

## **Three Huge New Facilities Rebuild U.S. Nuclear Weapons Production Capacity**

Modern nuclear weapons are comprised of three general types of components: plutonium pit primaries, uranium/lithium secondaries that are triggered by the primaries, and the 1,000's of non-nuclear components that create deliverable weapons of mass destruction (fuzes, radar, bomb cases, etc.). The U.S. is aggressively pursuing major new production facilities for all three types. At the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in New Mexico, the "Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project" will be the keystone to a revived plutonium manufacturing complex. The proposed "Uranium Processing Facility" (UPF) at the Y-12 Site in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, will be the future production plant for warhead secondaries. A new "Kansas City Plant" (KCP) in Missouri for nonnuclear components production is slated for groundbreaking in August 2010. Each of these three major new production facilities is expected to operate for the next half-century, in sharp contradiction to the declared national and global security goal of a nuclear weapons-free world.

This triad of new production facilities is unnecessary for maintaining the safety, security and reliability of the stockpile and undermines the international nonproliferation regime. With these new facilities, the United States will be able to quadruple its current nuclear warhead production capacity from 20 to 80 per year.



Together these three new facilities will likely cost over \$9 billion, with \$4.5 billion estimated for the CMRR and \$3.5 billion for the UPF. Because KCP has a private sector financing scheme outside the federal budget, an actual cost estimate is difficult, but the federal government is expected to pay at least \$1.2 billion in lease fees to the private developers over the next 20 years. If our goal is truly global nuclear disarmament, the U.S. should be redirecting money away from new production plants toward accelerated dismantlements (for which funding has instead been cut), treaty verification technologies and securing nuclear materials worldwide.

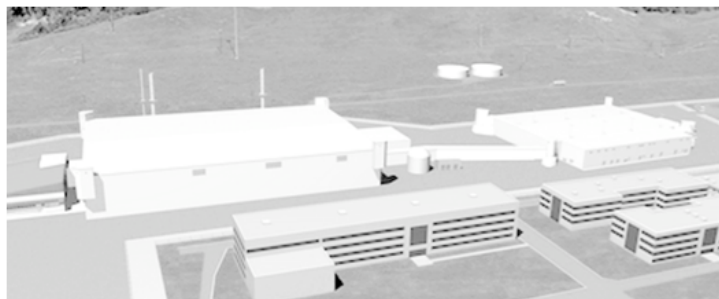
### **The Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project**

Obama's recent Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) sanctioned this new nuclear weapons plutonium facility. His proposed FY2011 budget increased the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA's) nuclear weapons programs by 10%. A major piece of that increase was doubled funding for design of the CMRR Project's massive "Nuclear Facility." The combination of the CMRR's recently completed first phase, the \$400 million "Radiological Laboratory, Utility, and Office Building," the Nuclear Facility, and upgrades to the Lab's existing plutonium facility will provide over 800,000 square feet for plutonium production, which will expand capacity from the currently sanctioned level of 20 pits per year to up to 80. The 400,000 square feet Nuclear Facility is being grossly oversized for current and likely future requirements by its completion date of 2022, assuming that Congress does not approve new designs or the heavy modifications

to existing weapons that the nuclear labs want. For much more, please see our companion CMRR fact sheet at [http://www.nukewatch.org/facts/nwd/CMRR\\_NF.pdf](http://www.nukewatch.org/facts/nwd/CMRR_NF.pdf)

### **Uranium Processing Facility (UPF)**

The NPR also called for building a new UPF and Obama's proposed FY2011 budget doubled funding for its design. The UPF will consolidate all enriched uranium production operations at Y-12. NNSA's preferred alternative for the 350,000 square foot facility will create a production capacity of 50-80 new



*Artist Rendering of the Proposed New UPF at Y-12*

secondaries per year, congruent with the potential capacity at the CMRR-NF for 50-80 pits per year. Instead of building the UPF, NNSA should consider consolidating residual uranium manufacturing operations at Y-12's recently completed \$550 million Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility. If the UPF is to be built at all, its future mission should be redirected toward accelerated dismantlements and the downblending of Y-12's estimated 400 metric tons of HEU.

### **Kansas City Plant (KCP)**

KCP has produced and/or procured most non-nuclear weapon components since 1949. It supplies more than 100,000 parts annually—ranging from nuts and bolts to complex radars—comprising about 85 percent of all components that go into a typical nuclear weapon. Much of the Plant's work is geared towards "Life Extension Programs" costing billions to extend the lifetimes of existing nuclear weapons 20-30 years. At the same time, some newly designed components, such as new fuzes, are also arguably changing the military capabilities of existing nuclear weapons.

NNSA is having private developers replace its existing plant with a new facility 8 miles south. Construction is estimated to cost \$735 million. The Kansas City municipal government is using state tax codes designed to fight urban blight to issue bonds to subsidize the new Plant (a



ARTIST DRAFT RENDERING OF PROPOSED NNSA/HONEYWELL CAMPUS

producing soy bean field was therefore declared to be "blighted"!"). The City will hold title to this new federal nuclear weapons production plant while the private investors pay off the bonds through a cozy 20-year lease to purchase.

### **Modernized Weapons Complex Increases Production Capacity, Undermines Future**

Obama's Nuclear Posture Review called for "some modest capacity" for "surge production" in the event of geopolitical "surprise." It is questionable that quadrupling present U.S. production capacity from 20 to 80 new warheads per year can be considered "modest." In addition, thousands of existing nuclear weapons may be endowed with new military capabilities while being refurbished in Life Extension Programs. Regardless of how the Obama administration attempts to frame it, it should be obvious to the international community that the U.S. is rebuilding its nuclear weapons production complex for the next half century. This will seriously undermine needed U.S. leadership towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

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