

Citizen's Watch



Thank You to Our Supporters!

As 2015 comes to a close, I want to take a moment to say THANK YOU to the individuals and foundations that have supported us throughout the year.

It is our donors who have collectively enabled our work for peace, justice and environmental security. To each of you, I offer my deep appreciation.

I am happy to say that more than **900** of you have responded to our fundraising efforts this year with gifts ranging from a few dollars to \$10,000. Every contribution makes a difference to us. It is because you care that we are able to celebrate another year of monitoring Livermore Lab, stopping nuclear weapons development and holding our government's feet to the fire.

In this newsletter, you will find evidence of some of our recent victories. Please know that your participation in Tri-Valley CAREs has played an important role in each of them.

I would like to call out two major donor "angels" who were able to help at the \$10,000 level: The **Helen and Raj Desai family** and **Gary Gwilliam** of Gwilliam, Ivary, Chiosso, Cavalli & Brewer. **Bravo** for your extraordinary generosity.

I want to recognize the foundations that are providing crucial support for our work to influence public policy, achieve nuclear disarmament and win cleanup of the toxic and radioactive pollution at Livermore Lab. **Thank you** Ploughshares Fund, Colombe Foundation, Patagonia Foundation, New-Land Foundation, Samuel Rubin Foundation, Janelia Foundation, and Guacamole Fund.

Tri-Valley CAREs' work also benefits from a Technical Assistance Grant from the EPA, which is used to engage our environmental scientist, Peter Strauss.

Together, these contributions publish our newsletter, produce reports, sponsor community meetings, translate materials into Spanish, host peace vigils, bring young people to Washington, keep our office open – and so much more!

As we "keep on" into the New Year, I wish you many blessings and offer gratitude from the bottom of my heart. **Onward... together!**

Peace,

Marylia Kelley
Executive Director



Poison Soil & Tainted Water

"There were open-air blasts, high explosives and numerous radioactive materials used in nuclear weapons," Gail Rieger said of Livermore Lab's Site 300. "That is really scary..."

At the October Community Meeting sponsored by Tri-Valley CAREs, Rieger recounted how she moved to Tracy with her husband and young family in 1996. It would be many years before she learned about the nearby Site 300. And, she wouldn't hear anything from the Lab, which is charged with informing the public about the contamination and cleanup being carried out under the Superfund law.

Also of concern to Rieger are the 5,500 homes slated for construction within a mile of Site 300. Will prospective owners be told about the dangers, she wondered?

The forum featured Rieger, environmental scientist Peter Strauss, EPA community involvement specialist Viola Cooper, Tri-Valley CAREs' staff attorney, Scott Yundt, and executive director, Marylia Kelley.

Strauss outlined the pollutants, ranging from radioactive tritium and uranium to volatile organic compounds and perchlorate, among others. The bomb tests and hazardous waste at Site 300 polluted "the soil, surface water, springs, and regional groundwater aquifers," he said.

Yundt discussed ongoing nuclear weapons activities at Site 300. Cooper described EPA's role in the Superfund cleanup process and encouraged the audience to become engaged over the long haul. Kelley, too, noted that the Site 300 cleanup will be multi-generational, and laid out some criteria for the public to use in determining whether the cleanup meets with their approval. **(See the enclosed sign-on Community Acceptance Criteria in English and Spanish.)**

Tracy residents came away from the forum determined to press Livermore Lab for genuine involvement in cleanup decisions. The Central Valley Business Times videotaped the event. That footage, Tri-Valley CAREs' in-depth report and other materials are available at trivalleycares.org; scroll down to October 2015.

VIDEO CONTEST

Tri-Valley CAREs' 2015 Youth Video Contest attracted a wide range of submittals with unique perspectives on our theme, "Nuclear Weapons or a Healthy Environment?" Our contributors ranged from early teens to 26. Our panel of judges had the difficult task of choosing the top three videos, however their voting resulted in a tie for third place.



