Say a firm and joyful no to terrible weapons of mass destruction

The bomb first was our weapon. Then it became our diplomacy. Next it became out economy. Now it's become our culture. We've become the people of the bomb. — E.L. Doctorow

Greg Mello
Commentary

7/21/97
New Mexico

Nowhere is this more true than here in New Mexico, where the University of California (Los Alamos) and the Lockheed-Martin Company (Sandia) are fast becoming world leaders in the production — no longer just the design — of nuclear weapons. These products are "weapons of mass destruction," a term that also includes chemical and biological weapons. Making weapons like this is not quite an ordinary job. Let's face it: making weapons of mass destruction is not a great deall different than making ovens in case a Holocaust is needed someday.

Even within the class of weapons of mass destruction nuclear weapons are uniquely destructive. Dr. Siegfried S. Hecker, LANL's director, told Congress in March that nuclear weapons "are unique in their ability to inflict massive damage to a target — swiftly and surely ... nuclear weapons are the 'big stick' that defends our homeland ...." And let no one doubt, Dr. Hecker said, that "we" would be "unwilling or unable to use the nuclear weapons in our stockpile."

This kind of bellicose rhetoric is new. It projects what the "warheads" hope will be a new consensus of legitimacy for nuclear weapons, a watershed shift in perception and hence funding. Already the nuclear weapons budget is considerably higher, in constant dollars, than it was on average during the Cold War. And it is growing. Hecker promotes weapons of mass destruction to keep the money flowing to his lab — by the truckload if possible.

Hecker is not alone. He is more than matched by Sandia director Paul Robinson, who told the *Los Angeles Times* that any further reductions in the U.S. arsenal would require, in his view, increased targeting of the Russian people.

These men are assumed to speak for all their employees. In the language of political pork, the *lingua franca* of Congress, they are assumed to speak for the rest of the state as well — we, the people of the bomb.

The labs' nuclear promotion begins, but does not end, with weapons of mass destruction. One of Los Alamos' tactical goals is now to create what it calls "Our Plutonium Future," in part through its "Global Nuclear Vision Project," a series of meetings between the nuclear elite of many nations that is designed to work out an agenda to shape public policy and perceptions regarding "all things nuclear."

Walking its talk, Los Alamos is now poised to begin manufacturing "pits," the plutonium cores of nuclear weapons. But this too is just the beginning. Lab managers hope to please their "customers" (their term) in other ways as well, including establishing the capability to make complete thermonuclear explosives. These barbaric missions are painted with an Orwellian rouge that disguises self-serving manipulation; flashy euphemisms cover repulsive realities. Service, so to speak, with a sordid smile.

The fact that a university would stump for such work is an education in itself.

The labs' future thus looks a lot like the past, only more so. But what about the rest of us — downwind, downstreat and down dollar? What does our future hold?

I think you can see it, approaching from the next century like a highway sign: "Welcome to New Mexico! World Capital of Weapons of Mass Destruction."

Whether visible or invisible, that would be *our* sign, *our* identity, *our* legacy to our children and to our land.

Not long ago a Hispanic farmer was asked: "What does the Rio Grande mean to you?"

"It is the river of righteousness," was the reply. In these vivid, memorable words, we hear a heart and mind not separate from the world — a world which is flowing, intrinsically ethical and fundamentally Good.

That river will flow forever, but the path of nuclear weapons, the path we are choosing, does not lead by these waters. Where does it go? Through the Jornada del Muerto. I am afraid there will be nothing for us to drink there. And I am not sure tourists will continue to find it so very attractive either.

It is simply no good to try to build a culture on weapons of mass destruction. These weapons do not deter threats to our "national security;" they *are* threats to our security. They do not deter "rogue states;" they *define* rogue states. Those who make them do not protect us from terrorists; they *are* terrorists, witting or unwitting. These weapons deter nothing but the military budget cuts we so plainly need to finance our schools, care for our families and protect our communities.

More than this, these weapons corrode our conscience, undermine the authority of the state they supposedly protect, and attack the democratic freedoms they purport to guard. They and the fraudulent paradign of "security" they embody distract us from the urgent cries of a world — our only world — being relentlessly crushed beneath the bulldozers of greed.

In a world of inverted values, where our local masters of war patriotically promote weapons of mass destruction, a firm and joyful "no!" from the barricades is a liberating "yes!" to human life and the generations yet to come.

Greg Mello of Santa Fe is a member of the Los Alamos Study Group.

Labs Craft Warhead Backup

7/23/97

Weapons Could Replace Aging Nuclear Arsenal

p. A1

By John Fleck
Journal Staff Writer

Sandia and Los Alamos national laboratories are designing a possible replacement for nuclear warheads carried by the U.S. Navy's Trident nuclear submarines, the first such design since the end of the Cold War.

No decision has been made to build any of the newly designed warheads, but the U.S. military wants to be prepared should something go wrong with the existing warheads as they age, said Sandia vice president Roger Hagengruber.

The warhead will match, as closely as possible, the existing W88 warheads carried on U.S. nuclear-armed missile subs, Hagengruber said Tuesday.

Hagengruber said that over the next few decades, similar redesign efforts will be required for the other five nuclear weapons that will remain in the United States' nuclear arsenal.

Critics say the work sends a dangerous signal.

"Development of new warheads undermines the nonproliferation bargain that the nuclear states have made with the rest of the world," said Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group, a Santa Fe arms control organization.

Hagengruber countered that the work on the Navy missile warhead does not constitute a "new nuclear weapon."

"It is a program that would replace it as close to its original specifications as possible," he said. "Nothing here represents a new nuclear weapon. Nothing."

Details of the design work were revealed in Sandia documents obtained by Mello's group under the federal Freedom of Information Act, and Hagengruber elaborated on it in an interview.

According to the documents, the program calls for development and non-nuclear testing of the replacement warhead over the next six years, including missile flight tests in 2002 and 2003.

At the end of that time, Hagengruber said, the government will be in a position to build some of the weapons if they are needed.

The W88, first manufactured in the late 1980s, explodes with a force more than 30 times greater than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

While preliminary studies of new nuclear weapon designs have been conducted since the end of the Cold War, this is the first time a full-scale design has been developed, according to Hagengruber.

The design work leads the laboratories into two areas of fierce debate in the nuclear weapons community — what marks a "new" weapon, and what is the best way to

See **LABS** *on* **PAGE A2**

Labs Design Possible Warhead Replacement

from **PAGE A1**

maintain the reliability of old U.S. nuclear weapons as they age.

The work comes at a time when the laboratories are entering uncertain territory, as they seek to maintain the U.S. arsenal without nuclear test blasts.

The United States has not conducted an underground test since 1992, and last September President Clinton signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a worldwide ban on such tests.

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has also dismantled many of its nuclear weapons, but the military still retains an arsenal, and Congress and the administration have charged the nuclear weapons laboratories with the job of ensuring that it remains safe and reliable.

"Ultimately nothing lasts forever," said Los Alamos spokesman Jim Danneskiold, "and the United States is going to need nuclear weapons for some time."

The United States has committed to not manufacturing any "new" nuclear weapons.

"Today, the United States has no new strategic weapons systems in design," Gen. Eugene Habiger, commander of the military's Strategic Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee in March. "With appropriate investments to sustain them for the long haul, our existing strategic systems should last well into the first quarter of the next century."

While Hagengruber said the work does not constitute a "new nuclear weapon," the Sandia documents obtained by Mello describe it as a "new design."

Mello and other critics charge that redesigning a nuclear weapon, rather than simply rebuilding it from the existing blueprints, starts down a dangerous path.

Without being able to conduct a full-scale nuclear test, the laboratories won't be sure the weapon will perform as designed, or will be as safe as it should be, he said.

Hagengruber argued that buil ing a precise replica of old desig is impossible, because manufactu ing processes change and not all t the details of how the bomb we built are captured in the blueprint

To minimize the problems assoc ated with the test ban, key nuclea components would be reuse Hagenbruber said, while other sy tems that can be tested, such as th firing and security systems, woul be designed to be as reliable as po sible.

Paper: Albuquerque Tribune, The (NM)
Title: National labs working on warhead replacement
Date: July 23, 1997

New Mexico's national laboratories are designing a nuclear warhead to possibly replace aging ones on submarines, a Sandia official says.

Military officials have not yet decided whether to actually make the new warheads, but Sandia and Los Alamos were working on designs.

The designs will closely match the W88 warheads carried on U.S. nuclear-armed missile subs, Sandia vice president Roger Hagengruber said Tuesday.

This is the first time a full-scale design has been developed since the end of the Cold War, Hagengruber said in a copyright story by the Albuquerque Journal today.

Similar redesign efforts would be required for other nuclear weapons over the next few decades, he said.

Critics say the post-Cold War work for the Navy sends a dangerous signal.

"Development of new warheads undermines the non-proliferation bargain that the nuclear states have made with the rest of the world," said Greg Mello of the **Los Alamos Study Group**, a Santa Fe arms-control organization.

But New Mexico Sen. Jeff Bingaman said today that he is comfortable with the work and has no evidence that the work violates "any of our international pledges regarding nuclear weapons."

He said he was not aware of any complaint from any country about this or any other work at the nation's nuclear-weapon labs.

"This is exactly what I was told several months ago when this first came up," he said, that "nothing they are doing constitutes the development of a new nuclear weapon."

Hagengruber agreed.

"It is a program that would replace it as close to its original specifications as possible," he said. "Nothing here represents a new nuclear weapon. Nothing."

Retired Sandia nuclear-weapon scientist Bob Peurifoy said today that the warhead now in use is the youngest in the U.S. arsenal and ought to be fine for many years.

Peurifoy said the idea of it being a new weapon is "nonsense."

He said the warhead system is the youngest in the arsenal and is "solid, the single best deterrent we have."

"I believe in a deterrent, and you and I get a vote on that," Peurifoy said, referring to continuing presidential and congressional support for the labs to maintain a robust and safe nuclear-weapon arsenal.

He said Sandia is portraying the program the wrong way, talking about "improving or redesigning, which gets the attention of the anti-weapon people in Santa Fe."

"What the labs are trying to do is preserve a credible, safe deterrent," he said.

As far as he knows, there are no problems with it, he said. But at some point, he said, it will be "prudent planning to replace or refurbish it, not redesign it."

Details about the program were found in Sandia documents obtained by Mello's group under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

The program calls for development and non-nuclear testing of the replacement warhead over the next six years, including missile flight tests in 2002 and 2003, according to the documents.

Then the government could build some of the weapons if needed, Hagengruber said.

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has dismantled many of its nuclear weapons, but estimates are that the U.S. stockpile has about 7,100 warheads. Congress has authorized a program that projects spending about $4 billion per year for a decade on maintaining their reliability and safety.

"Ultimately nothing lasts forever," said Los Alamos spokesman Jim Danneskiold, "and the United States is going to need nuclear weapons for some time."

Mello and other critics charge that redesigning a nuclear weapon, rather than simply rebuilding it from the existing blueprints, is the start of a dangerous path.

Mello maintains that without being able to conduct a full-scale nuclear test, the laboratories won't be sure weapons will perform as designed.

The W88, which was first built in the late 1980s, has a yield of about 475 kilotons, which is nearly 40 times greater than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, which monitors nuclear weapons.

Author: Staff and wire reports
Page: A10

 LA Monitor 7.24.97

LA Study Group gives its viewpoint on Bradbury wall

Editor:

I am a board member of the Los Alamos Study Group (LASG) and would like to comment on Peter Kray's 7/8/97 Monitor article, "Free Speech or Trespass?" I would also like to address the museum wall and lottery issues, and our arrests for leafletting.

The Monitor quotes (Bradbury Science) Museum Director (John) Rhoades: "The Study Group wants exclusive rights to that space for an anti-nuclear exhibit!" An exclusive right has never been our position. A wall was promised and granted, however, for the expression of anti-nuclear views, as the following history shows. No other dissenting anti-nuclear group has come forward to ask for space.

In 1992, LASG requested museum wall space for anti-nuclear opinion after successful litigation by California activists seeking to counter pro-nuclear exhibits at the Lawrence Livermore Visitors Center. On July 10, 1992, LANL Deputy Director Jim Jackson wrote us saying, "We recognize the right of reasonable access to the museum," urging us to work with museum staff on the specifics.

Which we did. Rhoades asked us on Aug. 11, 1992, to be "gatekeepers" (John's term) of the 20-foot section of wall he made available for anti-nuclear dissent. We had already been in discussions with Mr. Rhoades' supervisor, Scott Duncan, who on June 18, 1992, suggested that instead of providing alternative training for museum docents, Study Group members would be welcome inside the museum as docents.

When the Bradbury Museum opened in early April of 1993, our nine exhibit panels were there, introduced by the museum's introductory panel: "The exhibit on this wall has been designed by a group of citizens who disagree with aspects of the laboratory's past and current research. The Bradbury Science Museum has made this space available to the group to encourage responsible debate about the role and future of the laboratory." We had spent several thousand dollars and months of work on these exhibits, with LANL generously supplying maps and photographs.

Our exhibits hung without incident for more than two years, in perfect cooperation with LANL, during which time they were popular with many visitors, as the thoughtful comments in the museum's log books show.

From 1992 until now, no other dissenting group has come forward to compete for dissenting space. Though we would have no problem with sharing the wall with other anti-nuclear groups, should the occasion arise, the museum has now given what is left of the space it originally allotted for dissent to the pro-nuclear Los Alamos Education Group (LAEG), who are emeritus lab employees and veterans who initially organized to defend the history, as they understand it, of the atomic bombing of Japan.

The museum now urges us to enter a lottery against LAEG for space. There are many reasons why the museum's proposed "lottery" is wrong-headed, the first of which is that it is entirely unnecessary, there being no other applicants for dissent. I use the term "proposed" deliberately, since there has not been more than one entry in each museum "lottery" so far.

There are additional problems with current policy. First, it would mischaracterize anti-nuclear dissent as one half of a controversy with LAEG, over which "the laboratory" would reign magisterially. Our dispute is obviously not with LAEG, but with certain LANL programs, as well as with a museum that, without dissent such as ours, gives visitors no more than the lab's point of view. Second, the two small walls now provided — two thirds of a small niche — do not begin to equal in space or visibility the space we were promised and granted; exhibit space is now very pinched, and far fewer people can view the exhibit comfortably, let alone study it carefully as many did before — assuming they can find it at all.

The wall issue could best be resolved by Rhoades, but only if he had the support of Deputy Director Jim Jackson, groups like Our Common Ground, citizens, and the museum staff. Politics played too big a role in 1995, when the LAEG group demanded some of our wall space. Among the letters they solicited and gave to the museum director was an intimidating one from ex-LANL-Director Harold Agnew, who wrote: "We got rid of the Smithsonian curator over the Enola Gay fiasco. Hopefully, the Bradbury staff will understand." John should not have to suffer intimidation like this.

On another front, nine of us have been arrested for leafletting at the museum since April 19. In each case, we stood well out of the way of passing visitors and were uniformly courteous. Bill Sprouse of LANL security, who has known us for years, can confirm our polite, courteous attitude. Nevertheless, LANL spokesperson James Rickman, doing his job I suppose, expressed concerns about "sticking a leaflet in your face." But in a New Mexican article of 4-20-97, a Brazilian visitor who witnessed two of our arrests is quoted otherwise: "It is terrible. They seem to be such nice people."

Since visitors to the museum come from several directions, we cannot reach them from the public sidewalks without a small army. In inclement weather, we would like to be free to stand in the museum's ample lobby; some of our leafletters will be elderly. In any case, the visitors are not accessible in rain or snow out on the sidewalk. Courts have ruled that access to the intended audience cannot be denied if that access is compatible with the purposes of the public facility.

Both the leafletting and wall space issues are especially important First Amendment free speech cases because they test citizens' right to protest the policies of their government. We hope LANL doesn't believe it has to destroy our constitutional rights in order to save them.

Cathie Sullivan
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Edition--Journal North Date--08/02/1997 Page-- 3

UC Panel Considering New LANL Whistleblower Program

Journal Staff Report

LOS ALAMOS -- A University of California panel signaled Thursday night it will look at a new whistleblower program for Los Alamos National Laboratory, which it manages.

A diverse assembly of activists promoted the new program in meetings this week. Some lab workers told of a pervasive fear that stifles dissent, as well as reporting environmental and safety problems.

The proposed program, founded at the Hanford Reservation near Richland, Wash., channels worker reports of environmental, safety or work problems to a council of contractors, activists and whistleblowers for mediation.

Activists secured similar indications of interest in the program this week from outgoing lab director Sig Hecker and from the lab's owner, the U.S. Department of Energy.

Those same activists, mostly based in Santa Fe, sparked protests from Los Alamos County officials that the Environment, Safety and Health Panel to the UC President's Council on the DOE Laboratories paid too much attention to outsiders on environmental and other lab-related issues.

Prevailing winds waft the lab's radioactive air pollutants directly over Los Alamos homes, so the panel should give more weight to the elected officials in Los Alamos than to nonelected activists from Santa Fe, said County Councilor Christine Chandler

"Instead, we have observed the unwarranted care and feeding of those who portray themselves as self-appointed protectors of the environment," Chandler, also a lab attorney, told the panel at Los Alamos High School auditorium. "We committed to supporting the laboratory, but we expect reciprocity. It is our advice and counsel that should be sought."

Councilor Morris Pongratz, a lab scientist, joined Chandler in chiding the panel for paying special attention to a Santa Fe anti-nuclear group, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety. CCNS recently won a settlement in which DOE agreed to pay for audits of radioactive air emissions to check the lab's compliance with the federal Clean Air Act.

"We have been given the charter to speak for the public, not CCNS," Pongratz said. "We are accountable to the citizens of Los Alamos and should be the ones doing radiation monitoring in the community."

The panel studies the lab's protection of the environment, worker safety and public health. It reports to a council that advises UC President Richard Atkinson on management of LANL and two other DOE laboratories in California.

The complaints from Los Alamos officials reveal their longstanding resentment of outsiders criticizing the lab and its business.

They also reflect Los Alamos' anxiety at the prospect of being forgotten or marginalized as northern New Mexico presses the lab to be a better neighbor to the entire region -- as an economic engine, agent of social change and environmental steward.

Activists agree the Los Alamos council should have a voice on environmental issues, but they find its insistence on being the sole voice suspect.

"Clearly Los Alamos is a one-company town. You're not going to find people in this community taking a strong stand on ES&H issues because they can't stand up to the company," said Jay Coghlan, program director for CCNS.

Greg Mello, head of the Los Alamos Study Group, has duplicated lab wind models showing Los Alamos as the most vulnerable community from radioactive air emissions and from nuclear accidents.

"I think they have a point. They also have a conflict of interest," Mello said. "The Los Alamos community is not well known for its critical reassessment of any laboratory program but rather tends to be universally supportive. It can't be trusted for any sort of objective evaluation."

CCNS and a Washington, D.C. whistleblower group called the Government Accountability Project have aggressively promoted the Hanford Joint Council as a model for LANL to use in handling whistleblower complaints.

The Hanford council tends to keep whistleblower cases from turning into expensive court battles and ruining the careers of both employees and managers, the groups say.

Patricia Buffler, chairwoman of the UC panel, said some of her colleagues on the panel are interested.

"I think a few of us have said this is something the University of California should look at," said Buffler, an epidemiologist and dean of public health at UC-Berkeley.

Publication: Jnl Legacy 1995 to July 2005; Date: Aug 7, 1997; Section: Final; Page: 7

Section--Op-Ed Edition--Final Date--08/07/1997 Page--A15

LETTERS TO THE JOURNAL

DOE's Labs Are Poisoning, Robbing Taxpayers

THANKS TO the Journal for the informative article on the radioactive bee studies at the Department of Energy's Los Alamos National Laboratory. It sure is comforting to know that our tax dollars are being spent so well!

I am a bit curious though why DOE is researching bees when they've already conducted thousands of illegal radioactive experiments on humans.

These mad scientists have already exposed World War II veterans, the "downwinders" of southern Utah, learning disabled school children and countless other disempowered and misinformed citizens and animals to the horrors of radioactive experiments.

Former DOE Secretary Hazel O'Leary last year formally apologized for the human experiments which started in the '50s and only ended a few years ago. (Meanwhile) the animal experiments at the Inhalation Toxicology Institute at Kirtland Air Force Base continue.

When will the public's apathy toward this agency's incompetence and disregard for the public's safety end? The weapons of mass destruction which DOE produces are continually poisoning the people and the planet and draining the U.S. Treasury of money that is desperately needed to clean up the nuclear nightmare it has created. Los Alamos is already $8 million over budget this year, and DOE wants $40 billion for nuclear experiments over the next 10 years.

New Mexicans must stand up to the federal government and demand that this institutionalized insanity end. The first step should be to ensure the dismantling of the out-of-control DOE, and if our current politicians are too short-sighted to see what DOE's agenda is doing to us, ... then they should be thrown out of office.

Fortunately, watchdog groups like Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD) and the Los Alamos Study Group are fighting against DOE's undeclared nuclear war on its own citizens.

DOE is so frightened by this handful of informed and active non-violent citizens that it recently had nine activists at the taxpayer-funded Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos arrested for handing out the Bill of Rights on the sidewalk!

We are being systematically poisoned and robbed by DOE and it's time taxpayers said, "Enough is enough."

DON KIMBALL

Publication: Jnl Legacy 1995 to July 2005; Date: Aug 10, 1997; Section: Journal North; Page: 65

Edition--Journal North Date--08/10/1997 Page--1

Protesters Remember Nagasaki

S.U. Mahesh Journal Staff Writer

LOS ALAMOS -- A group of anti-nuclear weapons activists held a rally Saturday to remember atomic bomb victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan and to protest the nuclear weapons program at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Fifty-two years ago Saturday, about 140,000 people were killed when the U.S. Air Force dropped a plutonium bomb on Nagasaki.

On Aug. 6, 1945, a uranium bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, killing tens of thousands of civilians. The bombs were dropped almost four years after a Japanese air raid destroyed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

Carrying sunflowers as a symbols of peace, about 25 people gathered at the entrance of LANL, the birthplace of the atomic bomb.

Some carried placards that read, "Help end the lethal legacy world-wide," "Stop LANL" and "Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Never again."

The group marched from LANL's entrance to Ashley Pond, where they "dismantled" a nuclear weapon made of stickers attached to a transparent plastic board.

Each activist pulled out a sticker that contained messages against nuclear weapons.

Mill Tailins and members of his anti-nuclear weapons group, 1000 Clowns, were dressed as clowns.

"We're dead serious even though we use humor to get our message across," Tailins said.

A resident of Llano, Tailins said his group would like to see nuclear weapons banned all across the world.

"There are not many of us, but we do represent a lot of people," he said. "We believe there are a lot more people opposed to nuclear weapons than the government lets you believe."

Mary Riseley, an activist from Gila, said she could never forget what had happened in Nagasaki more than five decades ago.

"(The) bombing of Hiroshima is very controversial, but the Nagasaki bombing was completely grotesque. They only dropped the bomb on Nagasaki to see if it worked," Riseley said.

"I don't want to see another Hiroshima or Nagasaki. It will never happen if we remember," she said.

Virginia Miller, a Santa Fe resident, said she favored banning all nuclear weapons.

"I want all nuclear weapons abolished worldwide, and it can begin right here in this country and right here in Los Alamos, where the nuclear weapons are being produced," Miller said.

The rally was organized by Abolition 2000, a worldwide coalition of more than 700 groups, as part of several events held worldwide at nuclear weapons facilities on Nagasaki Day.

Peggy Prince, the group's Santa Fe representative, said Abolition 2000 plans to work toward banning all nuclear weapons by 2000.

PHOTO BY: JANE BERNARD/JOURNAL

PHOTO: Color

LIGHT TOUCH, HEAVY MESSAGE: Bonnie Bonneau of El Prado talks with a woman who identified herself as Auntie War during a protest against nuclear weapons at Ashley Pond in Los Alamos on Saturday.

Freedom is limited

8/10/97 LA Monitor

Editor:

Our arrest at the Bradbury Science Museum recently has brought to light some disturbing realities about our personal freedom here in America. We do have great personal freedom in this country, but only as long as we are participating in the consumer economy. We have the freedom to buy what we want, when we want, where we want. However, when we speak out against corporate and military greed, we find that our freedoms evaporate, and we can be arrested for even so innocent an action as handing out the Bill of Rights.

After the Nazi holocaust, people asked why so many people went quietly to their death. Why wasn't there more resistance? Why didn't soldiers question their orders? It is not so different in the struggle against nuclear weapons. It is hard for people to stand up and speak out against the policies of their government. You either feel powerless to effect change or are nervous that you will be labeled a criminal and put in jail or worse. So the bulk of people choose not to look at the questionable activities of government. Instead you distract yourselves with consumer activities and entertainments. If you are poor, you don't have the time or energy. You are involved in a struggle just to feed your family.

