From the Nation’s Capital

Scores of activists who live around U.S. nuclear weapons sites came together from across the country and converged on our nation’s capital this April. We came to influence nuclear weapons policy by contributing the authentic voices and first-hand experiences from our communities that would, otherwise, be missing from the nuclear debate.

This was the 28th annual “DC Days,” hosted by the national Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) and its member groups, including Tri-Valley CAREs. Over the course of four days nearly 100 meetings were conducted with members of Congress and senior Obama Administration officials. We presented a new report on nuclear weapons spending, titled, Trillion Dollar Trainwreck, in each meeting.

Representing Our Members

We met with “conservatives” and “progressives” alike and described how nuclear weapons adversely affect our health, our environment, our communities and our world. Your Tri-Valley CAREs team of five spoke eloquently and expertly, advocating for cancellation of the new Long-Range Stand Off (LRSO) warhead and cruise missile. We also brought stories of life in Livermore and Tracy and made decision-makers aware of depleted uranium detonations, radiation-contaminated facilities with crumbling roofs, polluted groundwater aquifers, and more.

“DC Days” also featured an ANA awards reception to honor exceptional work over the past year. Special congressional awards went to Representative Adam Smith and Senator Dianne Feinstein for their efforts to cut the LRSO. Tri-Valley CAREs was asked to present the award to Feinstein and a video with the Senator’s riveting call to action on LRSO is at http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/DCDays2016.html

Making Progress

Overall, we made concrete progress in shifting our country’s priorities from new nukes to cleanup. Moreover, we will use information we gleaned in our meetings to boost our effectiveness as we continue to move ahead.

Also of note are two key publications from ANA’s congressional awardees. Adam Smith stepped up his efforts to curb the LRSO with an opinion piece in Foreign Policy Magazine. And, June 18, Dianne Feinstein published an op-ed on the LRSO in the New York Times that cites “compelling reasons not to introduce a cruise missile that could increase the risk of nuclear war.” The piece is co-authored with our former Rep., Ellen Tauscher.

The Power of Your Presence

71 years ago, the U.S. dropped the first atomic bomb used in war on the people of Hiroshima. Three days later, on Aug. 9, 1945, the U.S. detonated a second nuclear bomb over Nagasaki.

Nobuaki Hanaoka was a baby. His mother and sister died from radiation exposure when he was a child. His brother died at 39 of premature aging. Hanaoka, now a retired Bay Area minister, often joins us at the gates of Livermore Lab to “prevent another Nagasaki tragedy from happening anywhere in the world.”

70 years ago, in the summer of 1946, the U.S. began a series of 67 nuclear tests on the people of the Marshall Islands, the last of which took place on Aug. 18, 1958. The largest was “Bravo,” a 15-megaton H-bomb detonated in 1954. Tony deBrum was nine years old. He recalls, “It was in the morning and my grandfather and I were out fishing... Everything turned red: sky, the ocean, the fish, my grandfather’s net. People in Rongelap claim they saw the sun rising from the West.”

The young boy grew up to become the Marshall Islands’ Foreign Minister. Today, deBrum represents his country in its historic lawsuits against the world’s nuclear-armed nations for their failure to disarm as required by the Non-Proliferation Treaty and customary international law. He is also the Marshall Islands’ special emissary on climate change.

We are excited to announce that Tony deBrum will deliver the keynote address at this year’s rally. Rev. Hanaoka will also speak. The theme is “DISARM NOW: We Stand with Nuclear Survivors for Global Justice.”

The rally begins at 8 am on Tue., Aug. 9. A short march to the West Gate will follow. On this solemn day, we ask you to bring the power of your presence to Livermore Lab and say “Never Again” to nuclear weapons and war.

(Flier enclosed.)
Uranium... Cont. from Page 4

soil samples, all of which would be within 700 feet of the firing table. No scientific justification was offered for the limited radius, it was merely stated that a wider investigation would have to include an inconvenient consult with the US Fish & Wildlife Service due to the presence of endangered species. We noted that the Lab could have begun that consultation anytime following the discovery of DU in the summer of 2014 and chose not to.