Thus, our Dec. 8 holiday party premiered the four winning videos, with all four videographers present to receive their awards. First place went to Julie Lim (17) for *60 Years in the Making*; second place went to Shawn Roselius (23) for *Livermore: A Call to Action*; third place (tie) went to Joseph Rodgers (23) for *The Nuclear Diet* and to Damanpreet Singh (14) for *Livermore Lab's Nuclear Waste Reality Check*.

We encourage you to check out the videos at <http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/contest2015.html>

Irradiated

In a stellar piece of investigative journalism, McClatchy News reported that at least 33,480 former nuclear weapons workers have died of illnesses caused by on the job exposures. More than 53,000 workers have received federal compensation for nuclear related illnesses since the program began in 2000. More than twice those numbers have seen their claims denied. The workers told McClatchy, as they have told us locally, that the paperwork required to prove a claim and receive compensation is overwhelming at best and impossible at worst.

Further, McClatchy estimated that more than 186,000 workers have been exposed nationally since 2001, meaning there is a whole new generation of exposed workers likely to become tomorrow's fatalities. Tri-Valley CAREs' staff attorney, Scott Yundt, facilitates a support group for workers going through the federal compensation process.

⇒ Print Bites: All the News that Fits to Print

⇒ **NuclearZero Lawsuits.** The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) filed its appeal brief in the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court on Dec. 15. In it, the RMI argues that U.S. courts have the authority to rule on disputes involving international treaties such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Further, the brief argues that the U.S. is violating its treaty obligations to disarm. Tri-Valley CAREs filed an Amicus brief in the Ninth Circuit to bolster the RMI's arguments. A three-judge panel will be appointed to decide the U.S. case. The RMI has also brought litigation to compel the nuclear-armed states to disarm before the International Court of Justice. Stay tuned.

⇒ **Los Alamos Rebid.** The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced on Dec. 18 that the management contract for its Los Alamos Lab will not be renewed when it expires on Sept. 30, 2017. The decision to rebid the contract follows multiple safety breaches at Los Alamos, including sending waste to WIPP that leaked plutonium and shut down the dumpsite indefinitely. The current management team consists of the Univ. of CA, Bechtel Corp., Babcock & Wilcox, URS Corp., and AECOM. A nearly identical team manages Livermore Lab.

⇒ **Nukes in the Omnibus.** Congress passed a \$1.1 trillion omnibus appropriations bill in mid-Dec. to fund the government through Sept. 30, 2016. It provides \$12.5 billion for NNSA, a \$1.1 billion increase over last year's spending level. \$8.8 billion goes directly into nuclear weapons activities, a \$660 million increase over last year. New bombs and bomb plants dominate the budget, including new warhead programs that will balloon into many billions more in the coming years. The President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget request to Congress is due to be released on Feb. 1, 2016. We will keep you informed and will be using this opportunity to advocate cancellation of numerous new weapons projects, including the new Long-Range Stand Off warhead for the new cruise missile.

⇒ **"No Nukes" in the UN.** This fall, Pope Francis used his UN General Assembly address to reiterate the church's position against the possession of nuclear weapons by any state and the "urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons." Then, on Dec. 7, a series of UN General Assembly votes showed increasing momentum toward nuclear abolition. Of the 168 nations casting a vote on the "Humanitarian Pledge," to fill the "legal gap" to more effectively compel elimination of nuclear weapons, 139 (or 83%) were in favor. In a vote on the broader "Humanitarian Consequences" resolution, 144 nations affirmed. 132 nations voted in favor of the "Ethical Imperatives" resolution on nuclear disarmament. And, 138 nations voted in favor of the Open-Ended Working Group to address nuclear disarmament in a process wherein no single country would have veto power.

⇒ **3-D Printing the Bomb?** An analysis in the Fall 2015 Washington Quarterly sounds the alarm over the use of this emerging technology to produce a nuclear weapon. Also known as "additive manufacturing," the U.S. weapons labs including Livermore are heavily involved in developing 3-D printing. It has already been used to produce sophisticated parts for aircraft. While the technology is not yet mature enough to "print" an entire nuclear warhead, its future capabilities and proliferation risks must be considered today. According to the analysis, widespread adoption of 3-D printing technology will make it easier for countries to acquire nuclear weapons and more difficult for the international community to detect and stop them.

