



# WATCHDOG

news that bites back

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## THE FACE OF AMERICAN EMPIRE GETS UGLIER Pentagon's New Doctrine Reverses Decades of Nuke Policy

editorial

The hotly contested "Administration's Most Destructive Policy" race has a new contender, one that entered the field so quietly you probably didn't hear about it. An unclassified draft "Doctrine for Joint Nuclear Operations" now undergoing review at the Pentagon would extend the "pre-emptive war" approach to nuclear weapons. The new policy would allow regional commanders to seek presidential approval for using nuclear weapons on nations that are *believed* to *intend* harm to the US.

We can't fully explore what's wrong with this major policy reversal, because that would be a book, not an editorial. Let's skip a stone briefly over the surface of some of the issues this raises:

### • Goodbye to the Fabled "Nuclear Deterrent"

Since World War II, American taxpayers have invested over **\$6 trillion** in the idea that if we had a big scary arsenal, we *wouldn't have to start nuclear wars*--because nobody would want to attack *us*. Whatever your opinion of "Mutually Assured Destruction" (mixed feelings are appropriate, in light of the environmental catastrophe, wasted resources, and treaty-busting that our unused stockpile represents) the deterrent remains, quite possibly, the most expensive thing we've ever bought. Are we now burying--without a funeral--the concept that deterrence alone will suffice? The Cold War starts to look pretty good in the rearview compared to *nuking* countries we *might* deem a threat.

### • Goodbye to the Alleged "Moral High Ground"

It's not like we don't know what nuclear weapons do to people, animals, landscape, air and water. Hey, news flash! Wiping out civilian populations won't bring them democracy and freedom.

### • How Many Fingers Will be Poised Above the Button?

More participants, fewer qualifications. Now military officers as low-ranking as lieutenant colonel will reputedly be able to recommend using nukes. Do you suppose there could be any extremist wacko Strangelove types among our commanders?

### • Impetus for New "More Usable" Designs

Now the weaponeers can lobby Congress for tons of money to design and produce a new generation of new designs...mini-nukes, bunker-busters, and all the stuff we've been steadily opposing. This is a chance to resuscitate the "Advanced Concepts" that Congress rejected. (See article page 2.)

### • Nukes in Combat...Try to Picture That!

Employing "tactical battlefield" nukes permanently blurs the

sharp line between nuclear and conventional arms and turns the battlefield into an apocalyptic nightmare. Move over, mustard gas and napalm! Conditions for fighting forces will be the cruelest in modern times.



• **Naked Hypocrisy**  
Should Nation X now nuke the United States preemptively because we are thinking about doing it to them? If so, pause and imagine...If not, why not? Discuss.

• **Perm-escalation**  
This gasoline on the fire is no way to slow the ever-spiralling US arms race with itself. And other countries

will keep overspending too. The enormous waste of resources in armed nations serves to deprive civilians of education, infrastructure, opportunity, environmental protection and a peaceful future. Even a President (Eisenhower) said so. Domestic priorities used to be at the very center of American policy. Now it seems the feds are just trying to squeeze a few more drops out of the homeland to wage new wars abroad.

### • Treaty-Busting is Uncool

In May, diplomats and arms control advocates from all over the world gathered at the U.N. for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review. The 35-year-old treaty is more fragile than ever. As OpenDemocracy's Patricia Lewis reported, "representatives from 188 states wrangled, postured and denied humanity the chance to strengthen constraints against the most destructive weapons on the planet; all the serious work of the five years since the 2000 conference was wasted." P.S. The Constitution says treaties are "the supreme Law of the Land."

### • National Security or International Insecurity?

We have an Administration that talks a lot about security. It wouldn't be hard to make a case that their disastrous illegal war in Iraq and the depletion of domestic resources, combined with the general nose-thumbing and condescension that have replaced diplomacy, have rendered our nation *more* vulnerable.

--Sasha Pyle

See the draft doctrine at [nukewatch.org](http://nukewatch.org)--it's been yanked from the Pentagon's site.

# Area G Expansion? Chorus of Opposition Grows

In May 2005 the Northern New Mexico Citizens' Advisory Board (NNMCAB, or simply "CAB") convened a public forum on the unlined "low-level" radioactive waste dump, Area G, at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The



CAB considered the public's majority views and has now spoken out against the imminent Area G expansion (please see enclosed fact sheet for more details). NukeWatch applauds this opposition and looks forward to the CAB pressuring LANL to better protect the public and environment in the future.

The CAB is a community advisory group chartered by the Department of Energy (DOE) to provide citizen input on cleanup, waste management, monitoring, surveillance, and long-term stewardship issues at LANL. The first CAB was created in 1995. DOE pays the CAB's support costs, but the Board members serve voluntarily.

Since its inception, the CAB has undergone a few incarnations. In the late 90's, DOE reconstituted the CAB by replacing half of the CAB with Lab employees after some members questioned the safety of locating plutonium pit production at Los Alamos. Over the past several years, the CAB has regained its independence from DOE with new Board members. This CAB is generally against having LANL employees serve on the Board because of inherent conflicts of interest, and currently there are none.