Other deficiencies in the work plan include a complete lack of analysis of uranium particle deposition via rainwater runoff channels (ephemeral streams) as well as the regular practice of control burning vegetation throughout the firing table area where the 80-pounds of DU was found. Our comments and supporting documentation are posted at http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/comments.html.

Next, we have called a daylong Superfund meeting for June 30 that will include the Dept. of Energy (DOE), Livermore Lab, EPA, CA Dept. of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. We have requested briefings on the DU contamination covering how and when it occurred, how it may have spread over time, how it will now be characterized and – importantly – how issues of risk and cleanup will be determined.

We will press DOE, the Lab and the regulatory agencies to hold a public meeting. We will also request a special community tour. And, we will report to you through our electronic updates, website, social media and newsletter.

Stay tuned!

Print Bites: All the News that Fits to Print

Sick Lab Worker Coverage Expanded. On June 3rd, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services approved an expansion of the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) for Livermore Lab workers. While all Livermore Lab workers can apply for benefits and compensation from the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act, they must go through a cumbersome “dose reconstruction” process to determine if their exposures were 50% or more likely to have caused the claimed illness. Workers can avoid having to meet this requirement if they fit into an SEC, a class of workers for whom it is determined that the involved agencies can not accurately “reconstruct” their radiation exposure, who also have one or more acknowledged radiogenic cancers (currently there are 22 listed cancers). Livermore Lab’s SEC was extended to cover all employees who worked at least a year (250 work days) between 1952 and December 31, 1989 (the previous cut off was December 31, 1973). If you or a loved one would like more information about the worker compensation program, contact Tri-Valley CAREs Staff Attorney, Scott Yundt, at 925-443-7148 or attend our next Sick Worker Support Group meeting on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at noon at the Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave.

Site 300 Hazardous Waste. The High Explosives Testing done at Site 300 (in support of nuclear weapons development) produces significant quantities of hazardous waste, which contains or is contaminated with high explosives and a slurry of other toxins. Many of these wastes are burned in on-site incinerators. Site 300 is a Superfund site, with serious contamination from historical mismanagement of hazardous waste. The hazardous waste operations continue to threaten the environment and human health.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has not issued a hazardous waste permit to Livermore Lab’s Site 300 since 1997. The agency is supposed to conduct a permit renewal process every decade. After a failed permit renewal process in 2007, in which public comment was taken, but then abandoned and never responded to, DTSC has issued a new Draft Hazardous Waste Permit for Site 300.

A public hearing was held in Tracy on April 27th during which the attendees were given a short presentation and allowed to ask questions. The DTSC was unable to answer many of the questions. Comments were taken on the record.

An extension of the public comment period was recently granted at Tri-Valley CAREs’ request. The public now has until Friday, July 1st to submit their written comment to the DTSC.

Tri-Valley CAREs has drafted a “sign and send” comment that we urge you to send in, available on our website. There is space at the bottom for you to add your own words. You can mail (Mr. Alejandro Galdamez, Project Manager, DTSC Office of Permitting, 700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 300, Berkeley, CA 94710) or e-mail (to Alejandro.Galdamez@dtsc.ca.gov) your comments as soon as you can.

The End of an Era

The Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant will shut down by 2025. This means that the last operating nuclear power plant in CA will close. Its owner, PG&E, announced it would develop renewable energy instead. The nuclear era is ending!

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Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) filed a Federal lawsuit in United States District Court for the Northern District of California last Friday against the U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) and its National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). The suit charges the two failed to comply with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which requires federal agencies to respond to public requests for information within 20 days.

According to the complaint, Tri-Valley CAREs alleges four separate instances the DOE and NNSA failed to provide responsive, unclassified documents regarding operations at the agencies’ Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). The information that is the subject of the litigation is overdue by up to two years, said a press release.

The group’s lawsuit asks the judge to issue a court order appointing a Special Counsel to investigate the pattern of abuse wherein DOE and NNSA fail to comply with the law. The Special Counsel would then determine whether disciplinary action is warranted and against whom.

“The DOE and NNSA are egregiously out of compliance with the law,” noted Tri-Valley CAREs’ Staff Attorney, Scott Yundt. “This frustrates the public’s basic right to know.”

