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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Margaret Chu Sworn-In as Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management

WASHINGTON, DC – Dr. Margaret S.Y. Chu was sworn-in today as director of the Department of Energy’s Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. Chu was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on March 6.

“I am pleased to have Dr. Chu join my team,” Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. “ Her years of technical experience in nuclear waste management and environmental remediation will be a tremendous asset to the department’s Yucca Mountain program.”

As director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Dr. Chu will be responsible for advising the Secretary of Energy and the President on issues surrounding the ongoing scientific research and licensing of the Nation’s first permanent geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

Dr. Chu previously served as director of nuclear waste management at the Energy Department’s Sandia National Laboratories. She also served as Sandia manager for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. She received her bachelor’s degree from Purdue University and a doctorate degree in physical chemistry from the University of Minnesota. Chu is a native of Albuquerque, N.M.

A copy of Dr. Chu’s biography is attached.

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DR. MARGARET S.Y. CHU

Dr. Margaret S.Y. Chu was confirmed on March 6, 2002, as the Director of the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management. The Office is responsible for developing the Nation's waste disposal system for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, as mandated by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended.

Dr. Chu has over 20 years experience at Sandia National Laboratories that spans from Research and Development to program management. Her technical expertise ranges from nuclear waste management, nuclear reactors, energy policies, nuclear materials management, nuclear non-proliferation issues, environmental remediation, and technology development.

Since 1998, Dr. Chu served as the Director of the Nuclear Waste Management Programs Center under the Energy and Information Infrastructure Surety Program. As Director, she provided the vision and developed the strategy for the Center. She led and managed 170 professional staff conducting research and development in providing integrated solutions to global nuclear waste management problems.

Dr. Chu held various positions at Sandia including, Manager, Waste Isolation Pilot Program (WIPP) Deputy Manager of the Technical Integration Department from May 1995 until April 1998. In this capacity, she integrated all technical activities within the WIPP project for a timely, successful certification application. Prior to that from October 1991 until May 1995, she was the Manager of the Environmental Risk Assessment and Waste Management Department. From May 1980 to October 1991, Dr. Chu served as Project Lead in various areas of waste management at Sandia National Laboratories.

Dr. Chu received her Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1973, and her B.S., 1967 in Chemistry, from Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana. After completing her Ph.D., Dr. Chu became a National Institute of Health Postdoctoral Fellow at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Chu has authored close to 50 publications, and has received numerous awards including Team Lead of Lockheed Martin Nova Award (1998), Team Lead of Sandia National Laboratories' Employee Recognition Award (1998), Distinguished Member of Technical Staff Award, Sandia National Laboratories (1986). She is a member of several professional societies including the Waste Management Education & Research Consortium, American Chemical Society, American Nuclear Society, American Association of the Advancement of Science, Iota Sigma Pi, and Phi Lambda Upsilon, American Chinese Engineers and Scientists Society, and Overseas Chinese Environmental Engineers & Scientists Association.

Dr. Chu is married to Tze-Yao, a Senior Scientist from Sandia National Laboratories. They have 3 children and reside in Washington, D.C.

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