

LOOKING BACK; PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK TO MOVE FORWARD

A SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF THE PAST 12 MONTHS

- *Goals and program priorities from our 2012 Strategic Planning Retreat*
- *Victories enjoyed and objectives yet to be achieved*

Introduction:

Our activities over the past 12 months have focused on U.S. nuclear weapons policy and its environmental impacts, with an emphasis locally on upholding the termination of bomb usable plutonium activities at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory while supporting the cleanup of toxic and radioactive wastes, and nationally on shrinking the Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons complex, arsenal and budget.

Tri-Valley CAREs has continued to serve throughout the past 12 months as an effective “watchdog,” monitoring the DOE, its National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), and, in particular, the Livermore Lab. Our ability to influence policy is often visible. These pages contain some of the examples of that work.

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 with decision-makers and the public. To succeed, we also produced detailed analyses, comments and reports on nuclear issues and cleanup issues to influence policy.

We met with members of Congress, the Obama Administration, regulatory agencies and other decision-makers. We spoke with members of the press. We organized rallies. We made common cause with numerous groups and individuals to amplify our message. Our local community organizing and public involvement activities also led to many victories. And, we pursued federal litigation when needed.

Overall, we have achieved considerable progress on the issues we chose at our strategic planning retreat in 2012.

What we said we would prioritize coming out of last year’s retreat:

Tri-Valley CAREs’ Board of Directors, staff and members met for strategic planning on August 18, 2012. Here are the program priorities that received a significant number of votes (listed in rank order):

1. Act to transform Livermore Lab and Sandia, Livermore to a “green lab;” uphold the termination of bomb-usable plutonium activities at Livermore Lab

- 2. Act to stop new bomb plants and shrink the nuclear weapons complex, arsenal and budget***
- 3. Act for environmental justice by obtaining full cleanup of toxic and radioactive pollution at the Livermore Lab main site and site 300***
- 4. Act to bring financial accountability to the national ignition facility; continue to prevent the use of fissile materials (like plutonium) in the NIF***
- 5. Act to obtain justice for sick workers with a focus on Livermore and Sandia workers made ill by on the job exposures to toxic and radioactive materials***
- 6. (Tie) Act to stop or limit bio-warfare agent research, specifically in the DOE nuclear weapons complex***
- 6. (Tie) Act to promote global nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the “rule of law”***

Measuring our progress over the past 12 months:

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? Where did we fall short? Here is our look back, which is foundational to our present July 13, 2013 strategic planning retreat in particular and to looking forward as a group in general.

1. ACT TO TRANSFORM LIVERMORE LAB AND SANDIA, LIVERMORE TO A “GREEN LAB;” UPHOLD THE TERMINATION OF BOMB-USABLE PLUTONIUM ACTIVITIES AT LIVERMORE LAB

- We drafted a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Energy outlining our concerns/objections re: plutonium bomb core proposal and gathered signatures from 46 national, state and regional organizations, including many along the proposed transportation route between Los Alamos and Livermore Lab. Tri-Valley CAREs then met regarding our letter with Dr. Don Cook (head of plutonium strategy at DOE) in DC.
- We launched petition drive (using newsletter, web, handouts, etc.). To date we have collected about 2,000 signatures. During DC Days in April 2013, the Tri-Valley CAREs team used these petitions in key meetings with Bay Area congressional offices, Oversight and Investigation committee members, and relevant federal agencies. There are follow up activities ongoing, particularly with agencies and Bay Area congressional staff. Moreover, there are community outreach activities with the petition beginning, including gathering signatures at the Farmers Markets and downtown stores.