Meanwhile, political leaders, lab scientists and others who are in the best position to question "their orders" shy away from the whole subject of morality and conscience. Whatever segment of nuclear research or production they are in has been distorted by tunnel vision. There are no faces on their victims. (The victims of nuclear weapons include more than just the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They include everyone who has gotten cancer from any aspect of our nuclear legacy, including just breathing second-hand pollution — the fate of all downwinders!)

The Los Alamos Study Group's exhibit at the Bradbury Science Museum was a small voice for conscience — for putting a face on the countless victims of our nuclear obsession. According to comments written there, it was appreciated by a great many museum visitors. Moreover, it was a sign that we are still a democracy. This country was founded on political dissent. We are supposed to be guaranteed certain freedoms, such as the right of free speech and the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

There is so much money and momentum behind the military/industrial complex. Instead of slowing down the nuclear threat, as seems appropriate in a post Cold War era, we are speeding up as we head toward the curves of a new century. All we ask is to be a small squeal in the braking system — reassurance that we still care about the passengers on board! I am, frankly, very surprised that the lab and the university that runs it are willing to risk fascism just to suppress our disagreement over the worth of nuclear weapons.

Jean Nichols
P.O. Box 30
Llano, N.M.

DOE arms program foes lose challenge

8/12/97

By RAY RIVERA
The New Mexican

Environmentalists have lost a major battle to curb the Department of Energy's Stockpile Stewardship and Management Program.

A federal judge on Friday ruled against a consortium of anti-nuclear groups seeking to prevent increased plutonium pit production at Los Alamos National Laboratory and the creation of the National Ignitions Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, Calif.

But environmentalists say the ruling isn't a total loss.

The opinion issued Friday by U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin in Washington D.C. said national security concerns warranted the continuation of stockpile stewardship, a DOE program to maintain the nation's aging nuclear weapons arsenal. In the same ruling, however, he ordered the DOE "to perform a fuller disclosure of the environmental, health and safety risks asso-

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DOE

Continued from Page B-1

ciated with the plutonium pit fabrication program at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory."

"First of all, we're disappointed the judge didn't see the wisdom of stopping the construction or upgrading of DOE's facilities," said Jay Coghlin of the Santa Fe-based Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety. "At the same time, it's pleasing that he recognized that many of our concerns are real."

Concerned Citizens and the Los Alamos Study Group were among 39 groups nationwide to file the suit.

Coghlin referred to a passage in the judge's 24-page opinion that stated: "The court recognizes fully that there have been enough accidents involving nuclear programs to make Plaintiffs' concerns over the environmental, health and safety issues in this case real."

Sporkin cited the closure of the Rocky Flats pit production plant in 1989 after more than 700 plutonium-induced fires and several radiation leaks.

Plutonium pits are the grapefruit-sized triggers at the heart of nuclear warheads. Pit production involves the processing of substantial quantities of plutonium, a highly toxic nuclear explosive material. The DOE's proposal to transfer Rocky Flats' production capability to LANL would increase both the number and types of pits LANL produces. The lab is currently able to produce about 20 pits a year.

A spokesman at Los Alamos National Laboratory referred questions to the Department of Energy in Washington. Officials there could not be reached late Monday.

Paper: Albuquerque Tribune, The (NM)
Title: Senators: Test-ban hearings needed
Date: September 12, 1997

New Mexico's U.S. senators today made separate calls for congressional hearings on the languishing Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The international treaty, agreed to in principle last year but yet to be ratified by the major nuclear powers, would ban all nuclear-weapons tests.

Two of the nation's three nuclear-weapons labs are in New Mexico. A test ban could mean an increased lab focus on maintaining the safety and reliability of existing weapons.

Sen. Pete Domenici, a Albuquerque Republican, said he will conduct a series of hearings beginning next month as chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, a Silver City Democrat, called on the leaders of the Senate Armed Services Committee to schedule hearings "at our earliest opportunity."

Senate approval is needed to ratify the treaty. Some say U.S. ratification has languished because of the complexities and likely opposition from those who feel that underground testing is fundamental to maintaining a nuclear arsenal.

"There are certainly benefits to a comprehensive test ban, but there are also costs and risks," Domenici said today, "both with respect to maintenance of our nuclear weapons and our varying ability to verify treaty compliance by others."

Bingaman endorsed ratification of the treaty which he said is "in our own national interest and in the interest of world peace." But he said decisions made on alternatives to underground tests could affect the labs.

The calls for the hearings drew both praise and criticism from a New Mexico anti-nuclear group that wants the treaty ratified but fears it is being used as an excuse to expand U.S. nuclear-weapons research.

Todd Macon, spokesman for the Nuclear **Los Alamos Study Group** in Santa Fe, said the treaty is in "a fragile environment right now" and warned that U.S. alternatives to testing will mock the "spirit and intent" of the treaty.

As part of the hearing process, the Senate is expected to examine the Department of Energy's Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship Program. DOE, which owns the Los Alamos lab and Sandia labs in Albuquerque, has called for $4 billion-per- year budgets over the next decade to pay for the program.

The program is seen as essential in maintaining budgets and staffing at the nation's nuclear-weapons labs.

The program is aimed largely at filling the testing void with exotic and costly accelerators and lasers that simulate tiny nuclear-weapons blasts.

A major component is the $1 billion National Ignition Facility, a powerful fusion energy laser being built at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, the nation's third nuclear-weapons lab.

Livermore and DOE claim the machine is essential in a test ban environment. But many of DOE's own weapon scientists at all three nuclear labs told the Albuquerque Tribune last May that it is not. Some believe it will fail to achieve its basic science objectives.

Author: Lawrence Spohn TRIBUNE REPORTER
Page: A5

8/13/97 S.F. Reporter

INSIDE STORY

Group Fights Labs Over Free Speech

BY ANNE CONSTABLE

U.S. courts have protected the rights of Americans to distribute leaflets in shopping centers, airports, private college campuses and at the entrance of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. One day a case involving the Bradbury Science Museum in Los Alamos might join that pantheon of constitutional free speech cases.

The case centers on whether the Los Alamos National Laboratory may prevent members of an anti-nuclear organization from leafletting at its museum, which is funded by U.S. taxpayers. The lab said it would be "unreasonably disruptive" to its educational mission and threatened legal action against anyone who tried. Last April two members of the Los Alamos Study Group were arrested by Los Alamos police and charged with criminal trespass for peacefully handing out literature under the museum portico. Another seven were arrested in June. The case is scheduled for trial in magistrate court in Los Alamos on Sept. 30.

The group began its leafletting campaign after the museum changed its policy on the allocation of space it had provided to the study group since 1993 for anti-nuclear opinion. The original decision to allow the alternative opinion by an outside group within the museum followed a California case in which Bay Area dissenters won space for their anti-nuclear message at the visitors' center at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The study group's exhibit was included when the Bradbury museum opened in April 1993. Visitors felt strongly about it and filled 10 books with a range of comment. A group of retired lab employees and World War II veterans calling themselves the Los Alamos Education Group objected and the study group agreed to discuss sharing the space. Museum director John Rhoades decided to split the wall down the middle and allow a rebuttal exhibit by the veterans. The space would henceforth be titled "public forum" and exhibitors would be determined by lottery. Last February the study group removed its remaining display and informed the lab that it intended to begin leafletting to provide guests (an estimated 130,000 per year) with dissenting views on lab activities.

"Visitors leave with the impression that LANL does all kinds of benign science without a clue that the exhibited projects have minuscule budgets compared to LANL's huge weapons programs," the study group said in a flyer announcing their plan. "American taxpayers pay for this museum and their views on nuclear weapons policy deserve to be heard and expressed within its walls."

The lab responded that leafletting would not be tolerated. Lab attorney Pierre Levy wrote that the University of California, which operates the lab, "has the power to preserve the property under its control for the use to which it is lawfully dedicated." He argued that the museum was not a public forum.

The study group maintained that the lab rationale was precisely the kind rejected by the courts, particularly when the expressive activities seek to present an alternative, unpopular or uncomfortable point of view. In 1986, they pointed out, Jews for Jesus challenged the constitutionality of a resolution that prohibited leafletting in the central terminal area of the Los Angeles Airport, ostensibly because it would create congestion. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down the resolution and ruled that nondisruptive speech is protected even in a nonpublic forum.

'We kept wondering why they didn't set limits. The courts would have upheld them.'

RUTH PROKOP, ATTORNEY

The lab claimed that it was not imposing a "blanket ban" on free speech, which clearly is illegal. But Ruth Prokop, a former government lawyer who is a legal consultant for the study group, said, "We kept wondering why they didn't set limits. The courts would have upheld them."

While courts have allowed reasonable restrictions related to the time, place and manner of free speech, the lab waited until the day before the study group planned to leaflet a second time before formally suggesting the dissenters could stand on the sidewalk along Central Avenue. The study group rejected the modification.

At the last minute, the lab also offered to submit the matter to the Department of Energy's office of dispute resolution and to seek dismissal of the previous trespassing charges if the study group agreed to mediation. It was too late. The study group went ahead with its plans.

John Boyd, an Albuquerque attorney, is defending the "Los Alamos Nine" in magistrate court. He earlier represented Green Party Senate candidate Abraham Gutmann, who was charged with trespassing at the State Fair for distributing campaign brochures. The charge was dismissed. Prokop views the Bradbury arrests as "a very clearcut case" of unconstitutional restriction of free speech. But First District Attorney Henry Valdez, whose office is prosecuting the trespassers, said, "Everyone wants to know exactly what is permitted." ■

Quick Lab Cleanup Pushed

Critics Claim Plan Will Only Scratch the Surface

8/29/97

BY IAN HOFFMAN
Journal Staff Writer

ALBUQUERQUE — The environmental chief for the U.S. Department of Energy labored Tuesday to sell the public on a faster cleanup of pollution left over from the Cold War heydey of nuclear weapons production.

DOE Assistant Secretary Al Alm is banking that his plan's promise to get the job done by 2006 will rejuvenate flagging support in Congress for nuclear cleanup.

With a steady $6 billion a year, Alm said, Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque can be cleaned up by 2001 and Los Alamos National Laboratory, by 2005.

"We're actually getting to the point where we're seeing the end," Alm told reporters during meetings here at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

But Alm's "Accelerated Cleanup" plan has met stiff resistance from a constituency that ought be an easy sell — environmentalists.

"Accelerated cleanup in some ways means not doing cleanup, and that's not acceptable to some folks," said Don Hancock of the Southwest Research and Information Center in Albuquerque.

Millions of cubic feet of hazardous and radioactive wastes would remain buried at LANL under the plan, noted Greg Mello, head of the Los Alamos Study Group in Santa Fe.

"The lab is not permanent, but the waste it produces is permanent. A thousand years from now someone here will have to take care of all that waste. It's not all going to get shipped to WIPP," Mello said, referring to the deep salt mines of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad.

See **DOE** *on* **PAGE 3**

DOE Pushing Quick Lab Cleanup

from **PAGE 1**

Environmentalists say the plan's finer print reveals several shortcomings:

- DOE's deadlines and budget are for surface cleanup only. That primarily means digging up and hauling away some, but not all buried wastes. Or merely "capping" the waste pits with clay umbrellas to prevent rainwater from carrying off radioactive or hazardous toxins. What's missing is groundwater cleanup. Shallow groundwater in one Los Alamos canyon shows radioactive contamination above drinking-water standards.

"You can't say you're cleaning up if you're not doing groundwater," Hancock said.

Alm and John Arthur, the top DOE environmental executive in Albuquerque, said radioactive contamination in groundwater is harder to clean up, but DOE does plan to do it eventually.

"We are not just doing surface cleanup and then walking," he told reporters.

- DOE backed off having the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency set radioactive-waste cleanup rules for Energy and Defense Department sites. Without national standards, each DOE facility can pronounce a site "clean" when different levels of pollutants still exist there.

"You don't want a radioactive site turned over and an elementary school or a high-density housing development built there," said environmental lawyer Mike Veiluva, counsel for the Western States Legal Foundation in Walnut Creek, Calif.

"It's the crux of the problem: How does one decide how clean is clean? Certain sites will get cleaned up, others will be ignored due to socio-economic reasons," Veiluva said.

- DOE's plan puts high priority on clearing sites off its list by declaring them "no further action," as LANL has done with nearly 900 of its 2,100 sites.

Alm's office, for example, wants to base the largest, single measure of environmental performance at the Los Alamos lab on how many polluted sites are declared "no further action."

To environmentalists, this smacks of a paper cleanup rather than getting rid of contaminants.

- The plan doesn't spell out how DOE will get more work done than in the past, when its cleanup program generated more paperwork and jobs than cleaned up sites. Veiluva calls it "a federal jobs program at the expense of a lot of trees."

One of the more glaring examples is at LANL, where DOE investigators this year found that only a fifth of the lab's cleanup budget from 1991 to 1996 was used for site cleanup.

The DOE's Arthur said Los Alamos has done more actual cleanup over the last two years.

"Are we there yet? I think we've still got some efficiencies to gain," he said.

Publication: Jnl Legacy 1995 to July 2005; Date: Aug 20, 1997; Section: Final; Page: 23

Section--Metropolitan Edition--Final Date--08/20/1997 Page--C2

DOE Official OKs Cleanup Plan

Ian Hoffman Journal Staff Writer

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* DOE's deadlines and budget are for surface cleanup only. That primarily means digging up and hauling away some, but not all, buried wastes. What's missing is ground water cleanup.

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Publication: Jnl Legacy 1995 to July 2005; Date: Sep 5, 1997; Section: Journal North; Page: 73

Edition--Journal North Date--09/05/1997 Page-- 1

Peace Conference Draws Big Names

Tom Sharpe Of the Journal

Offbeat

When Stephen Fox first approached me about organizing a peace conference in Santa Fe, I laughed at him. But he may have the last laugh when the conference convenes Jan. 17-19 at the Eldorado Hotel.

Fox tells me that those who have agreed to attend, so far, include:

Knut Hammarskjold, a Swedish diplomat who owns an art gallery near Stockholm and is the nephew of the late United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold; Arun Gandhi, grandson of the late Mohandas Gandhi -- mahatma is a title whose non-violent resistance led India to independence. Arun now lives in Memphis, Tenn.

Robert Muller, chancellor of the United Nations' University of Peace in Costa Rica; and Uwe Morawetz, chairman of the board of founders of the International Peace University in Berlin.

Fox envisions that the confab could spawn a permanent institution in Santa Fe for the study of international peace.

When I first wrote about Fox's plan, I got a call from the wife of a prominent Los Alamos politician, asking if Fox was "one of these Greg Mello types," referring to the head of the Los Alamos Study Group and a persistent critic of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The Los Alamos woman, who did not want her name published, says she is tired of the lab being used as a scapegoat by peaceniks. "Everybody wants peace," she said.

This got me thinking about the irony that the old policy of Mutual Assured Destruction (the acronym says it all) has managed to deter all-out conflict. What rational person wants to turn the planet into thermal mist?

As another lab critic, Edward B. Grothus, put it, in the prayer he sent this week to the Journal North's "Arts and Intellect" desk, suggesting that lab employees recite it each morning:

Gentle Jesus bless our lab,

Flow the funds that pay our tab.

Let not our nuclear mission cease,

For fifty years it's kept the peace.

MARTIAN LANDING: Santa Fe sculptor Mac Vaughan thinks he's got a little piece of Mars.

Vaughan, who did the sculpture of the late artist Tommy Macaione in Macaione Park, formerly Hillside Park, dropped by this week to show me a 3-pound rock he found in the Tesuque hills two years ago.

Vaughan said he immediately identified the rock as a meteorite from its black burned crust. But after reading several books about Martian rocks and watching the recent Sojourner video, Vaughan has decided this one's from the Red Planet. He says it fits into a class of meteorites previously found in Egypt, India and France.

He said he'd like to take it to an expert, but says he fears a thorough analysis would mean breaking up the potentially valuable stone.

MELODRAMA STARS: Twenty-one years ago, I played a drunken legislator in the Fiesta Melodrama. I stumbled around the stage and sang in the chorus (a poor follow to Journal staffer David Steinberg's villain role a few years previously).

But I had fun, made friends and developed a lasting appreciation for the anonymously written satire of Santa Fe politics, culture and whatever are its trends du jour. Not every town can relish its own absurdities.

While reviewing any melodrama is a bit absurd, I would like to note the standouts in this year's production:

Emily E.J. Regier's parody of Mayor Debbie Jaramillo for the fourth straight year is absolutely eerie. Even without the big hair and glasses, Emily has Debbie down.

Jerome Gomez had me laughing with his caricature of the mayor's chief rival, Councilor Peso Chavez. Gomez plays Peso with a exaggerated nervous tic, something that would be new to Peso.

Christine Adams brings the right mix of sexiness and evilness to the role of the villainess, the owner of the "New, Clear" laundry.

Paolo Catasti has managed to up the sleaze factor in the villain with European aristocratic affectations.

And, of course, credit must go to our tree-hugging hero and heroine, Marcus Vaughter and Vanessa LaFortune, who put the melo in the drama.

The 1997 Melodrama has sold out through its last performance on Sunday, but it you're lucky, you might get on the waiting list by showing up in person an hour before each performance at the Santa Fe Playhouse, 142 E. DeVargas St. Call 988-4262.

9/7/1997

Terrorists indeed

When **Greg Mello** wrote ``those who make them (nuclear weapons) do not protect us from terrorists, they are terrorists,'' he hit the nail on the head.

Those who work on nuclear weapons are working to instill terror in the potential targets of their weapons. They may think of themselves as terrorists for peace, but they are no less terrorists.

Matthew J. Kelly, M.D.

Santa Fe

New economics?

Let's see if I've got this right. Some customers are so unhappy that NationsBank has laid off unneeded backroom employees that these customers have moved their banking business elsewhere.

I think we've opened up a whole new arena of economics and social responsibility here. Carrying this theory to its logical conclusion, if everyone would move their accounts elsewhere then NationsBank would close in Santa Fe. Then all their employees would be laid off. That'll show that nasty old bank!

Let's not give NationsBank a chance to grow their business here and rehire some of those employees. Let's not let them prove to us whether they can be good corporate citizens. Rather we want them to do business (gulp) the good `ol' Santa Fe way ... with lots of unproductive people on the payroll to drive up costs for all of us ... or not do business here at all.

We've got too many banks anyway. There are 12 banking corporations doing business in Santa Fe. In all of Canada, there are only six, but what do they know about the economies of scale up there in the cold?

Here's my idea for a solution. Declare all these newly unemployed bankers as ``artists,'' increase the income tax on all of us, pay these new ``artists'' out of the National Endowment for the Arts, perhaps to work at the opera. That would hold down ticket prices for all our visitors from Hollywood, Texas, New York and Saudi Arabia.

Now I see how closing my account at NationsBank can open up a whole new era of prosperity for business and the arts in Santa Fe.

George L. Glotzbach

Santa Fe

Section: Opine
Page: F5

Paper: Los Angeles Times
Title: Norris Bradbury; Head of Los Alamos
Author: From Reuters
Date: August 23, 1997
Section: Main News
Page: A-20

Norris Bradbury, the physicist who helped assemble the first atomic bomb and then headed the key Los Alamos nuclear laboratory for 25 years of the Cold War, has died at age 88.

His family and officials at the Los Alamos National Laboratory said Thursday that Bradbury died at his home Wednesday night.

Bradbury joined Los Alamos' top-secret Manhattan Project in 1944 and led the team charged with assembling the non-nuclear components for the world's first atomic bomb explosion.That explosion, July 16, 1945, at the Trinity site in southern New Mexico, set up the bombing of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki the next month.

With the end of World War II, Bradbury was asked to take over as director of Los Alamos from laboratory founder Robert Oppenheimer. He reluctantly agreed to step into the job for six months, but ended up staying for 25 years, leading the top secret facility as it developed nuclear and conventional weapons during the first decades of the Cold War.

Bradbury's supporters say his leadership was largely responsible for Los Alamos developing the first thermonuclear weapons and other weapons.

But he had his critics.

"It is not to his credit that the above-ground nuclear test program, which was a public health debacle of the first magnitude, was developed at that time," said Greg Mello of the **Los Alamos Study Group** in Santa Fe. "Norris knew it was dangerous and, to my knowledge, did nothing to stop it."

But even Mello said Bradbury was an honest, straightforward man who truly believed in building an effective deterrent, and praised him for saying in the late 1970s that the United States' nuclear stockpile could be maintained without new testing.

Bradbury is survived by his wife, Lois, and three sons.

Author: From Reuters
Section: Main News
Page: A-20

Paper: Albuquerque Tribune, The (NM)
Title: Senators: Test-ban hearings needed
Date: September 12, 1997

New Mexico's U.S. senators today made separate calls for congressional hearings on the languishing Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The international treaty, agreed to in principle last year but yet to be ratified by the major nuclear powers, would ban all nuclear-weapons tests.

Two of the nation's three nuclear-weapons labs are in New Mexico. A test ban could mean an increased lab focus on maintaining the safety and reliability of existing weapons.

Sen. Pete Domenici, a Albuquerque Republican, said he will conduct a series of hearings beginning next month as chairman of the Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, a Silver City Democrat, called on the leaders of the Senate Armed Services Committee to schedule hearings "at our earliest opportunity."

Senate approval is needed to ratify the treaty. Some say U.S. ratification has languished because of the complexities and likely opposition from those who feel that underground testing is fundamental to maintaining a nuclear arsenal.

"There are certainly benefits to a comprehensive test ban, but there are also costs and risks," Domenici said today, "both with respect to maintenance of our nuclear weapons and our varying ability to verify treaty compliance by others."

Bingaman endorsed ratification of the treaty which he said is "in our own national interest and in the interest of world peace." But he said decisions made on alternatives to underground tests could affect the labs.

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Todd Macon, spokesman for the Nuclear Los Alamos Study Group in Santa Fe, said the treaty is in "a fragile environment right now" and warned that U.S. alternatives to testing will mock the "spirit and intent" of the treaty.

As part of the hearing process, the Senate is expected to examine the Department of Energy's Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship Program. DOE, which owns the Los Alamos lab and Sandia labs in Albuquerque, has called for $4 billion-per- year budgets over the next decade to pay for the program.

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Author: Lawrence Spohn TRIBUNE REPORTER
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ACLU Says Arrests at Public Sites Curb Free Speech

Group Fears Pattern Spreading in N.M.

BY LESLIE LINTHICUM
Journal Staff Writer

Members of a citizens group in Alamogordo are threatened with arrest and then banned by a judge from the county fairgrounds. Their crime: Passing out petitions to force a grand jury probe of the police department.

A candidate for U.S. Senate is arrested on the New Mexico State Fairgrounds. His crime: Passing out campaign brochures.

Nine members of an anti-nuke group go to jail in Los Alamos, charged with criminal trespassing. Their crime: Passing out anti-nuclear literature outside the Bradbury Science Museum, a component of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Civil rights lawyers see patterns in these events, spread over 11 months and 300 miles. In each case, the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico says, free speech is being thwarted in the very public places the U.S. Constitution says it must be allowed.

ACLU cooperating attorneys have taken up each of the cases, intervening in the Alamogordo case and winning free access to the fairgrounds for members of the Choose the Right Committee; defending those arrested in Los Alamos when they go to court later this month; and suing the State Fair over its campaign leafletting policy.

In each instance, the public officials who called police say they were protecting their institutions from disruption, not squelching free speech.

But William S. Dixon, an Albuquerque lawyer who volunteers for the ACLU and lectures on the First

See **ARRESTS** *on* **PAGE A7**

Abq. Journal Sept. 14, 1997

from **PAGE A1**

Amendment at the University of New Mexico Law School, sees trouble in the pattern.

"In this country you can't be arrested for saying something in a public place — except not according to the State Fair board or the Otero County Fair board or the people who run Los Alamos National Laboratory," Dixon says.

"It doesn't take a weatherman to see which way the wind is blowing. Public officials now take the position that the First Amendment can be ignored."

45 words on freedom

For anyone who fell asleep in high school civics class, the First Amendment is one of 26 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, the document that sets out the fundamental principles of the republic. The First through 10th amendments reflect rights guaranteed Americans in the Bill of Rights.

The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, of speech and of the press and the right to assemble peaceably.

Only 45 words in all, the First Amendment has been interpreted extensively by the U.S. Supreme Court. In various decisions, the high court has held that political speech has the highest level of protection, especially in public places. It has said that there may be a limited right on the part of government to restrict speech if it interferes with the function of a public building.

It was last September when Abraham Gutmann, the Green Party's candidate for U.S. Senate, was handing out campaign brochures to patrons on the fairgrounds' busy Main Street. Dennis Campbell, then the fair's manager, told him leafletting wasn't allowed on the fairgrounds. Gutmann refused to stop, and Campbell had him arrested.

The policy Campbell was referring to had been written days earlier and had never been voted on by the State Fair Commission. After ACLU cooperating attorney John Boyd sued the fair, the commission adopted a formal policy. The policy, adopted last month, says political candidates can pass out leaflets only "at a location designated by the State Fair manager."

