

Citizen's Watch



Trump Budget Intensifies Nuclear Risks

The President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget request to Congress rolled out from the Dept. of Energy (DOE) in dribs and drabs over the past two months. Here is a summary containing key numbers, followed by our recommendations for action before Congress appropriates any money to fund the request.

Money For Nukes: The FY19 budget request contains \$30.6 billion for all of the DOE's programs, including Science, Energy Efficiency and Renewables, Electricity Delivery, Environmental Management (cleanup) and others. More than half of DOE's requested funding, at \$15.1 billion, is solely for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). This represents an increase of \$2.2 billion (17%) over the previous annualized spending level for NNSA.



As we go to press, Congress just passed a massive FY18 increase for NNSA as part of an "omnibus" spending spree that busted the budget caps and raised the NNSA current year funding to \$14.5 billion. Still, the request for NNSA in the coming year (FY19) exceeds even that profligate increase by another \$600 million!

Within NNSA, the FY19 "Weapons Activities" budget line gets \$11 billion, including \$4.7 billion for "Directed Stockpile Work". This budget line principally funds four Life Extension Programs, which are putting new military capabilities into warheads and bombs that make the world more dangerous.

The big winner in the FY19 funding request is Livermore Lab's program to create a new nuclear tip for a new air-launched cruise missile under development by the Pentagon. This is called the **Long-Range Stand Off weapon (LRSO)** - meaning a pilot would be able to "stand off" from a target by thousands of miles and launch what is essentially a radar-evading nuclear sneak attack. Its new nuclear tip is called the W80-4.

The FY19 funding to create the **W80-4 warhead** *triples*, from less than \$219 million to \$655 million. According to NNSA, annual funding for the W80-4 will rise to more than \$800 million a year in FY22. The LRSO represents a first-strike capability that is fueling a perilous new arms race. Tri-Valley CAREs recommends cancelling this new warhead and missile, saving at least \$30 billion in treasure and, potentially, millions of lives.

The **B61-12 bomb** is slated for deployment at six bases in five NATO countries as well as at four bases in the U.S. The new

bomb and tail kit will create a wholly new "smart" capability; the first ever placed in a gravity dropped nuclear weapon. The B61-12 gets an increase from about \$612 million to \$794 million in FY19. Its first production unit is scheduled to roll off the assembly line in March 2020, about halfway through FY19.

The B61-12's forward deployment in NATO will ring Russia, a provocative situation that has not gone unnoticed. The U.S. should forego deploying nuclear bombs in NATO. Worth noting is that there is no NATO cost sharing agreement for the B61-12; the U.S. is footing the bill. This new nuclear bomb should neither be produced nor deployed.

Tri-Valley CAREs was instrumental in convincing the Obama Administration to place a 5-year hold on a novel

"interoperable" warhead design. A decision on its development had been due in FY20. Consistent with Trump's Nuclear Posture Review, this novel warhead is back, and there is \$53 million to jump-start its early development in the FY19 budget request.

Originally, the so-called "interoperable" warhead was supposed to sit atop both a land-based ICBM and a sub-launched ballistic missile. However, as Tri-Valley CAREs and Nuclear Watch New Mexico revealed to Congress, the Navy did not want the new design due to its costs and technical uncertainties. Further, weapons scientists have warned us that design changes planned by Livermore, which has been designated as the "lead lab" to create this novel warhead, may push the U.S. to resume nuclear explosive testing underground in Nevada.

The Navy has not changed its mind. You might think, then, that the "interoperable" warhead concept is dead. It is not. The Trump Nuclear Posture Review refers to the new design as the W78 (ICBM-launched) "warhead replacement" and states a wish that it also launch on a Navy missile making it interoperable at some vague point in the future. Meanwhile, the NNSA still calls it the "interoperable warhead" in its FY19 budget request. The name placed on the design of a novel nuclear warhead is not the point. By whatever name one calls it, this is a risky departure from previous designs that may precipitate U.S. nuclear explosive testing. It should not be pursued. Tri-Valley CAREs recommends that Congress zero out all FY19 funding for this technically risky and novel warhead.

Continued on Page 3...

The Valley Air District will review Livermore Lab's air permit application and will determine: 1) whether the proposed blasts comply with all air quality rule requirements; 2) ensure the project does not exceed health risk thresholds or create a significant risk, and; 3) determine whether the Lab has satisfied the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

If the Valley Air District determines that the proposal's related emissions exceed certain thresholds, there will be another opportunity for public comment.

In the interim Tri-Valley CAREs has commenced a petition campaign to urge the Valley Air District to take a hard look at the bigger blasts (See the Insert). Please take the time to sign and send this one-page petition back to us, and we will be sure to put it before the Valley Air District.

Alternatively you can sign the petition online at our website or at this url: <https://www.change.org/p/reject-air-permit-for-hazardous-bomb-testing-in-california>

The Valley Air District has the power to limit or even deny a permit for the bigger blasts. Public pressure to take a hard look at the proposal may make the difference between bigger bomb blasts or cleaner air without them.

**DOUBLE
your impact!
DONATE NOW!**

Hooray! Our friends at the Ca. Consumer Protection Foundation will double your contribution to Tri-Valley CAREs this spring, up to \$10,000. Your donation can be by check, cash or credit card. To donate by credit card, use our secure portal at www.trivalleycares.org. Your gift in any amount is tax- deductible and will be hugely appreciated. THANK YOU!

❖ Print Bites ❖ *All the News that Fits to Print*



❖ **CA to Restrict Trump!** Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters) (pictured) introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 30, urging Congress to assert its role in the approval of acts of war in a nuclear first-strike scenario. The statement backs HR 669, authored by California Representative Ted Lieu (D-Los Angeles County), which would prohibit the President from unilaterally authorizing the deployment of nuclear weapons in an offensive attack absent express authorization from Congress. The proposed legislation does not impede a President's ability to respond in-kind to a nuclear attack on the United States. HR 669 is co-sponsored by Representatives Garamendi (D-Walnut Grove) and Thompson (D-St. Helena) along with 18 other California Members of Congress.

AJR 30 by Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry adds the California State Legislature to the many voices calling for every member of California's Congressional Delegation to also support the balance of powers proposed in HR 669. Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters) introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 30, urging Congress to assert its role in the approval of acts of war in a nuclear first-strike scenario. Call, write or email your CA Assemblymember to ask him/her to join California Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters) by supporting the Resolution she introduced, AJR 30. The state has a great website at: <http://assembly.ca.gov/> - You can also go directly to: <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

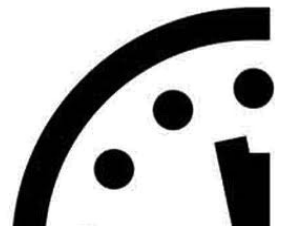
❖ **Doomsday Clock.**

For more than 70 years, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has used the Doomsday Clock as a simple illustration of the technological threats to human survival—first nuclear weaponry and now including climate change—in hopes of abolishing them.

The minute hand on the

Doomsday Clock now rests at two minutes to midnight, the closest it's been since the earliest days of the Cold War.

**IT IS
2 MINUTES
TO
MIDNIGHT**



The Bulletin pointed out the following to support its decision: *"The greatest risks last year arose in the nuclear realm. North Korea's nuclear weapons program made remarkable progress in 2017, increasing risks to North Korea itself, other countries in the region, and the United States. Hyperbolic rhetoric and provocative actions by both sides have increased the possibility of nuclear war by accident or miscalculation."*

But the dangers brewing on the Korean Peninsula were not the only nuclear risks evident in 2017: The United States and Russia remained at odds, continuing military exercises along the borders of NATO, undermining the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), upgrading their nuclear arsenals, and eschewing arms control negotiations."

Tri-Valley CAREs

Communities **A**gainst a **R**adioactive **E**nvironment

4049 First Street, Suite 139 A, Livermore, CA 94551 • (925) 443-7148 • (925) 255-3589 • www.trivalleycares.org



April 19, 2018

Dear supporter,

As you know, Tri-Valley CAREs builds a strong grassroots movement locally and impacts nuclear weapons policy nationally. **Your gift today will help us accomplish both!**

Further, I am happy to tell you that one of our supporters has offered to **match your donation** to Tri-Valley CAREs right now, dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000.

Your tax-deductible gift of \$1,000 today will be worth \$2,000. Your \$500 contribution will double to \$1,000. And, \$50 will be turned into \$100. This is a spring challenge from friends at the California Consumer Protection Foundation who admire Tri-Valley CAREs' programs to mobilize and protect the public from nuclear pollution.

Tri-Valley CAREs has a history of reaching goals! We have stopped incinerators, improved cleanup of toxic contamination and prevented weapons designers from creating new nuclear bombs. With your financial help now, we will reach this goal and **win the \$10,000 matching gift.**

May I count on you?

As I write this letter, your Tri-Valley CAREs team is hard at work getting ready for an amazingly effective event called "**DC Days.**" This is something that we do annually with the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability. Indeed, this will be our 30th consecutive DC Days and two Tri-Valley CAREs staffers serve on the national organizing committee.

We will bring powerful local voices, including youth, to our nation's capital for 100 pre-scheduled meetings with decision-makers. We will share with Congress our compelling stories of radiation exposure and environmental degradation.

We will oppose funding for risky weapons activities at Livermore Lab, like detonating toxic bomb blasts in the open air. We will challenge the Trump Administration's new warheads and the increased willingness to use them outlined in the Nuclear Posture Review. **Will you contribute to defray the necessary costs?**

I can assure you that Tri-Valley CAREs will always hold the government's feet to the fire and create positive social and political change. In doing this work, we champion values of peace, justice and the environment that I know you, likewise, deeply cherish.

I am asking for your gift in any amount (*now doubled!*) to help us succeed. **Thank you for everything that you do.**

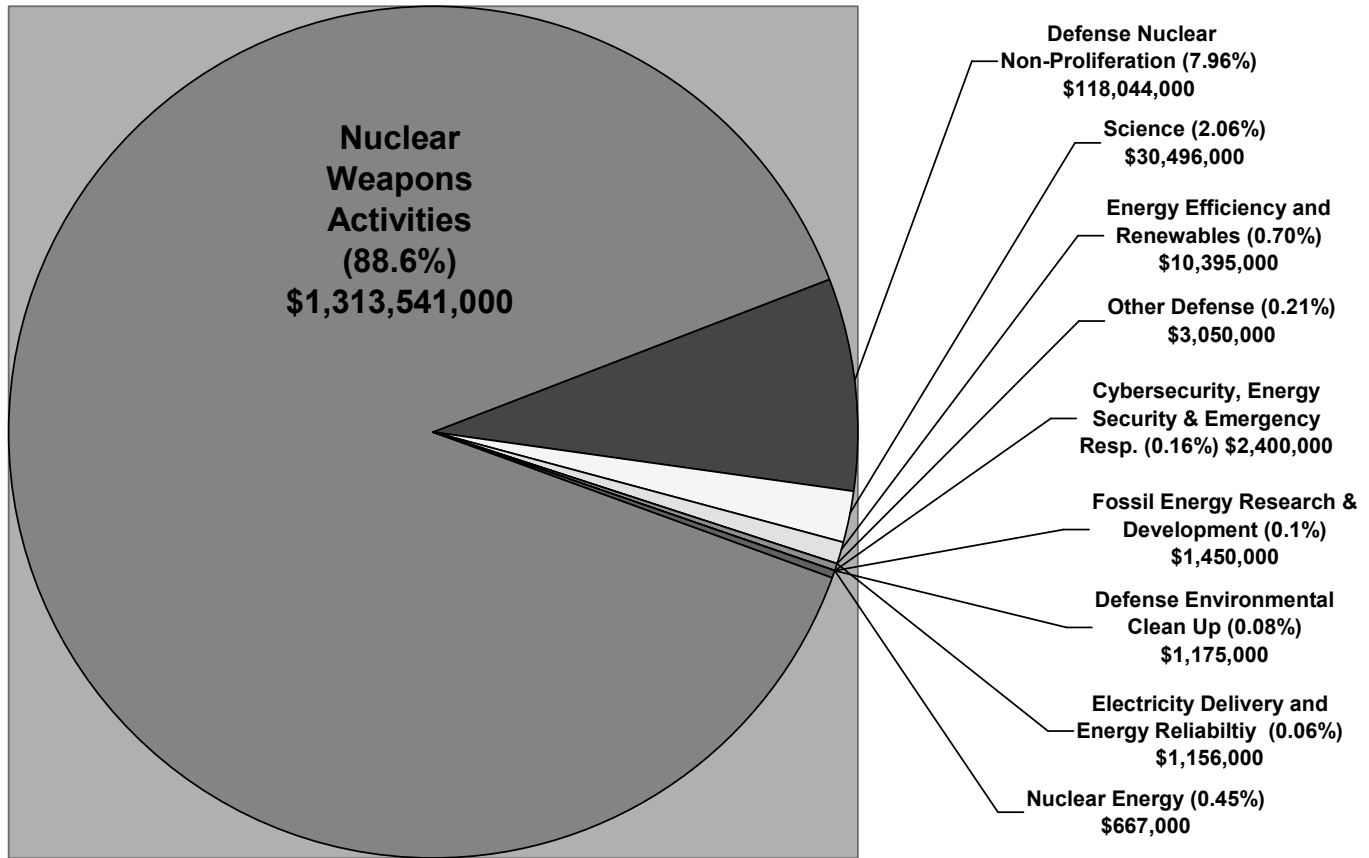
Peace,

Marylia Kelley
Executive Director

P.S. **Please mail your tax-deductible gift.** Or, go to www.trivalleycares.org where we have a secure option to use your credit card through either *PayPal* or *Network for Good*. **MANY THANKS!**

TRUMP'S NUCLEAR BUDGET IS EXPLODING AT LIVERMORE LAB

Fiscal Year 2019 Dept. of Energy Budget for Livermore Lab (Total Requested= \$1,482,374,000)



We created the pie chart from government data as part of our ongoing analysis of the Trump Administration's Nuclear Posture Review and its impacts on the budget.

The picture is "worth a thousand words." Weapons activities in the request are more than \$1.3 billion for the coming year and comprise nearly 89% of the total funding. (For a comparison to prior years, and additional budget detail, visit www.trivalleycares.org)

The Lab tries to disguise the truth about the budget. We are dedicated to revealing it.

Your contribution supports Tri-Valley CAREs' truth telling about the FY 2019 budget as well as vigorous efforts to radically change its priorities.

Tri-Valley CAREs
4049 First St., # 139A
Livermore, CA 94551

YES! Please double my tax-deductible donation of

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



Name

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2018 NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW



Trump's New Warheads and a Willingness to Use Them

Your Guide to Key Policy Initiatives in the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review

On February 2, 2018, the Trump Administration released its [Nuclear Posture Review](#). This document outlines the President's U.S. nuclear weapons policy and strategy including:

- 1) The roles and purposes of nuclear weapons in U.S. security strategy;
- 2) The number and variety of U.S. nuclear weapons and plans for maintaining and upgrading nuclear weapons delivery systems and warhead production and infrastructure requirements, and;
- 3) The approach to controlling nuclear threats and stopping the spread of nuclear weapons outside of the United States – arms control and nonproliferation.