Over the last few years, the CAB has made many very strong recommendations to DOE. Sadly, DOE has not responded to a full 30 of them. We encourage DOE to weigh carefully the CAB's Area G recommendations:

1. **No expansion.** LANL planned for 30 additional acres of dumping ground over the next 30-60 years because of increasing radioactive wastes from expanding nuclear weapons programs. Before a "closure" plan for the existing 65 acres is submitted to the New Mexico Environment Department, a comprehensive long-term performance assessment must be completed by an independent board of nationally recognized experts.

2. **Boldly, the CAB recommended that LANL permanently and irrevocably cease and desist from disposing of radiologically contaminated and hazardous wastes by underground burial.** The CAB further recommended that no more waste pits, trenches or shafts be dug or constructed and that no more radioactive or hazardous wastes be buried.

3. **The CAB recommended that DOE and LANL use the best available science to shift costs away from burial of radioactive and hazardous wastes to creating lasting solutions for reducing and eliminating waste production.**

The CAB's stated "Intent" in these recommendations is to encourage DOE to stop burying radioactive wastes and instead invest in advanced waste management technologies that would support a broader goal of "zero discharge" from LANL. Further, the potential spin-off technologies would offer opportunities for regional economic development and genuine "world-class science" in solving down-to-earth waste disposal and management problems for the entire nation. We hope this is not failing on deaf ears because LANL zeroed out funding for research and development of cleanup technologies for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. NukeWatch urges the CAB to push the Lab into restoring that funding and becoming a leader in developing cleanup and waste management technologies. --Scott Kovac

You can read the CAB's Area G Recommendation "2005-10" at [www.nnmcab.org](http://www.nnmcab.org)

**NukeWatch TV now airs on cable channel 16 in Santa Fe, still every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. We're also on in Albuquerque, Taos, Los Alamos and Silver City (call your cable access station for times)**

## Round Two of the DOE's Nuclear Weapons Budget

Senate and House Appropriations Committees provide funding requested by the Department of Energy for its nuclear weapons programs. Differences between House and Senate have to be reconciled in conference, originally expected in September. Since then hurricanes, Supreme Court nominations and failures to pass other bills have backlogged the appropriations process.

In order to fund the government this October 1st (the beginning of federal fiscal year 2006) Congress passed a "Continuing Resolution" through November 18. It's not yet clear whether Congress will pass individual appropriations bills by that time, bundle them together into one huge "omnibus" bill, or simply pass another resolution for the rest of the fiscal year. In any event, major differences on the DOE's nuclear weapons budget remain unresolved. Now is an opportune time for citizens--especially New Mexicans given Senator Domenici's key budget position--to tell Congress what priorities they want their tax dollars spent on. **The cost of rebuilding the Gulf states will inevitably add to skyrocketing federal deficits and more urgently call into question what genuine "homeland security" really is.**

Here are some of the key differences between the House and Senate on DOE's nuclear weapons budget. NukeWatch strongly advocates for the lowest appropriated funding, with two noted exceptions.

- **Total nuclear weapons activities:** The House cut the requested \$6.63 billion to \$6.18 billion. The Senate slightly cut the request to \$6.56 billion, but under the powerful influence of Senator Domenici shifted more funding to his home-state Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories. All these figures are still approximately 50% above the historic Cold War average.

*continued on page 3*

**Round Two** *continued from page 2*

- **Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator:** The House completely cut the requested \$4 million for a nuclear “bunker buster.” The Senate fully funded it.
  - **Modern Pit Facility:** The House completely cut the requested \$7.67 million for a new industrial-scale bomb plant. The Senate funded it.
  - **Enhanced Test Readiness:** The House cut the requested \$25 million to shorten the lead-time for full-scale nuclear weapons testing to \$15 million. The Senate met the request.
  - **Chemical and Metallurgical Research Building Replacement Project:** The House completely cut the requested \$55 million for a new lab for plutonium pit production at Los Alamos. The Senate raised it to \$65 million.
  - **National Ignition Facility (NIF):** The Senate cut all construction funds for this laser fusion facility for nuclear weapons research. NIF was an easy target for Domenici given its cost overruns and location in Livermore, CA, not NM.
  - **Nuclear Warhead Dismantlements:** The House raised the requested \$35.5 million to \$110.25 million and directed DOE to actually do dismantlements (duh!). The Senate cut the already ridiculously low request to \$15 million. Clearly, dismantlements are the right thing to do, and will lower large long-term security costs. NukeWatch strongly supports the House increase.
  - **Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW):** This program should be completely cut. The House raised the requested \$9.4 million to \$25 million. The Senate raised that to \$25.35 million. The Congressional intent of the program is to provide reliable nuclear weapons components, but there are two immediate dangers. RRW could become a “nukes forever” program and DOE will likely try to twist it into a resurrection of its earlier “Advanced Concepts Initiative” for “mini-nukes.” Finally, there’s already more than \$650 million in the requested ‘06 budget that could be wholly used for routine nuclear weapons maintenance--rather than for scheduled extensive “refurbishments” that could add to military capabilities.
- For much, much more, please see <http://www.nukewatch.org/facts/nwd/RRWFS071205.pdf>

--Jay Coghlan

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**IMAGINE WHAT A GOOD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MIGHT COST!**

It’s shocking, but we here at Nuclear Watch of New Mexico believe that Los Alamos National Laboratory may actually be wasting taxpayer money! And no, this time we’re not talking about Department of Energy spending on nuclear weapons, we’re speaking of real money spent on “Executive Direction” at the Lab.