Look What We Did With Your Help...



Over the past 12 months, Tri-Valley CAREs has served as an effective "watchdog," monitoring U.S. nuclear weapons sites, particularly Livermore Lab. Our research, analysis, advocacy and public involvement activities have led to many victories. For example, Tri-Valley CAREs has:

- Continued to play a lead role scuttling the new Long-Range Stand Off warhead (also called the W80-4), slated to be developed at Livermore Lab.
- Contributed key analyses and advocacy to win a 5-year delay in the development of the "Interoperable Warhead" (also called the W78/88-1) that had been underway at Livermore Lab.
- Produced briefing papers and reports, including by writing chapters for the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability report, "*The Growing U.S. Nuclear Threat.*" Then, we used the report in more than 80 meetings with international delegates to the United Nations, members of Congress and Obama Administration officials.
- Participated in two expert panels at the UN for the NPT Review Conference, sharing unique knowledge of Livermore Lab as well as U.S. nuclear policies and budgets. Locally, three generations took part in the "Global Wave," waving goodbye to nuclear weapons from Livermore Lab, which was shown at the Review Conference.
- Collaborated with more than two-dozen groups and several hundred participants to create a powerful rally and nonviolent direct action at Livermore Lab on the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.
- Joined with the Natural Resources Defense Council to raise public awareness of the environmental and nuclear proliferation dangers of conducting plutonium experiments in the National Ignition Facility.
- Supported the Republic of the Marshall Islands' #NuclearZero litigation with "friend of the court" briefs in both the U.S. District and Ninth Circuit Courts.
- Sponsored Community Meetings in Livermore and Tracy, issued a new report on the status of the Superfund cleanup at the Livermore Lab, and catalyzed new initiatives to address the pollutants in soil and groundwater aquifers.
- Engaged with hundreds of youth during our 2015 Youth Video Contest and elicited twice as many videos submittals as in 2014.
- Organized community tours inside the classified fence at the Lab's Main Site and Site 300, giving the public a rare glimpse of the contamination and methods being used to remedy it.
- Convened multiple day-long briefings with the DOE NNSA, Livermore Lab, EPA, and state and regional environmental agencies to ensure the public's voice is incorporated in Superfund cleanup decisions.
- Played a pivotal role to bring leaking, contaminated buildings in the nuclear weapons complex to the attention of government and non-governmental organizations including the Wall Street Journal, which ran a major story highlighting that 4 of the 10 most dangerous facilities are housed at Livermore Lab.
- Co-founded a major statewide network, the CA Environmental Justice Coalition, with more than 50 State, local and tribal organizations.
- Provided extensive comments on the renewal of the Lab's permit to handle, store and treat hazardous and mixed radioactive wastes. The permit has not been issued.

And, much more! Join us in the coming year to achieve additional victories!

Citizen's Watch.....

◆ Alerts 4 U ◆

Wednesday, January 6

Peace Vigil at Livermore Lab
7:30 AM, LLNL East Gate
Greenville Rd., Livermore
(505) 379-6942 for details

Catholic Worker Farmers will hold a special vigil on January 6th, the Christian day of Epiphany. The peaceful prayer activists will attempt to dialogue with workers at the Lab's East Gate, next to the Visitor Center.

Thursday, January 7

Letter to the Editor writing party
5:30 PM – 7 PM, Tri-Valley CAREs
2582 Old First St., Livermore
(925) 443-7148 for details

Come and write a letter to the editor of your favorite newspaper in a friendly and supportive environment. We will offer a short briefing on several possible topics. Snacks and refreshments served.

