

LOOKING BACK, PROVIDING THE FRAMEWORK FOR MOVING FORWARD

A SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF THE PAST 12 MONTHS

- **Goals from our 2008 Strategic Planning Retreat**
 - **Program priorities on which we have worked**
 - **Victories enjoyed and objectives yet to be achieved**

Introduction

Overall, our activities focused on changing U.S. nuclear weapons, nuclear materials, cleanup and biodefense policies and activities – here at the Livermore Lab and throughout the Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons complex.

In 2008/2009, Tri-Valley CAREs served as an effective “watchdog,” monitoring the DOE and, in particular, Livermore Lab activities. Our ability to influence policy is often visible. These pages contain some of the examples.

In winning on many of our issues, we used the Freedom of Information Act and other means to force public disclosure. Then, we shared the information we obtained with decision-makers and the public. To succeed, we also produced detailed analyses, comments and reports on nuclear issues to influence policy. In addition, community organizing and public involvement activities led to many of our victories listed below. Plus, in select situations, we pursued federal litigation.

We met with members of Congress, the Bush and Obama Administrations and foreign diplomats at the UN. We held press conferences. We organized rallies. We made common cause with like-minded groups and individuals to amplify our message. Overall, we have achieved remarkable local and national progress on the issues we chose at our strategic planning retreat in 2008.

What we said we would work on coming out of last year's retreat

Tri-Valley CAREs' Board of Directors, staff and representatives from our membership met in August 2008 to chart a 12-month path. Each participant got one “top pick” and two additional votes. There were some ties. Overall, the results of the 08 planning retreat were:

1. Stop activities with weapons usable quantities of plutonium and highly enriched uranium at Livermore Lab.
2. Oppose dangerous bio-warfare agent research experiments and the operation of a Bio-Safety Level 3 facility at Livermore Lab.
3. Promote a “green lab” in Livermore / Change the mission of Livermore Lab.
4. Engage the “next generation” of youth in nuclear weapons issues.
5. Shrink the nuclear weapons complex / Stop the Bombplex.

THE 5 ABOVE WERE VERY CLOSE IN # OF VOTES

6. Stop the further development of new and modified nuclear weapons.
7. Ensure cleanup of toxic and radioactive pollution at the Livermore Lab Main Site and Site 300 near Tracy.
8. Explore additional media opportunities / alternative media / create our own media

THE 3 ABOVE WERE CLOSE IN VOTES

9. Identify community needs
10. Public education on nuclear weapons
11. Advocate for and with sick workers at Livermore Lab, Sandia, and other sites
12. Conduct education and outreach on Livermore Lab contract / the LLNS, LLC

THE 4 ABOVE WERE CLOSE IN VOTES

Measuring our progress over the past year

We have made progress on all of our “top” and “middle tier” issues over the past year, and sometimes spectacularly! In addition, we were able to make progress on some of our “bottom tier” program issues. In a few areas, we chose objectives that are yet to be achieved. Below, you will find many of the year’s amazing achievements and victories along with any failures or unfinished business we have left over.

This section speaks to our “accountability” in doing strategic planning. Did we do what we said we would at the last retreat? How faithfully did we hew to the priorities we chose in expending our collective time, energy and resources over the course of the year? Did we address each one? Did we make good use of our strategic “toolbox” and employ the appropriate methods to achieve our goals? Was our work plan strategic? What did our work accomplish? How well did we do overall?

Here is the accounting –

TOP TIER PROGRAMS (Plutonium, bio, green lab, next generation, Bombplex)

Plutonium, highly enriched uranium and security issues –

- ✓ No plutonium was brought to the Livermore Lab. As previously discussed, DOE had published a formal Record of Decision that gave the go-ahead to double the plutonium inventory at Livermore Lab to 3,080 pounds. Community opposition has been a factor in ensuring this plan was never implemented.
- ✓ In 2008, Livermore Lab protective forces failed a security test, including a force-on-force drill in which mock terrorists were able to access the Lab’s plutonium and highly enriched uranium. Tri-Valley CAREs joined with the Project on Government Oversight to focus media and congressional attention on the grave security problems at Livermore Lab. Time Magazine ran a seminal article quoting Tri-Valley CAREs and exposing the security drill failure.
- ✓ In August 2008, Tri-Valley CAREs brought several hundred peace advocates to the gates of Livermore Lab. The participants commemorated the anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and spoke out to oppose plutonium activities at Livermore Lab.

