

Pope Francis: “World War III has been declared.” We agree.

Stop LANL’s pit factory; stop the U.S. war against Russia

Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Fe, June 15, 2022, Los Alamos Study Group

[“Save as many as you can.”](#) (from the 2004 movie, “The Day After Tomorrow”)

“The Horsemen of the Apocalypse are already on their way and all hope now is with Lord God the Almighty.” Dmitri Medvedev

“The French people, in June and July 1940, were not a people waylaid by a band of ruffians, whose country was suddenly snatched from them. They are a people who opened their hands and allowed their country to fall to the ground. Later on...they spent themselves in ever more and more desperate efforts to pick it up again; but someone had placed his foot on it.” (Simone Weil, *The Need for Roots*)

“The fixation with Ukraine essentially is but a gloss pasted over the realities of a global order in decomposition.” (Alistair Crooke)



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Blog: <https://lasg.org/wordpress/>

Our four-part agenda this evening

Trish Williams-Mello will moderate.

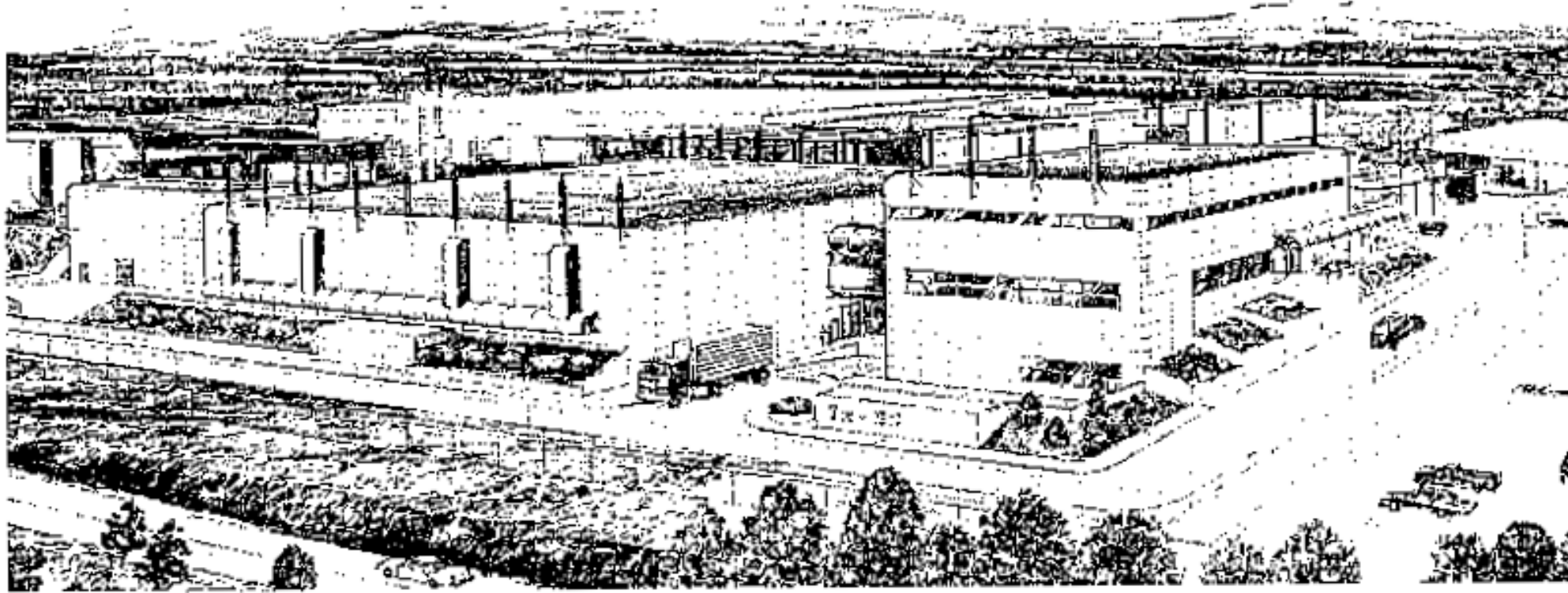
We'll have 15 minutes for each presentation followed by 15 minutes Q&A, then discussion.

1. Nuclear weapons, plutonium warhead cores (“pits”): update & politics
2. The Ukraine war: a new world or no world at all; silence of the doves
3. Propaganda, censorship, mass psychosis, liberalism’s end
4. What then is to be done?

There is little or no concrete opposition to nuclear weapons or war in New Mexico, and in Santa Fe in particular. Unlike as recently as 10 years ago, Santa Fe now supports the new nuclear arms race. To be successful, the new arms race requires Santa Fe’s support. Withdraw that support, and it fails.



Special Nuclear Materials Research and Development Laboratory Replacement Project at Los Alamos National Laboratory



Architectural rendering of the Special Nuclear Materials Research and Development Laboratory Replacement Project.

**A glance
back at
LANL's first
proposal for
a post-
Rocky Flats
pit facility.
We Santa
Feans were
a critical
force in
defeating
this.**

Some things don't change: nuclear "needs," greed, and the helpful efforts of NGOs to concentrate nuclear weapons & waste in NM

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Los Alamos Can Supply All N-Bombs

Lab's Annual Plutonium Capacity
May Be Enough for 300 Weapons

Los Alamos Could Supply Plut

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

ments provide the most detailed publicly available information to help answer the question of how many bombs Los Alamos could produce.

