



“Modernization” Means Nuclear Weapons Forever

Indivisible ABQ

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The Los Alamos
National
Laboratory =
Nuclear
Weapons

Central Mission of Los Alamos National Laboratory



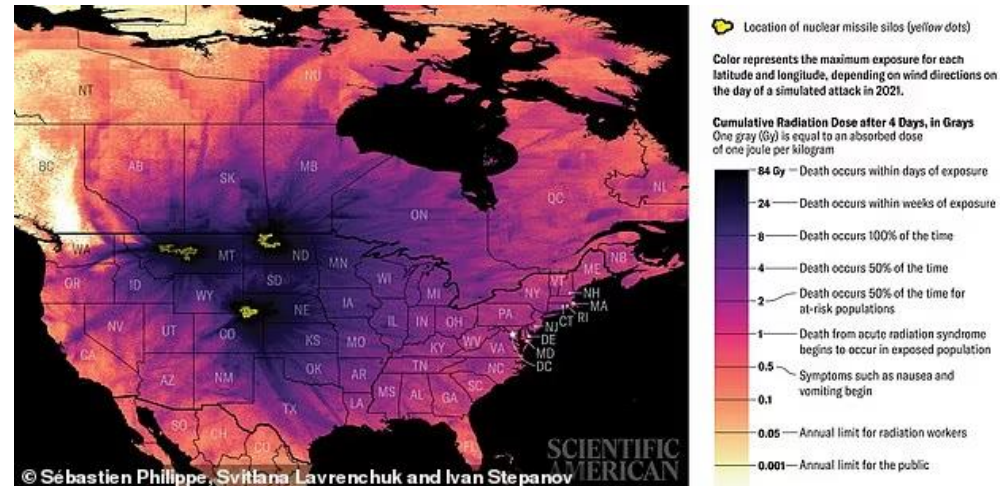
“Deterrence” Itself is the Threat

- The one-word rationale for nuclear weapons is always “a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent...”
- But the Pentagon rejects “minimal deterrence” while “reiterating the need to maintain counterforce capabilities.”
- That is why Russia and the U.S. have 1,000s of warheads and a new, dangerous arms race.
- Nuclear warfighting capabilities are driving so-called “modernization,” particularly plutonium pit production.
- “Deterrence” has history of accidents and miscalculations.

What Does Nuclear War Mean?

300 kiloton warhead (~20x more powerful than Hiroshima bomb):

- Three-mile radius blast wave that destroys almost everything.
- Three-mile radius mass fires.
- One mile radius lethal radiation.
- Fallout drifting thousands of square miles downwind.



All-out nuclear war:

- At least 360 million quick deaths.
- Utter collapse of economic systems.
- Little if any surviving medical infrastructure.
- More than 5 billion people could starve in “nuclear winter.”

