

Nuclear Weapons and Waste Issues in NM

**From Reflection to Action:
An Interfaith Remembrance of the Trinity Test
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Jay Coghlan, Nuclear Watch New Mexico

www.nukewatch.org info@nukewatch.org

Don Hancock, Southwest Research and Information Center

www.sric.org sricdon@earthlink.net

LANL has hired 2,500 new workers in the last few years, primarily for expanded plutonium pit bomb core production.

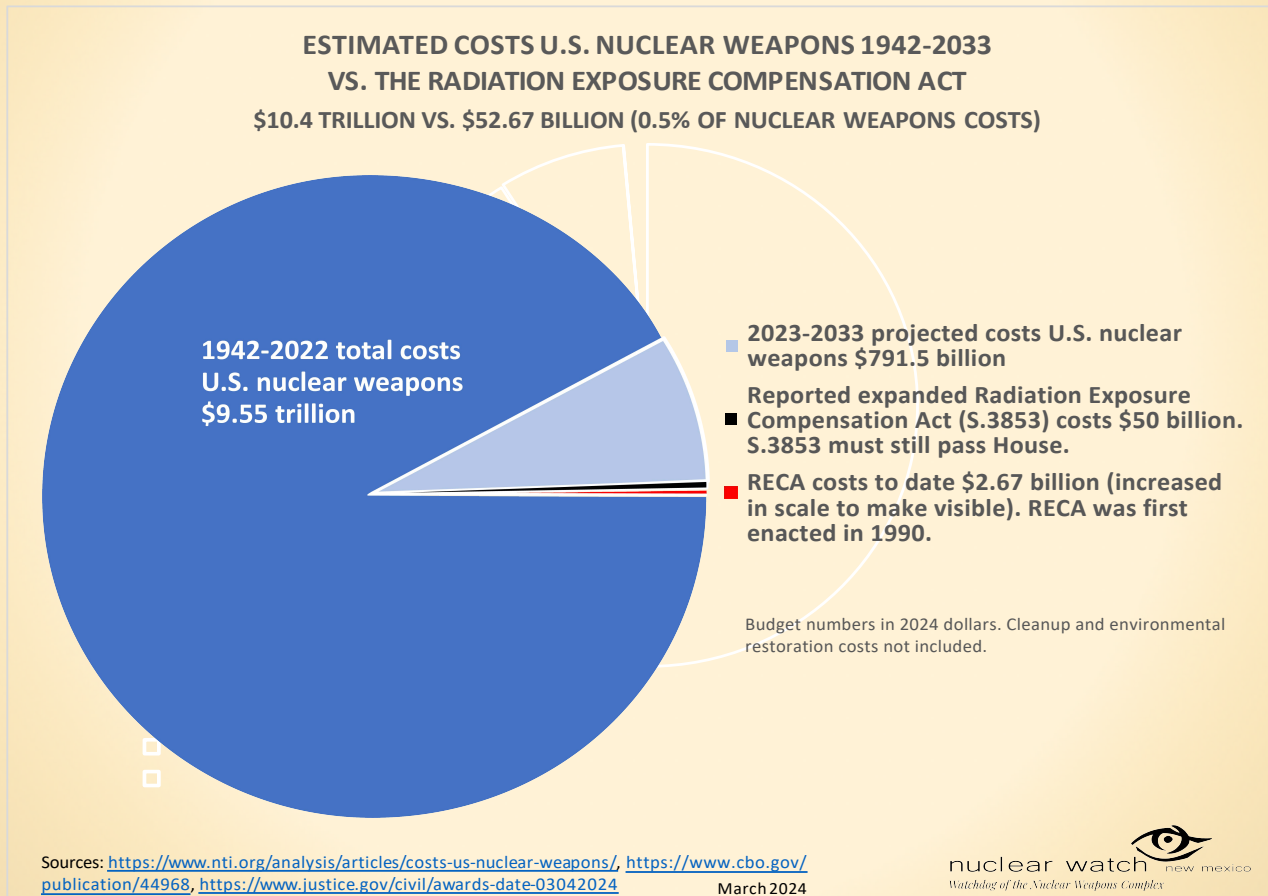


Lab billboard just north of Pojoaque, NM

Support our community?

