



Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)
Title: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Date: January 13, 2004

WHY DID ADS AT FESTIVAL DRAW SNICKERS?

I don't have the time or money to go to movies all day long for four days and nights but, as of Dec. 6, I saw three (as part of the Santa Fe Film Festival). Each film featured your ad promoting freedom of the press (and yourself, of course). I like these ads. I like the full-page ads in the newspaper. I like that you're sponsoring these movies.

But, during a film by our own Willem Malten from Cloud Cliff Bakery at the Guadalupe Santuario, a packed house of 40- to 70-year-old Anglos snickered after the lofty ideals of freedom were expressed and The New Mexican byline dominated the screen.

Were they laughing at grandiose pomposity? I didn't quite get it. Why were they snickering? I took it personally, inside my little cocoon of naiveté.

Viva The New Mexican. Viva Pan. Viva película.

Andy Burns

Santa Fe

'Troubled times'

We are living in troubled times, not only politically but also in very serious spiritual and religious conflicts with many parts of the world. This may be a good time to remind people of the following revelation: Nobody/Has a choice/When or where he is born/Nor what color of skin he will have. No one thinks about this/But it is the unshakable truth/And should be pondered seriously/To live in peace with/Everybody.

Hans H. Amtmann

Santa Fe

Same old, same old

William R. Stratton's long, self-serving letter (Dec. 26, 2003) on the virtues of uranium is filled with the same tired spin and obfuscation about the nuclear industry that New Mexico has heard and fought for half a century.

Even the name of his little club, the "Los Alamos Education Group," was carefully chosen to be easily confused with the **Los Alamos Study Group**, an experienced and battle-scarred anti-nuclear watchdog organization with decades of effective work fighting for New Mexico's health and safety -- corporate profits be damned.

Stratton has the gall to refer to nuclear power as the "least expensive, cleanest, 'greenest' source of electricity." Not counting the staggering subsidies and liability protection the nuclear industry enjoys at taxpayer expense, the cost of licensing, building, maintaining and, now, defending nuclear plants makes it the most expensive, least-efficient source of power known.

Mark R. Lee

Lamy

Eunice plant

Thanks to your newspaper for its thoughtful, insightful editorial (Dec. 11, 2003) questioning the wisdom of building a uranium-enrichment plant near Eunice, a community in southeastern New Mexico.

The problem of radioactive-waste disposal is that we have the waste -- both from nuclear power plants and from weapons -- and we don't know what to do with it. This has led to a preponderance of the NIMBY phenomenon, the result being that states with small populations are getting stuck with the waste. Translation: New Mexicans' health is less important than that of New Yorkers and Californians.

A science teacher in Northern New Mexico suggests that we bury the waste in the backyards of the nuclear power plant CEOs. Since they think it's "safe," let them live next to it, he argues.

Eunice residents and environmentalists should not accept this proposed plant or nuclear energy. In fact, we should all run for our lives.

H.F. Roller

Santa Fe

Nada Nader

Words cannot describe the distress I felt at the news that the arrogant Ralph Nader, who delivered the presidency to the Republicans, may try to do it again.

Al Gore may not have been the perfect candidate, but I totally reject Nader's cynical and nihilistic claim that Democrats are no different from Republicans. We are seeing and living those differences every day.

If Nader had a scintilla of the "moral courage" he blathers about, he would have thanked his supporters, told them to vote for Gore and then dropped out of the presidential race. He would have received well-deserved accolades and enough press coverage to satisfy even his outsized ego.

By acting as he did, Nader abrogated everything he claims to stand for -- and now he has the audacity to tell us he is thinking of reprising his stunt.

Jason S. Shapiro

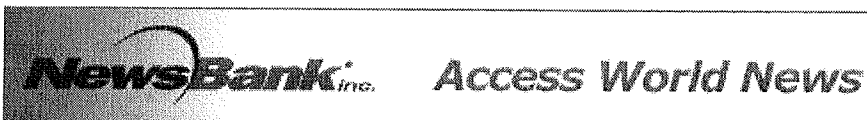
Santa Fe

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Section: Letters to the Editor

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Paper: Daily Press (Newport News, VA)
Title: OFFICIAL DEFENDS NUCLEAR RESEARCH
Date: January 14, 2004

President Bush's top nuclear security administrator on Tuesday defended the administration's decision to begin research on a new generation of low-yield nuclear weapons, dismissing any notion that such research might lead to the development of new weapons or to a renewal of a Cold War-style arms race.

In a rare interview with reporters, Linton F. Brooks, administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, said that Congress' recent repeal of a 1992 ban on such research would help keep weapons in the U.S. nuclear stockpile up-to-date and effective.

Congress had banned such testing in an effort to bring the nuclear arms race with the former Soviet Union to a halt. The ban was overturned in November, at the Bush administration's urging, under a defense authorization bill that Congress passed and the president signed.

"I am not uncomfortable looking other nations in the eye," Brooks said, "and saying what is absolutely true: The United States is a strong supporter of non-proliferation."

Brooks' comments were, in part, an attempt by the administration to deflect criticism from groups that oppose nuclear weapons and some members of Congress who objected to a memo he wrote that was leaked to the **Los Alamos Study Group**, a non-proliferation think tank in New Mexico.

In the Dec. 5 memo, Brooks enthusiastically informs the directors of the three largest U.S. nuclear labs of the ban's repeal and says, "We should not fail to take advantage of this opportunity."

"We are now free to explore a range of technical options that could strengthen our ability to deter or respond to new or emerging threats without any concern that some ideas could inadvertently violate a vague and arbitrary limitation."

"I expect your design teams to engage fully," he writes.

Critics of the policy shift charged that the letter's tone seemed unnecessarily celebratory and reflected a desire to push beyond research into actual development and testing.

"It's the first significant commitment to what amounts to a kind of arms race," charged Greg Mello, executive director of the Los Alamos group.

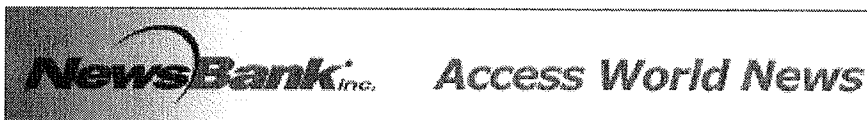
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Brooks suggested Tuesday that, given the threats the nation faces today, the administration needs to research low-yield nuclear weapons that could act like "bunker busters" to destroy underground terrorist facilities, rather than the older-generation nuclear weapons that were designed to reach the Soviet Union.

The newer "mini-nukes" would still carry about one-third the force of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

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Author: Tribune Newspapers
Section: A-section
Page: A5
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Paper: Sun, The (Baltimore, MD)

Title: Bush's nuclear security chief defends new research on low-yield weapons - Brooks rejects criticism that decision could lead to renewal of arms race

Date: January 14, 2004

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In explaining why the United States should move ahead on the mini-nukes, Brooks said he believes Russia is doing its own "research and development" on nuclear weapons.

"As long as we have nuclear weapons, they have to be safe, secure and reliable and effective" against the latest threats, he said.

Nonetheless, he said, other nations should refrain from their own such research.

Senate Democrats, as well as nonproliferation advocates, have voiced objections to such reasoning and said most foreign nations would not accept it.

"It's like telling your kids not to smoke when you have a two-pack-a-day habit," said Joseph Cirincione, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

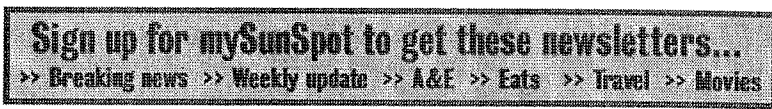
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"This is dangerous new territory, and it suggests we're lowering the nuclear threshold," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association in Washington.

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Author: SUN NATIONAL STAFF Laura Sullivan
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Bush's nuclear security chief defends new research on low-yield weapons

Brooks rejects criticism that decision could lead to renewal of arms race

By Laura Sullivan
Sun National Staff
Originally published January 14, 2004

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Edwards gains momentum in Iowa, but maybe too late

Campaigns as underdog best positioned to oust Bush in general election

Ads illustrate competitiveness, intensity of peaking campaign
Dean goes on offensive,

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returns to Iraq war for leverage against rivals


Suicide bomber kills four Israelis

Seven others wounded in attack by mother of two at Gaza Strip crossing point; Hamas, Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claim responsibility (11:40 AM)

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Date:-01/15/2004 Section:-Caucus 2004 Edition:-Final Page:-A4

NOTEBOOK

TV President Stumps for Dean

Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean got some star-powered help Tuesday from a man who is president, at least on TV. Martin Sheen, who plays the fictional President Bartlett on NBC's political drama "The West Wing," stumped for Dean in Iowa, along with director Rob Reiner, another outspoken Hollywood Democratic activist. AP

Campaign Adds a Footnote

And so it begins. There had been little to no sniping between the local campaign offices of the New Mexico Democratic presidential caucus candidates until 2 p.m. Wednesday.

That is when Rob Sawicki, spokesman for the Joe Lieberman effort in New Mexico, showed up at the offices of the Wesley Clark campaign in Albuquerque with seven sandals -- flip flops -- each labeled with the seven conflicting statements Lieberman says Clark has made on Iraq.

Clark volunteers tried to sign Sawicki up as a Clark volunteer, which he declined.

Luis Vizcaino, spokesman for Clark in New Mexico, dismissed the visit as a prank. "It's campaign shenanigans," he said. "We're focused on riding the wave of excitement and momentum of the Clark campaign."

Sawicki responded: "The Clark campaign is so blinded by their supposed momentum, they're going to trip on their flip flops if they're not careful." L.L.

Kucinich Endorsements Noted

Dennis Kucinich's unofficial record of the most musical endorsements seems safe today.

Kucinich was endorsed Wednesday by Pat Simmons, a founder of the Doobie Brothers (he wrote "Black Water"); Foo Fighters guitarist Chris Shifflett; and "Taos to Tennessee" folk singer Tish Hinojosa.

Kucinich also picked up endorsements from the U.S. Marijuana Party and two New Mexicans: Greg Mello, co-founder of the Los Alamos Study Group, and writer Chellis Glendinning. L.L.

Braun To Quit, Endorse Dean

DES MOINES, Iowa -- Former Illinois Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, whose Democratic presidential campaign never got off the ground, will drop out of the race and endorse front-runner Howard Dean,

campaign officials said Wednesday.

Braun was to officially endorse the former Vermont governor this afternoon during an appearance at Carroll High School in Carroll, Iowa, said Dean campaign manager Joe Trippi.

Officials said Braun, the only woman in the nine-person field, approached Dean after a recent debate and told him she was considering leaving the race and backing him. One of two black candidates in the campaign, Braun is giving Dean her endorsement even as he has faced questions about his record on race issues. AP

Carter, Dean Due at Church

Former President Carter will offer words of praise for Howard Dean when the Democratic front-runner attends church services with him in Georgia on the eve of the Iowa caucuses on Monday, aides to the two men said.

Dean campaign manager Joe Trippi said they don't expect Carter to make an endorsement but are excited about appearing with the former president so close to voting in Iowa. Carter has said he will not express any preference about who should be the nominee. AP

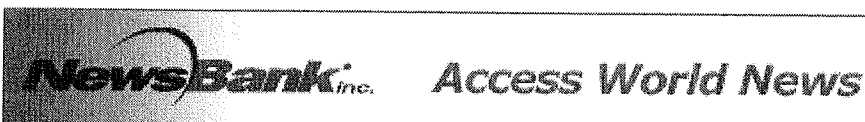
Journal staff writer Leslie Linthicum and the Associated Press PHOTO BY:MATTHEW HOLST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOTO: b/w

Actor Martin Sheen, left center, and actor-director Rob Reiner campaign for Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean on Wednesday in Iowa City, Iowa. Sheen portrays President Bartlett on NBC's political drama "The West Wing."

PHOTO: b/w

KUCINICH: Endorsed by U.S. Marijuana Party



Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)
Title: KUCINICH FALLING BEHIND DESPITE VISITS TO N.M.
Date: January 20, 2004

U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich has an intensely loyal following in New Mexico, where, especially in liberal Santa Fe and pockets of progressive politics, his antiwar, anticorporation message resonates.

Though he represents a district in Cleveland, Ohio, Kucinich has personal ties here. He has a friend in Santa Fe: Living Treasure Mary Lou Cook. Also, Chris Griscom of The Light Institute in Galisteo is a spiritual adviser.

Kucinich has visited the state so many times that it's hard for his campaign staff to keep up. (Guesses range from seven to 10 times.)

Still, a recent Albuquerque Journal poll showed Kucinich in single digits among the state Democrats polled, far behind front-runners Howard Dean and Wesley Clark. However, Kucinich was only two points behind Sen. John Kerry and Sen. Joe Lieberman, one point behind Rep. Dick Gephardt and two points ahead of Sen. John Edwards in the poll.

In terms of fund-raising, at the end of the quarter ending in September, Kucinich raised \$32,509 in New Mexico -- which was far behind Dean, but more than what had been raised here by Kerry, Gephardt, Lieberman or Clark.

Kucinich's national campaign said Monday that the New Mexico campaign had raised an additional \$100,000 by the end of last week.

The Kucinich campaign is headquartered in Albuquerque and has two full-time, paid staff members.

(Sidebar)

Kucinich in New Mexico

New Mexico endorsements: David Bacon, 2002 Green party governor nominee; Mary Lou Cook, founder, Santa Fe Living Treasures; actress Shirley MacLaine; Greg Mello, **Los Alamos Study Group**

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Contact number: (505) 254-4944

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Web site: www.kucinich.us/regionalupdates/nmexico.php

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Author: STEVE TERRELL

Section: Main

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Date:-01/21/2004 Section:-Opinion Edition:-Journal North Page:-4

LETTER

Lab Cleanup Not In DOE's Vision

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY has released its latest Los Alamos cleanup plan, its so-called "Risk-Based End-State Vision," and cleanup isn't in the picture. The DOE visionaries assume at the outset that cleanup is neither practical nor necessary for all but a small fraction of Los Alamos contamination. DOE's vision does, however, include continued on-site nuclear waste disposal in unlined trenches. The assumptions about risk which support continued dumping are the same ones DOE uses to conclude that the old dump sites need not be removed. This is honest to a degree, and useful.

As long as Los Alamos continues its nuclear weapons mission and sees the need to dispose of large quantities of nuclear waste on site, there will be little cleanup. As DOE says, cleanup under these circumstances isn't "practical." We agree.

The "end-state" DOE sees in its "vision" is the end of its moral and legal responsibility for 1,000 or more contaminated sites and disposal pits scattered across the Pajarito Plateau. To achieve this end, DOE has left most of the real risks out of the analysis. These risks include the possibility that someone in the future might live on lands which are now active parts of Los Alamos lab, raise food there, or begin digging in the old waste pits for scrap metals like uranium -- present in large quantities -- or plutonium, of which there is enough for many nuclear weapons.

