LOOKING BACK; PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK TO MOVE FORWARD

A SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF THE PAST 12 MONTHS

• Goals and program priorities from our 2014 Strategic Planning Retreat
• Victories enjoyed and objectives yet to be achieved

Introduction:
Our activities over the past 12 months have focused on changing U.S. policy regarding nuclear weapons, nuclear materials, cleanup and health – at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and throughout the Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) nuclear weapons complex.

Tri-Valley CAREs has continued to serve as an effective “watchdog,” monitoring DOE, NNSA, and, in particular, Livermore Lab. Our ability to influence national policy and Lab operations is often visible. These pages contain some 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 to influence policy.

We met with members of Congress, the Obama Administration 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 community organizing and public involvement activities also led to many victories.

Overall, we have achieved considerable progress on the issues we chose at our strategic planning retreat in 2014.

What we said we would prioritize at last year’s retreat (in rank order):

1. Cut the nuclear weapons budget to stop new bombs and bomb plants. This is about stopping new warheads and new bomb plants that would be used to build them.
2. Ensure the cleanup of pollution at the Livermore Lab main site & Site 300. This is about leaking toxic and radioactive waste cleanup.
3. Block plutonium proposals at Livermore Lab for bomb cores & the National Ignition Facility. This is about stopping use of plutonium, the radioactive metal at the core of nuclear weapons.
4. Remove Livermore Lab & Sandia, Livermore from the nuclear weapons complex (Green Lab). This includes a campaign we call “BRAC for DOE.”
4. (tie vote) Obtain justice for sick workers with a focus on Livermore & Sandia Lab workers made ill by on the job exposures. This is about justice for workers exposed to toxic and radioactive materials.
5. **Promote global nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation & the “rule of law.”** This is about the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

No other priority suggestion received a significant number of votes. These 6 were chosen to be the group’s program priorities for 2014-2015.

**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 July 18, 2015 strategic planning retreat in particular - and to looking forward as an organization in general.

1. **Cut the nuclear weapons budget to stop new bombs and bomb plants.**

In general, TVC was directly instrumental in getting the Life Extension Program (LEP) for the W78/88-1 “interoperable” warhead put on hold for 5-years (and keeping it on hold with no forward momentum), as well as delaying the LEP last year for the Long-Range Stand Off warhead and a new air-launched cruise missile to deliver it. TVC also played a significant role with allies in stopping the CMRR-Nuclear Facility at Los Alamos, NM, getting plans downsized for the Uranium Processing Facility at Y-12 in TN and in challenging the proposal to build a new facility at the Savannah River Site in SC to make plutonium mixed-oxide fuel (MOX) for nuclear power reactors.

- TVC continued monitoring of and reporting on the W78/88-1 “interoperable” warhead, including visits with NNSA, OMB, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Rep. John Garamendi and other decision-makers. This follows on our release last year of the Navy memo outlining their objections to the program. Thus, TVC’s work substantially contributed to the “interoperable” warhead's 5-year delay in the FY 2015 budget request and to its continued delay in the FY 2016 request currently before Congress.

- We continued monitoring of and reporting on the new Long-Range Stand-Off (LRSO) warhead. In particular, meetings with Senator Feinstein and Rep. Garamendi and their personal and committee staff on the LRSO were productive. Both took action in their respective committees (and on the floor) to challenge the new LRSO warhead as well as its new delivery vehicle using information provided by Tri-Valley CAREs.

- TVC produced analyses of the FY2015 & FY2016 budget requests with a focus on DOE NNSA nuclear weapons activities. We also produced LLNL-specific analyses. We circulated these analyses and our recommendations to media, the public and decision-makers.

- TVC provided elected officials and other key decision-makers with briefing papers on nuclear weapons programs and on a superior management approach for the nuclear weapons stockpile that we have defined as “Curatorship.” Curatorship is a less proliferation-provocative, lower cost alternative.
• TVC prepared 2 nationally coordinated action alerts, timed to coincide with ANA DC Days and the introduction of key legislation. Topics were UPF, MOX, and warhead Life Extension Programs. Then, participated in a third coordinated action alert, this one centered on introduction of the SANE Act by Senator Markey and colleagues in the Senate and Rep. Blumenauer and colleagues in the House.

• TVC members published 18 letters to the editor on the nuclear weapons budget and related weapons issues. Letters were published in the San Francisco Chronicle, Contra Costa Times, Tri-Valley Times, Independent Newspaper, Stockton Record, and other mainstream news outlets.