- DOE spending \$10 billion in FY 2024 in NM, double the next state.
- 70% is for nuclear weapons research and production, 5% for dumping radioactive wastes. What good does it do for regular New Mexicans?
- The State of New Mexico's entire operating budget is \$9.4 billion.
- Los Alamos County is 11th richest county with most PhDs per capita.
- New Mexico has the most children in poverty (22%). It is dead last in child well being and quality of public education.
- Los Alamos County is 70% non-Hispanic White. NM is 50% Hispanic and 12% Native American.
- Los Alamos County govt is rich from LANL gross receipts taxes. Surrounding county govts suffer a net economic loss from the Lab.

If the federal government truly wants to support New Mexican communities, let's start with justice for the Trinity Test Downwinders!



Serve our nation with a new nuclear arms race?

Central Mission of Los Alamos National Laboratory



Deterrence?

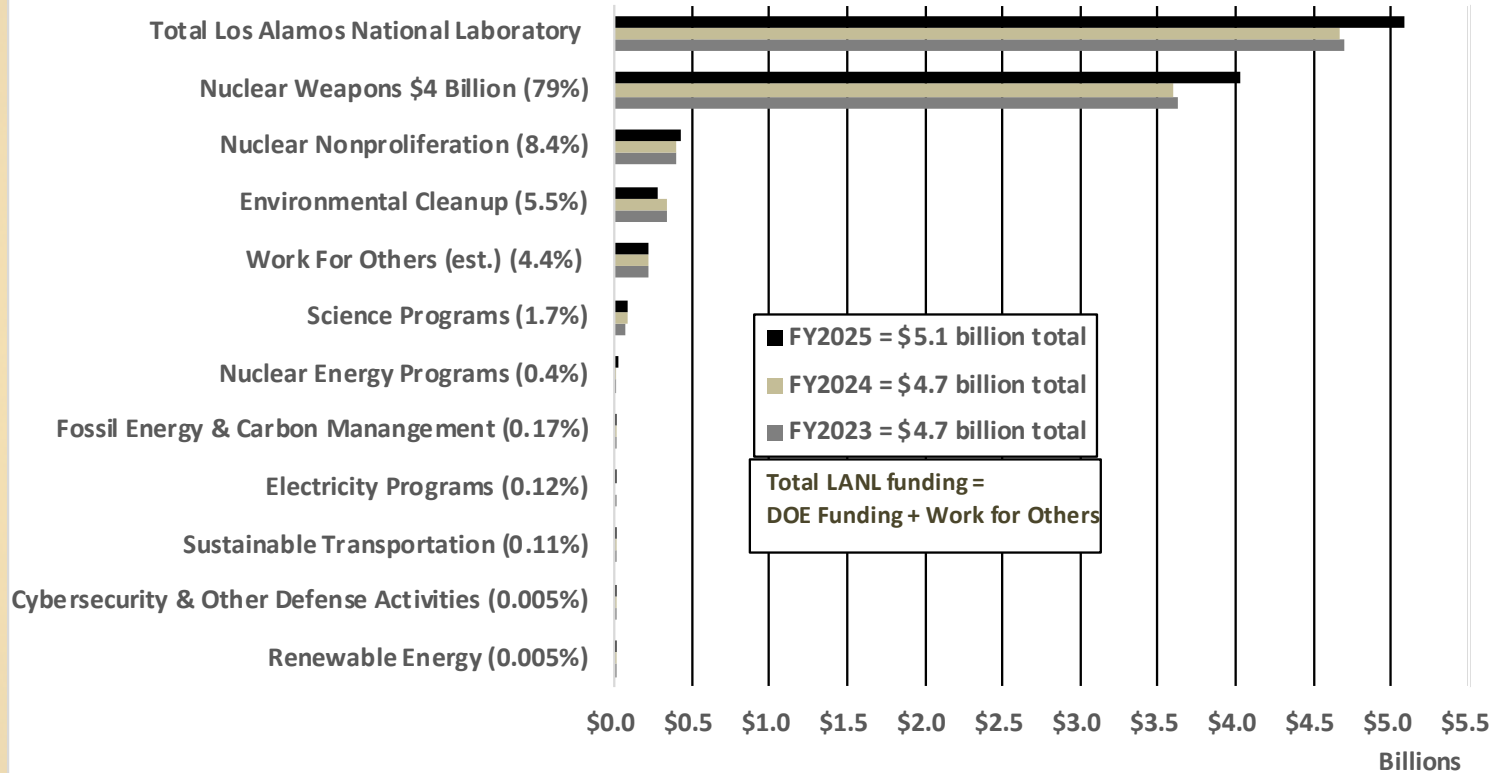
“The new guidance requires the United States to maintain significant counterforce capabilities against potential adversaries. The new guidance does not rely on a “counter-value” or “minimum deterrence” strategy.”

