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For Immediate Release*

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NWTRB Meets in Salt Lake City

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board has scheduled its summer meeting for Tuesday and Wednesday, July 11-12, 1995, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Discussion will focus on the progress being made excavating the exploratory studies facility (ESF) at Yucca Mountain, the status of issues related to repository design and operation, and the repository licensing process. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Little America Hotel, 500 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah; Tel (801) 363-6781; Fax (801) 596-5911. Presentations will begin at 8:30 A.M. on both days.

On Tuesday the meeting will begin with a review of the findings reached by the Peterson Consulting Limited Partnership, which recently completed an independent management and financial review of the Yucca Mountain project. Time has been set aside after the presentation for discussion of the findings and comments. Also scheduled for Tuesday are an update on the ESF, including a discussion of the geologic conditions being encountered underground and the status of testing activities. The DOE also will update the Board on plans to investigate the Calico Hills, the geologic unit in the mountain below the potential location of the repository. Finally, the Board has asked to hear about the present status of the advanced conceptual design of the repository, including plans for repository operation.

Wednesday's presentations will focus on the licensing process, resolving difficult issues, and the development of environmental impact statements for the multipurpose canister and the potential repository. Each presentation will be followed by a short period for discussion and questions. A period for public comment also has been set aside for Wednesday afternoon, with meeting adjournment set for approximately 5:15 P.M.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is characterizing a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, to determine its suitability for locating a permanent repository for civilian spent nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste. The NWTRB was created by Congress in 1987 to evaluate the scientific and technical aspects of the DOE's civilian high-level radioactive waste management program.

Transcripts of this meeting will be available on computer disk or on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes beginning September 6, 1995. For further information on this meeting or on the NWTRB, 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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