Acting Manager John A. Garcia said he has chosen the grassy area off Main Street between the Fine Arts Building and Indian Arts Building as the designated area.

Any candidate caught handing out brochures outside the designated area will not be arrested, Garcia said. Instead, his or her name will be made public, released to the news media, "and the public can decide if they want to vote for a person who does not follow the rules."

Boyd, who is representing Gutmann in his lawsuit in U.S. District Court, says the policy reflects a lack of understanding of what is required of public entities.

"They're appointed by the governor, they operate on state property and they somehow believe they can limit free speech at one of the most public forums in the state," Boyd says. "People in this country have the right to speak freely on matters of public importance and they have the right to do it on public property. It doesn't matter whether it's 'Save the Whales' or 'Kick the Bastards Out,' it's anything that deals with the larger matters of public policy in this nation."

Garcia says the policy does not limit free speech because it restricts only leafletting.

"Civil rights, I understand that," Garcia says. "They can politic anywhere they want. It's part of New Mexico. There's no reason for us to limit that."

The commission's concern was with the litter generated by fair patrons who accept, then discard, a politician's flier. If politicians are confined to one area, maintenance crews can keep a better handle on the litter.

Campaigning at the fairgrounds is truly as old as the fair. Everyone from unknown hopefuls to political veterans and national political figures has stumped there. Last year, Vice President Al Gore's wife, Tipper, shook hands at the fairgrounds. That was allowed, fair officials say, because she was not handing out campaign literature.

In support of Gutmann's lawsuit, former governors Toney Anaya and Dave Cargo have written affidavits testifying to the importance of the State Fair as a campaigning venue and the fair's long history as a political forum.

Both men made the point that written handouts are crucial, especially at an entertainment venue such as the fair, where people do not want to engage in lengthy discussion.

Leafletting has become an accepted American form of expression, conveying promises from office seekers, religious beliefs and sentiment on the spectrum of political issues, Boyd says, and so it is protected in the same way oral statements are.

An unpopular petition

Historically, the less popular the argument, the quicker the government is to prevent it, Dixon says, so it is particularly "offensive" speech that demands the most vigilant protection.

In Alamogordo, that unpopular sentiment was a petition calling for an Otero County grand jury investigation into possible crimes, including "extortion, bribery ... and perjury," on the part of the county commission and Alamogordo Department of Public Safety.

Dissatisfied with the conduct of the agencies and believing an investigation could uncover wrongdoing, members of a citizens group went to the Otero County fairgrounds last month to collect signatures on the petition.

They were in the parking lot, organizer T.D. Thompson says, because they had been denied a booth inside the gates. Members were threatened with arrest, but not arrested. The fair board's attorney went to state District Court the next day to ask for a restraining order keeping committee members away from the fairgrounds and its parking lot. The judge granted the restraining order and Boyd intervened. Threatened with a lawsuit, the fair board acquiesced. It gave the group a free booth for the duration of the fair, where, Thompson says, "We had people lining up to sign our petition."

Arrested for leafletting

Even though members of the Los Alamos Study Group, a Santa Fe anti-nuclear group, had corresponded with Los Alamos National Laboratory lawyers and knew the lab's position on leafletting at the doors of the lab's Bradbury Science Museum, they did not anticipate being arrested last April. They bonded out of jail within hours.

The group had displayed its viewpoint and leaflets on a wall inside the museum beginning in 1993. It lost that space during renovations and then shared another space with a pro-nuclear group before the museum decided to use a lottery to determine which group would get the public forum space for six-month periods.

The Study Group thought the lottery was unfair and boycotted it, so the display area went to the only other group that applied, the pro-nuclear group. The Study Group decided to take its message outside the museum by handing out pamphlets at the front doors. The lab's policy says leafletting is only allowed on the sidewalk, about 15 feet from the doors and cut off from pedestrians moving between the building and lot.

The policy, lab spokesman Jim Danneskiold says, is designed to allow information to be handed out without blocking doorways and inconveniencing patrons, and to prevent potential disturbances.

Study Group leader Greg Mello and board member Cathie Sullivan were arrested and charged with criminal trespass. A little more than a month later, seven Study Group sympathizers also were arrested.

The lab on Friday asked the Los Alamos County District Attorney to drop the charges against the nine. Lab spokesman Danneskiold said it was "a good-faith gesture" in the lab's ongoing negotiations with the group to resolve the dispute over how to handle the display area and does not represent a change in the lab's leafletting policy.

The group could have leafletted on the sidewalk and waved museum patrons over to accept pamphlets, Mello concedes. But doing that would have given the laboratory control over a message that runs counter to its mission, he says.

"There's an acquiescence, a numbing, a dumbing down that precedes coercion and allows it," Mello says. "Freedom is expressed in the struggle to retain it: If you don't use it, you lose it."

Charges Against LANL Protesters Dropped

9/26/97

By Ian Hoffman
Journal Staff Writer

The self-styled "Los Alamos Nine" are free — that is, free from prosecution on charges of trespassing.

But it's unclear whether they face arrest again for handing out anti-nuclear leaflets at Los Alamos National Laboratory's Bradbury Science Museum.

Lab security officers ordered arrests in April and June of the nine protesters with Santa Fe's Los Alamos Study Group, which is opposed to nuclear weapons.

Santa Fe District Attorney Henry Valdez dropped the charges Thursday at LANL's urging. The protesters were to be tried Tuesday.

Coupled with the lab's request, "concerns over possible constitutional problems made the dismissal of these charges in the best interest of justice," said a statement from Valdez's office.

Albuquerque attorney John Boyd figured a judge would have thrown the cases out of court as a clear violation of the First Amendment right to free speech.

"Those charges were outrageous," said Boyd, a civil rights lawyer and cooperating attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union. "Charging members of the Los Alamos Study Group with criminal trespass for handing out leaflets in front of a public facility is no different than charging someone with a crime for writing to their congressman or for voting."

The protests aren't likely to stop.

It started with a dispute over a piece of wall inside the Bradbury museum. For two years, the Los Alamos Study Group hung a dissenting exhibit there, in part depicting burned survivors of the atomic bombing at Hiroshima.

A pro-nuclear veterans group insisted on its own, equally graphic, exhibit that pictured Japanese soldiers bayonetting American prisoners.

The groups shared the wall space until the Bradbury museum's director chose a lottery to settle who could use the space.

The study group boycotted the lottery; the

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Charges Against LANL Protesters Dropped

from **PAGE 1**

pro-nuclear group won an expansion of its exhibit. And the leafleting began.

"Visitors to the museum need to be provided with a balancing view of what exactly is going on in that laboratory, because they sure aren't getting it in the museum," said the study group's Greg Mello.

LANL dropped the charges, said spokesman Jim Danneskiold, "because the lab has been in negotiations with them for several weeks and the negotiations proceeded well."

Not so, Mello said.

"How could we think the laboratory would negotiate with us in good faith when they're trying to throw us in jail?" he asked. "There was no negotiation."

Lab officials were after the study group to promise not to leaflet any more, and that's something the group will not do.

Said Boyd: "That would be like agreeing they're not going to vote or pass out campaign literature in a neighborhood."

"It certainly makes you wonder why the lab is so anxious to silence these people," Boyd added. "To his credit, I think the district attorney finally recognized what was going on here."

With the charges dismissed, the study group and the lab can talk about space in the museum, Mello said.

Meanwhile, he is savoring the idea of the lab backing down.

"The laboratory made not just a legal but a public relations gaffe," he said Thursday night.

The group repeatedly has wrangled with lab attorneys over access to public records. Yet the issue never captured public support as did images of middle-aged women being handcuffed for peacefully handing out leaflets and copies of the Bill of Rights.

Asked if the lab will have protesters arrested in the future, Danneskiold said, "The lab hopes this won't happen again."

9/26/97

SFNM

DA drops charges on LANL protesters

Santa Fe County District Attorney Henry Valdez announced Thursday he has dismissed criminal trespassing charges against the nine people arrested in April and June while passing out leaflets at the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Bradbury Science Museum. The laboratory had requested that the charges be dropped, Valdez said.

"The request from the laboratory in conjunction with concerns over possible constitutional problems made the dismissal of these charges in the best interest of justice," said a statement from the District Attorney's office.

The nine had been distributing copies of the Bill of Rights and leaflets criticizing the lab's nuclear-weapons production, near the front doors of the museum, said Greg Mello, one of the nine. A Sept. 30 trial had been set before a Los Alamos magistrate judge, he said.

Mello accused the laboratory of wanting the charges dropped to avoid "any more embarrassment" in what he described as a clear case of censorship.

"Handing out leaflets is one of the most protected rights under the First Amendment," he said.

Mello called it "highly likely" the protesters will hand out leaflets at the museum again.

Charges against Bradbury leafleters dropped Thursday

9/26/97

By CAROLINE SPAETH
Monitor Staff Writer

Charges were dropped Thursday against Los Alamos Study Group members who were charged with criminal trespassing after handing out leaflets at the Bradbury Science Museum.

Whether they can go right back to what they were doing, however, remains to be seen.

Los Alamos National Laboratory officials requested that the charges be dropped, saying the lab was acting on a "show of good faith" with the people from the Study Group, a group opposed to the use of nuclear weapons.

But Greg Mello of the Study Group said the charges were dropped because they were a violation of the right to free speech, and the lab did not have a case.

Santa Fe County District Attorney Henry Valdez dropped the charges against nine protesters arrested for distributing leaflets at the entrance to the museum. The museum is operated by LANL.

Los Alamos police arrested two protesters in April and seven more in June. In each instance, lab security officers asked the protesters to move away to the sidewalk along the street, and they refused, police said.

"Leafletting is entitled to just as much protection as speech," said John Boyd, an attorney representing the Study Group. "It's not private property. It's in front of a public building," he said. "American citizen are entitled to leaflet in front of public buildings unless there is some interfering of the business."

One of the leaflets outlined the Study Group's position against increasing the nuclear weapons mission at the lab; the other was a copy of the Bill of Rights.

"The issue has never been the lab objecting to the Study Group's message or delivering it," said John Gustafson, lab spokesman. "The issue has been where they deliver it."

Gustafson said in the past the lab has allowed protesters to hand out leaflets at various lab locations, asking them not to interfere with pedestrians and to stay in a particular location.

The case was similar at the museum, where Gustafson said they asked the protesters to move to the roadside sidewalk and not interfere with museum visitors.

(Please see MUSEUM, Page 6)

(from Page 1)

He said the lab also dropped the charges in part because they were discussing solutions that would appease the two sides, both in terms of the leafleting and the exhibit space in the museum. The two groups have been at odds in the past two years over exhibit space in the museum.

"It's hard to talk about one without talking about the other," said John Rhoades, Bradbury Museum director. "If we can get them space back, we think that will decrease their need for leafleting."

Mello said the lab has not been negotiating with the protesters, something he said the study group would not do until the charges were dropped. He said that by charging them with trespassing, the lab also prevented them from airing their opposing views.

"By illegally arresting us, the laboratory prevented us from leafleting for five months, during the time of maximum museum visitation, and cost us a lot of trouble and time and money. And this is just not right," said Mello.

After being arrested and released on bond, the protesters contended that preventing them from handing out leaflets infringed on their first amendment rights, and that charging them with criminal trespass was illegal.

"They had no case," said Mello, when asked why the lab dropped the charges. "It's legal to leaflet, and conversely it's illegal to arrest someone for leafleting."

The building and the land on which it stands belong to TRK Management. The building is leased to the Bradbury, a publicly-owned facility.

Though the museum is private property, Mello said that what they were doing is legal on private property dedicated to a public purpose.

"You can leaflet in shopping malls, and that's private property. Even more, you can you leaflet in airports, bus terminals, and other publicly owned places," he said.

No more than two at a time were handing out leaflets at the museum entrance, Mello said. "We wanted to be sure that we weren't causing any disturbance."

Lab officials are now working to continue discussions with the Study Group about the museum exhibit space and the leafleting, said Rhoades.

The museum had settled the dispute about who gets exhibit space first, the Study Group or others, with a lottery. The Study Group boycotted the lottery.

The Los Alamos Education Group, a veterans' group formed to counter the Study Group's anti-nuclear exhibits at the museum, won the lottery. The group's exhibits now in place emphasize the benefits of nuclear energy.

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LANL Insider Nominated To Take Helm

Ian Hoffman Journal Northern Bureau

A Duke University-trained nuclear physicist viewed by some as the ultimate insider has been nominated to lead Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Veteran lab manager John C. Browne spent half his life rising in the U.S. nuclear weapons complex, with stints in weapons testing, the now-defunct Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars) and energy research.

Browne, 55, runs the Los Alamos Neutron Science Center, a defense-science complex centered on the lab's accelerator.

Critics who hoped for an outside scientist cast the affable Browne as a status-quo director, unlikely to shake up a lab culture sometimes criticized as insular.

If confirmed as lab director, Browne would preside over the 43-square-mile federal weapons laboratory, a $1.1 billion budget and about 10,000 scientists, engineers and other workers.

LANL's director testifies regularly before Congress and certifies most nuclear weapons in the U.S. arsenal every year to the president.

"I think the laboratory couldn't be in better hands. I feel better about the security of the nation and the world with him at the helm," said Browne's graduate physics professor, Edward G. Bilpuch, now retired from Duke University.

"I'd put my life in his hands any time," Bilpuch said by phone from his home in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Energy Secretary Federico Pena, whose agency oversees the lab for the U.S. government, is expected to approve Browne as lab director; University of California President Richard Atkinson cleared the nomination with Pena earlier this month.

Atkinson announced Friday he will recommend Browne "as soon as possible" to the UC Board of Regents, which appoints the director.

Browne declined through a lab spokesman to be interviewed while his appointment is pending. But in a university statement he said he was honored. "I am enthusiastic about the prospect of working closely with employees, citizens and local officials to continue the process of building trust and new opportunity both within the lab and our nearby communities," he said in the statement.

Outgoing lab director Sig Hecker has agreed to stay beyond his planned Oct. 1 resignation, perhaps for a month to afford the new director time to meet people in neighboring towns and pueblos and in Washington, D.C.

Browne "is an exceptional choice for the job. I've worked with John for some time," Hecker said. "In essence, everything I've asked John to do for the lab he's done exceptionally well."

University officials said Browne was a clear choice among 80 candidates. Among factors in the decision: his weapons and scientific work, his 18 years living in Los Alamos and the continuity suggested by his intimate knowledge of the lab.

Some critics view Browne's choice as a signal the university and the Energy Department see no reason for change at Los Alamos.

"If you want new ideas, you get someone from another institution," said Greg Mello, an anti-nuclear activist and lab observer who in 1992 urged the hiring of an outside scientist.

"A person whose entire career has been within the narrow, sequestered circle of the nuclear-weapons priesthood isn't likely to provide the creativity the lab desperately needs," Mello said. "I hope I'm wrong."

The leader of a lab employees' group said he was disappointed.

"The fact is, John Browne is virtually a clone of Sig Hecker. He represents that status quo. It's hard to see he's going to change a corporate culture he came up in and thrived in," said Chuck Montano, a lab auditor and head of Citizens for LANL Employee Rights.

Browne came to LANL from weapons-physics work at its sister lab, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. He has been a manager at LANL ever since, rising from leader of the neutron physics group to Physics Division director to chief of defense programs, then of energy programs.

Over 10 years, he was an associate lab director -- for experimental physics; research; defense applications; and computer sciences -- before taking over LANSCE.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., chairman of the lab's chief funding committee in the Senate, praised Browne as "eminently qualified."

PHOTO: b/w

BROWNE: Must be approved by UC regents

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Edition--Journal North Date--09/27/1997 Page--1

Lab Insider Picked For Top Spot

Ian Hoffman Journal Staff Writer

Neutron Center Chief Nominated

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Over 10 years, he was an associate lab director -- for experimental physics; research; defense applications; and computer sciences -- before taking over LANSCE.

"He's very respected among our scientists and he has the right sensitivities. He has very good people sensitivities," Hecker said.

If approved, Browne's hardest jobs will be smoothing out the lab's often-dicey relations with northern New Mexico and making sure the lab is run as a world-class institution, Hecker said.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., chairman of the lab's chief funding committee in the Senate, praised Browne as "imminently qualified."

"I believe he will be a visionary for the lab and its future. He also understands the importance of the lab being a good neighbor," Domenici said. "I don't think a better choice could have been made."

PHOTO: b/w

BROWNE: Must be approved by UC regents

Targets of opportunity: how nuclear planners found new targets for old weapons.(Cover Story). Hans Kristensen.

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists v53.n5 (Sept-Oct 1997): pp22(7).

Abstract:

Since the 1989 fall of the Berlin wall, the Pentagon has developed new uses for seemingly obsolete nuclear weapons. It has switched targeting from many former Soviet Union sites to perceived Third World threats, spurring a variety of strategic plan revisions and conventional weapon upgrade programs.

In 1978, in an attempt to shore up support for the still-shaky Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Carter administration issued a "negative security assurance." It said, in effect, that if a non-nuclear state attacked the United States or one of its allies, the United States would not fight back with nuclear weapons -- unless the attacking state was already in bed with a nuclear weapon power.

But then, not everyone pays much attention to matters as trivial as national policy. In 1995, for instance, the ink was barely dry on a reaffirmation of that pledge when the Pentagon updated a nuclear plan to target certain Third World nations, even if they were not in league with a nuclear power.

The Carter/Clinton pledge was simply swept away by military planners determined to protect and expand the role of nuclear weapons, a strategy pursued since the early 1990s, according to documents recently declassified and released under the Freedom of Information Act. As a result, there is a fundamental disharmony between declared policy and U.S. nuclear warriors' activities that contradicts and undermines U.S. nonproliferation objectives in the post-cold War world.

In the spring of 1995, the signatories to the NPT were scheduled to determine whether the treaty should be made permanent or whether it should merely be extended for a finite number of years.

The United States pushed hard for an "indefinite" extension. In April 1995, as part of a deal to get that extension, the Clinton administration renewed the 1978 pledge. But eight months later, in December 1995, the Pentagon's "Doctrine for joint Nuclear Operations" (also known as "Joint Pub 3-12") was issued. It made a hash of the restated we-wont-use-nuclear-weapons pledge.

In fact, nuclear bureaucrats had been quietly slicing and dicing the pledge for several years. Planners first expanded nuclear targeting to include regional troublemakers armed with "weapons of mass destruction" in an earlier version of the document, which emerged in April 1993. But when the plan was made public, it caused a scandal. How could the United States promise not to use nuclear weapons against NPT members, but simultaneously approve a doctrine advocating just that? The Pentagon hurried to downplay the document's importance.

When Thomas Graham, the head of the U.S. delegation, was asked about the apparent contradiction a few weeks before the NPT Review and Extension Conference, he took cover behind a technicality -- the U.S.-Russian agreement not to store target data in missile guidance systems. "As of May 31, 1994, no country is targeted by the strategic forces of the United States," Graham told a U.N. press conference. Similarly, Mitchell Wallerstein, a deputy assistant secretary for counter-proliferation policy, told Air Force Magazine in October 1995 that "the United States is not looking to retarget our missiles."

But the planners at the Joint Chiefs continued putting the final touches on their updated nuclear doctrine expanding U.S. nuclear targeting to non-nuclear countries.

Stratcom signs on

In 1989, the Berlin wall fell and the Warsaw Pact dissolved. It looked as if the traditional role of U.S. nuclear weapons -- countering the Soviet "threat" -- might evaporate as well. Gen. Lee Butler, then the head of Strategic Command (STRATCOM), told an Air Power History Symposium in September 1992: "As early as October 1989, we abandoned global war with the Soviet Union as the principle planning and programming paradigm for the U.S. armed forces." The Pentagon undertook a "complete revisit of nuclear weapons policy and the STOP [the Single Integrated Operational Plan] target base," reducing the number of targets from 10,000 to around 2,500.

What to do with the weapons that were no longer needed? The planners began to shift their attention to "a new series of threats."[1]

The shift was already evident in the Joint Chiefs' "Military Net Assessment" of March 1990, which cited "increasingly capable Third World threats" to justify the stockpiles of both strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons.[2] Then, in June 1990, testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney made the first high-level statement that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was a rationale for keeping U.S. nuclear weapons.

Just after the Gulf War -- and following the disclosure of Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons program -- Cheney issued the top-secret "Nuclear Weapons Employment Policy," which formally tasked the military with planning nuclear operations against potential proliferators.[3]

Military planners went to work. The 1991 joint Military Net Assessment suggested that non-strategic nuclear weapons "could assume a broader role globally in response to the proliferation of nuclear capability among Third World nations."

"The possibility that Third World nations may acquire nuclear capabilities," Cheney wrote in the Defense Department's annual report in February 1992, "has led the department to make adjustments to nuclear and strategic defense forces and to the policies that guide them." Nuclear strategy, he added, "must now also encompass potential instabilities that could arise when states or leaders perceive they have little to lose from employing weapons of mass destruction."

One "adjustment" involved the 1993 SIOP, which went into effect four months early, on June 1, 1992.[4] Another was a rewrite of Annex C of the "Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan," which contains the targeting and damage criteria for the use of nuclear weapons. The new Annex C was completed in the spring of 1993.

Before that revision was complete, General Butler told the New York Times that "our focus now is not just the former Soviet Union, but any potentially hostile country that has or is seeking weapons of mass destruction." Butler established the joint Intelligence Center "to assess from STRATCOM's operational perspective the growing threat represented by the global proliferation of weapons of mass destruction."[5]

The "living STOP"

But STRATCOM soon found that the existing nuclear war machine was ill-suited for wars in the Third World. Cold War hardware and software had been "configured for the Northern Hemisphere only." Key targeting technology had "no capability south of the equator," according to a STRATCOM study from 1992. STRATCOM recommended the development of a "global capability" by the late 1990s.[6]

What was needed was "adaptive planning," a term since adopted by NATO as well. Adaptive planning would allow weapons that once had exclusive targets to be quickly retargeted against regions inside and outside Russia. In December 1992, STRATCOM formed the Strategic Planning Study Group "to develop a flexible, globally focused, war-planning process." This group developed the concept of a "living STOP" -- a real-time nuclear war plan that could respond instantaneously to war-fighting commands. During peacetime, the system would be capable of making automatic target changes daily. A complete attack plan for a new enemy could be readied in a matter of months.

General Butler described the new concept in a May 11, 1993 interview with Jane's Defence Weekly: "Adaptive planning" was designed to respond to "spontaneous threats which are more likely to emerge in a new international environment unconstrained by the Super Power stand-off." The plans would use "generic targets, rather than identifying specific scenarios and specific enemies." Adaptive planning would offer "unique solutions, tailored to generic regional dangers involving weapons of mass destruction."

The National Academy of Sciences recently recommended that adaptive planning be used to alleviate the rigidity of the Cold War-era STOP. But it is adaptive planning itself that gives nuclear weapons a broader role against chemical, biological, and radiological weapons, with nuclear responses of a more limited nature and weapons that result in less collateral damage. Adaptive planning grants nuclear deterrence an aura of acceptability, and it is a central element of "the living STOP."

The "living STOP," based on "continuous analysis of guidance, forces, and target changes," was approved within weeks instead of years in July 1993, for implementation on April 1, 1994.[7] Its birth coincided with the joint Chiefs' completion of the first version of Pub 3-12.

Another review

Meanwhile, the Nuclear Posture Review, described as the most ambitious study of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear planning in decades, was initiated in 1993.[8] With the Cold War over, it was widely believed that the review would recommend deep cuts in the nuclear stockpile.

STRATCOM was concerned about that. For instance, STRATCOM officials worried that Assistant Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, who was in charge of the review process, had "negative feelings" about nuclear weapons. Background information on Carter suggested "a less-than-favorable longterm outlook for nuclear weapons." He might even favor "complete denuclearization" over the long term -- not popular thoughts to a nuclear command. Persuading policy makers that nuclear weapons should play a "wider role," STRATCOM feared, would be "an uphill battle."[9]

But as it turned out, Carter did not rock the boat. When the review was completed in September 1994, little had changed. The Pentagon announced that it had changed the way it thought about nuclear weapons and reduced their role, although it reaffirmed nuclear deterrence and endorsed the continuation of the nuclear triad. Moreover, it granted nuclear weapons prominent roles in counter-proliferation scenarios -- several of which were deleted from the public version of the report.[10]

The "Silver Books"

With doctrine and policy in favor of expanding the nuclear role, it was now time, for planning. STRATCOM assisted regional commands in drawing up plans for nuclear war with regional troublemakers.

Butler wanted STRATCOM to have overall responsibility -- to move "firmly into the counterproliferation mission." In an October 1993 white paper, STRATCOM argued that it already had the necessary experience -- "countering weapons of mass destruction in the context of deterring their use by the former Soviet Union."[11] STRATCOM's next targets should be the more "undeterrable" leaders such as Qaddafi and Saddam Hussein.[12]

STRATCOM began developing the "Silver Books" -- plans for military strikes against facilities in "rogue nations," including Iran, Iraq, Libya, and North Korea. "Silver" stood for "Strategic Installation List of Vulnerability Effects and Results," and the project involved "the planning associated with a series of `silver bullet' missions aimed at counterprofiferation."[13] Targets included nuclear, chemical, biological, and command and control installations.

