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*External Affairs*

## **Las Vegas is Site of Meeting on ESF and Repository Design**

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board), as part of its congressional mandate to independently review the Department of Energy's (DOE) high-level radioactive waste management program, has invited representatives of the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors to a two-day meeting of the Board's Panel on Structural Geology & Geoengineering. The meeting, which will address the preliminary design of the exploratory studies facility (ESF) and the repository design, will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, on September 18 and 19, 1991. Meeting location is the St. Tropez Hotel, Ballrooms 1 - 3, 455 E. Harmon Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109; (702) 369-5400; sessions will run from 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. on September 18, and from 8:30 A.M. - Noon on September 19.

On Wednesday, September 18, representatives from the DOE and its contractors will review revisions that are being made to the ESF preliminary design as a result of task force studies conducted by the DOE over the past 18 months. The Board is particularly interested in hearing the results of the technical and tradeoff studies, which will provide the basis for the revised preliminary design, and the rationale for establishing a phased approach to the final design, development, and construction of the ESF. Specific topics will include: (1) plan and rationale for the phased approach to the ESF design, development, and construction; (2) ramp location, sizing, and grade; (3) ventilation; (4) excavation plan; (5) transportation methods; and (6) waste isolation constraints.

On Thursday, September 19, a representative from Science Applications International Corporation will review the alternative configurations for the conceptual design of the repository that were developed during the task force studies, as well as the potential impact of the planned repository on the ESF design. A summary by the DOE and an open discussion with meeting participants will follow.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting as observers. Transcripts of the meeting will be available on a library-loan basis from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning November 4, 1991.