

Agency Concludes: No Adverse Health Effects From Groundwater Contamination Near BNL

"[T]he results of private residential well sampling in the vicinity of the BNL site indicate that the levels of individual volatile organic compounds and radionuclides are not sufficient to produce adverse health effects."

That's the conclusion of the federal Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR), which last fall, at the request of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Community Work Group, began what is termed a public health consultation, to look specifically at groundwater contamination.

A sister agency to the Centers for Disease Control, the ATSDR falls under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

An ATSDR public health consultation provides advice and recommendations on specific, health-related questions associated with actual or potential human exposure to hazardous substances or other associated human-health hazards.

In the public health consultation dated September 29, 1997, one of ATSDR's recommendations to DOE was to reinvestigate the questionable results of previous sampling of off-site monitoring wells that had indicated

the presence of the radioisotope radium-226.

Consequently, DOE resampled the monitoring wells and analyzed the samples by a more specific method. Based on the new data obtained from this testing, ATSDR has concluded that radium-226 in the monitoring wells is below the drinking water standard of 3 picocuries per liter. An addendum to ATSDR's public health consultation addresses this issue.

The document and addendum are now available for public review and comment at: BNL Research Library, Bldg. 477; Longwood Public Library, Middle Island; Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Community Library, Shirley; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region II Library, 290 Broadway, New York City.

The public comment period for the public health consultation will run through December 9. Comments received during this period will be logged and become part of the administrative record, and they will be included in an appendix to the final public health consultation. Although commenters' names will not be included in the public health consultation, names are subject to Freedom of Information Act

requests.

In this public health consultation, ATSDR will continue to analyze results from ongoing and future sampling to determine whether any future levels of contamination present a public health hazard. ATSDR is also in the process of conducting a public health consultation on air quality around BNL, again in response to concerns raised by the Community Work Group.

In addition, ATSDR is undertaking a public health assessment of BNL, as is required under federal law for each of the more than 1,000 Superfund sites nationwide.

During the public health assessment, which addresses only environmental, not worker, exposure, ATSDR is reviewing data on contamination at BNL, pathways by which the public could be exposed to contaminants, community-health data and concerns of area residents. From this information, the agency is evaluating the degree of current contamination and the potential for harm now and in the future.

Even though BNL was named a Superfund site in 1989, ATSDR is conducting health assessments of federal

Coming Up

Biologist Mary-Lou Pardue, the Boris Magasanik Professor of Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will present the next Brookhaven Women in Science seminar.

Her talk on "Drosophila Telomeres: Evolutionary Links Between Telomerase and Transposable Elements?" will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, October 20, in the seminar room of the Medical Department, Bldg. 490.

To join the speaker for dinner that evening, contact Eena-Mai Franz, Ext. 7103 or franz1@bnl.gov.

Physicist Edward Beebe, Relativistic Heavy Ion Project, will give the next Brookhaven Lecture on "Electron Beam Ion Source — An Ion Source That Outstrips Others," at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, October 29, in Berkner Hall. All are invited.

facilities in order of a ranking compiled in 1991. At that time, BNL was ranked after such sites as Hanford in Washington State and Mound in Ohio, part of DOE's weapons complex.

Lab Closes Its Books on FY97 Using New Financial Software

BNL closed its books on fiscal year 1997 on October 8 — but not without fanfare: It was the first time in the Lab's accounting history that it produced a closing at fiscal year-end using entirely new, state-of-the-art general-ledger software.

A general ledger is the core of an accounting system, listing all of an institution's core accounts and summarizing its assets, liabilities and equity. Established for accounting purposes, the Lab's fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30, thus coinciding with the federal government's budget cycle.

At the end of each fiscal year, Brookhaven must do a financial analysis or closing, comparing all of its actual costs for that year to the budget it was provided. Hence, accurate and timely financial data are essential — as is up-to-date and easy-to-maintain software to generate that data.

"The year-end process is complex enough without introducing a new system," says Dan Illig, Financial System Implementation Project Head within the Business Information Systems (BIS) Section of the Financial Services Division (FSD). "This year, we not only maintained the old system, but also introduced the new system — and still managed to close on schedule."

The general-ledger software and software for project costing are but two of nine integrated software modules purchased by the Lab in 1996 as part of an off-the-shelf budget and accounting system. When all the modules are installed, this system will become BNL's sole repository of accurate financial and related data, which will be readily accessible via state-of-the-art reporting tools.

As a result, this system will be the solution to problems experienced over the years with the Lab's "legacy" financial programs.

"Most of the legacy software was



Members of the Financial System Implementation Project Team include: (top, from left) Bab Dore, Bob Retundi, Dan Illig, Bob Jansson, Doreen Krage, Ray Duffield, Lisa Kelly; (bottom, from left) Peggy Sutherland, Nick Earl and Jim Allegue.

home-grown, and some parts are over 45 years old, so it is antiquated, slow and expensive to maintain," explains

Lisa Kelly, a BIS management analyst.

Because of these problems, a finan-

cial management & accounting systems committee recommended in 1995 that BNL should replace its entire accounting system with an off-the-shelf, integrated financial software package. "The Lab decided to go with a commercial product to ensure that it can remain current with industry trends," says Kelly.

Following that recommendation and with the full support of the U.S. Department of Energy, new financial software was purchased in February 1996 from PeopleSoft Inc., a business-software developer located in California, established in 1987 and listed for the past three years by *Fortune* magazine as one of the fastest growing American companies.

Systematically, the Lab's new PeopleSoft financial software is being implemented in phases, the first of which involved installing and running the general-ledger and project-costing modules.

Putting the phase-I software in place, making the necessary hardware changes to run this software, and train-

(continued on page 2)

Donald Van Slyke Distinguished Lecture

Controlling Blood-Cell Formation, Leukemia

Coming from a Greek word meaning "white blood," leukemia is often referred to as cancer of the white blood cells. When leukemia develops, normal body control mechanisms break down, and the bone marrow starts to produce large numbers of immature, abnormal white blood cells, thus disrupting their normal production and leading to anemia and low platelet counts.

According to the type of cells affected, leukemia can be classified as either lymphoid or myeloid. Annually, about 20,000 people in the United States die of leukemia, with an esti-

mated 25,000 new cases being diagnosed each year.

However, over the last four decades, pioneering research has changed the prognosis of this rapid and previously always fatal disease to one with which most patients can live for months, sometimes years, and of which many patients, especially children, are now cured.

One of the pioneers of this research is Leo Sachs, whose discoveries in the fields of blood-cell formation and development and myeloid leukemia have spanned the past three decades. The Otto Meyerhof Professor of Biology at

the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, Sachs will speak on "The Control of Hematopoiesis and Leukemia: From Basic Biology to the Clinic," as the next Donald Van Slyke Distinguished Lecturer. The lecture will be held on Tuesday, October 21, at 4 p.m. in Berkner Hall; all are invited.

In his talk, Sachs will draw on many of his own contributions to the understanding of leukemia and hematopoiesis — the process by which the different cellular elements of the blood are formed — which have been key to the advancement of medical

(continued on page 2)

Wanted: Speakers

To respond to requests from civic groups, schools, parent-teacher organizations, senior groups and other organizations, BNL needs speakers: Employees who can spread the word about the world-class research being done here, report on the Lab's environmental issues and cleanup, tell about the difference science makes in everyday life, or give youngsters an idea of the various scientific careers that are available to them.

Through the Speakers Bureau run by the Public Affairs Office, Dawn Mosoff matches requests for speakers with capable volunteer employee-speakers. For more information about the Speakers Bureau or to volunteer your expertise to talk on certain subjects, contact Mosoff, Ext. 2345, or e-mail mosoff@bnl.gov.

BWIS Wine & Cheese

All are invited to the Brookhaven Women in Science (BWIS) Wine & Cheese Party — next Friday, October 24, from 5:15 to 7 p.m. in the Recreation Building in the apartment area.

This free, informal get-together is held annually to acquaint prospective members, women and men, with BWIS members and officers, and with the group's accomplishments which have benefited the entire Lab community.

BWIS officers for fiscal year 1998 are: Ruth Kempf and Vinita Ghosh, Coordinators; Mary Phraner, Secretary; Dorry Tooker, Treasurer; Eena-Mai Franz and Mary Wood, Seminar-Lecture Chairs; Carol Kramer, Program Chair; Louise Hanson and Eva Emmerich, Scholarship Chairs; and Anita Cohen, Publicity Chair. Trustees are Pam Mansfield and Lisa Tranquada. The following have been appointed: Gail Schuman and Anne Dunbar, Membership Chairs; Maureen Anderson, Newsletter Editor; and Cathy Green, Archivist.