The answer is this: It appears Los Alamos could build all of the bombs the United States would need to support a 21st century, post-Cold War arsenal, said Christopher Paine, an analyst at the Natural Resources Defense Council, a Washington, D.C., environmental group.

"The significance of it is in the ability of the lab to serve as either an interim or long-term replacement for Rocky Flats," said Brian Costner, head of the Energy Research Foundation, a South Carolina environmental group, and co-author of a study on U.S. nuclear

weapons plutonium work.

To manufacture a plutonium "pit," the explosive core of a nuclear weapon, the metal is heated to more than 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit and melted down, then poured into a graphite mold.

Pits must then be shaped to precise specifications. The work is done inside "glove boxes," which permit workers to handle the radioactive metal remotely, often using lead-lined gloves inserted through sealed portholes.

According to the documents, the metal fabrication area in TA-55 was designed to be able to process and shape 220 pounds of plutonium metal per month.

The amount of plutonium required for a nuclear weapon is a secret, but independent researchers put it at roughly 4 kilograms — 8.8 pounds.

Using that estimate, Paine said

the newly released documents suggest Los Alamos could make about 300 bombs a year. That closely matches an estimate he previously made based on other data about Los Alamos plutonium processing capabilities.

A more conservative estimate, based on the documents' statement that "up to" 12 kilograms — 26.5 pounds — may be used to manufacture a single bomb, yields a production rate of 100 bombs a year.

No one without a security clearance knows whether 100 or 200 or 300 new plutonium pits a year is enough to meet 21st century stockpile needs.

No new bombs are now being built. Questions about whether bombs in the existing stockpile will need to be replaced remain unanswered.

The Department of Energy is trying to plan its future weapons man-

By John Fleck, 12/8/93. Archived at http://lasg.org/Pit_Prod.htm

Nuclear weapons, plutonium warhead cores (“pits”): update & politics

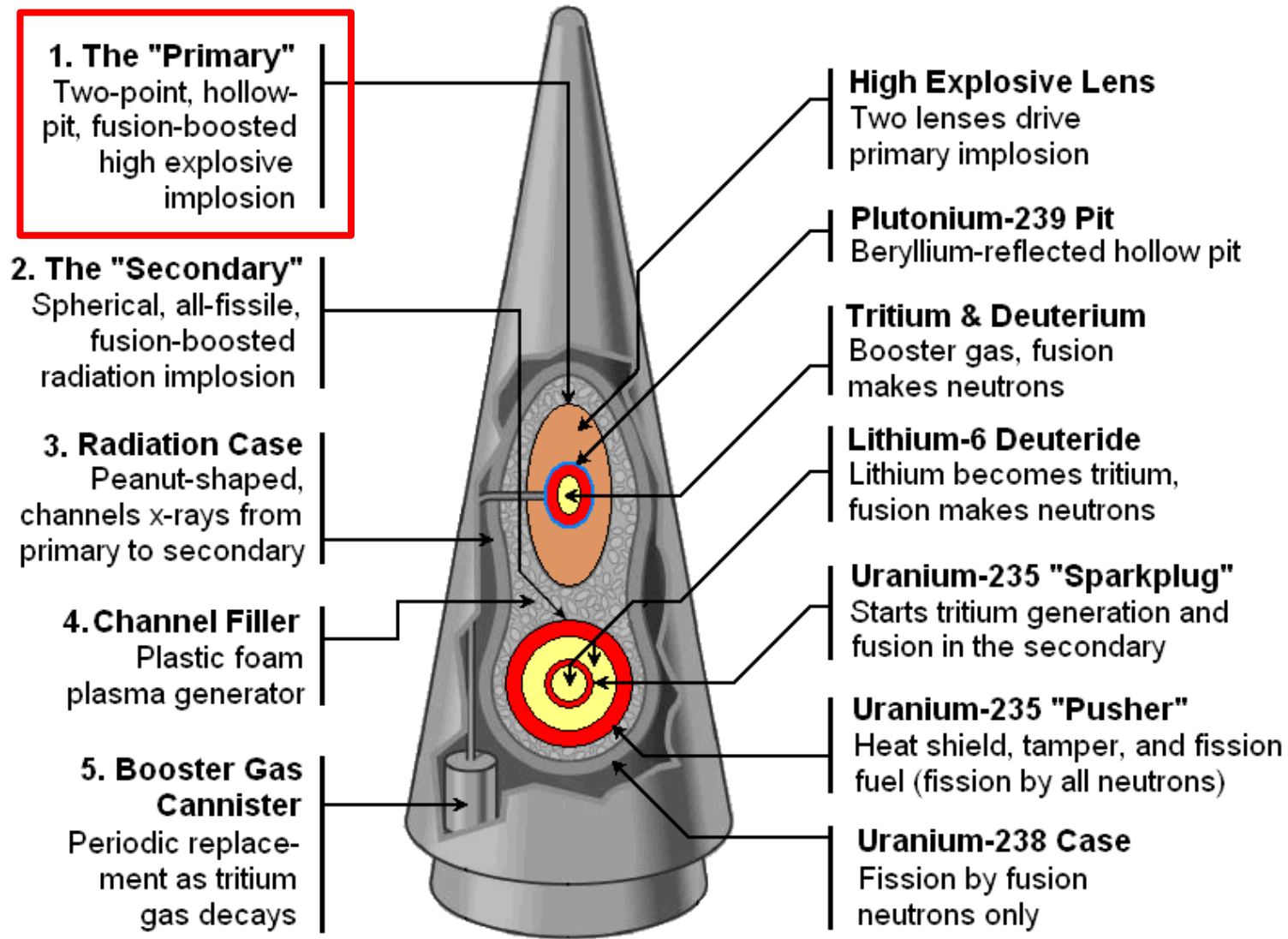
- The Administration has no public nuclear weapons posture or policy. It was never published. A FY23 [budget request](#) was finally released in May and prior to that a FY22 [stockpile management plan](#) in March.
- There are congressional efforts to a) retire the B83 bomb and b) keep nascent programs to develop a new sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM) and warhead. Neither are likely to succeed. The Navy strongly opposes a nuclear SLCM. See our [US nuclear weapons since 2020: continuity & change](#), Dec 7, 2021, for more, as well as more recent [press releases](#) and [bulletins](#).
- The U.S.-NATO war against Russia in Ukraine contributes to martial fervor and nuclear political discipline.
- Democratic majorities in Congress appear to be hiding incipient problems in nuclear warhead programs, specifically pit production. There is no visible congressional leadership in either party, except to add “more.” A nuclear “cabal” in the Pentagon is calling the shots and building defenses against budget cuts.
- At the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) there are nationwide challenges in staffing, supply chains, production & construction schedules, and inflation. The Crisis will sink many “big ships.”
- Pit production is crucial to the Empire, so it’s hard to stop. Meanwhile great changes are underway: “the world doesn’t work like that any more.” Every word of truth, every nonviolent effort we make, helps shape our common future – and our own nobility and characters. To make pits, NNSA needs our silence, acquiescence, and most precious resources (e.g. our children). Peripheral in many ways, NM is center-stage for disarmament and national redirection. It is also our home.