The roles of plants, animals, wind and water over the centuries have also been very optimistically treated in DOE's analysis. No fair licensing process would ever approve these dump sites, which lie on narrow mesas close to springs and streams. But of course there has never been any permitting or licensing process, although one was required in the case of LANL's operating dump, called "Area G," and two others. According to the Attorney General's Office, the New Mexico Environment Department now has an obligation to close Area G. NMED also has a clear legal obligation to end Los Alamos' hazardous waste storage and treatment privileges in the absence of a real cleanup plan. It has instead chosen to wander for years in a regulatory wilderness, neither approving any DOE cleanup plan (none has been proposed) nor yet proposing one of its own. NMED's approach -- or rather, avoidance -- is part and parcel of the long Jornada del Muerto New Mexico has taken in fealty to its federal nuclear overlords. It is a jour-

ney which has impoverished our state and which will continue to do so as long as we keep mindlessly following the mushroom cloud, the purpose of which has always been desolation and ruin. And desolation is precisely what DOE's "end-state" amounts to: more nuclear waste, no cleanup, and fences to keep the humans away. With the tribes, the ancestral inhabitants of the land, DOE has struck a deal with a few beads and trinkets in exchange for silence and passive acceptance.

Mr. Richardson has done nothing to change this situation. What he wants from DOE is money for Los Alamos -- not money for cleanup, but money for more investigation, on top of the roughly \$800 million already spent on investigation so far. NMED knows full well that often the most cost-effective investigation, and in many cases the only accurate investigation, is the investigation conducted in the course of cleanup. This isn't going to happen until political leaders are elected here who express a vision -- not just an ambition -- of their own. It cannot be an "end-state vision" -- the only kind of vision we have ever gotten

from the nuclear weapons business, or will ever get from that quarter -- but rather a vision of renewal, for the land and for the people who inhabit it. Are we ready?

Greg Mello

Albuquerque



Date:-01/22/2004 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Page:-1

LANL Losing Cleanup Funds

Adam Rankin Journal Staff Writer

* GAO says compliance agreements in other states generate more money

Los Alamos National Laboratory may bring in far less in federal environmental cleanup funds than U.S. Department of Energy sites in other states that have court-enforceable cleanup agreements, according to a report issued by the investigative arm of Congress.

Congress' General Accounting Office found that 70 compliance agreements with various state regulatory agencies make up about 74 percent of DOE's total projected cleanup costs nationwide, according to a May 2002 report. The agreements, about six of which stem from lawsuits, apply to 23 DOE sites.

But New Mexico doesn't have a comprehensive compliance agreement for any of its DOE facilities. Ensuring higher funding levels for LANL is at least part of the reason the state filed a comprehensive compliance order and is now fighting to defend it in federal court.

In November 2002, the state issued a comprehensive compliance order against LANL, acting, in part, on the advice of a local DOE official, who suggested years earlier doing so would be a good way to ensure high-level cleanup funding at LANL.

State Environment Department spokesman Jon Goldstein said the primary purpose of the order is to ensure the safety and health of New Mexicans, but he acknowledged that DOE's environmental cleanup funding at LANL has dropped off significantly from nearly \$100 million spent in 1994. In May 2002, former NMED head Peter Maggiore even said increased DOE funding was part of the state's motivation for filing the order.

According to LANL figures, new federal funding for environmental cleanup at Los Alamos peaked in 1995 at about \$88.2 million. LANL actually had about \$105 million to spend in 1995, due to carryover from the previous year.

Since that high point, DOE funding for LANL's environmental restoration program has dropped nearly 50 percent over an eight-year period and is now at its lowest level in more than a decade.

LANL spokeswoman Linn Tytler said funding for 2004 has not been determined, but it is not expected to drop below \$30 million.

If DOE funding drops to that level, LANL environmental programs will have 63 percent less to spend on investigations, characterizations, cleanup and mitigation than they did 10 years ago.

DOE spokesman Joe Davis said some funding decreases may be the result of projects being completed.

Additionally, an approximate \$43 million is being withheld from LANL by DOE over an ongoing dispute about regulatory authority of mixed radioactive wastes and the state's refusal to sign off on DOE cleanup plans.

David McInroy, the deputy head of LANL's environmental restoration program, said during a recent interview that for as long as he can remember, DOE has not funded the program to the targets promised.

"We had some increases in early '90s, but since the early '90s we have always been promised more than we have received at this facility," he said.

During a hearing in 2002 on DOE environmental spending, senators, including Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., and Pete Domenici, R-N.M., voiced skepticism about continued high-level funding for cleanup without firm plans, given how little DOE has to show for all its spending -- some \$30 billion over a five-year period.

At the hearing, Domenici said money is "spent on processes that get you nowhere in many instances." He said the most expensive projects "are the ones where we already have agreements (with states) that we are going to do these things, even if, in fact, they do not accomplish a great deal."

Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group, agreed that DOE has little to show for the \$700 million spent at LANL since 1993 or the billions spent elsewhere. He said more money won't tip the balance until a regulator, such as the state Environment Department, takes cleanup seriously.

That, state officials say, is the purpose of the state's 2002 compliance order.

The order NMED is seeking to impose on LANL would require intensive waste characterization and eventual cleanup. Prior to filing the order, the state declared that LANL's legacy wastes pose an imminent significant endangerment to human health and the environment.

New Mexico has one current compliance agreement in effect at LANL -- the Federal Facility Compliance Order of 1995 -- that has limited scope and allows LANL to store and treat mixed radioactive wastes. But it does not address sitewide waste characterization or cleanup.

LANL, DOE and the University of California, which operates LANL, are challenging the 2002 order in federal district court. LANL officials have said NMED's order -- besides being duplicative and overstepping its legal authority in trying to regulate mixed radionuclide waste -- would cost more than \$200 million before any actual cleanup begins.

Two months after NMED issued a draft of its cleanup order, LANL and DOE released their own "accelerated" cleanup plan for LANL that followed a framework for a nationwide plan at other DOE sites.

The DOE's Davis said New Mexico is the only state that hasn't signed on to its cleanup plans; 17 other states have and are getting extra funding.

Until the new program was proposed, costs for cleaning up every DOE site nationwide were projected to reach about \$220 billion and take at least 70 years to complete. The accelerated plans, which critics say would leave much waste in place, would cut about \$100 billion and 30 years off cleanup nationwide, in part, by being more efficient.

Estimates put total cleanup at LANL at about \$2.2 billion, according to the GAO. DOE projects the accelerated program at LANL will cut more than \$1.2 billion off its costs.

Note: BAR GRAPH SHOWING DOE/FEDERAL FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AT LOS ALAMOS.

Publication: Jnl Legacy 1995 to July 2005; Date: Jan 25, 2004; Section: Final; Page: 1



Date:-01/25/2004 Section:-CAUCUS 2004
Edition:-Final Page:-A8

ENDORSEMENTS

I'M FOR DENNIS KUCINICH BECAUSE...

"Kucinich is the only candidate whose proposed foreign and domestic policies aren't fiscally and morally contradictory. We simply can't afford to devote nearly half our discretionary spending to the military and hope to provide security and opportunity in our society. Kucinich clearly articulates the core, conservative values at the heart of our democracy."

Greg Mello, co-founder of Los Alamos Study Group

PHOTO: b/w

MELLO



Date:-01/29/2004 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Page:-1

Plans For Pits Plant Delayed

John Fleck Journal Staff Writer

Carlsbad Leaders Trying To Lure Bomb Factory to N.M.

Federal officials announced Wednesday an indefinite delay in work on a new plutonium bomb factory because of congressional questions about whether it is needed.

The factory, which may be built in New Mexico, would manufacture new plutonium cores for U.S. nuclear weapons. Arms control activists oppose it, picking up unusual support last year from Republicans in the House of Representatives who questioned its need.

The cores, also called pits, are at the heart of modern nuclear weapons, triggering a thermonuclear explosion with a Nagasaki-sized blast.

A decision on a site for the plant, the Modern Pit Facility, had been scheduled for this spring. Carlsbad is one of five sites under consideration.

The head of the National Nuclear Security Administration announced the delay in a statement issued Wednesday afternoon.

"While there is widespread support in Congress for this project, I believe we need to pause to respond to concerns that some committees have raised about its scope and timing," said Linton Brooks, head of the NNSA.

The congressional criticism largely came from the Republican-led House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee.

Without a better idea of how many new nuclear weapons the nation will need, decisions on where to build the plant and how big it should be are "premature," concluded a report accompanying the 2004 nuclear weapons budget. The subcommittee voted to cut the project's budget this year by more than half.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., said he supports the plutonium factory because it will be needed to maintain the future U.S. nuclear stockpile. But he agreed with the delay.

"It is important to know what the demand for pits will be in the decades to come. The delay the NNSA has announced will give the agency time to undertake the analysis needed," Bingaman said in a statement issued by his office.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said he is not concerned by the delay.

"I am not troubled by this delay because DOE and the NNSA both know that the United States eventually needs to construct a modern pit facility to maintain our nuclear stockpile," Domenici said in a statement.

Arms control activists praised the delay.

"That's great news," said Greg Mello, head of the Albuquerque-based Los Alamos Study Group.

Mello and others in the arms control community have argued that the plant sends a dangerous signal to other nations about the United States' continued reliance on nuclear weapons.

The arms control community also has argued that the factory would give the United States the ability to manufacture large numbers of new, next-generation nuclear weapons.

"They don't need the production levels," said Jay Coghlan, head of Nuclear Watch New Mexico. "They don't need the capability for new designs."

Civic leaders in Carlsbad have been pushing hard to bring the project to southeastern New Mexico.

"We're kind of disappointed but really not that surprised," said Carlsbad Mayor Bob Forrest Wednesday.

Forrest said he believes the final decision has come down to a contest between Carlsbad and a site in South Carolina where the NNSA currently does nuclear weapons work.

Bomb Factory Plans Delayed

Carlsbad Could Be Home for Project

BY JOHN FLECK
Journal Staff Writer

1/29/04

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See PIT on PAGE A2

... THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2004

Pit Factory Delay Affects New Mexico

from PAGE A1

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Forrest said he believes the final decision has come down to a contest between Carlsbad and a site in South Carolina where the NNSA currently does nuclear weapons work.

Los Alamos National Laboratory also is on the list of potential sites, but lab officials have said they do not want the factory to be built there.



Nebraska Report

There is no Peace without Justice

FEBRUARY 2004

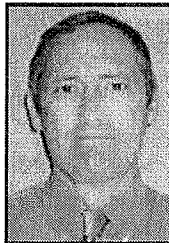
VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2

STRATCOM'S NEW GLOBAL THREAT SUBJECT OF 2004 ANNUAL PEACE CONFERENCE

The man who blew the whistle on last August's secret meeting at StratCom to plan a new generation of nuclear weapons will be the keynote speaker at the 2004 Annual Peace Conference Saturday, February 14. Greg Mello, Executive Director of the Los Alamos Study Group, a disarmament-oriented research and advocacy organization headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, will speak on the topic "StratCom's New Mission: Full Global Strike." As has become traditional, a selection of Peace & Justice Workshops on topics ranging from Fair Trade to Whiteclay to the USA PATRIOT Act will also be featured.

The all-day conference, which is jointly sponsored by Nebraskans for Peace and the UNO School of Social Work, will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Grand Island, from 9:30 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. Registration is \$25 per person before February 11; \$30 per person at the door. (A student/low-income rate of \$10 is also available.) Coffee, juice and rolls and lunch catered by Valentino's are included in the registration cost. Child care will be provided, and up to four-and-one-half CEUs will be offered to certified Masters Social Workers and Licensed Mental Health Practitioners who attend.

Greg Mello's talk on StratCom's expanded focus and mission in the aftermath of 9/11 could not be more timely.



Greg Mello
Keynote Speaker

Over the past two years, StratCom has seen its limited role of maintaining America's nuclear deterrent grow to where it now serves as the command center for every conventional military intervention undertaken by the U.S. government. It was the Study Group's disclosure in January 2003 of a secret Stockpile Stewardship Conference at StratCom, however, that ultimately helped draw public attention to this dramatic shift in mission. In discussions that were closed to congressional representatives and the public, laboratory and production-plant contractors, Pentagon staff, and StratCom officers convened last August for a policy discussion on the proposed use of nuclear weapons in conventional conflicts (the so-called "mini-nukes"), and how in turn to sell their proposal to a reluctant Congress.

Greg Mello is uniquely qualified to weigh in on this discussion. Since co-founding the Study Group in 1989, he has led the Study Group in its research on the activities of the U.S. nuclear weapons complex and in environmental review and analysis.

Other Study Group programs led by him include congressional education and lobbying, community organizing, litigation, and advertising (Study Group billboards can be found between the Albuquerque airport and Los Alamos National Laboratory). From time to time, he has also served as a consulting analyst and writer for other nuclear policy organizations as well.

In 2002, Mello was a Visiting Research Fellow at Princeton's Program on Science and Global Security. He is a member of the Governing Council of the worldwide Abolition 2000 nuclear disarmament organization. This year, the *Albuquerque Tribune* recognized Mello as one of its ten

"rising stars" for 2004. He has provided key information to NGOs and diplomats at treaty conferences in New York and Geneva.

Mello's research, analysis, and opinions have been published in the *Washington Post*, *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, *Issues in Science and Technology*, the New Mexico press and elsewhere.

Over the past decade, he has led the Study Group in bringing to the attention of Congress and the news media a number of clandestine nuclear projects and programs. These include: a new earth-penetrating nuclear bomb; a nuclear glide bomb; the planned upgrade of more than 3,200 submarine warheads into ground-burst, first-strike weapons, significantly affecting U.S./Russian strategic stability; above-ground testing of plutonium cores ("pits") in steel tanks; a laboratory program to "share" nuclear weapons secrets with "friendly" nuclear nations; and others.

Study Group work has delayed and downscaled production of plutonium pits, and has saved hundreds of millions of dollars in a variety of other wasteful and unsafe projects at Los Alamos National Laboratory—projects later found to be unnecessary from any perspective. In the course of his work, Mello and the Study Group have generated hundreds of news articles and segments in the regional, national and international press and in broadcast media.

His education is that of an engineer (B.S. with distinction, Harvey Mudd College, 1971) and regional planner (Harvard, 1975, HUD Fellow in Urban Studies). Greg and his wife Trish (also an activist, formerly with Serious Texans Against Nuclear Dumping [STAND] in Amarillo) live and work in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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TODAY THE APOCALYPSE, TOMORROW THE WORLD

StratCom's New Global Threat From Mutually Assured Destruction to Full Global Strike

by Greg Mello, Executive Director
Los Alamos Study Group

The following article is based on Greg Mello's keynote address at the 2004 Annual Peace Conference, February 14, in Grand Island. Mello's talk provided the first full public examination of StratCom's dramatically changed role since the Bush Administration launched the War on Terrorism.

Probably everybody in Nebraska has heard of the U.S. Strategic Command—STRATCOM—headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha. But not everybody knows what it does. Especially lately, because STRATCOM has changed—a lot.

Until quite recently, STRATCOM's only mission was the targeting, command, and control of U.S. nuclear weapons—planning nuclear war and executing it (and everybody) if ordered. Established in 1992 to unify nuclear command, STRATCOM inherited the functions of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) along with the nuclear missions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and European commands. Creating STRATCOM also separated nuclear weapons further from the conventional military. The new STRATCOM absorbed the Joint Strategic Targeting Staff, the large organization that designated targets for U.S. nuclear weapons and wrote the automated nuclear war plans.