Tuesday, January 21

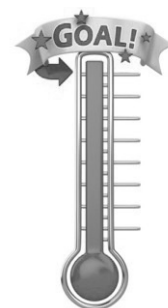
Tri-Valley CAREs meeting
7:30 PM – 9 PM, Livermore Library
Community Room A
1188 South Livermore Ave.
(925) 443-7148 for details



Get involved with Tri-Valley CAREs by attending our Jan. meeting. Long-time

and new members alike are welcome. Snacks and refreshments.

Challenge Met!



We were "challenged" to reach \$10,000 in donations this holiday season – and we made it. Thanks to you, Tri-Valley CAREs will now receive an additional \$10,000 from our friends at the Colombe Foundation, matching your tax-deductible gifts dollar for dollar. HOORAY!

Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment
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Edited by
Marylia Kelley,
Scott Yundt, Jo-
seph Rodgers &
Marylia Kelley,
contributors



Stopping the New Long-Range Stand Off Weapon



We are living in a period of crosscurrents, at once full of grave escalation toward nuclear annihilation and profound progress toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The U.S. is poised to spend \$1 trillion over the next 30 years on horrific new and “modified” nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them. Russia is likewise “modernizing” its nuclear forces. Rhetoric and action are becoming increasingly bellicose. Former Defense Secretary William Perry has issued an urgent warning, “We are starting a new arms race.”

And, yet, the non-nuclear weapons nations are substantially increasing the pressure for global abolition, and activists and analysts in the U.S. and beyond are collaborating to transform national and international nuclear policies and reduce nuclear budgets.

Against this backdrop, consider the development of a new Long-Range Stand Off (LRSO) warhead and the new cruise missile to deliver it. We have written about this new weapon, but a few facts bear repeating.

The new nuclear-tipped cruise missile would likely cost \$20 to \$30 billion. The Air Force wants to buy between 1,000 and 1,100 of them. Livermore is the “lead lab” in charge of designing the warhead,

dubbed the W80-4. The Pentagon would develop the new cruise missile. It would be the first time since the Cold War a quarter-century ago that a new warhead and delivery vehicle would be designed simultaneously. Sandia, Livermore would be in charge of “integrating” them into a deliverable system. The weaponeers are excited.

And, yet, opposition to the LRSO is growing daily. William Perry and former Assistant Secretary of Defense, Andy Weber, recently published an op-ed in the Washington Post unambiguously titled, “*Mr. President, Kill the New Cruise Missile.*” In it, they argue that the nuclear-tipped cruise missile would be “uniquely destabilizing” because no country would be able to tell the nuclear and conventional warheads apart, if launched.

Perry, Weber, and others, recommend cancellation of the LRSO as a first step toward establishing a global ban on all nuclear cruise missiles.

This month a group of eight Senators called on the President to cancel the program. Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) initiated the letter and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), and Al Franken (D-Minn.) signed on. The Senators’ letter pointed out both the fiscal and proliferation impacts of the new weapon.

The blogosphere is now chock-full of analyses concluding that the LRSO should be delayed or cancelled. Physicists, politicians and activists alike are gaining momentum to strike its budget, which is the key juncture where nuclear policy gets actualized into weapons.

Which brings us to you. We thank all of our members and friends who asked our Senators to join the Markey letter to the President. And, we invite you to stay active as we continue to build opposition to the LRSO. Look for our analyses and action alerts throughout 2016, including following the release of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, scheduled for Feb. 1, 2016.



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Please sign this letter and send it to Tri-Valley CAREs

We will share copies with Site 300 and state and federal regulatory agencies

Dear EPA Region IX, CA Dept. of Toxics Substances Control, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Dept. of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration and Livermore Lab:

I ask you to consider the Community Acceptance Criteria listed below when you make decisions about the Superfund cleanup at the **Livermore Lab Site 300** high explosives testing range. I want the best and most complete cleanup possible. Further, I want to see more openness and opportunities for public involvement in cleanup decisions.

