

## HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI COMMEMORATION AT LIVERMORE LAB (2021)

### Intro Tri-Valley CAREs

Hi, I'm Marylia Kelley, the Executive Director of Tri-Valley CAREs. 38 ago community members and experts living around the Lawrence Livermore National Lab founded the group, and I was one of the co-founders.

### What is Livermore Lab?

To mark the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, I am standing at the West Gate of the Livermore Lab where I can see scientists, engineers and support personnel coming to work. Many will spend this solemn anniversary creating new weapons of nuclear mass destruction. Livermore Lab is **one of two locations** that design every nuclear warhead and bomb in the U.S. stockpile. (*The other is the Los Alamos Lab in NM.*) Livermore Lab is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration.

A few months ago, President Biden released his first budget request to Congress. All of the new warheads in the Trump administration's nuclear posture review are fully funded in Biden's fiscal year 2022 request. This budget request, I am sad to say, **escalates** a perilous global arms race. While Biden has announced that he will undertake a new posture review in the coming months, in this moment I must tell you it is not at all clear that his posture review will seek to "crush the curve" of U.S. nuclear arms racing.

Livermore Lab is where the policy of nuclear arms racing becomes operationalized into new warheads with new military capabilities.

### What goes on inside the fence?

I am holding **Livermore Lab's** fiscal year 2022 budget request. (Attached here as a PDF.) Inside this fence, more than 85% of its Department of Energy funding is for nuclear "weapons activities." As you can see, nearly \$2 billion dollars next year will be slated for weapons activities. For comparison, **2%** of the funding is allocated for "science programs." And, **less than 1%** of its budget is for research into "energy efficiency and renewable energy" sources.

Therefore, when I speak about what goes on **inside** this classified fence line, it is fitting to begin with Livermore Lab's central role in enabling the new arms race that we are here to stand with the Hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) and others to oppose and reverse.

The Livermore Lab budget request lists 5 new nuclear bombs and warheads that these workers are creating.

Some of you who have heard me speak at prior Hiroshima-Nagasaki rallies about one of the new warheads that Livermore is developing called the **W80-4**. This warhead is expressly for a "sneak" nuclear attack on an unsuspecting population anywhere in the world. This warhead is for what's called the "Long-Range Stand Off" weapon. It is intended for pilots to be able to "stand off" a target by thousands of miles and launch a precisely guided, radar evading nuclear weapon. By any measure Livermore's new warhead for this LRSO (Long Range Stand Off capability) is an offensive first-use weapon.

The second new warhead I want to highlight today, the **W87-1**, is in an earlier stage of development at Livermore Lab. The W87-1 is the first *wholly new* (fully new) warhead design since the announced end of the cold war more than 30 years ago.

Livermore Lab is planning to have this new warhead rolling off the assembly line by 2030. According to documents, the Lab is looking into 126 new technologies for this warhead design. This includes a new-design plutonium bomb core, significantly different from anything in the U.S. stockpile.

Indeed, Livermore's W87-1 warhead is a central reason the U.S. is planning to expand plutonium bomb core – also called plutonium pit – manufacturing at 2 locations - the Los Alamos Lab in NM and the Savannah River Site in SC.

In the coming fiscal year alone, the government is investing billions in the development of the W87-1 warhead and new pit production capability to support it. Separately, the Pentagon is investing in a whole new “ground-based strategic deterrent” or GBSD intercontinental ballistic missile to carry the W87-1 warhead.

The third warhead program in which Livermore Lab is involved this year is called the **W93**. The W93 is a new-design warhead for submarines. Here I need to tell you that the UK depends on US warhead designs for its nuclear arsenal, which is 100% on subs.

The UK wants to use the W93 design to upgrade its own nuclear capabilities, and Biden's budget request reveals UK involvement in this new-design effort being funded by the U.S. The W93 design is in the early concept stage – but one thing that has been made clear – it too is supposed to involve a new plutonium pit. So, for use in US submarines, and here I'm talking about the US subs alone, the W93 warhead will be in line for new pit production after the W87-1 is completed.

As I speak, Livermore Lab is also involved in putting the finishing touches on a new nuclear bomb intended for what's called “forward deployment” at NATO bases, the **B61-12**. And, the Lab is also requesting funding to develop a modification” of its air-launched W80-4 (LRSO warhead) for a new weapon called the Sea-Launched Cruise Missile. That warhead is named the **W80-4ALT-SLCM**.

Overall, this so-called “nuclear modernization program” is slated to cost the U.S. upwards of **\$2 trillion over 30-years**. As we as a country debate funding for human needs and infrastructure, we are poised to spend \$2 trillion on new warheads, bomb plants to build them and delivery systems to use them.

### What is being sacrificed?

On this solemn anniversary I want to say a few words about what is being *sacrificed* by the nuclear weapons work specifically going on at Livermore Lab.

Make no mistake. Our environment and our health have been sacrificed in the name of nuclear development. Tri-Valley CAREs has documented more than 1 million curies of radiation that has been released into our air by Livermore Lab.

What is one million curies? According to documents, this is equal to the amount of radiation deposited on the people of Hiroshima. It's been dribbled out of stacks on these buildings over many years and not all at once in a flash of blinding heat. None-the-less, we too are its victims.

Livermore Lab employees have experienced high levels of cancers and other illnesses stemming from toxic and radioactive exposures. Nearly 3,000 current and former Livermore Lab employees – or their survivors – have applied for federal compensation due to illnesses related to on-the-job exposures.

And a state-funded cancer study showed that children who are born in – or moved to – the City of Livermore have experienced more cancers than other, similar children elsewhere. And cancer is just one negative health outcome from radiation and toxic chemical exposure.

The soils and groundwater aquifer at the Livermore Lab main site when I am standing – and at the Lab's site 300 high explosives testing range near Tracy, CA – have both been polluted by nuclear weapons activities. In fact, both locations are on the EPA's "Superfund" list of most polluted sites in the country.

### What can we do today?

There are effective actions we can all take to change the future. We are taking a positive step today, being together for the anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Together we proclaim the illegality of nuclear weapons. Together we proclaim their immorality and say, "never again". Together, we stand with the Hibakusha and pledge to them our continuing efforts to eliminate all nuclear weapons.

And, together, those of us who live in the U.S. commit ourselves to concrete action to stop our government's role in developing and producing nuclear bombs and warheads. Some of us may write to Congress demanding that funding be cut for these horrific weapons, some of us may come back to Livermore Lab next year and put our bodies on the line to stop this madness. Some of us may undertake other creative nonviolent actions. All of them matter.

This is the journey I invite you to take with me - and with millions of peace advocates – not only from here in Livermore but across the entire earth. You will hear much more in the program to come today. Together we can do this.

Thank you – and peace to you.

*--Marylia Kelley, August 6, 2021, West Gate, Livermore Lab*

# FY2022 Total Budget Request for LLNL

## \$2,233,140,000