- The vast program of modernizing U.S. nuclear weapons that begun under Barack Obama, along with maintaining and deploying current nuclear weapon systems, is costing U.S. citizens more than \$1.5 trillion (T) over a 30-year period. If the costs of the Department of Energy's (DOE's) environmental cleanup program over those years is included (as it must be for congressional support to be maintained), the cost of U.S. nuclear weapons rises to more than \$2 T over those years. As of two years ago, nuclear weapons were expected to cost \$49 billion (B) per year (updated to 2022 dollars) over those 30 years, or \$74 B if DOE environmental costs were included. (See pp. 8-9, [Update on US Nuclear Weapons Modernization for the International Disarmament Community](#), May 13, 2020.)
- The U.S. national commitment to nuclear weapons -- including environmental cleanup, greater in raw dollar terms than what Russia spends on its *total* defense budget (\$66 B, [SIPRI](#)) -- is dwarfed by U.S. military spending overall. When all the bits are counted, current annual U.S. military spending lay in the neighborhood of \$1 T last year, or about \$7,800 per household per year, not counting . (See pp. 3-4, [US nuclear weapons since 2020: continuity & change](#), Dec 7, 2021). This figure will go up this year.
- The \$54 billion appropriated for the Ukraine war so far comes to \$425/household. By October, U.S. military spending will be >\$8,500 per household.
- A nuclear weapons arsenal "second to none" (Vice President Biden, [speech](#) at National Defense University, 2010) is central to the current U.S. self-conception and to an imperial foreign policy.

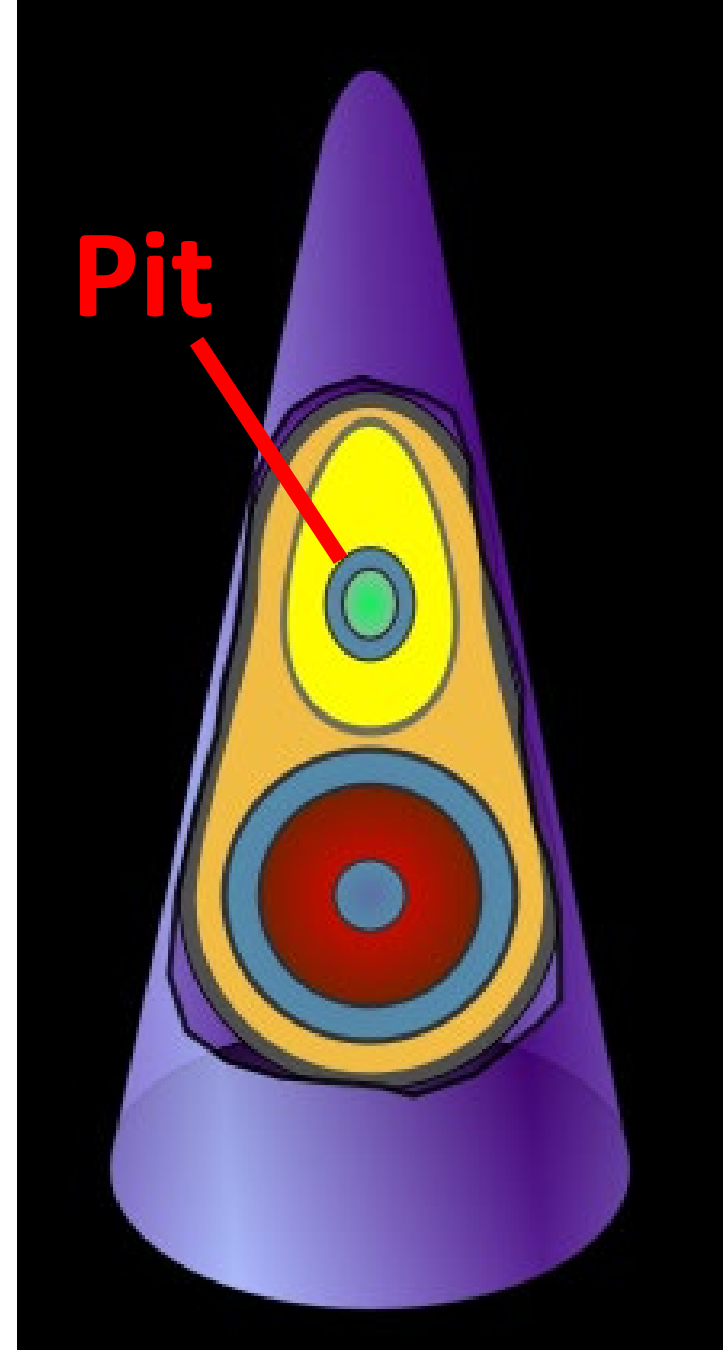
- Recurring themes we see:
 - Congress, President, fed. courts (“Madisonian” institutions) are overpowered by “Trumanite” national security institutions (NSC, Pentagon, CIA), as augmented by their contractors etc in the MICIMATT.
 - Deals cut by liberals/Dems nationally; hawks & arms control now entirely fill mainstream “Overton Window” (deals: see [“Stewards of the Apocalypse”](#)).
 - Citizens are kept disempowered, confused, distracted, fearful. No reliable, serious MSM left. Not one.
 - In NM, almost no organized opposition. Corporate-federal “partnerships in power.” State government has enabling minor role; neoliberal, “trickle down” narrative frame fills public sphere. NM a sacrifice zone; ~70-80% of NM population is surplus to need. Weak civil society institutions. *Compradores abound*.
- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) largely a distraction in the “West,” especially the U.S., given a) NATO, b) the U.S. war on Russia, and c) the perennially-low political salience of nuclear weapons. Problematic, neutering articles were inserted in TPNW.
- There will never be a “national movement” against nuclear weapons as there was in the 1980s. Mostly this is naïve but in some places this harmful fantasy is propagated for partisan, anti-disarmament reasons.
- Populist rebellion against militarism and war is however inevitable sooner or later. One reason for this is that national security spending is now more than \$8,000 per household per year, precluding desirable social and environmental outcomes and dooming our country and planet. Disaster is unfolding right now.

