

Citizen's Watch



Nuclear Warheads: In the Budget & the Labs

Nuclear proliferation begins at home. That has never been clearer than now, as the U.S. embarks on what many scientists at the nuclear weapons labs are calling “the second nuclear age.” The Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Pentagon together plan to spend \$1 trillion over the next 30 years to “modernize” all aspects of the nuclear weapons stockpile: the bombs and warheads, the production facilities, the delivery systems, and command and control systems.

As part of this new buildup, and despite a clear obligation under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to disarm, the U.S. continues to pursue nuclear weapons Life Extension Programs (LEPs). These LEPs are introducing exotic changes into the arsenal. And, many will result in nuclear weapons with new military capabilities—contrary to promises made in the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review and assertions made by President Obama at the Nuclear Security Summit in March 2016.

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget & New Warheads

First the good news: The budget request continues the 5-year freeze on Livermore Lab’s proposal to develop a novel “Interoperable Warhead” that would be a mash-up of three or more different bomb designs and able to launch a nuclear war interchangeably from a land-based silo or a submarine. Tri-Valley CAREs will continue its efforts to cancel this program outright.

Overall, however, the NNSA’s FY 2017 budget request represents a down payment on the \$1 trillion in upgrades planned for U.S. nuclear weapons. The NNSA budget request to develop new bombs and warheads serves as the “driver” for the Pentagon’s new missiles, subs and planes.

The FY 2017 request for NNSA Nuclear Weapons Activities is \$9.24 billion, up nearly \$400 million from the already-too-lavish \$8.84 billion that Congress appropriated for FY 2016. In its 5-year plan, the NNSA Nuclear Weapons Activities budget shows a rise every year, to \$10.5 billion in FY 2021.

As the graph below illustrates, the budget for nuclear weapons has doubled over the past 16 years even as stockpile numbers have been reduced sharply. And, the costs continue to rise. Why?

The escalating cost of maintaining U.S. nuclear weapons is due not to the difficulty of the task or to excessive “aging.” It is due to elective changes that the NNSA is introducing into the stockpile through LEPs.

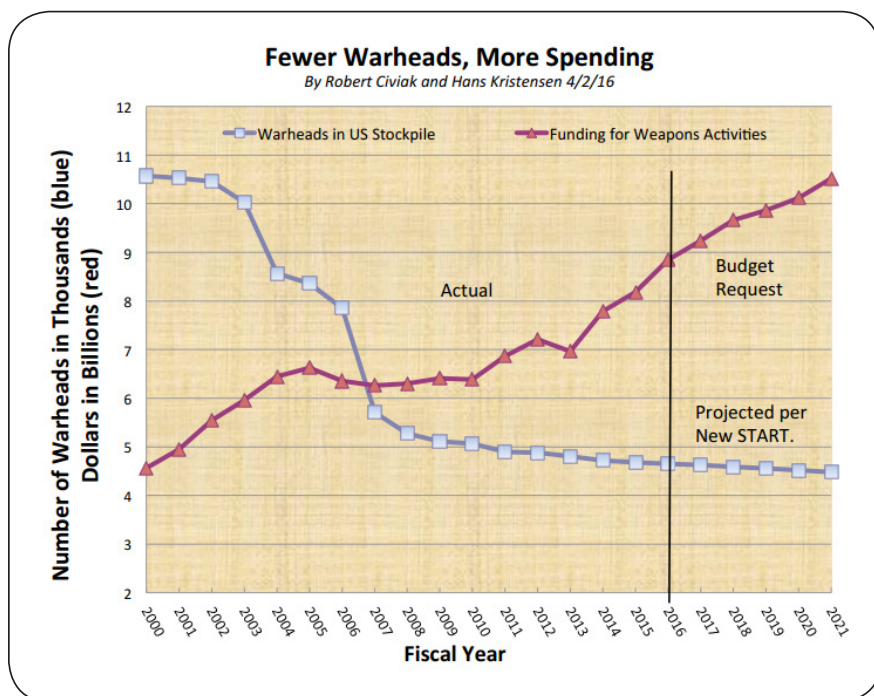
The FY 2017 budget request sets in motion a potential train wreck of multiple overlapping LEPs and major alterations competing for many of the same facilities and personnel, the W76-1, B61-12, W88, and W80-4. Additionally, NNSA still has the ill-advised “Interoperable Warhead” (IW-1) LEP lined up for 2020.

