

Gigantic expansion would make Los Alamos nuclear weapons megacenter

Grandiose plans for nuclear weapons, plutonium expansion not yet authorized or funded; local opposition growing – will you join?

To see our previous SFR ads go to: <https://lasg.org/LASG-ads.html>.

NNSA estimates that LANL's annual *water, electricity, and petroleum fuel usage would roughly double* from current levels under this plan.

Does Santa Fe love Trump's treaty-shattering nuclear weapons agenda? Apparently so. Silence, dear friends, is political assent.

Santa Fe, a LANL bedroom community where LANL also leases offices, is an essential participant in Donald Trump's new nuclear arms race, which is being pursued in violation of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). New Mexico's congressional delegation supports this arms race as well. **As the new Trump budget and NNSA explicitly say, NNSA's overall purpose is global nuclear dominance, a dangerous fantasy that is also a payoff to contractors, pork-barrel politicians, and others.** For many good reasons, the NPT requires negotiated **disarmament, not rearmament.**

To join with others opposed to Trump's plan, go to StopTheBomb.org.

On March 27, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) released its formal decision to massively expand nuclear weapons operations at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), including plutonium warhead core ("pit") production. This "decision" – more accurately, a *vision* – was made solely by the Trump Administration and LANL. *Congress has neither authorized nor funded most of this huge plan, which NNSA expects to gradually implement between now and 2038,* as individual projects are authorized and funded by Congress.

"Triad, LLC" runs LANL for NNSA and has a *\$35 billion (B) contract* to do so. LANL's budget is about \$6 B this year and given the ongoing absence of congressional oversight it will be even more next year.

NNSA, closely advised by Triad, is now proposing to build about *219 new buildings and facilities at LANL, totaling 5.6 million (M) sq. ft. in area.* (By comparison the Pentagon has 6.5 M sq. ft.) Meanwhile 2.8 M sq. ft. of buildings, some contaminated, would be demolished and the debris disposed – somewhere.

In addition, *more than 100 LANL facilities would be upgraded. New utility and infrastructure projects would cover 1,190 acres.*

Seven sq. miles of land would be "developed" for these projects. *Forested land totaling 22 sq. miles would be heavily thinned for fire prevention,* including habitat for the endangered Jemez Salamander and Mexican Spotted Owl. New facilities would include *a "biodefense" lab, a nuclear microreactor, and four additional nuclear waste storage sites.*

Impacts galore

Under this plan LANL would generate 3,504 55-gallon drums of transuranic (TRU) waste annually. *This is likely an underestimate, as this plan does not include NNSA's most recent directives – see next column.*



in Los Alamos. NNSA has no real plan to decrease road congestion. For more details about this grandiose plan see <https://lasg.org/press/PressReleases.html>. The actual NNSA decision and detailed plan can be reached via <https://tinyurl.com/yc4dfvc3>. LANL is already the best-funded nuclear weapons facility in the world. The huge expansion of LANL that Trump proposes is aimed at helping the U.S. "prevail" in a new arms race with both Russia and China. This is frankly insane.

On top of this, the Trump Administration has issued a heretofore secret directive requiring LANL to DOUBLE its plutonium pit production ambitions.

"To ensure the continued supremacy of America's deterrence posture, we must urgently accelerate the modernization of the nuclear weapons stockpile and the revitalization of its associated facilities and infrastructure. Our overarching imperative is to forge a nuclear security enterprise with the agility and resilience to prevail in an era of renewed great power competition." (NNSA, "Responsive Today, Dominant Tomorrow: Enhancing American Nuclear Dominance," Feb. 11, 2026)

On Feb. 11, 6 days after the New START nuclear arms control treaty expired, the NNSA issued a directive to all its sites, aimed at accelerating nuclear weapons development and production as much as possible.

This memo was leaked to us. In it, *NNSA told LANL it must at least double its planned production of plutonium warhead cores.*

The tremendous expansion outlined above does not include this increased pit production, which will further increase worker risks and greatly increase nuclear waste production.

