

Lockheed's Plans for Nuclear Weapon Development in Santa Cruz

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Lockheed Missile and Space Corporation has plans to expand their production and testing facility on Empire Grade Road, 16 miles above Santa Cruz. Lockheed wants to construct five buildings in the next year for the manufacture and testing of components for the Trident II nuclear submarine missile system.

Half the work at the Lockheed plant is currently related to the manufacture, research and testing of components for the first generation Trident system, according to plant manager Rudolf Zeller.

With the new facilities, Lockheed would work on the missiles and warheads for the larger Trident II.

The Trident II system, which has not been approved by Congress, calls for 30 giant submarines, 560 feet long. Each will hold 24 Trident II missiles.

The missiles will be armed with up to 17 independently maneuvering warheads, each having five times the destructive capacity of the Hiroshima explosion.

There has been heavy local opposition to the

Lockheed plans co-ordinated by People for a Nuclear Free Future (PNFF) and the local Society of Friends (Quakers).

The issue will come before the county planning commission November 1 when it holds public hearings to review Lockheed's application for a conditional use permit. That meeting will be at 9:00 pm at the Veterans Hall in Santa Cruz.

Opposition to a permit being granted Lockheed is centered on the contention that the Trident system is an aggressive, "first-strike" weapon. The Pentagon has consistently denied that Trident has a "first-strike" capability.

"First strike" refers to a nuclear weapon's capacity to strike first with such force as to destroy an enemy's ability to retaliate effectively.

Opponents claim such a "first-strike" weapon is clearly in violation of international law.

In a 29 page report prepared for the planning commission hearings, PNFF also charges the Lockheed expansion plan for Trident production violates the purpose of the county general plan and violates the nonconforming use restrictions of county zoning ordinances. □