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For Immediate Release*

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Waste Isolation Strategy, Thermal Management, and the Engineered Barrier System Top Board's Spring Agenda

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's upcoming spring meeting will be held Wednesday and Thursday, April 19-20, 1995, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Presentations at the meeting will focus on the Department of Energy's (DOE) emerging waste isolation strategy, the thermal management strategy being pursued under the DOE's new program approach, and engineered barrier system design and research. The meeting is open to the public; sessions will begin at 8:30 A.M. on both days. The meeting will take place in the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 4255 South Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109; Tel (702) 369-4400; Fax (702) 369-3770.

Specific topics to be covered on Wednesday include:

- an update on the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) program and the fiscal year 1996 OCRWM budget;
 - alternative licensing concepts;
- linkage between the DOE's emerging waste isolation strategy and site-suitability work at Yucca Mountain, Nevada;
 - the DOE's thermal management strategy under the new program approach; and
 - the Calico Hills system study.

A panel discussion of the day's issues will conclude Wednesday's activities, followed by a period for questions and comments from those attending the meeting.

On Thursday, April 20, the meeting will focus on the engineered barrier system. Presentations will include:

- the current concept of underground operations at a repository;
- the effects of the multipurpose canister on the repository, including thermal management and criticality control aspects;
 - waste package design;
- engineered barrier system performance assessment, including the corrosion models for the total system performance assessment to be completed in 1995;
- an update on corrosion research;
 - the effects of engineered materials on repository performance; and
 - current and planned investigations into long-term criticality within the repository.

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As part of the last presentation, the Board has asked the DOE to discuss their plans to analyze potential concerns about criticality recently raised by scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Following a short period for public comments and questions, a panel discussion will cover the day's issues. The meeting will adjourn at approximately 5:00 P.M. after a final period for public comment.

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 DOE in its program to manage the disposal of the nation's spent nuclear 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 the disposal of that 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 June 5, 1995. For further information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; Tel: 703-235-4473; Fax 703-235-4495.

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