Each of these warhead programs requires close scrutiny of its rationale, the proposed scope of its design change, and its corresponding price tag. Each should be constrained or canceled. Here, we will look in particular at the Long-Range Stand Off (LRSO) warhead.

W80-4: Long-Range Stand Off Warhead

The Air Force plans to field about 1,000 nuclear-tipped LRSO cruise missiles to replace the current air-launched cruise missile. The new missiles will be capable of carrying conventional or thermonuclear warheads. The nuclear LRSO will be indistinguishable from the conventional one, making it “uniquely destabilizing” according to former Secretary of Defense William Perry and others. In an op-ed in the Washington Post, Perry and Andy Weber, a former Assistant Secretary of Defense, called on the President to cancel the development of the new nuclear-tipped cruise missile and pursue, instead, a global ban on this weapon type.

Continued on Page 3...



Lawsuit Progress

In March, hearings were held on the #NuclearZero lawsuits in the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The cases were brought by the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), a tiny pacific island nation of about 52,000 people that was also the site of 67 U.S. nuclear weapons tests.

The RMI lawsuits seek to bring the nine nuclear weapons states into compliance with their disarmament obligations under Article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Only the UK, India and Pakistan accepted jurisdiction of the ICJ. The RMI separately brought suit against the U.S. in federal court, where Tri-Valley CAREs filed two Amicus (“Friend of the Court”) briefs in support. *(The federal case is fully briefed on appeal from a lower court dismissal and is awaiting a hearing date.)*

Tony deBrum, co-Agent and former Foreign Minister of the RMI, testified to the ICJ on the RMI’s unique perspective about the effects of nuclear weapons, saying...

“Yesterday was a beautiful morning here in The Hague that featured a picture-perfect snowfall. As a tropical State, the Marshall Islands has experienced ‘snow’ on one memorable and devastating occasion, the 1954 Bravo test of a thermonuclear bomb that was one-thousand times the strength of the Hiroshima bomb... within 5 hours of the explosion, it began to rain radioactive fallout at Rongelap. Within hours, the atoll was covered with a fine, white, powdered-like substance. No one knew it was radioactive fallout. The children thought it was snow. And the children played in the snow. And they ate it.”

India, Pakistan and the UK responded that they are supportive of nuclear disarmament. The RMI pointed to many glaring examples of policies in direct contrast to those claims.

The judges of the ICJ will deliberate procedural issues raised by the nuclear weapons states seeking to prevent the Court from deciding the substantive merits of the case. The Court will announce its decisions at a date to be determined.

Tri-Valley CAREs on Democracy Now!



Following an interview with our executive director on Democracy Now!, Amy Goodman and Denis Moynihan wrote the following column, distributed through King Features. Here, below, is an excerpt. The full column can be found in the Union Newspaper, on the Democracy Now! website, and in our “pressroom” at: www.trivalleycares.org

...Secretary of State John Kerry visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum on Monday, the first sitting U.S. secretary of state to visit the site. Kerry was in Japan for a meeting of the G-7 nations. In his public remarks at the memorial, Kerry offered no apology for the nuclear attacks. He did say, though, that the museum “was a reminder of the depth of obligation that every single one of us in public life carries — in fact, every person in position of responsibility carries — to work for peace ... to create and pursue a world free from nuclear weapons.”

