



Tri-Valley CAREs

Communities Against a Radioactive Environment



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Livermore Lab at the Crossroad

Public Forum to Stop a Controversial, Potentially Illegal Plan to Ship Plutonium Across Three States

For more information, contact:

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WHAT: Environmental, legal and nuclear experts from California and New Mexico will speak at a community forum about the potentially illegal new plan to ship plutonium bomb cores across three western states from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. On Sept. 30, 2012, the Livermore Lab permanently lost its security authorization to handle, use or store bomb-usable quantities of plutonium, including bomb cores, also called pits. The Livermore and Los Alamos national labs are the nation's primary nuclear weapons design facilities.

WHEN AND WHERE: The community forum will take place on Wednesday, January 30, 2013, from 7 PM to 9 PM at the Livermore main library (in the large community room) located at 1188 South Livermore Ave, Livermore, CA.

WHY: The U.S. Dept. of Energy (DOE) has failed to adequately plan for the permanent reduction of Livermore Lab's security forces from a Category I/II level to the lesser Category III, which does not permit "nuclear bomb usable quantities" of plutonium to be on the site. The Los Alamos Lab in NM is charged with making plutonium pits for the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile. Yet, DOE left a suite of pit diagnostics in one service bay in Bldg. 334 at Livermore Lab. The DOE now proposes to bring whole plutonium pits from NM to CA to utilize the diagnostics, known as "shake and bake," consisting of a shaker table, thermal unit and drop test. Los Alamos Lab does not currently possess this particular diagnostic suite and Livermore Lab does not possess the security infrastructure to safely handle the pits. The DOE has not conducted any environmental impact statement or review of the safety hazards and potentially catastrophic consequences of its proposal. The CA and NM experts will outline viable alternatives that will provide more safety at both facilities and all of the communities in between. The Livermore event will be the first public discussion of this proposal. The forum will also address the Superfund cleanup of leaking toxic and radioactive wastes at Livermore Lab and the contrasting futures that cleanup and bomb testing offer to the community.

WHO: "Livermore Lab at the Crossroad" is sponsored by Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment), the Livermore-based nuclear watchdogs since 1983. Presenters include:

- **Jay Coghlan** is the Executive Director of Nuclear Watch New Mexico. Coghlan worked with Senator Jeff Bingaman to legislatively mandate independent expert review of plutonium pit lifetime studies. The November 2006 conclusion that pits last a century or more has seriously undermined the National Nuclear Security Administration's aggressive proposals for new weapons designs and expanded pit production.
- **Marylia Kelley** is the Executive Director of Tri-Valley CAREs and serves on the "Community Work Group" to advise EPA and DOE on the cleanup of Livermore Lab. Kelley has testified before the CA Legislature and the U.S. Congress on the future of Livermore Lab and the nuclear weapons complex.
- **Peter Strauss** is an Environmental Scientist under contract with Tri-Valley CAREs since 1991. Strauss authored two "community guides" for the Livermore Lab Superfund cleanup and a comprehensive study of plutonium problems at Livermore Lab.
- **Scott Yundt** is the Staff Attorney at Tri-Valley CAREs. Yundt manages the group's community "right to know" and environmental programs. He has brought federal litigation on Tri-Valley CAREs' behalf under the Freedom of Information Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

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