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For Immediate Release*

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Integrating Science and Engineering — Thermal Loading

At its summer meeting on July 13-14, 1993, in Denver, Colorado, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will hear presentations on how science and engineering are being integrated in the Department of Energy's (DOE) plans to choose a thermal-loading strategy for the proposed spent fuel repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Specifically, the Board is interested in how various thermal-loading strategies could affect the designs of the waste package, the exploratory studies facility currently under construction at Yucca Mountain, and the repository, should the site at Yucca Mountain prove suitable and be licensed for construction of a permanent repository for spent fuel and high-level waste. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado 80207; telephone (303) 399-7500.

The Board has invited representatives from the DOE and its contractors, the Electric Power Research Institute, the Southwest Research Institute, the state of Nevada, and other interested organizations to participate in the meeting. On Tuesday, July 13, the presentations will focus on the DOE's plans for choosing a thermal-loading strategy, various geothermal analogues to Yucca Mountain, and the current modeling of potential hydrogeological responses at Yucca Mountain to various thermal loads. On Wednesday, July 14, discussion will focus on thermal issues related to the conceptual designs of the waste package, exploratory studies facility, and potential repository. The integration of these three designs, the question of retrievability, the effects of thermal strategies on the ecosystem, and performance assessment also will be addressed.

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 this meeting will be available on a library-loan basis from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning August 25, 1993.
