

*April 3, 1996  
For Immediate Release*

*Contact: Frank Randall  
External Affairs*

## **NWTRB's Spring Meeting Explores OCRWM Program Planning and Integration**

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) has set its spring meeting for April 30 and May 1, 1996, in Austin, Texas. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Wyndham Austin Hotel, 4140 Governor's Row, Austin, Texas 78744; (Tel) 800-433-2241 (toll-free reservations) and 512-448-2222; (Fax) 512-442-8028. To receive the preferred rate, reservations must be made by April 8, 1996; please mention the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board meeting. The meeting will begin at 8:30 A.M. on both days and will concentrate on the planning and integration of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management's (OCRWM) program to manage the nation's commercial spent nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste.

Beginning Tuesday, April 30, and continuing to lunch time on Wednesday, May 1, the Board will explore the rationale underlying the OCRWM program, which has been revised in light of funding constraints. OCRWM presenters will provide a broad outline of recent programmatic changes, especially those related to site characterization and repository development. The Board is interested in the integration of various major activities within the program (i.e., surface-based testing, underground exploration, repository design, performance assessment, health and safety) and the development of priorities used to define tasks and allocate resources. The meeting will focus on the relationship of the major program pieces and the rationale underlying these relationships. For example, discussions will include how the waste isolation strategy and insights from performance assessments are being used to guide the definition of the program and early repository design, and the rationale underlying decisions being made about exploration and testing priorities.

Updates on the exploratory studies facility and the Yucca Mountain science program are scheduled for Wednesday morning.

Following lunch on Wednesday, presenters from both days will join Board members in a round-table discussion of all meeting topics.

Time will be provided on both meeting days for public comment and questions. To ensure that everyone wishing to speak is provided time to do so, the Board encourages those who have comments to sign the *Public Comment Register*, which will be located at the sign-in table. While a speaking time limit may have to be set, written comments of any length may be submitted for the record.

(more)

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 Davonya Barnes, Board staff, beginning June 12, 1996. For further information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (Tel) 703-235-4473; (Fax) 703-235-4495.

#####