

*July 14, 2008
For Immediate Release*

*Contact: Paula N. Alford
External Affairs*

NWTRB To Discuss Use of Analogues in HLW Waste Disposal

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) will hold a meeting on analogues on April 16, 1991, from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and on April 17, 1991, from 8:30 A.M. to early afternoon. The meeting will be held at the Peppermill Hotel, 2707 South Virginia Avenue, Reno, Nevada 89502; (702) 826-2121.

Board members will be briefed on the use of analogues to assess the long-term performance of a potential site for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level defense waste. In its *Second Report to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Secretary of Energy (November 1990)*, the Board recommended that the Department of Energy (DOE) investigate the use of natural analogues in helping to assess performance of the Yucca Mountain site. The site, which is located in Nevada, is currently being studied by the DOE as a potential site for a permanent repository.

Analogues are naturally occurring geologic settings, such as uranium ore bodies, or other material that have been subjected to environmental forces over long periods of time. Measurements taken from analogues can provide useful information on material behavior, and on radionuclide and elemental transport. This information, in turn, may prove helpful in characterizing a potential repository site, such as the one at Yucca Mountain.

Those invited to appear before the Board include representatives from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; the U.S. Geological Survey; the Office of Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analysis; the Office of Nuclear Materials, Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and the U.S. Department of Energy. Time remaining after the presentations will be used by the Board to hold a general discussion among participants on the potential usefulness and applicability of analogues to the DOE waste management program.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting as observers. A transcript of the meeting will be available on a library-loan basis from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning May 6, 1991.