Arrivals & Departures

Arrivals

Hoby P. Hetherington.....Medical
Gianluigi De Geronimo.....Instrument.

Departures

This list includes all employees who have terminated from the Lab, including retirees:

None

Financial Software (cont'd.)

ing the Lab's over 100 financial software users has involved over two dozen staffers from FSD and the Budget Office, many personnel from the Lab's departments and divisions, and four full-time consultants.

The first test of the general ledger and project costing programs actually happened this April through June, when they were tested in parallel with the use of the legacy system by six organizational units — the Alternating Gradient Synchrotron, National Synchrotron Light Source and Physics Departments, the Department of Advanced Technology, the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider Project, and the Plant Engineering Division.

"The input from these groups was instrumental in getting the system up and running," says Illig.

The complete installation of the PeopleSoft software is expected by the end of 1998, until which time the rest of the legacy system of financial software must be maintained — a dual challenge for FSD and the financial implementation project team.

In addition to Illig and Kelly, team members who are meeting this challenge are: Jim Allegue, Joan Barrow, Michelle Cummings, Bob Dore, Ray Duffield, Nick Earl, Mark Israel, Bob Jansson, Doreen Krage, Greg Mack, George Malcolm, John Muller, Bob

In Memoriam: Seshu Chalasani, SEP

Seshu Chalasani, a chemistry associate I in the Safety & Environmental Protection (SEP) Division, died on September 30. He was 47.



Seshu Chalasani

Chalasani, who had earned his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Madras University, India, joined BNL in 1989. His accomplishments included establishing part of the Lab's environmental monitoring program and having the Lab's analytical laboratory certified by the New York State Department of Health. He also developed efficient techniques to increase the Lab's analytical productivity.

With support from the Laboratory-Directed Research & Development Program, Chalasani had collaborated with A.J. Francis of the Department of Applied Science, to work on a pilot project designed to remove hazardous organics from contaminated soils.

Said Jan Naidu, SEP, who worked

closely with Chalasani, "Chini, as we all knew him, was a very thoughtful and kind person, always having the welfare of his colleagues foremost in his mind. He was a good teacher, so he provided excellent guidance to novitiates in chemistry, especially analytical chemistry. His presence as a person and as a scientist will be deeply missed."

Chalasani is survived by his mother, three brothers and two sisters.

The family has established a special "Seshu 'Chini' Chalasani Memorial Fund" at the American Kidney Foundation, which is being coordinated at BNL by Robert Miltenberger, SEP, Ext. 2503, Bldg. 129.

The following retiree passed away recently:

James Rutherford, who had been a technical research associate in the Physics Department, died on September 25 at age 65. He had joined BNL on June 15, 1959, as an interim technician and had left the Lab on long-term disability in June 1994.

Equipment Demo

On Monday, October 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Berkner Hall, North East Technical Sales will discuss the capabilities of products ranging from level, pressure, flow and temperature gas sensors to complete control-and-analysis systems.

Products will include: Heise gauges, transducers, pressure calibrators and dead-weight testers; American Sigma samplers and open channel flowmeters; EIT's toxic-and-combustible gas monitors, water-quality monitors, and Doppler meters; Hoffer turbine flowmeters; Heat heat-transfer systems; Accutech pressure and temperature transmitters; Superior pitot flowmeters; Turner Design hydrocarbon-in-water analyzers; and Crowcon confined-space monitors.

No MIX Meeting

There will be no Monthly Information eXchange (MIX) meeting with the Computing & Communications Division this month.

Retundi, Peggy Sutherland, Gary Utz, Sharon Wang and Jenny Weng, all FSD; Ed Byrne and Antoinette Russo of the Budget Office; and Terry Healy of CCD.

Client-Server Architecture

Before any new software could be run, however, all the necessary computer hardware had to be in place. "We went from a centralized mainframe environment to client-server architecture," explains Illig.

The change in computer infrastructure means out with the old Hewlett-Packard 3000 mainframe computer and dozens of computer terminals and emulators, and in with 22 Hewlett-Packard LH and LS servers.

These servers are networked to the dozens of client computers, which are each at least a 486 DX IBM-compatible personal computers (PC). All are set up to run Windows 95 or NT Client as the operating system, plus PeopleSoft. And the following applications were recommended to be installed: Microsoft Office Professional and Exchange.

