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To the Laboratory Staff,

Sally Benson has informed me of her intention to leave the position of Deputy Director for Operations effective February 1, 2005, and return full-time to her scientific research program. She has served as Operations Deputy since April of 2001.

In the short time that we have worked together, it is clear to me that Sally has been a decisive and dynamic leader, highly respected by her colleagues in the Department of Energy and the University of California. The Best Practices Study which she led has had an enormous impact on the DOE. She has brought together an outstanding group of professionals to head the Operations Divisions and Departments and she has begun to modernize and improve the delivery of services throughout the Laboratory. The Laboratory has greatly benefited from Sally's vision and energy.

I greatly appreciate the role Sally has played and will work with her and the senior managers in Operations to assure a smooth transition. Sally has maintained a vigorous research program in groundwater hydrology and carbon sequestration, and I am delighted that she will be able to rededicate herself to this exciting area.

In the coming weeks I will be seeking input from across the Laboratory about the optimal organization of Operations going forward.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu