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For Immediate Release

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External Affairs

HG&G Panel Explores Ground-Water Travel Time and Long-Term Repository Performance

Ground-water travel time and its role in the long-term performance of the proposed repository at Yucca Mountain will be the focus of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's Panel on Hydrogeology & Geochemistry when it meets on Monday, September 12, and Tuesday, September 13, 1994, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 4255 South Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109 (tel: 702-369-4400, fax: 702-369-3770). *However, overnight accommodations have been reserved at the St. Tropez Hotel, 455 East Harmon Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109; (tel: 702-369-5400).* The meeting will begin at 1:00 P.M. on Monday, September 12, then continue on Tuesday, September 13, at 8:30 A.M. The meeting on Tuesday will end at 5:00 P.M.

Ground water offers the most likely mechanism for significant radionuclide transport from a potential repository to the environment. As a result, it is critical for scientists to understand the movement of ground water through the rock at the proposed repository site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Panel members are interested in the status of research activities related to understanding and modeling the movement of ground water at Yucca Mountain as well as how the Department of Energy's (DOE) new proposed program approach potentially will affect current and future work in this area. Topics that will be addressed on Monday include the various regulatory and technical aspects of ground-water travel time, the original intent of 10 CFR 60 and 960, computational and conceptual problems posed by the existence at Yucca Mountain of highly heterogeneous materials, and the DOE's proposed program approach to ground-water travel time. On Tuesday, data will be reviewed that are being used to understand fluid flow pathways in both the unsaturated and saturated zones at Yucca Mountain. Round-table discussions involving Board members, presenters, and other participants and a period for questions and comments from the audience will end each day's activities.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board was created in the 1987 amendments act to evaluate the technical and scientific activities in the DOE's civilian radioactive waste management program, including site characterization, storage, and transport. A site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, currently is being characterized by the DOE for its suitability as the possible location of a permanent repository for civilian spent fuel and defense high-level waste.

Transcripts of the meeting will be available on computer disk or on a library-loan basis in paper format from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning October 25, 1994. For further information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (703) 235-4473.
