

STATEMENT OF JESSIE HILL ROBERSON

on

Institute for Energy and Environmental Research Report

*Poison in the Vadose Zone: An examination of the threats to the Snake River Plain aquifer
from the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory*

As the Department of Energy conducts its review of environmental cleanup, it welcomes the independent assessments and recommendations of outside groups such as the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER). The Department faces significant challenges in completing the cleanup of environmental contamination caused by 50 years of nuclear weapons production. IEER's previous reports have provided insights into a number of the challenges facing the Department. I look forward to reviewing their latest report.

[Ms. Roberson is the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management of the U.S. Department of Energy.
Her statement was faxed to IEER on October 9, 2001.]