Modern U.S. ballistic missile warhead, late 1980s

W88 Warhead for Trident D-5 Ballistic Missile



Sources for illustrations: Wikipedia



Pit production:

- Largest U.S. warhead program in 30+ years, with LANL's part more than half. LANL now largest nuclear weapons facility on the planet in dollars and growing. This is a Democratic Party creation.
- Costs are rising, schedules dilating; degrees of failure are certain at LANL but not what degrees, when, or how. *There is a latent impetus to massively expand the too-small LANL factory beyond even current plans.*
- For the 2030s at SRS all bets are off, especially if further expansion occurs at LANL or is programmed.
- Primary vulnerabilities at LANL include the following:
 - Staff recruitment, retention, training, and morale, both for science and engineering as well as skilled craft labor. Related: K-12 education, housing, transportation to work, drought & fire, violence, inequality, poor governance, no nearby university, etc. NM governance failures, related publicity.
 - Management failures and related publicity.
 - Construction challenges, including a) locational and b) on-site issues. Inflation and supply chain issues.
 - External investigations and related publicity. Clearly unacceptable safety situations, accidents
 - Pentagon or military opposition, on pragmatic and fiscal grounds
 - Indian opposition (not seen since 1990's)

	Total through 2033
Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Pu Operations (pp.); from 2027 on, \$1,000 M indefinitely	11,963.1
LANL Plutonium Pit Production Project (LAP4), 21-D-512 (pp.); from 2028, this row is \$200 M/year for other line items	3,598.5
Subtotal LANL Pu Modernization	15,561.6
Major supporting infrastructure not included in the above:	
LANL Chemistry Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project, 04-D-125)	2,778.60
	215.30
LANL Transuranic (TRU) Liquid Waste Facility, 07-D-220-04 (pp.)	235.10
LANL TA-55 Reinvestment Phase III (TRP-III), 15-D-302 (pp.)	18,790.56
Subtotal LANL Pu Modernization, including large projects only	
	592.9
Other LANL projects, line items only (doesn't include small projects)	19,383.5
Total LANL Pu Modernization	
	3,224.8
Savannah River Site (SRS) Pu Operations (pp.)	11,100.0
Savannah River Plutonium Processing Facility (SRPPF) Design & Construction, 21-D-511 (pp.)	14,324.8
Total SRS Pu Modernization	
	1,379.2
Enterprise plutonium support, multiple sites, (pp.); 2027 and after, \$100 M/year	
	35,087.5

Planned costs of “Plutonium Modernization” in the new April 22 Biden budget request, partly estimated but mostly provided by NNSA (details omitted but available on our web site [here](#)). In \$millions.