- ✓ Tri-Valley CAREs stepped up its efforts to focus political as well as public attention on plutonium programs at Livermore Lab. Our work bore initial fruit when DOE committed to completing the withdrawal of plutonium from Livermore by 2012, two years sooner than previously planned.
- ✓ In spring 2009, the DOE announced it had removed approximately 80% of Livermore Lab's plutonium. DOE cited community concerns we had raised as a reason why the agency curtailed plutonium operations and removed this material.
- ✓ This month, we received documents we had requested (and litigated on) showing the scope and magnitude of the Livermore Lab security failures in the 2008 force-on-force test and other drills. This is information that the community has a right to know, and we are in the process of publicizing and disseminating it. Look for an article in the upcoming edition of our newsletter!

Stop Dangerous bio-warfare agent research / Oppose the BSL-3 at Livermore Lab –

- ✓ In early 2008, the DOE issued itself a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) regarding the potential impacts of a terrorist attack on the Biosafety Level-3 facility at Livermore Lab. (Note: Previously, Tri-Valley CAREs had won a legal victory that forced DOE to consider the potential environmental impacts of a terrorist attack on the facility.) The DOE conducted a faulty analysis, issued itself a new FONSI, and began BSL-3 operations in secret, without circulating the FONSI or informing the public. Tri-Valley CAREs filed new litigation in 2008 challenging the FONSI. That suit is still before the court.
- ✓ Tri-Valley CAREs' use of the Freedom of Information Act, and our litigation to compel DOE to respond, resulted in documents that revealed that Livermore Lab had conducted illegal, restricted bio-experiments at its existing (lower level) bio-facilities. This is key information to which the public has a right, and we have used our newsletter, web site, media advisory and other formats to disseminate it,
- ✓ Also using the Freedom of Information Act, we obtained and publicized documents in October 2008 detailing Livermore Lab's mishandling of anthrax, which resulted in the exposure of the workers who unpackaged Livermore Lab's anthrax shipment.

Promote a "green lab" in Livermore / Change the mission of Livermore Lab

- ✓ In April 2009, Tri-Valley CAREs and colleague organizations produced a comprehensive nuclear weapons policy report with recommendations for the Obama Administration leading toward a nuclear weapons-free world. This report prominently contained near-term recommendations for transitioning Livermore Lab and Sandia, Livermore out of the active nuclear weapons complex. Further, the report recommended a "green lab" scenario for these sites.
- ✓ We developed "talking points" and have incorporated our vision for a green lab in Livermore into many of our public presentations. A fact sheet/brochure with graphics is in progress.

- ✓ We advocated for a green lab as part of our overall nuclear weapons policy advocacy during DC Days in spring 2009.

Engage the “next generation” of youth in nuclear weapons issues –

- ✓ Tri-Valley CAREs has spoken in several high schools and university classrooms over the past 12 months. We also participated in Las Positas College “club days” and other campus events, resulting in our making some new connections.
- ✓ We played an advisory role in helping students institute an oversight body (called DOELOC) as part of student government at UC Berkeley. This follows a similar DOELOC that is in place at UC Santa Barbara.
- ✓ Tri-Valley CAREs and other colleague groups across the country are planning a youth-led conference, “Think Outside the Bomb,” to be held this August in New Mexico. This will be the fifth year that such conferences have taken place. This year, it is significant that the planning is proceeding in the absence of staffing and funding that had been available through one of our colleague organizations but no longer is.
- ✓ To prepare the next generation of activists for the continuing struggle for nuclear disarmament, Tri-Valley CAREs serves as a resource for the statewide Coalition to Demilitarize the University of California (UC). This work remains relevant since UC, along with Bechtel Corporation, won the management contracts for Livermore Lab and Los Alamos Lab.

