

Tri-Valley CAREs

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Newswire

Cost Concerns Could Prompt New Look at Warhead Modernization Plan

Friday, October 25, 2013

By Douglas P. Guarino

WASHINGTON -- The Obama administration might reconsider a potentially costly plan to upgrade certain nuclear warheads because of increasing budget constraints and skepticism from lawmakers and some military officials, congressional aides and other observers say...

[T]he Energy Department earlier this year introduced a 25-year plan ... creating interoperable warheads capable of multiple tasks...

In a September 2012 memo to the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Council -- an interagency organization of the Energy and Defense Departments -- the Navy said it did **not** support entering into the next phase of study related to developing a combined W78/W88 life extension program "at this time." It suggests "delaying this study effort until the mid 2020s."

The memo, **obtained by the Livermore, Calif.-based watchdog group Tri-Valley CAREs** and Nuclear Watch New Mexico, noted the Navy is not even scheduled to start planning for the W88 refurbishment until fiscal 2020...

Some watchdog groups, meanwhile, argue that developing the interoperable warheads is tantamount to the United States developing new nuclear weapons.

As far as the W88 warhead goes, a December 2012 memo by the Nuclear Weapons Council suggests that, in addition to looking at the possibility of a replacement interoperable with the W78, it will develop a life extension option "based on the current design." However, language in the memo stating that "surety enhancements will be considered objective requirements for this option," is causing concern among activists that the study will not truly consider a simple refurbishment of the existing weapon.

The surety enhancements "may lead to two designs of which neither is the narrowly-scoped refurbishment necessary for maintenance of the stockpile," said Marylia Kelley, executive director of Tri-Valley CAREs. "That said, new budget realities are just beginning to impact NNSA planning, and I do expect that some internal pressure will come to bear."...

4 Ways to Donate to Tri-Valley CAREs

1. **Send in your check today** - Why put off until tomorrow the great activism you can support today?
2. **Donate on-line at www.trivalleycares.org** - We have a secure on-line system set up with *Network for Good*. Visit our website and use it to make a one-time contribution or to set up a regular giving program.
3. **Make a gift of stock** - Donating stock can bring you significant tax benefits. We have an *E-trade* account and can process your donation simply and easily.
4. **Make a bequest** - Include Tri-Valley CAREs in your will. The Dept. of Energy is going to leave a lasting toxic legacy. Will you leave a positive legacy so that we can continue the struggle?

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

Publishes Tri-Valley CAREs' member Alison Forrest's Letter to the Editor, October 15, 2013

Public's input needed on lab site cleanup

Lawrence Livermore Lab's high explosives testing facility, Site 300, ... has experimented with open-air blasts with high explosives and multiple toxic and radioactive materials used in nuclear weapons... The groundwater, soil, and some springs there have become polluted with a mixture of solvents, metals, radionuclides and other hazardous substances.

The cleanup includes many of Site 300's open-air firing tables. At one of them, Building 812, soil samples revealed uranium contamination at a concentration of 22,700 picocuries per gram, which is huge.

However... the legally-mandated public hearing may be delayed until 2015. The lab should hold a public workshop this year to get our input.

Come Celebrate With Us!

At our very special 30th Anniversary Party we will debut a short documentary film about Tri-Valley CAREs and release a cookbook compiled from some of our members' favorite recipes. There will also be delicious food and drinks, an inspiring program and great company. You are invited. We hope you can join us! RSVP (925) 443-7148

What: Tri-Valley CAREs 30th Anniversary Party
When: Tuesday, December 10th from 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Where: Livermore Public Library
Community Rooms A & B
1188 S. Livermore Ave.



Jo Ann Frisch is "Cooking Up Peace"...

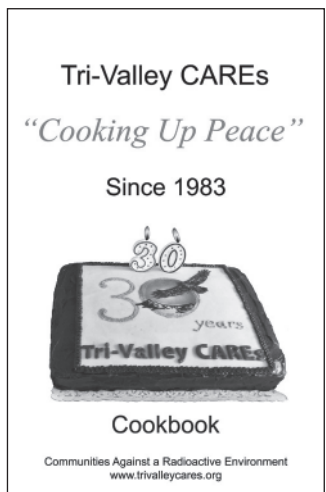


I'm Jo Ann Frisch and I've been a major supporter of Tri-Valley CAREs for the past 25 years. I joined the group in 1988 to stop the construction of a radioactive waste incinerator at Livermore Lab. Tri-Valley CAREs' wonderful qualities of openness, inclusiveness and dedication to promoting peace, justice and the environment have kept me hooked ever since.

Now, I'm on the board of directors. I am also a regular donor, and I invite you to join me in ensuring Tri-Valley CAREs' future.

For our 30th Anniversary, I am compiling a special cookbook with many of the delicious recipes our members have made for potluck events over the years. Some of you will remember these dishes! Now, all of you can enjoy them.

I'll have copies of "Cooking up Peace" at our Anniversary celebration December 10th. Our member-chefs will have some of the dishes from the cookbook there for you to sample, including the cake shown on the cover. I hope to see you there!



Haleh Hatami Says...

"Tri-Valley CAREs exemplifies what's best about America and what it means to contribute to America's common prosperity. Shine light on the problem, convene citizens and experts, find common purpose - politics aside, engage decision-makers. At a time when "innovation" is a buzzword, I am reminded that change happens over the long-haul, through hard, strategic work, and unbending commitment to defending democratic principles. I wanted to capture a flash of that." - Haleh Hatami, Professional videographer and producer of the short film about Tri-Valley CAREs that will debut at our 30th Anniversary Party.

