

# Inside the Fence: Community Tours of the Superfund Cleanup at Livermore Lab

Posted on Friday, March 6, 2020

Posted by [Marylia Kelley](#) and [Raiza Marciscano-Bettis](#)

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory will be hosting two special environmental restoration, or “Superfund,” tours in 2020 to inform the public about the status of the soil and groundwater cleanup efforts at the Lab’s Main Site in Livermore and Site 300 High Explosives Testing Range near Tracy.

**This year’s tours are scheduled for the following dates and times:**

## **Livermore Lab Main Site in Livermore**

Thursday, April 9th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## **Livermore Lab Site 300 near Tracy**

Thursday, April 16th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**A bit of logistics:** The tours will be led by the Lab’s Environmental Restoration Department and Public Affairs Office. They are free and open to U.S. citizens 18 years of age and older. Site access badges will be required. On-site transportation will be provided. Participation will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Spanish language assistance can be provided upon request.

If you would like to join a Lab Superfund tour, send an email to [tours@llnl.gov](mailto:tours@llnl.gov). You will receive information from the Lab on selecting a tour, and additional instructions in preparation for your visit. Further, Tri-Valley CAREs staff will be on the tours and can offer additional perspectives.

**A bit of background:** The Livermore Lab **Main Site** was founded in 1952 and placed on the federal EPA’s Superfund list of most contaminated sites in the country in 1987. The pollutants in soils and the groundwater aquifer include multiple chemically hazardous materials and radioactive tritium. The Superfund tour will visit on-site groundwater treatment facilities, including several areas where new technologies for remediating soils and water are being tested. The Main Site contains the majority of the Lab’s nuclear weapons development facilities, including the plutonium facility and vaults, hardened engineering test building, tritium facility, National Ignition Facility, radioactive and hazardous waste treatment facilities, and more.

The **Site 300** High Explosives Testing Range was established in 1955 to conduct open-air bomb tests with toxic and radioactive materials in service of the Lab’s nuclear weapons mission. Current operations include both contained and open-air detonations, high

explosives R & D, machining and manufacturing and waste burning and storage. Site 300 as placed on the federal EPA's Superfund list in 1990. The Superfund tour will include views of unlined toxic and radioactive waste pits, a visit to at least one of the open-air firing tables, and some of the groundwater treatment equipment in use.

Both Lab sites have hazardous pollutants that have migrated off-site in the groundwater, and both sites are cleaning on-site and off-site contaminate plumes pursuant to the Superfund law.

On the tours, you will see that much has been accomplished since both sites' inclusion on the Superfund list – and you will see, too, that there is much still to be done at both locations. Important decisions, including the final cleanup level, have yet to be made at some of these areas. Community input will be key to ensuring a positive outcome.

[Clic aquí](#) para leer en español.