- We conducted information-gathering activities including but not limited to a December 2012 trip to DC and a January 2013 trip to Washington, DC (prior to this year's DC Days). These trips included many meetings with agencies and committees to gather information about the plutonium plan.
- We held a major community forum on January 30, 2013 that focused on this topic (along with cleanup). Tri-Valley CAREs staff did 5 radio shows, numerous newspaper interviews and an interview that ran on NBC Bay Area TV. The community forum resulted in a Tri-Valley Times story. Haleh Hatami created a mini-documentary – it is up on our website and Youtube. Ed Rippy filmed the entire event for our Youtube page. We have a “blog” with several of these materials on-line and we sent out an electronic newsletter with a short report and some of these links. The meeting attendees who gave us an email address were added immediately and thus received the e-newsletter. The forum was well attended (50 or more attendees, 45 sign ins). Panels were well received. The forum action planning breakout groups had good energy.
- This plutonium bomb core plan was a subject of Letters to the Editor that were published over the past 12 months. For example, at the Feb LTE party following the forum, five of our members wrote letters that were published in one or more newspapers. Additionally, some of the forum attendees sent follow up letters to elected officials.
- Several LTEs linked/contrasted the plutonium bomb core plan (bad) with a green future for LLNL (good). Community forum also made that link, as did some of our media interviews, especially radio where there was more time given to develop the issues. In general, much of Tri-Valley CAREs' green lab work has been in illuminating it as a positive alternative for Livermore Lab's future.
- Tri-Valley CAREs has also used its “in house” media, with multiple articles in Citizen's Watch and in our electronic alerts that are circulated between editions of our regular, paper newsletter.
- Tri-Valley CAREs staff gave talks on this issue, including at the 2013 “Good Friday” service and rally at Livermore Lab.
- Our opposition to the plan to truck plutonium bomb cores back and forth between Los Alamos Lab and Livermore Lab was the theme of our entry in the Livermore Rodeo Parade in June 2013. We circulated petitions along the route. Our entry won a third place ribbon. The “bomb truck” panels will make a repeat showing on the Lab fence line at the August 6 Hiroshima commemoration coming up.

2. ACT TO STOP NEW BOMB PLANTS AND SHRINK THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX, ARSENAL AND BUDGET

- We actively participated in the national nuclear weapons budget campaign initiated by Ploughshares Fund throughout the past 12 months. The national campaign targets on which Tri-Valley CAREs has a role that involves both collaboration and leadership are: B61 Life Extension Program, the MOX (mixed oxide plutonium fuel) plant, the Chemistry and Metallurgical Research Replacement-Nuclear Facility (CMRR-NF) for more plutonium

bomb cores, and the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) for more bomb “secondaries.” We have a lesser, “ally” role on the Defense Department issues, for example the new SSBNX submarine fleet and new long-range bomber fleet.

- We conducted research, analysis and advocacy, including articles in Citizen’s Watch on cost escalation of B61 Life Extension Program (from less than \$4 billion estimated to more than \$10 billion now estimated for a lesser cope of work). We have shared these articles and other information with decision-makers. Recently, the Senate Appropriators cut the program by about 30%, with CA Senator Dianne Feinstein leading the way. The House Appropriators added money to their bill, and an amendment to cut that funding back failed (however, it got more votes than expected -- including 30 Republicans – and so future prospects to cut the program remain good).
- Our research garnered a [formerly] secret memo from the Navy revealing objections re the W78/88-1 Life Extension Program (LEP) that Livermore Lab is just beginning. We wrote it up in our newsletter. Our additional outreach using the memo then garnered a second [formerly] secret memo. One outcome of our publicizing and using the memos in meetings is that key members of Congress have begun asking the Navy and other agencies questions about this LEP.
- In addition to LEPs, we wrote about and conducted meetings in DC and elsewhere aimed at (1) keeping the 5-year delay for the new plutonium bomb plant at Los Alamos (the CMRR-NF), (2) downsizing the uranium processing facility (UPF) at Y-12, (3) stopping the MOX (mixed oxide fuel) plant at Savannah River. On keeping the delay for the plutonium bomb plant, we have been successful to date; no money for it has been included in the 2014 Appropriations bills. On the UPF, we have been partly successful in that it is delayed and the cost overruns are getting a lot of attention nationally. On the MOX plant, we have been partly successful, particularly in that the 2014 budget request for building the MOX plant is down more 26% and the “out year” funding is in doubt.
- The LEPs, new bomb plants, and the need to increase the rate at which the U.S. is dismantling its retired nuclear weapons were discussed by the Tri-Valley CAREs team at the 2013 DC Days.
- We signed on to numerous organizational letters to the President and Congress about further reductions to the nuclear weapons stockpile and the U.S. leadership that is needed on this issue.
- Staff gave numerous presentations on this, including a presentation at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at the University of Oregon School of Law entitled "Confronting the US Nuclear Weapons Complex in the 21st Century."

3. ACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BY OBTAINING FULL CLEANUP OF TOXIC AND RADIOACTIVE POLLUTION AT THE LIVERMORE LAB MAIN SITE & SITE 300

- Our Community-based Radiation Monitoring Project continued after our 2012 Strategic Planning retreat. It involved staff, interns, board members and volunteers. Its outcomes included additional protections to prevent plutonium-contaminated dust particles from

being released due to Livermore Lab pipeline construction activities in east Livermore (out to Big Trees Park). The project was written up in Citizen's Watch and daily logs and pictures were posted on our website. A Youtube video of a presentation on our project to activists around the Los Alamos Lab was also done.

- The Livermore Lab Superfund cleanup (along with the transport of plutonium bomb cores) was a topic at the January 2013 community forum. Participants expressed interest in touring the Livermore Lab main site Superfund cleanup areas. Tri-Valley CAREs wrote about it in Citizen's Watch and set up a special tour that took place in May 2013.
- The updated Community Guide to the Main site Cleanup was completed at the end of 2012 and has been used in meetings and handed out to members of the public (and was included in packets at the main site Superfund tour in May 2013).
- Tri-Valley CAREs cosponsored and spoke at a major Environmental Justice rally at EPA Region 9 Headquarters on Earth Day. Our Board VP represented us at this event, which also featured a meeting with EPA management prior to the rally.
- Tri-Valley CAREs set up and conducted regular day-long meetings with the EPA, state Dept. of Toxics, the Regional Water Board, the Dept. of Energy, and Livermore Lab on the progress of the Superfund cleanup at the main site and Site 300. Tri-Valley CAREs E.D. and Technical Advisor attend on the group's behalf. Other interested members can participate. These meetings allow us to both obtain detailed information about the cleanup and to make detailed recommendations on how it should be conducted. This is one of the junctures where the community perspectives and things that we have talked about at meetings, etc. are transmitted to the decision-makers.
- Tri-Valley CAREs and its technical advisor conducted research and analysis on main site and Site 300 Superfund cleanup proposals and options and prepared technical letters and comments. Most are posted on our website.
- The importance of cleanup to the community was highlighted in relevant meetings by the Tri-Valley CAREs team during DC Days.

4. ACT TO BRING FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE NATIONAL IGNITION FACILITY; CONTINUE TO PREVENT THE USE OF FISSILE MATERIALS (LIKE PLUTONIUM) IN THE NIF

- Tri-Valley CAREs was called on as the local NIF experts by other news media and decision-makers throughout the year, especially as the "final" deadline for NIF to achieve ignition came and went in late 2012.
- We obtained an advance, draft copy of NNSA report to Congress on NIF failure to achieve ignition. Was able to use it in media and other outreach (and also the final copy when it was released in December) to raise interest in the issue. It resulted in a story in the San Francisco Chronicle and one in Science Magazine that quoted us prominently.

- We used our own “in-house” media, including Citizen’s Watch to write about NIF at key junctures (which is how Science Magazine found out and called us).
- Tri-Valley CAREs had a same day analysis of NIF and the Fiscal Year 2014 budget request out to reporters and that resulted in a second story in Science magazine; this one highlighted our rationale for cutting NIF funding and also our proposal to take it away from the weapons designers and the National Nuclear Security Administration and put it in a civilian science directorate (like the DOE Office of Science) and use it for unclassified science experiments only.
- Tri-Valley CAREs was called out (in a good way) on the LLNL employees’ blog (called lnl-the-true-story) on NIF. In one blog, the blogger opined that Tri-Valley CAREs should be engaged in the question of use of plutonium in NIF (we are) and in a subsequent blog, a blogger opined that our estimate of NIF’s costs to date is the correct one.
- Tri-Valley CAREs’ Freedom of Information Act litigation seeks responses to our requests for information about NIF activities, specifically the planned use of fissile materials (like plutonium) in the NIF.
- The FY 2014 budget request for NIF is down about 15% and some of NIF’s previous supporters in Congress, most notably Senator Feinstein, have begun to be more skeptical. Feinstein refused to try and give it more money (for example). This bodes well for our ability to cut NIF funding even further in the future.

