

Jean Stevens

The Cerro Grande Fire and the Las Conchas Fire came dangerously close to the LANL. I live about 45 miles downwind from LANL in Ranchos de Taos. In 2000 I was unable to evacuate due to a full time teaching job. However, I was told, about 18 years later by a fire personnel, while attending a Colorado film festival, how she had grave concerns since she witnessed ground explosions of legacy waste being ignited.

During the Los Conchas Fire, in 2011, a nationally syndicated radio program broadcast a Columbia University physicist professor's report of between 20,00-30,000 barrels of low grade plutonium waste stored under tents in Area G. I decided to evacuate to Colorado with my elderly mother. I wondered if Taos would become a "no live zone" due to plutonium contamination. Holy Cross Hospital had a Geiger counter installed at their premises but was told later it could not detect plutonium. The Las Conchas Fire came within 3.5 miles of Area G.

It is of utmost urgency that all transportable nuclear waste be transported to WIPP immediately! NM is currently in one of the worst droughts on record. How long can our luck last?

As a result of the published 2024 research of high level persistent waste in the region (NewsNation), I am considering my options and may need to leave New Mexico as a result of the continued risk with more plutonium waste being manufactured at LANL during the plutonium pit modernization over the next decade.

The only solution is to retrofit LANL for experts on plutonium and nuclear waste clean—up. Then make the #1 national security mission at LANL to hire workers, environmental or climate change engineers and scientists to solve the problem of climate change and development of resources for global sustainable agriculture, hospitals, schools, disease/pandemic prevention and biodiversity sustainability globally.

In accordance with many Nobel Prize winners to abolish all nuke weapons from our planet so there is a future of a sustainable and healthy life of generations to come on our precious planet. There would not be a need for nuclear waste if the world nations outlawed all things nuclear such as atomic bombs and nuclear power plants which create huge amounts of nuclear waste.

The solution is wind, solar and other sustainable power generators for the future survival of all biodiversity on this planet.