

The National TLC Service's mission to is to ensure the full resources of the government are dedicated to addressing the ongoing environmental, economic, and health effects of the Cold War and the American nuclear state. At the same time, we create interpretive programming to help the public understand why the nuclear state happened here, how it changed our society, and how we can prevent it from ever happening again.

National TLC Service

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Cover photo: Danny Birchall



Photo courtesy of the DOE



A Troubled Legacy

Beginning with the early atomic bomb program of the 1940s, the entire United States was drawn into an assembly line for the production, testing, maintenance, and disposal of nuclear weapons and their by-products. Beyond the more than 300 sites actively involved in the nuclear program, the Cold War touched almost all aspects of life. Today, an estimated 600,000 workers associated with these historic and current activities experience occupational illnesses and premature death from past exposures to radioactive and toxic materials while working in the factories and laboratories of the atomic bomb complex. We are just now beginning to understand how nuclear technologies have transformed our planet, our labor, our histories, and our bodies. We have yet to develop the scientific, legal and epistemological frameworks to grapple with the uncanny, deadly, and, for all practical purposes, eternal radioactive by products of the nuclear state.

Photo courtesy of the DOE



Top: Landscapes like this may be unsightly, but they provide both visual and visceral reminders of the vast and sprawling infrastructure of the nuclear state. Help us conserve and interpret them so the stories they tell are not lost to future generations. Left: Workers tidy up during the Rocky Flats closure.

An Unmatched Opportunity

The National Toxic Land/Labor Conservation Service is an innovative new agency dedicated to ending government unaccountability concerning the domestic effects of the American nuclear state. The legacy of secrecy, denial, mis-information, and sacrifice that characterize Cold War government operations requires vigilant detection and continual exposition. To that end, the National TLC Service was founded to carry out the discovery—in perpetuity—of ways to care for lands, attend to labor histories, and explore the linkages between bodies, environments, and exposures. The current transformation of the nuclear complex, which involves the dismantling of facilities and the recovery of land for

public purposes, is an important opportunity to practice government differently, and to create another legacy altogether.

What We Do

The National TLC Service will bring rigorous, creative, and justice-oriented thinking to bear on the environmental, human health, and cultural legacies of the Cold War. Our mission includes the following:

- Provide fair and adequate health services, environmental stewardship, and networks of care between humans and nonhumans impacted by nuclear militarization;
- Coordinate the conception, design, and installation of monuments and museums about the cultural and environmental legacy of the US nuclear state;
- Develop vital cultural institutions that bring together the myriad constituencies affected by national military catastrophe;
- Explore collaborative methodologies, cultivate new forms of knowledge, and practice community outreach in ways that inspire commitment and hope;
- Monitor the Service’s own potential conflicts-of-interest and relationships with all agencies, companies, and individuals that promote militarism.

Right: Our trained, professional staff of artists and ecologists works with the public to ensure that natural beauty does not interfere with the formation of a robust public discourse about the human and environmental costs of militarism. Photo: National TLC Service

How You Can Help

Although the unwitting risks experienced by people due to United States military activity disproportionately affected rural, poor, and Native communities, as well as nuclear workers, the National TLC Service understands that we are all downwinders to some degree. Part of our mandate includes working with the grassroots movements, non-governmental organizations, and affected individuals already involved in contesting government unaccountability concerning America’s military legacy. We are now building an advisory committee to draw on the knowledge and practices of environmentalists, activists, nuclear workers, artists, Native communities, and scholars to help us identify the most urgent cultural and environmental needs.

Please contact us if you would like to be involved in this process. We also welcome your feedback and reflections on the enduring U.S. military-industrial enterprise and impact. We look forward to hearing from you!