Today, STRATCOM greatly transcends its original nuclear mandate. No longer segregated from the rest of the military, it is an integrative, global, multi-dimensional command that increasingly coordinates and integrates U.S. military power around and above the world. The “strategic” in its name, which during the Cold War was associated with long-range nuclear delivery systems, has come to mean just “outside the United States,” the distinction between “tactical” and “strategic” air power having largely dissolved. STRATCOM is now the nerve system for the projection of air and space power from a global empire of at least 725 foreign military bases located in some 150 countries, plus literally thousands of U.S. installations.[1]

Mission Explosion

Officially, STRATCOM's new mission is to:

Establish and provide full-spectrum global strike, coordinated space and information operations capabilities to meet both deterrent and decisive national security objectives. Provide

“Decisive” military engagement is now deemed possible. What these “national security objectives” actually are at any given moment remains unstated and imminently flexible. Formally, they are up to the National Command Authority (NCA)—that is, to the President and the Secretary of Defense—to whom the CINC (Commander in Chief) of STRATCOM reports directly.

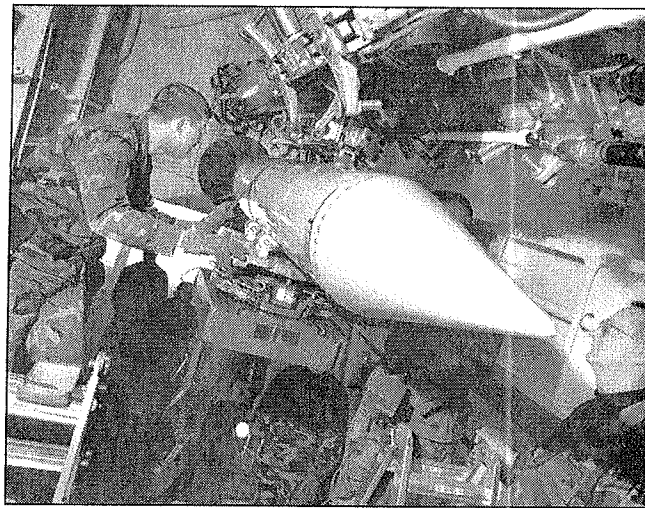
lexicon of conventional warfare, this simple prescription for adequate military preparedness became in the nuclear age a formula for unmitigated catastrophe. It was premised on a litany of unwarranted assumptions, unprovable assertions and logical contradictions. It suspended rational thinking about the ultimate aim of national security: to ensure the survival of the nation.[3]

Thus STRATCOM's mission now has two branches, one of which has never made much sense (nuclear deterrence) and one of which could mean practically anything (“decisive national security objectives”). This is dangerous.

More dangerous still is the day-to-day detailed work going on to knit these two branches together, integrating nuclear war planning with conventional air power, and in the process making nuclear weapons a realistic option for “decisive” military engagement anywhere in the world—a last resort to be sure, but still a pre-planned option.

During the Cold War, deterrence was a kind of glass case around STRATCOM's nuclear mission, one that in effect said “open only in emergency.” And there was only one kind of emergency that warranted breaking the case: a nuclear attack on the United States (setting aside the irresolvable question of whether the U.S. would have initiated a nuclear war to defend Europe or Japan). That glass case has now been broken—from the inside as it were, and in two ways. First, ready recourse to conventional war virtually anywhere in the world, whether unilateral or in the name of a “coalition of the willing,” is now not just thinkable but a reality. Second, the fantasy of “new” nuclear weapons, which theoretically could be used with minimum repercussions to us, is increasingly a feature of national policy.

With Russia now deterred economically, we have to a considerable extent returned to the idea that the nuclear weapon



A B61-11 earth-penetrating bomb in the bomb bay of a B-2 Bomber.
Photo by Paul Shambroom, from his recent book, Face to Face with the Bomb:
Nuclear Reality after the Cold War.

operational space support, integrated missile defense, global C4ISR [command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance] and specialized planning expertise to the joint warfighter.[2] [emphasis added]

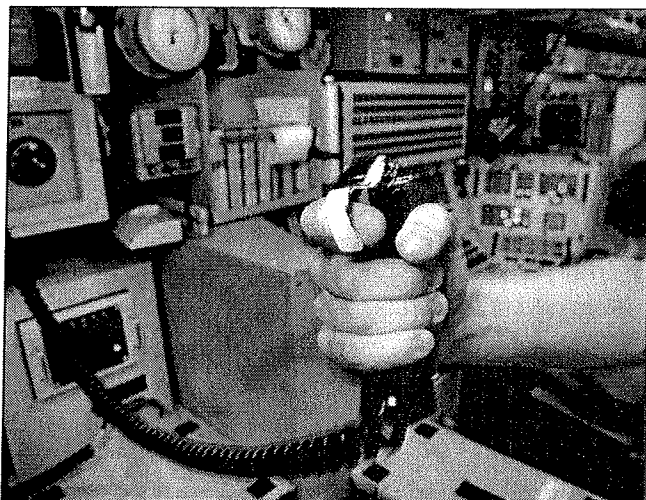
“Deterrence,” we see, is no longer STRATCOM's only goal. Alongside deterrence now stands something called “decisive national security objectives.” In other words, the superpower stalemate is gone, and with it the stasis of mutual deterrence.

“Deterrence,” as used in the nuclear business, was always a word to end all words, a contradiction without intellectual, strategic or moral resolution—a kind of thought-stopper. In 1998, General Lee Butler, STRATCOM's first commander-in-chief and a man long-steeped in deterrence theory and practice, said he had come to see deterrence

...in a very different light [than during his active duty]. Appropriated from the

continued on page 4

StratCom's New Global Threat



*The launch trigger for a Trident missile.
Photo by Paul Shambroom, from his book, Face to Face with the Bomb:
Nuclear Reality after the Cold War.*

can be what senior military planners thought it was in the late 1940s: "the winning weapon." [4] Secretary of War Henry Stimson had said as much in 1945, calling the new bomb "the ultimate arbiter of conflict." Because we are a technological culture that believes in progress, profit, and the efficacy of all things shiny and new (especially as regards weapons procurement), only such "new" nuclear weapons can serve as vehicles for a renewed belief in nuclear potency.

Needless to say, the new weapons aren't all that new. There are only so many ways to nuke somebody, and the U.S. has deployed essentially all of them at one time or another. We had earth-penetrators in the 1950s that penetrated more deeply than the ones we have today (they were heavier). As for "mininukes," all U.S. warheads can be turned into very low-yield weapons by the simple expedient of cutting the wires which actuate the boost gas valves, greatly decreasing the nuclear yield of the primary stage and preventing thermonuclear ignition in the secondaries. All the proposed "new" warheads are simply variations on old themes, if not exact copies.

Neither are the targets new. There have always been deep bunkers. All that is really new are the countries in which the targets are found and the freedom of action desired with respect to them.

This supposed new-found freedom of

action is very attractive to those who have been confined in the intellectual dungeon of mutually assured destruction—surely a more confining place than the hole in which Saddam Hussein was found. But it's an illusory freedom. There is very little military "value added" from the new weapons under any possible use scenario, and the downsides of nuclear use are so steep they form an abyss—especially for us, more so than for an adversary with nothing left to lose.

STRATCOM's Command Authority: More Than You Might Think

STRATCOM now has five directorates: Combat Support; Global Operations; Policy, Resources and Requirements; Strike Warfare; and Information Operations. The missions of two of these suffice to give a flavor of the whole. Global Operations "[c]oordinates the planning, employment, and operations of DoD strategic assets and combines all current operations, global command and control operations, and intelligence operations." [5] Strike Warfare "[p]rovides integrated global strike planning, and command and control support to deliver rapid, extended range, precision kinetic (nuclear and conventional) and non-kinetic (elements of space and information operations) effects in support of theater and national objectives." [6]

STRATCOM's authorized personnel level is only 3,738 people, and its annual budget is a mere \$433 million. But these figures do not include most of the military hardware and weapon systems—and the other military forces—it commands. [7]

What exactly are these forces? They include:

- all ballistic missile submarines, of which there are 14;
- strategic bomber and reconnaissance aircraft;
- aerial refueling and tankers;
- airborne communications;
- the Army Space Forces; including the 1st Space Battalion, which in turn includes five teams, "each aligned with a corps or special operations unit;" [8]
- all the Pentagon's cyberattack assets, the purpose of which is to "coordinate, support and conduct at the direction of the president, computer network attack operations in support of regional and national objectives;" [9]
- all land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs);
- the Marine Forces Strategic Command ("The Marines coordinate and facilitate U.S. Strategic Command's access to and use of Marine forces to execute U.S. Strategic Command missions" [10]);
- the Naval Network Warfare Command; and, last but not least, the far-flung collection of military and contractor organizations known as the
- Space Air Force.

Together, these military assets comprise a significant fraction of the entire U.S. military, perhaps two orders of magnitude greater than STRATCOM's budget alone might suggest. STRATCOM's assets run the gamut of warfare, from nuclear weapons to cyberwar, to space war, to special operations units, to global reconnaissance, mapping, analysis and targeting, all of which are meant to work together. Special operations forces might precede, for example, a nuclear attack.

"In Your Face from Outer Space"

In 2002, the U.S. Space Command (SPACECOM) was merged into STRATCOM, greatly broadening the latter's mission. STRATCOM now builds, launches, and runs communication satellites, navigation and targeting satellites (including those of the Global Positioning System, or GPS), and weather satellites; it monitors missile launches around the world from space. co

continued on page 8

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StratCom's New Global Threat, conclusion

ordinates space-based imagery between the collection agencies and military planners, and "oversees"—really, an impossible job—a sprawling and very rapidly growing network of military and contractor entities working on all aspects of space militarization.

Its missions include not just making sure the U.S. military has access to space, but denying that access to selected others, either all the time or when we want to.[11] This part of STRATCOM's mission is called "space control." As STRATCOM puts it,

Our nation may find it necessary to disrupt, degrade, deny, or destroy enemy space capabilities in future conflicts. USS STRATCOM currently does not have an operational anti-satellite weapon; however, conventional weapons also are effective at striking an adversary's space launch or ground relay facilities. Research and development into anti-satellite technology is continuing.[12]

Another component of STRATCOM's space mission is "Force Application," or "engaging adversaries [on the ground] from space."

In the future, being able to attack terrestrial targets from space may be critical to national defense. USSTRATCOM therefore is actively identifying potential roles, missions, and payloads for this probable new field of battle. Space represents a fundamentally new and better way to apply military force—by promptly striking adversary centers of gravity, or minimizing or bypassing high-cost, high-risk conflicts.[13]

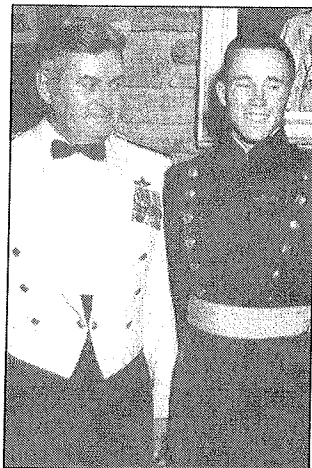
It will always be fairly expensive to throw heavy objects into orbit. What's more, the thick, turbulent, and often opaque atmosphere will probably always protect, to a greater or lesser extent, targets on the ground from some space-based beam weapons such as lasers. So space, as a "platform" for force application back to earth, may simply not be all it's cracked up to be.

While the hype almost certainly exceeds what is feasible and economic in many space warfare projects, it's important to say in the same breath that this may not matter in important ways. Technology doesn't advance in a linear manner. The technology developed for a doomed project may be quite adaptable to another more practical project. The fertile soil of a broad military and civilian space program is already growing weapon technologies that will "work" for space and near-space application.

Of particular concern are weapons which transit space but which are not space weapons per se, rather weapons which build

incrementally upon existing long-range missile technologies. This includes the various versions of the maneuverable, gliding, loitering, and semi-autonomous warheads called "common aero vehicles" (CAVs), the first version of which is to be flight tested in approximately 2007. These incremental advances in missile technology are a major driver for new warhead development. Two recent papers by Andrew Lichterman of the Western States Legal Foundation cover this subject in detail.[14]

Space weapons don't have to "work" to achieve important political and economic goals. Even vaguely possible projects can and do serve a diverse set of strategic pur-



General Curtis E. LeMay, founding commander of the Strategic Air Command (SAC), pictured in 1960 with cadet, George L. Butler, who in 1992 would become the founding commander of STRATCOM (Strategic Command). Photo from History of the United States Strategic Command: June 1, 1992-October 1, 2002, prepared by HQ USSTRATCOM CSH, Command Historian's Office, January 15, 2004.

poses, as well as grease many wheels and line many pockets.

Space war is symbolic and ideological as well. The vague possibility of Zeus-like domination, directed internally within the military and its contractors ("in your face from outer space"), as the uniform patches say in one of STRATCOM's far-flung divisions at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, helps renew the myth of air power, maintain morale, impress the politicians and

give them something to sell, as well as boosting recruitment of young followers. The new apostles of air power seek to dominate earth from space, but also to control the heaven of imagination. They want the enemy to look up in the sky and be afraid of the personal death that could be sent at any time out of a clear blue sky at little or no cost to the sender. For the rest of us, approval, awe, and plenty of federal tax revenues will be enough.

Air and Space Power—or Airy, Spaced-Out Fantasy?

The single unstated but essential idea behind STRATCOM's new mission is that through an integrated, ultramodern military, heavily dependent on air and space power, global U.S. military and political objectives can be attained without much direct contact with the enemy, without many casualties, without catastrophic blowback, and at an affordable cost.[15] In other words, through such means a global empire of resources, investments, markets, and military bases can be maintained and economically expanded. In the bloodless, pristine fantasy world of animated Powerpoint wars, which always focus on just one relatively minor (but highly profitable) technical aspect of the imperial burden, it always looks easy. In the real world, of course, it is not. Maintaining security in such a global empire will not be possible by any means.

So it's not just nuclear weapons which are not "winning weapons." What if there were no winning weapons? Conflicts such as the complex insurrections in Iraq and Afghanistan are highly asymmetric, involving great disparities in goals, methods of engagement, political legitimacy, and military power between protagonists. They are certainly not struggles between formal militaries in which "victory" and "defeat" have the same meaning to all sides. What if the protagonists were fighting, as it were, different wars?

What if these conflicts were not really military at all? What if their fundamental character were political, meaning that it would be possible to win every "battle" militarily, and even win the "war," without succeeding in creating security anywhere, either in Iraq, let us say, or at home? It's possible that military "victories" might accomplish no coherent policy objective at all, all the while killing people, with civilians always the most numerous victims. Such carnage, especially if perceived by others as senseless, depraved, or craven (as it surely is by important constituencies in Iraq), might only weaken U.S. security, turning every supposed "win" into a loss. For the families of the slain and injured, it already is a pro-

found loss. For many victims of U.S. "collateral damage," there is nothing left to lose. Such "victories" do nothing to enhance anybody's security.

In such cases, every bomb exploded would be a seed of future conflict or terrorist response, and each threat would only legitimate more violence or the acquisition of a more potent deterrent against us. The world is large and very complex. Human beings are quite resourceful. It is impossible for any country to find security by policing the world if all the while that country is providing ample reason for millions of people to hate it.

