

CMRR—Chemical Metallurgy Research and Replacement (Nuclear Facility)

Beata Tsosie-Peña

Chemical. Chem-ic-cals by the hundreds, chemical dirt, chemicals in our air, chemicals in plants we pick, chemical warfare, chemical incendiaries, chemical endangerment of health and well-being for all life that exists here, chem-i-kill waste dumps, chemical explosives, chemicals in our environment that cancels out true chemistry of love and compassion for life here, chemicals created by Man that end up somewhere they are not wanted, chemicals accumulating in our cells, chemicals not wanted up here on our mountains, chemicals not wanted where they can enter, delicate bodies and ecologies.

Metallurgy. Metal-lurgy, metal clergy, metallic luster of shiny encased plutonium triggers, metallurgy wrapped in chemical warfare, embrace of perverse creation whose mission is destruction, metal orgy of science and technology, with no caresses saved for morals or values, only metallurgic power, metallurgical world coercion, metallurgical brilliant minds, numbed to the existence of natural law, numb to the Peoples who have yet to be looked in the eye, recognized as trying to continue existing here, as always, we were here before and after metallurgy, Native respect for volcanic molten metallurgy, that we know needs to remain sleeping beneath these fault zones.

Replacement. Re-place-ment, replace earth and ancient stone with 325,000 cubic yards of cement, Replace our clean water with contaminated existence, replace cool pools and springs with disrespect, replace the blood in our bodies with fire and cancer, replace old obsolete ideologies, with the same

old obsolete ideologies, the same intention and disregard for Peoples living here, replace common sense for profit, replace dialogue for imperial impunity, replacement of peaceful coexistence with arrogant separation, disconnection to land ensuring exploitation, continued colonization, replacement of honorable warrior societies with pollution of our shared world, brute force that comes with false perceptions, that Man is at the top of it all, replacement of land-based purity with economic dependence, exploiting the quiet resolve of workers who are not a LANL community, replace sustainability with limits of choices for decently paid employment.

Research. Re-search, searching again for militarized perfection, researching smaller, more useable bombs and bullets, no research on releases of depleted uranium devastation, that does not discriminate between soldiers or children walking through dusty war-torn streets, research that needs to transform, research coming from head people, with forgotten connections to heart and spirit, research that has the potential to benefit instead of harm, research instead, the knowledge of people who can help heal this place they are part of, research reciprocity with the land, research indigenous ancestry from across oceans, research health impacts, and state truth in ways that creates true partnerships, research how to remediate the invisibility of Native Peoples throughout this lab's history, Nations in forced proximity to military, research the priceless value of our communities, research how to enact clean up technologies, research how to heal this place for the benefit of all, keep re-searching for that place of enlightened transformation, in changing an old mission, into life-affirming work.