

# Santa Fe rips

(Major organizing project of Study Group)

By STEPHEN SHANKLAND  
Assistant Managing Editor

SANTA FE — Department of Energy officials had to extend a six-hour hearing on the effects of Los Alamos National Laboratory to seven hours Wednesday, and there were still 30 people waiting to speak.

As a result, DOE added an "overflow" meeting at 6 p.m. Friday. It will be held in the New Mexico Environment Department Auditorium in the Harold Runnels Building, 1190 St. Francis, Santa Fe.

Dozens of speakers at the Wednesday hearing on the lab's Site-wide Environmental Impact Statement (SWEIS) said LANL should stop nuclear weapons work, especially building nuclear weapons components.

Among other often-repeated themes at the meeting:

- DOE should convert LANL into a "green lab" for cleanup and environmental research.
- DOE should stop construction on all major new projects at LANL until the SWEIS is complete.
- The lab should be shut down and cleaned up.
- DOE should complete its national-scale programmatic environmental impact statement before proceeding with the site-wide impact statement for LANL.

A few people from Los Alamos, including at least four members of the group Responsible Environmental Action League, also spoke at the meeting.

Chris Chandler said "an opportunity was being missed" to address how LANL handles materials "that are environmentally very dangerous." This issue is being "lost in the larger, more global issues" of nuclear policy.

The scope of the SWEIS doesn't include stockpile and nonproliferation issues, she said.

And George Chandler said that much of the fear of things nuclear at LANL is a "hysterical" response.

He suggested that the SWEIS "lay out the history of environmental management so people can read it and judge for themselves without being subjected to polemic and rhetoric."

John Horne of Los Alamos said Los Alamos is safe; otherwise, he wouldn't be raising his family there. Radiation risks are greater from flying in a high-altitude jet or living near natural uranium in Utah than from living in Los Alamos, he said.

Horne added that groups such as CCNS and the Study Group "instill fear and anger when it's not there."

"I'd like to remind you that Los Alamos has existed for 50 years to promote peace," he said. Without nuclear research, "you would not be able to stand here and make much ado about nothing."

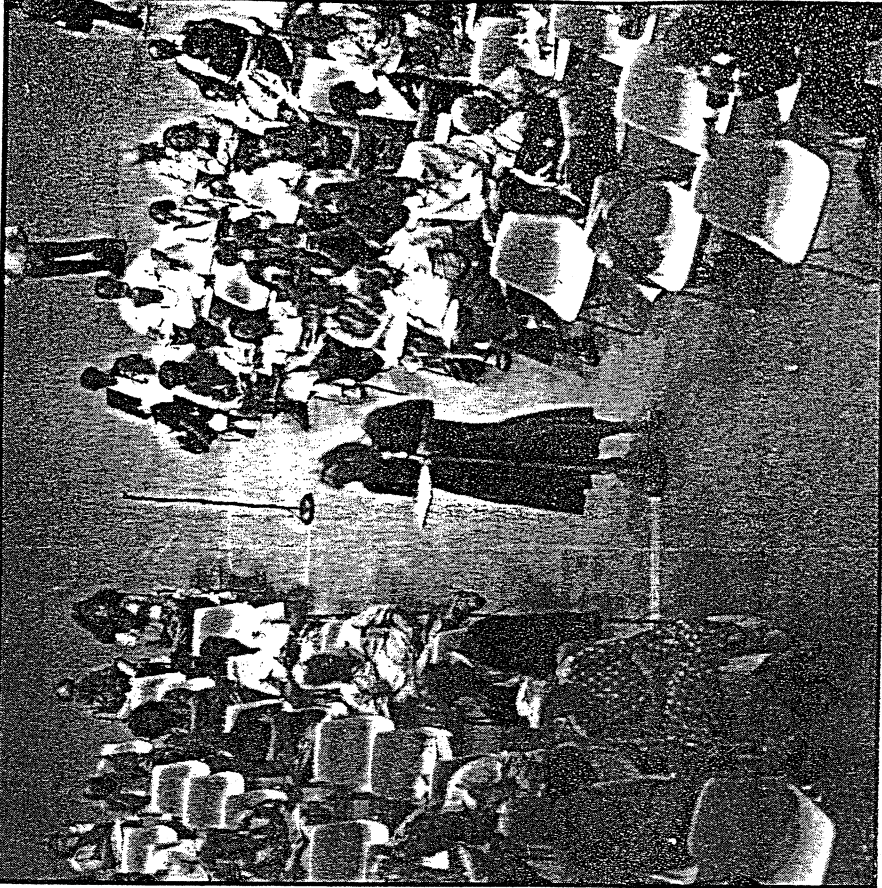
In other remarks at the hearing:

- Amy Bunting of Santa Fe said nuclear weapons are obsolete. "Who are these enemies upon whom we would unleash this radioactive wrath?" she asked.
- Angela Treat Lyon said that when her aunt died, they found a box of inch-long pieces of string labeled, "pieces of string too short to use." Nuclear weapons, she said, are not a "viable tool," and are in the category of "weapons too dangerous to use."