The Weapons Subcommittee of STRATCOM's Strategic Advisory Group began analyzing various target sets and weapons capabilities in early 1994, emphasizing mechanisms that could defeat chemical and biological targets as well as buried targets. The subcommittee compared the effectiveness of conventional, unconventional, and nuclear attack on six potential targets.[14]

By late 1994, STRATCOM had prepared a Silver Book for European Command, and it was developing a prototype for Pacific Command. STRATCOM briefed European Command staff

during a November 1994 visit, and it later briefed Pacific and Central Commands and the Joint Staff Roles and Functions Working Group.[15]

Reactions were mixed. General Butler and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell wanted nuclear planning and authority focused in one command, removing nuclear autonomy from European, Central, and Pacific Commands. Centralizing all nuclear planning under one hat, they felt, would increase control and stability, and help prevent accidents or unauthorized launch. But the regional commanders did not like the idea of STRATCOM taking overall control. As 1994 drew to a close, it was increasingly apparent that STRATCOM was not going to get the overall counterproliferation mission. In early 1995, the Joint Chiefs ordered STRATCOM to drop the Silver Books project -- but regional nuclear war planning continued under other names.

Target: Third World

The expansion of the nuclear role was probably aided by the U.S. decision to eliminate its own chemical and biological weapons. In the cynical logic of deterrence, removing those weapons from the U.S. arsenal meant that if rogue nations were to use them, the United States no longer had a fit-for-tat response. The only "big stick" left in the U.S. arsenal -- apart from overwhelming conventional superiority -- was nuclear weapons.

In June 1994, while the Nuclear Posture Review was being prepared, the Strategic Advisory Group recommended in a white paper on the future of nuclear forces that nuclear weapons should be assigned the job of deterring chemical and biological weapons:

"Those who argue that biological and chemical threats can always be safely deterred without requiring the last resort of U.S. nuclear forces must bear the burden of proof for their argument. Until they make a compelling case that nuclear force is not necessary for successful deterrence, it is not in the nation's interest to forswear the uncertainty as to how we would respond to clear and dangerous threats of other weapons of mass destruction. `Measured ambiguity' is still a powerful tool for the President trying to deter an intransigent despot."[16]

General Butler's successor, Adm. Henry Chiles, later commended the advisory group for the white paper, which, he said, was "particularly effective" in preparing the Nuclear Posture Review.[19]

Throughout 1995 and 1996, the advisory group continued to advance the role of nuclear weapons in deterring weapons of mass destruction. In July 1995, only two months after the NPT conference at which the Clinton administration reiterated its pledge not to use nuclear weapons, a STRATCOM advisory group subcommittee completed its in-depth review of deterring Third World proliferators. The review provided terms of reference to be used by other subcommittees as a baseline "to expand the concept of deterrence of [weapons of mass destruction]."[18]

This review, "Essentials of Post-Cold War Deterrence," bluntly criticized the president's pledge. It was "easy to see the difficulty we have caused ourselves," the review said, "by putting forward declaratory policies such as the `negative security assurances' which were put forward to

encourage nations to sign up for the nonproliferation treaty."[19] The review warned that "if we put no effort into deterring these threats, they will be `undeterrable' by definition."

The review recommended a policy of ambiguity, using as an example President George Bush's warning to Saddam Hussein in January 1991 not to use chemical weapons. And the planners added another twist to the equation, warning that in threatening nuclear destruction, the United States should not appear too rational or cool-headed. if "some elements ... appear potentially `out of control,'" it would create and reinforce fears and doubts within the minds of an adversary's decision-makers. "That the U.S. may become irrational and vindictive if its vital interests are attacked should be part of the national persona we project."

The penalty for using weapons of mass destruction should include not only military defeat, but "the threat of even worse consequences." On the other hand, it should not result in too many civilian casualties. Unless the United States itself were threatened, it "does not require the `ultimate deterrent' -- that a nation's citizens must pay with their lives for failure to stop their national leaders from undertaking aggression." Fear of "national extinction" should be enough.

Iran became the first test case for the new doctrine, with STRATCOM performing an in-depth study in the fall of 1995 of how to target nuclear and chemical targets in Iran with U.S. nuclear weapons. As a party to the NPT, Iran was one of the countries President Clinton had pledged only a few months earlier not to use nuclear weapons against. The planners at stratcom, however, found that further coordination with Central Command was necessary before they could complete the study, so Admiral Chiles asked the planners to apply the new deterrence theory to North Korea instead.[20] North Korea is also a party to the NPT.

In February 1996, regional nuclear counterproliferation was formally enshrined in "Doctrine for Joint Theater Nuclear Operations (Joint Pub 3-12.1)," which "translated" overall doctrine for use in regional scenarios in Europe, the Middle East, and the Korean Peninsula. Third World proliferation dangers had been transformed to "the preeminent threat." The targets of deterrence were to be short-, medium-, and intermediate-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear, biological, or chemical warheads.[21]

But adding Third World targets to nuclear war plans began to collide with the demand to reduce nuclear arsenals. If the nuclear arsenal were reduced further, there might not be enough weapons to target Russia, China, and the half dozen or so identified regional troublemakers. So the subcommittee also reviewed the pros and cons of reducing the number of nuclear warheads below the level set by START II. The subcommittee recommended against deeper cuts, partly to maintain enough nuclear weapons for their new and "broader base" of targets.[22]

Rapid response

Adding Third World nations to the target pool also meant upgrading weapon systems. That upgrading is already in progress. The navy is installing a system to enable Trident submarines to "quickly, accurately, and reliably retarget missiles" and "allow timely and reliable processing of an increased number of targets."[23] Although it was originally conceived as a way to allow

Trident submarines to attack dispersed Soviet SS-24 rail-mobile and SS-25 road-mobile ICBMs, this new system will add capabilities against new or mobile targets globally.

In a similar development, the air force is spending more than $4 billion on the "Rapid Execution and Combat Targeting" or "REACT" system, which will upgrade Minuteman IIIs for "rapid message processing [and] rapid re-targeting." When completed early in the next century, the program will "upgrade Minuteman to Peacekeeperclass accuracy ... to hold at risk the hardest enemy targets."[24]

The air force is also adding conventional capabilities to B-2 bombers. Although it was originally conceived as a purely anti-Soviet Union weapon, the B-2 needs a conventional capability to justify its expense. It has also been designated as the carrier of the Pentagon's new bomb, the B61-11.[25] With enhanced earth-penetrating capabilities and low yield, the B-2 with B61-11 bombs is the likely weapon of choice for nuclear counterproliferation scenarios against rogue nations.

The "Duck"

As reported in the May/June 1997 Bulletin ["New Bomb, No Mission," by Greg Mello], the B61-11 program began in October 1993. One month earlier, the Pentagon had completed a more general Defense Department assessment, the "Bottom Up Review," which also shifted the focus of strategic forces from the former Soviet Union to regional scenarios in which rogue nations were armed with various weapons of mass destruction. The request for the new bomb was generated by Harold Smith, then assistant to the secretary of defense for atomic energy, who asked the air force to study the replacement of the aging B53 gravity bomb with a stockpile weapon.

The idea of building new nuclear weapons was not very popular in the early 1990s. After it was disclosed in 1992 and 1993 that the nuclear weapons laboratories were designing mininukes specifically tailored for use against rogue nations, Congress banned "research and development which could lead to the production by the United States of a new low-yield nuclear weapon, including a precision low-yield nuclear weapon."

As a result, the B61-11 -- which was nicknamed "the Duck" because its flight characteristics were identical to those of the B61-7 bomb -- was not submitted to the Nuclear Weapons Council for approval. Frank Miller, the assistant secretary of defense for international security policy, was concerned that Congress would not support it.

But after the Nuclear Policy Review recommended replacing the B53 -- and after November 1994, when the elections produced a change in committee chairman to one more favorably inclined to reopening the nuclear weapons production line -- Miller "reenergized" the project "before Congress changed again."

Once the Defense Department was convinced that it was time to act, the project was approved in February 1995, briefings in Congress followed, with authorization in July, and in August 1995 -- less than a year after the congressional election, and only three months after the conference at

which the United States had restated its commitment to pursue nuclear disarmament -- the B61-11 program was under way. By the end of 1996, the new bomb entered the stockpile.

And in the pipeline ...

The B61-11 is not the only nuclear weapon "modification" in the pipeline. Scientists in the Energy Department's "Core Research and Advanced Technology Program Element Plans" are busily researching "concept design studies, arising out of the experience during the Gulf War that indicate potential military utility for types of nuclear weapons not currently in the stockpile."[26]

Some of this work is taking place at Sandia National Laboratory, where scientists are "examining changes to other B61 designs to add additional value to those systems for our military customers." One of these efforts is the "Bomb Impact Optimization System" or "BIOS" program, which is investigating the feasibility of "modifying a B61 payload for use in a guided glide bomb for aircraft delivery against defended target complexes." Efforts include analysis, design, model fabrication and testing, and ground and flight testing of a functional prototype.[27]

Other exotic design concepts stem from the emphasis on underground and deeply buried targets and the concern to limit collateral damage from the use of nuclear weapons -- all features central to the counterproliferation mission.

The Defense Special Weapons Agency's 1997 projects include adjusting electromagnetic pulse (EMP) data for nuclear weapons to allow war planners to assess the damage that would be "inflicted by nuclear weapons' EMP effects." The project will also investigate possible design modification and delivery methods that could "limit or minimize collateral damage." Models for using EMP to knock out hardened targets will be developed to "devise a new tool for PC-based weapon lethality prediction and target damage assessment."[28]

It is too early to predict whether any of these exotic designs will mature into actual nuclear weapons. But the work is a clear indication that the new weapons machine is still at work. And the expansion of U.S. nuclear doctrine is a prominent driver in justifying that work.

Libya: The first case?

Even before the B61-11 came on line, Libya was identified as its first potential target. "We could not take [the alleged chemical plant at Tarhunah] out of commission using strictly conventional weapons," Assistant Defense Secretary Smith complained in April 1996. The B61-11 "would be the nuclear weapon of choice."

Like the disclosure of the Silver Books, these remarks about targeting Libya got widespread attention, and the Pentagon quickly retreated from them. "Any implication that we would use nuclear weapons preemptively against this plant is just wrong," said Assistant Defense Secretary Kenneth Bacon. Still, said Bacon, Washington would not rule out using nuclear weapons in response to a nuclear, chemical, or biological attack on the United States or its allies.

Libya is a party to the nonproliferation treaty. It signed the treaty and a nuclear safeguards agreement in 1975. It is therefore by international nonproliferation standards a non-nuclear member of the NPT. Under the terms of the 1978 pledge, as renewed in 1995, it falls within the group of nations that the United States had pledged not to attack with nuclear weapons. But Libya, like Iran and North Korea, is a target nonetheless.

The search for new targets

In the words of the Defense Special Weapons Agency, the international environment "has now evolved from a `weapon-rich environment' to a `target-rich environment.'"

In the old days, "weapons of mass destruction" referred to nuclear weapons, because they were the weapons that could destroy en masse. But as the Cold War came to an end, and coalition forces expelled Iraq from Kuwait, the discovery of Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons program propelled the idea of proliferation to a new level. iraq's use of chemical-capable Scud missiles against Israel and Saudi Arabia, and allegations of Libyan chemical weapons ambitions a few months later elevated "weapons of mass destruction" to the new threat to international security. With the former Soviet threat rapidly fading into the background, U. S. military planners eagerly grabbed this new enemy and incorporated it into nuclear planning.

When the joint Chiefs published die first Joint Nuclear Doctrine in 1993, its "Terms of Definitions" did not explain what "weapons of mass destruction" meant. But the text of the document talked about three types: nuclear, biological, and chemical. The updated 1995 dectrine, however, clearly defines weapons of mass destruction as "weapons that are capable of a higher order of destruction and/or of being used in such a manner as to destroy large numbers of people." Moreover, the new document adds "radiological weapons" to the list.[29]

The ramifications of an ever-expanding target list are endless. Adding radiological weapons to the nuclear doctrine essentially means that if someone puts a bucket of nuclear waste on top of an old missile and tosses it into a city or onto our forward-deployed troops, U.S. nuclear doctrine defines the act as qualifying for a nuclear response. We may all agree that this is unlikely, but the inclusion of "radiological weapons" is a worrisome addition to the ever-expanding pool of post-Cold War nuclear targets.

Where does it end? So far the post-Cold War trend is that any time a crude new weapon emerges that could possibly qualify for the Pentagon's checklist, it will be added to U.S. nuclear planning as a matter of routine.

But the implications deserve a little more debate and consideration than that. For along with inclusion comes actual nuclear planning. Adding radiological weapons to the list means that somewhere in the basement of STRATCOM Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, as well as at Regional Command Headquarters in Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific, someone has been given the order to investigate where the targets are and which nuclear warheads on U.S. missiles, submarines, bombers, attack submarines, and dual-capable aircraft should be designated to insure their destruction.

Who is in charge of U.S. counterproliferation policy? Does the State Department know that the Pentagon is incorporating non-nuclear NPT countries into U.S. nuclear targeting? And is President Clinton aware that as he pledged in 1995 not to attack non-nuclear NPT countries with nuclear weapons, STRATCOM planned to do so anyway? Probably not, but the nuclear planning that goes on at STRATCOM is clearly out of tune with the nonproliferation message the Clinton administration is trying to convey to the world.

If the White House wants its nonproliferation efforts to produce results in the long term, and the commitment to nuclear disarmament and a reduced role for nuclear weapons to be more than rhetoric, then it is time for someone to pay a visit to the Pentagon before the proliferation hype pushes post-Cold War nuclear planning too far in the wrong direction.

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Reporter 10/1/97

CHARGES DROPPED The Los Alamos National Laboratory decided it did not like the idea of publicly defending its decision to charge members of the Los Alamos Study Group with trespassing. Nine members of the group were arrested earlier this year for handing out anti-nuclear leaflets at the Bradbury Science Museum. (See Reporter, Aug. 13, 1997) Five days before they were scheduled to be tried in magistrate court, First District Attorney Henry Valdez dropped the charges.

The study group has not yet made a decision about whether it will file its own suit against the lab for arresting its members for exercising what they believe, and courts have ruled, is constitutionally protected free speech.

The Los Alamos Nine are optimistic that the lab will agree to a policy on leafletting that is acceptable to them. They will insist on the right to distribute anti-nuclear literature in the covered area in front of the museum where they would have access to all museum visitors. This week the study group wrote museum director John Rhoades asking about the revised policy.

Cathie Sullivan, one of those arrested for leafletting, said the study group respects the lab's security needs as well as its desire not to inconvenience visitors. "It was never our attention to focus on arrests," she said.

Rhoades also has indicated that he is rethinking the museum's "wall policy" and would try to accommodate the study group in approximately the same space it first acquired in 1993 for anti-nuclear opinion. The study group began leafletting after his decision to turn the wall into a "public forum" and allocate the space by lottery. They want a firm, long-term policy that will allow them to present their dissenting views without threat of repeated challenges such as they have faced recently.

—*A.C.*

'Protest' was just 'a cheap publicity stunt'

Editor:

I must comment on the dropping of charges against the "protesters" who were arrested at the Los Alamos National Laboratory's Bradbury Science Museum last June.

The first thing to know is that the "protesters" did not come to Los Alamos that day to exercise their first amendment rights, as their lawyer and the head of the Los Alamos Study Group so piously proclaim. They announced their intention to trespass on that day, at certain times, in advance, so that they would be arrested, so that the Los Alamos Study Group could gain press coverage. I was witness to one of the arrests. It went like this: A small group of "protesters" stood between the museum and the bookstore chatting amiably among themselves and with passersby, including me. Some represented themselves to me as having come to be arrested, others as having decided not be arrested that day. A lab security person stood near the door to the museum.

The ritual began when two police officers arrived. Then a "protester" walked into the forbidden zone of lab property as if to distribute leaflets. The security person then politely asked the "protester" to leave; the "protester" politely declined; the security person politely told the officers the "protester" was trespassing; the officers politely arrested the "protester," who submitted politely; and another person followed the police car to jail to arrange for bond. Carefully choreographed: no pain, no risk, and — no protest! This reportedly was repeated seven times that day.

The incessant braying by the Los Alamos Study Group and its attorney about their first amendment rights is so much hypocritical poppycock. The laboratory and the museum staff have created a policy that embodies the whole spirit of the First Amendment as well as its most recent judicial interpretation: The government cannot favor any point of view and must therefore provide equal access to all. Hence the lottery to select two exhibitors, in which LASG declined to participate, thus deliberately creating the present situation, which it continues to exploit because the controversy is much more valuable than the space in the museum.

LASG is not interested in free speech, of course, but only in promoting its own point of view. An open forum wherein its views are challenged by the other side only hurts its cause because it is immediately obvious to the most casual observer that the LASG position is intellectually bankrupt.

One can only grimace at the pathetic effrontery of this group of "protesters" comparing its actions in this carefully circumscribed and scripted "protest" with the people who actually put their lives and bodies on the line to defend their beliefs in the civil rights movement. To be meaningful, civil protest has to carry real risk and address real issues. This was just a cheap publicity stunt.

10/1/97

George Chandler
940 Los Pueblos
Los Alamos

Beryllium Emissions Worry Activists

LANL To Increase Work Next Fall

By Ian Hoffman
Journal Staff Writer

One of the nation's biggest research plants for an exotic and dangerous metal is taking shape behind a security fence at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Due to start work next fall, the $13 million beryllium facility will make nuclear-weapons parts and even more unique items, such as telescope mirrors for NASA.

The plant will clean and test its air continuously to protect machinists and scientists from toxic beryllium dust, a lung-disease agent and probable carcinogen.

Computerized pumps will draw plant air from ceiling vents into floor vents. Evacuation alarms will sound at changes in air pressure.

Contaminated air will be driven past filters to remove 99.95 percent of beryllium particles before exiting a 50-foot stack.

Even at peak production — a rarity, lab engineers say — the highest beryllium emissions from the stack would be a few grams a day, half what federal and state regulations allow.

It would be far below beryllium emissions from coal-fired power plants, the largest yet unregulated source of airborne beryllium in the environment.

But some New Mexico activists wonder whether the LANL beryllium facility's air emissions still might pose a harm to nearby residents.

After almost 60 years of industrial-scale work with beryllium, scientists and occupational hygienists don't know exactly what amount of its dust is safe for the general population to breathe.

Dust of the hard, lightweight gray metal is among the most toxic substances known to man.

It causes cancer in lab animals and, for the 1 to 5 percent of people who are susceptible, it can trigger an immune-system attack on the lung walls called beryllium.

The symptoms — shortness of breath, chest pains, weight loss and fatigue — can show up decades after exposure.

"What's a safe level of airborne exposure, that's still in question," said Dr. Lee Newman, a pulmonologist at Denver's National Jewish Medical and Research Center.

His studies of beryllium workers nationwide suggest chances of getting berylliosis drop with lower exposures.

"There probably are levels of exposure

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that are not going to cause disease," he said. "We have limited data. But this is a rare disease, and it's going to be an even rarer disease among lower exposed individuals."

Berylliosis was virtually unknown in the early 1940s, when Manhattan Project machinists sawed and ground beryllium for nuclear-weapons parts in open-air shops, without protective clothing, face masks or respirators.

Many were disabled or died prematurely.

The Atomic Energy Commission reacted by limiting workers' exposures to beryllium in 1949. The rule prohibited work when concentrations exceeded two micrograms per cubic meter of air during an average shift.

That's roughly equal to scattering the pencil dust in a dot evenly in a block of air 6 feet high and as large as a football field.

With the new standard, cases plummeted to a mere handful of workers a year.

But a surge of berylliosis since the mid-1980s has forced the AEC's successor, the U.S. Department of Energy, to admit the standard has failed.

Berylliosis has been diagnosed among 93 DOE workers at the Rocky Flats weapons plant near Denver and the Y-12 Plant near Oak Ridge, Tenn. A few are managers or secretaries who worked outside beryllium-processing areas.

As the DOE opened hearings Thursday in Washington, D.C. on a new indoor standard for beryllium workers, the beryllium plant at Los Alamos raises the question of whether national air-emission standards for beryllium are adequate.

Scientists with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency copied the AEC's 1949 "community air" standard when writing a new air-emission standard in 1971.

At the time, EPA toxicologists viewed 100 to 400 micrograms per cubic foot of air as a "low" concentration. That's 50 to 200 times what has triggered berylliosis among DOE workers who are genetically susceptible.

New Mexico adopted the EPA standard as its own.

It allows beryllium facilities to emit up to 10 grams of the metal a day from their stacks or to have no more than a hundredth of a microgram per cubic meter of air nearby.

DOE scientists are thinking about drawing up a tougher community-air standard as well.

But neither the EPA nor the New Mexico Environment Department is reviewing the 1973 air-emission standard.

Two lab watchdog groups worry about LANL's total beryllium emissions, which also come from two smaller machining shops and explosive tests.

"Why should we rush to permit a facility when we know the occupational standard is not working?" asked Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group.

Another Santa Fe group, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, won a settlement from DOE this year after alleging the lab's radioactive emissions violated the Clean Air Act.

"We've already undergone lab non-compliance over radioactive emissions. And because of its potential health impacts, beryllium is obviously a major area of concern," said CCNS' Jay Coghlan.

Beryllium's precise role in nuclear weapons is classified.

But private researchers say beryllium helps trigger nuclear explosions and makes them more efficient.

Mixed with radioactive metals, it can pump extra neutrons into the exploding plutonium core of a weapon to accelerate nuclear fission. Beryllium also forms a skin or "skull" around the plutonium to bounce stray neutrons back into the exploding core.

LANL inherited two production jobs — making plutonium pits and and beryllium parts — from the Rocky Flats Plant.

The new beryllium plant will feature more safeguards to protect workers than any other facility, said metallurgical engineer Steve Abeln, LANL's beryllium project leader.

"We're very, very fortunate," he said. "We're using state-of-the art technology."

Workers will breathe through respirators until daily lab tests verify the air is consistently safe. They would wear full protective suits, plus a small vacuum pump on their belts with a tube running to a filter on their lapels.

After each day, lab technicians in the plant would test the filters to see whether any worker was exposed to beryllium.

Only a few pounds of beryllium would be machined or melted a day under normal operations, Abeln said.

But the plant's application for an air emissions permit suggests it could process up to 1,000 pounds a day. Because workers can't maintain that pace constantly, the maximum would be five tons annually — equal to producing a handful of Hubble telescopes a year.

"We won't be operating at that (level)," Abeln said.

At those peak levels, the plant would emit 2.7 grams of beryllium dust to the environment a day, lab officials announced last week.

That's 27 times what the building emits today. And it doesn't include beryllium operations that the EPA doesn't regulate, such as atomization of beryllium metal into a fine powder.

Those boost total beryllium emissions from the plant to 5 grams a day, or 50 grams a year.

State environmental engineers are checking the lab's application for an air-emission permit this month. If they certify it as complete, they have 180 days to issue or deny it.

'We had no intention of trespassing'

Editor:

I am writing in response to George Chandler's 10/1/97 letter regarding the lab's decision to drop criminal charges against nine people, including myself, for leafleting at the Bradbury Museum. His goal in that letter seems to be an attempt to blame those who were falsely arrested. In this, it seems Mr. Chandler doth protest too much.

He says that Study Group members and supporters had announced their "intention to trespass ... so that they would be arrested, so that (they) could gain press coverage."

On March 21, we announced our intention to leaflet, not to the press but privately to the museum director, both as a courtesy and so that Los Alamos National Laboratory lawyers could do their homework and prevent needless arrests, which no one wanted. We offered this notice weeks before leafletting, during which time there was a detailed and private exchange of legal opinion.

Unfortunately, the lab would not listen to law, common sense, or an appeal to preserve its own reputation. Until April 19, when two of us were arrested, I still doubted that the lab would actually charge Americans handing out leaflets in front of a public building with a crime. We had wanted to communicate with museum visitors, but in the end, we had to leave it to the lab to determine with whom we would be communicating, and what the message would be.

Contrary to Mr. Chandler's allegation, we had no intention of trespassing, and did not do so. If we thought we would be breaking any law, we would not have been there.

Now, on the eve of our trial, LANL has finally retracted its "trespassing" claim. Since LANL apparently doesn't believe we were trespassing, why does Mr. Chandler? How can Mr. Chandler accuse us of trespass if the property owner does not?

Mr. Chandler goes on to characterize the arrest and arraignment of nine people as a kind of fake "protest," a "cheap publicity stunt." But no one set out to "protest" anything, either in April or later in June, when seven people put their reputations and personal freedom on the line to give the lab one more chance to do the right thing. There was nothing "fake" about those arrests, and any negative publicity involved was the choice of the lab itself, the natural consequence of arresting people for activity that is obviously legal.