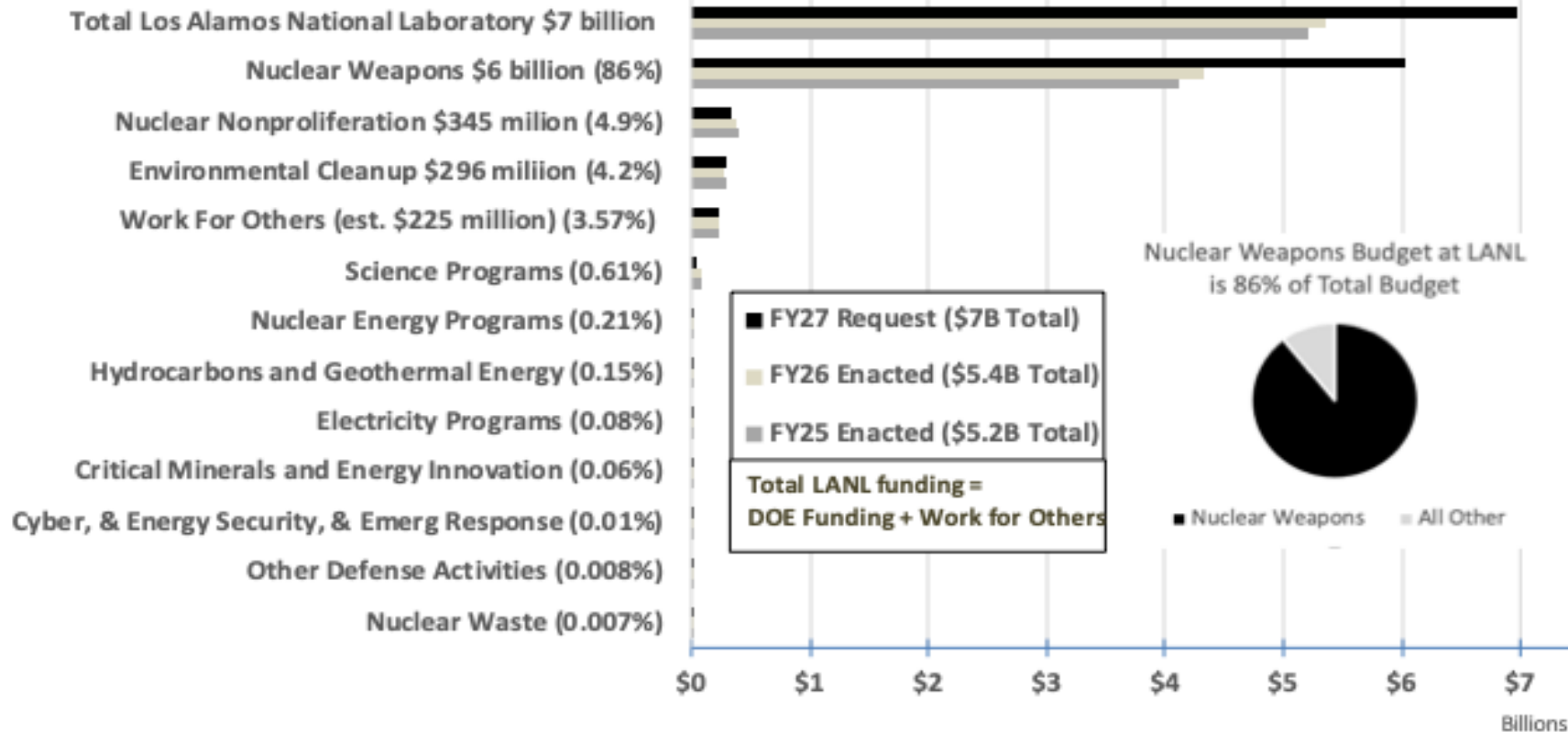


A man with severe burns following the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

Money Doesn't Talk, It Swears

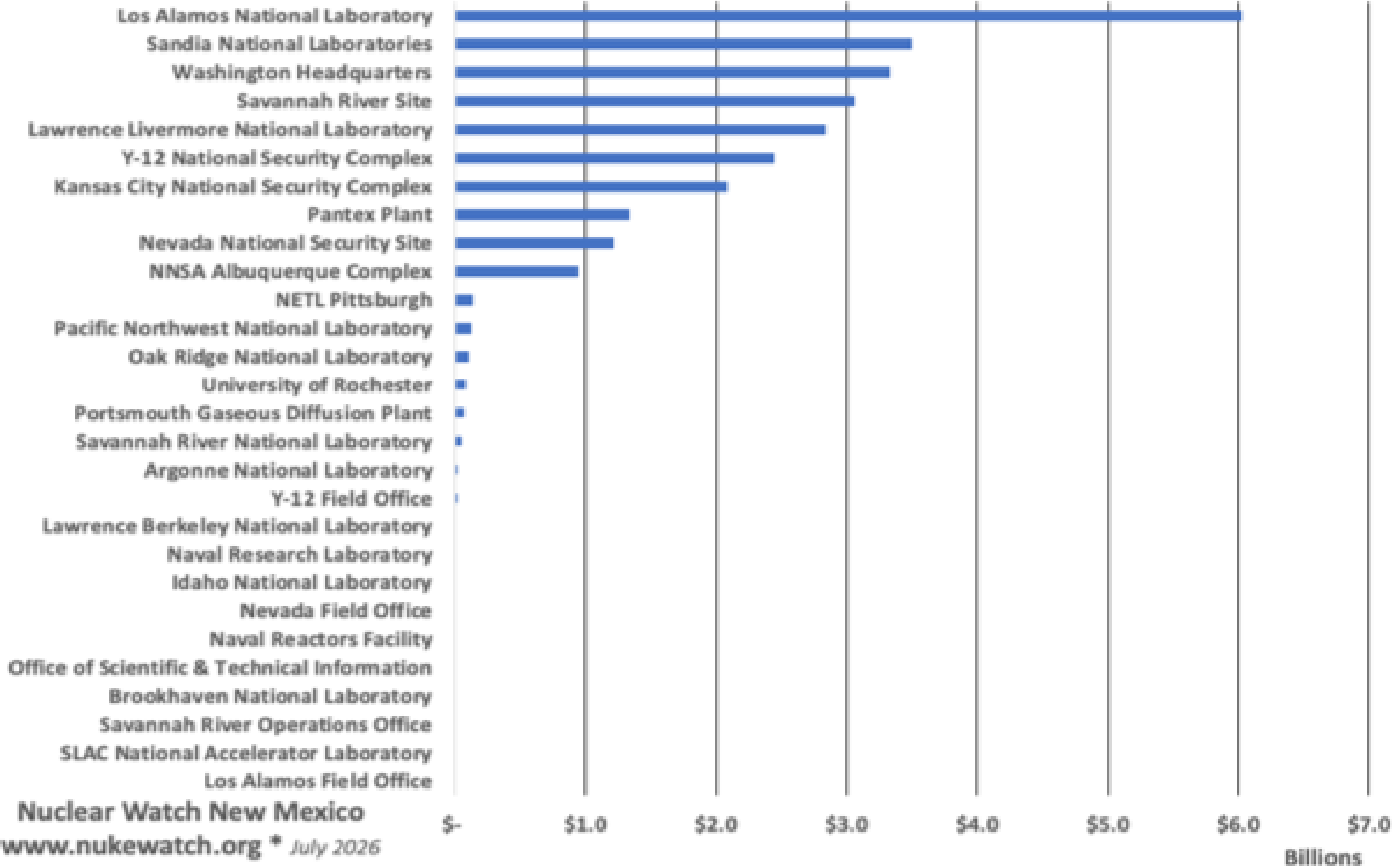
Los Alamos National Laboratory FY 2027 Congressional Budget Request (In billions of dollars)