Report on Nuclear Employment Strategy of the United States, Department of Defense, June 2013

Nuclear warfighting capability is why we have 1,000s of warheads and a \$2 trillion “modernization” program to keep nuclear weapons forever.

Los Alamos National Laboratory FY 2025 Congressional Budget Request

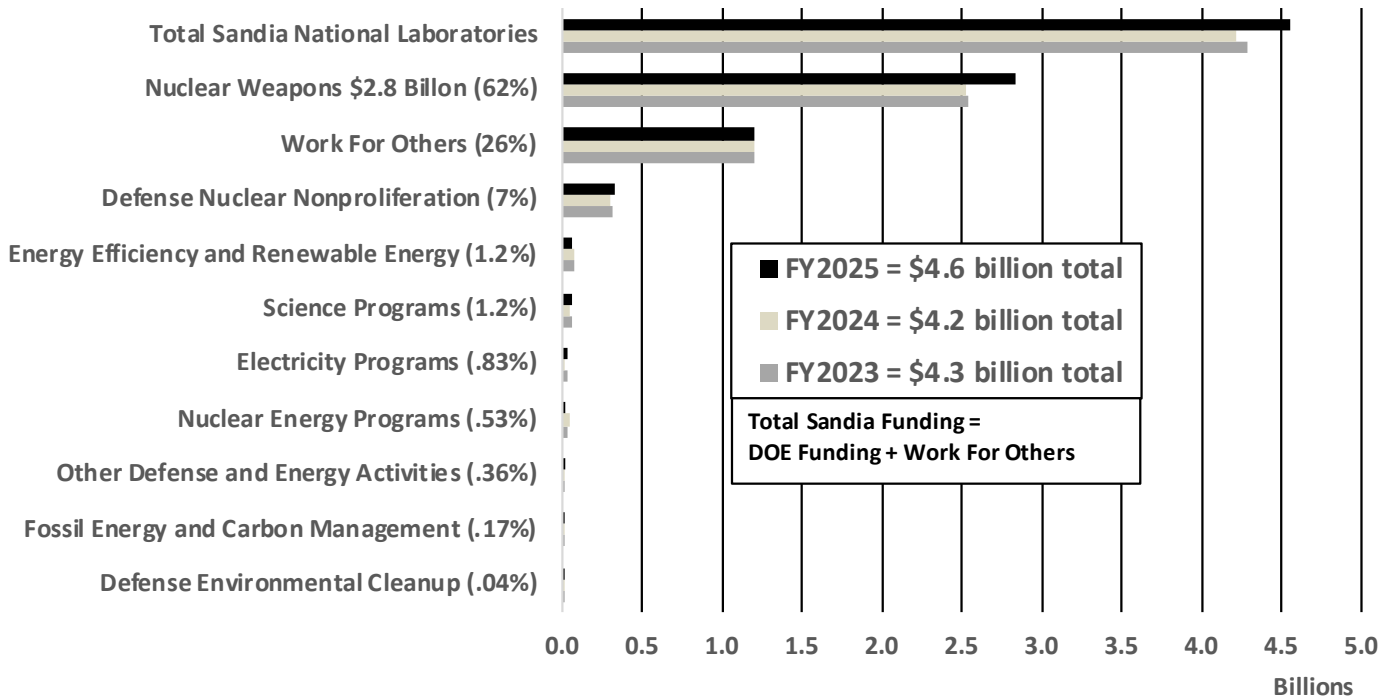
(In billions of dollars)



