

for further information:
Bob Schaeffer (239) 395-6773
cell (239) 699-0468

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability

*A national network of organizations working to address issues of
nuclear weapons production and waste cleanup*

for immediate release Monday, May 15, 2017

GRASSROOTS WATCHDOG GROUPS HEAD TO CAPITOL HILL SEEKING ACCOUNTABILITY AUDIT OF U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICIES TO REDUCE RISKS AT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) SITES, SAVE TAXPAYERS BILLIONS BY ENDING DANGEROUS PROGRAMS

In the wake of the radioactive waste tunnel collapse at the Hanford, Washington, Department of Energy (DOE) site, more than 70 leaders from communities near nuclear weapons facilities will visit Washington, DC May 22 to 24 to seek an “accountability audit” of DOE. The group will meet with members of Congress, committee staffers, and administration officials responsible for U. S. nuclear policies. They will unveil a plan (<http://bit.ly/accountability-audit>) for reducing risks and saving billions across the nuclear weapons complex.

Activists from 20 states are participating in the 29th annual Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA) “DC Days. While presenting ANA’s *Accountability Audit* report, they will urge policymakers to cut wasteful, dangerous weapons programs and speed up warhead dismantlement. Savings would be redirected to cleaning up the nuclear weapons environmental legacy.

ANA contends, “Effective accountability and public oversight – rarely exhibited by DOE – can save taxpayers billions. At the same time, such initiatives will increase worker and community safety. They can also identify better options for radioactive and toxic waste cleanup. This would enhance U.S. security far more than building new bomb plants or modernizing nuclear weapons.”

Organizations in the ANA network represent the concerns of communities near nuclear weapons research, production and waste sites. DC Days participants include activists from groups monitoring such U.S. nuclear weapons facilities as Hanford, Lawrence Livermore, Rocky Flats, Los Alamos, Kansas City Plant, Pantex, Sandia, Oak Ridge, Savannah River and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

As part of its DC Days, ANA will sponsor a Capitol Hill reception recognizing leaders for responsible nuclear policies on Tuesday evening, May 23. Honorees include: U.S. Representative Ted Lieu; the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons; Trinity nuclear test health advocate Tina Cordova; and anti-nuclear reactor organizer Dave Kraft. The event will take place in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 562 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.