Shrink the nuclear weapons complex / Stop the Bombplex –

- ✓ First came the “scoping” for what was then called the “Complex 2030” Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), which we and others promptly dubbed as the “Bombplex.” In 2008, the DOE renamed the plan “Complex Transformation” and released a draft PEIS. And, while the plan falls far short of the “shrinking footprint” that we seek, it notably downsizes plutonium bomb core manufacturing plans compared to the original plan. The draft PEIS was released for public comment in early 2008. Tri-Valley CAREs published a popular “readers guide” to the PEIS (called “How to Stop a Bombplex”), along with fact sheets, media materials, public comment postcards and more. We mobilized hundreds to attend the hearings. And, we worked with other organizations to generate 120,000 public comments nationwide.
- ✓ In July 2008, Tri-Valley CAREs’ Executive Director, Marylia Kelley, was invited to testify before the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee at a hearing on the modernization of the nuclear weapons complex.
- ✓ We are part of a lawsuit to stop a new bomb plant from being built and operated in Kansas City without a thorough environmental review.
- ✓ Our 2008 and 2009 advocacy has been instrumental in getting Congress to limit the funding for the new plutonium facility at Los Alamos Lab in NM (called the CMRR-Nuclear Facility) and for a new Uranium Processing Facility at Y-12 in TN. Moreover, our advocacy may have played a role in ensuring that the Livermore Lab’s desired new

High Explosives Application Facility – Annex and Weapons Engineering Science and Technology (WEST) complex did NOT appear in the 2010 budget request.

MIDDLE TIER PROGRAMS (new nukes, cleanup, new media)

Stop new and modified nuclear weapons / Stop the Reliable Replacement Warhead –

- ✓ Tri-Valley CAREs played a key role early on in opposing the so-called Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW). We were the first group to produce a comprehensive analysis of the program, titled “The Reliable Replacement Warhead Program: A Slippery Slope to New Nuclear Weapons.” In 2008/2009, we’ve met on this issue with local politicians, as well as key Representatives and Senators in Washington, DC, to whom we provided our written materials.
- ✓ Following the November 2008 election, Tri-Valley CAREs and colleague organizations drafted a Transition Policy Blueprint on nuclear weapons and the nuclear weapons complex, offering detailed recommendations for the National Nuclear Security Administration in an Obama Presidency. Tri-Valley CAREs conducted meetings with incoming administration officials in D.C. using the report.
- ✓ Also following the November election, Tri-Valley CAREs updated fact sheets on RRW and other policy issues and, with colleague groups in ANA, we provided “briefing sheets” on these topics for the new administration.
- ✓ As noted above, Tri-Valley CAREs and colleague groups produced a comprehensive policy report, “Transforming the U.S. Strategic Posture and Weapons Complex for Transition to a Nuclear Weapons-Free World.” The report details a “curatorship” approach to managing the U.S. nuclear weapons complex and opposes an RRW-based approach.
- ✓ In spring 2009, Tri-Valley CAREs’ staff, board and members held about 70 meetings with Members of Congress and incoming Obama administration officials to oppose RRW, constrain the Bombplex, and win a green lab (see above).
- ✓ Thanks in large part to the effective campaign carried out by Tri-Valley CAREs and colleague organizations across the country, Congress cut RRW in the FY2009 budget. And, the Obama Administration issued a specific prohibition on RRW with its FY2010 budget.

Ensure cleanup of toxic and radioactive pollution at Livermore Lab –

- ✓ Tri-Valley CAREs helped save the Livermore Lab Main Site Superfund cleanup, first by pushing DOE and Congress for needed funds to do the work, then by disclosing to EPA that the cleanup was not happening months after the funding had arrived. We advocated for – and supported – EPA in stipulating fines and penalties to get the cleanup back on track.
- ✓ Nationally, we were instrumental in getting \$1 billion in nuclear weapons related funding removed from the DOE Environmental Management portion of the Obama

Administration's "stimulus" bill. We also played a role in getting \$50 billion in loan guarantees for nuclear power plants removed from another section of that same bill.