In a response to Horne's remarks, Howard Shulman said Horne "needs to know he's raising his child in a place of danger."

# LANL nuclear work

LA Monitor 6/15/95



STEPHEN T. SHANKLAND/Monitor

An anti-nuclear speaker states her views at Wednesday's afternoon scoping session in Santa Fe on the upcoming Los Alamos National Laboratory Site-wide Environmental Impact Statement.

Radioactive and toxic waste contaminates the mesas and canyons of Los Alamos, he said. "We need something on the level of the Manhattan Project to clean up."

Radioactive and toxic waste contaminates the mesas and canyons of Los Alamos, he said. "We need something on the level of the Manhattan Project to clean up."

it's time to stop. "I'm alive today. I just never want to see another one. Never again," Hobbs said.

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**SWEIS**

(from Page 1)

• Susan Hirschberg of Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety said that LANL should increase nonproliferation work, increase safe energy work, increase environmental research, and decrease weapons work.

"If LANL's mission is truly to reduce the nuclear danger, then concentrating on nonproliferation and decreasing the world's dependence on nuclear power (the raw materials for which also can lead to nuclear proliferation) is an excellent way to meet that mission," she said.

• LANL should concentrate on energy efficiency and sustainable energy, Jill Cliburn said.

• "The money that the national policy makers are spending on DOE programs in Los Alamos is desperately needed in the streets of America today," said Don Brayfield of Santa Fe, referring to crime problems he's seen in Santa Fe. "America is rotting from the inside, and LANL is facilitating that rot. I want you to concentrate your evil nuclear crap on Los Alamos" so the Jemez Mountains volcano will bury it, he

said.

• Greg Mello, an activist with the Santa Fe-based Los Alamos Study Group said the orderly shutdown alternative should be put back in the SWEIS.

(DOE said that, "In view of the limited community interest and DOE's view ... that a decision to shut down LANL operations within the five- to 10-year time frame of the SWEIS would be highly unlikely," it decided not to go forward with the shutdown alternative.)

• Eric Dibner of Santa Fe said converting LANL to peace and health research should be an option in the SWEIS. He also said the lab is alien to New Mexico.

• Garland Harris of Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping in Albuquerque said DOE "should find a way to green the lab

or shut it down. The fact is, you need to get out of the (nuclear weapons) business."

• Virginia Weppner of Santa Fe said she's concerned that funding shortages, not technological difficulties, will be what holds back cleanup. She asked, "How many years in the future can the government guarantee responsible maintenance" of LANL?

• Suchi Solomon of Santa Fe said building bombs is "a gigantic waste of time, money, and natural resources."

• "Shutdown and cleanup" are the only options for LANL, said Katherine Lage.

• "I don't want Los Alamos to be a dumping ground for the country's nuclear and chemical waste," said Cari Eisler with the New Mexico Green Party.

## Hearing sought on N-weapons plan

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Will tourists still come to Santa Fe if Los Alamos begins making plutonium "pits" — the triggers for nuclear warheads?

Santa Fe Mayor Debbie Jaramillo is worried that tourism will suffer if the U.S. Department of Energy selects the Los Alamos National Laboratory to produce the devices.

In a letter to Tara O'Toole, the DOE's assistant secretary of environment, safety and health, Jaramillo asked that the agency conduct a public hearing in Santa Fe on its post-Cold War philosophy on nuclear weapons, called the "Stockpile Stewardship Program." The stewardship program envisions shifting the production and recycling of pits to LANL and a national laboratory in South Carolina.

"There is substantial evidence that LANL may take on certain production roles in support of national nuclear weapons pro-

grams. This can have potentially adverse environmental impacts that would preclude positive economic development in our region and be especially harmful to our tourist industry," Jaramillo said in her letter, sent Friday.

