

Tri-Valley CAREs

Communities Against a Radioactive Environment

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*Peace Justice Environment
since 1983*

Tri-Valley CAREs 2010 Accomplishments

1. Together with some colleague organizations, Tri-Valley CAREs got accountability language in the Defense Authorization Bill that requires Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to justify projects and Life Extension Programs. This could have a long term impact in the ability of DOE NNSA to receive their full requested funding.
2. Superfund achievements including
 - a. Pressing Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to come up with an environmentally acceptable plan for the offsite plume,
 - b. Actively involved community members in the decision (held a community meeting, pressed LLNL to hold a public meeting,
 - c. Launched Superfund petition to show community support for fully funding clean up activities at Livermore Lab.
3. After years of organizing local opposition to speak out against the dangers of continued experimenting at LLNL using highly radioactive materials in such close proximity to a highly populated region, the DOE NNSA announced that it would remove all of the Special Nuclear Material (SNM) out of LLNL by 2012. This year DOE NNSA announced that it has removed 80% of the SNM. We continue to advocate that this material never be used again in the nuclear weapons program.
4. Tri-Valley CAREs members' published numerous Letters to the Editor in local and regional news sources to support the positive aspects of the New START treaty with Russia while making clear their opposition to increased funding for "modernization" of our nuclear weapons.
5. Tri-Valley CAREs learned that LLNL was fined by the DOE Office of Health Safety and Security due to repeated Beryllium exposures to Lab employees. Tri-Valley CAREs broke the story to the media and it was covered by major news sources.
6. Our activities on behalf of Livermore and other DOE site workers made ill by on the job exposures celebrated when the federal radiation advisory committee voted unanimously in favor of expanding "Special Exposure Cohort" status to an additional class of Livermore Lab workers. The SEC will ease the burden of proof for many ill workers and allow them and their families to obtain the compensation they deserve. Working closely with Congress on this issue, we were able to ensure a quick passage into law for the Livermore Lab SEC.
7. Tri-Valley CAREs reached a favorable settlement in its litigation against the Department of Energy for violations of the Freedom of Information Act that it filed in 2008. A new major FOIA suit was filed in December.

8. Tri-Valley CAREs continued to challenge the poor environmental review of LLNL's Biological Safety Level-3 Facility by appealing a bad lower court decision.
9. Tri-Valley CAREs exposed illegal cost accounting practices at LLNL that result in increased funding for the National Ignition Facility.
10. Tri-Valley CAREs brought community and youth voices to Washington DC in March 2010 to meet with congressional and agency officials.
11. Tri-Valley CAREs, along with colleague groups, coordinated about 250 peace activists to demonstrate outside Livermore Lab on the 65th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.
12. Tri-Valley Cares sent its Executive Director Maylia Kelley and longtime member Joanne Dean-Freemire to participate as a non-governmental organization in the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the UN in New York.
13. Tri-Valley CAREs mobilized hundreds to attend local showings of a documentary film about nuclear disarmament called "Countdown to Zero," in downtown Berkeley, at UC Berkeley, in San Francisco and in Livermore. We also led discussions about the issues presented in the film afterwards.
14. Tri-Valley CAREs along with colleague groups organized a "National Week of Action to Cut the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Budget" to mobilize individuals around the country to call their representatives to demand that cuts be made to bloated nuclear weapons budget.
15. Tri-Valley CAREs along with colleague groups organized a "Nuclear Abolition Day Demonstration at Bechtel Headquarters" in San Francisco. Dozens of demonstrators marched around the building and brought attention to Bechtel Corporation's profiteering from the war in Iraq and its management of nearly every aspect of the nuclear weapons cycle.
16. Tri-Valley CAREs' Staff Attorney Scott Yundt was invited to the first National Conference of Sick Worker Advocates in Washington DC. He gave a lobbying training to prepare participants to meet with their representatives and met with a dozen congressional offices to advocate for improvements to the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act.
17. Tri-Valley CAREs successfully participated in the annual Livermore Rodeo Parade where our float focused on the dangers of radiation and reached many new members of the community.
18. Tri-Valley CAREs published an analysis by Robert Civiak, physicist and former Budget Examiner at the White House Office of Management and Budget, detailing the increases in the Fiscal Year 2011 budget request for nuclear weapons activities. The report included recommendations to Congress for cutting the budget and was distributed widely to congressional offices during DC days.
19. Tri-Valley CAREs met with the Defence Nuclear Facilities Safety Board to discuss security and worker safety issues at LLNL.
20. Tri-Valley CAREs met with and received a briefing from the NNSA Livermore site Office Manager and key LLNL and Sandia staff regarding the Livermore Valley Open Campus plan.
21. Tri-Valley CAREs' Marylia Kelley and Jay Coghlan of Nuclear Watch New Mexico co-presented at a 2-day workshop October 28-29 in Washington, DC. The workshop focused on the elimination of nuclear weapons in the U.S. It was hosted by Robert Alvarez, a former Senate and DOE staffer and a senior

scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies. Kelley and Coghlan' presentation addressed the proposed "modernization" of the U.S. nuclear weapons complex and arsenal as well as possible strategic paths forward toward disarmament amidst the complexities of the Obama Administration and current Congress.

22. Tri-Valley CAREs submitted scoping comments on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement- Nuclear Facility (CMRR) at Los Alamos National Laboratory to urge the project be scaled back and/or reimagined entirely.
23. Tri-Valley CAREs submitted comments on the DRAFT Focused Feasibility Study of Methods to Minimize Mixed Hazardous and Low Level Radioactive Waste from Soil Vapor and Ground Water Treatment Facilities at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Livermore Site.
24. Tri-Valley CAREs submitted comments on the TFA West Restoration Project, i.e. Livermore Lab's plan to deal with the leading edge of the contaminated groundwater plume.
25. Tri-Valley CAREs submitted comments on the Draft Tank Closure & Waste Management Environmental Impact Statement (TCWMEIS) for the Hanford Nuclear Reservation urging the highest clean up standards be utilized.
26. Tri-Valley CAREs submitted comments on the Draft Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement for the Y-12 facility in Oak Ridge Tennessee urging the DOE to scale back the Uranium Process Facility and examine more reasonable alternatives for the project.
27. Tri-Valley CAREs' Executive Director, Marylia Kelley, was invited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to participate in a national "Federal Facilities Cleanup Dialogue" aimed at improving the openness and quality of cleanup programs at contaminated facilities owned by the Departments of Energy and Defense.
28. A report by the International Panel on Fissile Material (IPFM) entitled, "Country Perspectives on the Challenges to Nuclear Disarmament" examined disarmament from the perspective of various countries. For the section on disarmament and the United States, the report relies on the 2009 report about consolidation of the U.S. nuclear-weapon design and production infrastructure as the nuclear weapons arsenal is sharply reduced, prepared by the non-governmental Nuclear Weapons Complex Consolidation Policy Network (which includes Tri-Valley CAREs).
29. Tri-Valley CAREs' advocacy work in DC resulted in local Congressional Representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives John Garamendi, Jerry McNerney, Barbara Lee, and George Miller co-authored a letter to Energy Secretary Chu requesting that ARRA funding (aka "stimulus funds") be allocated to jump start some very important stalled clean-up projects at Lawrence Livermore and Lawrence Berkeley Labs.