Mr. Chandler goes on to belittle those arrested for experiencing "no pain," and "no risk," as if pain and risk were goals.

Indeed there was no physical pain. But being arrested, fingerprinted, mug shots taken, FBI files created, scraping up $300 apiece for bail (not easy for everyone), being charged with up to a year in jail and up to $1,000 fine, having out-of-state travel subject to a judge's approval, reading one's name in the paper as that of an accused criminal, finding attorneys to defend one, conducting the factual research involved in defense, going to inconvenient meetings and courtroom appearances, dealing with the media — these are not trivial costs and risks. Most or possibly all of us had never been arrested before, and the reader can be assured that there is more involved in this than meets Mr. Chandler's armchair eye.

Then Mr. Chandler makes the bizarre comparison of these arrestees with the civil rights movement of the 1960s — and falsely attributes this comparison to those arrested in order to impute grandiosity to them. How much easier is it for Mr. Chandler to trash good people like this than to experience, as these people did, even a simple arrest for a good cause.

Mr. Chandler goes on to condemn the Study Group for rejecting the very bad idea, promoted by his wife in her capacity as laboratory attorney, of using a lottery to determine who could speak, and hence what could be said, on the walls of the museum. Contrary to what he says, we never claimed exclusive use of the space set aside for dissent, but there has been no competition for dissent either, making a lottery doubly absurd. We fully supported the efforts of the Los Alamos Education Group, a pro-nuclear group, to exhibit there — on one or more of the seven other blank walls in the museum, rather than at our expense.

...He seems to have forgotten that people have fought and died so that folks can print and distribute political pamphlets in public places saying any old thing they want to say — even (or especially) if their detractors think those statements are "intellectually bankrupt," as Mr. Chandler asserts our work to be.

Some people even say this kind of freedom is exactly what nuclear weapons defend — what the founders of Los Alamos worked to protect. This at least is a coherent idea, worth discussing.

When I moved to Pojoaque in the fall of 1971, I lived with a man who had worked at the lab since its inception (Arnie Roensch). My social world then was about half centered in Los Alamos, primarily in the older generation. Those people, whether you agreed with them or not, had a liberality and sophistication that seems rarer in Los Alamos today. Does a mean-spirited and xenophobic letter like Mr. Chandler's actually strike a sympathetic chord in the community nowadays? I suppose so it does, but more's the pity.

Sincerely,

Greg Mello
Los Alamos Study Group
212 E. Marcy St. No 7
Santa Fe, NM 87501

10/9/97 Monitor

LOS ALAMOS STUDY GROUP

MEMO

To: File
From: Todd Macon
Subject: 10/21 News Interview
Date: October 22, 1997

Greg Mello was interviewed on behalf of the Los Alamos Study Group by Channel 7 KOAT news on the subject of new nuclear weapons being developed by Los Alamos National Lab. A portion of the interview was aired on the 5 o'clock edition of KOAT news. "The Lab is lying, " said Mello in the interview, "new weapons work continues against the spirit of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and despite the assurances of President Clinton that no such work is under way."

Lab accused of making new nukes

▶ *If LANL is creating new weapons, something it strongly denies, it would be in violation of treaty*

10/21/97

By BARBARA FERRY
The New Mexican

Despite assurances from President Clinton to the contrary, scientists at the nation's defense labs, including Los Alamos National Laboratory, are tinkering with nuclear weapons to design new capabilities for them, a recently published article in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* contends.

Clinton has stressed that the comprehensive test ban treaty essentially prohibits the development of new weapons.

But William Arkin, a researcher on defense issues for the Natural Resources Defense Council, says that "despite pledges to the contrary, a wide variety of new nuclear weapons are under development in the United States."

Arkin says that new weapons research is being done under the guise of the Department of Energy's $4.5 billion a year Stockpile Stewardship Program. The department says the project is necessary to keep nuclear weapons "safe and reliable" without performing the underground tests prohibited by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The Defense Council is one of a coalition of arms control and environmental groups which sued DOE last spring over the stockpile stewardship program. Two Santa Fe anti-nuclear groups, Los Alamos Study Group and Concerned Citizens for

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NUKE

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Nuclear Safety, are also plaintiffs in the suit.

Carmen McDougall, a Department of Energy spokeswoman, said she had not seen the article and could not comment on the specific issues raised by Arkin. But she said, "no new advanced weapon systems are being developed by DOE."

A spokesman for Los Alamos National Laboratory also denied that new weapons research is being carried out at LANL.

"We've been asked before and the answer is still no," said lab spokesman James Rickman.

The article, published in the *Bulletin*'s November/December issue, highlights a growing debate between arms control advocates and nuclear weapons officials over what constitutes a "new" nuclear weapon.

For example, the Pentagon last year deployed a bomb which was altered at LANL, to make it capable of penetrating the earth, and potentially hitting underground targets. Lab spokesman Rickman said the bomb, called the B61-11, was modified not redesigned. "Basically the guts are the same," Rickman said. But Arkin argues that the alterations mean that the B61-11 can perform a new mission, making "no-new-nukes ... a pretty elastic idea."

Among the new weapons research occurring at New Mexico's labs, according to the article:

■ Research is taking place at Los Alamos to develop a high-powered radio frequency warhead which could be used to knock out an enemy's electronic systems, Arkin contends. Two Los Alamos scientists were given DOE awards in 1993 for conceptual work on such a warhead. Arkin believes research may still be going on at the lab under a "black," or top-secret, program. Arkin does not say where he obtained the information in the article, and could not be reached Monday for comment. Rickman says no work has been conducted on the subject since 1993 or 1994.

■ The Navy is considering upgrading the W-76 warhead, the most numerous weapon in the stockpile, to give it the capability of penetrating hard targets, Arkin says. Maintenance of the W-76 takes place at Los Alamos. Rickman said he had no information about potential upgrades to the weapon. Arkin cited a Sandia National Laboratory document obtained by the Los Alamos Study Group which stated that one option for the W-76 "is a new design that will not have UTs (underground tests) for certification."

Greg Mello, of the Los Alamos Study Group, said Arkin's article is part of a growing body of evidence that the nation's defense labs have not given up their quest to design new nuclear weapons.

Mello said that many arms control activists have thought it was impossible for the labs to design a new weapon without testing it underground.

"We have been out in the wilderness on this," he said. "We think it's important that people know that the U.S. nuclear weapons program is moving forward."

Weapons Rumors Persist

LANL Denies Reports Of Secret Nuke Work

10/22/97

BY LAN HOFFMAN
Journal Staff Writer

For half a decade, nuclear scientists in New Mexico labored on an exotic new weapon. Unlike its cousins, the "high-power radio frequency" weapon wasn't supposed to kill people.

Its intended victims were computers, radios, anything loaded with electronics.

In theory at least, the so-called HPRF weapon's massive radio pulses would silence an entire war theater, leaving soldiers and pilots technologically deaf, dumb and blind.

"The idea was an electronic kill, not a biological kill," said John Pedicini, a senior weapons designer at Los Alamos National Laboratory, "It was to be used against massive Soviet armored formations. But then the Cold War ended. And that force is pretty much dead."

The White House and Pentagon called in 1994 for an end to the design of new nuclear weapons.

Pedicini and colleagues carried the HPRF to an advanced conceptual design, then shelved it in 1995, he said on Tuesday.

"Basically it got terminated," he said.

But an independent defense researcher contends that's not true.

Sifting through tips and the minutiae of government budgets, nuclear weapons expert William M. Arkin concludes private and government scientists are creating a slew of new nuclear weapons and delivery

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New Nuke Weapons Rumors Persist

from **PAGE 1**

systems.

Arkin's latest article in this week's edition of The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist lists the HPRF weapon, as well as a new attack submarine with a new nuclear-tipped missile system, a gliding version of LANL's B-61 bomb to eliminate defenses in front of attacking B-2 bombers and a defensive nuclear warhead to neutralize biological or chemical warheads before they land.

"The jury is in," Arkin wrote, "Despite pledges to the contrary, a wide variety of new nuclear weapons are under development in the United States. ... Unreformed nuclear war planning — calling for many new nuclear weapons — continues in secret mode."

Defense budgets as recent as fiscal year 1996 call for "follow-on" studies of the HPRF to meet requirements from the Air Force's Strategic Command or STRATCOM, Arkin said. His sources say HPRF-related research remains alive at Los Alamos, funded off budget as an ultra-secret "black program."

"There is a wide-ranging HPRF program, including nuclear and non-nuclear weapons," Arkin said Tuesday from his home in Vermont.

HPRF research nearly died in 1992 or 1993, he said, but STRATCOM then revived its interest in the weapon for "information warfare" in 1995.

"The program disappeared and other programs of the type disappeared at the same time," Arkin said.

Meanwhile, the Departments of Defense and Energy, as well as the Pentagon and White House say no new nuclear weapons are in the works.

Officially, weapons scientists at Los Alamos, Sandia and Lawrence Livermore in California are working solely on keeping existing nuclear weapons working, in some cases, with refurbished parts. Their work falls under a $4.5 billion a year program called stockpile stewardship.

But the official line on nuclear weapons work is both disingenuous and dangerous for arms control, Arkin maintains.

"The continued commitment of DOD and DOE to building new nuclear weapons is a broad message, received in Moscow, that we don't plan to get rid of nukes any more than they do," he said.

Instead, U.S. nuclear war planners are still hunting for new weapons and new capabilities as though the Cold War never ended, he said.

"The fact the U.S. government can't admit this and won't admit this is a national scandal, and it's a scandal because we're spending $4.5 billion a year on this and we have no comprehensive plan for it. We are essentially building our nuclear future on an a lá carte basis," Arkin said.

Accusations such as Arkin's exasperate officials at LANL.

"It's just not true. We're not working on new weapons," lab director Sig Hecker told reporters after similar news reports this summer.

Pedicini himself designed the fission trigger or primary for the HPRF weapon. The nuclear engineer said the weapon never got beyond what's known as Phase II conceptual design to Phase III, when Los Alamos and Livermore would have competed for rights to polish the design and build a prototype.

"We haven't had a Phase II or Phase III for years," Pedicini said.

Nor, he said, has STRATCOM even asked the lab to reopen work on the HPRF, in secret or otherwise.

"I'm in on most of the black programs and to my knowledge there's no work being done on that at all. And I probably would know about it," he said.

The White House would have to approve such work anyway, he noted.

"Right now the guidance we get is we can't add new military capability. That means you can't increase (explosive) yields, and you can't go for an HPRF," Pedicini said.

10/22/97 N.M.

LANL Protesters Exercising Rights

ON BEHALF OF the Los Alamos Study Group I would like to respond to George Chandler's letter attacking us. Chandler thinks the nine people arrested ... for leafletting at the Bradbury Science Museum were not really "protesters" exercising a "free speech" right but publicity seekers hoping to be arrested. I was one of those arrested and I was also the person who spoke at length with Chandler and Morris Pongratz at the museum during the June arrests.

In early March, the group obtained and read the lab demonstration policy. On March 21, we wrote John Rhoades, director of the museum, stating our intentions to hand out leaflets in front of the museum on March 28. Larry Runge (LANL security) responded on March 26 denying approval. We then wrote Rhoades on March 27 asking Runge to reconsider and cited case law supporting our free speech right under the First Amendment. Shortly thereafter, on April 2, we again wrote Rhoades stating our intention to leaflet on a new date, April 19. The lab's legal department responded citing case law supporting the lab's position. On April 15, we sent a four-page letter of case law supporting our First Amendment position. During the same period I contacted the Los Alamos office of the Department of Energy to inform them of the growing disagreement.

Hoping to avoid a confrontation, we asked the lab legal department for a last-minute meeting at their offices Friday afternoon the day before our planned leafletting. All parties were present, but after 45 minutes we were told the decision rested with senior managers who were not available late on a Friday. When we tried to leaflet on April 19, we had no idea if the lab would arrest us or not. ... We soon found out.

We were not trespassing in handing out leaflets on publicly supported property. But anyone faced with a choice between exercising the constitutional right of free speech or accepting the "authorities'" denial of that freedom would be a coward to run from the contest. ... What would Chandler have done? Our founding fathers didn't call off the revolution because George III thought it illegal. ...

Chandler also dismissed the risk associated with arrest. He is partly correct and party wrong. All our people were counseled to be polite and non-confrontive. We were certain we would be courteously treated by Los Alamos police and we were.

But the risk was in being found guilty of criminal trespass in magistrate court and sentenced to a year in jail and a $1,000 fine. We felt Judge Elaine Morris would treat us fairly. But Los Alamos is the exemplar of a company town and the magistrate is an elected office. Would the First Amendment issue be aired or would the decision rest solely on where we were standing?

Our goal remains peaceful leafletting at the museum and reinstallation of our anti-nuclear exhibit there. ... Stop by the Bradbury and pick up a flier — we are awaiting a change in lab policy and will soon be there with materials on many nuclear issues.

Cathie Sullivan
Los Alamos Study Group
Santa Fe

Info provided to Tri Valley CARES by LASG

Violations curtail lab plutonium operations

By Peter Weiss
TIMES STAFF WRITER

LIVERMORE — Some Lawrence Livermore Laboratory plutonium operations have been shut down since July, when the lab discovered workers routinely breaking rules for handling the material.

Handlers with responsibility for preventing possible spontaneous explosions of the radioactive material were unwittingly violating rules for at least two months this summer, according to an internal lab report obtained by a lab watchdog group.

Although the infractions didn't come close to causing "criticality events," as the spontaneous explosions are known, their discovery in mid-July at the lab's Plutonium Facility led to the shutdown of operations in about a tenth of the facility. Operations still have not fully restarted.

A subsequent monthlong investigation revealed that inadequate supervision of handlers at the facility was partly to blame, according to Aug. 15 report by the five-man committee that conducted the review. They noted that a manager responsible for safety compliance had conducted a "walkthrough" inspection of the glove boxes in early July but missed the violations.

While dismissing the repeated violations as "no threat to the safety of the workers, the public or the environment," investigators also blamed other systemic problems with training and management within the facility and other lab organizations for the breakdown. Their review also revealed a lack of respect among some workers for the safety rules as a possible factor.

See PLUTONIUM, Back Page

Plutonium

FROM PAGE A1

Officials with agencies that monitor the lab's nuclear safety agreed there was no overt danger and praised the lab's "conservative" rules for handling fissile materials. Those include plutonium and highly enriched uranium, which are capable of a runaway nuclear chain reaction and so are the fuels of nuclear warheads.

But, "there are indications of major deficiencies in the program, things that need to be addressed," said Douglas Eddy, head of environmental, safety and health oversight on the lab's premises for the U.S. Department of Energy, its parent agency. Of greatest concern to DOE was that the infractions persisted for two months without being noticed, he said.

The 58-page report lists 15 infractions of criticality safety controls from May 20 to July 15.

Infractions can occur if workers place too much fissile material in a glove box. The mass of the pieces and six other factors determine if a criticality can occur, including their shapes and how close together they are.

If a criticality event occurs, there is a flash and an intense burst of radiation as a runaway nuclear chain reaction begins. But the energy release is strong enough to blast apart the pieces, shutting the reaction down.

1963 accident

In 1963, cylinders of uranium accidentally went critical in a shielded vault at the lab with the force of about five pounds of TNT, exposing four lab workers to small radiation doses. At least two criticality events elsewhere in the country in the 1940s and 1960s killed people with lethal doses of radiation.

There have been no criticality events at the Plutonium Facility since it was built in 1961, said Gordon Guenterberg, manager of the complex of high-security buildings known as the Superblock, which includes the facility.

Within the tightly guarded plutonium building, scientists experiment with the densesilvery metal, which is both toxic and radioactive. Technicians also use lathes and milling machines to create precisely shaped plutonium pieces for in-house research and for explosive underground experiments, known as subcritical tests, that are conducted beneath the Nevada desert.

Both research and machining take place within sealed, ventilated, transparent boxes, known as glove boxes, which are penetrated by thick rubber gloves. The glove boxes enable workers to handle the materials while remaining shielded from radiation and other risks, such as inhaling plutonium particles.

The infractions were discovered because a machinist working overtime on a Sunday recognized that his glove box was out of compliance because of two plutonium parts added to it since the preceding Friday. Either of the extra parts was enough to push the work station above its plutonium limits.

But the worker didn't report the condition until two days later — an infraction of two lab rules. Only after he and another machinist had added a third part to the glove box, making the infraction even more severe, did he report the condition on July 15. His report resulted in an immediate work shutdown and evacuation at the facility's Room 1353, where the lathe was located.

Already in violation

After the shutdown, workers soon realized that same glove box had been in violation of the criticality rules even without addition of any of the three parts — and had been in that state, off and on, for more than a month. That was because the mass of two hemispheres of plutonium already in the box had by themselves exceeded the box's limit. Within a couple of hours, workers removed the hemispheres to fix the problem.

Marylia Kelley, president of Livermore-based Tri-Valley Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment, made the report available to the press after obtaining it from the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in Washington, D.C., which monitors nuclear safety at U.S. nuclear weapons sites.

She said it documents "callous disregard" for criticality safety regulations. "You're setting the stage for a criticality accident," she said of the lab.

John T. Conway, chairman of the safety board, said he was most disturbed by the worker's delay in speaking up after becoming aware of the problem.

Guenterberg called the infractions "a procedural violation, an administrative thing" because of the lack of true danger.

But he also said he took the breaches of the rules seriously enough to call for the investigation.

The facility is developing a plan to correct the problems found. It is working with the lab nuclear weapons programs and other lab organizations that use its personnel to fill the management void identified in the report.

It is also bolstering training for plutonium handlers on criticality safety rules, he said.

Although no one has been fired as a result of the findings, he said, the lab is considering what disciplinary actions, if any, it might take.

Study group sues to get lab weapons information

10/31/97

By STEPHEN T. SHANKLAND
Monitor Managing Editor

The Los Alamos Study Group sued the Department of Energy Thursday in an effort to obtain information about Los Alamos National Laboratory listed in six requests.

The study group complaint asks U.S. District Judge Martha Vasquez to order the DOE "to produce immediately the documents sought by the Los Alamos Study Group" and "to commence an investigation to determine whether disciplinary action is warranted against any federal employee for DOE's unlawful pattern and practice of withholding information...."

Greg Mello of the study group said today, "These six are ones that are, to our view, quite clear-cut instances of foot-dragging. They represent a constructive denial of our rights to get information."

The complaint said the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) "requires federal agencies to respond to public requests for information within 10 days. In some cases, DOE's responses to the Los Alamos Study Group's 14 pending FOIA requests are more than five months late."

A news release said the study group is requesting information on "the purpose, general description, and status of nuclear weapons projects at LANL; documents regarding LANL's program to develop a replacement warhead for the Navy's submarine-launched missiles; budget codes and general descriptions of current nuclear weapons projects; background documents relating to LANL's plans to upgrade its defunct Nuclear Materials Storage Facility...; travel records regarding thousands of trips LANL employees took to the Washington, D.C., area and to foreign countries in 1996; and budgets and personnel involved in DOE and LANL public relations and 'corporate citizenship' activities in New Mexico."

However, LANL spokesman John Gustafson said today the delays in getting information to the study group are simply because of the amount of work needed to fulfill the complex requests, the limited number of people who fulfill the requests, and the fact that people at the lab have plenty to do as it is.

"The office that handles these information requests has two people working on them. Currently there are 50 open cases (requests), of which the study group represents 12," Gustafson said.

And the lab is working on the requests, Gustafson added.

"Given the amount of staffing we have to direct to these requests, and given the complexity of Greg's requests, it's not surprising it takes a little bit of time to fulfill it," Gustafson said.

In the case of the travel information, the request produced a 1,100-page document that somebody has to go through to screen out confidential information such as employee addresses or credit card numbers, Gustafson said. This work must be done by Travel Office employees who have their regular jobs to worry about. "When are they supposed to do it? They have to find time amidst their normal job activities," Gustafson said.

FOIA requests submitted to DOE are referred to LANL, said Gustafson and DOE spokesman Al Stotts.

Mello said that DOE-Albuquerque FOIA personnel "have told us that LANL is uniquely unresponsive" to FOIA requests.

Stotts said LANL accounts for 30 to 40 percent of the FOIA requests sent to DOE-Albuquerque — more FOIA

(Please see FOIA, Page 6)

Los Alamos Monitor

FOIA

(from Page 1)

requests than any of the other facilities DOE-Albuquerque oversees. In addition, many of the LANL FOIA requests are for historical documents that require manual searches through archives. And about 60 percent of the LANL FOIA requests produce material with classified information, which means the document must be analyzed line-by-line by a single classification officer at LANL, Stotts said.

Because of frustrations in getting information from the lab, the study group has ratcheted its requests to increasingly formal levels such as FOIA requests, Mello said.

Mello also complained that many of the requests could be handled informally by simply asking the LANL employees involved. Instead, the study group is forced to have its requests channeled through the Community Involvement and Outreach (CIO) Office. "It's kind of a make-work deal and it's kind of a filtering deal," Mello said.

Gustafson responded, "The people that have documents have jobs that they are hired to do. Their job is not to make people (like Greg Mello) happy. That's why we have an organization like CIO, to work with these outside groups."

FLAG COPIES

DOE Sued for LANL Documents

BY IAN HOFFMAN 10/31/97
Journal Staff Writer

A Santa Fe arms-control organization sued the U.S. Department of Energy on Thursday, accusing the agency of illegally stonewalling requests for public documents about nuclear weapons work at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The Los Alamos Study Group's lawsuit takes the unusual tack of asking a federal judge to order an investigation of DOE employees.

DOE officials said they had not seen the lawsuit and declined to comment.

The activist group contends the DOE has tolerated failure by its weapons lab in Los Alamos to adequately respond to information requests for up to six months.

Federal law and DOE rules set a response deadline of 10 days.

"I'm perfectly willing to believe the DOE (public information) people would like to do a good job, if only Los Alamos would let them," said the study group's

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Energy Department Sued for LANL Documents

from **PAGE 1**

leader, Greg Mello. "But in this, as in so many other matters, the contractor is running the DOE. The lab is supposed to work for DOE, not vice versa."

Mello's group alerts government officials, the public and media to unsafe or questionable lab operations.

In requests dating to the summer of 1996, Mello and colleagues first asked the lab for the information — ranging from lists of nuclear-weapons projects to details of lab spending in northern New Mexico.

Among topics of interest: the cost and purpose of thousands of trips by lab scientists to Washington, D.C., and abroad, plus background papers on more than $35 million in planned repairs to a nuclear-materials storage facility built for $17 million but never opened.

When the lab didn't respond to these requests, the group filed formal requests with DOE officials in Albuquerque under the Freedom of Information Act.

The DOE then referred the requests back to the lab, which admits it has not responded promptly.

Only two lab workers handle requests under the Freedom of Information Act and the California Information Practices Act, which also applies to the lab because it is operated by the University of California.

They are working on 50 open requests, 12 from the study group, said a lab spokesman, John Gustafson.

"They are working as fast as they can given limitations of staffing," Gustafson said. "We're part of the (FOIA) process and things are admittedly slow on our end."

Mello's group wants information on nuclear weapons, so each document must be reviewed by the lab's single classification officer assigned to FOIAs, Gustafson said.

Requests for travel records, he noted, can generate more than 1,000 pages and overwhelm the lab's travel office.

But Mello's group sees a pattern of delays that is "deliberate...an abuse of discretion," according to the lawsuit filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Santa Fe.

The group filed a request in July for a single, unclassified summary of weapons work cited in a lab publication.

"This office is still waiting for LANL's response," DOE replied on Oct. 16.

In its lawsuit, the study group asks U.S. District Court Judge Martha Vasquez to order DOE to immediately hand over documents for six information requests and to appoint a special counsel "determine whether disciplinary action is warranted against any federal employee for DOE's unlawful pattern...of withholding information."

11/1/1997

Group: DOE violated public openness law

A Santa Fe watchdog group says the Department of Energy has violated a federal public openness law in not making available in a timely manner information related to Los Alamos National Laboratory's nuclear weapons program.

The **Los Alamos Study Group** says the DOE has failed to respond in a timely way to its information requests, filed under the Freedom of Information Act. The information requested is unclassified.

Energy Department officials were not reached for comment.

Earlier this year the study group won a FOIA lawsuit against the DOE that had to do with the group's efforts to obtain videotapes of a nuclear weapons conference sponsored by the lab.

Mayor to meet with neighborhood groups

Mayor Debbie Jaramillo will meet with the Neighborhood Network, an association of neighborhood groups, next Monday to discuss how her administration has dealt with neighborhood issues.

According to an announcement from the network, the mayor will take questions from members about how Jaramillo's policies have affected neighborhoods.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday in the Southwest Conference Room of St. Vincent Hospital and the public is invited to attend. For more information, call Karen Heldmeyer at 982-3968.