Nuclear Posture Reviews reflect the policy and political perspectives of the President and the geopolitical environment of the moment. This NPR is brought to us by the same President who has [questioned why we couldn't use nuclear weapons](#) and on February 12, 2018 followed up his NPR with a statement that it is indeed his Administration's intention to expand the U.S. arsenal "[far, far in excess of anybody else.](#)"

Unsurprisingly, this NPR contrasts greatly with the [2010 Obama Administration Nuclear Posture Review](#) aims to reduce the role and numbers of nuclear weapons. The Trump NPR expands roles for a "flexible" and "resilient" (words used repeatedly throughout the NPR) U.S. nuclear weapons force that should provide "tailored deterrence", (p. 26, and referred to often throughout the NPR), to counter a variety of nuclear and "non-nuclear strategic threats." The overly broad and vague "non-nuclear strategic threats" terminology is not much clarified by the mentioned examples of chemical, biological, cyber, and large-scale conventional aggression (p.38). The NPR prescribes "a tailored approach to effectively deter across a spectrum of adversaries, threats, and contexts (p. 26)."

This expansive, ready-for-anything role for U.S. nuclear weapons drives development of new and expanded nuclear weapons capabilities and increased production across the nuclear weapons enterprise. In contrast with the Obama approach, this NPR puts specific emphasis on the needed ability to develop new nuclear capabilities: "This need for flexibility to tailor U.S. capabilities and strategies to meet future requirements and unanticipated developments runs contrary to a rigid, continuing policy

of ‘no new nuclear capabilities’... The United States must be capable of developing and deploying new capabilities, if necessary, to deter, assure, achieve U.S. objectives if deterrence fails, and hedge against uncertainty (p. 27).”

On top of robustly maintaining all three legs of the nuclear triad (air- land, and sea-launched ballistic missiles and bombers) for the nuclear force structure, the NPR unveils “supplements” to “enhance the flexibility and responsiveness (p. 52)” of U.S. nuclear forces. There are two weapons “supplements” that have received special focus. First is a near-term plan to modify existing Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) warheads to provide a low-yield option. This is posed as a weapon that would fill a perceived “gap” (p. 55) in responding to Russia’s non-strategic nuclear weapons threat. This strategy is at best confusing. Although the NPR avers that this weapon would not “lower the threshold (p. 54)” to be deemed more usable, it is also intended to be “a credible preservation of deterrence (p.54)”. A more credible threat is one that is perceived as being likely to be used. Moreover, a low-yield weapon on a strategic SLBM is still a strategic weapon and nobody would know whether the warhead was a low-yield or higher yield weapon until detonated.

In the longer term, the NPR plans to develop a modern nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM) on now conventionally armed surface ships or attack submarines. This capability would create strategic uncertainty with adversaries not knowing whether missiles are armed with conventional or nuclear warheads. The nuclear-armed SLCM would also force new operational demands and financial costs on the Navy. In the NPR, it seems that this weapon is perhaps being unartfully proffered as a bargaining chip striving to persuade Russia to change its behavior. The NPR states: “If Russia returns to compliance with its arms control obligations, reduces its non-strategic nuclear arsenal, and corrects its other destabilizing behaviors, the United States may reconsider the pursuit of a SLCM (p. 55).” Judging by Russian President Putin’s recent nuclear policy speech and video, Russia does not seem

much enticed by this. Rather, the Trump NPR appears to have helped inspire Putin to accelerate pursuit of more and new nuclear weapons capabilities for Russia.

Both the low-yield SLBM warhead and planned SLCM have garnered much deserved attention and criticism from many analysts, but there is other notable trouble afoot in weapons design and development at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) that deserves more attention:

- First, the Department of Defense is moving forward with its Long-Range Stand Off weapon (LRSO) and that is being synchronized with NNSA’s accelerated and expensive W80-4 life extension warhead. It seems apparent to expert observers that the life extension program for the W80-4 is attracting new design ideas and tweaks as it goes forward. If this trajectory of “Christmas treeing” up the W80-4 continues (i.e. adding enhancements), it will move the warhead further from its predecessor design and could introduce uncertainties that will cost more money and, if sufficiently different, create pressure for resumption of nuclear yield tests.
- Second, NNSA is accelerating work on a warhead replacement for the W78. It is noteworthy that this is referred to as a “warhead replacement” rather than a life extension. The W78 is not described in the NPR as the Interoperable Warhead (or IW1), as it was previously named when there were plans to make the warhead interchangeable on land and sea-based delivery systems. The NPR states that the warhead will be accelerated to Fiscal Year 2019 and that it will be fielded for the GBSD (Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent) by 2030. Further, the NPR says it will “investigate the feasibility of fielding the explosive package on a Navy flight vehicle (p. 61).” Notably, in NNSA’s Fiscal Year 2019 budget request the same warhead is still called IW1 (Volume 1 p. 9 and throughout). Many experts agree that even without “interoperability” this is still a new design, slated to undergo significant changes, including to the fundamental geome-

try of its plutonium pit. The significant changes to the warhead's physics package are likely to raise technical uncertainties with attendant pressure to conduct explosive yield nuclear tests to resolve them before the weapon can be certified.