The agency is searching for ways to streamline the production of nuclear weapons as the United States cuts its stockpile of nuclear warheads from a Cold War high of about 20,000 to about 3,500.

The agency says one possibility is to produce weapons components at the two national laboratories instead of large production plants, such as the Rocky Flats plant near Denver.

The Santa Fe City Council Wednesday began work on a resolution supporting Jaramillo's request for a public hearing.

Public hearings on the "stockpile stewardship program" already have been scheduled in Los Alamos July 11 and Albuquerque July 13.

# Mayor urges DOE to hold hearing here

By BEN NEARY  
The New Mexican

The U.S. Department of Energy should hold a hearing in Santa Fe as it prepares a study charting the future of the nation's nuclear complex, Mayor Debbie Jaramillo stated in a letter to the agency this month.

The DOE this month announced it has identified Los Alamos National Laboratory as a potential future site for production of nuclear bomb components. The agency is consolidating its nuclear programs at fewer sites nationwide.

The DOE has stated it intends to hold meetings to gather public comment on the planning document in Albuquerque and Los Alamos — both cities where it has facilities — but not in Santa Fe.

Jaramillo, in her June 23 letter to the DOE, notes that Santa Fe residents have demonstrated their interest in the future of the Los Alamos lab. She handed out a copy of a draft resolution at Wednesday's City Council meeting. If adopted by the council, the resolution would express the city's desire for the agency to hold a hearing here.

"The future of LANL is closely linked to the future of Northern

New Mexico and Santa Fe," Jaramillo wrote to Assistant Secretary Tara O'Toole. "Possible environmental impacts and economic impacts from LANL directly affect the environment and economy of Santa Fe."

City Councilor Steven Farber noted at Wednesday's council meeting that Jaramillo — who has on occasion been criticized for being less than supportive of Santa Fe's tourist economy — stated in her letter that if Los Alamos takes over a weapons production role, it could be especially harmful to the region's tourist industry.

Mary Riseley, co-director of the Los Alamos Study Group — concerned citizens who monitor lab activities — said Wednesday the group is glad the mayor has called for a meeting here. She said Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, in particular, has worked hard to bring this matter to the city's attention.

The pending DOE study will look at the environmental, cultural and social costs of various agency alternatives for the future of the nation's weapons complex, Riseley said.

She said the study group and CCNS believe the agency should hold a hearing in Santa Fe.

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## Santa Fe Worried About Impact Of Lab Nuclear Work

SANTA FE (AP) — Santa Fe Mayor Debbie Jaramillo wants the Department of Energy to hold a public hearing in that city as the agency works on the future of the nation's nuclear weapons program.

Jaramillo made the request this month in a letter to DOE Assistant Secretary Tara O'Toole.

The DOE has identified Los Alamos National Laboratory as a potential future site for production of nuclear bomb components and Jaramillo in her letter noted Santa Fe's proximity to the laboratory.

"The future of LANL is closely linked to the future of northern New Mexico and Santa Fe," Jaramillo wrote. "Possible environmental impacts and economic impacts from LANL directly affect the environment and economy of Santa Fe."

The DOE plans to hold meetings in Albuquerque and Los Alamos.

Mary Riseley, co-director of the Los Alamos Study Group — a citizens group that monitors lab activities — endorsed Jaramillo's request.

"We think the effects on tourism, property values and the lives of this region will be gravely affected if Los Alamos becomes a bomb factory," she said.

# Public to discuss LANL's future

8/10/95

## The New Mexican

Santa Fe city government is sponsoring a workshop and public hearing on the future of the U.S. nuclear weapons complex.

The city intends the meeting, scheduled for Saturday, to give the public an opportunity to comment on a U.S. Department of Energy plan that could turn Los Alamos National Laboratory into a nuclear bomb-making center in the 21st century.

Although the DOE — the par-

ent agency of the Los Alamos lab — has held meetings on the plan in Los Alamos and Albuquerque, it declined Mayor Debbie Jaramillo's request to hold a meeting here.

The agency stated that there is no DOE facility in Santa Fe.

The lab traditionally has been a nuclear weapons research facility.

Production work involves the handling of greater amounts of nuclear materials and therefore poses a greater threat to workers

and the environment.

The meeting will be divided into two parts: a morning session devoted to educating the public about the DOE's plan and an afternoon public comment session.

The meeting will be videotaped and all the comments will be forwarded to the DOE, said Peggy Prince of the Los Alamos Study Group, a Santa Fe citizens organization.

