



**TOWN OF TAOS, NEW MEXICO
&
TAOS COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
JOINT RESOLUTION
Town of Taos Resolution No. 08-24
Taos County Resolution No. 08-27**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF TAOS AND TAOS COUNTY
OBJECTING TO PROPOSED NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX
“TRANSFORMATION” ACTIVITIES AT THE LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL
LABORATORY, INCLUDING EXPANDED PLUTONIUM PIT PRODUCTION.**

WHEREAS, the National Nuclear Security Administration, (NNSA), the Department of Energy’s semi-autonomous nuclear weapons agency, has released a draft *Complex Transformation Supplement Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* in order to implement its plans to transform its nuclear weapons complex, including the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL); and

WHEREAS, planned “transformation” of the nuclear weapons complex will expand nuclear weapons activities across the nation, most particularly at LANL; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons activities at Los Alamos were previously expanded in 1999, but now LANL has been designated the nation’s permanent production center for up to 80 plutonium pits per year, with related increases in hazardous and radioactive wastes; and

WHEREAS, plutonium pits are used as the “triggers” for weapons of mass destruction and plutonium creates health and environmental hazards; and

WHEREAS, the governing bodies of the Town of Taos and Taos County do not support the creation of further health and environmental hazards related to nuclear weapons for the citizens of Northern New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, independent experts have found that plutonium pits have reliable lifetimes of a century or more, thus making production unnecessary to begin with; and

WHEREAS, the new Nuclear Posture Reviewed by a new president could have impacts on the nuclear weapons complex and LANL, significantly different from the old Review; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2008 Taos County sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration requesting that public hearings be held in Taos County regarding the proposal that Los Alamos National Laboratory serve as the nation's center for plutonium manufacturing for the united States' nuclear arsenal as hearing had been held in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, and Espanola, attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, public hearings in Taos County are necessary to inform the public to allow proponents and opponents of the proposal to make presentations to the Department of Energy prior to any decision being made; and

WHEREAS, a letter was received by Taos County on March 17, 2008 from The National Nuclear Security Administration stating that no additional hearings were to be conducted, attached hereto as Exhibit B; and

WHEREAS, because the National Nuclear Security Administration was unwilling to hold additional public hearings to address the concerns of Taos County and its citizens, the respective governing bodies therefore felt it was necessary to pass this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Town of Taos and Taos County that the governing bodies do hereby state their objection to NNSA's draft *Complex Transformation Supplement Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement* and resolve that it be withdrawn until after the 2009 Nuclear Posture Review.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing bodies do hereby state their objection to the expansion of nuclear weapons activities at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, including further increased plutonium pit production.

RESOLVED THIS 30th DAY OF APRIL, 2008 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

(SIGNATURE PAGES TO FOLLOW)

TOWN OF TAOS

Councilmember Rudy Abeyta

Councilmember Darren Cordova

Councilmember Gene Sanchez

Councilmember Amy Quintana

Bobby F. Duran, Mayor

ATTEST:

Renee Lucero, Town Clerk

Approved as to legal form:

Renee Barela-Gutierrez, Town Attorney

**TAOS COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS:**

Attest:

Charlie I. Gonzales, Chairman

Elaine S. Montañó,
Taos County Clerk

Daniel R. Barrone, Vice Chairman

Approved as to form:

Gabriel J. Romero, Commissioner

Sammy L. Pacheco,
Taos County Attorney

Nicklos E. Jaramillo, Commissioner

Joe M. Duran, Commissioner