For these reasons, it would appear that neither military force nor air power, and even



Don Reeves, first president of Nebraskans for Peace when the organization was founded in 1970, speaking with Greg Mello, Executive Director of the Los Alamos Study Group and the keynote speaker at the 2004 Annual Peace Conference, February 14.

less so nuclear weapons, can satisfactorily resolve the conflicts for which they are being prepared, even from a purely military perspective. Still less can these technologies accomplish U.S. objectives in a "decisive" manner. The only thing "decisive" about the application of violence to political problems is destruction itself, which creates, quite literally, nothing. Long ago, Napoleon remarked to a friend: "Do you know, Fontanes, what astonishes me most in this world? The inability of force to create anything. In the long run the sword is always beaten by the spirit." [16] This surely is a remark that STRATCOM officers and peace activists alike would do well to ponder.

Footnotes on page 10

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Texas regents debate pursuing UC lab contract

Charles Burress, Chronicle Staff Writer

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

©2004 San Francisco Chronicle | [Feedback](#) | [FAQ](#)URL: sfgate.com/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2004/02/04/MNGFU4OF7P1.DTL

University of Texas regents meet today on whether to seek UC's long-held contract to manage the birthplace of the atomic bomb, the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico.

"I'd say it's highly likely," said Austin Van Zant, a member of UT Watch, a University of Texas student group opposed to the university's bid.

University of Texas spokesman Anthony de Bruyn said he couldn't comment before the regents meet.

The 9,600-employee lab is the nation's leading nuclear-weapons design site and also performs a wide range of other research.

UC has managed the lab since its beginning, as well as federal labs in Livermore and Berkeley, but UC oversight was called into question last year after a series of security lapses at Los Alamos and Livermore. Congress ordered last year that the UC contracts be opened to competition.

UC continues to prepare for competing, spokesman Chris Harrington said. UC regents have not decided whether to bid on the new contract. UC receives nearly \$4 billion in federal funds for managing the three federal labs.

Greg Mello, director of the pro-disarmament Los Alamos Study Group, cited reports of ties between the University of Texas and the Bush administration and expressed concern that giving the Los Alamos contract to Texas could "grease the skids for nuclear testing" in line with Bush administration ideas for new lower-yield nuclear weapons.

Professor Sheldon Landsberger, coordinator for nuclear and radiation engineering at UT Austin, said politics would be unlikely to play a role given the high security stakes in the post-Sept. 11 world. He said other grants for nuclear programs under the Bush administration have been viewed by his colleagues as being awarded on merit.

But Landsberger, who favors UT management, added, "Anyone I've spoken with said if there's really a strong bid from UC, it will probably stay there."

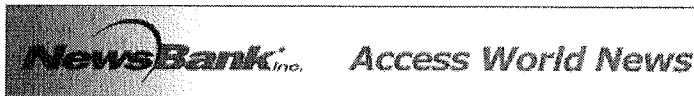
A UT task force began working on a possible Los Alamos bid in 2002, the same year that UT unsuccessfully sought the contract for Los Alamos' sister lab, Sandia National Laboratories.

Other potential bidders include the Battelle Corp., which operates four Energy Department labs; Lockheed Martin, which manages the Sandia lab; and San Francisco's Bechtel, a partner in operating the Pantex nuclear-weapons factory near Amarillo, Texas.

E-mail Charles Burress at cburress@sfgate.com

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Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)
Title: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS TO BID FOR LANL CONTRACT
Date: February 5, 2004

The University of Texas has taken its first step toward bidding on the contract to manage Los Alamos National Laboratory, allocating \$500,000 to begin planning and to start looking for partners.

The university's regents on Wednesday unanimously approved the expenditure but said the board would not make a final decision until the U.S. Department of Energy formally opens the competition this spring.

The University of California has managed Los Alamos since the lab's founding during World War II to create the first atomic bomb. But Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham decided last year to put the contract up for bids from other institutions after business and security scandals at the lab.

The current contract, worth \$2.2 billion annually, expires in 2005.

Wednesday's move by the Texas regents mirrored a decision made by University of California regents last month to begin preparing for a bid.

Only the University of Texas, the University of California and Lockheed Martin, which currently runs Sandia National Laboratories, have formally expressed interest in the Los Alamos contract; all three say they are waiting to see how DOE frames the competition before making a decision.

The University of Texas, which operates 15 campuses, has always topped the list of potential bidders at Los Alamos. UT was preparing to bid on the contract to manage Sandia National Laboratories when the Energy Department decided to leave that contract with Lockheed Martin two years ago.

In addition to boosting recognition and visibility of the University of Texas, managing the nuclear-weapons lab would increase research opportunities for students and faculty, university officials said. It could also bring more government research grants and opportunities to transfer new technologies into the private sector in Texas.

"The payoff to Texas will be enormous if we are successful here," University of Texas Chancellor Mark Yudof said during a news conference after the regents' meeting, "and we believe we will have partners to share in the initial costs" of bidding on the contract.

University of California officials also said they are looking for partners in the bidding venture, which could cost upward of \$6 million if the university decides to compete.

Dan Burck, an adviser to the University of Texas Board of Regents, said, "I'm sure that we will have some dialogue with New Mexico universities ... to see what their interests might be in participating in a bid with the University of Texas."

University of New Mexico President Louis Caldera issued a statement Wednesday saying that it is too soon for UNM to make any commitments to any potential bidders and that UNM is "determined to keep all its options open."

The Texas institution is focusing on Los Alamos right now but might consider future contracts at other DOE facilities as well, Burck said. "We are interested in the national-lab business."

UT also draws attention because of its political connections, which extend all the way into the Oval Office. A former UT professor and vice-chancellor, Dale Klein, serves on the U.S. Department of Energy's blue-ribbon advisory committee, which issued a report last year endorsing competition at Los Alamos and other national labs.

Nuclear watchdog groups are split on the issue. **Los Alamos Study Group** director Greg Mello said UT has too many ties to President Bush and his nuclear policies. Moreover, Mello questioned whether universities should be in the nuclear-weapons business, suggesting that the federal government should run the lab instead.

Students and faculty at the University of California for decades have debated whether UC should be in the nuclear-weapons business. A student group at the University of Texas at Austin sounded similar concerns on Wednesday, saying current DOE initiatives to design new nuclear weapons run counter to the school philosophy of transforming lives "for the benefit of society."

Jay Coghlan, who heads Nuclear Watch of New Mexico, applauded UT's decision, saying it could lead to a healthier competition for the lab contract.

"Just by virtue of there being competition, I think whoever wins can be held generally more accountable," he said.

When UT expressed interest in running Sandia, the university indicated that it would be willing to pay gross-receipts taxes to the state of New Mexico, Coghlan noted. As a nonprofit educational institution, the University of California does not pay gross receipts at Los Alamos. He said the state of New Mexico would receive \$60 million in additional revenue annually if UT were to pay those taxes.

A primary concern of Los Alamos employees and local politicians has been employee benefits. U.S. Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M. raised those concerns again on Wednesday, saying he shares the concerns of employees who want UC to remain the primary lab contractor.

UT Chancellor Yudof said employees would be taken care of if UT takes over at Los Alamos.

"Those employees are critical to the success of this lab," he said. "We certainly don't want to see them, if this all

comes to pass, suffering in the transition."

(Sidebar)

Competition timeline

January 2003: Los Alamos National Laboratory Director John Browne steps down amid business and security scandal.

April 2003: Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham decides to seek competing bids for lab-management contract, which has always been held by the University of California.

Spring 2004: U.S. Department of Energy expected to officially call for bids.

September 2005: University of California's current contract expires.

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Author: JEFF TOLLEFSON

Section: Main

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Paper: Asheville Citizen-Times (NC)
Title: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Date: February 11, 2004

There's a lot wrong with
U.S. approach to nukes
O

On Jan. 25-27 in Washington, D.C., the Nuclear Policy Research Institute (NPRI) sponsored a symposium "Three Minutes to Midnight," in response to the growing worldwide threat posed by nuclear weapons. The NPRI was founded by Dr. Helen Caldicott, a physician from Australia, to educate the American public about nuclear issues and nuclear disarmament.

The many speakers discussed not only the danger posed by the strategic nuclear arsenal of the U.S. and Russia, but also the medical implications of nuclear war. Speakers included a representative from the Moscow Center for Defense Information, the U.S. Center for Defense Information, Natural Resources Defense Council, the RAND Corp., Sandia Laboratories, **Los Alamos Study Group**, Russian Academy of Sciences and many universities.

Kim Campbell, former prime minister of Canada, challenged all to think globally. She mentioned the problem of getting scientific information to decision makers. She stated that nuclear weapons were designed for a particular type of warfare and are no longer applicable. They are useless except as deterrents. The risk of accidents is no longer acceptable.

The world needs a deep commitment to international cooperation; nuclear weapons could well be a test case in this regard. A national debate on nuclear policy is essential.

Leah Karpen,
Asheville

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Author: READERS
Section: EDITORIAL
Page: 9A

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Los Alamos Study Group director to speak

Publication Date: 02/13/04

A number of state and national issues will be discussed Saturday at the 2004 Annual Peace Conference in Grand Island.

The conference will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 511 N. Elm St.

The keynote speaker at the conference will be Greg Mello, executive director of the Los Alamos Study Group, a disarmament-oriented research and advocacy organization headquartered in Albuquerque, N.M. He will speak on the topic of "StratCom's New Mission: Full Global Strike."

Mello's study group has researched activities involving nuclear weapons, along with environmental review and analysis.

Along with Mello's address, topics at the conference will also cover Initiative 300, the Patriot Act, and repeal of LB755.

The conference is sponsored by Nebraskans for Peace and the UNO School of Social Work. There will be a \$30 registration fee at the door for the full day's activities. A student and low-income rate of \$10 is also available.

For more information, contact Tim Rinne at (402) 475-7616 or (402) 475-4620 or Carol McShane at 730-0262.

Click here to return to story:

http://www.theindependent.com/stories/021304/new_conference13.shtml

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Date:-02/19/2004 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Page:-1

Panel: Plutonium Stabilizing Lags at Lab

Adam Rankin Journal Staff Writer

LANL Workers Face Health Risk

A decade-old effort to repackage plutonium into more stable containers at Los Alamos is not being addressed quickly enough by either LANL or the National Nuclear Security Administration, according to a recent letter by a federal oversight board.

So far, LANL has processed and stabilized about 7,000 of the highest-priority plutonium items since 1995 and for the last two years has completed work on nearly 20 percent more items than planned, according to Steve Yarbrow, leader of LANL's nuclear materials technology division.

But about 4,300 plutonium packages remain to be stabilized, repackaged or disposed of, according to a Jan. 30 report by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Board. The board is an independent oversight group created by Congress to review activities at Energy Department nuclear facilities.

"This schedule does not reflect an appropriate sense of urgency on the part of LANL or the National Nuclear Security Administration with regard to removing materials from non-standard packages that pose a higher risk of failure," the report stated.

At the end of the Cold War, thousands of pounds of plutonium, once destined for nuclear weapons, were left in temporary storage packages at LANL and elsewhere in the DOE complex.

Work on stabilizing plutonium began in 1994 after workers discovered plutonium stored in temporary containers improperly sealed can react with oxygen to degrade welded steel, generating leaks.

While not a threat to the public, the issue poses a health and safety risk for workers, DOE officials stated at the time.

The report notes that the Aug. 5 contamination of two LANL workers handling an aged and degraded package of plutonium underscores the need to expeditiously complete plutonium stabilization.

Accompanying the report was a Feb. 12 letter to Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham from the oversight board's chairman, John T. Conway, requesting DOE within 120 days provide an implementation plan with an accelerated schedule for repackaging and stabilizing plutonium.

Conway noted LANL is the only DOE site without an implementation plan accepted by the board.

"We are working very hard to see what we can do to accelerate the schedule," Yarbrow said. "We are working hard with NNSA to ensure we have the right priorities in place so we have the appropriate funding. We are taking this very seriously."

Yarbrow said funding for plutonium stabilization had been somewhat erratic until recently. He said the

last three years DOE and NNSA have provided about \$15 million a year to do the work through 2010.

The job of stabilizing excess plutonium was originally scheduled for completion by 2005, but after a series of revisions the schedule was pushed back to 2010.

"Overall, NNSA is looking at how best to store some of this material; whether or not it should all be stored at one location... or several locations," Yarbrow said.

By way of example, the board notes that of about 155 plutonium-238 containers stored at Technical Area 55 since 1996, only 12 were stabilized over a two-year period "even though it only takes a few days to process each container."

"The (board's) staff is unaware of any compelling reason why more timely processing of these residues could not have been accomplished," the board's report stated.

Yarbrow said LANL's first priority, by agreement with DOE, was to process the higher-volume, weapons-grade plutonium-239.

Laboratory and Energy Department watchdog groups say plutonium stabilization and repackaging simply have not been made a priority by DOE, NNSA or LANL.

"It doesn't rise to the level of perceived importance that the defense missions do," said Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group. "If they wanted to finish it, they could finish it. They've had 10 years."

Mello predicted the credibility and effectiveness of the 16-year-old Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board is at stake with this issue.

"It was set up for scrutiny of just such problems as this," he said. "It does not have enforcement powers, but it depends on people like you and me and Congress to put pressure on the DOE."

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Friday, March 5, 2004

Wealth of LANL Info Online

By **Adam Rankin**
Journal Staff Writer

A watchdog group has compiled a Web-based archive of official documents to satisfy the nuclear curiosity of those who have wondered what goes on behind the gates of Los Alamos National Laboratory and questioned what kind of wastes lie hidden across its 40-square-mile campus.

Consisting of nearly 1,000 separate files, images and detailed maps coupled with thousands of internal links, the archive developed by the Los Alamos Study Group allows users to easily zero in on specific laboratory sites, or Technical Areas.

"This detailed information has never been easily available to the public before," said Greg Mello, director of the Study Group. "You can now go to our Web site and find out what the various buildings at Los Alamos do and you can see an overview of the contamination."

Mello said the documents were given to the group over several years by the U.S. Energy Department, Los Alamos and the state Environment Department, which oversees environmental regulation at the laboratory.

"Compilation is such an important thing to do," said Jay Coghlan, director of Nuclear Watch of New Mexico, another LANL watchdog.

The Energy Department ordered that much of the publicly available information on Los Alamos be removed from public Web sites following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"From where we sit, it seems like it is a good excuse to cut off information so they can't be as

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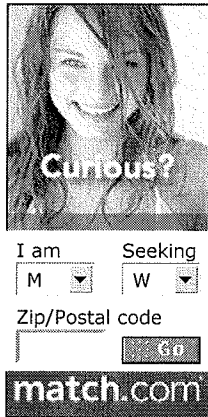
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acutely questioned as in the past," Coghlan said. "Seems to me the Study Group has done a valuable service here."

He said for most people, the prospect of seeking information on a specific Technical Area or other environmental issue at Los Alamos can be daunting, given the volume of reports dating back decades.

"You have to be nuts like ourselves to wade through all this stuff," he said.

The Study Group's Web site, www.lasg.org, offers a convenient alternative for those less inclined to do the digging themselves.

The entire archive is presented as a map of the laboratory, divided by Technical Area. Clicking on each TA leads to a detailed topographic map that shows all the major facilities with potential pollution release sites that are in turn linked to a list of documents where more detailed information on contamination can be found.

Included for each site is information on erosion, and all of the larger buildings are listed by function and hazard classification.

"It is very important that this information be completely in the public domain and not residing in a server which is controlled by the laboratory in one way or another," Mello said. "This data is owned by the public."

Besides providing public access, Mello said he hopes the database will provoke citizens in other nuclear countries to force their governments to be more accountable.

