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**For Immediate Release**

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**External Affairs**

## **Radionuclide Migration and Spent Fuel Transportation Top Agenda at Board's July Meeting**

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will review issues related to the migration of radionuclides and the transportation of spent nuclear fuel at its summer meeting, July 12-13, 1994, in Denver, Colorado. Additional topics on the two-day agenda include a discussion of technical specifics in the Department of Energy's (DOE) new proposed program approach and an update from the Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held in the Red Lion Hotel, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado 80207; (Tel 303-321-3333; Fax 303-355-0103). *Room reservations should be made by June 27, 1994.*

The meeting will begin on Tuesday, July 12, at 8:00 A.M. with a discussion of the DOE's new proposed program approach. The Board has invited representatives from the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management to discuss specific questions the Board raised in a recent letter to the DOE regarding the effects the new approach could have on the technical program. Following that discussion, presentations will address a variety of topics related to radionuclide migration from a repository. Specific topics include current and planned research in the area of radionuclide transport; the roles of source term and release rates in repository performance assessment; the potential effects on radionuclide transport of various thermal-loading strategies; the roles of the saturated and unsaturated zones; predicting pneumatic transport of long-lived radionuclides; and the influence of metal barriers and engineered backfill approaches to retarding the movement of radionuclides. An open round-table discussion will cap the day's sessions.

On Wednesday, July 13, Richard Stallings, the nuclear waste negotiator, has been invited to update the Board on activities at the Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator. Following his presentation, the focus of the meeting will shift to the transportation of spent nuclear fuel. In addition to representatives of the DOE and its contractors, the Board has invited speakers from the Department of Transportation to provide an overview of transportation regulations and from the American Association of Railroads to discuss the rail transport of spent fuel assemblies from their perspective. The DOE will review the current status of its transportation program. As on Tuesday, time is reserved at the end for an open round-table discussion. Adjournment on Wednesday is planned for 5:00 P.M.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review 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 Secretary of Energy to manage the disposal of the nation's spent nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste. The DOE is evaluating a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, to determine its suitability for

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locating a permanent repository for civilian spent fuel and defense high-level waste. Transcripts of the meeting will be available on computer disks (specify 3-1/2" or 5-1/4") in WordPerfect 5.1 format from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning August 24, 1994. For further information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (703) 235-4473; (FAX) 703-235-4495.

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