



*Office of the Director*

January 2, 2003

Message to all Employees

I have informed University of California President Richard C. Atkinson that I am resigning my position as Director of Los Alamos National Laboratory effective Monday, January 6, 2003.

Pete Nanos, presently Principal Deputy Associate Director for Threat Reduction, will take over as the interim Laboratory Director while a nationwide search is conducted for my successor. I will give Pete my total support as he undertakes this difficult transition in leadership. I expect all employees to do likewise.

It has been a great honor to be your Director for the last five years. While there were many challenges to overcome during my tenure, my fondest memory will be of the great people that I came to know both in the Laboratory and in the local communities. I am very proud of the scientific and programmatic accomplishments that we made during this period.

The current controversy over our financial and business controls, which arose initially from the misuse of government procurements by a few employees, has brought serious criticism of management at our Laboratory. As Laboratory Director, I accept my personal accountability for everything that happens here, both good and bad. Therefore, I believe that only a change in leadership will restore the confidence that is needed for this Laboratory to carry out its difficult and important mission.

I would like to thank all of you for the tremendous support that you gave me during my tenure – through our scientific and programmatic successes, through the security crises, through the Cerro Grande fire, and through the most recent controversy. It is important for all of us to hold our heads high, and to fix whatever problems need fixing – now and in the future. Los Alamos is a great Laboratory whose national security mission has never been more important to our great nation.

John