

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Community Work Group
on the LLNL main site Superfund program since 1989

November 30, 2009

Dr. Ines Triay
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management
U.S. Dept. of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Triay:

We are members of the **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory main site Community Work Group (CWG)**. The CWG was formed in 1989 as part of the Lab's "Community Relations Plan" under Superfund. The CWG is comprised of community members and other local stakeholders working together to advise the Livermore Site Office, Livermore Lab, U.S. EPA Region IX, CA State Dept. of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board on the Superfund cleanup at the Livermore Lab main site.

Our overarching goal is to assure that the contaminated soil and groundwater on-site and emanating from the site are remediated in the most timely, comprehensive and environmentally-benign manner possible.

As a Community Work Group, our scope includes both the Superfund cleanup activities that have transitioned to the National Nuclear Security Administration, and the potential for accelerating cleanup and achieving contaminant footprint reduction that exists with the passage of the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**, also known as the stimulus.

As you know, the ARRA contained \$6 billion in funds to be disbursed by your office. Two of our CWG members have been in communication with your top ARRA officer, Cynthia Anderson, and we truly appreciate her willingness to meet with stakeholders and her knowledge of, and commitment to, the Dept. of Energy Environmental Management ARRA program. We plan to continue the relationship.

However, we also note that the **November 2, 2009 ARRA "News Flash"** shows only **256 total direct and indirect jobs in California attributable to EM's \$6 billion stimulus program**. California is the most populous state in the nation, is directly affected by Dept. Of Energy nuclear weapons and related activities, and is also one of the states hardest hit by the severe economic downturn that the stimulus is intended to mitigate. In contrast, we see that Idaho, Tennessee, South Carolina and Washington State each have already achieved between 1, 500 and 5,000 jobs apiece.

We request your willingness to work with us to ensure that a small but significant amount of the ARRA Defense Environmental cleanup monies come to be spent on soil and groundwater cleanup projects at the Livermore Lab. **We write you now in support of the approximately \$35 million package that the Livermore Site Office submitted to your office under an April 14, 2009 cover letter for stimulus funding.**

Applying EM ARRA funds to these specific projects at LLNL will help jumpstart our economy, create “green” jobs, address environmental challenges that have been neglected under the baseline program, accelerate cleanup and shrink the footprint of on and off-site pollution at the Livermore Lab main site. Moreover, these projects are “shovel ready,” achievable and able to meet contract and performance milestones for completion under the ARRA.

As the Community Work Group, with a focus on main site Superfund issues, we especially commend to your attention two of the projects that will speed cleanup at the main site.

- The LSO package of April 14, 2009 requests \$9 million to investigate and remediate the Building 212 area where low-levels of radioactive materials, including transuranics, and mercury have been recently discovered collocated in soil. There is a priority need to complete the characterization and achieve the cleanup of this location.
- The LSO April 14, 2009 package also requests \$966 thousand that will be used to remediate the leading edge of the contaminated groundwater plume that is off-site to the west of the Lab and in the neighborhood where some of the CWG members live. (This project is also referred to in the July 2009 Project Operating Plan as Treatment Facility A West.)

On November 12, 2009, we met at the Livermore Lab main site for a CWG session that included discussions with Livermore Lab technical staff and feedback from the community on these two issues.

We cannot state too strongly that we support ARRA funding for these two projects. We believe both are within the scope and spirit of the EM ARRA funding even if the Livermore Lab main site has transitioned to NNSA for the majority of its cleanup activities. We thank you for your attention, and we stand ready to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

For the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory main site Community Work Group,

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