Yundt added. “In some cases, important opportunities for public input have elapsed and projects have gone forward while the group’s information requests went unanswered.”

Tri-Valley CAREs brought similar FOIA litigation to compel the release of documents under the Freedom of Information Act in 1998, 2000, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2013. “We should not have to file lawsuits in order to obtain public information,” said Yundt.

Tri-Valley CAREs Invites You to:

Our 2016 Strategic Planning Retreat

Date: Saturday, July 16
Time: 9:45AM to 4:30PM. Bring something to share for a potluck lunch.
Place: United Christian Church, Livermore

Who Should Participate:
If you are a Tri-Valley CAREs member, supporter, volunteer, staff or board member, the answer is “you.” If you want to give peace a strategy – and work with us to carry it out – we welcome your participation.

What Do You Need To Do?
First, RSVP. We will send you a packet with guidance on how to do strategic planning, the day’s agenda, and other relevant information.

RSVP is required • Space is Limited
Contact: marylia@trivalleycares.org, or (925) 443-7148

Citizen’s Watch

Sick Worker Support Group meeting
Noon - 1:00 PM, Livermore Library Community Room A
1188 South Livermore Ave.
(925) 443-7148 for details

Current and former Dept. of Energy workers, and/or their survivors, who believe they were made ill by on-the-job exposures, are invited to discuss recent developments in the Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program. There will be time to discuss individual claims directly with Tri-Valley CAREs Staff Attorney Scott Yundt. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Letter to the Editor writing party
5:30 PM – 7 PM, Tri-Valley CAREs
2582 Old First St., Livermore
(925) 443-7148 for details

Come and write a letter to the editor of your favorite newspaper in a friendly and supportive environment. We will offer a short briefing on several possible topics. Snacks and refreshments served.

Tri-Valley CAREs meeting
7:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Livermore Library Community Room A
1188 South Livermore Ave.
(925) 443-7148 for details

Tri-Valley CAREs is shaking up tradition! We will experiment with a new monthly meeting format. Meetings will still be held on the third Thursday of the month. In July, however, our meeting will shift from 90-minutes to one-hour. We promise there will still be great people, information, discussion - and chocolate, but focused on fewer topics. Please join us, and let us know what you think.

Plus, on alternating months, the one-hour meeting will be expanded to feature a special guest speaker for a 30-minute talk and discussion. We are lining up a fabulous guest. Check our website for details.
On the Inside...

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- Nagasaki @ LLNL. Page 1 & Insert
- Print Bites. Page 2
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- TVC in the News. Insert
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Depleted Uranium Found Scattered at Site 300

This June, Tri-Valley CAREs obtained documents revealing that hunks of uranium-238 (also called depleted uranium or DU) were unexpectedly found strewn around the ground at a currently operating, open-air “firing table” at the Livermore Lab’s Site 300 high-explosives testing range near Tracy.

Employees were routinely sampling groundwater in the summer of 2014 when they spotted DU littering the surface soil. The Lab found 27 pieces of uranium-238 measuring 3-inches in diameter or greater. They weighed 80 pounds.

There is no question that explosive testing was the cause of the contamination. We do not know, however, how much DU is still out there in finely divided particles. We also don’t know the total number of tests - or the amount of DU they contained. Nor do we know how far, or in which directions, the DU has traveled on the wind.

We do know that uranium-238 is an alpha-emitter with a radioactive half-life of 4.5 billion years. And we know that the Lab conducts “controlled burns” around this firing table, raising the issue of re-suspension of DU particles.

Site 300 was founded in 1955 and this particular firing table began operating in 1962. The documents state that the DU contamination occurred before 2007. They speculate that the uranium-238 chunks may have been present since the 60s and 70s when the Lab conducted two to three detonations per week at this firing table. The documents fail to explain, however, how the “Remedial Investigation” of this area, completed under the Superfund law in the 1990s, missed finding such a large, and visible, hazard.

Firing tables are outdoor, gravel-based detonation pads on which the Lab sets off bomb blasts to test how well a new or modified weapon design performs. Photos we have obtained show that these blasts are huge, with dust and debris dwarfing nearby structures.

