS RACE WITH RUSSIA & CHINA!

WILL THE 2024 ELECTIONS ALTER THE COURSE OF THE NEW NUCLEAR ARMS RACE?

Join the Los Alamos Study Group for a presentation & discussion on the impact of a Donald Trump or Kamala Harris presidency this November on U.S. wars and nuclear weapons production.



Tues, Aug. 6 • 6-8pm • Santa Fe

St. John's United Methodist Church • 1200 Old Pecos Trail

FUND NEW MEXICANS' NEEDS, NOT THE LOS ALAMOS PLUTONIUM BOMB FACTORY!

Meanwhile nuclear escalations between the U.S. and Russia are almost too frequent to mention. They are happening every week. Our national news media does not mention most of them, certainly. On Tuesday, we will.

Also, yesterday the Senate Appropriations Committee urged NNSA to consider building a new off-site campus for LANL given the transportation, housing, and alleged electric power shortages facing the lab as it slowly tries to transform itself into a nuclear weapons production site. (LANL won't make the whole weapons, just the pits. *But will they? That is partly up to me and thee.*)

Also of note, the City of Santa Fe is "breadcrumbing" us with their slow, piecemeal response to our Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) request for emails from the City to LANL and NNSA. Tidbits appear, like LANL's request to the City to avoid the public notice requirements for putting a microwave antenna on the Lab's Pacheco St. complex, the better and more securely to communicate with the mother ship. Weird that they would want to hide this --the antenna certainly won't be hidden -- but sadly predictable. For more on the City's lack of transparency, see [Recent lawsuit highlights city's struggle to respond to records requests in a timely manner](#), *Santa Fe New Mexican*, Aug 1, 2024.

Finally, you may want to pencil in Tuesday, August 13, our next public event, also in Santa Fe. Stay tuned! Get involved! Best wishes to all,

Greg

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

July 31, 2024

Art reception for new mural Saturday 2-4 pm, CloudCliff Building in Santa Fe

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

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

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!

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

Our [Ukraine crisis page](#), updated more or less daily with fresh news and analyses



ART RECEPTION

Join a reception with artist and activist jetsonorama (Chip Thomas.) The protest mural on Lena & 2nd street at the Cloud Cliff Building was curated to help build opposition to the Los Alamos Plutonium Bomb Factory.

SATURDAY, AUG. 3 • 2-4PM
CLOUD CLIFF BUILDING • 1805 2ND ST

Dear friends --

Please join the Los Alamos Study Group, the [Axle Contemporary](#) gallery, and CloudCliff proprietor Willem Malten for a reception with artist Chip Thomas, aka [jetsonorama](#), this Saturday August 3rd, from 2-4 pm, at the Cloud Cliff Building (1805 2nd Street, Santa Fe, [map](#)), where Chip and a crew of local volunteers have been working since last Thursday to install a powerful new mural in support of our community's resistance to nuclear weapons production.

Dr. Thomas also has work in Axle Contemporary's current exhibition, [Art & Activism](#), which will be on-site Saturday. From Axle's introduction:

Chip was working as a doctor on a remote area of the Navajo Nation for the past 36 years, and making compelling and important wheatpaste installations for fifteen years. He began these on abandoned roadside buildings across the Rez, but has gained more and more exposure and recognition in the past years, and now travels to make work in places far away from his home (Brazil, California, Colorado, North Carolina...). Last year Chip retired from his job at IHS, and is now making art full-time.

Chip's mural is about the promise vs. the reality of nuclear energy and weaponry, and serves as a critique of the bomb factory being built in Los Alamos, and a call-to-action for the Santa Fe community to rally together in opposition to this imminent reality. In addition to Chip's imagery, the mural presents information from The Los Alamos Study Group, providing information on how people can take action towards a better future for our community, locally and planet-wide."

You can see more of Chip's very interesting and beautiful work [here](#).

We were gratified to see so much of the community come forth to register opposition to the new arms race on July 22 at the NNSA/DOE Town Hall at Buffalo Thunder.

Opposition is growing. Please help recruit endorsers, especially organizational and business endorsers, to the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production](#).

Please keep speaking out, in public, especially in comments, letters to editors, and guest editorials in the local papers. Our private opinions aren't visible to political and bureaucratic actors unless we make them visible. Write, speak, act, make art! Make it visible! Make it with others!

