



Los Alamos Study Group

Nuclear Disarmament • Environmental Protection • Social Justice • Economic Sustainability

Mello Aff #1, par 4, ref 3: http://www.lasg.org/CMRR_Dec_09.pdf

Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project Primer: Introduction, Overview, and Some Key Issues

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**Further updates and several additional sections are pending.
Updates will be indicated by red text in future editions.**

[See prior analyses in Appendix A below \(p. 29\)](#)

[FY2010 congressional markups are in Appendix B \(p. 62\)](#)

Final FY2010 congressional action will be added in the next edition

1. Introduction and overview of CMRR issues

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Congress are currently weighing *whether*, and if so *at what scale, with what capabilities, and in what order*, to build two proposed large new warhead production facilities, one at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico and the other at the Y-12 National Security Complex (Y-12) in Tennessee.

The Los Alamos facility is actually two buildings, together called the “Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project,” at LANL’s Technical Area (TA) 55. The first of these, called the Radiological Laboratory, Utility, and Office Building (RLUOB), is nearly built, as far as the physical structure goes. Fitting the building with special equipment is expected to cost more than the building itself and will not be completed until the end of fiscal year (FY) 2013.

The second CMRR building, the CMRR Nuclear Facility (NF), is estimated to cost very roughly ten times as much as the RLUOB.¹ It remains in preliminary design. As we shall see, no decision about whether to build it will be made by either the Administration or Congress prior to

¹ At this point in time, without firm estimates for either building, one can only say the second building is likely to cost anywhere from 5 to 15 times as much as the first, assuming all goes reasonably well, depending on which set of estimates one uses.