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*The following are the prepared comments for Dr. Carolyn Huntoon's Opening Plenary Presentation at Containment 2001, the International Containment and Remediation Technology Conference, which took place on 10-13 June 2001 in Orlando, Florida.*

Good Evening. I would like to welcome everyone to the 2001 International Containment & Remediation Conference and Exhibition.

As Assistant Secretary of the Office of Environmental Management of the U.S. Department of Energy, I am so pleased to be a part of this conference. Based on the number of registrants and the quality of the abstracts and speakers, I am expecting this conference to be extremely successful in every respect.

Gerald Boyd briefed me recently on the results of the 1997 Conference (the predecessor of this conference) and during his briefing, he relayed to me that this conference would be even more successful than the previous conference for DOE, and for the other federal agency sponsors and private sponsors. The other federal sponsors are NASA, the Navy and EPA. We are also very much appreciative of the private sector sponsors of the conference – these generous sponsors include DuPont and the IT Group. It should be known that in addition to financial support, these public and private sector sponsors have given greatly of their time and technical expertise to formulate the wonderful program of speakers and posters for this conference. DOE is always pleased to forge meaningful public/private partnerships to accomplish really good things.

I would very much like to thank Florida State University – specifically, the Institute for International Cooperative Environmental Research. I have experienced other conferences and meetings organized by FSU and know that they do an excellent job of both organization and execution. It is unusual to find organizations that are highly skilled not only in organization but also in execution. Specifically, I would like to thank Roy Herndon, Michael Kuperberg and Loreen Kollar for their hard work and dedication to make this event a success.

I would also like to thank the exhibitors who bring a technical and “hands-on” perspective to this event. We welcome each exhibiting company and organization and thank them greatly for their participation.

Finally, I would like to thank Skip Chamberlain for his vision “in planting a small seed in 1995” to establish the first International Containment Technology Conference and now, to reap the rewards of this highly successful technical event – this is a huge accomplishment. I know of Skip's ability to build coalitions among DOE, federal agency and private sector representatives to align their efforts and resources to make excellent

things happen. Skip has demonstrated this ability with the Interagency DNAPL Consortium at Cape Canaveral – a project that many of you will experience “first hand” on the field trip on Friday - with these conferences and with other DOE activities for the Subsurface Contamination Focus Area. Skip, I am personally very proud of your accomplishments.

One final set of welcomes. I would like to welcome all of our international guests and specifically those from Russia, Poland and Argentina who work collaboratively with us at DOE.

Without further ado, I would once again like to welcome everyone to this conference. Please have a highly productive and enjoyable experience. I look forward to the 2003 Conference!!

Thank you.