All blasts contain numerous hazardous materials. Those containing uranium-238 are a triple threat to human and ecological health because, in addition to its radioactivity, DU is a toxic heavy metal and a chemical health risk.

DU contamination had been discovered previously at a firing table in the east-central portion of Site 300, at an area called Building-812. This new DU find is situated near the site’s western boundary, at the Building-851 firing table.

Tri-Valley CAREs reviewed the Lab’s “Draft Work Plan” to characterize surface soils around the Building-851 firing table, and we submitted comments on June 10. Notably, the work plan proposes only 40
Dear Tri-Valley CAREs supporter,

I am writing to tell you that we have just taken legal action under the Freedom of Information Act to force the government to disclose serious dangers at Livermore Lab. The Dept. of Energy is trying to stop us from obtaining documents we requested on plutonium plans, leaky radioactive buildings and errant Anthrax shipments. Our lawsuit seeks information that you and I, and other members of the public, can use to change both Livermore Lab procedures and U.S. nuclear and biological weapons policy.

Today, I am asking for your financial support to pursue this important lawsuit even as we move forward with our other valuable nuclear disarmament and environmental safety programs.

Tri-Valley CAREs is an effective grassroots group with a strong history of mobilizing social and political change from the “bottom up.” I am extremely proud to be part of this effort. We tackle the beast that is the U.S. nuclear weapons complex and accomplish amazing results with a small staff and modest budget. And, I can assure you that every tax-deductible dollar you donate will be returned many times over in the beneficial change it creates.

Your gift of $1,000 dollars will help prepare the necessary Court Briefs as the lawsuit moves forward. $400 will cover our initial filing fee. And, a donation of just $25 will help purchase supplies. Your gift is needed and appreciated. Thank you!

We are your nuclear watchdog group. With your help, we will not allow the government to hide its environmental crimes beneath a veil of secrecy. Nor will we give a free pass to the weapons designers at Livermore Lab – or to their enablers in high places. Recently, we played a leading role in “DC Days,” providing information and raising questions in nearly 100 meetings with Congress and the Administration.

I am also pleased to tell you about some of our upcoming events and public involvement activities that are crucial to creating change. We will soon:

• Host a major Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemoration at the gates of Livermore Lab.
• Hold an annual Strategic Planning event to democratically chart our path forward.
• Arrange a day-long meeting with federal and state regulators to press for action on uranium-contaminated open-air “firing tables” at Livermore Lab.
• Use documents we win in our FOIA lawsuit to safeguard workers and the public – and more!

Your contribution now will be a critical part of our continued success. Please give generously!

On behalf of peace, justice and a healthy environment,

Scott Yundt,
Staff Attorney

P.S. Mail your tax-deductible gift today, or go to our secure portal at www.trivalleycares.org to make a one-time gift or to set up a monthly giving program. Thank you!
Tri-Valley CAREs
Our Effective Advocacy is in the News!

San Francisco Chronicle
Tri-Valley CAREs had four Letters to the Editor published in the past month! Here is Board President Janis Turner’s, published on May 26.

Show Conviction
President Obama will visit Hiroshima on Friday, the first U.S. President to do so while in office. White House spokespeople have emphasized that Obama will “offer a forward looking vision” about nuclear disarmament, but have remained vague about its content.

Let me help you, Mr. President. This is not the time for soaring rhetoric that lacks an implementation plan. Instead, you must announce concrete actions in Hiroshima. Cancel the new nuclear-tipped cruise missile. Scale back the trillion-dollar buying binge at the Pentagon and the National Nuclear Security Administration. Announce that you will lower the risk of accidental nuclear war by taking US nuclear warheads off high alert, often referred to as “hair trigger”.

Tangible actions like these will honor both the living and the dead by seizing this moment in history to move us further from the brink of a future nuclear conflict. Mr. President, show the courage of your convictions in Hiroshima.