The hearing is scheduled to be held in the City Council Cham-

bers from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The afternoon session, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. will be broadcast live on Public Education/Government Channel 6 on the local cable television system.

The morning session has been reserved for an informational workshop by DOE officials and the afternoon session will be reserved for public comment.

For more information, contact the Los Alamos Study group at 982-7747 or the Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety at 983-1976.

# Leaders, public share ideas on lab

By SHARYN OBSATZ  
The New Mexican

On the eve of the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Santa Fe's mayor and city councilor gave speeches Saturday urging Los Alamos National Laboratories not to start building "weapons of destruction" again.

"There are a number of people in this community who do not support jobs that lead to the death of people," City Councilor

Steven Farber said during a press conference. The lab and the federal government should refocus money and employment on cleaning up the environment and promoting the Earth's "well being," he said.

Farber's speech was part of an all-day hearing at City Hall sponsored by the city and U.S. Rep. Bill Richardson as a way to make some local residents' opinions heard by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The department is studying the impact of expanding the Los Ala-

mos lab's role in testing and rebuilding stockpiled nuclear weapons. The agency held hearings in Albuquerque and Los Alamos but not in Santa Fe.

About 100 people attended Saturday's session, which was led by members of the Los Alamos Study Group, a watchdog group that tracks activities at the lab.

Most opposed the idea of the lab taking over much of the stewardship and maintenance of the country's nuclear arsenal, which could also allow the lab to build new weapons. They argued that

the expansion would result in more environmental risks, including the shipping of radioactive material through Northern New Mexico.

"Congress is making all these decisions right now. They're going straight ahead as fast as possible," Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group said.

A videotape of comments from the hearing will be sent to the Department of Energy.

Protesters speaking against the plan are trying to "give the Department (of Energy) the

backbone it needs to stand up to the Pentagon," Mello said.

But George Chandler, one of several lab employees who support the plan, argued that Saturday's hearing wasn't a fair public hearing because the Los Alamos Study Group decided Santa Feans would speak first, skipping over people from Los Alamos who wanted to argue in support of the plan.

"We are not outlaws," said Chandler, a physicist in the lab's

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## LAB

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weapon testing division. "We are doing a job that is mandated by the federal government."

He said the government will transfer the nuclear stockpile program somewhere, so it's better to have it at LANL, where it will create a more stable job situation at a laboratory that faces job cutbacks and uncertainty.

More than 2,000 people in Santa Fe County work for the lab and its contractors, earning more than \$90 million per year, he said.

But Santa Fe mayor Debbie Jaramillo argued that "economic development is not a numbers game."

"It's about the quality of jobs,"

Jaramillo said during a break in the hearing.

She said in her speech that the lab will stay "culturally isolated" if it focuses only on designing and building bombs. The lab should shift to research on environmental restoration, arms control and technology transfer, she said.

It also should employ more Hispanics and people of color in management positions, Jaramillo said.

"I'd like to see Los Alamos become not an island of paranoia and privilege," she said, "but a place of hope and opportunity for people of Northern New Mexico, for their children and for the world."

## SECTION B



Mayor Debbie Jaramillo

# Santa Fe mayor calls Los Alamos 'island of paranoia and privilege'

LA Monitor  
8/7/95

By STEPHEN T. SHANKLAND  
Assistant Managing Editor

SANTA FE — Santa Fe Mayor Debbie Jaramillo called upon Los Alamos National Laboratory Saturday to redirect its mission away from nuclear weapons work and toward cleanup.

Jaramillo, calling the lab "an island of paranoia and privilege," said if LANL doesn't change its mission, it "will continue to be culturally and economically isolated" from the rest of northern New Mexico. This "cultural threat" is just as bad as the environmental threat posed by LANL "seeking the primary role" in the future nuclear weapons production complex, she said.

With the Cold War over, LANL is at a crossroads, she said. It should choose good work for the future:

technology transfer, environmental technology, arms control and non-proliferation, and cleanup of the "environmental catastrophe" left from the last five decades of lab activity. Jaramillo spoke at a Santa Fe meeting to gather public comment on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Stockpile Stewardship and Management, a document that addresses the environmental effects of the future Department of Energy nuclear weapons complex. Under the plan, LANL could get responsibility for building and recycling pits, the plutonium core of nuclear weapons, as well as several other nuclear weapon parts. In addition to these production duties, the lab could get facilities to assure scien-

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## MAYOR

(from Page A-1)

tifically the safety and readiness of the nuclear stockpile.

