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For Immediate Release*

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Panel Examines Seismic Vulnerabilities of Potential Repository Proposed for Yucca Mountain, Nevada

The Hyatt Regency Hotel in Irvine, California, will be the site of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's (the Board) January 22 to 23, 1992, panel meeting on the seismic vulnerabilities of the proposed high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The Board's Panel on Structural Geology & Geoengineering has invited representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the state of Nevada, the U.S. Geological Survey, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) to make presentations on the engineering and safety consequences of earthquakes to both surface and underground facilities of the proposed repository. Specific attention will be paid to the effects of earthquake-induced vibratory ground motion and fault movement during the preclosure and postclosure phases. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 17900 Jamboree Boulevard, Irvine, California 92714; (714) 975-1234. It is scheduled to run from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on January 22 and from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. on January 23 and will be open to the public.

On Wednesday, January 22, the DOE and its consultants will present a summary of results from recent seismic hazard studies; they will then provide a series of presentations on seismic vulnerabilities. Topics will include the effects of nuclear test blasts on tunnels at the Nevada Test Site; the seismic vulnerabilities of surface and subsurface facilities; and how the DOE intends to use seismic vulnerability information and insights during site characterization. The NRC and the state of Nevada will follow with their perspectives on the use of seismic vulnerability information. The NRC-affiliated Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses will present the results of its research on the response of underground openings to earthquakes.

On Thursday, January 23, the NRC will give its views on the identification of faulting and seismic hazards, and the U.S. Geological Survey will make a presentation on the likelihood of new faulting in previously unfractured rock. Panel members will then hear the EPRI's insights on seismic vulnerability and an update on its seismic hazard studies. Representatives of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Working Group on Seismic Design for a Nuclear Waste Repository will describe that organization's efforts to develop seismic guidelines for the proposed repository. The meeting will conclude with a general discussion of seismic vulnerabilities and the use of this information during site characterization.

Transcripts of the meeting will be available on a library-loan basis from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning March 15, 1992.