Assumed pits	\$M/pit, LANL	Assumes no interruptions, no new PF-4 or modules		
121	115.7	Through FY28, 30 ppy		
121	85.6	FY22-FY28, 30 ppy		
271	71.5	Through 2033, 30 ppy		
271	57.3	FY22-FY33, 30 ppy		
451	58.9	Through FY39, 30 ppy		
451	50.7	FY22-FY39, 30 ppy		
451	72.9	FY22-FY39 + \$10 B new LANL facility		
	40	Marginal cost, 30 ppy, \$1.2 B/yr		
\$M/pit, other sites, add to main site costs				
	5.1	Other sites' pit costs through FY33		
	4.3	Other sites' pit costs FY22-FY33		
	1.3	Marginal pit cost, other sites, 80 ppy		
\$M/pit, SRS				
300	57.7	SRS only 2034-2039, first 300 pits, 50 ppy		
	10.0	Marginal cost, 50 ppy		
800	27.9	SRS only 2034-2049, first 800 pits, 50 ppy		
	6.3	Marginal cost, 80 ppy		
1,280	17.4	SRS only 2034-2049, first 1280 pits, 80 ppy		

Per pit costs inferred from new Biden budget request of 22 April, Los Alamos Study Group

Takeaways (I)

- 1. LANL's new production mission is a key enabling program for a new Cold War against now-combined Russia and China.**
- 2. LANL's new mission is absurd, based on poor engineering and management, and is vulnerable to "off-ramps." With help, LANL has failed at this mission four times before and is in the process of failing now, so far invisibly.**
- 3. It will be impossible to meet climate, environmental, or social goals under conditions of empire and a nuclear arms race, for political, fiscal, and social reasons.**
- 4. Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico are uniquely placed to make an enormous, material contribution to peace and social development.**

Takeaways (II)

5. LANL pit production in the 2020s and early 2030s artificially increases nuclear weapons (NW) spending & hiring across the NNSA complex.
6. Postponing pit production until 2032-2035 makes sense from every perspective except a) empire, b) runaway nuclearism, and c) NM contractor budgets.
7. We believe there are senior staff in Congress and the military who want to stop LANL pit production in lieu of just R&D and training, to save money.
8. If the war-state is not stopped now, and a broad political awakening not achieved in the 2020s, prospects for a habitable earth are dim.
9. NW proponents deny the U.S. faces immediate, converging existential crises. We are certain it does. Assertion of humane values matters most here, and now.

Takeaways (III)

10. To make this concrete, one (1) LANL pit will cost \geq \$50 million. LANL will spend \geq \$1 billion on pit production this year – and every year hence.

Components for a ~6kW solar system cost ~\$10,000 (in 2021). Installation & permitting approximately double this cost. A 4kW system is adequate for most homes (e.g. ours), & will support an electric bicycle also. If we can cut through unreasonable permitting requirements & provide consulting for DIYers, \$10,000 to \$12,000 for a 4kW system should be adequate. Obviously this does not solve intermittency or grid issues.

With an average federal subsidy of 50%, ~8,000-9,000 residential solar systems could be purchased & installed for the cost of 1 pit. For what LANL spends on pits in a year, \geq 167,000 residential solar systems could be bought.

Education, rural health care, & social services: go ahead, price them in pits.

Key Takeaways (IV)

10. The U.S. is not a democracy any more. We cannot win if we naively imagine we can reform the present structures through electoral and lobbying techniques. The “MICIMATT” complex rules over the “Madisonian” institutions (Congress, the Executive, Courts). Naivety is dangerous.

We won't halt climate collapse through voting & lobbying either.

The bottom line is that we are in an emergency situation, in which we are called to revisit our personal priorities. We need to have family meetings, consider quitting our jobs if they are not deeply beneficial, and more. We need to get rid of the idea that we can “solve” our society's problems in comfort or without full-time commitments by a lot more people. Serious money is also needed. Above all we cannot be seduced by fake politics.

LANL has already failed at the pit mission four times. A fifth failure is underway but meanwhile massive damage is being done. Please help us!



End of first section

The Ukraine war: a new world or none; silence of the doves

We meet at an historic time. Dramatic events are occurring on a weekly, even a daily and an hourly basis.

We need to educate ourselves and oppose the U.S. war against Russia.

Of no small concern, the risk of nuclear war is now higher than at any time since 1983 or 1962. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, 4/25/22:

"When the risks [of using nuclear weapons] are very, very substantial, I would not like these risks to be artificially inflated, and there are many people willing to do so. The risk is grave, it is real, it can not be underestimated."

Dmitry Medvedev, former prime minister and deputy chairman of Russia's national security council:

"If, God forbid, these [newly-acquired long-range] weapons are used against Russian territory then our armed forces will have no other choice but to strike decision-making centres. Of course, it needs to be understood that the final decision-making centres in this case, unfortunately, are not located on the territory of Kyiv."

"The Horsemen of the Apocalypse are already on their way and all hope now is with Lord God the Almighty."

(<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/russia-will-strike-west-if-us-rockets-hit-us-says-putin-ally-l3gd673lh>)

Alistair Crooke, former UK diplomat, founder and director of Beirut Conflicts Forum:

[11 Apr 2022:](#)

What 'Bucha' tells us is that the West is in 'an all or nothing' heated frenzy to prove it can win this war. **A failure in Ukraine could well mean the disintegration of EU and NATO. The patch-work cohesion within these alliances will not survive the trauma of defeat.** And 'Bucha' says to us that West is ready to go for a 'win' in an imaginary war, even at the expense of strategic loss on the ground in Ukraine.

[6 June 2022:](#)

Why are the Euro-élites so shrill, so passionate in their support for Ukraine? And risk heart-attack from the sheer vehemence of their hatred for Putin? After all, most Europeans and Americans until this year knew next-to-nothing about Ukraine.

We know the answer: **the deeper fear is that all the landmarks to liberal life – for reasons they do not understand – are about to be forever swept away.** And that Putin is doing it. How will 'we' navigate life, bereft of landmarks? What will become of us? **We thought the liberal way-of-being was ineluctable. Another value-system? Impossible!**

...The fixation with Ukraine essentially is but a gloss pasted over the realities of a global order in decomposition.

