

UPTE-CWA FACT SHEET

Please Help Us Retain “Card Check” for Collective Bargaining as Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Moves its Nuclear Weapons Mission from Public to Private in October 2007



UNIVERSITY
PROFESSIONAL
AND TECHNICAL
EMPLOYEES

CWA Local 9119
AFL-CIO

representing
employees at the
University of
California

P.O. Box 4443
Berkeley, CA
94704

phone (510) 704-8783
fax (510) 704-8065
info@upte-cwa.org

www.upte-cwa.org

Contacts:

Sue Byars/LLNL
Roger Logan/LLNL

Jeff Colvin /LLNL
Jelger Kalmijn/UPTE

Background: Nuclear Weapons Labs go Private, We rush for collective bargaining

As part of the privatization of our nation’s nuclear weapons design effort, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) management contract was awarded to Lawrence Livermore National Security (LANS) in May 2007, and LLNS will take over formally in October 2007.

Up to this time, we at LLNL have had employee rights comparable to those of all California public employees. This has helped assure openness in critical decisions involving nuclear weapons reliability and safety, environmental safety, and health in matters involving hazardous and radioactive material. Unless something is done, these rights will disappear with the transition to the private LLNS, LLC on 1 October 2007, and the risks due to the dangers listed will increase dramatically.

UPTE has helped us in a drive toward Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) using the “card check” process, but we are running out of time and meeting resistance

1. Our Collective Bargaining efforts at LLNL are becoming successful:
 - a. There is a pervasive false sense of security among the LLNL employees, because they have had public employee protections for so long, many do not even recognize that these will be lost two weeks from now.
 - b. However, we succeeded this summer in establishing our first Collective Bargaining Unit through a modest and low-key “card check” campaign.
2. The California Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) has certified that we represent a majority of employees within the Skilled Trades bargaining unit, but the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) and the UC Management at LLNL has resisted recognizing our unit.
 - a. UCOP and UC_LLNL have been uncooperative and resistant at mediation meetings with PERB.
 - b. Despite encouragement from PERB and written encouragement from our House Representative Ms. Tauscher, this resistance has continued
 - c. It appears that UCOP and UC_LLNL have an agenda to “run out the clock” on our effort, and hope that after 1 October 2007, their new LLNS management at the lab will no longer have to deal with PERB.
 - d. We are concerned that this is a very early and ominous resistance of the UC_LLNS structure to deal with the best interests of the employees at our lab.

Action:

We are requesting that the members of Congress representing our lab (LLNL) direct NNSA and LLNS to agree to extend “card check” at LLNL beyond the 1 October transition from public to private.

1. This will enable a smooth transition for the lab and for our efforts to continue the employee rights that have guaranteed safety and integrity in our high risk mission without nuclear testing.
2. This action would also help to settle the current hostile atmosphere that surrounds our very first success in moving toward collective bargaining to assure the safest and best possible future for the lab and its employees.