What, exactly, is Executive Direction? In DOE’s own words it “includes costs normally associated with the executive level of management. Examples of activities in this account may be the Laboratory Director, President, and other top level management and immediate staff (Secretary, Special Assistants, etc.), Science Advisors and Deputy Directors, Vice Presidents, etc... and institutional/strategic planning...”

LANL’s Executive Direction budget reached \$3,899,000 in FY 1997, according to DOE and Government Accountability Office documents. But by FY2004 it had ballooned to a whopping \$26,984,000! Bear in mind that these last seven years haven’t been the most stable or exemplary, management-wise, for Los Alamos. First there was the Wen Ho Lee case, followed by the “missing hard-drives” full of nuclear weapons information, the fiscal scandals and serious unresolved nuclear safety issues that culminated in the “stand-down” of operations that, by DOE’s own admission, cost taxpayers \$367 million. In July the Secretary of Energy’s Advisory Board noted that for the Lab’s biggest manufacturing mission--plutonium pit production--“the one missing element is: Productivity.” We don’t favor producing pits (the “triggers” for thermonuclear weapons), but it does raise the

question--for what, exactly, is senior Lab management getting paid? **During the period that the Lab has suffered such gross mismanagement, flagging productivity, and a string of scandals, senior management salaries and support costs rose nearly six-fold!**

The Lab continues to pay \$230,000-plus salaries for former Directors John Brown and Pete Nanos. Brown resigned under a heavy cloud because of the fiscal scandals of 2002. After investigations by Congress and the FBI, the Lab was compelled to settle with two whistleblowers for nearly \$1 million. Nanos succeeded Brown and promised to “drain the swamp”, but proved so controversial with Lab employees that he resigned this last May. Now he is working for the Defense Department’s Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)--a common revolving door to and from Los Alamos--but is still paid by the Lab for no publicly apparent reason. [We don’t know whether he is also being paid by DTRA.]



Meanwhile, a recent Defense Nuclear Security Board report notes that the degree of safety oversight over Los Alamos by the Lab’s nominal bosses, the DOE’s National Nuclear Security Administration, is approximately only a third of what the NNSA itself says is required. We have to wonder if some of the money going to LANL’s “Executive Direction” and former director salaries would not be better directed towards nuclear safety oversight by the NNSA. --Geoff Petrie/Jay Coghlan



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autumn 2005

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**mission statement**

The mission of Nuclear Watch New Mexico is to provide timely and accurate information to the public on nuclear issues in the American Southwest, and to encourage effective citizen involvement and activism in these issues. We seek to promote greater environmental protection, safe disposition of radioactive wastes, and federal policy changes that will curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

***In this issue: Pentagon Sinks to New Low with Pre-emptive Nuclear Strike Doctrine; NukeWatch Heartbroken at Lab Management Rejection; Los Alamos RadWaste; \$\$ for LANL "Executive Direction" Rise Six-fold During Scandals***

**Boo Hoo**

We're shocked. The Department of Energy rejected our bid to manage Los Alamos Lab. NukeWatch had proposed to subordinate all of the Lab's nuclear weapons programs under a newly created Associate Directorship of Nuclear Nonproliferation, while elevating Warhead Dismantlements, Science (directed toward renewable energies and global climate change) and Cleanup to comparable levels of senior management as well. Further, we proposed to create a Chief Officer for Whistleblower Protection. But nooooo.....

Now it's down to the partnerships of the University of California/Bechtel Inc. and Lockheed Martin/University of Texas battling it out for the contract. Whoever wins, the new boss will look a lot like the old boss! We predict increased plutonium pit production and new nuclear weapons designs in the years ahead.

**What to do**

The federal House of Representatives Appropriations Committee completely cut DOE-requested funding for a "Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator," an industrial-scale bomb factory (the "Modern Pit Facility") and an advanced plutonium lab at Los Alamos. It also tripled the requested money for nuclear warhead dismantlements. The Senate Appropriations Committee, under the leadership of Pete Domenici (R-NM), restored the weapons money and funded only \$15 million for dismantlements. These differences still need to be reconciled (see enclosed article). Tell your Congressional members to support the House weapons cuts and the increase for dismantlements!

- Senator Jeff Bingaman: 202.224.5521, 505.988.6647
- Senator Pete Domenici: 202.224.6621, 505.988.6511
- Representative Tom Udall (3rd District): 202.225.6190, 505.984.8950
- Representative Heather Wilson (1st District): 202.225.6316, 505.346.6781
- Representative Steve Pearce (2nd District): 202.225.2365,
- Capitol Switchboard: 202.224.3121, The White House: 202.456.1111
- Governor Richardson's Office: 505.476.2200



**nuclear watch new mexico**

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