• There were 15 articles quoting Tri-Valley CAREs on nuclear weapons issues in Physics Today, Nuclear Security and Deterrence Monitor, NPT News in Review, the Contra Costa Times, Tri-Valley Times, Independent Newspaper, and other mainstream and technical/specialty outlets. There were 8 Radio and TV appearances on Pacifica radio stations, cable, and Russia Today on nuclear weapons and related budget issues.

• TVC produced in-house media (including newsletters, issue updates, and on-line activism): including a quarterly, postal mailed newsletter, Citizen’s Watch (4 in the past 12 months focused on nuclear weapons topics); monthly electronic action alerts and issue updates (14 in 12 months).

• TVC made a significant contribution to a new report by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, The Growing U.S. Nuclear Threat, including providing authorship of multiple sections. We used the report in approximately 60 prescheduled meetings with delegates at the NPT Review Conference, members of Congress and their staff, and Obama Administration officials (see more under nuclear disarmament on the NPT).

Challenges still to be met: We have truly amazing victories on specific budget battles; still, the “top line” nuclear weapons activities budget has been a tougher nut to crack. We consider this a strategic challenge because it is a function of timidity among many Democrats and self-styled Budget Hawks of both parties. Tactically, we are addressing the change in leadership in the Senate, but the challenge is more long lasting and strategic. To win, ultimately, we must fundamentally de-legitimize nuclear weapons.

2. **Ensure the cleanup of pollution at the Livermore Lab main site & Site 300.**

In general, TVC’s strategy of increasing involvement of all sectors of the public, especially youth and Latinos is yielding a community-based consensus that influences the Superfund process and decision-making at Lab (e.g. achieving better characterization of contaminants from DU firing tables).

• TVC organized a community meeting in Livermore and issued a “State of the Superfund” report covering both the LLNL main site and Site 300. Topics included the Superfund law, hazardous waste management, current cleanup technologies, and why Livermore Lab’s public participation program should be improved in order to make better progress on critical aspects of its cleanup program.

• TVC boosted involvement with our first-ever Youth Video Contest. We established an organizing committee to develop messaging, outreach strategy, and policies for the contest. We held an awards
ceremony and showing of the three winning videos in December. The 2014 winning videos are on our website. A 2015 Youth Video Contest is scheduled to kick off on September 1, with submittals due by October 31.

• TVC boosted involvement with materials in English and Spanish, including for the community meeting noted above, other presentations about the Site 300 cleanup, the LLNL hazardous waste permit comment period and other related environmental topics. Most are available on our website.

• TVC hosted regular letter to the editor writing parties; many of them covered key aspects of the Superfund cleanup. Published letters on cleanup have appeared in the Independent, Valley Journal, Valley Times, San Jose Mercury News, The Pomegranate (Granada High student newspaper) and other media outlets.

• TVC conducted targeted outreach to area schools, colleges and universities including but not limited to a focus on High School students, and training youth and other community members to “tell their stories” clearly and effectively to elected officials and other decision-makers.

• TVC sponsored two special community tours, one of Site 300 and one at the main site, as well as hosting numerous “fence line” tours of the main site. Shortly before our strategic planning retreat last year, TVC hosted a special tour of the Site 300 Superfund cleanup areas, focusing on several former open air firing tables and dump sites heavily contaminated with depleted uranium, VOCs, tritium and other contaminants of concern. Then, in November, Tri-Valley CAREs organized a special community tour of the Livermore Lab main site for more than 20 High School seniors. Due to Livermore Lab work schedules, our next community tours are planned in November 2015; one at Site 300 and one at the main site.

• TVC’s research and technical activities kept pace with our outreach. For example, we conducted three daylong “roundtable” briefing and discussion sessions with the DOE NNSA Livermore Field Office, Livermore Lab technical and managerial staff in charge of the Superfund cleanup, the federal EPA, the California State Department of Toxic Substances Control and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

• At Site 300, all formerly used firing tables have been re-analyzed: (a) PCBs were discovered at one more firing table; (b) a new perchlorate groundwater plume was discovered; and (c) more depleted uranium was found at B-812 firing table. While winning more characterization is not a final victory, it is a necessary precursor to opening discussion on acceptable cleanup levels and remedy selection.

• At the main site, TVC made progress obtaining a Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) for 4 areas of mixed radioactive and hazardous pollutants. TVC convened a meeting this spring with DOE, the Lab, EPA and other regulators. The CA Dept. of Toxics backed our position for the first time. We are following up with EPA and believe we can succeed if EPA also backs our demand.

