



Tri-Valley CAREs



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*** * * MEDIA ADVISORY * * ***

WHAT: News conference announcing filing of **federal law suit** challenging the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for attempting to **construct and operate** new facilities for **bio-terrorism experiments** -- involving lethal bacterial and viral agents -- at the **Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories** without having completed legally-mandated Environmental Impact Statements. These facilities would co-locate research on bioweapon agents and nuclear weapons.

WHEN: **11:00 a.m. -- Tuesday, August 26, 2003**

WHERE: **Press Room, 18th Floor, Federal Court, 450 Golden Gate Ave. San Francisco**

WHO: **Marylia Kelley**, Executive Director of Tri-Valley CAREs, who lives across the street from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Jay Coghlan, Executive Director of Nuclear Watch of New Mexico, a “watchdog” group over operations at the Los Alamos National Laboratory

Stephan Volker, lead public interest Attorney for the Plaintiffs, who specializes in environmental law.

WHY: Experimentation with biological agents could expose lab workers and the public to some of the most **virulent pathogens and toxins** known to humanity, including anthrax, plague, Q fever, botulism, and hantavirus.

Constructing and operating new facilities to conduct such research constitutes a major federal program, which requires completion of an Environmental Impact Statement according to provisions of the **National Environmental Policy Act**. The DOE has given the go-ahead for these facilities without conducting the requisite programmatic or site-specific environmental review.

Both Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos have **poor safety, security, and environmental records**. Strict public and regulatory scrutiny of the new facilities is needed to protect workers and the public.

“Mixing Bugs and Bombs,” an article detailing the dangers of conducting bio-terrorism research at DOE labs, authored by Ms. Kelley and Mr. Coghlan, is the cover story in the September-October, 2003 issue of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. Copies will be available at the August 26 news conference or by request.