

## A Tri-Valley CAREs Factsheet

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### Complex Transformation and New Nuclear Weapons

#### Alliance for Nuclear Accountability Asks:

- Postpone all Complex Transformation new production and construction decisions until the 2009 Nuclear Posture Review is completed.
- Delete all funding for new weapons-related facilities including the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project's "Nuclear Facility" at Los Alamos and the Uranium Processing Facility at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.
- Stop plans for a new Kansas City Plant until the future of the arsenal is clear.
- Mandate increased permanent dismantlements of warheads from the surplus stockpile.
- Support a "curatorship" program for the U.S. nuclear weapons complex in line with new initiatives for a smaller stockpile.

#### Tri-Valley CAREs Also Asks:

- Remove all Category I and II Special Nuclear Materials (SNM) from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) by the end of 2010 and close out SNM processing and handling at LLNL.
- Cancel plans for new weapons-related facilities, including an annex to High Explosives Application Facility (HEAF) and a new Weapons Engineering Science and Technology (WEST) facility.
- Transition LLNL out of the NNSA--administered nuclear weapons complex and shift focus to non-polluting energy development, global warming research, nonproliferation, environmental technologies, and basic science programs.

#### Key Facts:

In 2008, DOE undertook a series of security drills, including a force-on-force test, in which a tactical security team played the role of an attacking force in order to see how the Lab's protective forces would respond. According to reports, the mock terrorist team's objective was to get to the nuclear material and hold the ground long enough to construct an Improvised Nuclear Device (capable of producing a nuclear explosion). A second scenario involved would be attackers stealing plutonium for use at a later date.

**While NNSA has yet to respond to Tri-Valley CAREs' Freedom of Information Act request for unclassified records regarding the security drill, the information we have gathered to date is that the mock terrorists succeeded in both of those objectives. This shows that bomb-making materials are not safe at Livermore Lab.**

**Complex Transformation will have a negative impact on Livermore Lab and surrounding communities.** The Complex Transformation plan elevates Livermore Lab's role in research and development of the high explosives component of nuclear weapons, making it the "High Explosives Research & Development Center" for the complex. In support of this expanded mission, Livermore Lab submitted a 2010 line-item budget request to DOE Headquarters for a new "High Explosives Application Facility (HEAF) annex." Complex Transformation also designates Livermore Lab as a "Center of Excellence" for "Nuclear Design and Engineering." Consequently, the Lab requested fiscal year 2010

funds from DOE Headquarters to begin construction of a 60,000 sq-ft "Weapons Engineering Science and Technology" facility. **If these funds show up in the detailed 2010 budget request when it goes to Congress next month (May 2009), the Congress should deny any funds for these facilities.**

**Some things to consider about Complex Transformation complex-wide.** The estimated price tag for Complex Transformation starts at \$150 billion, according to the Government Accountability Office. The CMRR facility at Los Alamos alone will cost at least three times what the Golden Gate Bridge cost in constant construction dollars.

**Livermore Lab should be turned into a "green lab."** The Nation is not well served by maintaining two nuclear weapons design laboratories (Livermore and Los Alamos). Instead, the Congress should stop further weapons development at both weapons labs and cut Livermore loose from the nuclear weapons complex entirely. Transitioning Livermore from nuclear weapons design to non-polluting energy development, global warming research, nonproliferation and environmental technologies is a greater necessity, and a more realistic political possibility, than during past administrations. **Livermore Lab already employs the right mix of physicists, other scientists, engineers, materials specialists and support personnel for these undertakings.** Livermore Lab houses current programs in all of these areas, including global climate modeling. The remissioning of Livermore Lab could also provide a means for productively utilizing the Sandia, Livermore site, and its engineering expertise. Sandia, Livermore is located across the street from Livermore Lab and is presently casting about for a purpose.