• Challenges still to be met: While we have won significant victories to improve cleanup, we have been less successful so far in changing the Lab’s institutional structure in order to restore the Main Site “Community Work Group.” Early in the Superfund process, the CWG was compelled by law. Now we must win it by persuasion. Likewise, we have not succeeded in getting LLNL to institute a regular outreach process for Tracy residents near Site 300.
3. **Block plutonium proposals at Livermore Lab for bomb cores & the National Ignition Facility.**

TVC’s work led directly to cancellation of the plan to ship full plutonium bomb cores from Los Alamos to Livermore to “shake and bake” test them before returning them to NM. This has a national impact as well as a local one because the cancellation of the “shake and bake” testing at Livermore impedes the ability of U.S. weapons designers to put new bomb cores in any weapons types as they go through their Life Extension Programs.

- As part of our campaign to stop the transport of plutonium bomb cores, TVC conducted meetings with decision-makers in Congress and the Obama Administration, from DOE to GAO and beyond.
- TVC was able to convince Senator Dianne Feinstein to request a cost analysis of NNSA’s plan to transport the bomb cores.
- TVC conducted a petition campaign to oppose the bomb core transport along with other outreach in the Bay Area, in New Mexico and along the transportation route to oppose the transport of the bomb cores (about 1,100 miles each way).
- Locally, TVC used the Livermore Rodeo Parade and numerous other venues to inform the public and boost support for stopping the transport of plutonium bomb cores. Letters to the Editor also augmented local outreach as did our newsletter, *Citizen’s Watch.*
- TVC conducted national outreach, including to ANA groups and national groups in Washington, DC and gathered significant support (signing onto our letters, etc.)
- TVC’s campaign resulted in the NNSA canceling all current plans to test the nuclear bomb cores at Livermore and to transport them on the nation’s highways for that purpose.
- TVC continued to oppose the use of plutonium at the NIF and to support a transition of the mega-laser - and all of LLNL - to strictly civilian and peaceful research. We were able to initiate collaboration with Natural Resources Defense Council to raise public awareness of the environmental and nuclear proliferation dangers of the plutonium experiments.
- With NRDC, we sent a joint 10-page letter to the Secretary of Energy and other decision-makers laying the legal and technical arguments that a new environmental review for the plutonium shots in NIF is warranted. We are following up on this demand through the DOE NEPA office and it may result in new Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement in 2016 that would include but not be limited to the NIF plutonium experiments. (Stay tuned.)
- Use of the Freedom of Information Act - and litigation to enforce it - was instrumental to TVC possessing detailed knowledge of the planned program of plutonium shots in NIF. Without TVC (and, to a lesser extent, without FOIA), the plutonium shots would have been carried out in secret (as it is, LLNL refuses to issue any press releases before plutonium shots and has refused to answer a reporter’s direct question early this year about whether the program had begun.)
- TVC was able to catalyze news coverage of the impending plutonium shots in NIF, with articles in *Physics Today, Tri-Valley Times, San Francisco Chronicle,* and other publications. KPFA and other radio and cable outlets ran multiple interviews and stories as well.
- The Catholic Worker Farm dedicated one of its monthly LLNL vigils at a crucial moment before the shots began to this issue, and, with TVC participation, we were able to speak to LLNL workers (by
leafleting) and the media about our opposition. We received supportive emails from scientists and workers later that day and the next.

Challenges still to be met: While we were able to focus public and media attention on the pending (and now begun) plutonium shots in NIF, we did not succeed in preventing them or in obtaining the requested environmental review in advance. Our work continues.

4. Remove Livermore Lab & Sandia, Livermore from the nuclear weapons complex (Green Lab).

- TVC met 3 times with the Department of Energy Office of the Inspector General (IG) over the past 12 months and supported the IG in its analysis and recommendation that the Congress institute a BRAC-like process to examine potential duplication among the agency’s laboratories and make recommendations for conversion and/or closures.

- TVC monitored implementation of FY2014 Omnibus Appropriations Act’s mandate for a new “Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories,” or CRENEL. We formed a collaborative with 3 other groups (2 national/in DC, 1 in NM) to observe provide input to the CRENEL. TVC met with CRENEL staff and our DC colleagues attended the Commission meetings.

- TVC prepared comments to the CRENEL and gathered additional comments from our 3 partners. Those comments will be submitted within the month.

- TVC members wrote letters to the editor on the theme of “green lab” and we promoted the concept in blogs, factsheets and other outreach materials. We also blogged and wrote short pieces in Citizen’s Watch regarding the CRENEL specifically.

