

John Upton

Feinstone Environmental Award Competitive Category
First-Place Winner

John Upton won the Feinstone Environmental Award for a collection of stories about an air pollution permit that had been awarded to federal weapons researchers in California.

The stories were published in the Tracy Press, which circulates 18,000 newspapers five days a week in Tracy, Calif. John reported that the permit allowed the Livermore Lab to triple the size of open-air military tests blasts at the Superfund-listed explosives test site. Air pollution regulators now plan to hold community meetings to discuss the lab's proposal and more studies are planned on the tests' impacts.

A native of Melbourne, Australia, John studied ecology and environmental science in the tropics. After working in Australia for corporations, a politician and an industry association, and after a year spent traveling around the world, he moved to the United States to work as a journalist.

John worked as a freelance business writer in Chicago before joining the family-owned Tracy Press. He has covered politics and the environment for the Press.