

Livermore Peace Vigil for Nuclear Abolition

Date: *April 5th, 2013*

Time: *7:00-8:30 AM*

Place: *Gates to
Lawrence Livermore
National Laboratory,
Corner of East Ave. and
Vasco Road, Livermore*



This is the first in a series of vigils to be held at the gates of Livermore Lab on the Friday after the first Thursday of each month.

Who will lead the vigils? Vigil leaders are Chelsea Collonge, a former intern at Tri-Valley CAREs, and her partner, Marcus Page. The monthly vigils are an active practice of peace. Workers will be encouraged to stop and discuss nuclear weapons and their abolition. Chelsea and Marcus have been effective peacemakers over the past decade at Livermore, the Nevada Test, and the Los Alamos Lab in New Mexico. Starting in February, they will also staff the Catholic Worker house at Sheep Ranch, in the Sierra foothills.

Why vigil for nuclear abolition at Livermore Lab? The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) was established in 1952 as one of our nation's two nuclear weapons research and design laboratories, the other being Los Alamos. Despite the impression given by LLNL's public relations materials, the Lab's focus continues to be nuclear weapons R&D. ***Approximately 88% of LLNL's current budget is spent on Nuclear Weapon Activities, about \$1 billion annually.***

The LLNL main site, where the vigils will occur, was listed on the National Priorities List (AKA the Superfund List) of the ***most contaminated sites in the country*** in 1987. The contamination includes toxic poisons and radiation dumped into the air, soil and water. Children born in Livermore were found to have 6 times the expected rate of malignant melanoma. More than 1600 LLNL employees have filed claims for illnesses caused by on the job exposures, and the number is growing.

In 2008, Tri-Valley CAREs and the Project on Government Oversight publicized the results of security drills, documenting that a team of mock terrorists accessed the Lab's nuclear material and detonated a "radiological device" while another group stole plutonium and left the site unmolested. The government then made the final decision to remove the weapons-usable quantities of plutonium from Livermore Lab. That goal was finally achieved last year, and more than 100 security guards were reassigned or laid off. However, ***a new plan to test plutonium bomb cores at Livermore Lab will put the public at risk.***

What will you accomplish? Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) has been a leading voice for nuclear accountability, transparency and political change for 30 years. ***Please join us.*** Bring signs, candles, aspirations and good vibes. Come prepared to stand (or sit) witness for nuclear abolition, and to discuss your presence with any workers who choose to engage.

***For more info contact Tri-Valley CAREs • 2582 Old First St., Livermore, CA 94550
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