- Challenges still to be met: The “BRAC for DOE” concept needs further outreach to new audiences and allies in order to develop “legs” (meaning salience in Washington, DC).

4. (tie vote) Obtain justice for sick workers with a focus on Livermore & Sandia Lab workers made ill by on the job exposures.

- Drafted and circulated two Sick Worker newsletters. This is the only publication that specifically addresses the issues of concern to LLNL and SNL-CA sick workers.

- Facilitated two Sick Worker Support Group Meetings in Livermore to assist workers with their EEOICPA claims and allow for them to network with each other.

- Tri-Valley CAREs’ Staff Attorney has been representing several former employees as an “authorized representative” with their Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) claims.

- We have been assisting workers with affidavits to support the petition to expand the Special Exposure Cohort at LLNL to include eligible workers who were employed from 1973-1995.

- TVC supported the Society of Professional Scientists and Engineers and the affiliated Union (UPTE) in a demonstration at the gates of the Lab addressing worker safety issues.
• Received information via FOIA regarding more excessive beryllium exposures and cases of beryllium disease than the Lab had previously reported. Reported it in Citizen's Watch.

5. Promote global nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation & the “rule of law.”

• TVC collaborated with other Bay Area groups to organize and host the August 6, 2014 rally, march, and nonviolent direct action at Livermore Lab, titled “Failure to Disarm: Holding Our Government Accountable”. The program focused on “modernization” programs at Livermore Lab and on the Marshall Islanders’ litigation to compel compliance with the NPT’s Article VI obligation to disarm.

• The August 6, 2014 event and its key points about nuclear weapons and abolition were covered our Citizen’s Watch, by progressive outlets like Pacifica radio, and mainstream news outlets like the Contra Costa Times. The day’s events were videotaped and distributed by Ecological Options Network and simulcast to Japan by a local Japanese news outlet. TVC members got Letters to the Editor published on the event, including in the San Francisco Chronicle and other major newspapers.

• TVC has begun organizing for 70th Anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing. Those events will span August 4-9, 2015 with a major rally at Livermore Lab on August 6. This year’s theme is: “70 Years of Nuclear Weapons – At What Cost?”

• TVC participated in the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and in surrounding events, utilizing the occasion to speak with international NGOs and diplomats about U.S. nuclear weapons policy and U.S. arms control and disarmament organizations’ methods for changing it.

• We hosted a group of mostly Japanese peace walkers who walked to various nuclear sites across the U.S. on their way to the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in NY. TVC gave two informal talks to the walkers and organized a pot-luck “exchange” with the peace walkers, TVC members and others in Livermore. Further, TVC’s board President helped organize additional events during the peace walkers’ stay in the Bay Area.

• TVC participated in the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and the public actions that preceded it, to which Tri-Valley CAREs brought and shared unique knowledge of Livermore Lab and U.S. nuclear weapons policies and budgets. Specifically, at the NPT Review Conference, TVC participated in two panels on the "modernization" of nuclear weapons arsenals and weapons complexes. TVC also co-organized a panel for the NGO Peace & Planet conference that occurred the weekend before the NPT Review Conference opened. TVC prepared materials on the nuclear weapons budget for NGOs and diplomats and distributed them during the Peace & Planet events and the NPT Review Conference.

• We organized a “Global Wave” event at the gates of Livermore Lab where about 40 people waved good-bye to nuclear weapons in solidarity with hundreds of other events around the world. Pictures of our event were included in presentations by the organizers, including at the NPT Review Conference at the UN.
• Since the NPT Review Conference, TVC has undertaken speaking engagements on the “state of the NPT.” June 2015 guest lectures, for example, have included a “nuclear salon” hosted by San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility, an event at the Murphys library hosted by the Catholic Worker Movement and other peace groups, and a TV show and talk in Sacramento hosted by the United Nations Association.

• Additionally, TVC hosted a group of Japanese visitors, including several “hibakusha” and took them on a perimeter tour of LLNL after their visit to the NPT Review Conference.

• TVC supported the Republic of the Marshall Islands’ “nuclear zero” litigation against the nuclear weapons states. TVC’s staff attorney, Scott Yundt, participated in legal strategy discussions and drafted and submitted an Amicus brief to the U.S. Court, while Marylia Kelley spoke at a day-long panel at the Vienna University of Technology on the significance of the litigation with Tony deBrum, the Marshall Islands’ Foreign Minister and others. Most recently, TVC submitted a second Amicus brief in support of the litigation, this one to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

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