

August 2024

Dear friends,

We are living in the most dangerous times since the 1980's. The world is in a new nuclear arms race, arguably more dangerous than the last because there are now multiple nuclear actors, new cyber and hypersonic weapons and artificial intelligence.

Nobody is right when everybody is wrong. Humanity needs to end the tit-for-tat responses that spiral us toward destruction, always justified as "deterrence." In truth, the United States and Russia have always sought both deterrence and nuclear warfighting capabilities, a war that could end civilization overnight. This dual policy requires 1,000s of nuclear weapons instead of just the few hundred needed for mere deterrence. It is the driver of the ongoing two trillion dollar "modernization" program to keep nuclear weapons forever.

New Mexico is the key state in the US nuclear weapons complex. DOE is spending \$10 billion in the Land of Enchantment this year, six percent more than our state's entire operating budget. 70% of this is for core nuclear weapons research and production, while another 5% is for dumping the radioactive wastes from those programs here. Our congressional delegation touts this as "jobs, jobs, jobs." But they never explain why year after year New Mexico is ranked dead last in public education and the well-being of our children.

Nuclear Watch New Mexico addresses these daunting issues for you by:

- Advising the Archbishop of Santa Fe John C. Wester in his advocacy for a world free of nuclear weapons, including multiple trips to Japan and forming a working partnership between the dioceses of Santa Fe, Seattle, Hiroshima and Nagasaki dedicated to nuclear disarmament.
- Pushing for a new nation-wide programmatic environmental impact statement on the expanded production of plutonium pits at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and for a new site-wide EIS for the Lab itself. Neither have been updated since 2008 and much has changed. Both would provide important opportunities for citizens to speak our minds.
- Filing Freedom of Information Act requests backed up by litigation as necessary.
- Initiating independent sampling of offsite plutonium contamination from LANL, which is already finding higher levels than ever found outside the notorious Rocky Flats Plant.
- Supporting the New Mexico Environment Department's draft order for full cleanup of a toxic radioactive waste dump site. This is in contrast to LANL's plans to "cap and cover" some 200,000 cubic yards of these dangerous wastes in unlined pits and trenches as a permanent threat to groundwater.
- Actively working with the Stop WIPP Forever coalition to prevent the expansion of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for the dumping of new bomb-making plutonium pit production wastes until ~2080.

All of these efforts cost money, but we strive to return the biggest bang for the buck. If you believe in this work, if you aspire to a future world free of nuclear weapons, please be as generous as you can be. Donations are tax deductible either online at www.nukewatch.org or by check mailed to NukeWatch NM, 903 W. Alameda #325, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Jay Coghlan
Executive Director

Scott Kovac
Research Director

Sophie Stroud
IT Manager