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Contact: Jim Doyle, ex-LANL nonproliferation expert, 505.301.0306, jimdoyle6@msn.com  
Jay Coghlan, Nuclear Watch NM, 505.989.7342, c. 505.692.5854, jay@nukewatch.org

## **Fired LANL Expert, Lab Watchdogs Team Up; Launch Project to Increase Nonproliferation Programs, Cut Exorbitant Nuclear Weapons “Modernization” Programs**

*Santa Fe, NM* - Today, Dr. James (Jim) E. Doyle and Nuclear Watch New Mexico begin a collaborative project to assess and augment the nonproliferation programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration. Our ultimate goal is to redirect the focus of three national security labs from wasteful nuclear weapons research and production programs to expanded research and development of the monitoring and verification technologies needed for global abolition.

This project is a direct follow-on to Dr. Doyle’s February 2013 study [\*Why Eliminate Nuclear Weapons?\*](#) Doyle had clarified that he was stating his own personal views, and not those of his employer, the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), where he was a senior nonproliferation expert. Nevertheless, out of caution, Doyle had successfully submitted his study to the Lab’s classification review process. But as his study became more widely known, LANL retroactively classified it without credible justification, despite the fact that it has been continuously available on the internet. Moreover, a common sense reading makes clear that nothing in Doyle’s study deserves restriction.

LANL fired Doyle in July 2014, in what was widely viewed as a political move to punish an internal voice of nuclear weapons abolition. But Doyle is determined now more than ever to favorably impact global nonproliferation issues, perhaps even more effectively after being forced out of the Lab. His study *Why Eliminate Nuclear Weapons?* called for global nuclear weapons abolition from an historical perspective, citing the failed aspirations of both Presidents Reagan and Obama. With our collaborative project Dr. Doyle moves forward, focusing on encouraging the technical underpinnings for a future world free of nuclear weapons.

This new project will be a vehicle for advocacy of nuclear weapons abolition, generating relevant presentations, articles, op-eds and media opportunities, not only locally in northern New Mexico, but also in the nation’s capitol and at the United Nations during the May 2015 NonProliferation Treaty Review Conference. We will argue for increased funding for nonproliferation programs and call for cuts to unnecessary and provocative nuclear weapons programs. Nonproliferation programs are on the chopping block for a 21 percent cut in FY 2015, and nuclear weapons dismantlements will be cut by 45 percent. But exorbitant “modernization” programs that seek to indefinitely preserve nuclear weapons and build new missiles, submarines and bombers will cost more than one trillion dollars over the next 30 years. This will rob the American taxpayer of scarce resources that could otherwise promote real national security.

Dr. Doyle commented, “It is important that the people of New Mexico and the nation pay close attention to taxpayer-funded priorities at our national labs. Only a few hundred conservatively maintained nuclear weapons are needed to deter others while we work towards global abolition. Instead the government plans to waste our treasury on unneeded, provocative, so-called modernization programs. To help counter this, our project will identify and seek to augment nuclear security programs and investments that can truly make the nation and the world safer.”

Jay Coghlan, Nuclear Watch Executive Director, commented, “We look forward to advocating for positive developments at the nuclear weapons labs, that is substantial expansion of their nonproliferation programs. As we near the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, we need to make global abolition technically and politically feasible, to move from dream to increasingly possible reality. It will take tough new monitoring and verification technologies to get there. Through this project, with Dr. Doyle’s impeccable nonproliferation credentials, we seek to push the Los Alamos, Sandia and Livermore nuclear weapons labs toward that goal.”

This effort is made possible by the Ploughshares Fund, which is a publicly supported foundation that funds, organizes and innovates projects to realize a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

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Dr. James Doyle’s biography and related articles are available at [www.nukewatch.org](http://www.nukewatch.org)

Information on and analysis of the National Nuclear Security Administration’s FY 2015 nuclear weapons budget request are available at [http://nukewatch.org/economics/FY2015\\_NNSA\\_Budget\\_Print.pdf](http://nukewatch.org/economics/FY2015_NNSA_Budget_Print.pdf) and <http://www.nukewatch.org/pressreleases/NukesCostTrillionRobCleanup.pdf>