It's really important to realize that absent structural changes in government -- not just a different face in the White House, say -- we will never have a secure future, let alone a prosperous one. The future is being served up to the military-industrial Moloch. There has been a real sea-change. We are in a very different world than even 10 years ago. Our politics are deeply debauched, to the extent we have any. Our democracy is by now quite gone. To reclaim that territory we need to be quite firm now.

Plutonium pit production at LANL -- which has yet to start up -- will be temporary. It will halt. But when? And how big will it get? With what impacts, locally and globally? With what impacts on our governance and our psyches? On our economy?

Even before LANL production gets started, there are many [voices](#) in Washington calling to *double LANL's planned output of pits*, in order to build up the U.S. arsenal faster than currently planned. Doing that would be quite hard but if ordered to do so by Congress, NNSA would have to try. What looks like nuclear policy in Washington is (anti-)economic and (anti-)social policy in New Mexico.

We have more events in the planning stages. Meanwhile -- resist, and encourage others. We are very far from powerless.

Come on Saturday if you can!

Best wishes to all,
Greg

Los Alamos Study Group

[About us](#) · [Home](#) · [Contact](#) · [Contribute](#) · [Blog](#) · [Twitter](#) · [Search](#)

July 24, 2024

Thank you for coming this past Monday or otherwise helping; wonderful Sentinel revelations

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

To **unsubscribe**, [send a blank email here](#).

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To **subscribe**, [send a blank email here](#).

*****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!*****

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

Our Ukraine crisis page, updated more or less daily with fresh news and analyses

Dear friends --

Thank you so much, all of you who were able to go to, or attend virtually, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)/Department of Energy (DOE) Town Hall this past Monday (7/22). A hearty thanks as well to all who have contributed to resistance to nuclear weapons in other ways, whether recently or in the past. It all counts and it all makes a difference, if we keep speaking out.

At this Town Hall there was a lot of creativity in signs, speeches, and attire. There were approximately 300 people in attendance and another 200 people attended on-line, I am told. The pro-peace, anti-nuclear-weapons community in New Mexico is very much alive.

The meeting had a scripted feel. There was no signup sheet for those who wanted to speak. NNSA and DOE picked the speakers they wanted, as was clear, and few people got to speak or ask questions. Impatience with the generally pat answers offered, where answers were offered at all, grew. This was the Administrative State speaking after all, through its human avatars, as likable and as worthy as some of them are. The "unwarranted" power of the "Military-Industrial Complex" may seem a cliché but as we know it is all too real, especially in New Mexico. Beneath the very thin veneer, it was the Military-Nuclear State that held that meeting on Monday.

That Power encourages passivity and fatalism. It seeks to impress its image on the land, on us, and on civil society. We are told, in oh so many ways, that it would be best to join with Sauron. In that regard, it was very strange for the meeting to be co-moderated by the Deputy Manager of Los Alamos County, the County that is raking in the big bucks from pit production and everything else LANL does.

Matthias DeSmet (*The Psychology of Totalitarianism*) provides some advice. He notes that while dissonant voices usually do not succeed in breaking through the "hypnosis" of the true believers -- let alone, we must add, the bureaucratic momentum of the military-industrial state and its many lackeys in civil society -- dissent can limit the damage and set the stage for real, substantive change. By speaking out, we ourselves become free. **To the extent the national security state has a free hand in New Mexico, "we the people" do not.** DeSmet's most important conclusion was very simple: **"The first and foremost task is to keep speaking out. Everything stands or falls with the act of speaking out. It is in the interest of all parties."**

People ARE speaking out. Here is some of the press from Monday's meeting:

[New Mexicans and Fed Clash over LANL Weapons Plan](#), *KSFR*, Jul 23, 2024

[Anti-nuclear advocates decry LANL pit production plans](#), *Santa Fe New Mexican*, Jul 22, 2024

[The NNSA and DOE get an ear full from the anti-nuke community](#), *La Jicarita*, Jul 24, 2024

[During public meeting with NM locals, DOE bosses get earful on pits, WIPP, power lines](#), *Exchange Monitor*, Jul 23, 2024

Changing the subject, I am now in Washington, DC, where I have a small handful of meetings today and tomorrow. I am learning things as well as bringing new information to the table.

