

**November 2010 Update to the National Defense Authorization Act of FY2010  
Section 1251 Report  
New START Treaty Framework and Nuclear Force Structure Plans**

**1. Introduction**

This paper updates elements of the report that was submitted to Congress on May 13, 2010, pursuant to section 1251 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84) (“1251 Report”).

**2. National Nuclear Security Administration and modernization of the complex – an overview**

From FY 2005 to FY 2010, a downward trend in the budget for Weapons Activities at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) resulted in a loss of purchasing power of approximately 20 percent. As part of the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review, the Administration made a commitment to modernize America’s nuclear arsenal and the complex that sustains it, and to continue to recruit and retain the best men and women to maintain our deterrent for as long as nuclear weapons exist. To begin this effort, the President requested a nearly 10 percent increase for Weapons Activities in the FY 2011 budget, and \$4.4 billion in additional funds for these activities for the FY 2011 Future Years Nuclear Security Plan (FYNSP).<sup>1</sup> These increases were reflected in the 1251 report provided to Congress in May 2010.

The Administration spelled out its vision of modernization through the course of 2010. In February, soon after the release of the President’s budget, the Vice President gave a major address at the National Defense University in which he highlighted the need to invest in our nuclear work force and facilities. Several reports to Congress provided the details of this plan, including: NNSA’s detailed FY 2011 budget request, submitted in February; the strategy details in the *Nuclear Posture Review* (NPR) (April); the 1251 report (May); and the multi-volume *Stockpile Stewardship and Management Plan* (SSMP) (June). Over the last several months, senior Administration officials have testified before multiple congressional committees on the modernization effort.

The projections in the Future Years Nuclear Security Plan (FYNSP) that accompanied the FY 2011 budget submission and the 1251 report by the President are, appropriately called, ‘projections.’ They are not a ‘fixed in stone’ judgment of how much a given project or program may cost. They are a snapshot in time of what we expect inflation and other factors to add up to, given a specific set of requirements (that are themselves not fixed) over a period of several years. Budget projections, whether in the FYNSP and other reports, are evaluated each year and adjusted as necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> After adjustment for the transfer of the Pit Disassembly and Conversion Facility from the Weapons Activities account to the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Account the increase over the FYNSP is actually \$5.4 billion.

Secretary of Energy is convening his own review, with support from an independent group of senior experts, to evaluate facility requirements.

The overriding focus of this work is to ensure that UPF and CMRR are built to achieve needed capabilities without incurring cost overruns or scheduling delays. We expect that construction project cost baselines for each project will be established in FY 2013 after 90% of the design work is completed. At the present time, the range for the Total Project Cost (TPC) for CMRR is \$3.7 billion to \$5.8 billion and the TPC range for UPF is \$4.2 billion to \$6.5 billion. TPC estimates include Project Engineering and Design, Construction, and Other Project Costs from inception through completion. Over the FYNSP period (FY 2012-2016) the Administration will increase funding by \$340 million compared with the amount projected in the FY 2011 FYNSP for the two facilities.

At this early stage in the process of estimating costs, it would not be prudent to assume we know all of the annual funding requirements over the lives of the projects. Funding requirements will be reconsidered on an ongoing basis as the designs mature and as more information is known about costs. While innovative funding mechanisms, such as forward funding, may be useful in the future for providing funding stability to these projects, at this early design stage, well before we have a more complete understanding of costs, NNSA has determined that it would not yet be appropriate and possibly counterproductive to pursue such a mechanisms until we reach the 90% design point. As planning for these projects proceeds, NNSA and OMB will continue to review all appropriate options to achieve savings and efficiencies in the construction of these facilities.

The combined difference between the low and high estimates for the UPF and CMRR facilities (\$4.4 billion) results in a range of costs beyond FY 2016 as shown in Figure 3.

Note that for the high estimate, the facilities would reach completion in FY 2023 for CMRR and FY 2024 for UPF. For each facility, functionality would be attainable by FY 2020 even though completion of the total projects would take longer.