He said DOE was made aware of the project.

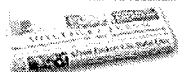
"We asked them if they had any problems with this and if they did to please let us know, and we haven't heard," he said.

Mello said information will be updated as it becomes available.



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Date:-03/20/2004 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Page:-1

Deal Reached for LANL Cleanup

Adam Rankin Journal Staff Writer

* State, DOE agreement looks like draft order issued in 2002

ALBUQUERQUE -- Negotiators with the U.S. Department of Energy and the state's Environment Department have come to a nominal agreement over the future course of environmental work at Los Alamos National Laboratory after a deadlock of more than 16 months.

"All outstanding cleanup issues between the state and the Department of Energy have been resolved," Gov. Bill Richardson announced at a news conference here on Friday morning.

At the height of the disagreement, Richardson said he would "play hardball" with DOE to assert the state's position.

"It looks like hardball did pay off," state Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry said after the announcement.

State and DOE officials said they agreed to a draft cleanup order similar to one the state issued Los Alamos in 2002. The new draft order will be available for public review and comment beginning May 1.

"I assure you we are extremely committed to working within this agreement," said Inez Triay, one of the DOE negotiators.

Without it, Congress and DOE would have continued to withhold \$43 million in extra funding earmarked for accelerated environmental work at Los Alamos. Los Alamos was the only DOE site in the continental United States that did not have such an agreement. Similar agreements have freed up millions of extra federal dollars for more than a dozen sites nationwide.

With an agreement in place -- and only the proper signatures, review by the state's attorney general and public comment still to come -- more than \$200 million is free to flow into Los Alamos over the next decade for the accelerated work, which is to be done in addition to the regularly scheduled baseline environmental restoration.

"Personally, I feel proud that we didn't leave this in a position where we would be hung up for years," said Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., adding he is pleased the agreement has cleanup milestones.

With an agreement in place, money will flow, creating jobs and ensuring that cleanup will finish 20 years early, he said.

Not present at the announcement was Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., who along with Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M., supported the state's firm position against DOE -- and called for the early release of the cleanup funds -- because the state's plans called for thorough investigations of undocumented, buried waste.

"This means that LANL will complete cleanup by 2015, which is very good news for our state,"

Bingaman said in a statement.

For more than a year, the state and DOE have wrangled over cleanup at Los Alamos. The state preferred its own version of cleanup and a "fence-to-fence" waste characterization plan that would be legally enforceable in federal court.

The DOE favored its "Performance Management Plan" which aimed to finish legacy waste cleanup by 2010 and environmental restoration by 2015, saving nearly \$1 billion and finishing 15 years early. It would not have been enforceable by the state, and state officials claimed DOE's plans would have left some waste untouched.

Sticking points during the negotiations included the state's insistence on an enforceable order, the rigidity and prescriptiveness of the state's plan and resistance to the state's attempt to gain authority over cleaning up radionuclides, which fall under federal jurisdiction.

The new agreement places authority of radionuclide waste with the federal government. DOE, in a separate agreement, has agreed to carefully monitor stored and buried radionuclide waste and to work cooperatively with the state to decide on any radionuclide cleanups deemed necessary, said Joe Vozella, an assistant DOE manager at Los Alamos.

He also said the investigative work required by the state, while still present, is no longer as rigid and allows for DOE-proposed alternatives, though the state retains final say.

The dispute, which as recently as January appeared to be headed to court, was resolved late Wednesday in a compromise that had politicians and state and federal officials praising a cooperative effort they say will protect the environment and human health but leaves environmentalists still disapproving.

"We're not celebrating here" because the agreement is too focused on investigating and characterizing waste, said Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group, a laboratory watchdog.

"There is no actual cleanup in the order," he said.

While praising Richardson and Curry for "hanging tough" against DOE pressure, Jay Coghlan, director of Nuclear Watch of New Mexico, said "the next step is for the governor and the secretary to actually order tangible clean up, not just studies."

PHOTOS: Color

RICHARDSON: Announced agreement

DOMENICI: Pleased with milestones

Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)
Title: THE PROJECTOR
TAKES ON FILM
Date: March 26, 2004

Doc charts nuclear trail

Santa Fe filmmaker Candy Jones presents her nuclear-themed documentary, *Do It for Uncle Graham*, at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 27, at Albuquerque's Guild Cinema. The screening is a benefit for the **Los Alamos Study Group**, which recently relocated to Albuquerque.

Do It for Uncle Graham explores New Mexico's nuclear legacy, beginning with the development of the A-bomb during the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos and continuing with the boom in uranium mining following the war and such

little-known incidents as an experiment to release natural gas from tight rock formations using "nuclear dynamite."

The title comes from Jones' late uncle, who served as a state legislator in New Mexico's formative years. Learn more about the film at www.doitforunclegraham.com.

Tickets for the Guild screening will be sold at the door. The work debuted earlier this month at the Durango Film Festival and is scheduled to make its Santa Fe bow later this spring.

Screenwriting staff expands

Gerald Di Pego, the screenwriter who penned the supernatural-themed *Phenomenon*, starring John Travolta, has joined the faculty for the sixth annual Screenwriting Conference in Santa Fe scheduled for June 2 to 6. Other new additions to the teaching roster include Chuck Pfarrer, who scripted the first two *Darkman* vehicles for Sam Raimi, and development executive Janet Jeffries, whose diverse credits encompass *Good Will Hunting* and *Kill Bill*.

Monday, March 29, is the early registration deadline. Visit www.scsfe.com for full details.

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Author: Jon Bowman, Film Critic
Section: Pasatiempo
Page: P-58
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Date:-03/28/2004 Section:-News Edition:-Final Page:-B4

Critics Say Lab Pact Missing Cleanup Clause

Adam Rankin Journal Northern Bureau

SANTA FE -- New Mexico and the U.S. Department of Energy may have struck a deal recently that will allow \$43 million in federal funding to flow into environmental programs at Los Alamos. But there is at least one item missing from the new agreement that previously played a prominent role in the state's attempt to force cleanup on its own terms.

That is the state Environment Department's finding, issued May 2, 2002, that legacy waste at Los Alamos may present an "imminent and substantial endangerment" to human health and the environment.

Laboratory watchdog groups also claim the agreement, which won't be available to the public until early May, is also missing any real cleanup requirements and instead focuses on producing risk reports and characterizing unknown waste.

Knowing that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers that Los Alamos hosts more chemical and radioactive solid waste management units than any other facility in the country, the state's finding of "imminent and substantial endangerment" may not seem surprising. But to the laboratory and DOE, it was a big deal, because it set up important legal consequences.

Most significantly, the determination allowed the state to unilaterally file a corrective action order against Los Alamos late in 2002, requiring extensive "fence-to-fence" waste characterization and cleanup.

The DOE and University of California immediately challenged the finding.

First, they argued the state can't issue the determination of potential endangerment because it was based mostly on the release or discharge of radionuclides, over which the state has no legal jurisdiction.

They argued the state couldn't prove with any substantial evidence that legacy wastes posed an imminent threat and that the procedure for making the determination didn't even meet the state's own requirements.

Los Alamos County became concerned about the finding's implications when the County Commission learned the state might post warning signs around certain laboratory facilities.

Fearful the signs might cause unwarranted concern among the county's citizens, the commission, along with state Rep. Jeannette Wallace, R-Los Alamos, met with Richardson and New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry, who assured them the signs wouldn't be posted.

"We decided to not put up the signs because of the concern it would hurt the entire community, not just the laboratory," Curry said.

He acknowledged the signs were "a little bit of a bargaining chip" in the disagreement with DOE.

But now, after about 16 months of closed-door negotiations, the state's finding of imminent and substantial endangerment is no longer necessary, following the agreement announced March 19 reached between DOE and the state.

"It is not so much that the finding of imminent and substantial endangerment was removed," explained NMED attorney Charlie de Saillan, as it is that the new consent order, agreed to by DOE, "is based on a different statutory provision, which doesn't require a finding of an imminent and substantial endangerment."

The order, which is a consent order because both DOE and NMED have agreed to it, is now under a different section of the state's Hazardous Waste Act, section 10, that doesn't give the state as much or as broad authority as it would have under section 13, as it was originally issued in 2002.

Curry said that is fine by the state because the new agreement is in the form of a legally enforceable document with stipulated penalties if DOE and Los Alamos fail to perform according to the agreement.

Furthermore, de Saillan said, the consent order also now includes a provision under the state's Solid Waste Act. That allows the state to include in the order a broader range of wastes, such as high explosives and perchlorate, that couldn't have been included originally.

So, does the state believe 60 years of legacy waste at Los Alamos still poses a threat to human health and the environment?

"I believe that the order will continue to demonstrate that those health concerns will show themselves in different ways," Curry said.

As far as DOE is concerned, waste at Los Alamos did not and still doesn't pose a threat.

"The bottom line is the department believes that the operations at Los Alamos National Laboratory have not contributed to an imminent or substantial endangerment," said DOE's Joe Vozella, assistant manager of facility operations at Los Alamos. "We are in the midst of a robust cleanup and now are on track to be done by 2015."

Despite the strong contention by both DOE and the state that the agreement, as Richardson said on March 19, "resolves all outstanding cleanup issues," Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group -- a lab watchdog organization -- wonders how those claims can be made when the document that the agreement is based on isn't even public yet.

If the new agreement is largely based on the state's original corrective action order, as state officials have said, then Mello said it isn't going to require any real cleanup.

He said the original order did not have waste investigations that would address how cleanup should be performed; rather, they were designed to determine whether or how much waste should be cleaned up.

"NMED has not asked for a cleanup plan and has no plan; DOE does have a plan, which is not to clean up," he said.

NMED's de Saillan said the original state order does have provisions for cleanup, but they aren't detailed and don't make up the bulk of the order.

The reason, he said, is that much of the wastes still haven't been characterized and the public should have some input when it comes to deciding how cleanup gets done.

"If we were to build into the order detailed cleanup, we would prejudice the remedy before the public has had a chance to participate in the cleanup process," he said.

And, unlike the original order, the new consent agreement has enforceable deadlines for final implementations and remedies.

"The consent order goes a little further than what was in the unilateral order," he said.



Date:-03/28/2004 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Page:-1

Watchdogs: Lab Deal Missing Cleanup

Adam Rankin Journal Staff Writer

New Mexico and the U.S. Department of Energy may have struck a deal recently that will allow \$43 million in federal funding to flow into environmental programs at Los Alamos. But there is at least one item missing from the new agreement that previously played a prominent role in the state's attempt to force cleanup on its own terms.

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Fearful the signs might cause unwarranted concern among the county's citizens, the commission, along with state Rep. Jeannette Wallace, R-Los Alamos, met with Richardson and New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry, who assured them the signs wouldn't be posted.

"We decided to not put up the signs because of the concern it would hurt the entire community, not just the laboratory," Curry said.

He acknowledged the signs were "a little bit of a bargaining chip" in the disagreement with DOE.

But now, after about 16 months of closed-door negotiations, the state's finding of imminent and

substantial endangerment is no longer necessary, following the agreement announced March 19 reached between DOE and the state.

"It is not so much that the finding of imminent and substantial endangerment was removed," explained NMED attorney Charlie de Saillan, as it is that the new consent order, agreed to by DOE, "is based on a different statutory provision, which doesn't require a finding of an imminent and substantial endangerment."

The order, which is a consent order because both DOE and NMED have agreed to it, is now under a different section of the state's Hazardous Waste Act, section 10, that doesn't give the state as much or as broad authority as it would have under section 13, as it was originally issued in 2002.

Curry said that is fine by the state because the new agreement is in the form of a legally enforceable document with stipulated penalties if DOE and Los Alamos fail to perform according to the agreement.

Furthermore, de Saillan said, the consent order also now includes a provision under the state's Solid Waste Act.

That allows the state to include in the order a broader range of wastes, such as high explosives and perchlorate, that couldn't have been included originally.

So, does the state believe 60 years of legacy waste at Los Alamos still poses a threat to human health and the environment?

"I believe that the order will continue to demonstrate that those health concerns will show themselves in different ways," Curry said.

As far as DOE is concerned, waste at Los Alamos did not and still doesn't pose a threat.

"The bottom line is the department believes that the operations at Los Alamos National Laboratory have not contributed to an imminent or substantial endangerment," said DOE's Joe Vozella, assistant manager of facility operations at Los Alamos. "We are in the midst of a robust cleanup and now are on track to be done by 2015."

Despite the strong contention by both DOE and the state that the agreement, as Richardson said on March 19, "resolves all outstanding cleanup issues," Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group -- a lab watchdog organization -- wonders how those claims can be made when the document that the agreement is based on isn't even public yet.

If the new agreement is largely based on the state's original corrective action order, as state officials have said, then Mello said it isn't going to require any real cleanup.

He said the original order did not have waste investigations that would address how cleanup should be performed; rather, they were designed to determine whether or how much waste should be cleaned up.

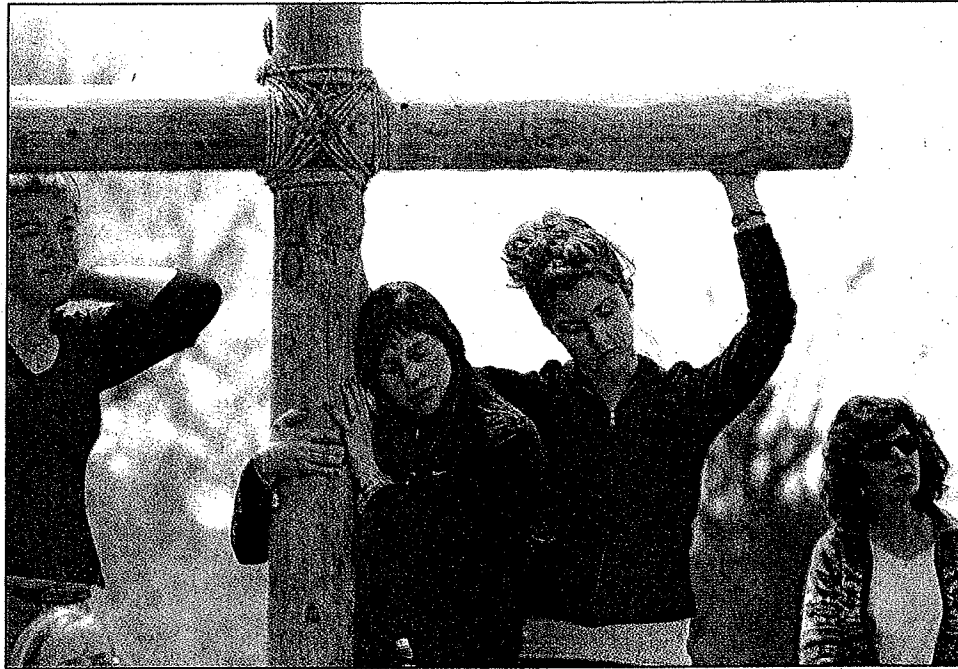
"NMED has not asked for a cleanup plan and has no plan; DOE does have a plan, which is not to clean up," he said.

NMED's de Saillan said the original state order does have provisions for cleanup, but they aren't detailed and don't make up the bulk of the order.

The reason, he said, is that much of the wastes still haven't been characterized and the public should have some input when it comes to deciding how cleanup gets done.

"If we were to build into the order detailed cleanup, we would prejudice the remedy before the public has had a chance to participate in the cleanup process," he said.