I have some big news, which we suspected but didn't know of the half of. Back on July 15, we led an on-line discussion: ["Sentinel, pit production, and a bit more; Why the US is losing the new arms race it started"](#); [\(video\)](#). The unspoken theme of that discussion -- *"Is this sucker really going down? Because that's what it looks like"* -- turns out to be a better question than we knew.

Today I learned that the Sentinel program (to deploy new intercontinental ballistic missiles, aka ICBMs, in existing underground silos) is in even worse trouble than we knew, or has been heretofore reported.

And because of that, the opinion of David North in Los Alamos, that the ["Need for Pits \[is\] Pushed Back Several Years"](#) (*Los Alamos Reporter*, Jul 19, 2024) is more right than many have suspected.

I don't want to spill too many beans in this brief note but Sentinel is more of a disaster than its critics (like us) have known, up to now. The "several years" delay mentioned by Pentagon briefers on July 8 for "initial capability" really means *not until the late 2030s*. That is, "several" was a euphemism for "many."

How many of the proposed new 400 or 450 deployed missiles will be in that "initial capability"? *Fewer than the fingers on two hands, it turns out.*

And what about the missile silos which are supposed to be "upgraded"? *It turns out that "upgraded" means "mostly replaced."* Holy moly is that expensive -- maybe

impossible in the real world.

Did we know that *there is a full score or more of Sentinel budget lines that are NOT actually included in the stated Sentinel budget*? I certainly didn't. It's a familiar approach -- like the LANL pit production "budget," a many-splendored thing, open-ended, never officially enumerated.

There is more to say about this but I anticipate -- I know -- that the defense press will soon write about this and much more, and we will see some fresh outrage about it from many quarters. "What fresh hell is this?," the Air Force and STRATCOM must be saying.

What this means is the entire concept of nuclear deterrence is going to be re-thought, whether the "powers-that-be" want to do that or not. The *forces majeure* we have spoken about over the past few years, and specially this year, are beginning to express themselves.

It is not perfectly accurate to say that "the Force is with us," but it is not entirely inaccurate either.

Best wishes to all,

Greg Mello

PS: As I finish this note, yet another press release/pack of lies is coming in across the electronic threshold from LANL. That laboratory emits a seemingly never-ending stream of lies to befuddle the people of this state.

[^ back to top](#)

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

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

July 10, 2024

Urgent call to action: NNSA Town Hall near Santa Fe July 22, 6 pm MDT, on the huge LANL program to build plutonium cores ("pits")

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

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

*Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! **To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).***

****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!****

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

Our [Ukraine crisis page](#), updated more or less daily with fresh news and analyses

Dear friends --

National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Administrator Jill Hruby and Department of Energy Environmental Management's (DOE EM's) Candice Robertson will host a [Town Hall Meeting](#) from 6-7:30 pm MDT Monday, July 22, at the [Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder](#) ([map](#)), 13 miles north of downtown Santa Fe on U.S. 84.

We hope you will join us at this meeting, and bring as many others with you as you can, to protest the creation of a plutonium warhead core ("pit") factory at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

This is a really, really important opportunity!

In addition to other people, please bring signs (cloth may be best, as sticks may not be allowed inside). **The single, core message we want to get across to national and local audiences alike is the depth and breadth of opposition to pit production at LANL.** It is likely that very few people will be allowed to ask questions or make comments at the microphone, so we must communicate effectively in other nonviolent ways.

We will be happy to work with you (and your group, as applicable) on preparations for this meeting. Write or call us.

This is not just a NIMBY ("not in my back yard") issue, although it certainly is that, and a cultural survival issue with it. If LANL pit production can be halted, there can be no nuclear arms race over at least the coming decade. For compelling reasons we need not get into here, a decade's delay is likely to be essentially permanent.

We will be reaching out to organizations in other states and national organizations to join us in Pojoaque on the 22nd. As you know, many arms control and other pro-nuclear-weapons organizations have up to now wanted LANL to be a pit factory. Others have acquiesced with their silence. This meeting constitutes an unparalleled educational opportunity to reach these and other audiences who are otherwise hard to reach. If we can broaden the movement against the emergency push for pit production we will win, and there will not be a new nuclear arms race. Pits -- [LANL pits, specifically](#) -- are needed for that.