Despite the lofty rhetoric, President Obama has launched what the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability calls the “Trillion Dollar Trainwreck.” That is the title of a new report on Obama’s massive plan to modernize the U.S. nuclear-weapons arsenal, to be released next Monday. Marylia Kelley is one of the report’s authors. She serves as executive director of Tri-Valley CAREs, or Communities Against a Radioactive Environment, a partner organization with the Alliance. Of Kerry’s visit to Hiroshima, Kelley said, on the “Democracy Now!” news hour, “Kerry went empty-handed. The United States needs to go with a concrete plan to roll back its own nuclear-weapons program. You cannot preach abstinence, in terms of nuclear weapons, from the biggest bar stool in the room.”

“The United States is initiating a new nuclear arms race, because the other nuclear-armed states, of course, when they look at our ‘modernization program,’ are now beginning their own,” she told us. “We need this to be rolled back.” Kelley lives in Livermore, California, home to one of the U.S. government’s national laboratories dedicated to developing and manufacturing nuclear bombs...

We want to give a shout out to Amy Goodman and the great team at Democracy Now! for elevating this issue. Tri-Valley CAREs and allied organizations are committed to building a movement to stop this buildup and achieve a nuclear-free world.

Save the Date: August 9th in Livermore



Tony deBrum, former Foreign Minister; co-agent for the Marshall Islands in their courageous lawsuits against the nuclear-armed countries for their failure to disarm; and global leader on climate change, will speak at the annual Livermore Lab Hiroshima-Nagasaki protest at 8am on Tuesday morning, August 9, 2016, the 71st anniversary of the US atomic bombing of Nagasaki. There will be several other distinguished speakers and a march to the gates of Livermore Lab where those who choose will block the gates and risk arrest as an act of civil disobedience to say “Never again!” Mark your calendars now! You won’t want to miss this!

Nuke Budget... *Cont. from Page 1*

The NNSA is in charge of developing a new nuclear warhead for the Air Force's new LRSO missile. The proposed W80-4 warhead would be a variant of the W80-1 that sits atop current cruise missiles. Livermore is the "lead lab" to design the W80-4.

The FY 2017 budget request asks for more than \$220 million for the W80-4 LEP, up from \$9 million two years ago. The funding is slated to increase to more than \$636 million in FY 2021. Independent estimates of the overall LRSO missile and warhead costs come in around \$30 billion.

The FY 2017 budget request further reveals that the NNSA's LRSO warhead development is at least a full year out in front of the Pentagon's missile design, a "cart-before-the-horse" situation that may cause a significant escalation above the estimated price.

What is the nation getting for the estimated \$30 billion, or more? Certainly not a weapon required for "deterrence," however one considers it. The U.S. already possesses highly accurate, long-range land based and sea based ballistic missiles as well as nuclear gravity bombs. A new, stealthy, radar-evading LRSO weapon able to launch a sneak nuclear attack from thousands of miles away is by definition a potential first-use weapon.

In March our Senator, Dianne Feinstein, the ranking member on the appropriations energy & water development subcommittee, noted: "The so-called improvements to this weapon seem to be designed, candidly, to make it more usable, to help us fight and win a limited nuclear war. I find that a shocking concept." In sum, the LRSO may cause nuclear instability greater than any calculated value to the arsenal.

Both the W80-4 LRSO warhead and the missile should be delayed, at a minimum. Further investigation should be applied to the program with an eye toward outright cancellation of this costly, potentially destabilizing weapon, saving \$30 billion. Moreover, cancelling the LRSO now will save environmental contamination and our country's tattered nonproliferation and disarmament goals.

Our thanks to Dr. Robert Civiak, a physicist and independent weapons analyst, and Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists for preparing the graph.

New Report: Trillion \$ Trainwreck

The nuclear weapons "Trillion Dollar Trainwreck" is here. This hot-off-the-press report was co-authored by Tri-Valley CAREs Executive Director, Marylia Kelley,

TRILLION DOLLAR TRAINWRECK

Out-of-control U.S. nuclear weapons programs accelerate spending, proliferation, health and safety risks



and other experts from the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability in preparation for "DC Days."