NNSA also requires the nuclear "mission-critical" workforce at all its sites to grow by 10% over prior plans, while *support staffing must be reduced by roughly 20%* using "Al enablement, process simplification, regulatory reform, and workforce retraining." For more, see https://lasg.org/press/2026/press_release_23Feb2026.html.

Safety? Should anybody really expect that at LANL?

Previous ads have pointed out that *over 1,600 LANL workers have died from contamination and injuries,* according to the Department of Labor. Thousands more LANL workers have been made ill.

Now, as we wrote in the last ad, *the Trump Administration has loosened LANL safety regulations* and has also begun to eliminate the "as low as reasonably achievable" (ALARA) radiation exposure principle, in order to speed production.

Even prior to this, the Heritage Foundation stated that *LANL pit production workers should be willing to sacrifice their lives* to get the job done, as soldiers do – the "job"

here being to make new kinds of nuclear warheads for Donald Trump and his successors, in blatant contravention of the NPT. Making new pits for new warheads is that important. Heritage told NNSA and us in a Washington, DC debate.

This attitude describes what has been called the "heroic mode of production." (The Heritage representative also said that if pit production required "blowing up the mountain" to get more workers to LANL that should be done, pronto.)

NNSA, Triad, and our congressional delegation are counting on local poverty and financial incentives to drive workers to build weapons of mass destruction, at their own personal risk. Many people do not understand that *there is no external safety regulation at LANL and other NNSA sites.* There is no OSHA, for example.

The only external safety reviewer is the purely advisory Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB). *Trump, Biden, and the Senate have crippled the DNFSB by failing to nominate and confirm new board members,* leaving the agency with only one board member instead of the statutory five. The staff struggles on bravely.

We have choices

No one should be naïve about what LANL's work is, or what it entails. *Anyone thinking of working at LANL should think very carefully before going to work for Donald Trump – which is in effect what LANL and everybody working there is doing.* The real problem isn't Trump. It lies in the nature of the weapons themselves. The threat they create is universal, falling as much on ourselves as on our "enemies." They are suicidal, or in truth omniscidal, "evil thing[s], considered in any light," as Fermi and Rabi said in 1949.

As for impacts, housing costs, traffic congestion, labor shortages, and water consumption are probably the most obvious local impacts on the greater Santa Fe area. The moral and political impacts of being the world's best-funded facility for weapons of mass destruction are in our view even more serious and far-reaching. We are becoming the nation's nuclear weapons colony, with all that implies.

We close with two quotations. The first, from Martin Luther King: *"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."*

And the second, from Frederick Douglass, pertinent to our situation:

"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has and it never will. Find out just what a people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them..."



Above: LANL Director Thom Mason poses with the LANL-designed B61-13 high-yield earth-penetrating bomb, now in production. This bomb has roughly 24 times the explosive power of the Hiroshima weapon. If used it would produce a horrendous amount of radioactive fallout. A bomb 1/3 this size (Sedan, 1962) detonated underground in Nevada exposed 13 million people to fallout radiation across the United States. Fallout was heaviest in Iowa, 1,300 miles away. NNSA and its labs plan to develop yet another type of earth-penetrating bomb starting this year.

What You Can Do

- **First, join the many people and organizations opposing LANL's bomb factory by filling in the short form at StopTheBomb.org. We will then be able to notify you about meetings, educational events, targeted actions, and ways to volunteer. There are plenty of ways to help. **Start there!****
- **Next, reach out to your friends and contacts and encourage them to join you in endorsing the Call at StopTheBomb.org. Organizational, religious community, and business endorsements are particularly valuable.**
- **Contribute if you can to help support these ads!**



Scan to join "The Call for Sanity, Not Nuclear Production!"

Los Alamos Study Group
lasg.org
2901 Summit PI NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