Quick background review

As readers of these letters know, the current \$22 billion (see slides 34-36 [here](#)) creation (or attempted creation) of a pit factory at LANL is by far the largest single project in New Mexico history in dollar terms, with enormous negative ramifications for the environment, economy, society, and governance of the region and the state.

LANL's pit factory, to be centered within a 50-year-old existing facility ("PF-4") designed for other purposes, is for "temporary" use until some time after a permanent factory, currently under construction at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina, is completed.

The sole production mission of the LANL factory complex is to make pits for the all-new "W87-1" warhead which will be used to augment the existing stock of (roughly 530) modern W87-0 warheads available for the proposed "Sentinel" intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). According to Dr. Hruby, the factory at SRS will not make pits for W87-1 warheads. Only LANL will do that.

The additional LANL-enabled warheads are "needed" only in order to put multiple, super-accurate warheads on the Sentinel system. There are already enough existing W87-0 warheads to outfit all the planned Sentinel missiles, without making any new warheads. The LANL warheads are "bonus" -- "extras warheads" -- for building out the U.S. nuclear arsenal in what is rapidly becoming a (hopeless) arms race against Russia and China.

Each new LANL pit will be the core of a circa 300-kiloton warhead. That is 20 times the explosive yield of the Hiroshima bomb. LANL has promised to make at least 30 of these per year -- in energy terms, the equivalent of at least 600 Hiroshima explosions.

LANL's production, if successful, would enable a truly vast nuclear rearmament effort. Nobody should want that.

Thank you so much for helping all of us with this. Stay tuned for more information.
Greg

Los Alamos Study Group

[About us](#) · [Home](#) · [Contact](#) · [Contribute](#) · [Blog](#) · [Twitter](#) · [Search](#)

May 7, 2024

Demonstration TODAY 6 pm Heinrich's office in Abq;

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

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

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!

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

Our [Ukraine crisis page](#), updated more or less daily with fresh news and analyses

Previous letter (04/14/2024): [Volunteer orientation Tues 4/16 noon](#); [panel discussion 4/16 6 pm](#); [important updates](#)

Dear friends --

Good afternoon.

First, there is an emergency rally and demonstration today at Senator Heinrich's office, 400 Gold St. SW in Albuquerque ([map](#)). Apologies for the late notice but we just learned of this a few hours ago. The Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) first sent out the call; various organizations are involved.

The catalyst for this rally is the bombing and invasion of Rafah, which has begun. Most of you are following events in Palestine closely. [b at Moon of Alabama blog](#) explains the situation very clearly. We share his perspective, and [Caitlin Johnstone's](#):

"I don't oppose the butchery in Gaza because I love Hamas or hate Jews or love Islam or hate America. I don't oppose the butchery in Gaza because I'm a lefty or a commie or an anarchist or an anti-imperialist. I oppose the butchery in Gaza because I'm not a fucking psychopath."

We are going to get just as much genocide and war as we don't successfully oppose.

There are other issues involved here, as you know. The President and Congress, as well as many university administrators are using the "anti-Semitism" issue to make devastating *de facto* and *de jure* abridgments of First Amendment rights.

In his excellent [column](#) yesterday, Alastair Crooke [quotes](#) John Gray: ***"At bottom, the liberal assault on free speech [on Gaza and Ukraine] is a bid for unchecked power. By shifting the locus of decision from democratic deliberation to legal procedures, the élites aim to insulate [their neoliberal] cultish programmes from contestation and accountability. The politicisation of law – and the hollowing out of politics go hand in hand".***

When you have a chance you might want to listen to [yesterday's conversation between Judge Andrew Napolitano and Columbia Professor Jeffrey Sachs](#) on this and related matters. It's terrific per usual from those guys.

Gaza is not the only place where our foreign policy elites have made disastrous, sociopathic decisions. The "escalation ladder" in Ukraine is alive, well, and in use. Please see our [Ukraine page](#) for the latest news. Ukraine is by now visibly [losing the war](#). Increasing threats (Macron's are only the most visible; see also [Hakeem Jeffries](#) warning of sending U.S. troops) and actions from the West have now reached the point where, yesterday, Russia called for [tactical nuclear weapons drills](#) -- a first.