Amy Goodman interview with Marylia Kelley on April 26, 2016

30 Years After Chernobyl... U.S. Activists Warn of Ongoing Risks

AMY GOODMAN: Recently, I sat down with Marylia Kelley. We were at Stanford University when she came in from her home in Livermore. She’s the executive director of Tri-Valley CAREs, or Communities Against a Radioactive Environment, a partner group with the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, the group that just put out a report called “Trillion Dollar Trainwreck: Out-of-control U.S. nuclear weapons programs accelerate spending, proliferation, health and safety risks.” I asked her to talk about contamination where she lives, at Livermore.

MARYLIA KELLEY: Livermore Lab is a Superfund cleanup site, meaning it’s on the EPA’s list of most contaminated locations in the country... [There is] an offsite groundwater plume emanating from the lab with toxic waste in it. There’s leaking—leaching down through the soil into the aquifer - a number of toxic and radioactive materials that come from the nuclear weapons work. They found elevated levels of plutonium in Big Trees Park near where I lived... There’s real danger. And there have been major, major accidents. Two of the three biggest accidents in the country with radioactive hydrogen, which is called tritium, happened at Livermore Lab, airborne releases of this radioactive hydrogen. Also, there have been airborne releases of uranium, of plutonium, etc...

To read or listen to the rest of the interview go to: http://www.trivalleycares.org/new/TVC-in-the-news.html. There, you can also find many additional media clips quoting Tri-Valley CAREs.

YES! Here is my tax-deductible donation of

___ $100   ___ $500   ___ $1000   ___ $50   ___ $25   ___ Other

Name __________________________   Phone _______________________
Address ______________________   Email _______________________
State ____________   Zip __________   City _______________________

Tri-Valley CAREs
2582 Old First St.
Livermore, CA 94550
Gather at Livermore Lab
Tuesday, August 9 at 8 AM
Nagasaki Day 2016

Music, speakers, drummers, art and more, followed by a short procession to the Livermore Lab gates where those who choose will peacefully risk arrest

Come to the Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory’s northwest corner, at Vasco & Patterson Pass Roads, in Livermore. There will be parking set up at the rally site and vanpools from the Dublin-Pleasanton BART station (you must call 925-443-7148 in advance to reserve a seat).

On the 71st anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we invite all who seek peace and justice to gather at the location where scientists are developing new nuclear weapons for the U.S. arsenal. Each new weapon involves “upgraded” features able to cause unimaginable devastation anywhere on Earth. Livermore Lab’s budget reveals that 86% of its funding is for nuclear weapons.

Stand with Hibakusha (A-bomb survivors), Pacific Islanders and others harmed by nuclear technology. This event is part of the global “Chain Reaction: Breaking Free from Nuclear Weapons.”


Additional co-sponsors welcome! Contact Livermore Conversion Project, PO Box 28119, Oakland, CA 94604
The Livermore Conversion Project
Nonviolence Guidelines*

We agree to abide by the following guidelines in all of today's actions:

- We will be open and respectful to everyone we meet;
- We will not use verbal or physical violence;
- We will not destroy property;
- We will not bring drugs or alcohol, except for medicinal purposes;
- We will not bring weapons;
- We will not run, which can cause panic;
- If arrested, we will not resist;
- If legal consequences follow our actions, we will treat all those we encounter in the process with openness and respect.

*Adopted by consensus of the planning group for the Aug. 9, 2016 actions at Livermore Lab

In conjunction with the August 9 action...

Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore
August 8, 2016

WHAT: A group camp out in beautiful Del Valle Regional Park the night before the August 9th Action at Livermore Lab; appropriate for experienced campers of all ages.

WHEN: Monday, August 8, 2016 - Check in 2 PM - 9 PM. At 7 AM the next morning we will caravan to the Lab for the event. (Note: the park gate opens at 5 AM.)

WHERE: Eagles’ View group camp at Del Valle Regional Park & Reservoir (swimming), located on Del Valle Road off Mines Road, about 9 miles outside of Livermore.

PARKING: Limited parking at the campground, carpooling is suggested.

COST: $10 per person. No additional charge for parking. Bring a water container.

DETAILS: Scott Yundt at Tri-Valley CAREs: (925) 443-7148 or scott@trivalleycares.org

RSVP REQUIRED • Musical instruments welcome • No pets • No alcohol