- Beyond these specific warheads, the NPR states: "An additional needed flexibility is to reduce the time required to design, develop, and initially produce a warhead, from a decision to enter full-scale development (p. 63)." Read: more mischief to come.
- The NPR also encourages extending the life of older nuclear weapons such as the mega-ton yield B-83, which will now have to wait for its slated retirement "until a suitable replacement is identified (p. 61)." Also, the NPR plans to pick through the retired stockpile to "examine the potential for retired warheads and components to augment the future hedge stockpile (p. 63)." In conjunction with diminished resources and emphasis on nuclear weapons dismantlement, this could leave many wondering if nuclear disarmament commitments are ever permanent.

The NPR also demands increased nuclear weapons production with claims that "the United States has fallen short in sustaining a modern infrastructure that is resilient and has the capacity to respond to unforeseen developments (p. 61)." This infrastructure improvement includes a requirement to scale up to produce at least 80 plutonium pits per year by 2030. This will drive dramatically increased production at Los Alamos and may require another facility. (Current indications are that this additional pit production capacity could be planned at the Savannah River Site.) The NPR also specifically calls for increased production of enriched uranium, tritium, and lithium. The devil will be in the details of future planning and budget documents that will describe facilities, processes, locations, and costs.

Nevertheless, the increased production capacity outlined in this NPR is much greater in scale (and financial cost) than Obama-era modernization plans. This increased production will

have an insidious synergy with the drive to develop new nuclear designs and "flexible" capabilities. Moreover, this increased production will grow the size of the weapons complex and expand the enduring legacy of environmental and health impacts in affected communities.

Meanwhile, the NPR contains what is at best a skeptical short shrift assessment of the value of arms control and nonproliferation efforts. Although there are tailored deterrence plans to counter threats from key global hot spots, like Russia, North Korea, Iran, and China, there is not a robust strategy on diplomacy and arms control to address these threats. This imbalance is further reflected in overall budget priorities that raise the defense budget to over \$700 billion while significantly cutting the State Department.



While aggressive on the need for flexibility and resilience in nuclear weapons capabilities, when it comes to arms control efforts, the NPR has a more passive approach. After itemizing difficulties of arms control progress and challenges to assuring compliance of other countries, the NPR states that the United States, "remains willing to engage in a prudent arms control agenda (p.74)." Those involved in previous arms control efforts would agree that we didn't achieve significant progress, by standing in the corner of the dance floor weighing the most cautious path to engage. Arms control

requires much more focus in policy and strategic planning, along with more funding.

When it comes to multilateral agreements, there is further abdication of U.S. leadership. For example, there is no statement of commitment to U.S. obligations to pursue disarmament under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. While supporting the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization and its nuclear monitoring system, this President's NPR says bluntly that the U.S. will not seek Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (p. 63).

Moreover, the United States could resume nuclear explosive testing if deemed "necessary to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear arsenal (p.72)," or "necessary to meet severe technological or geopolitical challenges (p. 63.)" Especially in conjunction with plans to develop new and modified nuclear weapons designs, the lack of U.S. ratification of the CTBT paired with carefully worded exceptions could significantly erode the treaty and other key countries' commitments to refrain from testing.

The NPR also has disdainful criticism of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, opened for signature at the U.N. in 2017, stating that this treaty is "fueled by wholly unrealistic expectations of the elimination of nuclear arsenals (p. 72.)" Apparently, it is much more realistic to expand the role and number of U.S. nuclear weapons and expect *that* will encourage a response from the rest of the world that makes us safer.

Overall, this NPR sets a policy blueprint that expands the roles and number of nuclear weapons, and that means that nuclear weapons dangers and burdens are increasing. It is imperative that Congress and the concerned public boldly act to counter wrongheaded nuclear policies and profligate spending requests that will lead to the new weapons - and the increased willingness to use them - outlined in the 74-page 2018 Nuclear Posture Review.

--Kathy Crandall Robinson is a Washington, DC-based Senior Policy Consultant with Tri-Valley CAREs

This report with links is available at
www.trivalleycares.org

WHO WE ARE:

Since 1983, Tri-Valley CAREs has strengthened global security by preventing the further development of nuclear weapons and working tirelessly for their elimination. The group was founded by residents living near Livermore Lab, one of two locations where all U.S. nuclear weapons are designed. Tri-Valley CAREs monitors nuclear weapons and environmental cleanup throughout the U.S., with a special focus on Livermore Lab and the surrounding Bay Area and Central Valley communities. Our vision for a "green lab" in Livermore provides tangible steps to move the world from reliance on nuclear weapons to a more sustainable and just future.