This is a serious matter. Up to now, I (Greg) have not considered Russia's nuclear warnings to be actual threats. I think this drill, with accompanying [warnings](#), now crosses that line. There are (as far as we know) no U.S. military-to-military contacts with Russia, and the tendency is for U.S. leaders to keep on pretending that Russia is bluffing. *Russia is not bluffing.*

Like it or not, there is nothing the U.S. can do at this point to prevent a Russian victory in Ukraine, however Russia defines that.

What does Russia want? A neutral, largely-demilitarized Ukraine, without neo-Nazis in the government. Is that so hard to accept? Ukraine could have kept its four eastern provinces if the Biden team had been willing to negotiate toward that end in 2021 or 2022.

Thank you so much and best wishes to all.

Greg

[^ back to top](#)

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

Los Alamos Study Group

[About us](#) · [Home](#) · [Contact](#) · [Contribute](#) · [Blog](#) · [Twitter](#) · [Search](#)

April 14, 2024

Volunteer orientation Tues 4/16 noon; panel discussion 4/16 6 pm; important updates

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

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

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!

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

Our [Ukraine crisis page](#), updated more or less daily with fresh news and analyses

Previous letter (04/08/2024): "[Russophobia, the Ukraine war, and nuclear weapons](#)" -- panel discussion Tuesday April 16, 6 pm, St. John's United Methodist Church, Santa Fe

Dear friends --

Good morning.

First, I wanted to remind you of **Tuesday's public meeting**, details regarding which can be found at the link above. **If you would help us "beat the bushes" to let folks know about this event it would be very, very helpful! Personal outreach really matters.** This is really a unique meeting, and will be posted on-line later. We believe it will be important in multiple ways as we fight nuclear weapons production and the harrowing risk of nuclear war. There is much, much more going in U.S.-Russian relations than meets the casual eye. We are at a real hinge of history, one that affects -- and is affected by -- Santa Fe and New Mexico.

Second, we are going to have a volunteer orientation and campaign meeting at the Chomp Food Hall in Santa Fe (505 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, [map](#)) at noon, in the loft. **Please RSVP so we can plan!** A few of us have been having planning meetings on a weekly or semi-weekly basis and conducting various "experiments in outreach," getting ready. We are now opening the doors to more volunteers! Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is planning on producing the plutonium cores ("pits") of nuclear explosives sufficient for at least 40 nuclear warheads*, with the explosive power of at least 800 Hiroshimas, each year. ("At least 30" pits per year means an average of 40 or more, modeling shows.) Collectively, we can stop this, as we have done more than once before. As great as the opposing forces are, there are still greater forces involved which can act in our favor.

In that regard and **third**, former LANL public relations official Jim Rickman has written a terrific op-ed in the *New Mexican* ("[LANL transition should concern community](#)," Apr 10, 2024). It would be valuable for you to comment on this in the space provided, if you feel so moved. Also of note from the *New Mexican* is this, in case you missed it: "[Reports: 2 mishaps at LANL in one day](#)," Apr 8, 2024. And from the *Los Alamos Reporter*, this: "[Driver Charged With Possession Of Drugs And Stolen Firearm \[submachine gun\] Following LAPD Response To Reckless Driving \[en route to work at LANL, while obviously drugged\] Report](#)," Mar 29, 2024. These are important developments.

Fourth, Annie Jacobsen's book *Nuclear War: A Scenario* (sold out, backordered at Collected Works and elsewhere) is a fine effort that will be useful to everyone -- students at all levels, activists and volunteers, journalists, and national security professionals. It's a scenario, as the title says, but also a textbook and a, er, thriller. Few know how nuclear war can unfold -- who would do what, when, why, and how. Jacobsen explains. I am afraid the terrifying danger she describes is very real. It is generally not bedtime reading. Some of the nuclear effects described in her book were described in more detail in Steve Starr's [new book](#) on high-altitude electromagnetic pulse from nuclear attack. See also his [nuclearfamine.org](#). Steve, who is on our board of directors, will be speaking on Tuesday.

Fifth, we've been occasionally posting video content on our YouTube channel. Claus Biegert's documentary, "[The Secret and the Sacred, Two Worlds at Los Alamos](#)," is the latest addition. We anticipate adding semiweekly video interviews to this channel, which gets a relatively lot of traffic, for us. Stay tuned.

