



Los Alamos Study Group

Nuclear Disarmament • Environmental Protection • Social Justice • Economic Sustainability

Some highlights of the Study Group's 2024 work (as of today, December 10)

We have done a tremendous amount of work this year, much of it in the public domain and reflected in (and/or linked from) our *Bulletins*, *Press Releases*, and activist *Letters*, all of which are available at lasg.org. You will find more at our "pit page" (https://lasg.org/MPF2/first_page.html) and its subsidiary pages. Most of this work provides information, perspectives, analysis not available elsewhere either in the state or nationally.

Another large portion of our work is necessarily done behind the scenes, e.g. helping journalists frame and research stories, meeting with professional staff in Congress and the Executive, and collaborating with other analysts, organizations, tribal leaders, and local officials.

In 2024 the Study Group took four roughly week-long trips to Washington to meet with various nuclear decisionmakers. One of these trips included a South Carolina leg, where we gave a well-received public talk on pit production before the South Carolina Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council, which had invited us to speak. Needless to say, a lot of background work goes into these meetings. Officials meet with us because our analysis and information is helpful to them. We also learn from them – it's very much a two-way street.

As a service to the public and the government we post key developments in nuclear weapons modernization at <https://lasg.org/Modernization/Modernization.html>. We also curate an annotated running history of the Ukraine war, a central barrier to nuclear arms control and disarmament, at <https://lasg.org/Ukraine/Ukraine.html>.

In addition, throughout the year the Study Group conducted an extensive series of in-person and virtual public educational events, as well as various other types of public engagement, along with numerous volunteer meetings. We have in the process maintained, educated, and grown public opposition to nuclear weapons in New Mexico.

In quantitative terms, the Los Alamos Study Group led (or helped mobilize for) at least 22 public events in 2024 concerning pit production, the proposed Caja Del Rio transmission line, Russophobia, the new nuclear arms race with Russia and China, U.S. nuclear rearmament, and the U.S.-led NATO war in Ukraine. Guest speakers at these events included international legal scholar Francis Boyle, former senior CIA analyst Ray McGovern, nuclear historian and commentator Peter Kuznick, and our board member Steven Starr, long-time nuclear expert and recently, author of *Nuclear High-Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse*.

We also conducted a number of virtual seminars this year on aspects of nuclear modernization.

The Study Group won two lawsuits over information and transparency, one in federal court in Washington and one in New Mexico district court. Just this month, the Study Group successfully injected crucial information, otherwise absent, in a South Carolina federal court case brought for the purpose of concentrating all pit production at LANL.

Thanks to volunteers and staff work, the number of endorsers of the "Call for Sanity, not Nuclear Production" roughly doubled in the past year. This is just the beginning.

Starting near the end of 2023 and continuing into the beginning of 2024, we organized an effort to pass a Santa Fe City resolution opposing industrial pit production at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. While the resolution ultimately did not pass this time around, it brought pit production into greater public consciousness in Santa Fe and beyond. More community organizations, religious groups, and New Mexicans learned for the first time what a plutonium pit is, that a plutonium bomb factory is being built in Los Alamos, and what some of its impacts are and will be – and that this effort can and should be halted. The education and mobilizations involved in this effort helped us expand our volunteer base and were helpful in other ways, not least in building the "Call for Sanity."

As usual, we have been quoted in many news articles this year (see lasg.org). Sometimes it has been useful to comment publicly on articles after they have been written, where that is possible, as you can see on our web pages. Greg also wrote op-eds in the *Albuquerque Journal* and the *Santa Fe New Mexican*.

In March, we briefed at least a dozen local and national organizations at the “No False Solution Conference” in Las Vegas, NM, including the Pueblo Action Alliance, No False Solutions, Youth United for Climate Crises Action (YUCCA) and many more. Separately, we briefed YUCCA members on nuclear weapons issues.

Artists and Study Group supporters installed a large mural opposing the Los Alamos plutonium bomb factory and promoting the “Call for Sanity” on two high-visibility walls in Santa Fe.

A high water-mark of protest in recent years occurred at the National Nuclear Security Administration’s (NNSA’s) Town Hall in Pojoaque, NM on July 22. For this event the Study Group mobilized hundreds of people from localities across New Mexico to express their opposition to pit production at LANL.

In November, we organized and filmed a panel discussion on pit production at the National Press Club in Washington featuring Greg, the NNSA Administrator, the GAO director whose team reviews NNSA programs, and the Heritage Foundation, moderated by Exchange Monitor Publications. Attendees included staff at the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, the Arms Control Association, GAO, and the official Russian news agency TASS.

Also in November, we testified before the Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee of the NM legislature.

In October we initiated what we hope will be a continuing series of public events at the well-equipped and strategically-located SALA Event Center in Los Alamos. We have excellent relations with a number of well-known analysts and commentators.

Our double-page ads in the *Santa Fe Reporter* reached tens of thousands of people, complementing our on-the-ground organizing, events, analysis, and other media work.



Hundreds mobilized to speak out against pit production at the NNSA Town Hall in Pojoaque, NM. July 22, 2024



Greg briefing South Carolina's Governor's Nuclear Advisory Council. Oct. 18, 2024



One of many mobilizations to Santa Fe City Council to make public comment in support of the resolution opposing pit production. Jan. 2024

Renowned experts speak on LASG-organized panels throughout 2024:



Ray McGovern



Francis Boyle



Peter Kuznick



Panel discussion in D.C. of U.S. nuclear warhead core ("pit") production moderated by Dan Leone, Exchange Monitor Editor featuring Robert Peters of the Heritage Foundation, Greg Mello, Allison Bawden of the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and NNSA Administrator Hruby. Nov. 13, 2024



Anti-war tour of the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History. Feb. 26, 2024



Protest against nuclear rearmament at the University of New Mexico where State Dept. officials, a former NATO official, current and former Lab Directors and former Secretaries of State made their case for nuclear rearmament at a forum. Sept. 7, 2024

Ben Hampton speaks at a Pit Production community briefing in Los Alamos. Oct. 24, 2024