Woman wants to run for representative

Diann Bradshaw of Mountainair, chairman of the Torrance County Planning and Zoning Board, announced Thursday that she will run as Democratic candidate for the District 50 state House of Representatives seat in 1998. Gary King, the District 50 incumbent, has announced that he will run for governor next year.

Bradshaw, who moved to the Mountainair area three years ago from Austin, runs a real estate business from her home. District 50 includes much of southern Santa Fe County, including the Edgewood area, Madrid and La Cienega.

The New Mexican

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Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)
Title: New Mexico in brief
Date: November 2, 1997

Group raises LANL

issues to Redmond

About 200 members of Citizens for Los Alamos National Laboratory Employee Rights, CLER, met with Rep. Bill Redmond, R-N.M., Saturday to discuss perceived racism at LANL and the on-going Reduction In Force dispute.

Members from CLER discussed concerns about incoming LANL director John Browne, as well as a derogatory reference made by a supervisor to certain LANL employees as ``only Mexican nationals'' and a lawsuit filed by the **Los Alamos Study Group** accusing LANL of withholding documents. CLER members also discussed an investigation by the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission into allegations of age discrimination, and a subpoena for documents issued Friday.

``Anger is overflowing,'' said CLER president Chuck Montano. ``It's getting ready to explode again. People are frustrated. We're tired of the lab continuing with its campaign of denial.''

Redmond expressed a desire to work with the group and said he needed time to assess the situation.

Neighborhoods

to meet with mayor

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Energy Department officials were not reached for comment.

Earlier this year the study group won a FOIA lawsuit against the DOE that had to do with the group's efforts to obtain videotapes of a nuclear weapons conference sponsored by the lab.

State bar honors

two for service

The State Bar of New Mexico will honor two Northern New Mexico residents at the bar's Annual Service Awards presentation in Albuquerque Saturday.

Espanola attorney John M. Roybal will receive the Robert H. LaFollette Pro Bono Award for his exemplary contributions of legal assistance to people who can not afford to pay an attorney.

Eighth Judicial District Judge Peggy J. Nelson of Taos will receive the bar's Outstanding Judicial Service Award.

Absentee voting

for charter to start

Absentee voting for the Dec. 8 special municipal election will begin on Tuesday and last through Dec. 4. The election will determine whether to adopt the Municipal Charter prepared by the city's Home Rule Commission. Registered voters in the city are eligible to vote.

Absentee voting will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Santa Fe City Clerk's office at City Hall, 200 Lincoln Ave., second floor, room 210. Eligible voters unable to come to City Hall may request an absentee ballot by calling 984-6521.

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LANL protest 11/6/97

I am writing in response to George Chandler's Oct. 24, 1997, letter regarding Los Alamos National Laboratory's decision to drop criminal charges against nine people, including myself, for leafleting at the Bradbury Museum. His goal in that letter seems to be an attempt to blame those who were falsely arrested. In this, it seems Mr. Chandler doth protest too much.

He says that Study Group members and supporters had announced their "intention to trespass ... so that they would be arrested, so that [they] could gain press coverage."

On March 21, we announced our intention to leaflet, not to the press but privately to the Museum Director, both as a courtesy and so that LANL lawyers could do their homework and prevent needless arrests, which no one wanted.

Unfortunately, the Lab would not listen to law, common sense, or an appeal to preserve its own reputation. Until April 19, when two of us were arrested, I still doubted that the Lab would actually charge Americans handing out leaflets in front of a public building with a crime. We had wanted to communicate with Museum visitors, but in the end we had to leave it to the Lab to determine with whom we would be communicating, and what the message would be.

Contrary to Mr. Chandler's allegation, we had no intention of trespassing, and did not do so. If we thought we would be breaking any law, we would not have been there.

On the eve of our trial LANL finally retracted its "trespassing" claim. Since LANL apparently doesn't believe we were trespassing, why does Chandler? Chandler goes on to characterize the arrest and arraignment of nine people as a kind of fake "protest," a "cheap publicity stunt." But no one set out to "protest" anything, either in April or later in June, when seven people put their reputations and personal freedom on the line to give the Lab one more chance to do the right thing. There nothing "fake" about those arrests, and any negative publicity involved was the choice of the Lab itself, the natural consequence of arresting people for activity that is obviously legal.

Chandler seems to have forgotten that people have fought and died so that folks can print and distribute political pamphlets in public places saying any old thing they want to say — even (or especially) if their detractors think those statements are "intellectually bankrupt," as Chandler blindly asserts our work to be.

Greg Mello
Los Alamos Study Group
Santa Fe

New Mexican

Seeing through LANL

I would like to respond to the Oct. 24, 1997, letter written by Charles Barnett in which he laments "Los Alamos bashing" by "uninformed junkyard dogs."

Mr. Barnett, inspired by an article by Keith Easthouse, urges us to "talk about spin." Not a bad topic, especially in context of Los Alamos National Lab, a research facility where a vast majority of it's large budget goes toward nuclear weapons but its non-military news releases out number nuclear or military news releases four to one. Perhaps this isn't quite "spinning," merely keeping the public in the dark about such issues as turning this "research" facility into a full-scale nuclear weapon *production* facility or continuing work on new and improved nuclear weapons. Spin? Deceiving the public through the media is an art LANL strives to perfect. Without a doubt, I prefer Mr. Easthouse's reporting to that of the Lab's propaganda techniques.

In closing, I would like to respond to Barnett's arrogant assertion that, "there's not a nation on earth that wouldn't want to own Los Alamos" by quoting the first LANL director in his farewell speech to the Lab: *[If atomic bombs are] to be added to the arsenals of a warring world, or to the arsenals of nations preparing for war, then the time will come when mankind will curse the name of Los Alamos and Hiroshima.* — J. Robert Oppenheimer

Todd Macon
Santa Fe

11/8/97 New Mexican

Plant makes parts for a shock-wave bomb

Disputed bomb has link to KC

AlliedSignal produces components of device that provides new, devastating capabilities.

By JOHN LEIFER
Special to The Star

The cylindrical, steel object hurls through the sky at 1,000 feet per second. Downtown, pedestrians can't hear its approach, nor the muffled engines of a B-2 stealth bomber as it banks and heads home.

The 12-foot-long bomb pierces a city sidewalk, slicing through earthen layers before resting 25 feet beneath the surface. Microseconds later, it detonates, triggering a nuclear explosion.

The shock waves travel horizontally, ripping apart the supports for office buildings. They topple, but there is no fiery mushroom cloud enveloping the core of the city and beyond. In fact, five blocks away, stunned crowds wonder what happened. Some speculate it was an earthquake.

It could be any city in the world. What sounds like science fiction is now possible because of the recent development of a nuclear bomb called the B61-11.

Key components for this bomb are manufactured at the Kansas City Division of AlliedSignal

See PLANT, D-15, Col. 1

Aerospace Co. Although the United States has not dropped the bomb in war, its existence is raising questions.

Officials at AlliedSignal could not be reached for comment. David Gurule, area manager for the Department of Energy, confirmed that AlliedSignal's Kansas City plant manufactures non-nuclear components for the bomb.

AlliedSignal has played a key role in the manufacture of nuclear weapons since 1949, when the Atomic Energy Commission retained Bendix Corp. to manage the facility and its production of components for nuclear weapons.

COVER STORY

Bendix merged with Allied Corp. in 1982, forming AlliedSignal Inc. The company, which operates the Kansas City plant for the Department of Energy, currently has the capacity to produce most of the non-nuclear components for nuclear bombs.

New use for old bomb

The B61-11 is causing a debate over whether the United States is breaking a pledge made by the Clinton administration not to engage in the production of new nuclear weapons.

The administration defends the current bomb project, asserting that the B61-11 is a remanufactured nuclear device that has at its core an existing bomb known as the B61-7.

The B61-7 is converted to the B61-11 using a kit designed by Sandia Laboratories and manufactured by AlliedSignal and Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group, a nonprofit nuclear policy and advocacy organization, said the administration is "deceiving itself — for the weapon has entirely novel military characteristics and capabilities."

Whether old, weapon or new, weapons experts and government officials agree that the B61-11 provides the military with devastating new capabilities.

Aviation Week and Space Technology described the B61-11 as weighing a modest 1,200 pounds. It is designed to strike the ground with the velocity of a .45 caliber bullet.

After reaching a depth of up to 30 feet, the device detonates, sending the destructive shock waves through the earth while minimizing the surface effect of the blast.

Industry experts said the bomb employs what is referred to as a "DAY," or dial-a-yield system, allowing varying levels of explosive destructiveness to be preprogrammed.

The yield can be as small as the equivalent of 300 tons of TNT or as substantial as 350,000 tons of device releases 25 times the destructive force unleashed by an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, and 175,000 times the destructive force that collapsed the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City — plenty of power to devastate a buried control bunker, missile silo or weapons plant.

Before the development of the B61-11, the only device in the military arsenal capable of destroying such facilities was the B53 thermonuclear bomb. The B53's 9 megaton hydrogen warhead damages everything within 10 miles of its detonation.

By comparison, the B61-11 is what's considered "a surgically precise" weapon that provides the military with a unique tactical tool.

References to the need for such a device arose shortly before production of the first bomb was completed. Harold Smith, assistant to the secretary of defense for atomic energy, in a press briefing two years ago, stated that the United States would consider pre-emptive use of a nuclear bomb against a Libyan chemical warfare factory under construction 40 miles from Tripoli.

He went on to imply that a weapon, tailor-made for such a task, was nearing completion. A little more than a week later, the United States entered into an agreement banning the use of nuclear weapons against African states.

A ban by Congress

Critics argue that the B61-11 moves the United States closer to the practical deployment of nuclear weapons. So called "mininukes" allow focused destruction without creating a nuclear holocaust.

That's why the 103rd Congress enacted the mininuke amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill, outlawing the development of low-yield nuclear weapons.

Yet, the B61-11, when set to minimal yield, is clearly classified as a "mininuke."

Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group supports the contention that the B61-11 violates the spirit of legislation. "The intent of (the) legislation was to prevent the development of precisely this kind of weapon. By claiming that this weapon is only a minor modification, the Departments of Energy and Defense can claim that no laws have been violated."

Defense industry experts further state that the B61-11's portability increases the likelihood of its deployment. The B53 hydrogen bomb weighs 9,000 pounds and requires a massive aircraft for delivery; the B61-11 can be carried by a variety of planes, including the B-2 stealth bomber.

One expert said the bomb will never be used, even with its minimal yield capabilities and its transportability. Michael Krepon, president of the Henry L. Stimson Center, a nonprofit, nonpartisan institution devoted to public policy programming and research, emphatically stated that "the United States is not going to use a nuclear weapon against a Third World country that does not use a nuclear weapon against us. I cannot foresee circumstances in which it will be used."

If the B61-11 is deployed, it will probably be carried aboard a B-2 bomber based at Whiteman Air Force Base east of Kansas City, the only operational B-2 base in the nation. Kits are shipped to Whiteman by the Department of Energy contractors for final conversion of the B61-7 into the B61-11.

Once loaded on any of the 13 B-2s stationed at Whiteman, the B61-11 can be delivered to targets up to 6,000 nautical miles away without refueling and with a low probability of detection.

Soon, up to eight more B-2s will join the ranks of the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman. Government officials at Whiteman Air Force Base could not be reached for comment.

Disagreements on production

The deployment of this new bomb has caused critics to ask why, in an apparent era of peace, would the United States potentially violate congressional legislation and engage in the production of a new class of weapons.

William M. Arkin, a private nuclear weapons consultant and columnist for the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientist*, was quoted in the *Albuquerque Journal* as stating that such projects fuel "the weapons labs' thirst for new work (which) still has a role in driving the arms race."

Mello said the current level of funding is "two to three times greater than what is required."

AlliedSignal representatives argue the other perspective. The company faces a Department of Energy-imposed reduction in force, designed to reduce employed personnel from 3,455 to 2,755 by early 1998.

"In my view, diminishing support for the production plants would be extremely shortsighted and dangerous," said Karen Clegg, president of AlliedSignal Federal Manufacturing Technologies, in congressional testimony.

Krepon agreed that there might be an economic motivation behind such projects.

"What we are dealing with here is Cold War nuclear theology — a theology of deterrence that has kept people gainfully employed throughout the Cold War and is obviously keeping people gainfully employed after the Cold War is over."

Free-lance writer John Leifer is chief executive officer of the Leifer Group, an Overland Park healthcare consulting firm.

'Medusa's Child' weapon: Just how far-fetched is it?

▶ *Some say LANL is trying to build a weapon that would destroy electronic devices*

By KATHLEENE PARKER
The New Mexican

As television viewers watched Thursday while a courageous but fictional airline pilot fights to save the nation from an atomic bomb, they might have wondered whether Los Alamos *really* is working on a so-called Medusa weapon.

Los Alamos National Laboratory says not, but others aren't so sure.

One anti-nuclear group claims LANL is suppressing information that would show it is working on at least some form of the weapon.

The fact that Los Alamos was mentioned repeatedly in *Medusa's Child,* an ABC made-for-television movie about a warhead designed specifically to produce an electromagnetic pulse, is no accident, a nuclear weapons expert said.

Los Alamos is after all the lead laboratory for nuclear weapons research, said Bill Arkin, a columnist for the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists,* during a phone interview Thursday from his Vermont home.

"A stand-alone, enhanced electromagnetic pulse weapon ... has always been a dream on the part of the Strangelovian types at the laboratories," said Arkin, referring to the mad scientist in the Stanley Kubrick movie.

In *Medusa's Child,* a scientist who had worked at Los Alamos but had been fired builds his own Medusa weapon — a thermonuclear device designed to explode at the Pentagon and cripple the nation by destroying

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MEDUSA

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its communications and electronics.

That scenario is scientifically inaccurate, said LANL spokesman Jim Danneskiold. Such a device would have to be exploded high in the atmosphere to put out an effective electromagnetic pulse, he said.

In the movie, the device ends up armed on board a cargo plane over Washington, D.C., instead of at the Pentagon.

While it has long been known that electromagnetic pulses — electrical disturbances caused secondary to the burst of energy — are potentially dangerous to electronics, what military strategists hope for is a way to destroy an enemy's computers, communications and electronics without having to explode a thermonuclear device, Arkin said.

Los Alamos has and is now involved in such research, Arkin said.

The device would accumulate radio-frequency energy, such as microwaves, and then suddenly release it, he said.

Such a weapon has tremendous strategic potential, leaving the enemy effectively blind and deaf during a wartime crisis, he said.

Perhaps not coincidentally, the actor who played the president in *Medusa's Child,* Martin Sheen, is an outspoken critic of nuclear weapons. Sheen came to Los Alamos in 1995 to testify on behalf of a nuclear protester arrested at LANL. Sheen said the protester had a moral imperative to criticize the weapons work done there.

While it has long been known that electromagnetic pulses are potentially dangerous to electronics, what military strategists hope for is a way to destroy an enemy's computers, communications and electronics without having to explode a thermonuclear device.

But Danneskiold and an expert on weapon effects, Tom Kunkle, Thursday insisted that LANL is not developing an EMP weapon.

"We don't do anything (like that) here that I am aware of," said Kunkle. But EMP as a phenomenon has been studied since the 1960s, he said.

That happened after an atomic bomb exploded 250 miles in the air over Johnston Island southwest of Hawaii, knocking out power to much of Hawaii 900 miles away, Danneskiold said.

But there is evidence Los Alamos is researching such a weapon, said Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group, a Santa Fe anti-nuclear organization.

"I am not saying this work is going on," said Mello. "But I know that it was going on up to a couple of years ago."

EMP work was listed in 1997 and 1998 Congressional budget requests from LANL, he said.

In October the Study Group filed a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act seeking release of a summary of LANL weapons research, Mello said. Although unclassified, LANL has refused to release the information, he said.

DOE eyes expanded plutonium pit work

▶ *Contingency plan would enable United States to build key nuclear bomb component at Cold War levels*

By KEITH EASTHOUSE
The New Mexican

At a time when the United States is dismantling part of its nuclear arsenal, the Department of Energy has been quietly laying the groundwork to ensure that the nation can — if needed — quickly crank up its ability to produce a key bomb component at levels reminiscent of the Cold War era.

The effort is mainly a DOE initiative, although scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory have provided some assistance.

A DOE report issued to Congress earlier this year says the purpose of a $1.2 million "contingency plan" is to enable the nation to develop within just five years the ability to build as many as 500 plutonium "pits" annually.

Pits are the grapefruit-size radioactive metal spheres at the heart of most nuclear bombs.

That's 10 times more than is currently planned under a DOE program called "stockpile stewardship," which calls upon Los Alamos to develop the capability to build an average of 50 pits per year by 2005.

A production level of 500 pits would represent a big jump toward Cold War production levels, when the Rocky Flats plant near Denver churned out more than 1,000 pits per year.

A large hike in pit production would probably take place only if there were an ominous change in the international situation — such as a resurgent Russia — or if a major defect were found in one or more weapons systems in the existing arsenal.

The expanded production work, if it is ever undertaken, would probably not take place at Los Alamos due to a lack of facility space.

Instead, according to the report, the work would likely be based at existing facilities at one or more of the following DOE sites: the Savannah River site in South Carolina; the Y-12 plant in Tennessee; the Pantex plant in Amarillo, Texas; and the Nevada Test Site.

Anti-nuclear activists expressed outrage at the plan.

"This will only stir up the right wing in

Please see PITS, Page A-2

PITS

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Russia to pour in more money to their nuclear weapons complex," warned Christopher Paine, a senior researcher at the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington D.C.

"We find no reason to acquire any additional capability to manufacture plutonium pits — let alone a level that is 10 times DOE's stated plan," added Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group, a Santa Fe organization.

T.J. Trapp, program manager for nuclear component readiness at the lab, said the concerns about the plan are overblown.

He said if there is a need for expanded pit production, it would likely be geared toward replacing aging pits in existing weapons — not installing pits in brand new bombs as was the case in the Cold War years, when the nuclear arsenal was growing.

He also said it is unlikely there will ever be a need to replace 500 pits a year.

"I don't know that anyone is actually planning for 500 as much as they're planning for a larger capability in case we have a major problem in stockpile," Trapp said.

"It's hard to imagine a problem where we would need to replace more than 500 per year. It's just an upper bound on what's conceivable," Trapp added.

If an expansion is needed, it would be based on a "modular" pit manufacturing system currently under development at LANL, according to the DOE report to Congress. The system has the advantage of being relatively easy to put in place but it requires a good deal of floor area.

Paine accused the agency of "secretly plotting to maintain a very large nuclear weapons stockpile."

The report in which the plan is described, called the *Department of Energy Report on Plutonium Pit Production and Remanufacturing Plans*, was presented to key House and Senate leaders this past summer.

The issuance of the report to Congress was required by federal law.

Paine blasted the contingency plan as being "wrong from every perspective."

"It runs against every one of our treaty commitments," Paine said.

These include the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, designed to stem the spread of nuclear weapons; the START II Treaty, which places ceilings on the American and Russian nuclear arsenals; and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which bans nuclear weapons tests.

The treaty has been approved by the Clinton Administration but not yet ratified by Congress.

Paine said if pits have a lifespan of 20 to 25 years — a conservative estimate — then a production level of 500 pits annually would support a stockpile of 10,000 to 12,000 bombs.

"That's a ludicrously high figure in terms of future requirements," said Paine.

Paine said his organization, which is already challenging the DOE's stockpile stewardship program in court, would "fight with every means at our disposal" if the agency seeks a large expansion of its pit production capability.

An expansion would be contrary to recent recommendations made by the National Academy of Science and Adm. Stansfield Turner, head of the CIA under President Carter.

In a recent report, the academy called for an arsenal no bigger than 300 to 1,000 bombs. Turner, in a new book titled *Caging the Nuclear Genie*, said the country should not have any nuclear weapons deployed and should keep only a few hundred in reserve.

Berkeley up in arms over lab's weapon project

> *"This is in complete compliance with the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act. It will be subject to rigorous reviews and to publication of results."*
>
> **Charles Shank**
> Berkeley Lab director

By William Brand
STAFF WRITER

BERKELEY — A little-known but massive federal project to build a device that can take rapid-succession photographs of the final microseconds of a mock H-bomb explosion is creating shock waves in Berkeley because the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, historically a nonweapons-related facility, is involved.

When completed in 2002 at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, the project will be a technological marvel.

Called the Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test facility, the $256 million project is basically a pair of huge X-ray machines powerful enough to see through metal.

It would allow scientists to check nuclear weapons without actually exploding a nuclear device and violating the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, signed by President Clinton in 1996. Conventional explosives will replace the fission package in a hydrogen weapon and then be detonated. The implosion will be photographed in greater detail than ever before.

Berkeley's dilemma is that the second X-ray machine in DARHT is based on groundbreaking linear induction electron accelerator technology perfected at Law-

Shirley Dean

Berkeley mayor schedules unprecedented community forum on project to build device to photograph final microseconds of a mock nuclear explosion.

rence Berkeley.

The lab, in the hills above the UC Berkeley campus, is accepting a $43 million U.S. Department of Energy contract to

Please see **Project**, A-11

Project: Mayor calls unscheduled meeting

Continued from A-1

build the accelerator.

It's the kind of battle that Berkeley loves: an issue about to mount the national stage and a chance for the city once more to put its own quirky shoulder to the wheel of progress, as it has done in boycotting South Africa and saving the teak forests of Southeast Asia, among other causes.

The lab's involvement in DARHT is so touchy here that Mayor Shirley Dean has scheduled an unprecedented community forum on the issue Monday.

On one side in the debate is lab director Charles Shank, who will face the Bay Area's many nuclear critics.

Shank emphasizes the project is not classified and no nuclear components of any kind will be brought to Berkeley. "This is in complete compliance with the Nuclear Free Berkeley Act," he said. "It will be subject to rigorous reviews and to publication of results.

"We are building part of a large facility for a customer," he said. "It is my own personal opinion they are going to use this facility to bring about the end of testing of nuclear weapons underground. But we are not involved in any of that."

One of the project's most outspoken critics, Jackie Cabasso, executive director of the Western States Legal Foundation, disagrees.

"DARHT is part and parcel of what is arguably the biggest scientific-technological push related to weaponry since the Manhattan project," Cabasso said. "It will greatly aid nuclear weapons research. And it's coming at a time when most of the American people probably think nuclear weapons are a thing of the past.

"It's extremely upsetting that the Lawrence Berkeley Lab is involved," she said.

Perhaps smarting from a prolonged and still unresolved debate about radioactive tritium leaking from medical research projects at the lab, Shank is going to the mat on DARHT.

"It should be a fascinating evening," said Dean aide Amy Resner. "Emotions are running high. Dr. Shank is absolutely, personally committed to this research, his people tell us."

In fact, Shank has to be in Washington, D.C. on Monday, but he has already recorded a 30-minute videotaped presentation. In addition, he'll be present via a live video feed to answer questions from the public.

Money for the lab is not the issue, Shank said. "We have a $350 million annual budget and this is $43 million spread over four or five years. It won't make a significant difference."

But the project will help the lab research a new energy source, and help the commercial fusion project, he said.

"We also believe this is a highly moral customer — really, this project is the policy of the President of the United States and Congress."

DARHT will allow the president and Congress to feel confident that the stockpile of nuclear weapons is safe and reliable, he said, "and may ultimately lead to reduction of weapons in our stockpile."

In Santa Fe, N.M., Greg Mello, director of the watchdog Los Alamos Study Group, says DARHT is nothing more than a weapons design project that nicely skirts the underground test ban.

"Using DARHT, they can make a new weapon or improve an existing weapon and never test it with an actual explosion," he said. "We hate to see Lawrence Berkeley joining the nuclear weapons complex."

The public forum will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley.

Publication: Jnl Legacy 1995 to July 2005; Date: Dec 4, 1997; Section: Journal North; Page: 59

Edition--Journal North Date--12/04/1997 Page-- 3

DOE Plan Calls for More Bomb Parts

The Associated Press

The U.S. Department of Energy wants to make sure the United States, if it has to, could quickly crank up its ability to churn out a key nuclear bomb part.

The department, in a report this summer to Congress, proposed a $1.2 million contingency plan that would enable the nation to develop, within five years, the ability to build up to 500 plutonium "pits" a year. Pits, about the size of a grapefruit, are radioactive metal spheres at the heart of most nuclear bombs.

Currently, the DOE stockpile stewardship program calls for Los Alamos National Laboratory to develop the capability to build an average of 50 pits a year by 2005. The stewardship program is aimed at making sure the U.S. nuclear arsenal is reliable.

During Cold War production, the DOE's Rocky Flats plant near Denver built more than 1,000 pits per year.

Anti-nuclear activists blasted the contingency plan.

"This will only stir up the right-wing in Russia to pour in more money to their nuclear weapons complex," said Christopher Paine, a senior researcher at the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington, D.C.

