



**A MESSAGE FROM
THE LABORATORY DIRECTOR**

As Director of Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), I expect nothing less than excellence from our employees and visiting researchers, in terms of the science carried out here, our support operations, and in our role as responsible stewards of the environment. One of BNL's highest priorities is ensuring that the Laboratory's environmental performance measures up to its world-class status in science. The Laboratory's motto, "Exploring Life's Mysteries...Protecting its Future," reflects BNL's management philosophy to fully integrate environmental stewardship into all facets of its missions and operations.

In 2001, BNL became the first DOE Office of Science, and the first Long Island-based organization, to achieve third-party registration to the internationally-recognized ISO 14001 Environmental Standard. In 2003, the Laboratory continued to demonstrate environmental leadership across the Department of Energy (DOE) complex by having our Environmental Management System (EMS) recertified to the ISO 14001 standard after undergoing a rigorous surveillance audit to confirm that BNL's EMS is being maintained and to document evidence of continued improvement.

BNL's strong Pollution Prevention (P2) Program continues to be a success. To date, pollution prevention projects instituted since 1999 have saved more than \$1.5 million and have resulted in the reduction, recycling, or reuse of approximately 2.3 million pounds of industrial, sanitary, hazardous, and radioactive waste. In 2003, 19 pollution prevention proposals were submitted by scientific staff. Approximately \$96,000 was invested in eight new projects, with an anticipated annual savings of \$88,000 and an average payback period of 1.2 years. Energy improvements in buildings and ongoing conservation efforts continue to save money for the Laboratory.

Under the Laboratory's Environmental Management Program, cleaning up soil and groundwater contamination and preventing additional contamination from moving off site is a primary goal. Since the beginning of active groundwater cleanup activities in December 1996, BNL has removed 4,156 pounds of chemicals from the aquifer, treating nearly 6.8 billion gallons of groundwater. During 2003, seven groundwater remediation systems removed 510 pounds of chemicals and returned approximately 1.3 billion gallons of treated water to the Upper Glacial Aquifer.

The Upton Ecological and Research Reserve continues to produce new ecological data each year. Highlights for 2003 include the discovery of the redbellied snake, a species not seen on Long Island in more than 60 years, and research into the orange striped oakworm, a species capable of decimating the abundant oak forests that make up much of the Long Island ecosystem. Also in 2003, working with the Reserve's Technical Advisory Group, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders, BNL developed a comprehensive, ecosystem-based Natural Resource Management Plan and approved funding for several research projects.

It is important that the Laboratory maintain stakeholder trust, and we will continue to deliver on our commitments and demonstrate real improvements in environmental performance. The annual publication of the Site Environmental Report is one of many ways the Laboratory keeps our neighbors, regulators, employees, and other interested parties informed about environmental issues and progress at BNL.

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

Praveen Chaudhari
Laboratory Director