JOIN US!

Take Action: Visit us online at www.trivalleycares.org. There are petitions to sign, letters to write and events to attend. We also offer a variety of internships. **Donate:** Your fully tax-deductible gift will help create a more peaceful world. Contribute by check to Tri-Valley CAREs, 4049 1st St., #139A, Livermore, CA 94551. Or, use our secure online portal to donate by credit card. You may also call us at 925.443.7148.

Preventing Dangerous Nuclear Policies in DC

Meet Your “DC Days” 2018 Team



Scott Yundt



Valeria Salamanca



Joseph Rodgers



Tricia Moore



Marylia Kelley

Directly on the heels of the new Nuclear Posture Review outlining the current administration’s dangerous nuclear weapons policy, your Tri-Valley CAREs team is heading to Washington, D.C. to collaborate with groups from a dozen other states who are participating in the **30th annual Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) “DC Days.”**

“We aim to stop perilous US nuclear expansion in this time of unprecedented volatility,” said the group’s executive director, **Marylia Kelley**. “Bringing solid information to decision-makers and advocating common-sense measures that constrain nuclear ambitions are more important today than ever,” she noted.

Five Tri-Valley CAREs members will join colleagues from around the country to participate in upwards of 100 pre-arranged meetings from May 20 to 23 to tell officials to cut funding to dangerous nuclear weapons programs in order to “fund cleanup at home and diplomacy abroad.”

We will meet with members of Congress from throughout the Bay Area including John Garamendi, Barbara Lee and Ro Khanna, and with our CA Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris. We will also speak with key congressional leaders from both parties and their committee staff who oversee nuclear issues, such as those on Armed Services and Appropriations. And, we will focus on key interactions with federal agencies.

“I am particularly pleased to bring two amazing, articulate young people to DC Days this year,” said Kelley. “Their energy and efforts to create a more peaceful world give me hope.”

Valeria Salamanca lives close to Livermore Lab’s high explosives testing range and is Tri-Valley CAREs’ Outreach Specialist. “I will be speaking with my representative, Jeff Denham, about stopping the proposal to increase the high explosive yield of open-air detonations,” said Salamanca. “It’s past time to stop these harmful practices and concentrate on cleanup.”

Also on the Tri-Valley CAREs team is **Joseph Rodgers**, who served as our nuclear policy intern for a summer. Rodgers is now earning a Masters in Nonproliferation at Monterey’s Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

Staff members Kelley and **Scott Yundt** will also be joined by long-time TVC member **Tricia Moore**, who also hails from Livermore and is eager to meet with her representative, Eric Swalwell, among others.

Tri-Valley CAREs and ANA colleagues will offer fresh, up-to-the-minute analysis to law-makers and make policy recommendations, ranging from reversing the dangerous trajectory of Trump’s Nuclear Posture Review to ending proliferation-provocative nuclear programs at Livermore Lab and elsewhere.

We will also be seeking support for congressional efforts to restrict the President’s ability to launch a nuclear first strike solely on his own judgment, with no check or balance.

As Rodgers noted, “I will advocate for accountability, which can save taxpayers billions. Further, these initiatives will increase protections for worker and public safety.”

“This year ANA will sponsor a special 30th Anniversary Awards Reception honoring activists and members of Congress who have taken fearless action to constrain nuclear weapons proliferation in the last year,” said Yundt who serves on the DC Days Planning Committee.

“We will also celebrate ANA’s illustrious achievements over the past 30 years of hosting DC Days,” Yundt continued.

