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For Immediate Release*

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External Affairs*

## **Panel Examines Fracture Flow and Transport in Arid Regions**

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's (the Board) Panel on Hydrogeology & Geochemistry will meet June 26 and 27, 1995, near San Francisco to examine ground-water flow and potential radionuclide transport in arid regions, including the Negev Desert in Israel. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, San Francisco Airport, 600 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame, California 94010; (Tel) 415-340-8500; (Fax) 415-340-0599. The meeting will begin at 1:00 P.M. and recess at 6:30 P.M. on Monday, June 26. It will reconvene at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, June 27, and adjourn at 1:00 P.M.

On the first day, the panel will hear presentations on waste isolation in arid regions; focus will be on the common features that control subsurface flow and transport in this type of environment. On the second day, the panel will hear what critical data are needed to characterize and model flow and transport in fractured unsaturated rocks, whether these data can be obtained in a reasonable amount of time, and what their limitations might be. A round-table discussion then will explore the impact of fast flow pathways on site-suitability issues, including computations for ground-water travel time and total system performance assessment.

As with all the Board's meetings, time will be set aside on the agenda for comments and questions from the public. To ensure that everyone wishing to speak is offered time to do so, the Board encourages those who have comments to sign the *Public Comment Register*, which will be located at the sign-in table each day of the meeting. Written comments for the record also may be submitted to the Board staff at the sign-in table.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board was created by Congress in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the DOE in its program to manage the disposal of the nation's high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. In that same legislation, Congress directed the DOE to characterize a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for its suitability as a potential location for a permanent repository for the disposal of that waste.

Transcripts of the meeting will be available on computer disk or on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes, Board staff, beginning August 22, 1995. For further information, contact

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