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For Immediate Release

Contact: Paula N. Alford
External Affairs

Board Studies the Process of Resolving Difficult Technical Issues

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board) will hold its spring meeting in Reno, Nevada, on April 21-22, 1993. The Board is interested in reviewing the *process* through which difficult technical issues bearing on site-suitability and licensing are resolved. Using the issues of ground-water infiltration and future climates, which are complex to evaluate and involve uncertainty, presentations will address four distinct areas: (1) defining the process, (2) the status of current studies, (3) the use of models and quality assurance, and (4) issue resolution — a summary session. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Holiday Inn, 1000 East 6th Street, Reno, Nevada 89512; (702) 786-5151.

The Board has asked representatives from the Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories, as well as industry consultants, to make presentations during the meeting.

The emphasis during the presentations will be on the *process* that links problem definition, research studies, integration of data amongst studies, use of models, and abstraction of lower level models into higher level models. In addition, the Board is interested in the process being used to determine if, when, and how research should change direction or emphasis and how it is determined that "enough is enough."

The Board was created by Congress in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the DOE in its program to manage the disposal of the nation's spent fuel and defense high-level waste. In that same legislation, Congress directed the DOE to characterize a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for its suitability as a potential location for a permanent repository for disposing of that waste.

Transcripts of the Board meeting will be available on a library-loan basis from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning June 7, 1993.