Tri-Valley CAREs and allied organizations are conducting the research, analysis, advocacy and organizing necessary to stop the new nuclear arms race provoked by the government's plan to spend \$1 trillion over the next three decades to upgrade U.S. nuclear weapons.

Find out more about the LRSO and other elements of the "Trillion Dollar Trainwreck" on our website at www.trivalleycares.org

◆ Alerts 4 U ◆



Thursday, April 21

Tri-Valley CAREs meeting
7:30 PM – 9 PM, Livermore Library
Community Room A
1188 South Livermore Ave.
(925) 443-7148 for details

This special Tri-Valley CAREs monthly meeting is held at our usual location, the Livermore Library. We will hear back from several members of our **2016 DC Days team**, who will have just arrived back from Washington. We welcome new and long-time members alike. Our monthly meetings are a place to get acquainted, get informed, and get motivated. Join us!

Thursday, April 28

Monthly Livermore Peace Vigil
7:30 AM - Livermore Lab East Gate,
Located on Greenville Road
(925) 443-7148 for details

Vigil leaders are Chelsea Collonge and Marcus Page-Collonge. The monthly vigils are a practice of peace. Lab workers are encouraged to stop and discuss nuclear weapons and their abolition. Additional vigil participants are welcome.

Thursday, May 5

Letter to the Editor writing party
5:30 PM – 7 PM, Tri-Valley CAREs
2582 Old First St., Livermore
(925) 443-7148 for details

Join us for our monthly Letter to the Editor writing party. Come and write a letter to the editor of your favorite newspaper in a friendly and supportive environment. Our suggested topic will be the nuclear weapons budget. We will offer a short briefing and handouts to get you started. Or, you may choose to write on a different topic. Snacks and refreshments served.

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Lab's Haz Waste Scrutinized; April 27 Public Hearing

Tri-Valley CAREs has long kept a watchful eye on Livermore Lab's hazardous waste operations. After years of agency delay, both Livermore Lab sites' Hazardous Waste Permits are undergoing review.

The Main Site Permit

In 2015, the Lab's Main Site underwent a much belated permit renewal process with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The draft of the permit renewal, which was required to comply with the Resource, Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and numerous state and federal hazardous and mixed waste regulations, underwent a public comment period last summer.

Tri-Valley CAREs identified many shortcomings. Thus, we mobilized the community to make extensive comments at the public hearing and drafted detailed written comments. The DTSC recently released the final permit in which it "responded" to comments. We are in the process of reviewing the final permit and comment responses and may petition for further review of the permit. We will keep you updated on our decision.

Site 300 Permit

Fresh on the heels of the Main Site permit, the DTSC has decided to issue a new draft hazardous waste permit for Site 300. Livermore Lab's Site 300 conducts experiments testing high explosives, including contained and open air blasting, just outside of Tracy. The site handles, stores and treats hazardous wastes emanating from its work with high explosives and related weapons activities.

This new draft permit follows a 2007 draft permit for which there was a public process (in which Tri-Valley CAREs submitted extensive comments). However the DTSC never finalized that permit - or responded to any comments! Many of the concerns we expressed in our 2007 comment remain, including what we believe is an improperly classified hazardous waste incinerator. The new draft permit is available for review at our office, at the Livermore Public Library and at the DTSC's reading room in Berkeley.



A public comment period on the draft permit extends from March 28 until at least May 17th.

There will be a public hearing at the Multipurpose Room (Cafeteria) at Monticello Elementary School (1001 Cambridge Place) in Tracy on Wednesday, April 27th at 6:30pm.

Tri-Valley CAREs will prepare talking points for the public hearing that will be available at our table, so please come by and say "hi." Following the hearing, we will prepare more extensive written comments and a "sign and send" comment that will be available on our website. Please come to the public hearing if you can, and check our website for updates.