Paine said his organization, which is already challenging the DOE's stewardship program in court, would fight if the DOE seeks a large expansion of pit production capability.

Paine accused the DOE of "secretly plotting to maintain a very large nuclear weapons stockpile."

"It runs against every one of our treaty commitments," he said.

Greg Mello of the Santa Fe-based Los Alamos Study Group said his organization sees "no reason to acquire any additional capability to manufacture plutonium pits -- let alone a level that is 10 times DOE's stated plan."

The proposed expanded production, if ever undertaken, probably would not take place at Los Alamos because the lab lacks a large enough facility. Instead, the report to Congress said, the work probably would be based at existing facilities at another DOE site, such as Savannah River in South Carolina; the Y-12 plant in Tennessee; the Pantex plant in Amarillo, Texas; or the Nevada Test Site.

T.J. Trapp, program manager for nuclear component readiness at Los Alamos, said concerns about the contingency plan are overblown.

If the need for expanded production arises, it would likely be geared toward replacing aging pits in existing weapons -- not installing pits in new bombs as was the case during the Cold War when the

nuclear arsenal was growing, Trapp said.

He also said it is unlikely the nation ever will need to replace 500 pits in a year.

"I don't know that anyone is actually planning for 500 as much as they're planning for a larger capability in case we have a major problem in stockpile," Trapp said.

"It's hard to imagine a problem where we would need to replace more than 500 per year. It's just an upper bound on what's conceivable," he said.

12/4/97

Los Alamos Monitor

Report to Congress calls for establishing capacity to build up to 500 pits a year

By The Associated Press

The U.S. Department of Energy wants to make sure the United States could quickly crank up its ability to churn out a key nuclear bomb part.

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Paper: Albuquerque Tribune, The (NM)
Title: DOE wants ability to make more nuke pits
Date: December 4, 1997

The plutonium pits are a vital component in nuclear bombs.

LOS ALAMOS -- The U.S. Department of Energy wants to make sure the United States, if it has to, could quickly crank up its ability to churn out a key nuclear-bomb part.

The department, in a report this summer to Congress, proposed a $1.2 million contingency plan that would enable the nation to develop, within five years, the ability to build up to 500 plutonium "pits" a year. Pits, about the size of a grapefruit, are radioactive metal spheres at the heart of most nuclear bombs.

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Paine said his organization, which is already challenging the DOE's stewardship program in court, would fight an expansion of pit production capability.

Paine accused the DOE of "secretly plotting to maintain a very large nuclear-weapons stockpile."

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Author: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Section: Local News
Page: A3

Paper: The Dallas Morning News
Title: Nuclear buildup proposed Contingency plan is for bomb part
Author: Associated Press
Date: December 4, 1997
Section: NEWS
Page: 37A

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. - The U.S. Department of Energy wants to make sure the United States, if it has to, could quickly crank up its ability to churn out a key nuclear bomb part. The department, in a report this summer to Congress, proposed a $1.2 million contingency plan that would enable the nation to develop, within five years, the ability to build up to 500 plutonium "pits" a year. Pits, about the size of a grapefruit, are radioactive metal spheres at the heart of most nuclear bombs.

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During Cold War production, the department's Rocky Flats plant near Denver built more than 1,000 pits per year.

Nuclear opponents criticized the contingency plan.

"This will only stir up the right wing in Russia to pour in more money to their nuclear weapons complex," said Christopher Paine, a senior researcher at the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington.

Mr. Paine said his organization, which is already challenging the Department of Energy's stewardship program in court, would fight if the department seeks a large expansion of pit production capability.

Mr. Paine accused the Energy Department of "secretly plotting to maintain a very large nuclear weapons stockpile. " "It runs against every one of our treaty commitments," he said.

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Author: Associated Press
Section: NEWS
Page: 37A

LANL: Group Is Confusing Figures

12/5/97

By Ian Hoffman
Journal Staff Report

Arms-control advocates say the price tag of making plutonium pits — the radioactive cores for nuclear weapons — has escalated dramatically in less than two years.

U.S. Department of Energy analysts put a $1.1 billion estimate on pit production in a report to Congress this summer.

That's nearly triple the $312 million estimate that won the job for Los Alamos National Laboratory in 1996. After making demo pits for a two missile warheads and a bomb, the lab plans to start producing fully-certified, "diamond-stamped" warhead and bomb pits in 2001.

"In short, they're milking this for all they can get," said Greg Mello, head of the Los Alamos Study Group, a Santa Fe arms-control organization.

Lab weapons managers charge Mello's group with intentionally mistaking two very different dollar figures.

"The bottom line is they're trying to make an issue out of something that's not an issue," said T.J. Trapp, the lab's chief of weapons-component readiness.

Pits form the heart of a small A-bomb that weapons scientists use as a fission "match" to touch off a thermonuclear explosion. Workers at Rocky Flats turned out the last fully-certified pit in 1989.

Trapp said the latest DOE report to Congress on restarting pit production at Los Alamos entails more projects and more costs than did the 1996 estimates. It includes, for example, $58 million to run the production lines, $1.2 million for a contingency plan to produce up to 10 times as many pits and $253 million for other, related projects.

And some of those costs have grown dramatically.

Producing non-nuclear parts of a pit — namely its beryllium reflector and its braces inside a shell of high explosive — were thought to cost $14.2 million in 1995. Estimates today run eight times higher, at $116.3 million.

But taking those extra costs aside, the cost of merely equipping LANL's plutonium-processing facility to make pits still has grown.

Trapp notes the DOE's 1996 estimate of $312 million neglected inflation, which would boost the estimate to $350 million in 1997 dollars.

"We've always said it would be in the $350 (million) to $450 million range," he said.

The latest comparable figure from DOE's July 1997 report to Con-

LANL: Group Is Confusing Pit Figures

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gress is $601 million or 70 percent more.

Mello charges the lab with "low-balling" the earlier figures it gave DOE for the 1996 estimates so the lab could get the work — an accusation Trapp vigorously denies.

"That's just plain-out, patently untrue," he said.

DOE analysts relied on those numbers in awarding pit production to Los Alamos and rejecting Savannah River Site's bid to do the work in South Carolina for $488 million. Trapp said Los Alamos and Savannah River Site supplied the same kinds of numbers to DOE so they could be compared fairly.

But Mello suggested on Thursday that the discrepancy between the 1996 and 1997 figures shows lab officials are trying to use pit production to bolster the lab's budget.

"The lab said they can produce 50 pits a year if you just give them $310 million. Now they say they didn't count all these other things, we need another $800 million," Mello said. "It's absurd."

Mello and other activists oppose pit production as unnecessary to maintain the nation's nuclear arsenal.

Lab weapons scientists worry about losing the ability to make pits and later finding out they need to be replaced.

"I think it's absolutely imperative to have that capability in place if we are to maintain our stockpile," Trapp said.

Lab officials protest that they have estimated the costs of pit production honestly and say the costs remain close to their projections.

"We tried to put it in a consistent, up-front way — 'Here's what it costs'," Trapp said.

LANL plutonium pit project plagued by cost overruns

By KEITH EASTHOUSE
The New Mexican

An $800 million construction project that would enable Los Alamos National Laboratory to build a key bomb component for weapons in the country's nuclear stockpile by 2005 could get more expensive.

The reason is that the project — begun last year — has already incurred cost overruns of several million dollars. That may force the lab to abandon its plan to upgrade existing facilities and instead construct a brand-new building to house work related to manufacturing plutonium triggers.

The triggers, also called pits, are the radioactive metal spheres at the heart of most nuclear bombs.

Building a new facility could jack up the price of the construction project to close to $1 billion.

"If it turns out we can't use (just existing buildings), it will cost us more money," T.J. Trapp, program manager for nuclear component readiness at the lab, said Thursday.

■ **Official: Plan needed to make more nuclear bomb parts.**
Page A-2

So far, the lab has received about $85 million from the Department of Energy to do the upgrade work, Trapp said.

The purpose of the upgrade work is to enable the lab to produce 50 plutonium pits per year beginning in 2005 under the DOE's "stockpile stewardship" program. The pits would be used to replace components in aging

Please see **LANL**, Page A-2

LANL

Continued from Page A-1

weapons in the country's nuclear stockpile.

The country lost the ability to manufacture plutonium pits of sufficient precision to be used in stockpile bombs when the Rocky Flats plant near Denver closed in 1989 due to environmental and worker safety violations.

The cost overruns at Los Alamos have occurred at the lab's 44-year-old Chemistry, Metallurgy and Research facility. The aged facility has proven more difficult — and hence more costly — to upgrade than the laboratory thought, according to Trapp.

The problems at the CMR building, as it's called, have been compounded as the facility has not been fully operational since August because of problems with worker safety procedures.

Earlier this year, the laboratory analyzed five different upgrade alternatives, ranging in cost from $800 million to $950 million. The lab chose the cheapest alternative, which calls for major upgrades at CMR and at Technical Area 55, the lab's top secret plutonium research facility.

The three most expensive alternatives propose new facility construction at TA-55.

In addition to the extensive upgrades to the CMR building and TA-55, the upgrade plan chosen by the lab calls for:

■ Modernizing the Sigma Complex, where non-nuclear weapons components would be fabricated.

■ Building a 1.5-mile long "transportation corridor" between TA-55 and the CMR building that would be closed to the public.

Trapp said this would entail paving a gravel road.

■ Modifying the Special Nuclear Materials Storage Facility, which has serious construction flaws that date from when it was initially constructed in the 1980s.

There has been some confusion surrounding the cost of the upgrades.

The price of the TA-55 and CMR upgrades was initially said to be $350 million. Thirteen months ago, when the upgrade contract was awarded to construction giant Fluor-Daniels, the price tag was said to be $800 million.

Trapp said the discrepancy was more apparent than real.

"The $350 million was for a piece of the work" related most closely to plutonium pit manufacturing, and did not include all of the upgrades, Trapp said.

Further confusing the issue is a July 1997 DOE report to Congress that lists the cost of the upgrades at $1.12 billion.

The different price estimates led Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group, a Santa Fe organization, to issue a press release Thursday charging that "the cost of establishing plutonium manufacturing work at Los Alamos has tripled."

Trapp said that was inaccurate.

Trapp said Mello was overlooking the 13-month-old announcement of the $800 million Fluor-Daniels contract.

Trapp said Mello was also misinterpreting the $1.12 billion cost estimate that DOE provided to Congress.

That estimate includes costs associated with operating the facilities as they are being upgraded, Trapp said.

Mello said if that's the case, the operating costs ought to have been included all along.

"It seems like the whole thing has been low-balled," Mello said.

Mello also said in his press release that one reason behind the "rapid escalation" in costs was that the lab is developing the ability to manufacture all nuclear weapons components, not just plutonium pits.

That claim flies in the face of the Energy Department's plan — announced almost two years ago — to build replacement parts for bombs at multiple sites, not just at one site.

Trapp said the lab, at the Energy Department's direction, has studied the feasibility of manufacturing uranium "secondaries," another nuclear bomb component.

But he said there is no plan for the lab to actually do such a broad spectrum of work. He said, for example, that to the extent that existing weapons need to be fitted with secondaries, such work would be done at the DOE's Oak Ridge plant in Tennessee — not at Los Alamos.

Trapp said Mello "is confusing planning studies with someone actually doing it."

CORRECTIONS

A workshop for kids on Capoeira Angola, an Afro-Brazilian dance and martial arts form, will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Tutorial School, 400 Brunn School Road. An incorrect day was listed in Thursday's "Best Bets for Kids" column.

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An environmental study will not be done on the first test shaft for a Santa Fe city and county water diversion project at San Ildefonso Pueblo, but will be done before remaining parts of the project, that will actually divert water, are built, Mike Hamman of Santa Fe's Water Service Division said. A story in Thursday's *New Mexican* reported otherwise.

□□□

An 27-year-old former female employee of Lagarroite Elementary School, 1604 Agua Fria St., is being investigated for failing to deposit an unspecified amount of cash from a cafeteria register into the Santa Fe Public Schools bank account Tuesday. The name of the school was incorrect in a police notes item published in Wednesday's *New Mexican*.

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The New Mexican will correct factual errors in its news stories. Errors should be brought to the attention of the city editor at 986-3035.

LA MONITOR

Lab says LA Study Group misunderstood

12/5/97

Los Alamos Monitor

By STEPHEN T. SHANKLAND
Monitor Managing Editor

An activist group said Thursday that the cost of Los Alamos National Laboratory's program to build plutonium pits for nuclear weapons has more than tripled in the last 13 months — but the lab said the group's analysis is wrong.

The Los Alamos Study Group, a Santa Fe-based anti-nuclear organization, said in a news release that the lab appears to have "low-balled" the pit production cost estimate so the Department of Energy would pick LANL over the Savannah River Site as the location for the work.

Greg Mello, director of the study group, said in the release that the cost rose from $310 million in July 1996 to nearly $1.1 billion in August 1997.

But T.J. Trapp, program manager for nuclear component readiness at the lab, said Mello "is taking several unrelated numbers and associating them with pit manufacturing," Trapp said.

The figure of more than a billion dollars describes several projects, of which the modifications for pit production are a subset, Trapp said. The billion dollars also apparently includes the operating costs (which fund the program) as well as the capital costs (which fund the construction work), Trapp said.

The capital cost of $800 million includes fixing the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Building, fixing the Nuclear Materials Storage Facility, upgrading security systems to protect nuclear materials better, and improving safety features — work the lab must do "independently of whether we're doing pit manufacturing or not," Trapp said.

In addition, the $800 million in capital projects includes $350 million to $450 million in other improvements to nuclear facility infrastructure at the lab that's not directly related to the pit production mission, he said.

The $310-million figure Mello mentioned was used for comparing LANL to Savannah River and didn't include funding for all that's required for the pit production mission, Trapp said.

Instead, the $310-million figure was used to estimate what would be required at LANL that wouldn't be required at the Savannah River Site. Savannah River had a comparable figure of about $460 million that described what would have to be done there that wouldn't have to be done at LANL.

The $310 million figure was listed in the Stockpile Stewardship and Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

Trapp also attacked other statements in Mello's release.

• The study group said one reason for increasing costs in the Stockpile Stewardship and Management program is "LANL's acquisition of new manufacturing capability, not just for pits but for all the nuclear components of nuclear weapons, a closely-guarded secret until today. The capability to make a complete 'physics package,' as nuclear weapons innards are euphemistically called, duplicates the work of the Y-12 Plant in Tennessee."

(Please see PITS, Page A-8)

PITS

(from Page A-1)

Trapp said the lab always has had a capability to make prototypes of all the physics package, but isn't getting responsibility for manufacturing the "secondaries" (the bomb parts made of uranium and other materials that are responsible for the secondary, or thermonuclear, explosion in a nuclear weapon).

Expanding the LANL manufacturing mission is described in the lab's 1996 report "Nuclear Facilities Master Plan for Stockpile Stewardship and Management Support," the study group said.

Trapp said that in the Stockpile Stewardship and Management environmental analysis, DOE examined the possibility of manufacturing secondaries at LANL, but made the "logical decision" to keep the activity at the Y-12 Plant, where it has been done in the past.

"We are not doing anything on putting in place any capability for making uranium secondaries," Trapp said.

• The study group also said the price tag has increased for establishing the ability to manufacture nonnuclear components, such as the beryllium that reflects neutrons and thereby increases the explosive power of nuclear weapons.

The Non-nuclear Reconfiguration Project was expected to cost $23 million in 1995, but by August 1997, the non-nuclear work was listed at $118 million, the study group said.

Trapp said the study group confused two parts of the work. The $23 million is for construction work, and the $118 million is the operating cost, he said.

OAKLAND TRIBUNE
12/10/97 P. B-1

Berkeley gathering protests lab work

Scientists, citizens question weapons

By Cecily Burt
STAFF WRITER

BERKELEY — Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory scientists joined with the community Monday night to voice concerns about lab participation in a project to test nuclear weapons. Despite assurances by lab director Charles Shank that Berkeley's $43 million contract to build an electron accelerator for a Los Alamos, N.M., hydrotest facility is not classified and would help reduce nuclear weapon stockpiles, the one-sided panel at the community meeting didn't buy it.

Neither did many in the 200-strong audience, which included a number of Berkeley lab employees, who fear the project violates Berkeley's Nuclear Free Zone ordinance.

The discussion was moderated by Berkeley Mayor Shirley Dean. Six panelists spoke against the project. Only one — Shank via videotape and conference call from Washington D.C. — spoke in its defense.

"Does building the accelerator make us a weapons laboratory?" he asked. "Absolutely not. . . . Berkeley has not and will not be a part of a project to create new nuclear weapons."

Jacqueline Cabasso, executive director of the Western States Legal Foundation, Greg Mello of the watchdog Los Alamos Study Group, and Ann Fagan-Ginger of the city's Peace and Justice Commission disputed that point.

They read from several declassified Department of Energy documents that spoke to the Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test (DARHT) project's integral role in the revision or replacement of several different models of nuclear weaponry.

The idea that the $256 million Los Alamos facility would be used only to test the safety and reliability of existing weapons is a smokescreen, they said, because by the military's own account, there is no need to test the nuclear warheads.

Charles Burrows challenged Shank to assure Berkeley residents the project would not be used to enhance the country's nuclear arsenal. Shank said he trusted assurances from President Clinton and the Energy Department this would not happen. He said he is committed to the Compre

Lab: Mayor considers presenting another forum

Continued from B-1

hensive Test Ban Treaty, and the lab's work would help bring that about.

Most audience members seemed unconvinced or at least concerned enough to want the lab out of the deal.

"I don't want this DARHT, or any part of it, and I'm not alone in this," said Julian Borrill, a lab astrophysicist. "The program is illegal. It violates the letter and spirit of the lab's charter."

Dean said she was concerned enough by the evidence she heard to schedule another forum, perhaps a debate.

Unlike Lawrence Livermore Lab and Los Alamos, the Berkeley lab does not perform classified weapons-related research. Borrill, who said he and many of his colleagues chose to work in Berkeley for that very reason, called the DARHT program immoral, deceitful and bad science.

Retired lab engineer Dale Nesbitt was part of a group that challenged the lab's unclassified work for the Strategic Defense Initiative in the 1980s. They held hearings in the lab and got the then-director's pledge not to accept any more Star Wars money without first having a dialogue. For him, the DARHT project is deja vu.

Shank presided over a hastily called meeting on Friday to field questions about the project. Borrill couldn't rearrange his schedule, but Nesbitt was there. About 150 of the lab's 3,500 employees showed up Friday, lab spokesman Ron Kolb said. Twelve employees expressed concern about the lab's DARHT involvement.

About 25 employees in lab's Fusion Research Division will work on the accelerator. During a March 1996 retreat, 28 of the division's managers and senior scientists voted to support the project, while only two voted it down, Kolb said. Others in the 100-employee division were not polled and may not support it. No one will be forced to work on the project, Kolb said.

"Employees are not united in this," he said. "But we feel the majority understand and support the project."

Miriam Ng of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, which supports DARHT, was upset about the lack of balance on the panel. So was Gordon Wosniak, a member of Berkeley's Parks and Recreation Commission and a lab employee. He said many colleagues were torn over the issue.

"But just because we work there doesn't make us bad citizens," he said.

BERKELEY VOICE

■ Thursday, December 11, 1997 ■ THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF BERKELEY ■ Vol. 16, No. 7 ■ 50 Cents TAX INCLUDED

No-nuke activists call LBNL 'Orwellian'

By Tiller Russell

Several hundred residents jammed the North Berkeley Senior Center on Monday evening to hear a panel of experts pillory the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for participating in a controversial project that many believe is in violation of the city's nuclear-free law.

Under a $40 million contract with the Department of Energy, the lab is building a particle accelerator for the Dual Axis Radiographic Hydrotest Facility, better known as DARHT, in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

When completed, the $256 million project will enable scientists to take rapid-succession X-ray photographs of mock explosions of nuclear warheads.

Proponents of the project argue that it will move the U.S. Senate closer to ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by doing away with the need for underground detonations.

But, critics fear the same advances will facilitate the development of new weapons.

On Monday evening, a standing room-only audience watched a brief video presentation from Lab Director Dr. Charles V. Shank on the merits of the project. Afterwards, a panel of anti-nuclear activists spent several hours shooting holes in the arguments laid out by the lab.

Shank participated in the discussion through a speaker-phone hookup in Washington D.C., where he was meeting with federal officials for a conference on climate change.

The tenor of the evening was best symbolized by the video screen in the back of the room. At the end of Shank's presentation, the screen was rolled up to reveal a huge banner that read "Stop the DARHT Attack on Nuclear Free Berkeley."

At the forum's outset, Shank stated that the reason LBNL was selected for the project was because of its distinguished history in building linear accelerators. The lab's work, which is unclassified and non-

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Nuclear

Continued from front page

nuclear, he said, will consist of building several integral parts for the project at the New Mexico test facility.

DARHT, he continued, will help to "ensure the safety and reliability of the nation's stockpile" of nuclear weapons.

To finish, Shank lauded the test ban treaty as "a giant step towards eliminating all nuclear explosions from the face of the Earth"—a goal, he said, which will be bolstered by the advances of DARHT, a project sanctioned by Congress and the President.

In response, the panel — which included representatives from the Western States Legal Foundation, the Los Alamos Study Group, Physicians for Social responsibility, as well as a handful of city commissions — systematically attacked each of the lab director's assertions.

Executive Director of the Western States Legal Foundation Jacqueline Cabbasso focused her arguments on the way in which the so-called Science Based Stockpile Stewardship Program is a "smoke screen" for the development of new weapons.

Participation in the DARHT project, she argued, will effectively "bring the Nevada test site to Berkeley ... by maintaining the capability to design, fabricate and certify new nuclear weapons."

The current amount of money spent on nuclear-weapons related work — $4.5 billion — is higher than the average amount of spending for "comparable activities" during the height of the Cold War, she said.

By gathering data from the new test facilities and comparing it with previous information, the government will be able to produce new weapons without having to actually test them underground, she argued.

And, Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group, which held up the DARHT project for a year through a lawsuit, noted that several modified weapons systems have already been developed and certified without being detonated.

Furthermore, he argued, slogans like "stockpile stewardship" have "replaced objective investigation" of the facts.

For example, he said, the fission trigger, or primary, in a nuclear warhead is not subject to a degrading aging process. "Therefore, DARHT really has very little to do with insuring the safety or reliability of the current weapons," he said.

Echoing Mello's criticisms, Dr. Bob Gould of Physicians for Social Responsibility stated that the lab's arguments were "an amazing case of the Orwellian language brought to bear on the most dangerous weapons known to humankind."

Taking a legal tack, Ann Fagan-Ginger, who spoke on behalf of the Peace and Justice Commission, argued that nuclear weapons have effectively been outlawed by the World Court, which ruled that "every nation has an obligation to pursue nuclear disarmament in all its aspects."

Upping the ante even further, a spokesperson from the Committee to Minimize Toxic Waste, Elliot Coben, used Nazi-related metaphors to drive the point home. "To say that DARHT is involved non-nuclear research is like saying the people who built the pipes in the gas chambers had nothing to do with the poison that was released during the holocaust," he said.

At the end of the presentation, audience members queued up at the microphones to make comments or ask questions of the speakers. The vast majority of them—including several scientists who work at LBNL—lambasted the lab for its involvement in the project.

However, Miriam Ng of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce read a letter voicing support for it.

At the end of the meeting, several people called attention to the fact that the evening's testimony came predominantly from critics of the project. Nonetheless, most acknowledged that the panelists had marshaled hours worth of scientific testimony to bolster their position.

In closing, Shank said he supported the policy of the President and intended to proceed accordingly.

Councilmember Kriss Worthington responded by saying, "As an elected official, I can assure you that you should have no faith in the word of bureaucrats or politicians."

Lab Eyes Ways To Cut Waste

12/13/97

Environmentalist Calls It 'Greenwash'

By Ian Hoffman
Journal Staff Writer

The nuclear weapons laboratory in Los Alamos is holding a workshop Tuesday on making the lab more environmentally friendly.

"We're challenging the way we do our work. We've grown out of a mere compliance attitude," said Ware Hartwell, chief of staff for the environmental management program at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Some lab workers have mounted a grassroots campaign, even within the lab's nuclear weapons program, to curb pollution and protect the environment, he said.

Skeptical environmentalists called the workshop a "greenwash."

The lab's Environmental Sustainability Science Workshop, to be held all day Tuesday in Santa Fe's Sweeney Convention Center, is a public "beginning for the laboratory to move forward," Hartwell said.

Gov. Gary Johnson will open the workshop along with Tom Baca, the lab's chief for environmental management. The public is invited.

Conservationists and corporate consultants will point out the benefits of cutting waste, recycling and protecting the environment. LANL also is mulling more environmental science — such as using its powerful supercomputers to model global climate change.

"It's about bringing the environmental ethic at Los Alamos and the environmental ethic elsewhere in alignment," said Hartwell.

"The laboratory wants to do its part for environmental stewardship," he said.

