



# **The Need for Nuclear Disarmament**

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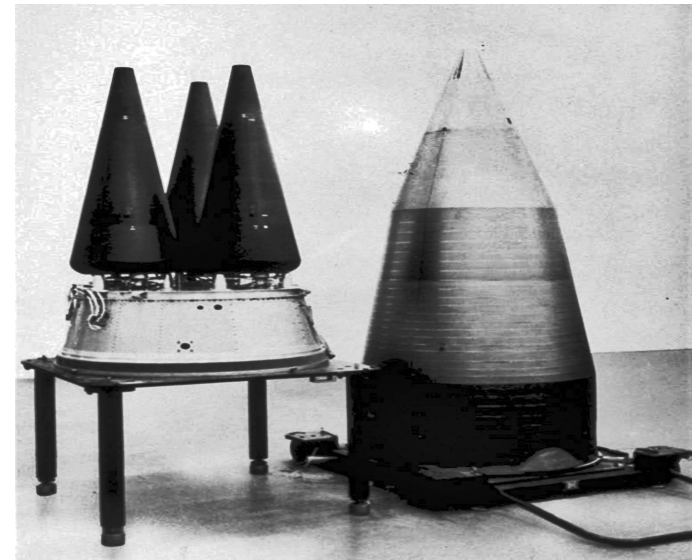
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# **New Mexico: America's Nuclear Colony**

- Department of Energy spending in New Mexico in FY 2026: \$10.8 billion, 84% for nuclear weapons, 3% for dumping radioactive wastes.
- State government's discretionary spending in FY 2026: \$10.8 billion.
- Nationwide budget for nuclear weapons research & production +58%.
- DOE cleanup, science and nonproliferation cut, renewables zeroed out.
- NM has two of three U.S. nuclear weapons labs (LANL and Sandia) and the world's only deep geologic rad waste dump (Waste Isolation Pilot Plant).
- \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts for the rich, \$2 trillion for nuke "modernization."
- Medicaid cut by nearly \$1 trillion, 40% of New Mexicans are recipients.
- New Mexico is 3<sup>rd</sup> poorest state and dead last in quality of life for our children and public education.

# **What Does \$2 Trillion Nuclear Weapons “Modernization” Mean?**

- Rebuilt warheads extended for decades with new military capabilities
- New-design nuclear weapons
- New production facilities expected to be operational until 2080
- New intercontinental ballistic missiles, new cruise missiles, heavy stealth bombers and submarines



**“Modernization” Means Nuclear Weapons Forever!**

# “Deterrence” is the threat

Central Mission of Los Alamos National Laboratory



- **President’s 2022 Nuclear Posture Review:**  
“... commitment to a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent..”
- **But the Pentagon has always rejected minimal deterrence** while “reiterating the need to maintain **counterforce** capabilities... not rely[ing] on a counter-value or minimum-deterrence ...” [2024 Nuclear Employment Strategy](#)

- This is why Russia and the U.S. have 1,000s of deployed nuclear weapons and a new arms race.
- Nuclear warfighting capabilities is driving the U.S.’ \$2 trillion “modernization” program, particularly plutonium “pit” bomb core production at Los Alamos Lab.
- “Deterrence” is dangerous given a history of accidents and miscalculations.

## **This second nuclear arms race is arguably more dangerous than the first**

- All weapons states are “modernizing” and keeping their nuclear weapons indefinitely, contrary to the 1970 NonProliferation Treaty.
- Multiple nuclear weapons powers with competing interests.
- Increased chance of regional nuclear wars (e.g., India-Pakistan).
- Hypersonic and cyber weapons may not be deterrable and could cripple defenses and/or hijack command of nuclear weapons.
- Artificial intelligence could sideline human judgement in the command and control of nuclear weapons.

# Why Plutonium “Pit” Production is Wrong

- **Key point:** no future production is to maintain existing nuclear weapons. It is all for new-design weapons.
- New-design nuclear weapons could prompt the U.S. to resume testing.
- 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 43).
- There are at least 15,000 existing pits.
- Much more radioactive wastes when WIPP is already oversubscribed.
- LANL has a long track record of chronic nuclear safety incidents.

## Why is Nuclear Disarmament Necessary?

- “The indefinite combination of human fallibility and nuclear weapons will destroy nations.”
- “Rationality will not save us. I want to say, and this is very important: at the end we lucked out. **It was luck that prevented nuclear war.**”
- “There is no way to reduce the risk to acceptable levels, other than to first eliminate the hair-trigger alert policy and later to eliminate or nearly eliminate nuclear weapons.”

Robert McNamara, Defense Secretary under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, *“Lessons Learned from the Cuban Missile Crisis”*

# **There is a Mandate to Disarm**

- The National Nuclear Security Administration is required by recent law to produce plutonium pits.
- However, the U.S. Constitution declares that “all Treaties made... shall be the supreme Law of the Land.” (Article 6)
- The 1970 NonProliferation Treaty (NPT) requires signatories “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament...”
- The failure to honor the NPT led to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, roughly similar to chemical and biological weapons bans.
- The Vatican was the first nation state to sign and ratify the TPNW. It has now been signed and/or ratified by a majority of the world’s countries.



# Catholic Statements on Nuclear Weapons

- “The possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral.”  
Pope Francis, 2019.
- “Nuclear arms offend our shared humanity and also betray the dignity of creation, whose harmony we are called to safeguard.”  
Pope Leo XIV, August 5, 2025, for the 80th anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bombing.
- “... we refuse to live in such a world of nuclear proliferation and risk-taking. We will resist, we will organize, we will pray, we will not cease, until the world’s nuclear arsenals have been destroyed.”  
Cardinal Robert McElroy, August 5, 2025, from the Hiroshima World Peace Cathedral.
- “We call on all nuclear-armed States to fulfill their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons... as well as of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons...”  
The Holy See Delegation to the United Nations, October 21, 2025.

# What you can do

- Secular activists (such as myself) are not winning. It is crucial that people of faith speak out against nuclear weapons.
- Everyday stuff is important: LTEs, op-eds, talk to friends and family.
- Support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- Pressure the New Mexican congressional delegation, especially for life-sustaining jobs.
- Get out the vote for November 2026 mid-term elections.
- Question and puncture the myth of “Deterrence”!!! Argue for minimal deterrence as a starting point toward nuclear disarmament.