5. ACT TO OBTAIN JUSTICE FOR SICK WORKERS WITH A FOCUS ON LIVERMORE AND SANDIA WORKERS MADE ILL BY ON THE JOB EXPOSURES TO TOXIC AND RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

- Tri-Valley CAREs continuously updated Sick Worker Support Group Members on important and pertinent information regarding the federal EEOICPA that could affect their eligibility for monetary and health care benefits via the Sick Worker Newsletter.
- Tri-Valley CAREs’ staff attorney facilitated regular meetings of the Sick Worker Support Group, in part so that we could inform Lab workers of any recent developments that would help them with their claims, and provide them with help with filling out their application for benefits forms.
- TVC’s staff attorney successfully represented several individual sick workers to assist them in their claim for compensation and benefits due to their illness.
- Tri-Valley CAREs presented an analysis of the health and safety impacts facing Livermore Lab workers at an internationally webcasted forum at City College of San Francisco in March on nuclear whistleblowers and the safety and health consequences facing nuclear workers at Fukushima and around the world.

- We had a major victory in getting the House and Senate armed services committees to alter the final, conferenced National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 to eliminate some of the earlier, bad language passed in the House version of the bill. The House language would have significantly gutted and worsened safety at Livermore Lab and the rest of the nuclear weapons complex (resulting in more exposed workers).

6. ACT TO STOP OR LIMIT BIO-WARFARE AGENT RESEARCH, SPECIFICALLY IN THE DOE NUCLEAR WEAPONS COMPLEX

- Tri-Valley CAREs continued to monitor Livermore Lab's bio-warfare agent research facilities using the Freedom of Information Act by requesting information about the Lab's Institutional Bio-Safety Committee (IBC): including; IBC rosters; committee composition; qualifications of all members; meeting agendas; decisional documents; electronic communication concerning the INC or its activities; rules/procedures under which the IBC operates, written records, processes, meeting information, and meeting minutes. This request was substantially responded to in 2012 and will be re-requested shortly to stay updated.
- Tri-Valley CAREs was invited to join an informational panel at the SF Bay Guardian to inform reporters about the potential impacts of a proposed large scale BSL-2 Synthetic Biology Laboratory at the new Lawrence Berkeley Lab Campus in Richmond, CA. Tri-Valley CAREs' challenge of the LLNL BSL-3 and our knowledge of environmental laws have proved useful to this new coalition.

6. ACT TO PROMOTE GLOBAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, NON-PROLIFERATION AND THE "RULE OF LAW"

- Tri-Valley CAREs hosted a major Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration and disarmament action at Livermore Lab in August 2012. There will be an upcoming event this August 6. Additionally, we are assisting in the hosting of a nuclear abolition vigil at LLNL every month (by Chelsea and Marcus).
- Tri-Valley CAREs leafleted at the Dublin-Pleasanton BART Station on April 15, the Global Day Against Military Spending and conducted similar activities in solidarity with international events throughout the year.
- Tri-Valley CAREs signed numerous disarmament-oriented letters to decision-makers, domestically and internationally.

Other Program Accomplishments:

- Representatives of more than 25 anti-nuclear activist and energy sustainability organizations, including Tri-Valley CAREs, gathered in Santa Cruz, CA and then in San Clemente, CA during the past year to discuss strategy and plan actions against nuclear power operations in California and to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency solutions. The groups in this coalition played a major role in keeping the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant closed down forever (a final decision that was made recently by Southern California Edison).

- Tri-Valley CAREs staff met with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board site representative and the full board to discuss safety and security issues at Livermore Lab.
- Tri-Valley CAREs staff made many media appearances, including radio, TV and many print and electronic media sources. These media opportunities often touched on multiple program areas. Check the press room at www.trivalleycares.org for more.
- In its community right to know work, Tri-Valley CAREs initiated new litigation against the DOE for multiple violations of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Conclusion:

At Livermore Lab and other DOE sites, the continued development, testing and production of U.S. nuclear weapons is both proliferation-provocative and hazardous to human health and the environment in surrounding communities.

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 right and 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" 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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