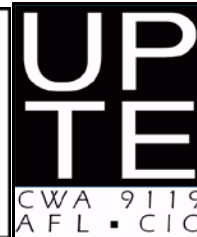


**Society of Professionals, Scientists, and Engineers**

**Local 11 – University Professional and  
Technical Employees (UPTE),  
Communications Workers of America (CWA)  
Local 9119, AFL–CIO**

**SPSE**



**For Immediate Release  
May 27, 2008**

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## Press Release

### Skilled Trades Workers to Protest Unprecedented Layoffs at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Skilled Trades workers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) will hold an informational picket line this week to demonstrate their concerns over the layoff of hundreds of workers and the health and safety impact of the cutbacks on the remaining workers at the laboratory. Their action will highlight the negative impact of changes made by the new private sector company that runs the lab, Lawrence Livermore National Security (LLNS), LLC.

This is the first action of its kind since the laboratory's protective force officers organized in 1993.

Last week, lab officials eliminated the positions of at least 440 career employees, which followed layoffs of over 500 other workers in January. This is the first layoff of career employees in over 35 years. Workers recently organized with the Society of Professionals, Scientists, and Engineers/University Professional and Technical Employees (SPSE/UPTE) to bring management to the bargaining table and voice issues affecting the LLNL community. They have been in bargaining with LLNS since March.

Workers will set up the informational picket line on Wednesday, May 28, at about 4:00 p.m., near the West Gate of the Lab on Vasco Road, to protest the cuts to the workforce, as well to show support for contract negotiations.

"We are the ones who keep the machinery maintained and safe; with fewer of us, we are having to stretch ourselves thinner and are unable to respond to the needs of the Lab community," said Rob Swanson, Boiler Mechanic at the laboratory.

"It is just not safe to maintain the lab in the reactive mode they've switched to since the new company took over. This equipment needs proactive maintenance."

One of the workers laid off last week was Justin Potts, a sheet metal worker with over five years of service to the laboratory "This is a really hard thing," he said. "I've put in a lot of hard work at the laboratory, and was surprised to hear I had been laid off. This kind of thing is devastating to me."

For information and interviews, call the contact numbers above.

**Who:** SPSE/UPTE Workers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

**What:** Informational Picket

**When:** Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm

**Where:** West Gate of the Lab on Vasco Road