DOE held scoping meetings on the PEIS in Albuquerque and Los Alamos, but declined a request for a Santa Fe meeting. DOE said it would hold a public meeting in Santa Fe further along in the PEIS process. However, the Santa Fe City Council, along with Rep. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., took matters into their own hands and sponsored a Santa Fe meeting that was organized by the Los Alamos Study Group and other activists. Comments from the Santa Fe meeting will be submitted to DOE. Santa Fe residents weren't given the opportunity to give their opinions on the future of LANL, Jaramillo said at a news conference that preceded a public comment period. But "DOE's non-interest in holding a hearing here doesn't surprise me," she said.

The Santa Fe City Council on July 12 passed a resolution calling on DOE to hold a Santa Fe meeting.

The resolution stated that LANL "has been generally isolated (a) culturally, with to-date limited opportunities for the advancement of minorities into senior management positions; (b) economically, with lit-

tle evidence of major economic development in the region centered on laboratory activities and without the benefit of gross receipts taxes paid to the state of New Mexico; and (c) in environmental compliance, with an institutional record of chronic non-compliance with major environmental laws." The resolution also called for a "comprehensive national programmatic review of the future nuclear weapons complex in which LANL will inevitably be a central facility."

At the public hearing that took place Saturday afternoon, some Los Alamos residents at the meeting objected to the meeting protocol. Los Alamos Municipal Judge George Chandler, a LANL physicist, accused meeting organizers of being "a bunch of damned hypocrites" when they said non-Santa Feans would have to wait until Santa Fe speakers had spoken. Los Alamos residents already had an opportunity at the Los Alamos meeting, said Peggy Prince of the Santa Fe-based Los Alamos Study Group, which organized the meeting.

Chandler said that the activists complain they are shut out of the process, but when they have control of a meeting, "The first thing you do is shut down opposing voices."

Several Los Alamos residents in the audience applauded his remarks. Chandler also asked if Richardson endorsed the policy. But the organizers held firm, and the meeting went on. Jaramillo wasn't the only Santa Fe city government representative to speak at the event.

"We need to stop nuclear weapons production," said Santa Fe City Councilor Steven Farber at the news conference. "We need to redirect the government money spent in the nuclear weapons cycle to environmental issues." Also at the news

conference, Dr. Dan Kerlinsky, president of the New Mexico chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, said that DOE's Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship Program will bring improved weapons design skills to the nuclear weapons complex. "Each facility makes it easier for scientists to design a new nuclear weapon," he said. Fifty years of the nuclear arms race is enough, Kerlinsky said. "It's time to put these weapons away and shut down the enterprise for keeping these weapons around," he said. In the future, he said, humanity shouldn't have to ask itself, "Why didn't we stop the arms race when we had a chance?"

# Council hits back at SF mayor

By **CHARMIAN SCHALLER**  
Monitor Managing Editor

Chris Chandler of the Responsible Environmental Action League came to the County Council Monday to protest the handling of a meeting and news conference in Santa Fe Saturday — a meeting at which Santa Fe Mayor Debbie Jaramillo called Los Alamos an “island of paranoia and privilege.”

The meeting, sponsored by the Santa Fe City Council and Rep. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., was arranged because the Department of Energy declined to hold a scoping meeting in Santa Fe on the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the future nuclear weapons complex.

Meetings had been conducted by the DOE in June in Los Alamos and Albuquerque.

Reporting on the Santa Fe meeting during the “public comment” portion of the Los Alamos County

Council meeting Monday, Chandler said, “There was supposed to be a public meeting there,” and Richardson’s office said people would get equal time.

But, she said, Los Alamos people were forced to wait until the very end of the meeting and to speak last. They confronted a “stacked deck,” she said.

The moderator of the meeting was Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group (a Santa Fe anti-nuclear group), she said. Jay Coughlin of the Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (another anti-nuclear group) and representatives of the Physicians for Social Responsibility in Albuquerque were deeply involved as well.

Chandler has written a letter of protest to Richardson. She said she doesn’t think he understood just who was organizing the meeting and how it would be run.

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## COUNCIL

(from Page 1)

She also has written letters to the Santa Fe New Mexican and Journal North.

She said when she protested, Mello and Mary Riseley of the Study Group said, “We HAD our meeting.” But, Chandler noted, the meeting in Los Alamos was run by the DOE, and everyone had an equal opportunity to speak.

