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For Immediate Release*

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## **Board Panels Explore DOE Thermal Management Strategies**

On November 17-18, 1994, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's Panels on Structural Geology & Geoengineering and Hydrogeology & Geochemistry will host a meeting on thermal management strategies for a potential repository at the Yucca Mountain site. The meeting will be held at the Dupont Plaza Hotel, 1500 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; tel: 800-841-0003 or 202-483-6000; fax: 202-328-3265. The meeting, which is open to the public, will run from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 17, then continue on Friday, November 18, from 8:30 A.M. to approximately 4:30 P.M.

The primary issue to be discussed at the meeting is the Department of Energy's (DOE) emerging waste isolation strategy as it relates to thermal management of a repository. What are the key technical decisions that must be made when selecting a thermal management strategy? What is the decision-making process? What are the potential programmatic risks related to choosing a thermal management strategy? Representatives from the DOE, its contractors, and other organizations have been invited to participate.

Specific issues to be discussed on Thursday, November 17, include the DOE's current thermal strategy, thermal management options, and the potential thermal response of the Yucca Mountain site. An open discussion will end the first day's activities. On Friday, November 18, participants will explore the results of system and performance studies that evaluate how thermal management options could affect the design and performance of the repository system. In-situ thermal testing needs and analysis techniques also will be addressed. Participants will then take part in a wrap-up session on the two days' presentations. Time also has been set aside for comments from the audience. The meeting will adjourn at approximately 4:30 P.M.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board was created in the 1987 Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act to evaluate the technical and scientific activities of 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 December 30, 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.

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