I bring to your attention that under the Superfund law, the remediation strategy must satisfy a number of criteria to be accepted by EPA. Among these criteria is **Community Acceptance**. However, Community Acceptance is not clearly defined in the regulations. These criteria are intended to define key parameters of what is required for Community Acceptance in the Superfund cleanup at Site 300. All decisions about the cleanup remedy must include, at a minimum, the following benchmarks:

1. Complete the cleanup project in a timely manner.
2. Cleanup levels should support many uses of the property that are unrestricted by environmental contamination.
3. Cleanup levels should be set to the strictest state and federal government levels.
4. Remedies that actively destroy contaminants are preferable.
5. Radioactive substances should be isolated from the environment.
6. Ecosystem protection should be included in choosing the cleanup remedies.
7. Decisions should not rely on modeling alone.
8. Additional site characterization is needed and must be budgeted for over many years.
9. The U.S. Dept. of Energy, Livermore Lab and the regulatory agencies should establish a mechanism so that the public is involved in cleanup decisions until the site is cleaned up.
10. Superfund factsheets, Proposed Plans and select other materials should be made available to the community in English and Spanish.
11. Cleanup should be given priority over further weapons development.
12. Any ongoing activities should be designed to prevent releases to the environment.

Sincerely,

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY/ZIP:

My additional comment(s):

Firme y envíe esta carta a Tri-Valley CAREs por favor

Compartiremos copias con el Laboratorio de Livermore y las agencias de regulación federal y estatal

Estimada EPA Región IX, el Departamento del Control de Substancias Tóxicas del estado de CA, el Panel del Control de la Calidad del Agua Regional del Valle Central, la Administración de la Seguridad Nacional Nuclear del Departamento de Energía y el Laboratorio de Livermore:

Pido que consideren el criterio para la Aceptación Comunitaria enumerado abajo cuando hagan decisiones acerca de la limpieza Superfondo de la instalación para probar los explosivos de gran potencia del Sitio 300 del Laboratorio de Livermore. Quiero la mejor y más completa limpieza posible. Además, quiero más transparencia y más oportunidades para que el público se involucre en las decisiones acerca de la limpieza.

Les señalo que bajo la ley del Superfondo, la estrategia de remediación debe satisfacer cierto número de criterio para que sea aceptada por la EPA. La "Aceptación Comunitaria" es una parte de este criterio. Sin embargo, las regulaciones no se definen claramente a la Aceptación Comunitaria. Estos criterios tienen la intención de definir parámetros claves de lo que se requiere para la Aceptación Comunitaria de la limpieza del Superfondo del Sitio 300. Todas las decisiones acerca de la limpieza deben incluir, a lo mínimo, los factores siguientes:

1. Hay que completar la limpieza en una manera oportuna.
2. Los niveles de la limpieza deben sostener varios usos de la propiedad que no son restringidos por la contaminación medioambiental.
3. Los niveles de la limpieza deben ser fijados hasta los máximos del gobierno estatal y federal.
4. Se prefiere los remedios que destruyen los contaminantes activamente.
5. Se debe aislar las substancias radioactivas del medioambiente.
6. La protección del ecosistema debe ser parte de los remedios para la limpieza.
7. No se puede basar las decisiones solamente en las simulaciones.
8. El sitio requiere caracterización adicional y debe hacerse presupuesto a través de varios años.
9. El Departamento de Energía de los EE.UU., el Laboratorio de Livermore y las agencias de regulación debe establecer un modo para que se involucre al público en las decisiones de la limpieza hasta que el sitio esté limpio.
10. Se debe dar prioridad a la limpieza en vez del desarrollo de armas.
11. Se debe diseñar las actividades que continúen en el Sitio 300 para prevenir el escape adicional al medioambiente.

Sinceramente,

NOMBRE:

DIRECCIÓN:

CIUDAD/CÓDIGO POSTAL:

Escriba cualquier comentario adicional al reverso:

**Devuelva a: Tri-Valley CAREs, 2582 Old First St., Livermore, CA 94550. Correo Electrónico: marylia@trivalleycares.org.
Fax: 925-443-0177**