

Thus it is equally valid to judge the benefit of a research contribution in terms of its reduction of uncertainty or its description of a previously unknown mechanism. These criteria have been in consonance with the energy development missions of OHER's parent agencies (AEC, ERDA, and DOE), which have made use of OHER research in an anticipatory manner to prevent, modify, or mitigate potential health and environmental effects before an emerging technology reaches maturity. The contrast between the anticipatory nature of the OHER research program and the research conducted by the regulatory agencies is readily apparent from the differing content and objectives of the respective research programs. The ultimate goal of the research program, therefore, is not so much to *find* effects as it is to aid in their *prevention*. The extent to which this goal is realized is the true measure of the program's benefit to the nation.

The following sections describe selected, definitive research contributions resulting from the OHER research program—accomplishments of the many individuals in national laboratories, universities, and research institutes who conduct this work under contract to OHER. In some instances the research has been cofunded or is now pursued under auspices other than OHER. Unfortunately, in a summary document of this size, it is not possible to give complete documentation or credit due to researcher, laboratory, and sponsor. A supplemental document of considerable length will be issued shortly which will provide such information as well as greater detail of the accomplishments themselves.