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**WATCHDOG GROUP SUES TO BRING LOS ALAMOS LABORATORY'S HIDDEN PLANS
INTO PUBLIC VIEW**

Santa Fe, New Mexico – Today, Nuclear Watch New Mexico (NukeWatch) filed a lawsuit in the federal District Court of New Mexico to compel the Department of Energy to release blacked out information in an unclassified “Ten Year Comprehensive Site Plan” for the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL).

NukeWatch filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request in December 2004 for the LANL 2003, 2004, and 2005 Ten Year Comprehensive Site Plans. In October 2005, DOE finally provided a 2004 Plan, but it was more than 40% redacted, without the legal justifications required under FOIA. The Plan had current information, but virtually all aspects of the Lab’s future were redacted, such as future missions, budgets, facilities, land use and plutonium pit production rates. Nothing was provided for the 2003 and 2005 Plans.

In November 2005, NukeWatch appealed the wholesale redactions in the 2004 Plan and the delays to the releases of the 2003 and 2005 Plans. DOE summarily rejected that appeal. Consequently, to help ensure the public’s right-to-know, NukeWatch is suing in federal court for an unredacted 2004 Plan and the 2003 and 2005 Plans, and for the more recent 2006 Plan as well. Additionally, because some aspects of these Plans are related to future Lab cleanup, in January the New Mexico Environment Department demanded the Plans from DOE under its hazardous waste statutory authority, but still has yet to receive them.

All facilities run by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the semi-autonomous nuclear weapons agency within DOE, are required to prepare Ten Year Comprehensive Site Plans (TYCSPs). In NNSA's own words:

The site TYCSPs are the foundation for the strategic planning for the physical [nuclear weapons] complex... support the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR)'s focus on Responsive Infrastructure... Establishes realistic planning for, and execution toward, the intended NNSA complex of the future... Defines the high-level linkages among weapons workload and production capability with facility requirements... (NNSA FY06 TYCSP Guidance, December 2004.)

There is strong public interest in the past nuclear weapons complex that caused massive environmental degradation, the present complex that NNSA operates now, and the future nuclear weapons complex that NNSA intends to build. There is strong public interest in the nuclear weapons policies enunciated in the Bush Administration's 2001 Nuclear Posture Review, which expanded the rationale for potential use of nuclear weapons and targeted countries and argued for new-design nuclear weapons. There is very strong public interest in northern New Mexico over the future of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, for which the Lab's annual Plans are probably the best unclassified indicators.

Jay Coghlan, NukeWatch Executive Director, commented, "The public must have real information to see past the Los Alamos rhetoric of national security and know where the Lab is really headed for the future. It's our job to fight for the public's right-to-know."

NukeWatch is represented by Attorney Richard J. Mietz. Mr. Mietz has filed numerous successful FOIA lawsuits against DOE to obtain information concerning nuclear facilities in New Mexico.

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NukeWatch's filed Complaint and examples of wholesale redactions are available at:

www.nukewatch.org