Notes: The percentages are of total LANL budget for FY 2025. "Work For Others" is for other than the Department of Energy (e.g., Depts. of Defense and Homeland Security, the FBI, CIA, etc.) and based on past years is estimated at \$225 million annually. All other data are from DOE annual congressional budget requests.

Sandia National Laboratories FY 2025 Congressional Budget Request

(In billions of dollars)



Notes: The percentages are of total Sandia budget for FY 2025. "Work For Others" is for other than the Department of Energy (e.g., Depts. of Defense and Homeland Security, the FBI, CIA, etc.) and based on past years is estimated at \$1.2 billion annually. All other data are from DOE annual congressional budget requests.

Why Plutonium Pit Production is Wrong

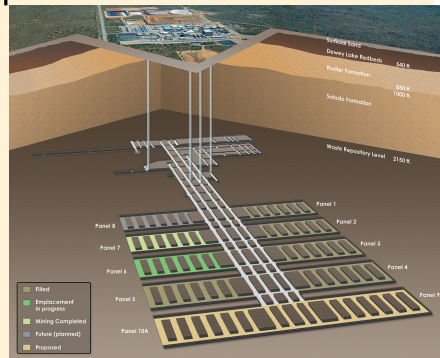
- Enormously expensive, more than \$60 billion over 30 years. The National Nuclear Security Administration has no credible cost estimates.
- Independent experts have concluded that pits last at least 100 years (their current average age is around 40).
- At least 15,000 pits are stored as “excess.”
- Much more radioactive wastes when WIPP is already oversubscribed.
- LANL has a long track record of chronic nuclear safety incidents.
- **Key point:** no future pit production is to maintain the existing, extensively tested nuclear stockpile. It is all for new-design weapons.
- A former security advisor to Trump recently declared that the U.S. should return to full-scale nuclear weapons testing.

Cleanup or More Bombs?

- LANL wants to “cap and cover” more than 200,000 yds² of radioactive and toxic wastes in unlined pits and trenches.
- LANL claimed groundwater contamination was impossible. DOE recently denied any offsite plutonium migration.
- Plutonium in Cochiti Lake known since 1980s. Today chromium, plutonium, tritium, perchlorates and high explosives in groundwater.
- NNSA states “WIPP capacity for national security missions such as pit production would be given priority...”
- New Mexico Environment Department recently mandated that WIPP will prioritize cleanup wastes, especially from LANL.
- Which will it be, New Mexicans, cleanup or more bombs?