So what are some decent sources of information about this conflict? Try these few, and their sources:

- [Consortium News](#) is one of the all-around best sources of thoughtful analysis there is, in the U.S. It is difficult to choose among the stellar essays there.
- Bernhard at [Moon of Alabama](#) (in Germany, writes in English). A superior analyst with a very strong track record.
- [Caitlin Johnstone](#) is a fabulous anti-imperialist blogger, whose writing can help many people reframe issues.
- Ilargi at [The Automatic Earth](#), a daily news aggregator, is very useful to us.
- [Antiwar.com](#), excellent updates and commentary, U.S. nonpartisan.
- [The Saker](#) blog, very pro-Russia plus many politically incorrect views and words, but also good military analysis and frequent updates.
- [Grayzone](#) (U.S.) -- Max Blumenthal, Ben Norton, Aaron Maté, et. al. In-depth pieces mostly.
- [St. Pete for Peace](#) is an awesome little U.S. peace group with great videos and documentaries.
- [Southfront](#), which may or may not be partly supported by the Russian government, but does not always hew to the Russian line. Of mixed quality. Lots of front-line reportage in photographic and video form (18+).

This abbreviated, inadequate list does not include many important authors, web sites, and podcasters. Chris Hedges, Alistair Crooke are two of these but there are many more.

U.S. mainstream news foreign policy news has devolved into an opaque, sophisticated mix of truth, falsehood, and lies of omission that is designed to deceive. It is much worse than it used to be. It is best read or seen in secondary, critiqued form.

There are a lot of well-known voices on the political right as well as the left which oppose further involvement in, or escalation of, this war. It takes time and reflection to learn. As always, *caveat emptor*.

We can't cover the history or causes of this conflict in these few minutes. Most of our friends are confused about these things. How to proceed, then? In practical terms, these few things are crucial to understand:

- Russia believes Ukraine embodies an existential security problem, in itself and as the “last straw” in NATO’s expansion, the hostile sanctions from the West, and related hostile actions across the board. Russia sees itself as under attack in many ways and disbelieves nearly all Western promises at this point, which have proven worthless. Russia saw its high-risk “special military operation” (SMO) as necessary sooner, rather than later. Russia believes the U.S. empire (“empire of lies”), with NATO at its forefront, is destroying international law and diplomacy in favor of a unipolar U.S.-based “rules-based international order” that denies the sovereignty of states.
- The U.S. actually does seek to destroy Russia as an independent, sovereign state. The U.S. intentionally caused this war, heaping risk upon risk for the Donbas and Russia, spurning all diplomacy.
- In 2013, 2014, and before, the U.S. and NATO allies funded & orchestrated a coup in Ukraine for the purpose of creating an “anti-Russia” there. This meant supporting ultra-right-wing elements, including Nazis, which have become very powerful in Ukraine. Ukraine became a U.S. client state 8 years ago, and is not really a sovereign country.
- Russia will not be defeated in Ukraine. Russia is not weak or isolated. It has articulated fairly clear goals in its SMO. It is economically more autarkic than any other state, has powerful friends, a powerful military with enormous logistical advantages, an intelligentsia and citizenry largely unified and appalled by Western actions. The West, by contrast, is heavily dependent on Russian commodities for its very life. The West is not “winning” and cannot “win” this war.

- The danger in this situation is extreme, both economic and in terms of military escalation. The U.S. does not yet understand that this war was lost when it greenlighted Ukraine's existential threats to Russia and the Donbas as part of an overall plan to dominate Eurasia. That plan is now failing but U.S. and Europe elites don't grasp that yet.

So now what?

- The war must be de-escalated fast or it will widen. NATO is supplying weapons, intel, money, propaganda, "volunteers," and is attempting to threaten more of Russia and the Black Sea. This needs to stop quickly, before more red lines are crossed. The notion that Russia will meekly back down or fall apart if the West systematically destroys its security is foolish in the extreme.
- The "best" outcome for Western elites is that Ukraine will be a smaller state, with the more important eastern and southern portion carved out, and the remaining Ukraine demilitarized. Russia might not accept this.
- The "worst" outcome for NATO, which becomes more likely every week, is that the Ukraine government will fall as its army is destroyed, and a Russia-friendly government installed. This may now be the most likely option and it would certainly be the least violent. It might destroy NATO, which would be a good thing.
- Somebody will need to solve the Nazi problem in Ukraine before it metastasizes further. Related, the pervasive chauvinism in the West is becoming overtly racist. The Nazi heritage in U.S. national security institutions, as well in Europe, is a matter of grave concern. Russians understand it but U.S. actors do not.
- To end the war:
 - Recognize the necessity of doing so, i.e. of serious diplomacy with Russia.
 - Recognize that Russia's concerns must be understood and addressed, a *sine qua non* of all diplomacy.
 - De-escalate and de-Nazify Ukraine. The actor Zelenksy will have to go. Accurately blame him and his backers.

- Don't expand NATO. Tell Sweden and Finland we like them anyway.
- We citizens of the U.S. must demand these and similar things. Politicians who vote for war with Russia – and preparations for war with China – need to be turned out of office. Asinine statements about “policies coming from a place of love” while supporting mass slaughter and factories for weapons of mass destruction as the largest economic and hence social initiatives in a congressional district need to be appropriately rewarded.

“Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.” (Voltaire)

So now what? (continued)

- Recognize that the end of this war will not be to “our” liking. “Our” 25 years of lies about NATO and 8+ years of Ukraine grooming and militarization will have their due.
- As economic ramifications continue to amplify pre-existing instabilities and weakness, there will be unrest in the West, and various Western governments will fall.
- In this country, Republicans are likely to take the Senate and very likely to take the House in 5 months. The economy will not be “recovering” before then, and not after either. A serious recession has begun. Prosperity is over, period.
- There won't be peace until the current set of war-oriented ideologues (Blinken, Nuland, Sullivan, Austin, others) are replaced with knowledgeable, experienced realists.
- There are “deep events” (sensu Peter Dale Scott) occurring, including Russiagate, Ukrainegate, the Ukraine coup+ war. We are recently seeing a pattern of making overt what had been hidden (“lying is good when we do it”).
- What we are not seeing is the fruitful outrage on the political left, or statesmanship which rises above party discipline. Nor are we seeing many live neurons in the media. That is because there is so little grassroots gumption.

End of section.

What is to be done? Some obvious things.

- Abandon the MSM. You don't have time for it. Drop your propaganda dependency. Learn.
- Absorb the reality that our a) economy and b) environment are crashing – hard. This is going to be apparent to more and more people as soon as this summer, or later this year. The problems are fundamental and do not depend on who is in the White House or Congress – or who leads the EU. We have serious crises in energy, food, finance, inequality, governance, and more, which will defy solutions.
- We may even destroy all possibility of a livable climate. So economic collapse might be a good thing.
- We need to wake up and act in the public sphere. Doing so is a criterion of spiritual and moral maturity. “Thus in the deepest sense the walk to the gas chamber was only the last consequence of a philosophy of business as usual,” wrote Bettelheim. It was “a last step in no longer defying the death instinct, which might also be called the principle of inertia.”
- Recognize that you do not live in a democracy any more. Nothing of consequence will change without sacrifice, organization, money, and serious vocations. Nothing will change positively without devotion to integrity, the search for truth, and energy. Shed naivete and any hopium habit you may have acquired.
- Demand public meetings by members of our delegation. They aren't happening. Those folks aren't accountable at all, since elections are multiple-choice questions at best and decided largely by money and party discipline. We need to talk about all the subjects we have discussed here.

- Citizens need to push back HARD against militarism and nuclear colonialism, which our entire delegation and this Governor support. How? From your own group, in your own way, nonviolently.
- *Look back at those pit production vulnerabilities.*
- Fight against distraction and manipulation by the latest political “thing.” (What is it today, the January 6 hearings spectacle?)
- Don’t be generic, vague, deal in pious platitudes, or virtue-signal. We want something very concrete.
- If you are a progressive, reach out to the political right. Make space for the best arguments from their side. Make space for them personally. Talk and learn. As Chomsky said, the only U.S. politician of national stature that is making sense about Ukraine is Trump.
- Consider leaving your political party. Speaking from within hasn’t worked.
- Stop being divided by identity issues, race, and assorted victimhoods. Understand that science is about the search for truth, not “The Science”™, as delivered by authorities. What a scandal!
- The incumbency we have has largely failed New Mexico on all major issues and it will continue to fail. We have a fake, nickel-and-dime politics, a closed echo-chamber of mediocre leaders in a paralyzed government with a part-time, understaffed legislature. Most elections are corrupted by big money now.
- Nuclear issues at LANL aren’t matters of pollution, for the most part. They are about poverty, priorities, character, democracy, creativity, and the destiny of this region and this country.

- People of integrity and vision need to get involved in government and we are going to have to build local alternatives to government in addition to reforming it.
- Everything we do will seem inadequate. If something isn't effectual find something which is.
- Mutual support is essential. Hard times lie ahead. There is no returning to any kind of "normal." We are in a system collapse now. There is no telling how far down we will fall, or how long.
- Liberalism is a spent force now, and good riddance. We need to think things through in the light of new circumstances. As Tim Morgan wrote today, economic liberalism appears to require economic growth. In contraction, another system and narrative is needed.
- We will surely need to assume more responsibility and assert fewer rights for ourselves.

The following slides have not been vetted or brought up to date. However, portions might be useful in the present context.
(*caveat emptor*)

“What you can do” – more generally (III)

If we can stop pit production at LANL, pit production will be delayed 10 years overall.

Failing to stop pit production in the here and now is hypocritical to say the least.

If we can stop pit production for 10 years, a W87-1, especially a MIRVed W87-1, is unlikely.

As long as pit production is halted, the U.S. will not be able to produce brand-new nuclear weapons. Thus it will not be able to compete with Russia in a nuclear arms race. U.S. exceptionalism and presumption of dominance will not be sustainable. The U.S. will have to respect sovereignty. Peace will have to break out.

I think we have a duty to not allow ourselves to be distracted, and to avoid trivialization, and a duty to not allow ourselves to be divided those who seek to do, e.g. by skin color, gender, age, and a duty to not be naïve or to be deceived by others. If we would be citizens.

We want to work with you:

- Help recruit others to come to events, and for you to help educate others, and to be ambassadors for us (to that end, the cups we brought are branded “icebreakers.”)
- Volunteer with us: in research, in communications, in outreach, in fundraising, in networking
- We need lawyers, right now.
- Help find us staff members, interns, and volunteers. We can hire. Groups like ours need *vocations*, not more people writing letters. Impact is exponentially related to knowledge, skills, commitments. We need apprentices, or mid-life helpers, who often have many skills, plus maturity. We do not need people who want just to use us.

