President's Radiation Safety Statement

Team,

I want to convey to our faculty, staff and students the University’s commitment to assuring that our Radiation Safety Program and its implementation in all respects reflect our comprehensive and steadfast commitment to safety on our campus. Please join me in creating a radiation safety culture that our faculty, staff, and students deserve.

Idaho State University holds four different nuclear licenses from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. When taken together, those four licenses truly make Idaho State a flagship nuclear engineering university, essentially allowing us to conduct research and provide teaching opportunities most others in the country cannot. One NRC official describes our combination of licenses as “unique” but also as “among the most complicated” set of licenses issued to a university in this country. In addition, we have a number of state-issued radiological licenses which also fall under our Radiation Safety Program, and to which we are equally committed to assure their proper implementation. But, as the saying goes, with great power comes great responsibility. The fact that we have those licenses, and that combination of licenses, means the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State are trusting us with a great responsibility. It is a burden we have a duty and an obligation to bear for the safety of our students, our faculty, our staff, and our nation.

At Idaho State University, we will install and live a culture of radiation safety on this campus. I believe strongly that every employee and student is entitled to work under safe and secure conditions. We must continuously work together to develop and foster a comprehensive culture of radiation safety in all of our radiation related operations. The University leadership highly values, and will endeavor to provide, resources to maintain a safe and healthful workplace where free and open communication is encouraged. Please help me in ensuring that this culture is at the forefront of all we do here at Idaho State.

Our Radiation Safety Program is an integral component of our mission that allows us to provide outstanding student instruction and successful research projects. We will hold ourselves to the highest standards and require our program to be safe for our employees, students, and the public. We have a duty to maintain compliance with federal and state licenses, regulations and policy, and ISU radiological program procedures. We have an expectation that our program will meet the goals of “As Low as Reasonably Achievable Exposure," and we will ensure our employees and students of such when working with radioactive materials. The University will provide a safe working environment, training and instruction, and appropriate personal protective equipment within our comprehensive radiation safety program. We will review and appropriately staff our program to achieve these goals. It is my commitment that I will hold leadership and the members of the Radiation Safety Program responsible and accountable to these goals.

Safety is all of our responsibility. We expect that our campus community will openly discuss safety concerns. ISU fully embraces the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Safety Culture Policy Statement. You may, openly or confidentially and free of any retaliation, report any safety concern, and we will investigate and resolve safety issues as they arise. You may also report violations and concerns to the NRC or Department of Labor in accordance with posted NRC notices.

It is critical that you join with me in actively participating in the promotion and continuous enhancement of our culture of radiation safety at Idaho State University.

Kevin D. Satterlee
President