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YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Meet Your “DC Days” 2016 Team



Vecky Elliott



Avi Taylor



Julie Kantor



Scott Yundt



Marylia Kelley

Tri-Valley CAREs to Meet with Lawmakers in DC

A team of advocates from Tri-Valley CAREs will be in Washington, DC from April 17th through 20th this year to release, *“Trillion Dollar Trainwreck,”* an in depth critique of the government’s dangerous, costly plan to upgrade the U.S. nuclear weapons complex and arsenal over the next 30 years.

The report focuses on new nuclear warheads and production facilities in the current budget request, and offers recommendations to increase accountability while moving the funding from bombs to cleanup and other beneficial programs.

Our delegation will press the report’s recommendations in 80 scheduled meetings with our Senators, other key members of Congress, leaders of congressional committees that oversee nuclear issues, and Administration officials.

Tri-Valley CAREs’ Executive Director, **Marylia Kelley**, and Staff Attorney, **Scott Yundt**, will mentor three amazing community members on the team. **Julie Kantor** initially served as the group’s summer legal intern. **Vecky Elliott** became active to protect her Tracy community from pollution emanating from Livermore Lab’s high explosives testing range. And, **Avi Taylor** first met Tri-Valley CAREs when the group hosted his Quaker-based high school class for a Lab tour and briefing.

“I will ask Congress to cut all funding for the Long-Range Stand Off warhead being developed at Livermore Lab,” said the 17-year-old Taylor. “I want to represent my generation and help build a future free of nuclear weapons.”

“I will demand that the White House and Congress prioritize the Superfund cleanup of toxic and radioactive pollution at Livermore Lab and other nuclear sites across the country,” vowed Elliott. “The problem is not a shortage of money. It’s a lack of political will.”

The Tri-Valley CAREs team will be working with colleagues from more than a dozen states who are participating in the 28th annual Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) “DC Days.” The ANA network represents 35 local, regional and national organizations whose members live downwind and downstream from U.S. nuclear weapons sites. Tri-Valley CAREs has been a member since 1989.

Note: “Trillion Dollar Trainwreck” will be posted at www.trivalleycares.org upon its release in Washington, DC. Scott Yundt will also live-tweet (@ScottYundt) and post meeting photos to Tri-Valley CAREs’ Facebook page.

Additionally, members of the Tri-Valley CAREs delegation will “report back” to the community on April 21st at the Livermore Library main branch in community room A.