Sixth, I edited the recent [Bulletin 342: ...Pit production: myths and contradictions](#) (April 10) for clarity, adding some significant new material as well. If you haven't read that Bulletin or merely skimmed it, read this better version instead! We strongly oppose the idea of accelerating pit production in order to produce additional (MIRVed) new warheads for the Sentinel system, as advocated by many (but not all) Alliance for Nuclear Accountability and arms control groups. We will be taking our case to Congress again in the coming days.

Finally, as you can see the number of endorsers of the [Call for Sanity](#), a registry of resistance to pit production and hence to a renewed nuclear arms race, is growing. You can help -- please do! We are up to at least 205 businesses and organizations, with a few endorsers still to be entered from paper sign-up forms, so the total is actually more than this. **If everyone would approach one business or organization to endorse the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production](#), it would make an enormous, helpful difference.**

Thank you so much and best wishes to all. See you Tuesday, Greg

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

April 8, 2024

"Russophobia, the Ukraine war, and nuclear weapons" -- panel discussion Tuesday April 16, 6 pm, St. John's United Methodist Church, Santa Fe

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

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! **To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).**

*****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!*****

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

Our [Ukraine crisis page](#), updated more or less daily with fresh news and analyses

Previous letter (04/01/2024): [Opposition to building more nuclear warheads is growing, but slowly -- please help just a bit!](#)

Dear friends --

"Russophobia, the Ukraine war, and nuclear weapons" Panel discussion Tuesday April 16, 6 pm, St. John's United Methodist Church, 1200 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe ([map](#))

Please join [Peter Kuznick](#), [Steven Starr](#), and myself (Greg Mello) to discuss the dangerous phenomenon of "Russophobia" in the West in the context of the potentially widening war in Ukraine, with its attendant nuclear dangers. Dr. Kuznick is a Professor of History and Director of the Nuclear Studies Institute at American University. He is the coauthor with Oliver Stone of 12-part documentary and companion book, "[The Untold History of the United States](#)" and is in high demand around the world as an analyst of current events. Steve is medical scientist and former department chair at the University of Missouri; he was a Senior Scientist with Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR). He is a board member of the Study Group.

All three of us have been following developments in U.S.-Russian relations on a daily basis. We at the Study Group have conducted multiple teach-ins on the Ukraine war since 2014 and we maintain a [news and analysis page](#) updated more or less daily regarding this war, with occasional commentary. In March 2022 our [prescription](#) for peace in Ukraine was, with the encouragement of the late John Pilger, published here and in Europe ([Zeit-Fragen](#)). Of local interest, my (Greg's) views were highlighted and criticized in a prominent local news article early last year ("[Anti-nuclear activist opposes helping Ukraine, encourages peace](#)," *Santa Fe New Mexican*, Feb 5, 2023).

Failure to heed warnings such as ours has cost hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian lives and tens of thousands of Russian lives. At this point Ukraine is basically a broken country surviving on donations and "loans," which has lost a much of its productive population to emigration and battlefield casualties, as was obvious would happen and as many of us predicted.

Should the U.S. House appropriate the proposed \$61 billion in additional "aid" as is now likely (the Senate has already passed the bill; most of the money will go to U.S. arms manufacturers), Ukraine will be even more destroyed than it already is.

To illustrate this danger I could quote dozens of independent experts, but the illustrious [Jeffrey Sachs](#) will do nicely:

This is purely money down the drain. If they want to rip up another \$61 billion, which is not chump change, they seem intent on doing it but it will mean nothing except more destruction of Ukraine.

If you don't listen to the nonsense in our mainstream media, but listen to your show and others, people would know that this war has destroyed Ukraine. And the longer it continues, the less there will be of Ukraine. It is very simple, if this goes on longer, Russia will capture more territory. If it goes on long enough, Russia will capture Odessa. Kiev, if we continue the way we're doing. This is a Biden project that goes back 10 years now, we'll completely destroy Ukraine. The idea that this is "siding with" Ukraine is absurd. Anyone who really follows events knows that we're not siding with Ukraine, we have paid for hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians to go to the front lines and die, for more and more territory to be lost.

