Plutonium warhead factory under construction near Santa Fe

Huge expansion of nuclear weapons production threatens economic collapse, social collapse and economic needs

Twenty-two miles from the Santa Fe Plaza, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has a crash program to build a plutonium processing and nuclear weapons factory at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). Its purpose is to make plutonium warhead cores (“pits”) for a new kind of warhead for a new $100 billion intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). To create the new LANL facility, NNSA is remaking its 1970s vintage plutonium facility on the same site while also constructing new infrastructure on a large scale.

Why a new plant? Why at LANL?

The answer lies in the obscene profits available from the new nuclear arms race, a promise given by politicians to increase nuclear pork-barrel power, and the constant efforts by New Mexico politicians to increase nuclear pork-barrel profits available from the new nuclear wars. As a result, cleanup may never happen.

LANL has failed four times in its attempts to build a pit factory. In 2019, the Institute for Defense Analyses warned NNSA that crash efforts are likely to fail. Even if LANL succeeds, without accidents, the program provides no additional value. The Institute for Defense Analyses warned NNSA that crash efforts are likely to fail. Why at LANL?

LANL facilities: old, unsafe, unreliable

Every U.S. nuclear warhead and bomb contains a pit. A pit is a nuclear container. Even if some politicians in Washington, D.C., think that LANL is the right place for such a facility, the new plant will not meet federal safety standards. LANL’s pit facilities are so crowded. LANL wants to hire another 2,000 workers to build the new facility. The new plant will not meet federal safety standards. LANL’s pit facilities are so crowded. LANL wants to hire another 2,000 workers to build the new facility. The new plant will not be able to compete with the new factory, which nobody seriously believes is possible.

Did You Know?

- Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is building a factory for plutonium nuclear weapons cores (“pits”).
- It is the costliest project in the history of New Mexico.
- New pits aren’t needed for any U.S. nuclear weapon.
- LANL’s old facilities don’t meet federal safety standards.
- A new, safer pit facility is being built in South Carolina.
- The LANL factory would have huge regional impacts.
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The U.S. has not had a functioning pit facility since 1989. There is a tremendous political pressure to build an adequate, reliable factory, beyond LANL’s current limited, temporary one. This is why the NNSA is remodeling a plutonium facility in South Carolina (SC). The SC facility also faces ten times as far from surrounding communities as LANL’s. Unlike at LANL, the SC facility is not located adjacent to powerful earthquake faults and sacred Indian lands.

As NNSA has testified, finishing LANL’s pit factory is faster and cheaper than trying to build a proper new plutonium facility at LANL, assuming a location for such a facility could be found—which is doubtful. LANL’s pit factory is faster and cheaper than trying to build a proper new plutonium facility at LANL, assuming a location for such a facility could be found—which is doubtful. LANL’s pit factory is faster and cheaper than trying to build a proper new plutonium facility at LANL, assuming a location for such a facility could be found—which is doubtful. LANL’s pit factory is faster and cheaper than trying to build a proper new plutonium facility at LANL, assuming a location for such a facility could be found—which is doubtful. LANL’s pit factory is faster and cheaper than trying to build a proper new plutonium facility at LANL, assuming a location for such a facility could be found—which is doubtful. LANL’s pit factory is faster and cheaper than trying to build a proper new plutonium facility at LANL, assuming a location for such a facility could be found—which is doubtful. LANL’s pit factory is faster and cheaper than trying to build a proper new plutonium facility at LANL, assuming a location for such a facility could be found—which is doubtful. LANL’s pit factory is faster and cheaper than trying to build a proper new plutonium facility at LANL, assuming a location for such a facility could be found—which is doubtful.

Our state & country need wholesome priorities, not an arms race

How can we build strong, resilient communities with priorities such as these? How can we address the existential crisis of climate change? How can we provide a good education for all our children? How can we redirect some of our $934 billion ($7,738 trillion worldwide) for U.S. “defense” overall, more than half of all congressional appropriations? U.S. military spending exceeds the combined total military spending of all the other countries in the world, save three. The U.S. spends more on just nuclear weapons than the entire facilitated budgets of all nations combined. NNSA needs silence and acquiescence in order to continue this reckless folly. The last thing LANL and NNSA want is to have to justify their plans in public. Meanwhile LANL needs to wish to coordinate our educational institutions to their needs, so our children can enter their “pipeline” of plutonium workers to be cannon fodder for dreams of world domination.

What can be done, and how you can help

LANL’s semi-secret plans are unclear even to LANL and they are expanding. Two additional billion-dollar nuclear warhead facilities are being built as fast as LANL can afford them. Production is underway, a new large plutonium facility will also be needed. According to LANL, 2,000 to 3,000 workers must soon be brought to the site daily in Los Alamos because LANL has outrun local road capacities. Meanwhile LANL is negotiating with the Pueblos to build trailer parks for its anticipated army of construction workers. Our Senators, Congresswoman Fernandez and our Governor all support LANL’s new plutonium program without reservation, without even knowing what it entails. So far, these politicians are not capable of environmental analysis. They have asked many times. Don’t bother asking – it only encourages their denial.

Given the widespread lack of knowledge we are organizing a public informational and training meeting, to which our congressional delegations has been invited. We have been assured by local leaders will be invited. Further action will be necessary, ideally coupled with a rising tide of activism and protest, new organizing.

Manufacturing plutonium nuclear weapons cores takes northern New Mexico in a dark direction, foreclosing better choices. We need a sustainable, just society that is working together to address the growing of solar installations.

Clip & mail to the address at the bottom

I will be there on September 30th. I will recruit my friends and contacts to come.

I endorse the “Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production” (https://lasg.org/wordpress/we-call-for-sanity-no-nuclear-production/)

I prefer in person events, online events, or neither. I might be able with outreach prior to events. Other.

I would like [national email updates (~1x/2 weeks), New Mexico updates & invitations (~1x/week), or neither]. I can help financially with [a one-time gift, a monthly donation (https://lasg.org/contribute.html), or in other ways.

Contact me by email Address Comment

Los Alamos Study Group is a 501(c)(3) organization, serving New Mexico for 32 years. All donations are tax-deductible.