Chandler suggested that it would be appropriate for the Los Alamos County Council as well as her group to write to Richardson.

She said many people from Los Alamos left before they had they had an opportunity to speak in Santa Fe. Those who stayed, she said, had to sit through a series of choreographed “anti-nuclear harangues” by people organized and invited by LASG and CCNS.

The Los Alamos County Council indicated strong support for Chandler.

Council Chairman Lawry Mann said the council already has tried unsuccessfully to get Richardson and will keep trying — notably through its two Democratic members, Vice Chairwoman Ginger Welch and Councilor Denise Smith. He said the council is “developing a counter attack.”

Welch commented that she recently attended a technology transfer meeting at which four people from Santa Fe virtually dominated discussion, insisting that Los Alamos National Laboratory devote more attention to technology for Santa Fe. Now, she said, it appears that Richardson has signed a CCNS-written resolution sharply critical of LANL and a resolution supportive of the LASG position on sharing of a public opinion wall at the Bradbury Science Museum.

Smith thanked Chandler for attending the Santa Fe meeting. She said she understands how frustrating it is to be denied the opportunity to speak, and she said it is interesting to see that these groups are so manipulative when they are running a meeting. Such an approach, she said, is the “antithesis of democracy.”

Speaking in the context of Jaramillo’s remarks about Los Alamos, Smith said, “We as a community have worked very, very hard to bring together the communities of Northern New Mexico,” especially Española, Taos and the pueblos. We have “looked for common ground,” she said.

It is “unfortunate,” she said, that the mayor of Santa Fe doesn’t share the vision of a northern New Mexico that works together for mutual benefit.

It appears, she said, that it is Santa Fe that has become “elitist,” declining to reach out or share its wealth with other communities.

Councilor Morris Pongratz also thanked Chandler for her efforts “to set the record straight,” commenting, “That’s very hard to do.”

Pongratz said some people in Santa Fe are “using Brown Shirt (Nazi) tactics” in an effort to control public opinion. But, he said, it is important to remember that, “There are a lot of good people in Santa Fe.”

Councilor Jim Greenwood thanked Chris, commenting that he saw the announcement of the meeting and thought, “My God. I just can’t stand another one of these beat ‘em up meetings.”

He said Santa Fe reaps millions of dollars from the laboratory, an impact that rivals tourism in the Santa Fe economy. And, he said, tourism pays low wages compared to LANL, the employer of many people who live in Santa Fe or shop there.

He said he doesn’t understand why Jaramillo and others are ignoring LANL’s impact. He said their approach shows “ignorance” and “arrogance.”



# OPINIONS

4 Wednesday, August 9, 1995

Los Alamos Monitor

It dares  
to hurt it  
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ial critic  
(7-1966)

## Guest Column

# Addressing the Santa Fe resolution

• Following is a response to the resolution passed by the Santa Fe City Council: "Supporting Programmatic Review of the Future Nuclear Weapons Complex

The response was written by Chris and George Chandler of Los Alamos and was forwarded to the Department of Energy.

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We have no quarrel with a sincere desire on the part of the City Council and the people of Santa Fe to have a PEIS public comment meeting in Santa Fe. We encourage the DOE to hold such a meeting, and would be happy to attend ourselves, as we enjoy visiting Santa Fe and discussing the Laboratory and its mission and accomplishments. We are alarmed, however, at the tone of the resolution that was passed by the City Council; we believe we know the genesis of the language in the resolution, and we hope that it does not express the genuine feelings of the people of Santa Fe.

There was public testimony at a DOE meeting in Santa Fe on Thursday July 27 by a member of the Los Alamos Study Group (LASG), that the resolution was written by a member of the closely allied Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS), Jay Coghlin. Newspaper reports stated it was introduced at a Council meeting by Mayor Debbie Jaramillo, and passed two weeks later. The points made in the resolution about LANL and Los Alamos are typical of the CCNS and LASG, and of Mr. Coghlin: exaggerations, misrepresentations, and raising false fears to exploit public responses in furtherance of a private agenda. We wish to challenge several statements in the resolution.

*"Whereas LANL has been generally isolated (a) culturally, with to-date limited opportunities for the advancement of minorities into senior management positions..."*

The LANL is easily the least culturally isolated component of Northern New Mexico. LANL scientists are on the road continually engaging in discourse with other scientists in nations the world over on the entire spectrum of scientific activity, and are engaged in national and international political activity as well. LANL scientists are involved in negotiations on the nuclear weapons treaties, and in advising government agencies, the Congress, the United Nations, and the President on all science policy, not just nuclear weapons. LANL scientists also do much research in New Mexico in environmental monitoring, geology, and alternate energy.

