

Tri-Valley CAREs

Jo Ann Frisch, Pleasanton | Posted: Thursday, April 18, 2019 12:00 am

I've been a member of Tri-Valley CAREs since 1988. I have spent countless hours parsing the complex issues concerning the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's design and development of nuclear weapons.

At first I had thought that when the Berlin wall came down in 1989 the Cold War was over. Finally our fear of nuclear annihilation could end, and I would be able turn my full attention to peaceful things. Needless to say, I was sorely mistaken.

Hundreds of billions of our tax dollars have been spent on developing new designs and modifications to nuclear weapons. We are even making them more "useable." Further, the waste streams from nuclear development have contaminated our land, our water and our air.

Employees from the Livermore Lab are suffering from cancers, respiratory diseases and other life-threatening ailments caused by handling deadly toxic chemicals and radioactive materials – now in the service of upgrading nuclear bombs with features that many scientists say aren't needed and may be counterproductive to national security.

Livermore Lab talks about peace. Yet more than a billion dollars this year will be spent making work for nuclear scientists who are in love with the bomb, not to mention the dollar.

I learned that it will likely take 80 years to clean up contamination at the Lab's Main Site and Site 300, and even then some of the toxic and radioactive pollutants will be left in place.

New contaminants from today's spills join the Lab's legacy pollutants. Our children's health and our communities are at risk. So, I struggle on to do my part to create a better future.

I am grateful that Tri-Valley CAREs educates the public about nuclear dangers, holds community meetings and continually works to redirect the Lab's mission toward peaceful, civilian science and clean up of the legacy of the Cold War.

Will you join me in this worthy endeavor? Learn more at trivalleycares.org.