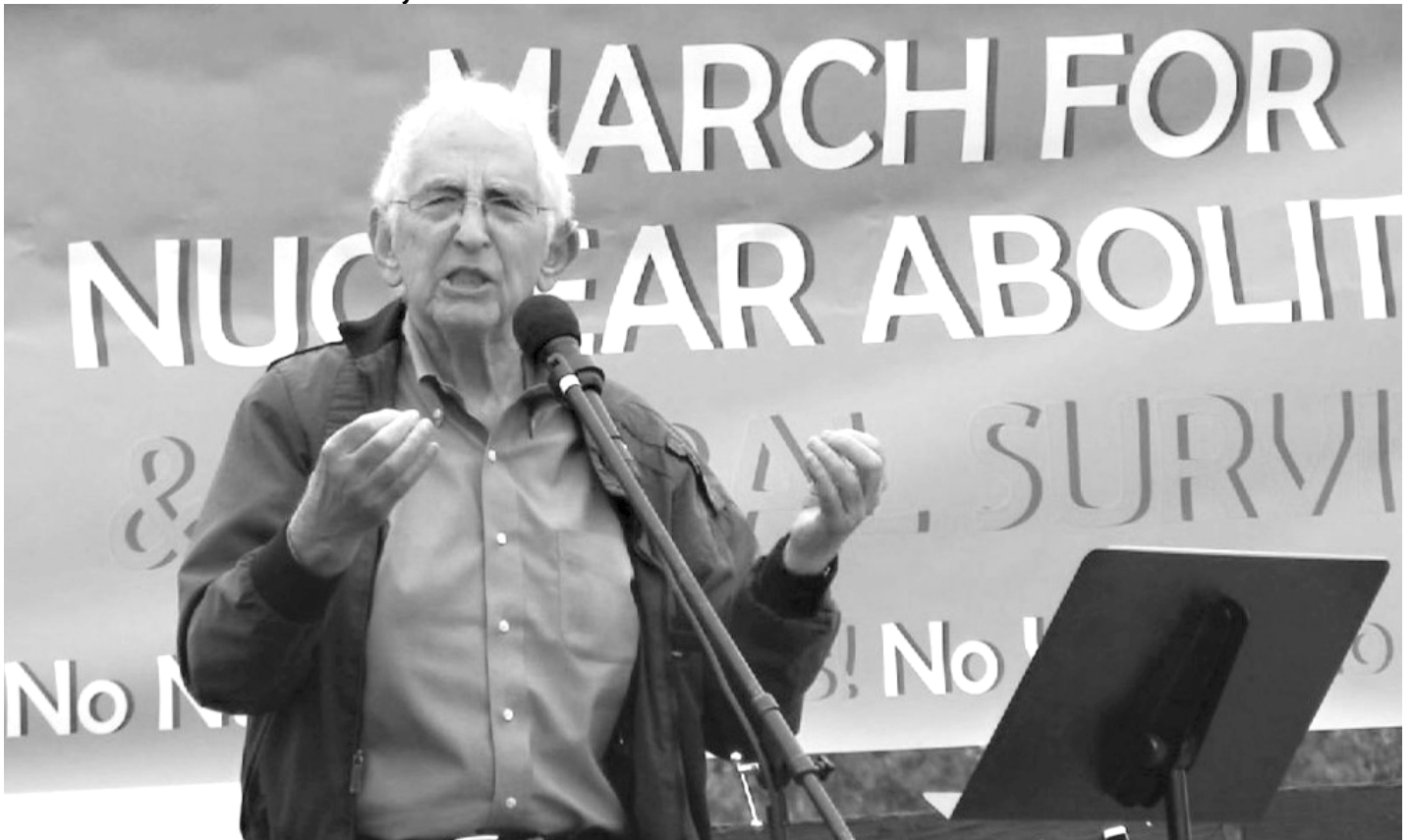
Come to our May 17th Tri-Valley CAREs meeting to give your team a great send off. Then, join us at our June 21st meeting to hear a full report out from our DC Days team. Both meetings are at 7:30pm in our conference room at 4049 First St. in Livermore.

Save the Date

Join keynote speaker **Daniel ELLSberg** to commemorate the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima & Nagasaki at the place where scientists are creating new nuclear weapons

Mon., August 6, 2018 at 8 AM

Livermore Lab, Corner of Vasco & Patterson Pass Roads



Rally & Nonviolent Action

Join NorCal peacemakers in Livermore for a rally with wonderful speakers and musicians. Following the program will be a procession to the gates of Livermore Lab where those who choose will peaceably risk arrest to: **Protest the Trump Administration's nuclear weapons policies!**

There will also be Peace Camp the weekend before at Lake Del Valle!

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Trump Budget... *Cont. from Page 1*

The fourth major Life Extension Program in the NNSA's FY19 request is for the **W76-1**, which is scheduled to wrap up in FY19 at a cost of more than \$100 million for the year. What's notable here is not the end of this LEP, but, rather, a paragraph slipped into the W76-1 budget justification that references another new nuclear warhead that is part of the Nuclear Posture Review, i.e., a **low-yield submarine-launched warhead**.

This low-yield variant has been dubbed the **W76-2**. The NNSA has no funding listed for a W76-2 in its FY19 request. Instead, it appears that NNSA might try to jump-start the development of this low-yield variant with funding that would be appropriated to close out the W76-1 LEP. If so, this would be illegal. We recommend that Congress explicitly put a "fence" around any money it appropriates to finish the W76-1 LEP, stating that none may be spent on a new, low-yield variant. Further, should the Administration produce a supplemental spending request to cover it, Congress should vote it down.

Money for Bomb Plants: The new production facilities that would build the new warheads are also highlighted in the NNSA's FY19 request. In particular, **plutonium bomb core** activities, called plutonium sustainment, get a hefty raise from \$184 million to \$361 million. The "need" for production of 80 or more plutonium cores each year (instead of the current capacity of around 20) is driven largely by the new-design interoperable warhead. Congress should not fund any increase for plutonium bomb core activities. Moreover, there is talk – but no actual need – of using the Savannah River Site in SC to produce new bomb cores in addition to the Los Alamos Lab in NM. This idea, too, should be nipped in the bud.

The FY19 budget request bumps up funding for a new **Uranium Processing Facility** (UPF) at Y-12 in TN, from \$663 million to \$703 million. The UPF is intended to produce new nuclear weapons "secondaries." The "need" for this super-sized UPF (slated to be completed for \$6.5 billion, but costing much more when all aspects of the program are considered) is driven by the costly and proliferation provoking new nuclear weapons designs discussed above. Congress needs to take a hard look at the need for these weapons before it funds this outrageously expensive facility.