This changeover not only "required a lot of coordination with CCD," says Illig, but also the establishment of a PC exchange, whereby the administrative staff within the Lab's departments and divisions traded in over 100 computers for upgraded ones that met the minimum requirements and

Bowling

Purple & White League

10/2: R. Eggert 259/222/206/687 scratch series, R. Raynis 255/253/203/711 scratch, M. Guacci 255/211/621 scratch, B. Mullany 252/223/612 scratch, Doug Fisher 246/603 scratch, D. Riley 207/187, M. Meier 235, Don King 223, B. Tozzie 216/212, S. Logan 214/180, C. McNulty 203, J. McCaffrey 202, K. Riker 202, M. Wool 195, R. Picinich 194/185, C. Johnson 192, J. McCarthy 183/182, G. Riker 180/171, P. Manzella 178.

Red & Green League

9/30: M. Meier 249/225/214/688 scratch series, E. Larsen 236/235/212/683 scratch, R. Larsen 236/225/216/677 scratch, R. Mulderig Sr. 225/216/634 scratch, J. Griffin 216/214/607 scratch, R. Mulderig Jr. 242/620 scratch, J. Meier 202/200, K. Koebel 233, O. Mirjah 226, J. LaBounty 225, B. Giuliano 213, F. Wahlert 206, E. Meier 202, D. Schiappa 201.

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came with PeopleSoft installed.

'But I've Always Done It This Way'

With the hardware in the users' hands, training in the use of the PeopleSoft programs could begin, which it did last April when the system testing began.

Even before receiving training on using the actual system, users of the Lab's financial software had had their hands on the system's prototype, during 23 "usability" sessions held from November 1996 through January 1997.

According to Kelly, the toughest challenge for users and trainers was, respectively, accepting and instilling standardization, that is, realizing how the system expected certain data to be entered and calculations to be performed — regardless of how the users had always done it.

Seven Remaining Modules

The remaining challenge is to implement the remaining seven PeopleSoft modules, which include: accounts payable, accounts receivable, asset management, billing, budgeting, inventory and purchasing.

Using the lessons learned from implementing the first two modules, "We have reprioritized the order in which the remaining modules will be installed," concludes Illig.

— Marsha Belford

International Festival: Last Call for Talent

Final call! Employees and their family members who can sing, dance, make music, tell stories and the like are still very welcome to showcase their talents at the International Festival of the arts, planned as part of the Lab's 50th-anniversary celebration.

The festival will be held on Thursday, November 20, from 5 to 9 p.m. — so, whether you are a planner or a performer, your involvement is needed without delay.

Organized by BNL's Diversity Office as a celebration of employees' different cultures, countries of origin, ethnic backgrounds and traditions, the festival will feature dance, song, music, costumes, arts & crafts, folklore and more. For more information or to volunteer your talents or organizational skills, contact Nanci Hoey, Ext. 2821, by Thursday, October 23.

BERA Bus Trips

The Brookhaven Employees Recreation Association (BERA) is sponsoring the following. For more information call Andrea Dehler, Ext. 3347, or Kay Dellimore, Ext. 2873.

• **Metropolitan Opera Tickets:** Some opera tickets remain for the 1997-98 Metropolitan Opera house season, including four tickets for next Friday's, October 24, performance of *La Cenerentola*.

• **New York City Bus Trip:** A few seats are available for the "Do Your Own Thing" BERA bus trip to New York City tomorrow, Saturday, October 18. The cost is \$16 per person.

• **Atlantic City:** Seats are still available for the BERA-sponsored, one-day bus trip on Saturday, November 15 to the Showboat Hotel and Casino on the Boardwalk. The cost is \$20.00 per person, 18 years and older, with a \$13 coin return.

Leukemia Lecture (cont'd.)

genetics, hematology and oncology within this field. His achievements of identifying proteins that regulate the development of specific hematopoietic cells, discovering the molecular basis of normal and abnormal control of cell development in blood-forming tissues, and learning how to suppress malignancy in leukemic cells have revolutionized molecular and cellular hematology.

Born in Leipzig, Germany, Sachs earned his B.Sc. at the University of Wales in 1948, and his Ph.D. at Cambridge University, England, in 1951. He joined the Weizmann Institute in 1952, becoming Chairman of the Department of Genetics, 1962-1989, and Dean of Biology, 1974-79.

