

PRESS ADVISORY  
October 19, 2019

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety  
Joni Arends, Executive Director – 505 986-1973  
[jarends@nuclearactive.org](mailto:jarends@nuclearactive.org)

**Climate Crisis, Disarmament and Nuclear Safety Activists Join to  
Count the Nuclear Weapons Money  
October 24 – 30, 2019**

**Four New Mexico Events Planned in Taos, Santa Fe, Socorro, and Los Alamos**

*New Mexico receives 36% of the \$12.5 billion U.S. nuclear weapons budget – or about \$4.5 billion in Fiscal Year 2019. The FY 2020 proposed budget is about the same.*

In less than six days, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS) will join together with other peace, disarmament, climate and social justice activists across New Mexico to count out \$13 billion in 13,000 mock bills of one million dollar face value. This is roughly the amount of money proposed for investment over the next ten years for expanded plutonium pit production at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico. Four counting events are planned for New Mexico in Taos, Santa Fe, Socorro, and Los Alamos.

Beginning on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> during the United Nations Disarmament Week (October 24 – 30), the New Mexico events will coincide with the international **Count the Nuclear Weapons Money** action centered in New York—\$1 trillion in one million dollar bills—the global nuclear weapons budget for the next 10 years—and urge reallocation of this taxpayer money to climate protection, just transitions, and sustainable development goals rather than the threat of nuclear annihilation. The scale of the counting will be profound in terms of time, the number of bills, the number of people counting the money by hand, and the impact of seeing people around the world counting the money. Interviews and portions of the events will be streamed so people can learn what benefits this money could bring if re-directed to climate protection, just transitions, and sustainable development goals. <http://www.nuclearweaponsmoney.org/>

**Volunteers are needed to Count the Nuclear Weapons Money!** To sign up, email [ccns@nuclearactive.org](mailto:ccns@nuclearactive.org) or call 505 986-1973.

The campaign is building excitement among youth, elected officials, climate activists, religious leaders, peace and disarmament campaigners, artists, musicians, athletes, and others.

## **NEW MEXICO SCHEDULE**

### **THURSDAY, OCT. 24<sup>TH</sup> on the TAOS PLAZA from 3 to 5 pm – INTERVIEWS & PORTIONS OF THE EVENT WILL BE STREAMED**

Opening Ceremony in New Mexico to coincide with the Opening Ceremony in New York City.

For more information and to volunteer, contact Suzie at (575) 770-2629 or [eotos@gmail.com](mailto:eotos@gmail.com)

### **FRIDAY, OCT. 25<sup>TH</sup> in SANTA FE at the NM State Capitol (Roundhouse) from noon to 2 pm [noon to 1 pm in the Rotunda; noon to 2 on the East Concourse] - INTERVIEWS & PORTIONS OF THE EVENT WILL BE STREAMED**

With co-sponsors, Fridays for Future and Youth United for Climate Crisis Action (YUCCA), we will bring attention to the two existential threats – the climate crisis and nuclear weapons - and the need for Just Transitions from both – with no more sacrifice zones. We will present a letter to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.

For more information and to volunteer to count the money, contact Joni Arends at CCNS at (505) 986-1973 or [ccns@nuclearactive.org](mailto:ccns@nuclearactive.org).

**SATURDAY, OCT. 26<sup>TH</sup> in the SOCORRO PLAZA GAZEBO from 2 to 4 pm** before the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium Candlelight Vigil to acknowledge those harmed by overexposure to radiation from the July 16, 1945 Trinity atomic bomb test. We'll count the \$2.4 billion paid in Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) claims since 2000 – which have not included the Trinity Downwinders.

<https://www.justice.gov/civil/awards-date-10112019>

**INTERVIEWS & PORTIONS OF THE EVENT WILL BE STREAMED** - For more information, contact Joni Arends at CCNS at (505) 986-1973 or [ccns@nuclearactive.org](mailto:ccns@nuclearactive.org).

### **MONDAY, OCT. 28<sup>TH</sup> in Los Alamos from 2:30 to 4:30 pm - INTERVIEWS & PORTIONS OF THE EVENT WILL BE STREAMED by AVAILABLE MEDIA.**

Los Alamos National Laboratory is the only U.S. facility capable of manufacturing plutonium triggers (or “pits”) for nuclear weapons. The Department of Energy proposes to invest \$13 billion at LANL in the next 10 years to modernize existing facility and build new ones. They propose to build a bridge across the Rio Grande to provide a more direct route between Santa Fe and Los Alamos.

For more information and to volunteer to count the money, contact Joni Arends, CCNS, at 505 986-1973 or [ccns@nuclearactive.org](mailto:ccns@nuclearactive.org).

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST A COUNTING EVENT?**

The New Mexico organizers will provide the bills to count, along with flyers, banners, an audio of “Money” by Pink Floyd, and a press release. You would organize volunteers for a two-hour event to count the money. It is suggested that a minimum of eight volunteers, in pairs of two – each pair counting for a half hour. It is estimated that in a half hour, approximately 2,500 one million bills could be counted, or \$2,500,000,000, or \$2.5 billion. It would be an added bonus if you could film your event for streaming and editing.

# # #