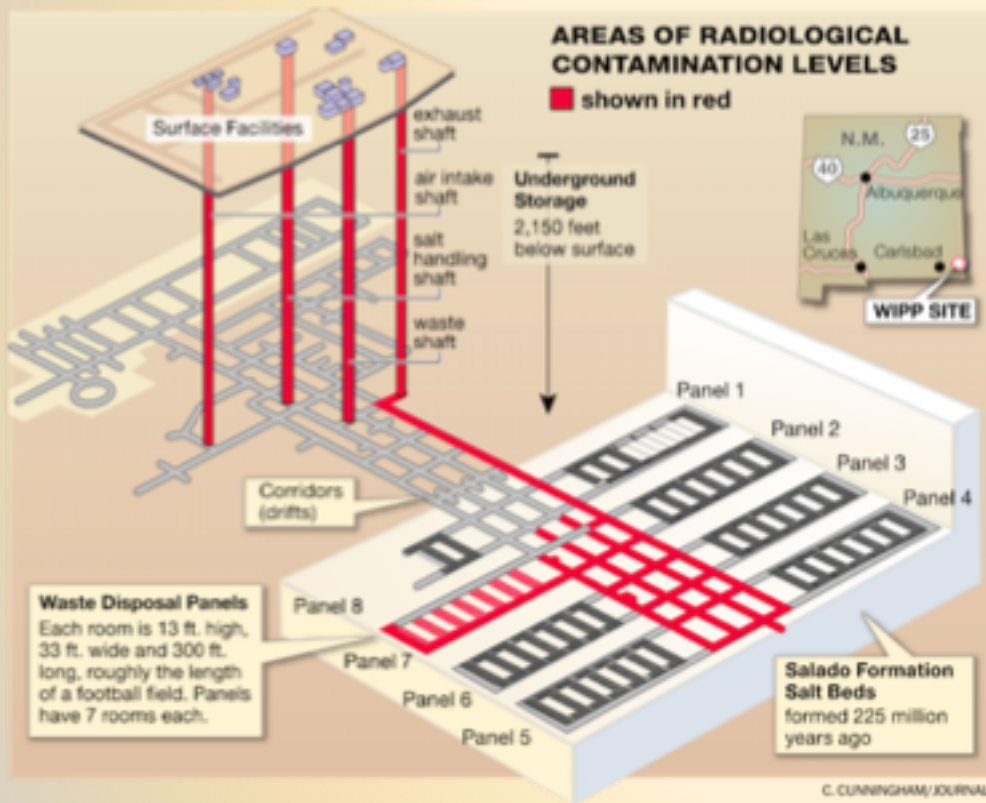
WIPP's Mission

- Dispose of some waste from making weapons during the Cold War
- No more than 6.2 million ft.³
- Only plutonium-contaminated waste mixed with toxic chemicals
- Finished by **2024**



That's the mission NM agreed to.

Valentine's Day explosion in 2014 spewed radiation through the repository and closed WIPP for 3 years.



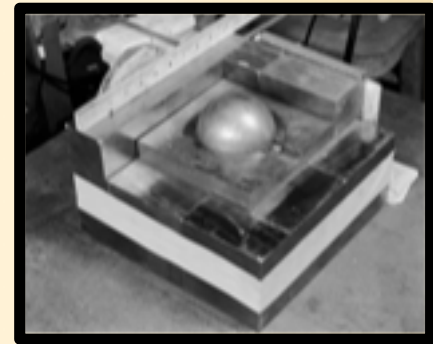
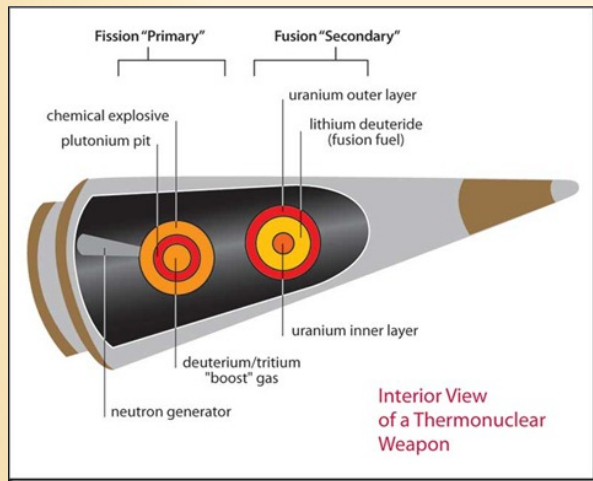
Radioactive contamination couldn't be removed so it was permanently closed off inside WIPP.

