

Executive Summary

This is a short account of a 40-year-old health and environmental research program performed in national laboratories, universities, and research institutes. Under the sponsorship of the federal agencies that were consecutively responsible for the national energy mission, this research program has contributed to the understanding of the human health and environmental effects of emerging energy technologies. In so doing, it has also evolved several nuclear techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of human ills.

The form of this presentation is, literally, through "snapshots"—examples of significant, tangible accomplishments in each of these areas at certain times to illustrate the role and impact of the research program.

The program's worth is not necessarily confined to such accomplishments; it extends, rather, to its ability to identify and help solve potential health and environmental problems before they become critical. This anticipatory mission has been pursued with an approach that combines a commitment to fundamental research that is long term and high risk with applied problem solving.

The narrative of this research program concludes with a perspective of its past and a prospectus on its future.