

May 2015 SPSE-UPTE Monthly Memo

SPSE-UPTE Invites You to a Noon-time Talk Do you know what California's Master Plan for Higher Education is?

In 1960 California legislators joined with education leaders to develop and implement a visionary plan for higher education. This plan included an affordable, accessible and quality education for all Californians.

Find out more at the next SPSE-UPTE noontime talk.

Amy Hines is the Higher Education Director for UPTE, the University Professional and Technical Employees union at the University of California.

Learn about the original intent of this plan, how it has been compromised over the years and what you can do to change its present course.

**Please Join Us
Wednesday - May 13, 2015
From 12 - 1pm
B453 Auditorium - Armadillo Rm 1001**



Take SPSE-UPTE's Maintenance Survey What's Working and What's Not?

By William Smith, President SPSE-UPTE

In discussions around the Lab I often hear how the poor condition of some of our facilities either embarrasses us when we have visitors or hinders our programmatic work. Still worse, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has four of the Department of Energy's (DOE) "Top 10" Deactivation and Decommissioning (D&D) facilities that present "the highest risks to mission, workers, the public, and the environment." See the end of this article for a list of LLNL's D&D Top 10.

To insure that we fulfill our mission to enhance our nation's security, Society of Professionals, Scientists and Engineers, Local 11 of the University Professional and Technical Employees (SPSE-UPTE) has launched a Run To Succeed campaign. A survey of maintenance practices and conditions at LLNL is one of our first actions in the campaign.

By taking the SPSE-UPTE Maintenance Survey, you can encourage sustainment of maintenance practices that make us proud of our LLNL work site and build the case that Congress must provide more funding and oversight for the maintenance of facilities at our national laboratories. SPSE-UPTE will use your survey responses to advocate for deactivating and decommissioning LLNL's D&D Top 10, more reliable ventilation for chemistry fume hoods and biological safety cabinets, functioning temperature controls,

speeding up the replacement of light bulbs, ensuring that you don't have to walk to the next building to find a working toilet and other needs you tell us about in your survey.

LLNS management recognizes that LLNL's D&D Top 10 facilities pose mitigable risks but has been unable to convince Congress to allocate money to deactivate and decommission them. With no money appropriated DOE's Office of Environmental Management (EM) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) can only squabble about who should pay to protect us from the growing hazards these buildings and structures present as they age.

You can help end the squabbling over money for maintenance by letting us know if

- 1) any of LLNL's Top 10 D&D facilities endanger your health,
- 2) unscheduled shutdowns of chemical fume hoods or biological safety cabinets endanger you or impede your programmatic work,
- 3) conditions in your office (e.g. inadequate lighting) are uncomfortable or otherwise impede programmatic work,
- 4) deferred maintenance (e.g. toilets covered for weeks by garbage bags) detract from the aesthetics of your work place or even pose a health hazard by discouraging timely trips to the toilet, and
- 5) what maintenance practices are working.

It's important to maintain simple things like lights, toilets and air conditioning to create an atmosphere that promotes good maintenance and safety practices from the bottom up. A more bottom up culture may have prevented the simple transcription error by staff at the Los Alamos National Laboratory that contributed to the indefinite closure of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), the only permanent storage location for much of the nation's radioactive waste.

We must identify, publicize and defend good maintenance practices to ensure that DOE provides adequate funding for all maintenance needs, otherwise Congress and DOE may continue to engage in an endless and counterproductive cycle of diverting resources from good practices, such as scheduled maintenance, to questionable practices, such as reliance on crisis maintenance.

If you send us your survey by the end of May, we will be able to incorporate your experience into reports we prepare for our parent union (Communication Workers of America), Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC management, and Congress. With support from the press and the public together we can convince Congress to allocate to DOE and LLNL the funds we need to operate more safely and productively.

To take the survey click here [<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LLNLMaintenanceSurvey>] or click here [https://www.upte.org/spse/WJS_Maintenance-Survey_201505_FD.pdf] the survey form and e-mail it to spse@spse.org or mail it to either the SPSE-UPTE office off-site, P.O. Pox 1066, Livermore CA 94551, or on-site to William Smith, SPSE President, at L-390. You may also contact any SPSE-UPTE board member (see list below) for a copy of the survey. If you prefer, an SPSE-UPTE member can meet with you to discuss your observations on maintenance conditions. To insure your anonymity, mail the form to the SPSE-UPTE office, or request an in person interview.

LLNL's Haz Top 10

If you have knowledge of hazards that any of the facilities listed below may pose, especially if those hazards are increasing with time, please contact SPSE-UPTE Office Manager Eileen Montano who will put you in touch with an SPSE-UPTE member who will discuss the hazards the building poses with you.



LLNL Top Ten Excess Facilities for D&D

		LLNL Top 10 Ranking	NNSA Top 10 Ranking
B251	Deinventoried heavy elements facility	1	4
B280	Decommissioned Livermore Pool Type Reactor	2	5
B175	Decommissioned MARS E-Beam facility	3	6
B292	Decommissioned Rotating Target Neutron Source facility	4	7
B212	Decommissioned accelerator facility	5	-
OS212	Remaining slab from demolished accelerator facility	6	-
OS412	Remaining below grade hot-cells structures and ventilation from demolished facility	7	-
OS222	Below-grade haz-waste piping system and above-grade retention systems	8	-
B865	Decommissioned Advanced Test Accelerator facility	9	-
B341	Shutdown multi-program facility	10	-

Transfer of the facilities below has been delayed by lack of funding in EM.

NNSA Facilities Identified in 2009 for Future Transfer to EM

Site	Facility
LANL	TA-3 Ion Beam, Building 3-16
LLNL	Heavy Element Facility, Building 251
	Advanced Test Accelerator Facility, Building 865
	Slab and Sub-Grade, Building 212
	Hot Cell Foundation, Slab and Sub-Grade, Building 412
NNSS	Equipment Building 25-3220
	Motor Drive Building 25-3230
	Pump Shop, Building 25-3231
	Cryogenic Laboratory, Building 25-3232
	Locomotive Storage Shed, Building 25-3901
	Ancillary facilities part of the Test Cell C facility compound
SRS	Tritium Manufacturing Facility, Building 232-H
	Two Ancillary Concrete Stacks, Building 232-H

References

For an electronic copy of the first two references or the facility lists contact the SPSE-UPTE office at spse@spse.org or (925) 449-4846.

1. Audit Report on the Department of Energy's Management of High-Risk Excess Facilities issued in January 2015, DOE/IG-0931.
2. DOE Facilities Better Prioritization and Life Cycle Cost Analysis Would Improve Disposition Planning, March 2015, GAO-15-1272

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Join Us

For four decades we in SPSE-UPTE have worked to make our Laboratory a better place to work by helping fellow employees and demanding fairness and transparency from Lab management. Our effort has never before been more important, and if you share this belief please go to <http://spse.org> and click on "Join Us."