



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 31, 2003**

### **OKLAHOMA CITY URBAN ATMOSPHERIC STUDY HAS CONCLUDED**

OKLAHOMA CITY – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Defense – Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), sponsors of the month-long atmospheric dispersion study in Oklahoma City, Okla, announce the conclusion of the study. The nearly 150 scientists, engineers, and student assistants who have spent most of July in the downtown area are packing their equipment and returning home.

The study to track the air movement of safe, non-toxic tracer gases in and around city buildings completed its tenth and final release event on the evening of July 28. Throughout the month of July, an immense amount of observations were gathered and stored for future research. Resulting data will be used to enhance and develop urban specific computer models that will allow emergency management, law enforcement and other personnel to train for and respond to potential terrorist attack, and accidental chemical spills.

The sponsors, and participating scientists would like to thank the City of Oklahoma City and the citizens who work or live in the downtown area for their considerable cooperation and support.

For more information about Joint Urban 2003, visit the website at <http://JU2003.pnl.gov> or contact Cerry Leffler, Oklahoma Climatological Survey at (405) 325-2541, or Major Linda Ritchie, DTRA Public Affairs, (703) 767-5870, or Michelle Petrovich, DHS Public Affairs, (202) 282-8010, or Geoff Harvey, DOE/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, (509) 372-6083.