LANL draws students at all levels, of all races, from all over the nation to Los Alamos to do research, to study, and to contribute to a cosmopolitan atmosphere in Los Alamos and Santa Fe. LANL supports legions of college students from Northern New Mexico with summer and holiday employment. LANL has outreach programs that puts scientists into New Mexico high schools and colleges, and that brings New Mexico science

8/9/95

teachers into Los Alamos on sabbatical.

The citizens of Los Alamos support with their time and money the great cultural institutions of Northern New Mexico including the Santa Fe Opera, the Santa Fe Symphony, the Spanish and Indian arts and crafts markets, and our population includes a large number of artists who supply and enlarge those markets. We are active as volunteers in charitable and social service work in many areas of Northern New Mexico.

The Laboratory has an aggressive minority recruitment and affirmative action program that has withstood court challenges and scrutiny by state and federal agencies. Minorities are represented in all levels of LANL to at least the levels of their statistical representation in the eligible technical population, and usually above that. This statement authored by CCNS is meant to create hostility to Los Alamos by drawing a negative image based on a false stereotype.

*"... (b) economically, with little evidence of major economic development in the region centered on laboratory activities and without the benefit of gross receipts taxes paid to the state of New Mexico..."* LANL with its contractors is the second largest employer in Santa Fe County, with over 2,000 employees. The salaries paid to Santa Fe residents are estimated at around \$90 million a year. Los Alamos has been a major driver in economic development planning for Northern New Mexico, through the Community Council and as a major player in TRADE, the Santa Fe - Los Alamos - Espanola cooperative economic-development effort. LANL's tech transfer and spin-off programs have contributed to or created many businesses in New Mexico. LANL does not pay gross receipts tax because of state and federal laws. LANL's employees pay income and property taxes in the millions of dollars, and LANL's contractors pay millions of dollars in gross receipts taxes in Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque.

*"... (c) in environmental compliance, with an institutional record of chronic non-compliance with major environmental laws..."* LANL's record of protecting its neighborhood from contamination is outstanding. LANL has at times been technically out of compliance with environmental laws. In some instances this has been the result of disputes with the regulating agency over the interpretation of the laws or the means to monitor compliance; LANL scientists are technologically often ahead of the regulators and prefer to use better means than are available to general industry. In some cases technology or politics (WIPP) hasn't caught up with the regulations, or regulations change suddenly, and compliance is simply not possible, and LANL sometimes pays fines, especially to the state. The Tiger Team visit in 1991 after an exhaustive and critical survey found no environmental deficiencies that could be considered an immediate danger to worker or public health and safety. The

Laboratory has an extensive monitoring and control program to guarantee that this condition continues.

**The closest areas to LANL, the first stops downstream and downwind, are neighborhoods in Los Alamos, inhabited by the families of the scientists, engineers, and technicians who operate the Laboratory. The demand for real estate downstream and downwind of the laboratory continues at unprecedented high levels.**

*"Whereas, the future benefits to Northern New Mexico are uncertain..."* It may be true that the future of the LANL is uncertain, but the goal of the CCNS and LASG is to hasten the demise. This argument is meant to frighten and recruit Santa Fe into contributing to the demise. A more enlightened policy would be to encourage the continuation of a clean, high-paying, high-tech industry in Northern New Mexico by asking the DOE to consolidate as much of the nuclear weapons complex as possible in Los Alamos, ensuring a stable laboratory and employment base for as long as nuclear weapons are a part of international politics, which will likely be a very long time. Consider the enormous effort the City of Santa Fe put forth to bring Nambe Mills to Santa Fe, to create, as we recall, fewer than 200 jobs that probably averaged around \$10 an hour. It would take 15 or 20 plants of that size to replace the employment income that LANL brings to Santa Fe.

To further illustrate the private agenda that the Santa Fe City Council has adopted, look at Sections 2 & 3 of the body of the resolution: *"...calls on the DOE to delay decisions regarding future production activities ... & ... formally subordinate decisions to be made in on-going LANL site-wide and project specific reviews to programmatic review..."* This is the LASG and CCNS anti-nuclear agenda: to create as much delay in the DARHT (the "project-specific review") EIS, Programmatic EIS, and site-wide EIS processes as possible. Why would Santa Fe care about that? I wonder if anybody on the City Council really understood what they were voting on here, or did they just succumb to pressure from political supporters?