And, unlike the original order, the new consent agreement has enforceable deadlines for final implementations and remedies.



MARLA BROSE/JOURNAL

Holding a cross on Good Friday are, from left, Stephanie Blair-Pattison, Becca Montaño and Melissa Nissenon at one of the Stations of the Cross stops at Robinson Park in Downtown Albuquerque.

A CROSS TO BEAR

World's Problems Focus of Good Friday Service

BY PAUL LOGAN *4/10/04*
Journal Staff Writer

Roman Catholics and Protestants — even Buddhists — participated in an ecumenical Good Friday service on Downtown Albuquerque streets.

Some, like Georgianna Heise, helped carry a 6-foot wooden cross while several hundred others walked and meditated during the cloudy, windy midday procession. At each of 10 stops, speakers recalled Christ's Crucifixion and how suffering and injustice continues today.

"I'm here to remember what Christ did and to do something for peace," said Heise, a Catholic from Algodones.

Shelly Leiker of Albuquerque came hand in hand with her 11-year-old daughter, Courtney, to the 16th annual three-hour service called "Way of the Cross: Mindless Violence to Mindful Being."

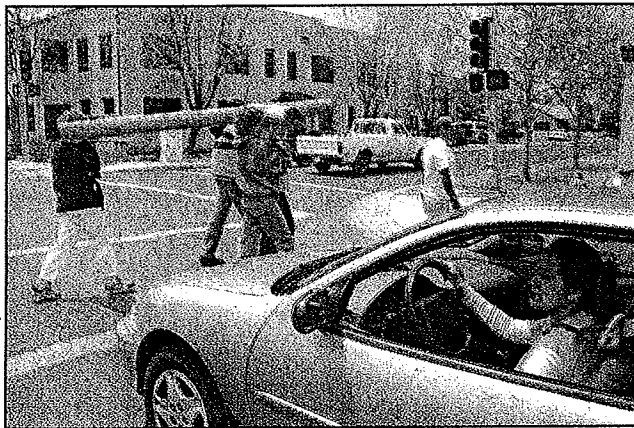
"This is just an opportunity for people to become aware what is going on that they might not know about," Leiker said at Civic Plaza, the start and finish of the walk.

At each stop, Scripture was read in English and Spanish and a speaker for the sponsoring organization talked of problems in today's world.

The first Station of the Cross stop was Judas betraying Jesus. The focus was on alleviating hunger, one family at a time, by Home-Grown Nutrition, a group that helps people make their own gardens.

At the second stop, recalling how Peter denied Christ, Greg Mello talked of speaking the truth about nuclear weapons research.

Mello, a peace activist and head of the Los Alamos Study Group, compared New Mexicans to the apostle Peter.



Sara Delgado of Albuquerque waits in her car on Good Friday as volunteers carry a wooden cross across Sixth Street NW to Lew Wallace Elementary School, one of the stops of an ecumenical service.

"We live in a city that harbors more nuclear weapons than any other place on the planet," said Mello, a Buddhist. "Our silence, like that of Peter, is being taken as assent to these realities."

The Rev. Richard Rohr, a Catholic priest and founder of the event, said the goal of the service was not to point fingers at anybody or say someone was causing the suffering. Instead, Rohr wanted to raise consciousness about issues like hunger, homelessness and caring for future generations.

"I think our concern and desire is to really make visible and concrete the places in our own city where suffering is happening," he said. "In other words, to make the Crucifixion not something that happened 2,000 years ago but to be aware that, hey, suffering is happening right now. This is the ongoing Crucifixion

of Christ..."

He said his order of priests, the Franciscans, started the "Way of the Cross" as a walking meditation in the 14th century.

The third stop was the former city-county jail, where the group prayed: "Replace our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. Teach us to be peacemakers."

Several blocks later at Lew Wallace Elementary, the focus was on teaching children compassion and forgiveness.

Susan Gant, an Episcopalian, told the crowd:

"We pray for children who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions ... and we pray for those who never get dessert, who have no safe blankets to drag behind them ... whose monsters are real."

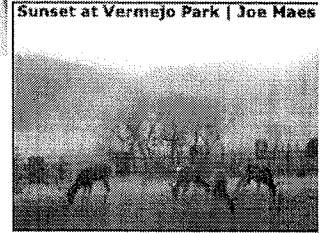
Other topics included reverence for the Earth and serving others.

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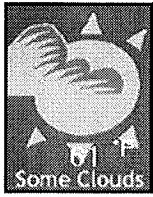
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Los Alamos cleanup: convenient fictions

Greg Mello

If you're confused about the environmental situation at Los Alamos, you're not alone. It's hard for reporters and editors, let alone ordinary citizens and officials, to sift fact from fiction.

The fiction du jour is that the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has signed a cleanup agreement with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the University of California (UC). Is there really an agreement? It wasn't available to the news media. It will supposedly be available in early May. Why the delay?

According to news accounts, the supposed agreement closely follows the proposed Corrective Action Order issued by NMED in 2002. But that order doesn't ask for cleanup, just more background investigations which stop far short of cleanup, the overall effect of which is to push cleanup farther into an uncertain future.

This convenient fiction is only the tip of the iceberg. What also isn't being reported is that the dumping of waste in unlined pits and trenches at Los Alamos continues. Neither DOE nor NMED have any plan to stop dumping or ever remove what is in these pits. Much of the waste being buried is already coming from the lab's growing programs in plutonium warhead core ("pit") manufacturing and testing. Mr. Governor, we have a cleanup gap, and it's growing.

Once it's admitted that LANL has never stopped dumping, and that the entire "cleanup" story is largely a charade, a whole list of questions suddenly clamor for attention. How much waste is being dumped? What is it? Where will the new dumps be, when the current one fills up in a few

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more years? Why hasn't the state ever required a closure plan for the dumps, or a cleanup plan?

These hazards are long-term, not short-term, ones. The Rio Grande is not going to be significantly contaminated by Los Alamos seepage in the coming decades. And LANL's mess can never contaminate public water supplies developed on the east side of that river (like Santa Fe's).

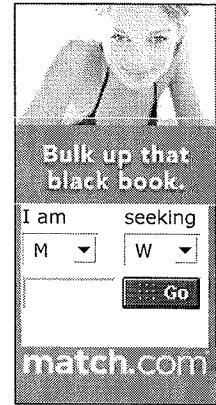
Small quantities of contaminants have been found in springs feeding the river, but there are no sources of contaminants which could raise the concentrations in the river to within even one percent of the most stringent standard being considered by the EPA. This "danger" is the kind of problem Los Alamos and NMED public relations people are quite comfortable in discussing, both knowing full well that in the final analysis, neither party need do anything about it. It's a nice, safe distraction.

This is not to say that "dilution is the solution to pollution." But the fact is that what can be added by groundwater seepage from LANL is extremely minute.

On a far different scale are the major, growing sources of land contamination at Los Alamos, which will be a hazard for millennia to come. In the long run, everything in them will be elsewhere. When this will happen, and at what rate, cannot be predicted. There is a lot of fissile material in there, enough for many bombs - a very attractive nuisance. When - not if - these mother lodes of contamination are breached, winds and waters will take their contents away, downstream and downwind, to the lips and lungs of our children's children.

Want to clean up Los Alamos? Stop the dumping first. It won't be easy; a lot of influential people would instead prefer that LANL build up its plutonium facilities and manufacture more pits here (instead of elsewhere). The future history of our region is already being written, from out of state as usual. If we want a better story we had learn how to write it ourselves.

Greg Mello is director of the Los Alamos Study Group.



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Scientist Wants To Rank LANL Cleanup

By ADAM RANKIN
Journal Staff Writer

John Till wants to do for Los Alamos National Laboratory what he says has never been done at any U.S. Department of Energy facility: develop a comprehensive priority list for waste cleanup that would put the most threatening sources of contamination for humans and the environment first in line to be fixed.

He also wants to develop a process to determine the order of that list based in part on public input because, as he says, not everyone has the same tolerance for pollution.

For the public to be truly involved, Till said every bit of environmental monitoring data from the laboratory and the state needs to be made easily accessible to the public through an independent, third party and understandable so citizens can be part of the decision-making process.

It may sound intuitive, but Till, a scientist who for the last 27 years has specialized in evaluating risk at DOE sites, said all this has never been done before.

"This is absolutely groundbreaking for any DOE site," he said during a recent interview in Santa Fe.

He said he's got the full support of LANL director Pete Nanos and DOE headquarters in Washington. Now, Till is trying to get the public's support.

He said he begins every project under the assumption that he has no public credibility.

"We will do some astonishing things with this project, and we will earn it," he said.

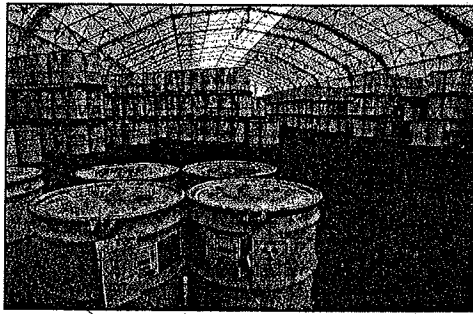
That process begins May 19 when Till and his team of 16 scientists with his Risk Assessment Corp. will outline their project to the public at 6 p.m. in Pojoaque at the Cities of Gold Casino.

Till wants to do it all — including setting up a system so the environmental data and priority list can be updated in the future — within three years and for less than \$6 million, funded by the University of California, which operates LANL.

He's off to a good start. Since March 2003, Till and his team have transformed LANL's various environmental data, which he said was a "mess," into a uniform, standard database that is easy to understand and access.

The next stage of the project — called **RACER for Risk Analysis, Communication, Evaluation and Reduction** — is developing the priority list for waste cleanup.

As reasonable as such a list



EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

Thousands of 55-gallon drums of transuranic waste await shipment from LANL's Area G to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad. A new study proposes to create for the first time a priority cleanup list for sites such as these at LANL based on risk and public input.

might at first seem, New Mexico's environmental community recoils at the notion of a risk-based cleanup strategy, which many see as code for avoiding cleanup.

"This is all part of a national DOE plan to avoid compliance with the law," said Joni Arends, director of Santa Fe's Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety. "We want hard and fast numbers and procedures and protection instead of these veils that are being put up that are going to reduce risk based on nothing."

"Our big concern about this RACER project is that it will allow DOE to just pave over waste sites" by dismissing some risk as inconsequential, she said.

Part of the problem is that Till's RACER project comes on the heels of DOE's own attempt at a nationwide risk-based cleanup strategy for its sites, called the Risk-Based End State vision.

Its goal is to determine how clean certain waste sites need to be based on how the land will be used in the future. In many cases, such as at most of LANL's material disposal areas, plans are to monitor and leave much of the waste in place, while ensuring risk of human exposure is minimal.

From California to Ohio, state and even federal environmental officials criticized the plans for individual DOE sites as lacking sufficient public input and for defying current cleanup agreements and regulations.

DOE's so-called RBES process, which is still ongoing, raised the ire of environmental groups across the country because they perceived it as a way for DOE to avoid cleanup.

Regional environmental groups, now thoroughly skepti-

cal of risk-based approaches, have the same fears about Till's RACER project.

"There is clearly a strong tendency on the lab's part to explain away the need for cleanup based on risk assessments in contrast to some kind of absolute cleanup standards," said Jay Coghlan, director of Nuclear Watch of New Mexico.

"The lab's game here is that they know they've already done these calculations and there won't be serious risk (to the public) off site, so the calculation of risk will show that nothing needs to be done," said Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group.

State Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry also voiced his concerns that Till's work not be a substitute or interfere with the state's plans for cleanup at LANL.

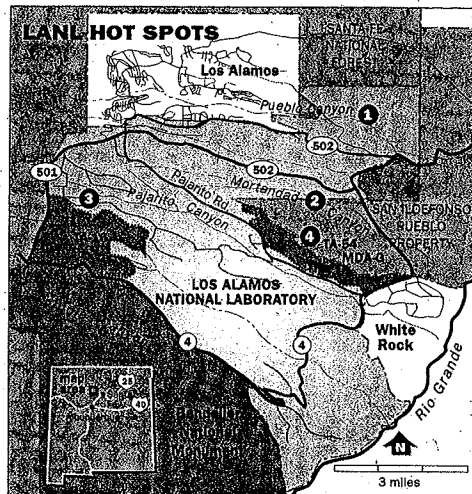
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At the same time, Curry said Till has helped foster communications between the state and LANL and that his environmental database will be useful for the state, LANL and the public in the future.

Until now, cleanup at DOE sites has been primarily driven by the need to comply with regulations, whether state or federal, and not necessarily with the goal of reducing risk, Till said.

"This is above and beyond compliance," he said, stressing that a priority list should not interfere with current cleanup or with any public health or environmental regulations, nor should it be a means to downplay the need for cleanup.

"If what I am doing is used as an excuse to not do something, then I will fail," he said. "It shouldn't happen if the people



1 PUEBLO CANYON
The DOE and LANL have ranked the Los Alamos Pueblo canyon watershed as its top priority for cleanup based on potential risk due to the transport of contaminants, especially plutonium, from increased stormwater runoff following the 2000 Cerro Grande fire.

2 MORTANDAD CANYON
Second on DOE and LANL's watershed priority list, Mortandad Canyon receives wastewater from LANL's liquid radioactive waste treatment facility. Between 1963 and 1995 the treatment facility has released about 300 million gallons of permitted discharge, including radioactive tritium, perchlorate and nitrate, according to the state Environment Department.

3 TA-16
For years LANL has processed high explosives at this site and until 1997 discharged about 12

million gallons of high-explosives contaminated wastewater each year. In 1999, a monitoring well showed that high explosives have percolated about 1,600 feet to contaminate the regional aquifer below TA-16. As part of its efforts to reduce pollution, LANL has cut high-explosives wastewater discharge by about 99 percent, to about 120,000 gallons a year.

4 TA-54
Home to LANL's largest "material disposal area," or MDA, known as "Area G," TA-54 is the mesa top where LANL buries for permanent disposal low-level radioactive waste and temporarily stores for later shipment transuranic waste. Hundreds of lined and unlined pits and shafts hold at least 17.5 million cubic feet of hazardous and radioactive waste at 25 MDAs across LANL.

DOE plans to eventually remediate five to industrial or recreational-use standards and cap and monitor the rest.

SOURCES: NMED, DOE, LANL, and the Los Alamos Study Group

CATHRYN CUNNINGHAM/JOURNAL

powerful forum for public participation exists but is going unexercised.

He said the state Environment Department could allow the public to engage in adversarial hearings with LANL over its various state permits "so their results could be litigated."

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Mello said RACER's proposed public involvement to establish a priority cleanup list means nothing because "it provides no firm standards of performance and no firm avenue for legal redress."

For their part, LANL officials, who have committed to continuous risk reduction, are excited about the RACER project because they hope it will set a benchmark by which the environmental remediation can be checked year after year.

"What continuous risk reduction will do more than anything is show how we can improve year after year," explains Doug Stavert, LANL's program manager for environmental protection.

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By including the public in the process, Stavert said RACER will show people how LANL and DOE make cleanup decisions.

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Despite the criticisms and the challenge before his team, Till remains hopeful because he said there is now no systematic way for cleanup to progress at LANL.

