

# Welcome

**Abbie W. Layne**

alayne@fetc.doe.gov; phone: 304-285-4603; fax: 304-285-4403

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy

Federal Energy Technology Center

P.O. Box 880, 3610 Collins Ferry Road, Morgantown, WV 26505

Good afternoon. Welcome to the 1999 Advanced Turbine Systems Annual Program Review Meeting. This conference is cosponsored by the Office of Industrial Technologies in the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and the Federal Energy Technology Center in the DOE Office of Fossil Energy.

We are excited about this 2-day conference. Every year since the beginning of the program in 1992 we have seen greater advances in turbine technology. As we get closer to the end of the program, we are celebrating these successes. We are also gearing up for a new program, which our first speaker, Rita Bajura, will talk about.

We have over 200 participants from the U.S. and other countries. Our participants include persons from government organizations, industry, and academia. The conference is organized into about 25 presentations in four technical sessions, including a panel discussion and a poster session.

FETC produced the proceedings of our 1997 ATS meeting on CD, and we will do so again. Part of the success of the ATS program is because of technology transfer – getting the results out to those who can use them. Our CDs encourage technology transfer, and they also act as an advertisement. I'm reminding you of this so you smile nicely when our photographer comes around snapping pictures. I'm also reminding you so that you remember to send in your electronic papers and presentations — promptly. We had an unprecedented 100-percent representation from all speakers and poster presenters 2 years ago. Let's do this again.

We would like to thank those who assisted in organizing the conference, specifically Conference Services, our communications experts, and our conference session chairs. In particular, I would like to thank Chuck Alsup of FETC's Gas Power Systems Division for "being my right hand." Also, a thank you to Pat Hoffman, who is our cosponsor from the Headquarters Office of Industrial Technologies.

As I mentioned a few minutes ago, Rita Bajura is our first speaker. When Rita began her job as Director of the newly created FETC in December 1996, she also served on the DOE Fossil Energy core executive planning team, setting up strategic objectives and allocating resources for the DOE Office of Fossil Energy. Prior to this, she was a senior manager at METC, acting as lead negotiator on five major Clean Coal Technology projects with a combined government and private-sector value of over \$2 billion. Rita has been with the Center in Morgantown since 1980. She has an M.S. in Engineering from West Virginia University, and a B.S. in Chemistry from Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA.

Please join me in welcoming Rita Bajura.