November 2014

Dear Tri-Valley CAREs’ supporter,

Winning our Freedom of Information Act lawsuit is... $A - \dot{W} - E - S - O - M - E$! As a result, we have obtained vital new information on five (yes, five) nuclear programs. I thank you for your indispensable partnership and invite you to savor this victory with us.

We bring you the facts you can’t get anywhere else. Activists, community leaders, elected officials, diplomats and others depend on us to pierce the veil of secrecy at the Livermore Lab and obtain accurate, concise and timely information about dangerous nuclear weapons activities there.

As you likely recognize, the government did not want us (or you) to know what’s going on. So, it withheld documents and forced us to either keep you in the dark or sue. We pursued litigation although that route is costly and difficult. We filed information requests in 2011 and 2012, filed a lawsuit in 2013, and, now, we have favorable results!

Your generous donation today will keep us strong. It ensures that Tri-Valley CAREs is able to keep you and thousands like you informed about nuclear weapons, one of the great social, economic and ecological challenges of our time. May I count on you?

Let me share a bit of what we won... The newly released documents, withheld illegally until our lawsuit victory, disclose important details about high-risk nuclear weapons programs, thus enabling us to more effectively challenge them.

For example, one program involves plans to use plutonium in the National Ignition Facility (NIF) mega-laser. After making the initial proposal, Livermore Lab officials threw a cone of silence around it, and now we can tell you why.

The documents reveal that the Lab’s planned method for trapping the plutonium debris would not work. You might reasonably conclude that any plutonium plans for NIF would end there, but they do not.

Remarkably, documents show that the Lab simply changed the proposed isotope, from plutonium-239 to plutonium-244 or plutonium-242. The new plan is to conduct many experiments that would vaporize one or both of the latter two isotopes and let the radioactive debris splatter all over, with no inner containment vessel at all.

What we now know will help us stop it. This is Tri-Valley CAREs in action!

(turn over)
I can also tell you that the other four information requests likewise revealed new information that we will use to oppose further nuclear weapons development and safeguard public health and the environment.

We obtained key details about the removal of bomb-usable quantities of nuclear material at Livermore Lab because of its security risks, the status of the Lab’s High Explosives Application Facility, the shockingly high rate of beryllium exposure suffered by Lab workers, and the facilities being considered at Livermore Lab and elsewhere as part of a “revised” plutonium strategy.

And, we have submitted new Freedom of Information Act requests. Our amazing staff attorney, Scott Yundt, is prepared, with your generous help, to file fresh litigation if the government drags its heels again instead of responding in a timely way.

Your tax-deductible gift truly makes a difference to us. Please give generously.

Tri-Valley CAREs is the proverbial “David” taking on the “Goliath” of U.S. nuclear weapons programs. Only if we remain vigilant and active will we be able to continue to achieve victories for a more just and peaceful world.

As I write this, we are assisting in the formation of the California Environmental Justice Coalition. Our board president, Pam Richard, and high school interns, Erin Vistnes and Hayden King, will ably represent us at its founding conference. Meanwhile, I will be in Washington this month shrinking the budget for deadly nuclear weapons programs.

Every dollar you donate now enables our crucial work. For example, $2,000 will ensure that our Citizen’s Watch gets to 6,000 individuals, journalists, UN officials, Congress and allied groups. $1,000 will send us to speak in support of the Marshall Islands’ “Nuclear Zero” lawsuits at a major conference on the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons and the necessity for their abolition. $500 will help keep our door open at the office. $50 will support our website. And, $20 will print 1,000 fliers.

You are a valued supporter. I invite you to continue the journey with us toward a truly sustainable, nuclear-free future. There is joy in the odyssey and boldness in the destination!

For peace, justice and a healthy environment,

Marylia Kelley
Executive Director

P.S. Please don’t set this letter aside and risk losing it. Mail your tax-deductible gift today, or go to www.trivalleycares.org and use our secure credit card donation site. Also, check the reply card for your Tri-Valley CAREs Keychain Flashlight (because, together, we are shining the light on government wrongdoing!). THANK YOU.