

# TRANSFORMINATORS

The Planet Trembles!  
Here They Come!

are they  
here to  
help us?

US ENERGY DEPARTMENT MORPHS  
FROM TOXIC AND EXPENSIVE TO...  
...MORE TOXIC AND MORE EXPENSIVE!!!

spring '08

The National Nuclear Security Administration (the nuclear weapons branch of the US Energy Department) is lobbying hard for public and Congressional support for its **COMPLEX TRANSFORMATION**—a “consolidation” that will actually close none of its eight active bomb-making sites.

A recently released Environmental Impact Statement presents “alternatives” which all claim to support reducing the stockpile, something Americans overwhelmingly want. However, “Transformation” aims to resume building *new* H-bombs—up to 80 per year. With taxpayer dollars, Los Alamos National Laboratory has hired a PR firm to package expanded bomb production to the public in the guise of disarmament.

**1. We don't need any more H-bombs.**

After investing some \$6 trillion since World War II into the “nuclear deterrent,” we currently have a stockpile of about 6,500 warheads—designs that have been tested. NNSA concerns about plutonium pit aging were laid to rest when pits were shown to last a century or more. This is not really a transformation. It's the same relentless push for new weapons designs that Congress and the public have been rejecting for years.

**2. Proliferation is internationally provocative.**

France recently announced plans to reduce its arsenal to 300 warheads, which it considers a robust deterrent. The smart money is on a total of 1000 weapons for the US stockpile. We could continue dismantlement for a long time before we would hit that level, and then we would still have plenty of warheads left. America building more H-bombs now sends an inflammatory and hypocritical message to other nations and could foster a new arms race.



**3. This proposal's timing makes no sense, except politically.**



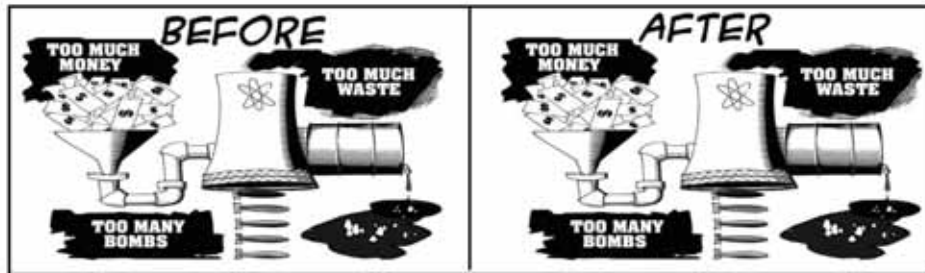
The new Administration is mandated by Congress to issue an updated *Nuclear Posture Review*, to replace the 2001 version this plan is based on. That's right, **policies from year 1 of the Bush Administration are suddenly being cited in a rush to redesign the entire future nuclear weapons complex.** What's more, the next *Posture Review* will likely incorporate the findings of a 12-person bilateral “Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States” newly empaneled by Congress.

That group will release its report in December of this year. There should be no internal re-configurations at NNSA before these new policies are shaped.

**4. This Transformation won't come cheap.**

Since Los Alamos Lab, NNSA's “preferred” home of future plutonium pit production, has never been an industrial-scale manufacturing site, new buildings and infrastructure there will cost taxpayers billions of dollars. The cost to run these new buildings once they are in place? A cool half billion a year, when you total up all the programs and security costs. And that doesn't include facility upgrades and construction to come, nor does *any* of that go to environmental cleanup.

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**5. H-Bomb manufacturing drains resources from vital and promising programs.**

Our National Labs were intended as research and theoretical centers, not big WMD factories. Putting the emphasis on production means pulling money and brilliant minds from many initiatives that the public wants to see *more* of at the Labs: real non-proliferation work, detecting/isolating special nuclear materials, and innovative work on energy, infrastructure, and transportation.

**6. "Complex Transformation" will take a huge toll on the environment.**

It's odd to call a document an Environmental Impact Statement when it fails to address disposal of enormous volumes of radioactive and chemical wastes, but that's exactly what NNSA has done. Waste generation at Los Alamos Lab will skyrocket under this proposal. Transuranic (TRU) plutonium-contaminated waste will be produced at roughly **triple** the current annual levels; since the remaining capacity at WIPP, the underground transuranic waste dump, is all spoken for by older waste backlogs, there's **no place to dispose of the new transuranic waste**. An additional 1,850 cubic yards of "low-level" radioactive waste will result each year. Chemical wastes will **more than double** (current levels are already scary). This pit production mission will use a staggering **43 million additional gallons of water** each year- in high, dry New Mexico. Secretary Ron

Curry of the New Mexico Environment Department said, "...we shouldn't even be talking about increased production of plutonium pits.

**"NO NEW TOYS UNTIL YOU CLEAN UP YOUR MESS!"**

**--ALL PARENTS EVERYWHERE**

Addressing and correcting LANL's legacy of pollution should be job number one for the lab. That is why we put a state-enforceable fence-to-fence cleanup order in place in 2005....They must fully fund and implement the cleanup order before any new missions are considered."

Los Alamos isn't DOE's only huge waste problem. Legally binding cleanup compacts and deadlines all around the nation are not being met. Time to get the emphasis off of manufacturing and on to critical cleanup and beneficial programs that don't waste our tax money on needless H-bombs. Now that would be a **real transformation!** •



***Watch in amazement as:***

- death-defying DOE projects keep rising from the grave!
- resumed H-bomb production is called disarmament!
- DOE gears its long-term future to policies from year 1 of the Bush Administration!
  - tired, tapped-out taxpayers foot the bill for unnecessary programs—and the PR campaign that spins 'em.

***Giant Strides--Any Direction But Forward!!  
Full Steam Ahead into the New Cold War!!  
No Bombs for the Have-Nots...  
More for the Haves. We Say!!***

**inside: facts, figures and logic that tell the real story**  
a handy summary brought to you by



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