

# The Bombplex: What you need to know about RRW

- RRW stands for Reliable Replacement Warhead.
- RRW is a series of new nuclear weapons.
- “Complex Transformation” will create the infrastructure to produce RRWs.
- The first RRW is being designed by Livermore Lab.

## The Importance of RRW

Here are three basic options for the future of our nuclear weapons:

### Curatorship

*What Tri-Valley CAREs proposes.*

DOE would rely on surveillance and nonnuclear testing to determine when repairs are necessary. Only if there is compelling evidence that parts have degraded or will soon degrade, and could cause a significant loss of safety, reliability, or performance, would DOE replace the affected parts with new ones matching as closely as possible to the original.

### Stockpile Stewardship & the Life Extension Program

*Current Policy.*

Every year the nuclear weapons labs are involved in certifying the reliability of the arsenal. Stockpile Stewardship does more than just certify the weapons, it also actively tinkers with them, replacing and upgrading parts on a continuous basis. Many of these changes are to “improve” military capabilities.

### Complex Transformation & RRW

*What the DOE wants to move to.*

In this scenario the weapons labs would design new nukes every 5 years and build 125 new bombs each year. Essentially, DOE wants to redesign and replace every nuclear weapon type in the arsenal. This would lock us into having nuclear weapons for untold decades.

RRW moves us in the wrong direction. The DOE repeatedly talks about RRW as the enabler for “Complex Transformation”. So, RRW isn’t just about a few new bombs, it’s about being locked into a whole new future where creating new nukes is the status quo. We could be moving the other direction: towards disarmament.

## New Nukes are a Bad Idea

1. They increase the risk of global nuclear proliferation and makes us all less, not more, secure.
2. They violate international law, specifically Article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
3. They endanger the environment by continuing to contaminate sites and nearby communities, including here in Livermore.
4. They divert hundreds of billions of dollars and the focus of scientists from solving truly pressing problems such as global climate change and the need for alternative energy.

## Reliability is Not the Issue

DOE claims that we need these new nukes because we can’t be certain the old ones will remain reliable. By reliable they don’t mean that they will go off unexpectedly. They mean the explosion won’t be as big or go off exactly as the designers certified. The part of the bomb that DOE claims it's afraid won’t live up to expectations is the “pit” – that’s the core of plutonium that sits in the bomb. However, a study of DOE’s own data by the group of scientists called JASON came out and said that the pits are good to go for at least 100 years and maybe even longer. Furthermore, DOE plans on producing these new weapons without full scale tests. It is not clear that we can be certain of the reliability of these new weapons without such testing. Furthermore, a recent JASON study has found that the first RRW, currently being designed, may not be certifiable as it stands but may require full scale underground nuclear test.