



**A MESSAGE FROM
THE LABORATORY DIRECTOR**

In 2004, the Laboratory made great progress under its environmental management program. BNL's Environmental Management System (EMS) is the Laboratory's commitment to environmentally responsible operations. The cornerstone of an EMS is a Laboratory Environmental Stewardship Policy. In 2004, BNL incorporated the principles of its previous Laboratory-wide Environmental Stewardship Policy into a comprehensive Environmental, Safety, Security, and Health (ESSH) Policy. I signed this policy to make clear BNL's commitments to environmental stewardship, the safety of its employees, and the security of the site. A recertification audit of our EMS in June determined that BNL remains in conformance, and the auditors highlighted five examples of continual improvement since the Laboratory achieved this globally recognized International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 Environmental Management Standard in 2001.

BNL operations led to several awards from a diverse stakeholder group, including an EPA Environmental Quality Award, a DOE Office of Science Best in Class Award, DOE's Pollution Prevention Award, a White House Closing the Circle Award, a DOE Office of Science Pollution Prevention Award, a Long Island Pine Barrens Society Award, and the Evelyn Liblit Environmental Stewardship Award. In addition, the Laboratory was accepted into the EPA's Performance Track Program, which recognizes top environmental performance among participating U.S. facilities. This program is EPA's "gold standard" for facility-based environmental performance. I am proud of these achievements, which represent additional evidence that the Laboratory's EMS is working.

BNL's pollution prevention program continues to be a success. To date, pollution prevention projects have saved more than \$1.6 million and resulted in the reduction or reuse of approximately 2.2 million pounds of waste. In 2004, the Laboratory invested approximately \$86,000 in eight new pollution prevention proposals, which are expected to save the Laboratory approximately \$60,500 annually, for an average payback period of 1.3 years.

In 2004, BNL continued to clean up contaminated soil and groundwater on site. Since the beginning of active groundwater remediation in 1996, the Laboratory has removed 4,808 pounds of chemicals from the aquifer by treating approximately 8.4 billion gallons of groundwater.

Under the Laboratory's Environmental Restoration Program, legacy issues continue to be addressed. With the input of BNL's key stakeholders and the community, significant progress was made to advance cleanup projects in 2004. In March, cleanup of portions of the Peconic River, both on and off the site, began. Remediation plans include the removal, treatment, and disposal of sediment containing contaminants such as mercury and PCBs. The long-term plan includes habitat restoration and long-term monitoring of surface water, sediment, and fish. Also, in August, a draft plan for the cleanup of the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor (BGRR) was submitted to the community for comment.

These are just some of the highlights of the achievements and advances made within BNL's environmental management program in 2004. The Laboratory, with the help of our stakeholders and community, will continue to deliver on our commitment to environmental performance in 2005 and beyond.

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

Praveen Chaudhari
Laboratory Director