

## GOOD FRIDAY 2021 AT LIVERMORE LAB

### Intro Tri-Valley CAREs

Hi, I'm Marylia Kelley, the Executive Director of Tri-Valley CAREs. We act to change U.S. policy by stopping the further development of nuclear weapons and working tirelessly for their elimination.

38 years ago community members and experts living around the Lawrence Livermore National Lab founded the group, and I was one of the co-founders. Tri-Valley CAREs monitors nuclear weapons - and the health and environmental consequences of nuclear development - throughout the U.S. nuclear weapons complex with a special focus on Livermore Lab and the surrounding Northern CA communities.

### What is Livermore Lab?

I am standing at the West Gate of the Livermore Lab where I can see scientists, engineers and support personnel coming to work. Many will spend today, Good Friday, creating new weapons of nuclear mass destruction. Livermore Lab is **one of two locations** that designs every nuclear warhead and bomb in the U.S. stockpile. (*The other is the Los Alamos Lab in NM.*)

Livermore Lab is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. The Lab is operated by a consortium of contractors, including Bechtel Corporation and the University of California, which has managed Livermore Lab since it was founded in 1952 – although there have been decades of principled opposition from professors and students alike.

### What goes on inside the fence?

Livermore Lab's most recent federal budget shows that **more than 85%** of its Department of Energy funding is used for nuclear "weapons activities." For comparison, **less than 2%** of the funding is allocated for "science." And, **less than 1%** of its budget is for research into "energy efficiency and renewable energy" sources.

Therefore, when I speak about what goes on **inside** this classified fence line, it is fitting to begin with Livermore Lab's central role in driving a new and dangerous global arms race.

I'll focus my brief remarks on two new warheads that Livermore Lab is developing and briefly mention a third that Livermore hopes to have a role in developing.

Some of you who have heard me speak on Good Friday about the new warhead that Livermore is developing expressly for a "sneak" nuclear attack on an unsuspecting population anywhere in the world. This warhead is for what's called the "**Long-Range Stand Off**" weapon. It is intended for pilots to be able to "stand off" a target by thousands of miles and launch a precisely guided, radar evading nuclear weapon. By any measure Livermore's new warhead for this LRSO (Long Range Stand Off capability) is an offensive first-use weapon. In fiscal 2021 **alone** the government is spending more than a billion dollars for this new warhead, called the W80-4.

The second new warhead I want to highlight today, the W87-1, is in an earlier stage of development at Livermore Lab. The W87-1 is the first **wholly new** (fully new) warhead design since the (announced) end of the cold war more than 30 years ago.

Livermore Lab is planning to have this new warhead rolling off the assembly line by 2030. According to documents, the Lab is looking into 126 new technologies for this warhead design. This includes a new-design plutonium bomb core, significantly different from anything in the U.S. stockpile.

Indeed, Livermore's W87-1 warhead is a central reason the U.S. is planning to expand plutonium bomb core – also called plutonium pit – manufacturing at 2 locations - the Los Alamos Lab in NM and the Savannah River Site in SC.

In this fiscal year **alone**, the government is investing nearly **two billion dollars** in the development of the W87-1 warhead and new pit production capability to support it. Separately, the Pentagon is investing in a whole new **“ground-based strategic deterrent”** or GBSDB intercontinental ballistic missile to carry the W87-1 warhead.

The third warhead program in which Livermore Lab is involved this year is called the W93. While the W80-4 is airplane launched and the W87-1 is ICBM launched, the W93 is a new-design warhead for submarines. Here I need to tell you that the UK depends on US warhead designs for its nuclear arsenal, which is 100% on subs.

The UK is currently lobbying the US to spend billions on this new warhead because the UK wants to use the W93 design to upgrade its own nuclear capabilities.

The W93 design is in the early concept stage – but one thing that has been made clear – it too will involve a new plutonium pit. So, for use in US submarines, and here I'm talking about the US subs alone, the W93 warhead will be in line for new pit production after the W87-1 is completed.

Overall, this so-called “nuclear modernization program” is slated to cost the U.S. upwards of **\$2 trillion over 30-years**. *(In the coming weeks when you hear some politicians argue that we as a nation cannot afford **civilian** infrastructure, I invite you to think about the \$2 trillion for nuclear weapons infrastructure that the US is buying into without much discussion.)*

### What is being sacrificed?

On this Good Friday I want to say a few words about what is being **sacrificed** by the nuclear weapons work specifically at Livermore Lab. And I want to conclude with some **“good news”** about what we can all do to create change.

Make no mistake. Our environment and our health have been sacrificed in the name of nuclear development. Tri-Valley CAREs has documented that more than 1 million curies of radiation has been released into our air by Livermore Lab.

What is one million curies? According to documents, this is equal to the amount of radiation deposited on the people of Hiroshima. It's been dribbled out of stacks on these buildings over many years and not all at once in a flash of blinding heat. None-the-less, we too are its victims. Livermore Lab employees have experienced high levels of cancers and other illnesses stemming from toxic and radioactive exposures.

Nearly 3,000 current and former Livermore Lab employees – or their survivors – have applied for federal compensation due to illnesses related to on-the-job exposures. Past epidemiological studies have shown that children who are born in – or moved to – the City of Livermore have experienced more cancers than other, similar children elsewhere. And cancer is just one negative health outcome from radiation and toxic chemical exposure.

The soils and groundwater aquifer at the Livermore Lab main site when I am standing – and at the Lab's site 300 high explosives testing range near Tracy – have both been polluted by nuclear weapons activities. In fact, both locations are on the EPA's "Superfund" list of most polluted sites in the country.

### What can we do today?

There are effective actions we can all take to change the future. In the coming days the new Biden Administration will release its fiscal year 2022 budget request to Congress. Tri-Valley CAREs will have action alerts on its website at [www.trivalleycares.org](http://www.trivalleycares.org).

And, just one week ago, Senator Ed Markey of MA and Bay Area Representative Ro Khanna introduced a new bill called the "Invest in Cures Before Missiles (or ICBM) Act." This new bill, which is currently seeking cosponsors, would prevent any money from being spent on the new ICBM that I mentioned for Livermore Lab's new W87-1 warhead.

Further, the bill mandates that funding for the W87-1 warhead instead be transferred **"to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to research and combat emerging diseases."** In the coming days I'll be writing about this new bill and I invite you to download the bill text and info from our website.

We all have fresh opportunities before us to change the direction of US nuclear policy and move instead toward the abolition of nuclear weapons that we – and the majority of the people of the world – seek.

This is the journey I invite you to take with me - and with millions of peace advocates – not only from here in Livermore but across the entire earth. Together we can do this.

Thank you – and peace to you.

*--Marylia Kelley, April 2, 2021, West Gate, Livermore Lab*