The FY19 budget request for NNSA's Inertial Confinement Fusion "ignition and high yield" program is slated to get a \$100 million decrease, of which \$41 million will come from the **National Ignition Facility** (NIF) at Livermore Lab, according to the Preliminary Laboratory Tables released in mid-March. However, the Lab is already putting pressure on Congress to increase funding for NIF. Congress should remember that the facility with "ignition" as its middle name has not achieved and will never reach that goal. Funding for NIF should not be increased.

With the welcome exception of NIF funding, it's raining money at NNSA for new warheads and bomb plants in alignment with Trump's Nuclear Posture Review (see enclosed insert for our NPR analysis).

Time for Action: The public has a window of opportunity this spring to make its voice heard in Congress. More than 40 influential members of Congress recently sent a letter to Donald Trump expressing opposition to the Nuclear Posture Review. Senator Dianne Feinstein, the Ranking Member on the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations committee through which the nuclear weapons budget must pass, has already begun pushing back on Trump's nuclear excesses. They are listening. Will you call?

Remind your Senators and Representative that policies outlined in the Nuclear Posture Review can't move forward without funding. And, the FY19 budget is where Congress can cut these programs. Use this article and other information to specify where funds can be cut. Call the capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121. At each office, ask for the defense aide. Be focused (other topics warrant another call). Let the aide know you wish to be kept informed of any action taken by his or her boss. *Thank you!*

Citizen's Watch.....

◆ Alerts 4 U ◆

Thursday, May 3

Letter to the Editor Writing Party
5:30- 7:00 PM, TVC Office
4049 1st St. Suite 139A, Livermore
(925) 443-7148 for details

Write a letter to the editor of your favorite newspaper in a friendly and supportive environment. We welcome beginners and experienced letter writers alike. We will have handouts on various topics to spark ideas. Snacks and refreshments served.

Thursday, May 17

Tri-Valley CAREs meeting
7:30 – 8:30 PM, TVC Office
4049 1st St. Suite 139A, Livermore
(925) 443-7148 for details

Tri-Valley CAREs' monthly meeting is a chance to get issue updates, celebrate our progress and successes, meet new friends, and discuss upcoming events. We will meet in the First Floor Conference Room. Snacks and refreshments served.



DC Days
Washington, DC
<http://www.ananuclear.org/dcdays/>
for details

Our illustrious team will join activists from around the country for four days in Washington, DC, during which there will be around 100 team meetings. In addition to key Senate and House offices, your team will also meet with important Committee members and staff, including Armed Services, Appropriations, and Energy Committees. Additionally they will meet with senior administration officials at DOE and other relevant agencies. Be sure to attend our June 21st meeting to hear from our team on their important work in DC and how you can help with follow up.

Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment
Tri-Valley CAREs
4049 First Street, Suite 139A Livermore, CA 94551
Phone: (925) 443-7148

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Permit 346
Concord, CA 94520



Marylia Kelley,
Kathy Crandall
Robinson, Valeria
Salamanca, Bren-
dan Phillips &
Scott Yundt,
contributors



Last Chance to Take Action! Tell the Air Board to Reject Permit

Livermore Lab recently decided that its proposal for bigger blasts at Site 300 would have “no significant impact on the environment,” an administrative finding that allows them to move forward with the project. Unless...

As reported in our Fall 2017 issue, Livermore Lab seeks a 10-fold increase in the amount of high explosives used in open-air detonations, from 100 pounds per day to 1,000 pounds per day at its 11-square mile Site 300 high explosives testing facility.

Additionally, the proposal increases the annual amount of high explosives used in open-air detonations from 1,000 pounds per year to 7,500 pounds per year, a more than 7-fold increase.

Because this proposal obviously has the potential to significantly impact the environment, the National Environmental Policy Act required the Lab to either prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which would take an in-depth look at the potential impacts, or to prepare a more cursory Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine whether the impacts would be significant enough to require a more detailed EIS.

Unsurprisingly, the Lab chose to prepare a Draft EA, take public comment (over the holiday season), and then simultaneously issue a response to the



comments and a “Finding of No Significant Impact.” This was done on March 5, 2018.

All that stands in the way of these bigger blasts now is a required permit from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Valley Air District)... and all of us! By taking action now we can influence the decision.

Tri-Valley CAREs was able to motivate over 2,000 people to submit comments on the Draft EA for the proposal. Commenters pointed out the impacts to water resources, ongoing cleanup at Site 300 of legacy pollution, noise for surrounding communities (including the proposed development of 5,500 homes at nearby “Tracy Hills”), and impacts to

air. The final EA went through very minor “explanatory” revisions in response to the extensive comments.

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Keep in touch!

As part of our effort to save the environment (and some \$ while we are at it) we are publishing our paper newsletter less often. Instead, we send out a monthly electronic newsletter.

WE MAY NEED YOUR E-MAIL.
If you are not getting our e-newsletter regularly, drop me a line: marylia@trivalleycares.org or marylia@earthlink.net