- ✓ We pressed for and succeeded in getting the DOE Livermore Site Office to request stimulus funds to accelerate the Superfund cleanup at Livermore Lab Main Site and Site 300. In spring 2009, we obtained letters from elected officials to support our position.
- ✓ We conducted a community tour of Site 300 contaminated areas, followed by a second tour for TVC staff of the hazardous and explosives waste storage and treatment facilities.

Develop new media / create own media –

- ✓ Tri-Valley CAREs started a blog on the front page of its website. In general, our web site viewership is rising each month and may soon hit the 500,000 "hits" per year mark.
- ✓ We are utilizing Democracy in Action to send email "blasts" to the members for whom we have email addresses. We have also posted Facebook and MySpace pages to increase Tri-Valley CAREs' visibility.
- ✓ We have joined Rethink Media and are utilizing their tools to create our new pressroom. Recently, we instituted an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed for media and others so that they can get press materials automatically when we post them.

BOTTOM TIER PROGRAMS (public edu, community needs, sick worker advocacy, Livermore Lab contract/LLNL, LLC)

Advocate with and for sick workers –

- ✓ Our activities on behalf of Livermore and other DOE site workers made ill by on the job exposures celebrated a major win when the federal radiation advisory committee voted unanimously in favor of according "Special Exposure Cohort" (SEC) status to thousands of Livermore Lab workers. While it does not cover all 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 on this issue with our Representative, Ellen Tauscher, we were able to ensure a quick passage into federal law for the Livermore Lab SEC.
- ✓ We researched, used FOIA, and released documents showing that Livermore Lab exposed workers to beryllium dust. This resulted in changes in Livermore Lab operations, and an expose' on CBS News that quoted Tri-Valley CAREs and used our information, among other outcomes.
- ✓ We participated in numerous community events to educate and inform local residents about nuclear weapons programs and their environmental consequences.

ADDITIONAL VICTORIES

- ✓ We succeeded in preventing the issuance of a new permit that would allow Livermore Lab to conduct open-air bomb blasts with up to 5,000 pounds of uranium-238 and 200 curies of tritium (radioactive hydrogen) per year. After we organized technical and public opposition for more than a year, in 2008 the Lab withdrew its permit request (thereby giving up).
- ✓ Our 2009 “NIF Truth Telling” exhibit garnered national and local media attention and provided some counterpoint to the DOE and Livermore Lab NIF-hype. We followed up our exhibit at the Lab during the NIF “completion” ceremony with a poster currently displayed in the Livermore Library.
- ✓ We won 2nd place (for the 3rd year in a row) for our peace entry in the 2009 Livermore Rodeo Parade.

Conclusion:

At Livermore Lab and other DOE sites, the continued development, testing and production of U.S. nuclear weapons is hazardous to human health and the environment in surrounding communities. Globally, these activities also serve to promote nuclear proliferation.

We who live around U.S. nuclear weapons facilities have the fundamental moral, legal and democratic right to participate in decision-making. Moreover, the broader public at large also has a responsibility to participate in these important policy decisions. That said, it appears that the last thing DOE wants is an informed public exercising these rights. Many of DOE’s most controversial program details and decisions are shrouded by techno-speak and buried in the middle of complex technical planning documents, if they are made public at all.

Tri-Valley CAREs serves as a unique watchdog and “counterweight” to the DOE in Livermore. Our meetings and events are well attended, and we continue to play an important role in catalyzing a wide range of groups to come together and influence decisions. The Livermore community, including many who work at the Livermore Lab, value the information and education services we provide. This can be seen in supportive letters to the editor, appreciative phone calls to our office and even in the receipt by our office of info from Livermore Lab employees who want to share what they know but are afraid of DOE reprisal. Further, our ability to monitor DOE activities and influence policy can be seen in instances where DOE officials have modified decisions based on public pressure we have generated.

Tri-Valley CAREs’ combination of research, public education and grassroots advocacy is designed to help affected communities – here in Livermore and across the country – become better informed and exercise their rights. We help pierce through DOE’s veil of secrecy and bring nuclear weapons policy to a level that the community can understand. To this end, Tri-Valley CAREs has continued to use community right to know laws to involve the public and curtail nuclear weapons.

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