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For Immediate Release*

External Affairs

DOE to Brief Panel on MSIS and ESF Design Status

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board), as part of its congressional mandate to provide an independent review of the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to manage the disposal of the nation's civilian high-level radioactive waste, has scheduled a meeting of its Panel on Structural Geology & Geoengineering for July 15, 1991. Representatives of the Department of Energy (DOE) and DOE contractors will brief panel members on the status of the Management Systems Improvement Strategy (MSIS) currently being implemented by the DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM). The panel also will hear from representatives of the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Program Office (YMPO) on the status of the exploratory studies facility (ESF) design effort. The meeting will run from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., and will be held at The Stouffer Concourse Hotel, 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202; (703) 418-6800. This meeting will precede a two-day meeting of the full Board scheduled for July 16-17 at the same location.

The MSIS, which is part of the Secretary of Energy's 1989 program to restructure the OCRWM and refocus on site-suitability issues, is being implemented to improve programmatic functions and processes and redefine system requirements. The MSIS is structured around a systems engineering approach that divides the waste management program into system and programmatic functions. Completion of the MSIS is expected in August 1991.

Representatives of the YMPO and its contractors will brief the panel on the current status of the preliminary ESF design effort, which will resume pending completion of the MSIS. They will review the design studies of the ESF north area, the Title I (preliminary design) summary report, and studies of the ESF south portal and shaft alternative designs.

Members of the public are welcome to attend as observers. Transcripts will be available beginning August 15, 1991, from the Board librarian.