The most basic point of this war, which is that we overthrew a government in Ukraine in 2014 that wanted neutrality so we could push NATO enlargement was reckless, stupid, and doomed to fail. And it failed. Now Biden is trying to hide the failure to get past November, but the failure is seen on the battleground every day.

If the Republicans play into this, it is unbelievable, shame on them. They are basically on the right side although Biden bludgeons them every day -- you'll be the one to lose Ukraine. The truth of the matter is Biden has been a disaster for Ukraine for a decade. The disaster is there in the graves of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians and lost territory. sa

This is a war that never should have happened, it was about NATO enlargement. The Russians said no NATO on our borders. And Americans who were following this, like our CIA director Bill Burns who was then the US Ambassador to Russia in 2008, said no way, this is crazy. The entire Russian political class is against this. But Biden and Obama and Hillary Clinton and Victoria Nuland and Jake Sullivan and Tony Blinken just barged ahead, wrecked everything, and now they want another \$61 billion to get them past November. It is a disgrace.

With this money and the political commitment it symbolizes in train, other European countries (led by France's Macron) would be more likely to send troops to Ukraine, counting on the U.S. to backstop them in some way. Or, in the cases of France and the UK, if they commit troops in any number, their own nuclear weapons would also be implicitly "on the table" if Russia wipes out these expeditionary forces, as senior Russian leaders have said Russia will do. So this is quite dangerous, to say the least.

I am trying to say that this is a war that involves all of us, whether we want to be involved or not. It is very dangerous for everybody and highly consequential for the future not just of Ukraine but also Europe and the U.S.

Please come, and tell your friends! There is plenty of room. We will take questions from the audience. We will not stream this event although it will be available for viewing later.

Meanwhile we urge you to peruse our [Ukraine war page](#) and recommend it to your friends as an antidote to the U.S. mainstream media if nothing else, which is utterly unreliable on this topic as it is on many others.

Finally, please help us recruit endorsers to the [Call for Sanity](#). We really need you. We are up to 200 businesses and organizations but still there are plenty of powerful people in New Mexico and in the "arms control community" and its big funders who actually want to accelerate pit production and an arms race. Each pit will be the trigger for an explosion the size of 20 Hiroshima bombs put together. LANL wants to make about 40 of these per year. This is the equivalent of 800 Hiroshima bombs per year. **If everyone would approach one business or organization they know to endorse the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production](#), it would make an enormous, helpful difference.** Stay tuned for more.

Greg

[^ back to top](#)

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

Los Alamos Study Group

[About us](#) · [Home](#) · [Contact](#) · [Contribute](#) · [Blog](#) · [Twitter](#) · [Search](#)

April 1, 2024

Opposition to building more nuclear warheads is growing, but slowly -- please help just a bit!

[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!

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! **To subscribe, send a blank email here.**

To unsubscribe, send a blank email here.

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

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

Previous letter (02/12/24: [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](#)

Dear friends --

Again it's been too long since we have written. A great deal has happened and is happening in the peace-and-nuclear-war-prevention business. Most of the nationally-oriented updates will be in Bulletin #339, which we hope to get out tomorrow to a wider email list. This list is a subset of that one and so you will get tomorrow's Bulletin, as well as this letter.

The main thing we want to emphasize right now on this New Mexico-oriented list is this: **Please help us recruit business and nonprofit endorsers to the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production](#)!**

We currently have 852 individuals and 198 businesses, organizations, and religious groups endorsing. Some 120 of the latter are in New Mexico. Individuals are important also, but we are primarily targeting businesses, organizations, and churches.

While this is significant, there is much more opposition "out there" which remains latent.

Reaching people is more difficult than meets the eye. **We need your help!** People, including and especially business owners, nonprofit directors and church leaders, are busy. **It often takes a personal "ask" to penetrate the usual blizzard of advertising and other correspondence, electronic and otherwise.**

While there is some visible opposition to building a plutonium processing and pit production plant right now in Los Alamos, there has not been enough opposition to (for example) convince the Santa Fe City Council to pass a resolution against it, to pick just one intermediate objective.

In this "not enough" there is both a "quantitative factor" (our opposition is not numerous enough) and an "engagement factor" (our opposition is not active enough).