nuclear watch  new mexico



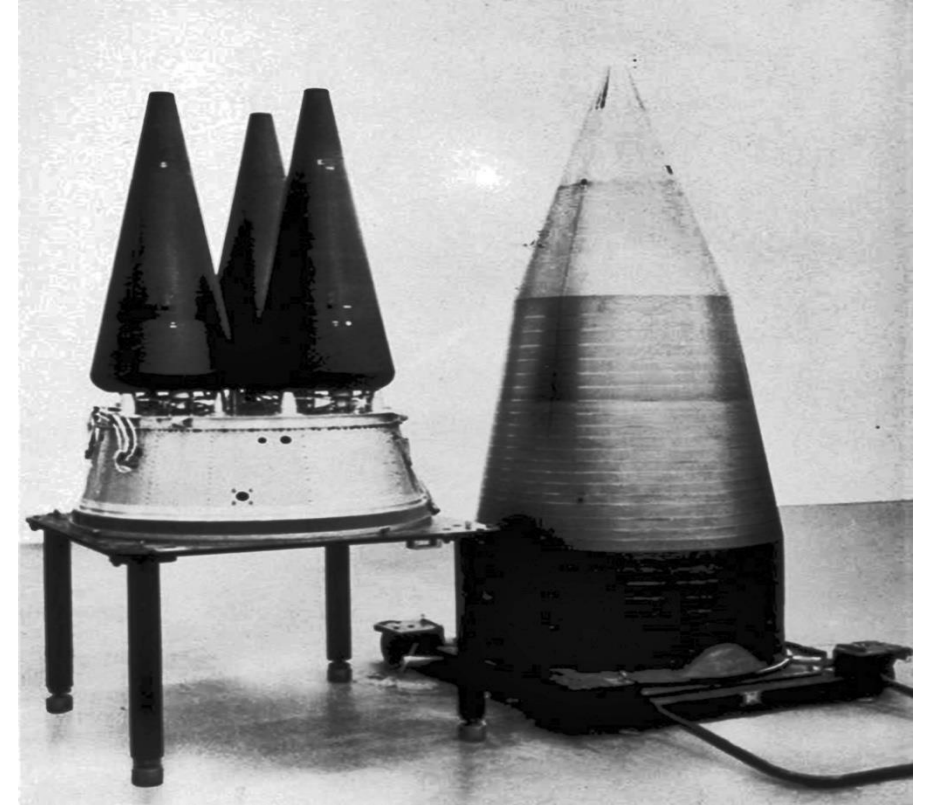
Notes: The percentages are of total LANL budget for FY 2027. "Work For Others" is for other than the Department of Energy (e.g., Depts. of Defense and Homeland Security, the FBI, CIA, etc.) and based on past years is estimated at \$225 million annually.

FY 2027 Budget Request Nuclear Weapons Research and Production By Site



Today's \$2 Trillion Nuclear Weapons “Modernization.” What Does it Mean?

- Rebuilt nuclear warheads extended for decades with new military capabilities.
- New-design nuclear weapons.
- New nuclear weapons production facilities expected to be operational until ~2080.
- New ICBMs, new cruise missiles, heavy stealth bombers and strategic submarines.
- Meanwhile, taxes are cut for the ultrarich, homelessness explodes and health care is drastically cut. This is national security?



“Modernization” Means Nuclear Weapons Forever!