Environmentalists view the workshop with suspicion.

"The whole sustainability workshop is window dressing," said Jay Coghlan of Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety. "Weapons programs funding is up 50 percent, and the lab's cleanup budget is down 50 percent over the last five years."

The workshop comes as LANL gears up to produce plutonium pits, the fission cores of nuclear warheads and bombs.

Byproducts of this and other lab work include 1,600 barrels a year of plutonium contaminated wastes, plus radioactive acids and some increase in radioactive air emissions.

A May 1997 waste study by the U.S. Department of Energy said LANL will create 13,000 cubic meters of plutonium-contaminated wastes over the next 20 years.

Talk of making the weapons lab

See **LANL** *on* **PAGE 3**

LANL Eyes Ways To Cut Waste

from **PAGE 1**

"sustainable" while radioactive wastes are increasing strikes the Los Alamos Study Group's Greg Mello as disingenuous.

"This kind of 'greenwashing' the production of weapons of mass destruction is an affront to two generations of environmentalists," he said. "It's approximately the most Orwellian thing I've ever heard."

Mello co-authored a series of proposals in the early 1990s for turning the federal weapons labs into "green" labs. Lab managers were uninterested, he said.

Instead of promoting its "sustainability," he said, perhaps the lab could start more modestly with a promise to "do no harm."

Weapons research is the lab's core job and the background for its senior managers. Environmentalists are wary the workshop could be used by lab management to tap into the environmental ethic of nonweapons workers as a public relations ploy.

"It's not just public relations but a comforting ideology as well," Mello said. "Most people don't like to think they're being paid to make weapons of mass destruction."

Hartwell stresses the lab's effort is genuine and timely.

"That's why this is so essential now, because as we ramp up these new mission areas, we want to position the lab to more effectively do these functions without having a significant environmental impact," he said.

Hartwell expects selling some scientists on sustainability will be hard but worthwhile.

"From an operational standpoint, it's a huge challenge for us," he said. But lessening the lab's impact on the environment, Hartwell argued, could help guarantee its longevity.

"We feel there is a competitive advantage to sustainability, and it may even be more cost effective," he said.

FORUM Cathie Sullivan

LASG Board Member

12/13/97

Reason for Encouragement

There may be reason for encouragement with the appointment of Dr. John Brown to head Los Alamos National Laboratory as the Lab assumes its role in Stockpile Stewardship and Management, the nation's $4.5 billion-per-year, post-Cold War, nuclear weapons program. At a Dec. 4 "get-acquainted" meeting in Santa Fe, Brown, a friendly, direct ("what you see is what you get") man, discussed three priorities many New Mexicans share.

The first is education, or why Johnny, Mary, Jose and Maria probably can't read the words "Stockpile Stewardship." A Santa Fe Schools spokesperson at the meeting used the word "crisis" to describe our 40 percent student-dropout rate. We need a "Student Stewardship Program" to give children the priority we give weapons. It's no stretch to say an educated population would better defend its nation and government than one with a 40 percent dropout rate from school.

The second issue Brown acknowledged was a growing perception of Lab dishonesty and untrustworthiness. I state it more strongly than he did; his words were "credibility problem." Do citizens believe the Lab when it speaks on health, safety and environmental issues? Answer: No. Are we told the truth about Lab programs? Answer: No. Still fresh in my mind are a deputy director's many disclaimers about LANL ever doing plutonium pit (the nuclear heart of nuclear bombs) production. The Lab is becoming the national center for this dangerous and seriously polluting work that irretrievably contaminated Rocky Flats, Colo. Brown spoke forcefully about modeling the behavior he wanted from others. Start with telling the truth.

The third of Brown's encouraging comments concerned the Lab's long-term future. He suggests that if LANL's mission, "reducing the nuclear danger," succeeds, the number of nuclear weapons in the world will decrease over time and with it LANL's role in their support. Currently more than 75 percent of LANL's budget is for work related to weapons. Brown spoke of possible long-term new missions we could be proud of, in the areas of energy and climate. We could stop looking for a fig leaf big enough to hide the moral problems of nuclear weapons.

Great science serving society has nothing to do with weapons.

These three areas — education, a Lab trusted by its employees and the public, and working for less dependence on nuclear weapons — are urgent. With 75 percent of its budget weapons-related, LANL's vision statement, "Science Serving Society," is nonsense. And "science" in its immense scope is ridiculed when Brown says Los Alamos National Lab is the "greatest scientific laboratory in the world." Great science serving society has nothing to do with weapons. But Brown's own comments are very encouraging and he cannot be shackled to the Orwellian mottos of public-relations geniuses of the past. I wish him every success; his new position is of importance to every citizen of the United States. We all need to help this man succeed. ■

Cathie Sullivan is a Santa Fe citizen with a long history of interest in nuclear weapons issues.

Abq. Journal North
12/14/97

LETTERS

Explosives Could Become Terror Tools

ON NOV. 28 Journal North ran an interesting article titled "LANL Takes Aim at Bio Weapons: Nukes Threat Not Lab's Only Work" describing the work Los Alamos is doing to detect biological weapons — and facilitate military strikes against them if necessary, the latter work being part of a wide-ranging program known as "agent defeat." The article said new kinds of explosives called "super thermites" are under development for this purpose.

In fact, new high-yield designer explosives such as super thermites and many others are a key enabling technology with high leverage, not just for agent defeat but for many applications in tomorrow's military, ranging from high-powered microwave weapons to, possibly, advanced nuclear explosives. The scientists who work on these deadly new devices believe they are doing the right thing.

But beware: Today's "agent defeat" weapon is tomorrow's terrorist tool, a way to blow up an airliner with an undetectable small amount of material. "Agent defeat" may, in this and in many other ways, be more effective in the long run in damaging the civil societies of the West than the weapons the program is meant to destroy.

Surely, the invention of novel forms of deadly force to deter enemies is a hall of grotesquely distorting mirrors that stretches back very far. We feared a German atom bomb — which turned out not even to be on the drawing boards — and we used two of them against civilian populations. We feared a German biological weapon, and the United States built two factories that began turning out thousands of anthrax cluster bombs, which fortunately weren't used.

We rightly decry Saddam Hussein's chemical and biological weapons but are silent about our own stocks — hundreds or thousands of times greater than his — as well as about the current U.S. noncompliance with the reporting requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We seek to criminalize the use of chemical and biological weapons, but the U.S. is right now engaged in the attempt to decriminalize the use of nuclear weapons — the ultimate "agent defeat" weapon.

The little actors, like the scientists at Los Alamos, focus on their little areas of expertise. They mean well. But they are part of a global military agenda of frank hegemony and unprecedented arrogance that is enormously dangerous to the United States in the long run. Civil society is a patient which cannot take too many more military interventions.

Greg Mello
Los Alamos Study Group
Santa Fe

Schedule for full restart at CMR pushed back

12/16/97

Monitor Staff Report

Los Alamos National Laboratory has pushed back the date it expects to have the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building fully operational by four to six weeks.

However, nearly half of the 53 activities at CMR have been allowed to restart, the LANL Newsbulletin said Monday.

Work at the CMR Building was put on hold for safety reasons earlier this year, and various programs gradually have been restarting as they are certified.

In addition, budget problems led to a halt of upgrade work, and faulty fire alarm backup systems also stopped operations at the building. The facility also suffered problems with ventilation hoods.

Dave Post, who is leading the project to resume work at CMR, said the lab had to push back the project completion date four to six weeks. The project now is scheduled for completion between Feb. 27 and March 13.

"The facility resources we used to put compensatory measures in place for the fire alarm system, the chronic ventilation hood system problems and reduced plant availability made it impossible for us to recoup the time lost," Post said.

As of Monday, 23 of the activites at the CMR Building had been restarted.

Three members of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board spent three days at CMR's status. In addition, LANL Director John Browne, Deputy Director Jim Jackson, and acting Science and Technology Deputy Director Warren "Pete" Miller also toured the facility last week with CMR Director Alex Gancarz.

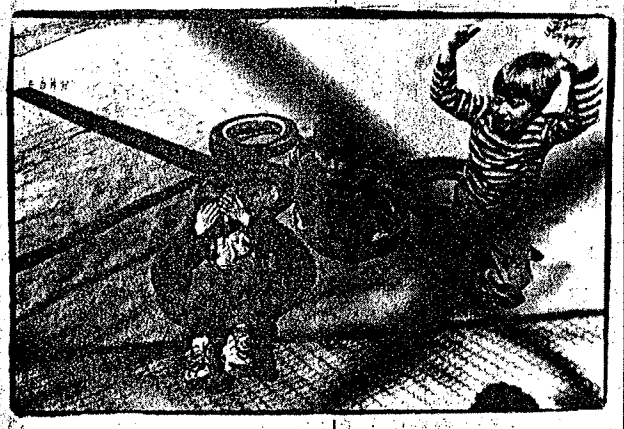
ABRIEF

Three's a charm, a least for New Mexico's gambling tribes. After failing to pass a bill legalizing casino gambling on Indian reservations in 1995 and 1996, the Legislature finally caved in — narrowly — in 1997. Gov. Gary Johnson signed the legislation this month. The Gaming Act authorizes casinos on Indian lands and video machines at veterans and fraternal clubs and at race tracks.

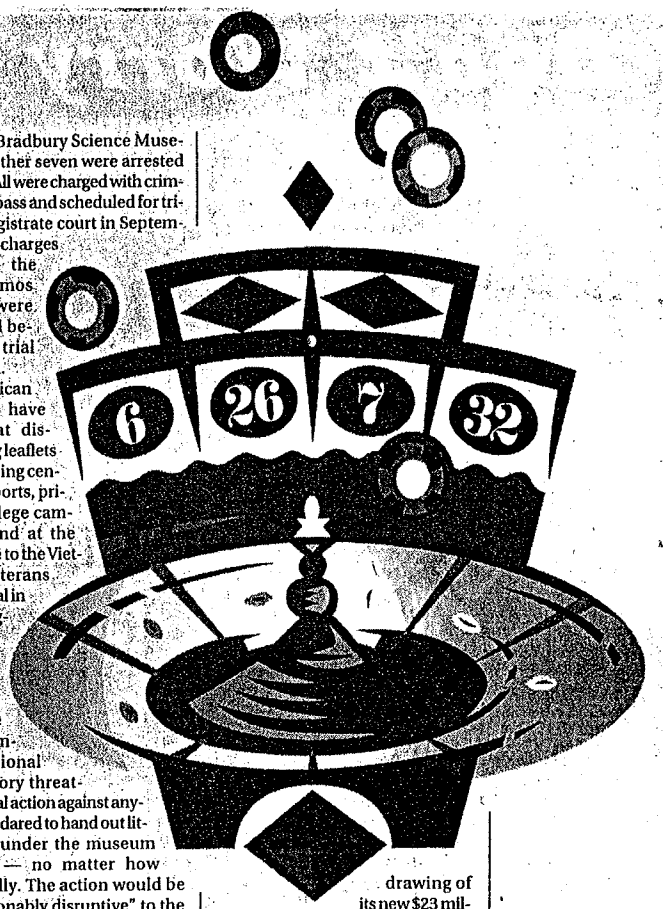
The casinos had been operating illegally ever since a state court had ruled that the tribes' 1995 gambling agreements with Governor Johnson were invalid. The court said he had no constitutional authority to sign them, but the casinos remained open pending appeals. This year, after the Legislature legalized certain forms of gambling, the governor signed new compacts with 15 tribes.

The reluctant lawmakers imposed a number of conditions of Indian casinos, but left enforcement up to tribal gaming agencies. Casinos are barred from cashing government assistance checks and must close for at least four consecutive hours daily, Monday through Thursday. Both employees and customers must be over 21 years old. No free or reduced-price food may be offered as an incentive to gamble and liquor cannot be sold in the gambling rooms. The Gaming Act also established a five-member board to oversee non-tribal gambling operations.

The most controversial provision of the act is a revenue-sharing formula that requires tribes to pay the state 16 percent of the total amount wagered on casino games, after deducting the amount paid out in prizes and regulatory fees. Tribes complained that the kickback is higher than in any state in the U.S., although all but one eventually paid the treasury. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbit also had questions about whether the requirement is consistent with federal law and allowed the compacts to take effect without his signature.



Let's review the law. Los Alamos police arrested two members of the Los Alamos Study Group, an anti-nuclear organization, for leafletting outside the publicly-funded Bradbury Science Museum. Another seven were arrested in June. All were charged with criminal trespass and scheduled for trial in magistrate court in September. The charges against the Los Alamos Nine were dropped before the trial was held.



American courts have said that distributing leaflets in shopping centers, airports, private college campuses and at the entrance to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington is protected free speech. But the Los Alamos National Laboratory threatened legal action against anyone who dared to hand out literature under the museum portico — no matter how peacefully. The action would be "unreasonably disruptive" to the museum's visitors, LANL argued.

Courts have allowed reasonable restrictions on the time, place and manner of such expressive activities, but the Lab, at least initially, sought to stop the study group altogether. The members were distributing educational literature and copies of the Bill of Rights. They began their leafletting campaign after LANL changed its policy on the presentation of dissenting opinion on nuclear weapons at the museum.

If Santa Fe's roads become more congested, commuting from Eldorado by train may become a necessity, rather than a short-lived diversion. For now it was just a six-day trial run. The Santa Fe Southern Railroad picked up commuters from the crossing at Avenida Eldorado, offered them steaming cups of coffee, and carried them to the downtown depot, with stops at Siringo Road for students and at Alta Vista for state employees. It was all very civilized.

Only a small fraction of the 1,213 people believed to commute from Eldorado during peak morning hours swapped their cars for the rail, however. With only one train into town in the morning and a single train returning in the evening, it was impossible to say how many more would try the train if there were more frequent service. The experiment was organized by city and county planners in a rare show of cooperation.

The county unveiled a drawing of its new $23 million jail that it began building on NM14. The 540-bed medium security facility has walls in earth tones, a portal outside the administrative office and a chain-link fence rather than traditional barbed wire. The jail will be operated by Cornell Corrections of Houston. The company also will run the existing detention center, which will be turned into a 150-bed juvenile facility when the new jail is completed.

In other prison news this month, the Department of Public Safety wrapped up its investigation into a 30-foot tunnel discovered at the state pen in February. The investigation revealed that Governor Johnson should get the facts next time before declaring an emergency at the prison.

— Anne Constable

Deputy director: Transition won't change research projects at CMR

12/21/97

By STEPHEN T. SHANKLAND
Monitor Managing Editor

Los Alamos National Laboratory hopes the successes of the Plutonium Facility will be contagious.

Last week, LANL Director John Browne decided the management that has guided the upgrade and operation of the Plutonium Facility, the lab's flagship nuclear facility, should take over the next-most important facility, the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research (CMR) Building.

The Nuclear Materials Technology (NMT) Division will take over CMR in January, Browne said. LANL Deputy Director Jim Jackson is leading the team that's planning the transition.

In the last year, CMR has been plagued with safety and operational difficulties, including a potentially fatal explosion in November 1996. And the lab ran out of money for its CMR upgrade project before the year was over, because the upgrade proved to be harder than expected. CMR became operational in 1952.

In an interview Friday, Jackson said the transition won't change the research projects going on at CMR. "We expect the people will be working on the same projects after (the transition) that they were working on before," Jackson said.

However, the employees likely will become employees of NMT Division if they're not already, and the funding to support those operations also will be shifted to NMT Division, Jackson said.

Most of the 350 personnel at CMR currently work for three divisions: NMT, the Chemical Science and Technology (CST) Division, and the Material Science and Technology (MST) Division, Jackson said.

The lab believes the change will make CMR more technically productive as well as safer and in better compliance with regulations, Jackson said.

"We believe we're doing that in TA-55 (the Plutonium Facility) right now. It's viewed as a facility that operates very well according to current standards," he said.

"The CMR facility is essential to our accomplishing the nuclear weapons mission here at the lab," Jackson said. For example, he said, the large amount of analytical chemistry that takes place at CMR is indispensable.

On Sept. 2, the lab asked CST Division Director Alex Gancarz to turn his attention full-time to the effort of getting CMR in order, Jackson said. However, when CMR comes under the wing of NMT Division, Gancarz won't be in that job anymore.

"Alex is likely to continue as CST Division director," Jackson said.

Having three different divisions in charge of CMR just wasn't working out, Jackson said.

"Before, we were trying operate that facility with several line organizations being in the same facility. We're finding that's quite a challenge. If the organization in a

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CMR

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nuclear facility is better aligned so the line management and the facility management by and large are one and the same, it's easier to achieve the level of formal and safe operation that you need," Jackson said.

Putting CMR under the control of NMT is a more drastic version of similar actions the lab already has taken, Jackson said. LANL already had Plutonium Facility personnel temporarily working with CMR personnel in the hopes that CMR could benefit from their experience.

The idea was to apply the lessons learned at the Plutonium Facility to the rest of the lab's nuclear facilities. CMR was next on the list after TA-55, and the lab has been "taking some extra steps over the past year to try to accelerate the rate of improvement" at CMR, he said.

"We've had several people from TA-55 who had gone through all of the operational changes and improvements there over in the CMR Building helping to make similar improvements in CMR," Jackson said.

The transition to full NMT management "is a stronger step, where we can align our two largest nuclear facilities under common leadership," Jackson said.

The lab has to deal with two problems at CMR, Jackson said: improving safety and operations; and upgrading the infrastructure.

Because of safety and other operational problems, the lab halted all CMR building operations on Sept. 1. The standdown was ordered so that the lab could make sure all CMR programs had proper work control and work authorization — "an important aspect of safe and formal operations," Jackson said.

The upgrade project turned out to be more extensive than foreseen, Jackson said.

"It wasn't that the money was being wasted. It's just that the job that needed to be done was more difficult than we had initially believed," he said.

For example, lab planners set out to upgrade the electrical system. But when that replacement job began, they found the old circuit boxes also needed to go. "We got almost back to the substation. We found out that we had to go deeper into the facility," he said.

Now the lab is waiting for Department of Energy approval before it's allowed to move ahead with the upgrade project, Jackson said.

"What we're doing now is going back and rebaselining, taking a more careful look at what has to be done," he said.

Hi-tech learning coming to LANL

12/24/97

By KEITH EASTHOUSE
The New Mexican

The power of a new type of supercomputer slated to be installed at Los Alamos National Laboratory in no more than 10 years will be so great that it may enable lab scientists to develop an atom-by-atom model of a living organism, the lab's top nuclear weapons official said Tuesday.

Such a model, called a "first-principles calculation," would amount to a simulated — or "virtual" — organism and could conceivably pave the way toward a host of futuristic breakthroughs, such as drugs tailored to an individual's genetic make-up, according to Stephen Younger, program director for nuclear weapons technology at the lab.

Developing such a model, even if at first it's only of a simple bacterium, would represent a "profound intellectual achievement," Younger said during an interview at the laboratory.

Stephen Younger

'For 5,000 years, we have been asking what is life. We will begin to solve that.'

"For 5,000 years people have been asking what is life. We will begin to solve that," Younger said.

Younger said the machine — capable of making 100 trillion calculations per second — may lead to other advances that have been unobtainable with today's technology, such as detailed models of the Earth's climate, considered essential to assessing the seriousness of global warming.

Additionally, the supercomputer may allow for other achievements that have previously only existed in the realm of science fiction — such as the projection of three-dimensional "holographic" images and computers that can carry on conversations with humans.

"Aside from the promise to do bigger calculations faster, such a capability will engender a fundamentally new way to learn about the world," Younger predicted in a recent issue of an internal laboratory publication called *Weapons Insider*.

Younger's bold talk has spooked some laboratory critics.

"There are living organisms all around us, so why talk about the potential to create

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Continued from Page A-1

a simulated organism?" asked Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group, a Santa Fe-based watchdog organization.

"I think it's crazy," Mello added.

Crazy or not, it's clear the supercomputer will require enormous amounts of energy.

Younger said the machine will need 20 megawatts of electrical power for its 10,000 processors. That's roughly 25 percent of the juice the entire city of Santa Fe uses on a typical heavy-use summer day.

To prevent overheating, the supercomputer will probably call for cooling towers similar to those at other major research and industrial facilities, Younger added.

Younger said the lab is in the process of studying how to meet the supercomputer's electrical needs. While Younger didn't say so, it's possible that a new power line serving the laboratory will need to be built.

Younger talked to *The New Mexican* about the possible capabilities of the supercomputer on the very day that the lab saw its computing power boosted considerably with the installation of a machine called "Blue Mountain."

Blue Mountain, built by Cray Research Inc., a subsidiary of Silicon Graphics of Mountain View, Calif., initially will be capable of performing 400 billion calculations a second.

Upgrades to the machine planned for next year should enable the lab to perform 3 trillion to 5 trillion calculations a second.

That's approximately 30 times faster than the fastest supercomputer previously at the lab, and about 100 million times faster than the typical home or office computer.

Younger said a new design will probably be required for the next-generation supercomputer slated to be installed at the lab in the first years of the 21st century. That machine should be able to perform 30 trillion calculations per second.

The ultimate goal, however, is to have a computing capability in hand 10 years from now of the scale that Younger is excited about — 100 trillion calculations per second.

Younger refers to that machine as a "generation-after-next system."

The new supercomputers are part of the Energy Department's 10-year, $45 billion "stockpile stewardship" program, an effort to keep the nation's nuclear arsenal in a state of readiness in the absence of underground nuclear tests.

The estimated cost of the supercomputing aspect of stockpile stewardship, called the "Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative," is $1 billion.

The new supercomputers are expected to enable laboratory scientists to do something considered critical to the success of the stewardship program: develop three-dimensional models of what takes place inside a nuclear explosion.

Current computing capabilities provide only two-dimensional images.

The new machines, by analyzing past weapons data, should also improve the ability of weapons experts to predict how the nuclear stockpile will age.

New-generation supercomputers are not just being installed at Los Alamos.

An Intel-built system capable of performing a trillion calculations per second is already operational at Sandia. Advanced computing systems are also planned for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.

Paper: The Dallas Morning News
Title: Los Alamos boosting computer power Possibilities include drugs tailored to patient's genes
Author: Associated Press
Date: December 26, 1997
Section: NEWS
Page: 31A

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. - A supercomputer that could help tailor drugs to a patient's genetic makeup will be operating at Los Alamos National Laboratory in the next decade. The lab's top nuclear weapons official said this week that the supercomputer will be so powerful that it could allow lab scientists to develop an atom-by-atom model of a living organism.

Such a model, called a "first-principles calculation," would amount to a simulated - or "virtual" - organism and could conceivably pave the way toward a host of futuristic breakthroughs, such as drugs tailored to a person's genetic makeup, said Stephen Younger, program director for nuclear weapons technology at the lab.

"For 5,000 years people have been asking what is life. We will begin to solve that," Mr. Younger said.

Mr. Younger said the machine - capable of making 100 trillion calculations per second - may lead to other advances that have been unobtainable with today's technology, such as detailed models of the Earth's climate, considered essential to assessing the seriousness of global warming.

The supercomputer also may allow for other achievements that previously existed only in science fiction - such as the projection of three-dimensional "holographic" images and computers that can carry on conversations with humans.

"Aside from the promise to do bigger calculations faster, such a capability will engender a fundamentally new way to learn about the world," Mr. Younger predicted in a recent issue of an internal laboratory publication called Weapons Insider .

Mr. Younger's predictions have found some critics.

"There are living organisms all around us, so why talk about the potential to create a simulated organism? " asked Greg Mello of the **Los Alamos Study Group**, a Santa Fe-based watchdog organization. "I think it's crazy. " The supercomputer will require enormous amounts of energy. Mr. Younger said the machine will need 20 megawatts of electrical power for its 10,000 processors. That's roughly 25 percent of the energy the entire city of Santa Fe uses on a typical heavy-use summer day.

Mr. Younger said the lab is studying how to meet the supercomputer's electrical needs.

On Tuesday, the lab's computing power was boosted considerably with the installation of a machine called "Blue Mountain. " Blue Mountain, built by Cray Research Inc., a subsidiary of Silicon Graphics of Mountain View, Calif., initially will be capable of performing 400 billion calculations a second. Upgrades to the machine planned for next year should enable the lab to perform 3 trillion to 5 trillion calculations a second.

That's about 30 times faster than the fastest supercomputer previously at the lab, and about 100 million times faster than the typical home or office computer.

By comparison, Mr. Younger said the supercomputer, which he refers to as a "generation-after-next system," should be able to perform 100 trillion calculations a second.

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Section: NEWS
Page: 31A

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Edition--Journal North Date--12/27/1997 Page--7

LANL Supercomputer Could Tailor Drugs

The Associated Press

LOS ALAMOS -- A supercomputer that could help tailor drugs to a patient's genetic makeup will be operating at Los Alamos National Laboratory within the next decade.

The lab's top nuclear weapons official said Tuesday the supercomputer will be so powerful that it could allow lab scientists to develop an atom-by-atom model of a living organism.

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