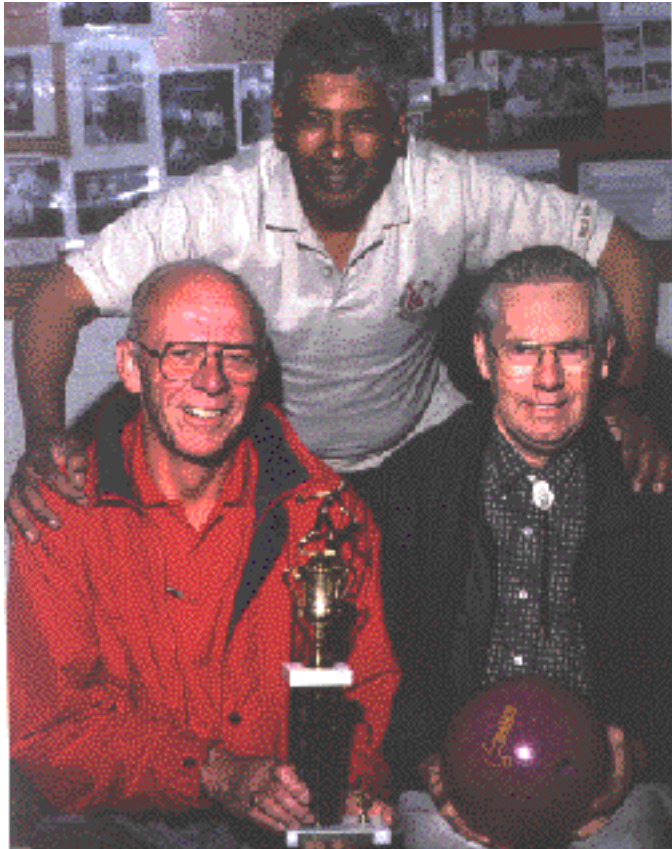
Among many awards and honors, Sachs has received the 1972 Israel Prize for Natural Sciences, the 1977 Rothschild Prize in the Biological Sciences, the 1980 Wolf Prize in Medicine, the 1983 Bristol-Myers Award for Distinguished Achievement in Cancer Research, the 1986 Royal Society Wellcome Foundation Prize, and the 1989 Alfred P. Sloan Prize. He is a Foreign Associate of the U.S.'s National Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of the Royal Society, London.

The Donald Van Slyke Distinguished Lecture Series was first endowed at BNL in 1987, in memory of Donald Van Slyke, former BNL Associate Director for Life Sciences and an internationally renowned biological chemist best known as the initiator of modern clinical chemistry. In 1970, the year before his death at age 88, Van Slyke was still active at the Lab as a Senior Scientist emeritus.

— Liz Seubert

1996-97 Season BERA Sports Champions

BOWLING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



Risky Business (above) paid off by winning top honors in the Mixed League: (back, from left) Andrea Epple, Kat Clifford; (front, from left) Glen Mehl, Skelly Frei and Bob Tozzie. Not shown: Tina Mehl. Portsiders (left) were left on the right side of victory in the Men's League: (back) Oscar Mirja; (front, from left) Hank Arnesen and Rich Larsen. Not shown: Mike Guacci and Eric Larsen.

— photos on this page by Roger Stoutenburgh

VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



The Silver Bullets (above) shot past the opposition to become the League 3 champs. They are: (left to right) Luis Nieves, Claudia Jones, Kerry Bonti and Roy Barone. Not shown: Kevin Cosgrove, Pete Bonti, Dina Tullo and Jennifer O'Connor.



Bikers & Spikers (above) rode their way to the League 1 championship. They include: (front row, left to right) Bill Kropp, Dan Mullaly, Jay Adams, Lars Furenlid, (back row, from left) Karen Furenlid, Jean Spears, Millie Laster and Ali Lopez.



No joke: The Open League champ is the Far Side (above), which includes: (front row, left to right) Rick Wagener, Jonathan Laster, Bill McGrath, (back row, from left) Jay Adams, Jim Higgins and Walter Reams. Not shown: Biays Bowerman.



Spiked Jello (above) molded a championship team in League 2. It includes: (front row, left to right) Izzy Garcia, Dave Bingham, Doug Gillette, Tirre Farmer, (back row, from left) Denise Miesell, Anette Meier, Jean Odin and Karen Furenlid. Not shown: Linda Farmer.

