



UNIVERSITY  
PROFESSIONAL  
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EMPLOYEES

CWA Local 9119  
AFL-CIO

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## **Livermore lab employees consider strike, after management refuses to bargain in good faith over health and safety, pay and pension**

At an informational picket at the **West Gate of the Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL)** on **Thursday, October 30**, skilled trades workers represented by UPTe-CWA will **hold a press conference at 4:45 pm** on the lab's failure to bargain and the resulting illegal and hazardous practices.

After more than a year of negotiations with skilled trades workers at the lab, management has brought on a string of near-critical health and safety incidents as well as a federal Department of Labor investigation for wage fraud. The union has filed 4 unfair labor practice charges for additional violations of labor law during the negotiations.

Skilled trades workers are seeking to address grossly inadequate maintenance procedures on equipment that is run until it fails, creating the likelihood of a catastrophic incident that could affect the entire Tri-Valley area surrounding the lab. Specially trained employees are also being replaced with outside contractors unfamiliar with safety and security issues at the lab, which conducts nuclear weapons research.

The Department of Labor has determined that the lab has improperly circumvented federal law with highly questionable accounting practices intended to cheat the workers out of prevailing wages. "Some of our members have lost as much as \$10 per hour for years of work because of management's sleight-of-hand accounting tricks," said **Steve Balke**, a contract bargainer for the Society of Professionals, Scientists, and Engineers, Local 11 of UPTe-CWA.

"We demand that management stop violating the law and bargain in good faith. If management refuses to abide by the law, our members are considering striking to force them to," said **Kevin Aguilar**, the union's chief negotiator.

***SPSE is the Society of Professionals, Scientists, and Engineers, and is Local 11 of [University Professional & Technical Employees, CWA Local 9119, AFL-CIO.](http://www.upte.org)***