DOE's response to failure:

- Reward the contractor with lots of money
- Start *two new missions*
- Don't close in 2024, *as promised*
- Don't develop other repositories
- Keep WIPP open for decades, or longer

New Mission #1: Plutonium Pit Production

4,000 new plutonium pits producing new WIPP waste for the next 60 years.



New Mission #2: “Surplus Plutonium”

Dispose of 40+ tons “surplus plutonium” from dismantled weapons in WIPP.

1967: 31,000 weapons

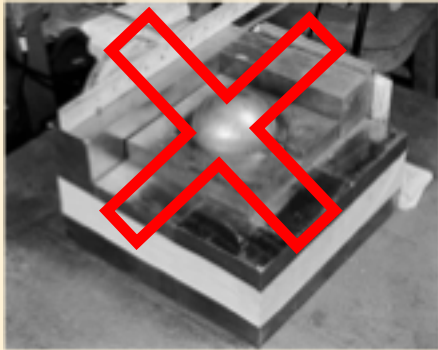
Now: 5,000 weapons



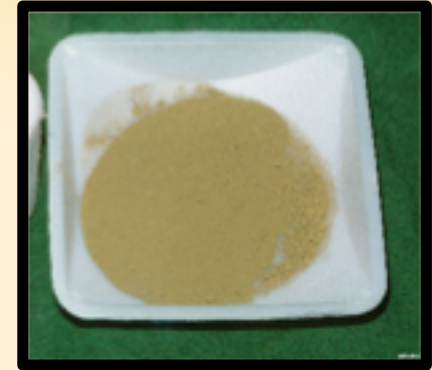
Allowed



Forbidden



Dilute and powder



DOE: Dilute so it qualifies to go in WIPP

Now it is the most dangerous form of plutonium if released.