We have a number of projects in the works to make our opposition more effective (in New Mexico, and in Washington), but **right now we really, really would like those who have endorsed the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production](#) (THANK YOU!) to recruit others to do so as well. You know people we don't. There are about 100 times as many people on this mailing list than there are volunteers who can occasionally do outreach for us. If everyone just did a little bit it would help enormously.**

As we are going to remind people in tomorrow's Bulletin, each of the plutonium pits LANL hopes to make will be the trigger of a nuclear bomb with the explosive power of 20 Hiroshima bombs. LANL expects to make at least 40 times this much each year, i.e. 800 Hiroshima explosions. That's per year.

About 3 megatons of explosives were used in World War II, including the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs. **LANL hopes to make as much explosive power as was used in World War II every 3 months.** LANL hopes to build its first real pit since 2011 this year.

Sometimes people don't understand that being in favor of nuclear disarmament generally, or nuclear abolition, or arms control, or the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), or nuclear safety, or nuclear cleanup, or compensation for downwinders, or understand that opposing nuclear waste generation and disposal do not at all constitute, or even imply, opposition to pit production.

The same goes for opposing more nuclear weapons in general, or even opposing pit production in general. Neither of these implies or expresses even privately, firm opposition to pit production right here and right now. To effectively oppose something like this you actually have to oppose it specifically and actively, here and now.

The function of the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production](#) is to provide a very easy way to express and "permanentize" one's opposition, and to bring it out into the public arena where it can be communicated to others.

There is a huge difference between something happening here and now and something merely planned for much later, far away. And there is a huge difference between a private opinion and a public stand right here.

Here, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is building a ~\$21 billion factory, far costlier than any prior New Mexico project, on a crash basis, at LANL with all its attendant liabilities, to make as many plutonium warhead cores (pits) as possible (this is a brand-new piece of information -- see the forthcoming Bulletin), for the purposes of increasing the number and the accuracy (aka "the effectiveness") of deployed U.S. nuclear warheads.

(Reminder: for more background, please see "[Plutonium warhead factory under construction near Santa Fe](#)," and "[Plutonium warhead factory: it's about new missiles, an](#)

arms race, greed, & domination,")

This is much more than a local issue -- as important as the local impacts are. Without pit production in the coming decade, which is the same thing as saying pit production at LANL, the U.S. cannot even pretend to conduct a nuclear arms race. With a stream of new LANL pits, NNSA hopes to build "W87-1" warheads starting in the early 2030s, the purpose of which is to add additional warheads to the fleet of "Sentinel" silo-based missiles.

There are already enough modern, accurate, and fairly new warheads to put one warhead on each of the new missiles. That is the way the existing Minuteman missiles are deployed -- with one warhead each and that's the initial plan for Sentinel too, using existing warheads. The pits in these existing warheads are not in any danger of "aging out."

LANL pit production would allow tripling the number of ICBM warheads deployed, up to three warheads per missile -- the better to target both Russia and China. And that's the plan.

LANL is the only place that pits for these extra warheads are to be made; making them is LANL's sole pit manufacturing mission. LANL has other pit missions, but no other pit manufacturing missions.

If everyone would approach one business or organization they know to endorse the [Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Productio](#), it would make an enormous difference.

Thank you so much,

Greg, Trish, Bex

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

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!*****

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

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.

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

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

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.

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

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

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

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.

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

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

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

[^ back to top](#)

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

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

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.

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

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

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

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

[^ back to top](#)

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

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

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.

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

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

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

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

[^ back to top](#)

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

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

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.

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

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To **subscribe**, [send a blank email here](#).

To **unsubscribe**, [send a blank email here](#).

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

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

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.**

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 on Wednesday!

Best wishes,

Greg, Trish, and Bex

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

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>
Reply-To: lanl@service.govdelivery.com
To: 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

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>

[^ back to top](#)

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

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

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.*****

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

[^ back to top](#)

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

Los Alamos Study Group

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

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.

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

About us · Home · Contact · Contribute · Blog · Twitter · Search

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.

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

Do your interested New Mexico friends get these updates? Why not forward this letter to them! To subscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

To unsubscribe, [send a blank email here](#).

[Home page](#); [Press releases](#); [Bulletins](#); [Plutonium Pit Production](#)

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

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

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 listserve (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

[^ back to top](#)

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