

FACT SHEET:

THE "COMPLEX 2030" PLAN TO MAKE NEW PLUTONIUM PITS AND BUILD NEW BOMBS

The Department of Energy (DOE) has published a formal "Notice of Intent" to massively reorganize the nuclear weapons complex at eight locations across the country, including here at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The DOE calls its plan "Complex 2030."

What is "Complex 2030"?

Planning documents reveal that the DOE intends to embark on a dangerous quest to revitalize nuclear weapons production capability similar to what existed during the worst years of the Cold War. Under the "Complex 2030" plan, DOE would proceed full-speed-ahead with the controversial, euphemistically-named "Reliable Replacement Warhead" program to manufacture hundreds of new plutonium bomb cores and create 125 new nuclear weapons per year.

In Congressional testimony, DOE's Tom D'Agostino said: "We [DOE] seek an ability to design, develop, certify and begin production of refurbished or replacement warheads within 48 months of a decision to begin engineering development -- these timelines would restore us to a level of capability comparable to what we had during the Cold War." Simply put, "Complex 2030" means building whole new nuclear weapons plants in order to develop and produce new nukes.

What are Some of the Problems?

The estimated price tag for "Complex 2030" starts at \$150 billion, and may easily run double that amount. This is money that could otherwise be spent on sustainable energy research at Livermore Lab and on cleaning up the radioactive and toxic mess (at Livermore Lab and elsewhere) created by DOE's past nuclear weapons activities. The true cost of "Complex 2030" goes beyond money, however, and includes a new generation of workers made ill by on the job exposures and new contamination in communities around the "refurbished" nuclear weapons complex.

Independent scientists, nuclear policy analysts and peace and environmental advocates call the plan "Bombplex 2030," and point out that it will weaken compliance with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and devastate U.S. non-proliferation goals. "Do as I say and not as I do" is not a viable U.S. foreign policy, and DOE's plan will dramatically increase the global nuclear danger. A new "Bombplex" makes our country and our communities **less**, not more, safe and secure.

What is the Public's Role?

Before DOE can proceed with "Complex 2030," it must produce an environmental analysis pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The law says that the public must have opportunities to comment, and that the government must respond to all comments in a written document. The public hearings on December 12 in Livermore and Tracy are the beginning of that process. They are called "scoping." Scoping means that we, the public, are being asked what issues the DOE should examine. Your participation at this time is crucial. If you don't bring up the issues that concern you, the DOE will not be obligated to address them.

Come to a hearing and tell DOE that new nuclear weapons are polluting, expensive, immoral, proliferation-provocative and contrary to our disarmament obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Tell DOE that you support removing the plutonium from Livermore Lab to store it at a more secure location, and that this can be done sooner than 2014 (the date DOE proposes). Point out that DOE's "Complex 2030" plan envisions moving Livermore's plutonium around the country twice -- and

that this is not necessary. Tell DOE you support plans to dismantle nuclear weapons. Tell DOE you want the government to clean up the mess it created with Cold War-era weapons production and to compensate its sick workers, not repeat the fiasco. Tell DOE that bringing live anthrax and Ebola to the Lab's Site 300 is not a good idea. Speak about your positive vision for the year 2030. What do you want to see happen instead of new nukes, bio-warfare agents and pollution?

What Can I Do?

1. Attend one of the public hearings and voice your concerns. Tri-Valley CAREs will staff an information table at both hearings, and we will be happy to answer questions and to assist you in understanding the issues and the hearing process.

2. Send written comments by email to <complex2030@nnsa.doe.gov>. The public comment deadline for the "scoping" process ends in January 2007. The DOE then plans to release a draft environmental review of the proposal in summer 2007. Stay tuned! There will be a second comment period in the summer/fall of 2007.

3. Visit Tri-Valley CAREs' web site. At www.trivalleycares.org, you will find lots of material to help you, including our monthly newsletter and our comprehensive report, "The Reliable Replacement Warhead Program: A Slippery Slope to New Nuclear Weapons."

You will also find numerous articles in Tri-Valley CAREs' monthly newsletter, Citizen's Watch, on Complex 2030 and the DOE's Reliable Replacement Warhead program.