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Date:-05/09/2004 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Sunday Page:-1

Scientist Wants To Rank LANL Waste

Adam Rankin Journal Staff Writer

* Critics say laboratory trying to avoid cleanup of contamination

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"LANL is saying we are going to continue to reduce risk, but you can't do that without some kind of approach, a method, like we are putting together."

PHOTO BY: EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

PHOTO: Color

Thousands of 55-gallon drums of transuranic waste await shipment from LANL's Area G to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad. A new study proposes to create for the first time a priority cleanup list for sites such as these at LANL based on risk and public input.

Note: Map of LANL HOT SPOTS by Cathryn Cunningham/Journal



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Students protest weapons research

By Felicia Fonseca

Published: Wednesday, April 14, 2004

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NEW READ DAILY LOBO

The College Greens led other students on campus to the UNM Board of Regents' meeting Tuesday chanting, "We don't pay tuition for no Lockheed ammunition."

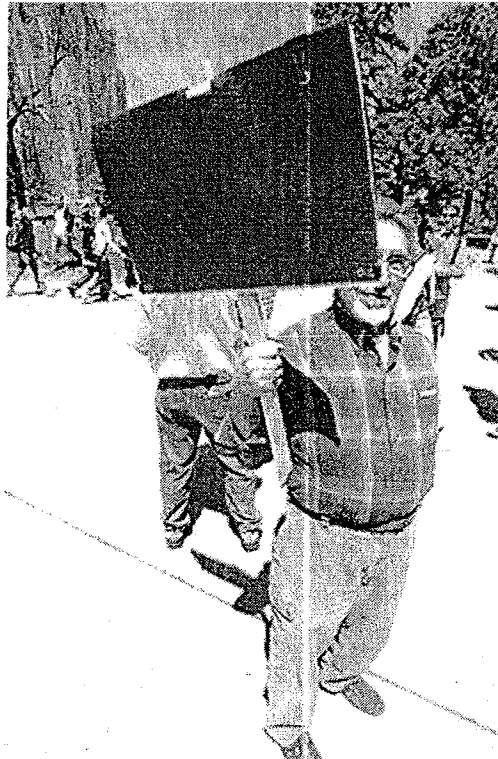
The rally was organized in opposition to the war in Iraq, but more specifically to oppose weapons research on campus, said Trey Smith, co-chairman of the College Greens, the UNM student group that organized the event.

"If they're going to accept more and more Defense Department contracts, then they do not need to increase tuition as well," Smith said.

Greg Mello, founder of the Los Alamos Study Group, said students need to step up to the plate when put face to face with issues concerning tuition and weapons research.

"This tuition increase is leaving the state broke because this state has committed its leadership to the military," Mello said.

New Mexico is well known for its weapons research, which the University, Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Air Force's Research



Media Credit: Cable Hoover

Retired Anthropology Professor Phil Bock holds a sign opposing weapons development in Albuquerque at a rally near the Duck Pond on Tuesday. The rally was organized by the UNM Campus Greens to protest weapons funding at UNM.

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- It is a great idea
- It amounts to cruelty towards animals and should not be allowed

Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base and Sandia National Laboratories contribute to.

"UNM is part of the whole system that is proliferating these weapons by adding more research, which is harming our view to the community," Smith said.

University of California-Santa Barbara student Darwin BondGraham said in the scientific world, it is prestigious to have a grant from the National Science Foundation, but receiving grants from the Defense Department is not.

"I can't imagine that people would be proud of researching these kinds of weapons," BondGraham said. "I am a patriot, and I affirm the law that all weapons of mass destruction are wrong."

While the war in Iraq continues, Smith said UNM students need to take an active role in what happens on campus.

As of Tuesday, the death toll for the war in Iraq was 681. The rally intended to get people to oppose the war, but it also received some praise for the war in Iraq.

Mike Davenport, UNM staff member, said he supports Bush and the war.

"If he kills my enemy, I'm all for him," he said. "There are six billion people in this world. Let's be a little more selective on who can stay around."

Davenport said he feels much safer at night knowing there are F-16s flying overhead, and the United States has the right to be judgmental of other countries. He said history has shown that freedom is secured through bloodshed.

"Freedom is built on blood and death," he said. "That is what it takes."

Although the rally did not draw a big crowd to the cactus garden on the west side of Zimmerman Library, many students stopped by to speak with activists at the event.

Smith said not many people know about the research that takes place on campus and the members' goal was to try and raise awareness at the rally.

He said when compared to other places, Albuquerque is too involved in researching weapons of mass destruction.

"None of us should be unaware of that," Smith said.

It is alright as long as they follow the guidelines of United States Agriculture and Animal Welfare Development Act
Not sure

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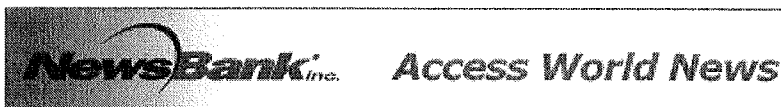
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Wired News



Paper: Lubbock Avalanche-Journal (TX)
Title: Scientist to develop cleanup priorities list
Date: May 10, 2004

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) - Scientist John Till wants to develop a priority list for cleaning up waste at the Los Alamos National Laboratory and hopes to get public support for the project. Till heads the Risk Assessment Corp. He, along with a team of 16 scientists, plan to present their ideas at a meeting May 19 at the Cities of Gold Casino in Pojoaque.

Till, who specializes in evaluating risks at Department of Energy sites such as LANL, said putting together a priority list for waste cleanup has never been done at a DOE facility.

"This is absolutely groundbreaking for any DOE site," he said.

He said getting the public's input is important. He said every bit of environmental monitoring data from the lab and the state needs to be made easily accessible to the public through an independent, third party and made understandable so that people can be part of the decision-making process.

Till said his project - called RACER for Risk Analysis, Communication, Evaluation and Reduction - has the support of LANL director Pete Nanos and the DOE.

That's not the case with environmental groups in New Mexico and in the region, who remain skeptical.

"This is all part of a national DOE plan to avoid compliance with the law," said Joni Arends, director of Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety in Santa Fe. "We want hard and fast numbers and procedures and protection instead of these veils that are being put up that are going to reduce risk based on nothing."

Arends said environmentalists are concerned the RACER project will allow the DOE to "just pave over waste sites" by deciding some risk is inconsequential.

Jay Coghlan, director of Nuclear Watch of New Mexico, and Greg Mello, director of the **Los Alamos Study Group**, expressed similar concerns.

"There is clearly a strong tendency on the lab's part to explain away the need for cleanup based on risk assessment in contrast to some kind of absolute cleanup standards," Coghlan said.

Mello said RACER's proposed public involvement to establish a priority cleanup list is meaningless because "it provides no firm standards of performance and no firm avenues for legal redress."

"The lab's game here is that they know they've already done these calculations and there won't be serious risk (to the public) off site, so the calculation of risk will show that nothing needs to be done," Mello said.

Till said that until now, cleanup at DOE sites has been primarily driven by the need to comply with state or federal regulations and not necessarily with the intent of reducing risk.

"This is above and beyond compliance," he said, adding that compiling a priority list should not interfere with current cleanup. Neither, he said, should the RACER project be used to downplay the need for cleanup.

"If what I am doing is used as an excuse to not do something, then I will fail," Till said. "It shouldn't happen if the people become involved."

LANL officials are in support of the project, saying they hope it will set a benchmark by which their cleanup efforts can be checked on an ongoing yearly basis.

"What continuous risk reduction will do more than anything is show how we can improve year after year," said Doug Stavert, LANL's program manager for environmental protection. He said the project will help LANL show the public how the lab and DOE make cleanup decisions.

While environmental groups question the project, Mello praised Till as "a scholar and a gentleman" and said he is the best man for the job. But Mello said a more powerful forum for public participation would be for the state Environment Department to allow the public to go face-to-face with LANL over its various state permits.

"That would be real citizen involvement, because it gives power to the citizens," Mello said.

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Date:-05/14/2004 Section:-News Edition:-Journal North Venue Page:-7

Book Briefs

TODAY

"HOPE IN THE DARK: UNTOLD HISTORIES, WILD POSSIBILITIES" A book launch and reading by San Francisco author Rebecca Solnit, 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Garcia Street Books, 376 Garcia Street. For information, call 986-0151.

"GOD AND THE ARTS" A lecture on local spirituality in Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" presented by Martin Ban and Logan Craft of Christ Church Santa Fe, 7:30-9 p.m. at Borders Bookstore, Sanbusco Center. For information, call 982-8817.

SATURDAY

"IT STOPS WITH ME: MEMOIR OF A CANUCK GIRL" A booksigning by author Charleen Touchette, 3-5 p.m. at Borders Books at 3513 Zafarano Drive. All sales benefit the Santa Fe Rape Crisis Center and Indigenous Women's Network. For information, call 474-9450.

"ROCKS, RIVERS AND BONES: THE MAKING OF THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT" Learn how the landscape of northern New Mexico evolved through time at a two-day program including lectures and a trip to the Valles Caldera Natural Preserve. Sponsored by the Santa Fe Art Institute, 1600 St. Michael's Drive. Cost is \$125. For information, call 424-5050.

"EL FAROL: TAPAS AND SPANISH CUISINE" A booksigning by James Campbell Caruso accompanied by tapas tasting and flamenco music at 2 p.m. at the Santa Fe School of Cooking, 116 W. San Francisco Street. For information, call 983-4511.

MONDAY

"RESTORATION OF HISTORIC ADOBE ARCHITECTURE IN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO" A lecture by Donna Vogel and Francisco Uvina at 6 p.m. at Hotel Santa Fe. Cost is \$10. For information, call 476-5100.

TUESDAY

"THE LAND BEYOND WORDS: ART AS SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE" The Sophia Conversation Series presents a talk on the nature, history and use of symbols by art historian Oivia Shelley and Jungian psychotherapist Dr. Alexander Shaia at 7 p.m. at the Awakening Museum, 125 North Guadalupe Street. Admission is free, audience participation is invited. For information, call 989-7636.

"WHAT HAPPENED IN NEW YORK?" An evening with Greg Mello and Willem Malten at 6:30 p.m. at Cloud Cliff Bakery, 1805 2nd Street. For information, call 983-6254.

PEN NEW MEXICO LITERARY AWARDS The ceremony will include a reading from recent works by Rudolfo Anaya and Margaret Randall honoring individuals who have contributed to literary and journalistic excellence in New Mexico at 6:30 p.m. at La Fonda Hotel's La Terraza Room. Admission is \$20 for PEN USA members of Friends of PEN and \$25 for non-members. For information, call 820-2357.

"THE NO. 1 LADIES DETECTIVE AGENCY" The Newcomers Club Book Discussion Group will meet at 10 a.m. Participants should bring lunches and stay for the planning session to make the book selections for 2004-05. For information, call 986-1776.

"VOLTAIRE'S SMILE" The Symbolic Lecture Series presents a talk by tutor emeritus Charles Bell at 8 p.m. at the Peterson Student Center, St. John's College, 1160 Camino Cruz Blanca. Free. For information, call 984-6100.

"ZULEIKHA & THE TRAVELING TENT: WORKING WITH WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ASIA" Santa Fe-based international movement artist Zuleikha presents a lecture and slides of her work in Sri Lanka and Basti Nizamuddin, an area of Delhi, India at 7:30 p.m. at El Museo Cultural de Santa Fe, 1615B Paseo de Peralta. \$5 donation at the door benefits The Storydancer Project. For information, call 820-1651.

WEDNESDAY

"OUR CHANGING EARTH AND THE EMERGENCE OF PLANTS" The Native Plant Society of New Mexico will sponsor a talk by writer and retired biologist, Wayne Bundy at 7:30 p.m. (beginner's plant identification at 7:10 p.m.) at the Randall Davey Audubon Center, Upper Canyon Road. For information, call 662-7915.

"WILLA CATHER'S GENDER AND THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST" The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Scholars in Residence program presents a lecture by Greg Forter, assistant professor of English at the University of South Carolina, Columbia at 7 p.m. at the Education Annex, 123 Grant Avenue. \$5, Members free. For reservations, call 946-1007.

SOUTHWEST LITERARY CENTER'S WRITERS READING SERIES presents poet John Brandi with writer John McCauley at 7 p.m. at the Center for Contemporary Arts, 1050 Old Pecos Trail. Donations appreciated. For information, call 982-1338.

"THE CLOVIS INCIDENT" The Moby Dickens Mystery Book Club will present a talk by author Pari Taichert and discussion at 12:30 p.m. at the San Geronimo Lodge in Taos. For information, call (505)277-0655.

THURSDAY

THE READING SAMPLER Dorothy Doyle presents a reading from "Creative Collectives, Chicana Muralists Working in Community," by Maria Ochoa at 6:35 p.m. on Santa Fe Public Radio, 90.7 KSFR. For information, call 473-4813.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)
May 15, 2004

Mello muddled

Greg Mello (letter, April 18) stated that Los Alamos National Laboratory is currently dumping nuclear waste into unlined pits at the Area G site. This is true. What Greg neglected to tell readers, however, is that the waste in question -- trace levels of radionuclides on rags and clothing -- is sealed in steel containers before being placed in the pit.

Also, Los Alamos has studied the possibility of lining these pits and concluded that it would accelerate migration of radionuclides by encouraging puddling of water and subsequent corrosion.

In summary, Mello chooses an issue on which he disagrees with a large team of scientists and engineers and alarms the public by presenting only selected facts. This is most unfortunate.

Bernard R. Foy

Santa Fe

Section: Letters to the Editor
Page: A-7
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Risk Assessment project reports to stakeholders

ROGER SNODGRASS
roger@lamonitor.com
Monitor Assistant Editor

5/20/04

POJOAQUE - A well-publicized meeting of a risk assessment project for Los Alamos National Laboratory attracted a standing-room audience Wednesday night.

New participants joined veteran activists to hear a progress report and give feedback on the current status and future plans of the project.

Project leader John Till, Risk Assessment Corp. president, gave his overview of where the project stands after the first year of a three-year contract to measure public risks from radiological materials and chemicals released by the lab. He spoke at the Casinos of Gold Hotel.

"Risk," he defined as, "a chance of

harm."

He said it could be described as a number. He explained the formula for measuring risk in terms of variables like the nature of the contaminant, the pathway by which it gets out into the environment, and the dosage to specific organs of the body, leading to possible illness or mortality.

It was further refined in the light of the validity and uncertainty of the information, how well it was communicated to and involved stakeholders, and how it would be used by managers and decision-makers.

The first step in RAC's work plan was to identify the various sources - the historic or legacy wastes from past, present and future sources and background emissions.

Then the challenge is to get the data from the various agencies - the

lab, Environmental Protection Agency and New Mexico Environment Department - that collect it.

Although much of it has been in units that can't be directly compared with each other, Till said the project has collected 2.5 million data points from the last five years and has now created a database with that information in a consistent format that will be publicly available on a CD, as well as on the Internet.

He said it was the first time such information had been assembled at any Department of Energy facility and the first time it would be made available to all stakeholders, which



he had previously defined as "the people at risk."

From the outset, the risk assessment project has emphasized public participation and stakeholder involvement.

One issue that arose during an early public meeting last year was finding a mechanism for compensating people who might otherwise not be able to participate.

Various experts and public interest participants had complained at the discrepancy between a team of professional contractors and the unpaid local volunteers whom they must rely upon for at least some of the work of the project.