Relatively easy things to do

- Leave political parties. The Democratic Party functions as a mafia in New Mexico. It is the left arm of the national security state here, the Republican Party being right arm. Whatever advocacy might be done on national security issues or climate issues or energy issues while being in either Party, or a wing of either Party, or while supporting one is with few exceptions prevented by the fact that support for the Party and its candidates is assumed.

(Quote from friend re leaving the Dem Party; *Citizens United*; Gilens and Page;

<https://charleshughsmith.blogspot.com/2021/04/the-people-have-lost-faith-in-state-and.html>)

- Be informed. Useful news sources. Action, education and social connections all go together (see: base communities). If we would be citizens, we have a duty to not be ignorant or tools of propaganda from any source -- and to not be passive.

One thing we all need to understand is the reality of collapse, which is upon us. The trajectories are impossible to know, but the sky is filled with swans, many of them white, others gray. There are [dragon kings](#). Various collapse phenomena – events and reactions to events, such as the covid pandemic -- will dominate the policy process, which is now a combination of largely blind momentum and largely blind reactions.

- We need nonviolent actions: marches, protests, that have the appropriate symbolism and the appropriate commitment. Attending is easy; organizing is hard. We need to recruit for these actions. We need continuity in them.
- We need pressure to end the RCLC, but ordinary advocacy is not working.

- We face converging crises, some of which are existential for civilization and nature. These crises are quickly increasing in severity. They require immediate, decisive actions, which must therefore be widely-supported across nearly all social sectors.
- There is very little democratic governance remaining at any level, especially federal. We live in an “[inverted totalitarian](#)” society or “managed democracy” (Sheldon Wolin, Chris Hedges, Chalmers Johnson). “Hope” for change is *the* problem for us.
- Nothing can be done without bipartisan cooperation, mutual respect, and nonviolence (the essence of politics). The shock and pain of our situation and its remedies, such as they are, has to be shared.
- We have dysfunction in government, journalism, academia, and NGOs. “The experts are always wrong.” (Fred Harris). Important factual misunderstandings are now a generation or more deep. These must be overcome, on both sides of the aisle.
- We all need “ideological patience” (Goodwyn). *Respect* is the political equivalent of interpersonal love. We need to be more courageous, *and* we need to listen, so we can speak effectively. We need to *convert* people, not just win.

More

- Reach out to Trump supporters, MAGAs, Republicans, and libertarians. The antiwar left made a big mistake in not doing so in 2017-2020. Reach out to environmental organizations, though this is likely harder.
- Research and oppose the Rizzo developments. Research and oppose the Buckman treated sewage pipeline
- Oppose LANL EPCU (but how?)
- As an integrative project, work on military spending and imperialism
 - Get organizational sign-ons to recent letter
 - Reject militarism and nuclearism
 - Reject military and nuclear jobs
 - Get that statue taken down from City Hall in Santa Fe
 - Halt the Orion Center, etc.
- Bird-dog our electeds all the time. Give no quarter on issues of war and peace. They will carry sociopathic, genocidal narratives and policies unless they don't. If they do, work to shame them. Expose, confront, shame. Praise where warranted but not without including direction.
- Get local churches to support full-time climate and peace young persons.
- Convince young men and women of good families to become new kinds of monastics. Boldly go where no one has gone before. Actually, they have. We need more shock troops in our nonviolent social revolution.
- We need to demand transparency, which requires unremitting legal action.
- Some of you can go into the schools.

“What you can do” – more generally (III)

If we can stop pit production at LANL, pit production will be delayed 10 years overall.

Failing to stop pit production in the here and now is hypocritical to say the least.

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Facts and conclusions (the most important slide in this presentation)

- ❑ **LANL alone cannot handle the pit production mission.**
 - LANL production is not stable, or adequate for any warhead's pits, or enduring. New LANL facilities would come late, at high cost, and with high risk.
 - LANL would need much larger capacity (NNSA: 140 ppy vs. 30 ppy) to compensate for this instability, and very large new investments to provide it. (LASG: LANL does not have a good location for that new facility, at any price.)

- ❑ Barring economic collapse, **the U.S. will continue investing each and every year in pit production capacity** deemed adequate and enduring by the Nuclear Weapons Council. Providing for zero or only a few new pits in the 2030s and 2040s is not just going to happen for the foreseeable future. After 2030 (or some similar date), all bets may be off.

- ❑ Planning and construction of a new pit facility will take at least 14 years. We are almost 3 years into SRS design. No other facility anywhere near the capability and safety of SRS could be brought on line in 11-14 years (NNSA: "by 2032-2035").

- ❑ Thus no site other besides LANL and SRS can produce pits in a timely fashion, except LLNL. Political considerations will prevent LLNL pit production.

- ❑ **These four facts mean** that full investment in SRS pit production will continue, no matter what any of us say or do.

- ❑ **The only policy decision available in pit production is whether investments in LANL pit production, to the tune of \$1 billion/year, will continue, or rather *how long they will continue.***

- ❑ In addition, the marginal cost of LANL pit production (two shifts) will always be several multiples of what it is for a much larger (single-shift) facility.



RLUOB = Radiological Laboratory/Utility/Office Building
CMRR NF = Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Nuclear Facility
LLUOB = Light Laboratory/Utility/Office Building

Figure S.3.4.1-7—TA-55 Site Plan Showing the Proposed
CMRR and Manufacturing Annex Facilities

Fanciful proposal for a pit factory at LANL, 2008. Half of this was a real project, most of which (CMRR-NF) was canceled due to LASG litigation and prior geologic acts of God.