In conclusion, let us express our sorrow at the breach that has been created between the people of Santa Fe and the people of Los Alamos by this action. We believe it was caused by the fanaticism of those well-meaning activists at LASG and CCNS who seem to care nothing for the relations between neighbors in Northern New Mexico, who apparently believe that their "noble purpose" justifies any tactic: in the single-minded pursuit of "peace," the truth and neighborly relations are unfortunate victims. We sincerely believe that the people of Santa Fe will not indulge these naive stereotypes and ugly misrepresentations about Los Alamos, and we hope their representatives on the City Council will look more closely the next time the LASG and CCNS drop an innocent-looking resolution on their political doorstep.

New Mexican 8-9-95

# Lab employees say hearing on LANL one-sided

By KATHLEENE PARKER  
For The New Mexican

LOS ALAMOS — Two Los Alamos residents are criticizing a public hearing — held in Santa Fe — on the impact of Los Alamos lab's role in testing and rebuilding nuclear weapons.

The two, both employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory, earlier announced they were forming a group, the Responsible Environmental Action League, to counter anti-lab bias.

The Santa Fe hearing was convened, in part by Rep. Bill Richardson, in response to criticism by Santa Feans, including Mayor Debbie Jaramillo, of the Department of Energy for holding hearings in Los Alamos and Albuquerque but not Santa Fe.

In a letter sent to Richardson and released to the news media, Christine and George Chandler criticized the Aug. 5 hearing at City Hall as being too closely aligned with and controlled by Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety and the Los Alamos Study Group, known for their anti-nuclear stance.

The Chandlers equated the format of the hearing with censorship, saying that Los Alamos residents were forced to wait until after Santa Fe residents for a chance to speak, in some cases a wait of six hours.

"The long delay and hostile environment drove many Los Alamos people from the meeting," the Chandlers wrote. "Everyone in the room with differing views

felt the bias of those moderating and suffered under the chilling effect of those in control who were hostile to their positions." George Chandler, a physicist in the lab's weapons-testing division, voiced similar concerns during the hearing.

But Mary Risely of the study group said the Chandlers' claims are nonsense.

"The fact is that every person who signed up from Los Alamos got a chance to speak and that meant two people from Santa Fe did not ... because there wasn't time," she said. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from Santa Fe residents — Los Alamos had already had its own hearings, she said.

In a phone interview, Richardson said if he had known what the format would be he would not have sponsored the meeting. He shares concerns about a lack of balance, he said.

"I feel both the city (of Santa Fe) and my office should have been more cognizant of the need for balance," he said. "But on the other hand, I think Los Alamos needs to justify its existence. I think they should take the heat like anyone else."

The Chandlers criticized Richardson.

"It appears to us that you have decided to involve yourself in propagating divisive stereotypes about Los Alamos by allying yourself with the anti-nuclear efforts to slander Los Alamos and close the laboratory," they wrote.

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# Distressing hyperbole

Editor:

I've read with despair the hyperbolic letters about Santa Fe activists. Might we not sort them out?

Our mayor is feisty; I think I would enjoy her outspokenness even if I were the brunt of it, but I understand those who might not enjoy it.

CCNS is, as I understand it, an organization mainly dedicated to environmental and health issues that result from nuclear work.

The Los Alamos Study Group is opposed to the manufacture and threatened use of nuclear weapons, just as most of the world opposes chemical and biological weapons. Nuclear weapons seem to me the worst of the lot because they inevitably devastate large civilian populations (including, possibly, innocent neighboring populations), and because they afflict the environment (including the environment of Los Alamos itself). The group's leadership, and much of its membership, are Buddhists and Quakers — peaceful persuasions. The style of the Study Group is intended, as Quakers say, "to speak truth to power." The Group — and I suppose all of Santa Fe — certainly does not "hate" Los Alamos, and in point of fact is not even in favor of the elimination of the lab: we desperately need our best scientific minds here working on, for example, new methods of environmental restoration. LASG supports a green lab and tech transfer. We also support increasing the lab's involvement in tracking, securing and safeguarding fissile materials worldwide. We look to you for visions of a peaceful and productive future.

These are vital issues of our time. We need to be thinking and talking about them. What an unutterable waste of time, paper and talent have been letters that are — it seems to me — resistances to substantive dialogue.

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