

## *Nuclear Watch New Mexico*

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### **Obama Budget Dramatically Increases Funding for New Nuclear Weapons Production Facilities; Cuts Dismantlements**

*Santa Fe, NM* – In his April 5, 2009, speech in Prague President Barack Obama called for a nuclear weapons-free world, for which in part he was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize. After bailing out Wall Street, his fiscal year 2011 budget released today proposes to freeze discretionary domestic spending for programs such as education, nutrition, air traffic control and national parks for three years. In contrast, it dramatically increases funding for new US nuclear weapons production facilities, in part by slashing funding for dismantlements by 40%.

Specifically, funding for a new facility at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in direct support of plutonium pit production (the “Chemical and Metallurgy Research Building Replacement Project” (CMRR)) is proposed to increase 132% to \$225 million next year above \$97 million this year. Further, funding is projected to triple to \$300 million for each of the four consecutive years after FY 2011.

Funding for a new “Uranium Processing Facility” (UPF) at the Y12 production plant near Oak Park Ridge, TN, is proposed to increase to \$115M from \$94M in FY10 (+22%). However, its big money is in the following four consecutive years, climbing to \$320 million by 2015 (in all a 240% increase from FY10 funding). Totals costs for both the CMRR and UPF are still “TBD” [To Be Determined], meaning they don’t know, but each will probably cost \$3 billion or more.

Outside of the federal budget, groundbreaking is expected this Spring on a new privately-financed ~\$700 million Kansas City Plant for nonnuclear components production for US nuclear weapons, subsidized by Kansas City municipal bonds. This pretty well spans the spectrum of future US nuclear weapons production, with big increases for new facilities for plutonium, uranium and nonnuclear components. At the same time, the Obama budget proposes to cut funding for dismantlements from \$96.1 million in FY 2010 to \$58 million.

Jay Coghlan, Director of Nuclear Watch New Mexico, commented, “Obama is preemptively surrendering to the nuclear weapons labs, the for-profit private corporations running those labs, and the 2/3rd’s Senate majority including Republicans needed for treaty ratifications. All of these special interests explicitly seek to extract more taxpayer funding for nuclear weapons programs in exchange for ratification of a renewed bilateral arms control treaty with Russia and a long-sought-for Test Ban Treaty.”

He further commented, “Sadly we went through this a decade ago, when the nuclear

weapons complex got billions of dollars and but ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty failed. History is getting ready to repeat itself, this time with the nuclear weapons labs seeking the capability to produce future new-design weapons. Obama's new budget begins to give them just that, welfare for warheads that can't be used while American public needs are not adequately met. I think the stakes have just grown dramatically higher for the all important NonProliferation Treaty Review Conference that begins at the United Nations on May 3, where the US is expected to preach to others to not have nuclear weapons. Given Obama's new nuclear weapons budget, how is the US going to be able to do that with a straight face?"

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