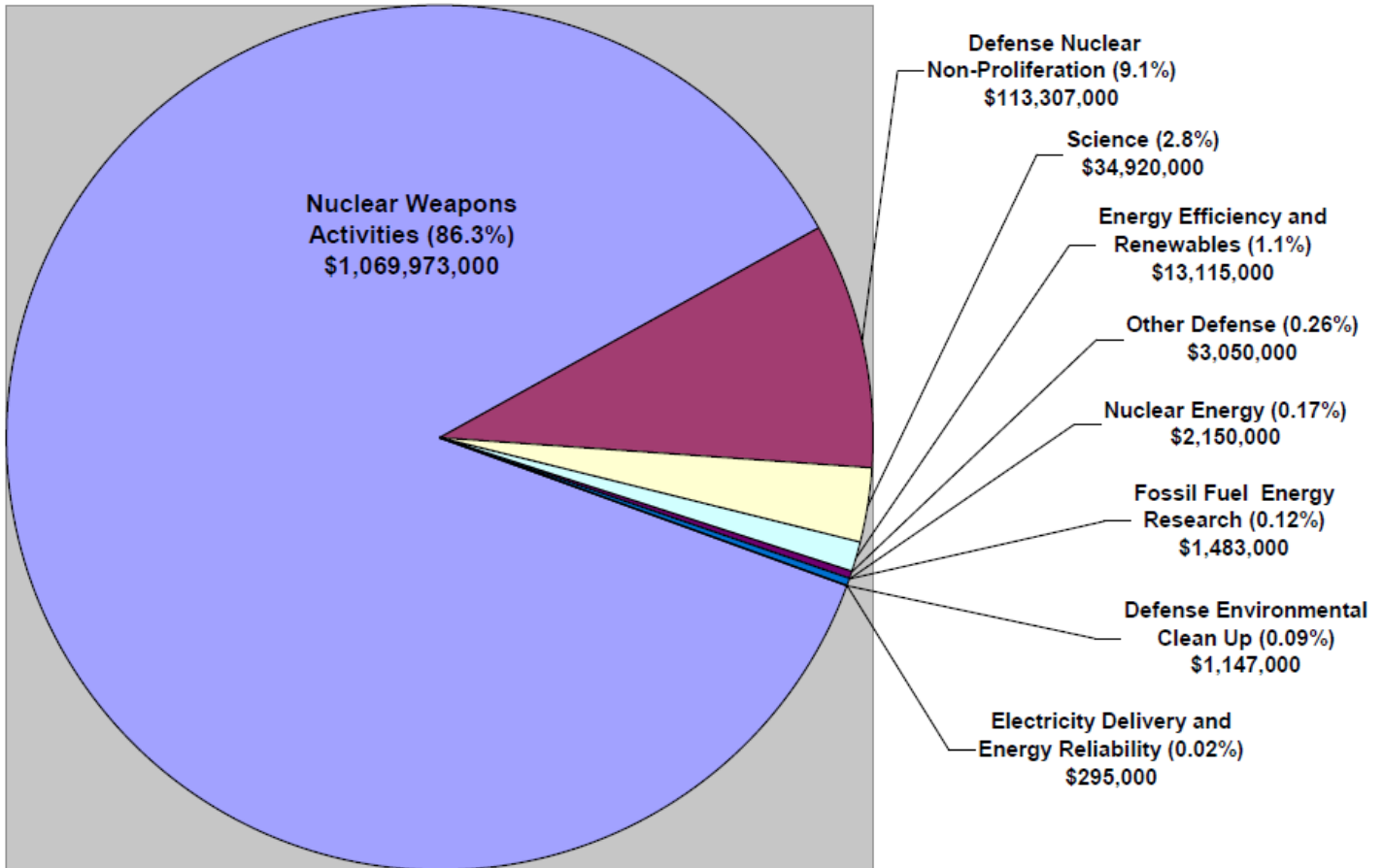
4 Ways to Donate to Tri-Valley CAREs

- 1. Send in your check today.** Why put off until tomorrow the activism you can support today?
- 2. Donate on-line at www.trivalleycares.org.** We have a secure on-line system with Network for Good. Use it to make a one-time contribution or to set up a regular giving program.
- 3. Make a gift of stock.** Donating stock can bring you significant tax benefits. We have an E-trade account set up to process your donation.
- 4. Make a bequest** and include Tri-Valley CAREs in your will. Nuclear weapons are leaving a toxic legacy in our community. Will you leave a positive legacy so that we can continue the struggle?

Thank you!

Why We Must go to DC...

Fiscal Year 2017 Dept. of Energy Budget for Livermore Lab (Total Requested= \$1,239,440,000)



Because we still have work to do! We created this pie chart from government data as part of our ongoing analysis of the Obama Administration's Fiscal Year 2017 nuclear weapons budget. You can see at a glance that nuclear weapons activities are 86% of Livermore Lab's requested budget. Livermore Lab public relations efforts try to disguise the truth about the budget. We are dedicated to revealing it.

Your contribution today supports Tri-Valley CAREs' truth telling about the current budget as well as vigorous efforts to radically change it in the future.

Tri-Valley CAREs
2582 Old First St.
Livermore, CA 94550

COUNT ME IN! Here is my tax-deductible donation of

\$1000 \$500 \$100 \$50 \$ 25 Other

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