Till committed to do something about that at the time and Wednesday announced that a framework had been worked out to provide financial support in the form of stipends to individuals or groups

The New Mexico Community Foundation, located in Santa Fe, will manage and award the stipend funds, beginning with a fund of about \$100,000, he said.

"I like the science," said Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group, "but you're not really independent." He said the meeting was "an intra-lab discussion," based on a scope of work that the laboratory had defined. He also saw the stipends as a form of co-option.

The risk assessment project is funded by the lab through Colorado State University. While Till stressed the value and necessity of independence in the project, he said, "I totally agree that in this country we don't have good mechanisms for doing independent work."

After the risk data has been ana-

See RISK, 3

RISK Project discussed

From Page 1

lyzed, a crucial next step in the process will be a public review that will help translate raw risk factors into a ranking that can be used to guide policies and decisions at the laboratory for reducing those risks.

Steven West, a Santa Fe hydrologist questioned the part of the project that would start with risk priorities based on medical and technical factors, but would then be re-evaluated by public input.

"I don't have the answer to the question of how we're going to reshuffle the stack," Till said. "This is likely to be the toughest part."

Joni Arends of Concerned Citizen for Nuclear Safety, a public interest group that monitors the laboratory, expressed concerns that the risk assessment process might be used to evade regulatory processes at the laboratory.

"We are not regulators," Till answered.

A handout that addressed the question, described the

project as "a tool attempting to set up relationships to help decision-makers manage and reduce public health and ecological risks."

"What if (the laboratory) is trying to use this an alternative to the Corrective Action Order (NMED's process for enforcing environmental clean-up at the laboratory)?" asked Jay Coghlan of Nuclear Watch New Mexico.

"I'd be very disappointed," Till said.

Judy Goldberg, the project's public advocate, made a point of thanking Arends, Mello and Coghlan for their participation. "You ask some of the hardest, most difficult questions," she said.

"I've seen a lot of meetings like this," said an environmental engineer who lives in Los Alamos.

"This one has a different flavor, like it's trying to involve everyone around."

That positive vote of support was echoed by a number of other participants, including several tribal officials.



P & J CALENDAR/NEWSLETTER



Albuquerque Center for Peace & Justice June 2004

New Day Dawning for Citizen Activists

Reports on the United Nations deliberations on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty by two Albuquerque attendees

Several hundred nongovernmental organization (NGO) representatives from all over the world descended on New York the last week in April. They came to voice their concerns about nuclear proliferation, both vertical (within countries) and horizontal (between countries). Many of the NGO representatives were quite outspoken about their beliefs that vertical proliferation in the US is a greater threat to the safety of humanity than is horizontal proliferation.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons stipulates that review conferences shall be held every five years, the next one to be in 2005. This year a preparatory conference, called PrepCom in UNese, was attended by nine members of the Los Alamos Study Group, led by Greg Mello. The Study Group presented one of the week's workshops, on the nuclear presences in New Mexico.

The week was organized by the New York office of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, with continuous briefings by governmental representatives and workshops at the UN. We also attended two sessions of the actual governmental conference. Some of the representatives explicitly castigated the US for refusing to disarm. The US spokesperson, Undersecretary John Bolton, stated categorically that we are in compliance with the treaty (ignoring the fact that instead of nuclear disarmament we are going into "bunker busters" and nuclear weapons in space). He invoked the name of President Bush repeatedly, elevating him to the level of a person to whom we should all bow obsequiously. The main burden of his speech was "Don't look at us; look at Iran!"

The up side of the trip was meeting with people from all over the globe who are committed to nuclear disarmament, especially members of Mayors for Peace.

Sally-Alice Thompson

I was fortunate to be among ten New Mexico citizens who recently attended deliberations about the future of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, or NPT, at the United Nations in New York. Never before had so many citizen-activists from our state – the world capital of weapons of mass destruction – ever attended an international nonproliferation and disarmament gathering.

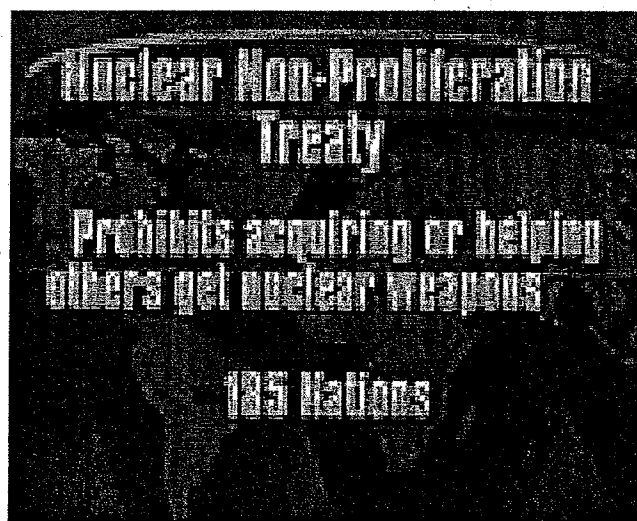
The NPT, under whose auspices 185 nations have promised not to develop nuclear arms and submitted to inspections in order to prove their intent, is in trouble. It's under stress for many reasons: one country has pulled out (North Korea); three countries never signed on (Israel, India, and Pakistan); and some countries have tried to cheat.

But none of these problems approach the severity of stress caused by U.S. nuclear doctrines and aspirations. The NPT requires the U.S. and other signatories with nuclear weapons to completely eliminate their arsenals over time – their half of the

bargain with the other signatories. For the world's most powerful nation to say, in effect, that it need not follow the NPT will do more than weaken it. U.S. actions are destroying the treaty, because they contradict its most basic tenet: nuclear weapons are illegitimate.

Enter the citizens. The U.S. state apparatus is quickly using up legitimacy and genuine power at home and abroad by its addiction to extreme violence. This means a lot of political space is opening up for real political power, which appears when people come together to act in concert. We can do that, and be the freedom we seek!

Greg Mello, Los Alamos Study Group ✱



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Former prisoner in Iraq to speak on experiences in Middle East

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KRISTEN DAVENPORT | The New Mexican
June 6, 2004

We fountened this story...

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When Jo Wilding first went to Iraq, she had no experience wearing a purple foam nose. In fact, she was studying to be a lawyer at her home in England.

"I was supposed to take the bar exam this year," Wilding said. "I was supposed to be in college studying hard. Instead, I was being a clown in Iraq."

Wilding, who returned a couple of weeks ago from a six-month stint as a human-rights worker and traveling clown in war-torn Iraq, speaks this week in Santa Fe, Taos and Albuquerque about her experiences in the Middle East. Filmmaker David Martinez, a Texas native, joins her to talk about his three months in Iraq working on a documentary.

Both Wilding and Martinez were in the Iraqi town of Fallujah in April when tensions flared, the deadliest month yet for both Americans and Iraqi resistance fighters. Both were also helping drive an ambulance, which they say was fired on by American soldiers, and Wilding was briefly taken prisoner by the Iraqis.

Wilding also tells a harrowing tale of her attempt to fetch a pregnant woman in the ambulance -- they never managed to get to the woman, and the ambulance had both its tires blown out by American soldiers, she said.

Wilding chronicled her stay in Iraq on the Web -- all her posts dating back to her first visit to the country in 2001 are still available at <http://www.wildfirejo.org.uk> -- and now she and Martinez are doing a multistate tour of the United States talking about their trips. The two met in Baghdad last December with a small group of what Martinez calls "alternative" journalists and writers -- people reporting on the war who weren't associated with network TV stations or large newspapers.

Wilding said she first went to Iraq in 2001, long before the war, to protest the U.N. sanctions against Iraq and "to see for myself what was going on."

"All the news was about the U.N. and the political figures, and I went to find out what the situation was for regular, ordinary Iraqis," she said. "I went back (in November) for the same reason -- to find out what was happening with regular Iraqis."

The whole "clown" thing didn't happen until a few weeks into her most recent trip, she said. She was in a refugee camp with a boy, Muhammed, whose home had been destroyed by a missile.

"He was badly traumatized," she said. "We sat down on the ground and I started blowing bubbles for him. After a while, he started following the bubbles with his eyes. Then he popped one with his hand -- and it made him smile for the first time."

So a group of mostly British visitors put together an impromptu circus of sorts -- Wilding learned to walk on stilts and donned a purple nose -- and the group went

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around to refugee camps and hospitals to entertain the kids. They met a doctor who asked the Westerners for help in Fallujah, because U.S. troops were firing on Iraqi ambulances.

"They asked us to go out with the ambulances because, since we were foreign, we were less likely to get shot at," she said. But one night in April, Wilding said she went out in the ambulance to find a pregnant woman reportedly in pre-term labor.

"The ambulance was clearly marked, but it was a bit dark by then -- it probably wasn't safe," she said. The ambulance was shot at, lost both its front tires and they never reached the pregnant woman.

When Iraqis coming out of Fallujah told the media the Americans were firing on ambulances, no one believed them, Wilding said.

"But when we foreigners came out saying it, the press believed it," she said. "It's pure racism, really."

Wilding and Martinez met in Baghdad where some Westerners were living in the thick of the battles.

"We all lived in a hotel with Iraqis, Iranians, French, Italians, all working together," Martinez said. "Most of the (mainstream) journalists lived in armed, guarded hotels. We lived in a cheap Karada District hotel."

Martinez was in Iraq for a couple of months in December and January, then returned to the United States for February and March. He flew back to Baghdad on April 1 and returned April 30. He said there was "a very big difference" in the country between his two visits.

"It changed a lot -- the difference was quite extraordinary," Martinez said. "In December, there were a lot of people on the fence, willing to give the occupation the benefit of the doubt. They were so tired of Saddam and they were so glad to see him gone."

"But by April, America had bungled things so badly and had been so vicious, not to mention their utter inability to provide stability -- people have just had it," he said. "It has led more and more to the resistance. I can't say everyone supports the resistance but they sure don't support the occupation."

"They say history repeats itself -- first as tragedy and then as farce," Martinez said. "This reversed itself. The first Gulf War was a farce. This is a tragedy."

Martinez and Wilding will speak at Cloud Cliff Bakery at 6:30 p.m. Monday, and at Chamisa Mesa High School in Taos at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

At 7 tonight they speak at the Harvard Peace and Justice Center in Albuquerque.



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Los Alamos Study Group

Nuclear Disarmament • Environmental Protection • Social Justice • Economic Sustainability

Bush Nuclear Agenda at Crossroads

KUNM commentary 6/15/04 gm

On June 3, Linton Brooks, President Bush's top nuclear weapons czar and the guy theoretically in charge of New Mexico's labs, announced that the Administration had approved a 40% cut in the total number of U.S. nuclear weapons by 2012, from about 10,400 to about 6,100.

Never mind for a moment that this plan has no transparency, milestones, or accountability, could be reversed with a stroke of the President's pen, and that these cuts don't go nearly as far as Russia – still the only U.S. nuclear rival – would like. It is still very good news.

But it is tempered with the knowledge that it's only the "dead wood" which is to be retired, and that the remaining weapons, under current plans *not* being debated in Congress, will become more capable and flexible, with more accurate warheads and precision, ground-burst fuzes to attack a greater range of targets. What is being debated are the new earth-penetrating weapons now under active development, and the low-yield "mininukes" which could be made from existing weapons at any time, now that Congress has removed the legal restrictions from doing so.

"In recommending this stockpile plan to the President," Mr. Brooks said, "we recognize that maintaining the nation's nuclear deterrence with a much smaller stockpile means that we must continue Administration efforts to restore the nuclear weapons infrastructure."

In other words, Mr. Brooks wants new factories – especially, as he says, a new factory for plutonium weapons cores, or "pits." Making pits is the most expensive, most dangerous to workers, and most waste-producing step in making nuclear weapons. He and the other weapons bureaucrats clearly hope that Congress will fully fund a new pit factories.

Factories, *plural*? This year about 9/10s of the pit production money is being spent in Los Alamos. LANL has spent a billion dollars so far gearing up for pit production – whatever have they done with all that money, since they had the buildings and equipment in place when they started? – and LANL will spend a couple of hundred million more this year on it. There's no debate in Congress about allocating this money. But Los Alamos does not have the physical capacity to make all the pits Mr. Brooks wants – *unless it expands a little bit*. Still, Brooks wants a bigger factory, in addition to the one being brought on line in Los Alamos.

Will he get it? Maybe. Last Wednesday, a House subcommittee said, "No, thank you," and zeroed out that big factory. The Republican chair of that committee will now have to do some horse-trading with his Senate counterpart, Pete Domenici. Will Senator Domenici trade away needed water projects in New Mexico for a big nuclear weapons factory, almost certainly to be located in South Carolina, just because the nukemeisters want him to carry *their* political water? We'll see. One thing is sure: Los Alamos pit production is growing. To what ultimate scale depends on many factors, not the least of which is citizen resistance.

This is Greg Mello, with the Los Alamos Study Group.

Study Group works to close LANL 'black hole'

By JEFF TOLLEFSON
The New Mexican

Current initiatives in the nuclear-weapons complex in New Mexico will be the focus of upcoming "citizen inspections" and public discussions sponsored by the Los Alamos Study Group, a nuclear-watchdog group based out of Albuquerque.

In years past, the group has offered public tours of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which provided security escorts for the events.

This year neither Los Alamos nor Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque will allow such tours, so the Study Group plans to take a smaller group of experts on unofficial walking tours. Those groups will then report their findings at public events

"People live in this area, and they know about Los Alamos, but they don't have a clear idea what goes on (at the lab)."

GREG MELLO
heads Los Alamos Study Group

scheduled in Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Los Alamos in August.

Greg Mello, who heads the Los Alamos Study Group, said the events are ultimately aimed at educating New Mexico citizens and "demystifying the nuclear-weapons business." Since no access has been granted, a small group of participants will take part in "virtual inspections," standing outside and discussing what goes on inside various facilities at Los Alamos and Sandia.

The public is invited to attend meetings and conduct their own tours if they so choose, Mello said.

"People live in this area, and they know about Los Alamos, but they don't have a clear idea what goes on (at the lab)," he said. "It's kind of a black hole in the public consciousness. It's less something that we should be afraid of than something that we need to take responsibility for."

The events will begin with a public meeting at 6 p.m. Aug. 2 at

the Unitarian Church in Santa Fe, 107 W. Barcelona Rd. A second public event focusing on Sandia National Laboratories and the future of the nuclear-weapons complex will take place from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Aug. 4 at Woodard Hall at The University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Following an aerial tour of Los Alamos National Laboratory, Study Group participants will hold a public discussion at 6 p.m. Aug. 5 at Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos.

When the Study Group conducted a tour two years ago, the lab provided security escorts to a group of 27 vehicles and 81 citizens, Mello said. "It was a no-problems event."

He criticized the laboratory for denying access this year, arguing that the laboratory is trying to control information and discourage pub-

lic concerns about nuclear policies.

"They think that by cutting off every avenue for responsible public debate, they can solve that problem," Mello said. "We've tried through the history of the Study Group to encourage higher barriers on classified information and no barriers for unclassified information, so that there is a sharp line and so that public accountability is possible for these huge institutions."

Lab officials said the lab responds to nonprofit organizations like the Los Alamos Study Group the same way it responds to any other member of the general public. No special treatment, which includes formal tours, is granted.

For more information about the Study Group events, check the Internet at www.lasg.org.

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