Los Alamos National Laboratory receives Department of Energy environmental sustainability award

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LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, October 14, 2010—Los Alamos National Laboratory recently received an Environmental Sustainability (EStar) award from the Department of Energy for integrating sustainable practices in its design for the Radiological Laboratory/ Utility/Office Building (RLUOB). The RLUOB is part of the Lab's Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement (CMRR) Project. The Lab ultimately expects to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification for this project.

EStar awards recognize excellence in pollution prevention and sustainable environmental stewardship. They are awarded for projects and programs that reduce environmental impacts, enhance site operations, and reduce costs.

“We’re very proud of the RLUOB team’s award,” said Kevin Smith, manager of the National Nuclear Security Administration’s Los Alamos Site Office. “Designing for environmental sustainability is at the heart of being good stewards of the environment, and it also helps NNSA meet the energy reduction goals established by President Obama.”

The RLUOB Integrated Planning, Design, Procurement, and Construction project, which consists of 19,500 square feet of radiological laboratory space, office space for 350 employees, and incident command and emergency response capabilities, integrates a number of sustainability practices. These include sustainable site selection and development, reduced water use, optimized energy performance, use of products manufactured locally with recycled content, and enhanced indoor quality. Further, the project recycled or reused more than 80 percent of the materials generated during construction to avoid disposal in a landfill.

Los Alamos received a plaque for the CMRR project at the Green Gov Conference in Washington, D.C. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Pantex Plant, Sandia National Laboratories, and the Y-12 National Security Complex also received EStar awards.

“These awards reflect NNSA’s commitment to improving energy efficiency across the nuclear security enterprise,” said Ken Powers, associate administrator for Infrastructure and Environment at NNSA. “The fact that five of our sites were recognized for exemplary environmental sustainability practices demonstrates the success of our efforts to transform a Cold War nuclear weapons complex into a modern, efficient 21st century nuclear security enterprise.”

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