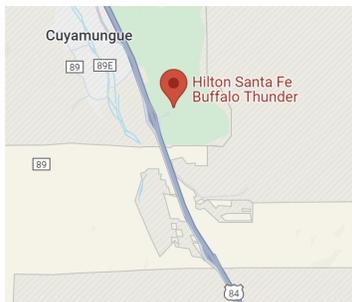


# Speak Out

## On Nuclear Issues In New Mexico July 22

The Department of Energy's nuclear weapons production agency, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), and DOE's "cleanup" agency, the Office of Environmental Management are hosting a public town hall.

### MEETING DETAILS:



**Monday, July 22, 2024**

**6:00 PM MT – 7:30 PM MT**

**Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder**

NNSA Administrator Jill Hruby and DOE EM Senior Advisor Candice Robertson will provide a short introduction to DOE's nuclear weapons and environmental cleanup priorities. A public question and answer period will follow.

### Some NukeWatch comments on DOE priorities:

- Expanded production of plutonium "pits" (the radioactive fissile cores of nuclear weapons) is unneeded, extraordinarily expensive, and may actually degrade national security.
- Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), government agencies must provide the public the opportunity to review and comment on major federal proposals. NNSA claims that it is meeting its legal obligations by relying upon a nation-wide programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) on pit production and a Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement, both completed in 2008. These documents are obviously outdated. In addition, they did not consider NNSA's current plan for simultaneous pit production at LANL and the Savannah River Site in South Carolina.
- Pit production is environmentally damaging and will generate at least 75,000 cubic yards of new radioactive wastes. It is not clear where those wastes will go.
- No future pit production is to maintain the safety and reliability of the existing nuclear weapons stockpile. Instead, future production is for speculative new-design nuclear weapons that can't be tested because of the existing testing moratorium. Or, worse yet, new-design nuclear weapons could prompt the U.S. to resume full-scale testing, after which other countries would surely follow. For this and much more, please see <https://nukewatch.org/plutonium-pit-production-fact-sheet/>
- DOE claimed that the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) would cleanup all the radioactive transuranic wastes across the nuclear weapons complex in 25 years and then close WIPP. Due to mismanagement and the February 2014 explosion DOE has not completed its mission.
- DOE now says it must keep WIPP open until at least 2083 in order to dump radioactive plutonium wastes from future bomb production. WIPP's mission is fundamentally changing from cleanup to direct support of expanded nuclear weapons production.

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