



December 2018

Dear Friends of Nuclear Watch New Mexico:

The Los Alamos and Sandia Labs are the tip of the spear for a one-trillion dollar-plus “modernization” program that will give every warhead in the nuclear stockpile new military capabilities, and further enrich giant defense contractors by buying new missiles, subs and bombers to deliver these nuclear warheads. This so-called modernization program will also rebuild the production side of the Department of Energy’s nuclear weapons complex, including expanding the production of plutonium pit bomb cores at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). This so-called modernization will come at enormous cost to the taxpayer and our disappearing middle class, robbing citizens of better schools, highways, hospitals, etc., while further contaminating the environment and endangering public safety.

But we can make a difference, to which the history of Nuclear Watch New Mexico proudly attests. Four times the government has tried to expand plutonium pit production, and four times NukeWatch was key to successfully beating them back. But now we face a fifth assault, the most serious of all, and need your support to defeat that as well.<sup>1</sup>

Currently, our big ticket item is NukeWatch’s lawsuit against DOE and LANL for its failure to cleanup under a hard-hitting “Consent Order” negotiated by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) in 2005, but eviscerated by the outgoing Gov. Martinez administration. The Lab’s plan for “cleanup” is to cap and cover and leave permanently buried some 200,000 cubic yards of radioactive and toxic wastes in unlined pits and trenches above our precious regional groundwater aquifer, less than three miles uphill from the Rio Grande.

To cut to the quick, NukeWatch wants to use its lawsuit to help force the choice of more nuclear weapons for an avoidable but escalating arm race with Russia and China vs. genuine cleanup. To put this in context, LANL’s annual \$2.6 billion budget (2/3’s of which is for core nuclear weapons research and production programs) is ~16,000 times bigger than ours. So please regard any support as helping to even out the odds. Full, comprehensive cleanup would be a real win-win for New Mexicans, permanently protecting the environment and our precious water resources while creating 100’s of high-paying long-term jobs!

Please mail a check today to: Nuclear Watch New Mexico, 903 W. Alameda #325, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Please make the check out to “SRIC”, our fiscal agent. You can also keep abreast of our issues and donate online at [www.nukewatch.org](http://www.nukewatch.org) All donations are fully tax deductible. Please be as generous as you can.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Jay Coghlan  
Executive Director

Scott Kovac  
Research Director

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<sup>1</sup> For much more, see <http://nukewatch.org/facts/nwd/Pit-Production-History.pdf> and <https://nukewatch.org/newsite/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/PlutoniumPitProduction-FS-11-16-18.pdf>

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