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For Immediate Release*

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EBS Panel Looks at Defense High-Level Waste Activities at Hanford

As part of its congressional mandate to independently evaluate the technical and scientific validity of the Department of Energy's (DOE) activities to manage the disposal of the nation's spent fuel and defense high-level radioactive waste, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's Panel on the Engineered Barrier System (EBS Panel) will hold a meeting on Monday, May 11, 1992, on the defense high-level waste management plans and operations at the DOE's Hanford, Washington, facilities. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Tower Inn, 1515 George Washington Way, Richland, Washington 99352; (509) 946-4121. The meeting will have morning and afternoon sessions. The morning session will begin at 8:00 A.M.

The meeting will cover a number of topics. Representatives of the DOE will provide an overview of waste management operations at the Hanford Site, including a review of activities that will be carried out for the planned Hanford Waste Vitrification Plant (HWVP). Panel members also will hear an update on the status of waste characterization, retrieval, and pretreatment activities that will be supporting the HWVP. Additionally, members will hear about quality assurance and waste acceptance criteria. Making the presentations will be personnel from the DOE's Office of Environmental Restoration and Waste Management, the Richland Operations Office, as well as from the Westinghouse Hanford Company and the Pacific Northwest Laboratory.

The Board was created in 1987 to review the DOE's waste management activities, including efforts to characterize a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for possible repository development and activities relating to spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste packaging and transport. This meeting is second in a series of three the EBS Panel has scheduled to gain insight into how defense high-level waste management activities at Savannah River, South Carolina; Hanford, Washington; and Idaho Falls, Idaho, could affect the design of a system to manage spent fuel and high-level waste. The first meeting was held February 10, 1992, in Augusta, Georgia, to discuss waste management activities at the Savannah River site. The third meeting will be held on May 13 in Idaho Falls.

Transcripts of the meeting will be available on a library-loan basis beginning June 22, 1992. For transcript information, please contact Ms. Davonya Barnes at the Board's office.