

TO THE RAMPARTS!

An Alert To Mobilize

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John Wilks, Chair, Environmental Committee
Veterans For Peace (Chapter #63-Albuquerque)

This special CALL TO ACTION is a departure from our previous education pieces aimed at informing and updating our readership. As the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) shifts its mission from research to weapons production, we seek to transition from a purely educational role to motivating our allies into direct action. We hope to periodically highlight special opportunities to responsibly, peacefully, and vigorously advocate for an immediate halt of the U.S. Empire's ownership, production, and threatened use of nuclear munitions.

Our committee seeks to forge a mutually beneficial alliance with established organizations with a demonstrated history of countering nuclear weapons proliferation goals and accomplishments. One such organization, the Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (Tri-Valley CAREs) in Livermore, CA, works to terminate plutonium activities at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL). Tri-Valley CAREs is waging a monumental struggle against the Livermore Lab, and indirectly against LANL and Sandia Lab (SNL); it deserves our support!

In 2005, the U.S. DOE increased the plutonium storage limit at LLNL to 3,080 pounds, enough for about 300 nuclear bombs. Tri-Valley CAREs advocated for stopping all plutonium experiments at LLNL, including those *planned* in the National Ignition Facility mega-laser. Nuclear weapons activities at the Livermore Lab Main Site and its Site 300 high explosives range have resulted in hundreds of documented toxic and radioactive releases in the Tri-Valley air, soil, groundwater, and surface waters. Those activities, and the dangers they pose, are ongoing. Does this sound familiar to Northern New Mexicans? We urge our readers to log on to the Tri-Valley CAREs web site, then sign and send the letter to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Livermore Field Office (LFO), entitled, "Request for Withdrawal of a Permit Application to Detonate Open-Air Bomb Test at Livermore Lab's Site 300."

Since it was founded in 1955, Site 300's operations have included open-air blasts with high explosives and multiple toxic and radioactive materials used in nuclear weapons. Both locations have been designated federal "Superfund" sites; the lab in 1987 and Site 300, near Tracy, CA, in 1990. The cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater aquifers at both locations is complex and includes multiple plumes of hazardous and radioactive wastes, often commingling them, involving uranium, tritium, volatile organic compounds, high explosives, hexavalent chromium, and others. The cleanup time frame is multi-generational and will take 50-80 years, or longer. We urge our readers to log on to the Tri-Valley CAREs web site, then sign the letter to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Complex 2030, the Empire's plan to modernize and replace *its entire nuclear arsenal*, has sparked an arms race between LLNL and LANL. The Labs are working on competing designs for a replacement for the 100-kiloton W76 warhead (some 1,600 of which are currently deployed on Trident II D-5 submarine-launched ballistic missiles). *Note:* The Los Alamos Lab, in April 2003, announced that it had successfully manufactured the first

plutonium pit in 14 years that meets specifications for the U.S. stockpile. The newly made pit was for the 475 kiloton W88 war head, carried on the Trident II D-5 Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile. "Life Extension Programs" are underway for the B61 bomb, W76 SLBM (Sea Launched Ballistic Missile), and the W80 Cruise Missile. This is scary stuff to be sure! In 2006, it was determined that the plutonium in the U.S. nuclear arsenal remains viable for as long as 100 years, more than twice as long as had been thought. But consider that more than 12,000 pits from dismantled weapons languish at the Pantex nuclear weapons assembly/disassembly plant in Texas, available for reuse or for possible shipment to LANL for the proposed dilution and disposal alternative under a Surplus Plutonium Disposition Program (SPDP) now being actively considered by the NNSA. More plutonium at LANL, even for the purpose of "down blending" of the plutonium, should be totally unacceptable to New Mexicans concerned about possible further contamination of New Mexico's air, soil, or water! We urge our readers to log on to the Tri-Valley CAREs web site, then sign the petition to the Department of Energy. The petition seeks "To Prevent the Transport of Plutonium Bomb Cores Back and Forth Between Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Livermore, California."

The concerns and interests of Tri-Valley CAREs align with those of the Environmental Committee of Veterans For Peace, Chapter #63 (Albuquerque). By mutually supporting each other in this nuclear non-proliferation effort, we can jointly make a significant contribution to peace, social justice, and the health of our communities.

Special Note: To The Ramparts! Volume #2, Issue #3, slated for issuance in late March 2021, will outline recommended strategies and goals for activism for the remainder of 2021. The Committee welcomes suggestions and input for that issue. Kindly send your thoughts to John Wilks, at johnnewilksiii@windstream.net or Bill Tiwald, at vhtiwal@gmail.com.