TENNIS TOURNAMENT CHAMPS



The winners of the 1997 BNL Tennis Tournament are: Men's singles champion Om Singh (second from left); Men's doubles champs Bob Meier (right) and Om Singh; and mixed-doubles champions Mary Dernbach and Ed Gill (left).

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Classified Advertisements

Placement Notices

The Lab's placement policy is to select the best-qualified candidate for an available position. Candidates are considered in the following order: (1) present employees within the department/division and/or appropriate bargaining unit, with preference for those within the immediate work group; (2) present employees within the Laboratory; and (3) outside applicants. In keeping with the Affirmative Action Plan, selections are made without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or veteran status.

Each week, the Human Resources Division lists new placement notices, first, so employees may request consideration for themselves, and, second, for open recruitment. Because of the priority policy stated above, each listing does not necessarily represent an opportunity for all people.

Except when operational needs require otherwise, positions will be open for one week after publication.

For more information, contact the Employment Manager, Ext. 2882; call the JOBLINE, Ext. 7744 (344-7744), for a complete list of all job openings; use a TDD system to access job information by calling (516) 344-6018; or access current job openings on the World Wide Web at <http://www.bnl.gov/JOBS/jobs.html>.

SCIENTIFIC RECRUITMENT - Doctorate usually required. Candidates may apply directly to the department representative named.

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE - Trained in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics or closely related field, with a strong background in molecular genetics, immunological methods and/or protein purification. Will participate in studies of the functions of DNA-protein kinase, a large, nuclear serine/threonine kinase that is activated in response to DNA damage and belongs to the ataxia telangiectasia family of cell regulatory proteins. DNA-PK is required for V(D)J recombination and repairing DNA double-strand breaks. Contact: Carl Anderson, Biology Department.

OPEN RECRUITMENT - Opportunities for Laboratory employees and outside candidates.

NS4769. ENGINEERING POSITION - (term appointment, reposting) Requires a BS in mechanical engineering, experience with fluid-flow calculations and control systems, to design and specify large flammable gas-storage and mixing areas for RHIC physics-research detectors. The ability to interface with numerous groups and good communication skills are required; proficiency in AutoCAD is a plus. Will design, install and integrate gas-detection systems with BNL/RHIC safety systems including hardware, system specifications, testing and procedure writing. Alternating Gradient Synchrotron Department.

NS5027. PROGRAMMER/ANALYST POSITION - Requires a bachelor's degree in computer science or related discipline, several years' experience with Oracle RDBMS, and experience with Visual Basic, HTML/CGI and Perl. Working knowledge of Windows 95, Windows NT and Microsoft Office is highly desirable. Will develop and maintain database applications in support of Division operations, and assist with administration of databases and networked applications. Safety & Environmental Protection Division.

DD3104. TECHNICAL POSITION - (term appointment, reposting) -Requires an AAS/BS in electronics technology or equivalent relevant experience and significant experience in prototyping and testing of complex electronic circuits, including analog and digital. Must be able to work from schematics, mechanical drawings and verbal instructions. Experience in digital communications systems a plus. Will work on the design, prototyping, fabrication and testing of analog and digital radio-frequency signal processing modules for the RHIC rf group. RHIC Project.

Time Capsule Countdown

Can You Top These Suggestions?

While suggestions for BNL memorabilia have rolled in, time is running out for you to submit your ideas for objects that can be placed within the Lab's two 50th-anniversary time capsules.

As the final event of Brookhaven's golden-anniversary celebration, two glass time capsules will be entombed in a concrete container (see diagram), which will be buried on site during a ceremony on December 17. The container is to be unearthed and the capsules opened during the Lab's 100th-anniversary year in 2047.

Since each of the capsules will be approximately the size of a five-gallon jug, objects within them cannot exceed 4.5 inches in diameter and a quart in volume. Therefore, have big ideas, but think small!

Suggestions so far have included:

- TLD dosimeter
- Pentium computer chip
- BNL's present site map
- Videotape of 50th-anniversary festivities

Prizes will be awarded for the most creative and appropriate suggestions submitted, so get your ideas to Patti Bender, time-capsule project coordinator, Ext. 3145, Bldg. 134C.

In addition, Bender reminds potential countdown clock inventors that they have exactly one month from today to submit their designs to her for the 50-year, self-powered, weatherproof and maintenance-free clock that will mark the spot where the time capsules are buried.