Key to all this is plutonium “pit” bomb core production

- “Pits” are the radioactive fissile cores of nuclear weapons.
- **No future production is to maintain the safety and reliability of the existing stockpile. Instead, it is all for new-design nuclear weapons that could prompt the U.S. to resume full-scale testing.**
- The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has no credible cost estimates for its >\$60 billion program.
- Independent experts recently concluded that plutonium-239 ages slowly with no current impacts on weapons. No estimated expiration.
- There are at least 15,000 existing pits at NNSA’s Pantex Plant in TX.
- Future rad waste disposal is uncertain at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

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

- “Rationality will not save us... this is very important: at the end we lucked out. **It was luck that prevented nuclear war.**” Robert McNamara, Defense Secretary during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- All weapons states are “modernizing” and keeping their nuclear weapons indefinitely, contrary to the 1970 NonProliferation Treaty.
- There are multiple nuclear weapons powers with competing interests.
- There is increased chance of regional nuclear wars (e.g., India-Pakistan).
- Artificial intelligence could sideline human judgement in the command and control of nuclear weapons.

There is a Legal Mandate to Disarm

- The National Nuclear Security Administration is required by Congress to produce plutonium “pit” bomb cores.
- 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) required “negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament...”
- The recent NPT Review Conference failed for the third consecutive time to make any progress whatsoever toward nuclear disarmament.
- The failure to ever honor the NPT led to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, similar to chemical and biological weapons bans.
- We will be at the TPNW Review Conference at the UN in December!

The Pit Production PEIS

- Nuclear Watch New Mexico was a co-plaintiff in a National Environmental Policy Act lawsuit that forced NNSA to complete a nationwide programmatic environmental impact statement on plutonium pit production.
- NNSA plans simultaneous pit production at LANL and the Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina. LANL's existing limited capacity could maintain the stockpile, if needed. However, the Lab's plutonium facility does have a chronic history of nuclear safety incidences.
- Pit production at SRS is redundant. Its pit plant will be the most expensive building in U.S. history. It could be "Rocky Flats-lite" for the new nuclear arms race.
- The solution is no unnecessary plutonium pit production. And none is necessary.

NNSA did not release 3 crucial documents despite congressional and FOIA requests

- A new independent pit life study that countered NNSA's claims that aging drives the need for new pit production.
- A critical "Special Study" by DOE on NNSA's plutonium pit production program (NukeWatch has sued for it).
- A new LANL "Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis" that was already nearly a decade overdue.
- We encourage supplemental comment on the Pit PEIS to help build possible follow-on litigation (see www.nukewatch.org)

The Weapons-Grade Plutonium Giveaway

- Trump plans to give away weapons-grade plutonium to private corporations to spur the 3rd or 4th so-called “nuclear renaissance.”
- This would be used as fuel to power speculative “advanced” nuclear reactors and “small modular reactors,” largely for artificial intelligence data centers.
- The States of TN, UT, LA, OK, ID and WV have responded to big federal money to host so-called “Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses.”
- These “hubs” are for the entire nuclear fuel cycle – uranium enrichment, nuclear fuel reprocessing & dumping of lethal radioactive wastes.
- Legally similar to Pit Production PEIS. NukeWatch NM has notified DOE that we will sue under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Environmental Contamination at LANL

- Lab claimed groundwater contamination was impossible. Chromium plume mile long, half-mile wide, 200' deep, migrated onto San Ildefonso Pueblo.
- Lab claimed that Lab plutonium never found in the Rio Grande. Earlier studies detected Lab plutonium 17 miles south in Cochiti Lake.
- LANL's plan for "cleanup" is to cap and cover $\sim 500,000$ yards³ of radioactive and toxic wastes, leaving them buried in unlined pits.
- "Future contamination at additional locations is expected over a period of decades to centuries as more of the contaminant inventory reaches the water table." 2005 LANL Hydrogeological Study
- New Mexico in severe drought. Lab plans to nearly double water use to half-billion gallons per year for expanded nuclear weapons programs.

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

- Under Gov. Martinez NMED gave LANL >150 cleanup extensions.
- Today, NMED is reopening the permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, the world's only deep geologic dump for radioactive wastes.
- NMED wants DOE to prioritize cleanup wastes from LANL at WIPP instead of new plutonium pit production wastes.
- NMED is requiring DOE to look for a new out-of-state dump.
- NMED issued administrative compliance orders and a multi-million-dollar penalty against DOE and LANL after the toxic chromium plume migrated onto Pueblo de San Ildefonso lands.

Be active! Good change does not come by itself.

- Citizen litigation forced the Pit Production PEIS. Please submit supplemental comment to help build the case for more litigation.
- Actively support NMED in LANL cleanup and WIPP permit modification. This is especially important with new Governor.
- Important to express opinions to NM congressional delegation.
- Keep your eyes on the prize! We can win a world without nuclear weapons if we remain determined.
- Stay tuned to www.nukewatch.org for more info, etc.

Recommended reading: Daniel Ellsberg's *The Doomsday Machine*,

Archbishop John Wester's pastoral letter *A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament*,

Union of Concerned Scientists' report *Plutonium Pit Production: The Risks and Costs of US Plans to Build New Nuclear Weapons*