

CUTS: CMRR FACILITY
Department of Energy

The Administration proposes deferring the construction of the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) facility and meeting plutonium requirements by using existing facilities in the nuclear complex.

Funding Summary
(In millions of dollars)

	2012 Enacted	2013 Request	2013 Change from 2012
Budget Authority.....	200	35	-165

¹In 2012, the funds are in the CMRR construction account. In 2013, the funds are in the Nuclear Operations account in the Readiness Technical Base Facilities program.

Justification

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has designed CMRR for the following stockpile missions: plutonium chemistry; plutonium physics; and storage of special nuclear materials. Construction has not begun on the nuclear facility. NNSA has determined in consultation with the national laboratories that existing infrastructure in the nuclear complex has the inherent capacity to provide adequate support for these missions.¹ Therefore, NNSA proposes deferring CMRR construction for at least five years. Studies are ongoing to determine long-term requirements. Instead of CMRR, NNSA will modify existing facilities, and relocate some nuclear materials. Estimated cost avoidance from 2013 to 2017 totals approximately \$1.8 billion.

In place of CMRR for plutonium chemistry, NNSA will maximize use of the recently constructed Radiological Laboratory and Utility Office Building that will be fully equipped in April 2012, approximately one year ahead of schedule. In place of CMRR for plutonium physics, NNSA has options to share workload between other existing plutonium-capable facilities at Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories.

In place of CMRR for the storage of special nuclear materials, the Budget includes \$35 million to accelerate actions that process, package, and dispose of excess nuclear material and reduce material at risk in the plutonium facility at Los Alamos. If additional storage is needed, NNSA can stage plutonium for future program use in the Device Assembly Facility in Nevada. The Office of Secure Transportation Asset will execute shipments as needed.

Citations

¹Requirements for these plutonium missions are discussed in the following documents:

Brett R. Kniss and Drew E. Kornreich, *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on Pit Manufacturing Capacity*, November 16, 2009, Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Office of Defense Programs, *Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Nuclear Facility Study*, National Nuclear Security Administration, December 31, 2008.

Options for Plutonium-Related Missions and Associated Facilities between 2007 and 2022, Los Alamos National Laboratory, LA-CP-06-0957, Oct. 10, 2006.

Alternatives for Increasing Pit Production Capacity at the Los Alamos Plutonium Facility, Los Alamos National Laboratory, LA-CP-06-0289, Apr. 10, 2006.