



**A MESSAGE FROM
THE LABORATORY DIRECTOR**

When I became Director of Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in April 2003, I was already somewhat familiar with the site, having worked on collaborations here at several points during my 36-year career at IBM. As I remembered from those visits, the 5,300-acre BNL site is a special one, featuring forests of oak and pine, abundant wildlife, including deer, fox, and turkey, and some of the brightest minds in science conducting research at some truly extraordinary machines. I appreciate the importance of respecting our environment and minimizing our impact on it as much as possible. As Director, I expect nothing less than excellence from our employees and visitors, both in terms of the science carried out here and in our role as responsible stewards of the environment.

In 2002, the Laboratory continued to demonstrate environmental leadership across the Department of Energy (DOE) complex by having our environmental management system (EMS) recertified to the globally recognized ISO 14001 standard. In 2001, BNL became the first DOE Office of Science, and the first Long Island-based organization to achieve third-party registration to the ISO14001 standard. In 2002, the Laboratory also received recognition for its EMS from the staff of *Environmental Protection* magazine, naming BNL as one of five “Facilities of the Year.”

We continued to make substantial progress in addressing historical issues in 2002, removing hundreds of tons of radioactive soils and waste from the site, completing construction of a new groundwater treatment system, and conducting an important pilot study that will help guide the cleanup of the Peconic River.

BNL was also successful in terms of our commitment to limiting current and future impacts to the environment. Pollution prevention projects in 2002 saved more than \$1.5 million and resulted in the reduction or reuse of more than 2 million pounds of industrial, sanitary, hazardous, and radioactive waste. We also saw a promising increase in the number of pollution prevention proposals submitted by scientific staff, and eight projects, funded at an initial cost of approximately \$120,000, are expected to save the Laboratory more than \$268,000 each year.

The annual publication of the Site Environmental Report is just one of many ways the Laboratory keeps our neighbors, regulators, employees, and other interested parties informed about environmental issues and progress at the site. Communication with these groups has become an integral part of our operations, and must remain so if we intend to be successful in our scientific endeavors. So, as we continue to set grand challenges for ourselves, both in terms of scientific advances and operational excellence, we keep in mind our motto, “Exploring Earth’s Mysteries...Protecting Its Future.”

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Praveen Chaudhari". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Praveen Chaudhari
Laboratory Director