Explosion like at WIPP



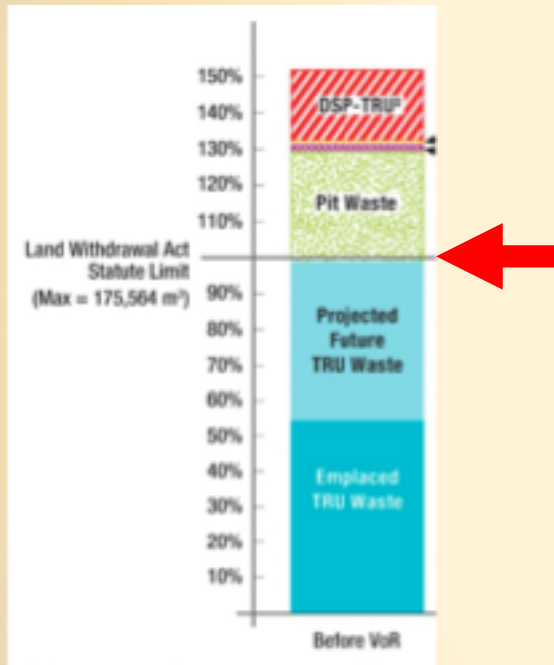
Traffic accident



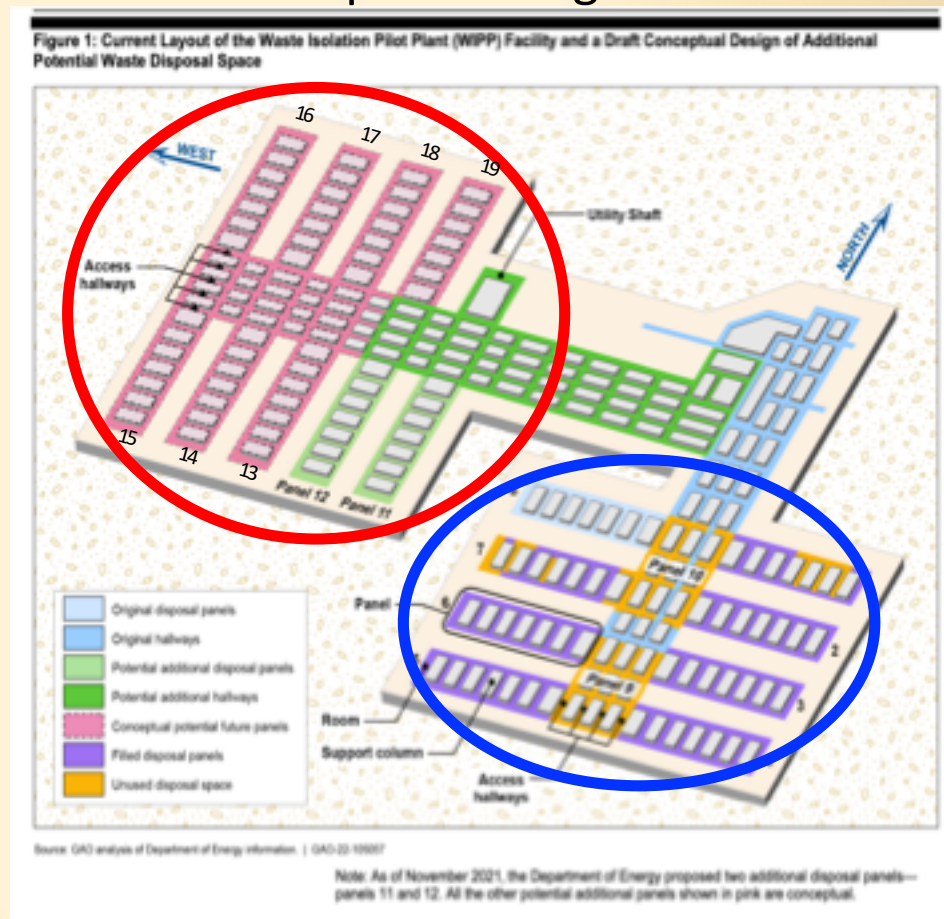
Forest fires at LANL

New missions will:

- Generate far more waste overflowing WIPP



- Require a larger WIPP



- Keep WIPP open beyond 2083

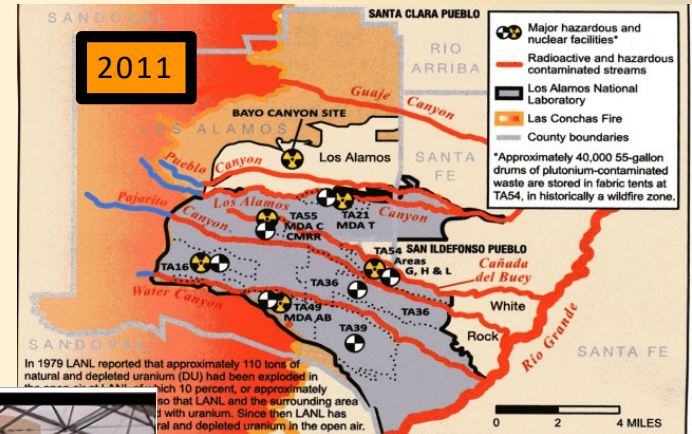
What You Can Do

Know what has to happen first!

Tell DOE and NMED to Finish the original mission.



Old waste at LANL sits dangerously in tents in the forest.



It will be safer in WIPP than in a wildfire zone.

Tell DOE & EPA No to WIPP Expansion

1. Public Community Forum hosted by DOE & NNSA July 22

Candice Robertson (DOE head of WIPP in D.C.)

and Jill Hruby (Head Administrator of NNSA)

Large numbers of public needed!

2. EPA meetings during the last week
of August

Large numbers of public needed!

