

NUCLEAR WATCH NEW MEXICO

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Santa Fe Mayor Calls to Not Allow the Creation of a Permanent Nuclear Waste Dump at Los Alamos

Santa Fe, NM - Nuclear Watch New Mexico applauds the demand by the Mayor of Santa Fe that the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) not rule out alternatives to their so-called "cleanup" plan for Area G, the Lab's largest radioactive waste dump. LANL plans to "cap and cover" and permanently leave one million cubic meters of radioactive and hazardous wastes buried forever.

Mayor David Coss will ask the Santa Fe City Council to approve his resolution to seek real cleanup alternatives at their December 11th meeting. Mayor Coss is also chairman of the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities that lobbies Congress for increased Lab funding. Yesterday he introduced his resolution to the Regional Coalition as well.

LANL is relying on their own outrageous estimate of \$29 billion for removal of the waste at Area G as a rationale to leave the waste in place. Nuclear Watch has performed a cost comparison that compares the Lab's estimate on a recent cleanup actually performed by the Lab and also to another Laboratory estimate. Our cost comparison shows that removal of the waste could actually cost less than \$6 billion. The Lab's preference is to cap and cover and leave the waste in place at Area G.

Scott Kovac, NukeWatch Program Director, commented, "LANL should quit paying games that cap and cover somehow represents genuine cleanup. For the same price as 5 years' worth of nuclear weapons work that caused this mess to begin with, Area G could be fully cleaned up. I echo the Mayor's words that this could be real win-win for New Mexicans, permanently protecting groundwater and the Rio Grande while creating hundreds of long-term high-paying jobs. I call on other local governments and everyone to pick up the Santa Fe Mayor's challenge."
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Read the Santa Fe Mayor's press release here

http://www.nukewatch.org/importantdocs/resources/AreaG_SFCity_PR_11-8-13.pdf

Read the Santa Fe City Resolution here

http://www.nukewatch.org/importantdocs/resources/TA-54_Area_G_Final.pdf

Read Nuclear Watch's cost comparison here and Area G fact sheet here

http://www.nukewatch.org/facts/nwd/Area_G_Comparison_Costs-11-14-12.pdf