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For Immediate Release

Contact: Frank Randall  
External Affairs

## **Exploration and Testing Activities, Climate, and Hydrology at Summer NWTRB Meeting**

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board) will hold its summer meeting July 9-10, 1996, in Denver, Colorado. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver, Colorado 80207; (Tel) 303-321-3333; (Fax) 303-329-9179. The meeting will begin at 8:30 A.M. on both days and will focus on two main issues: exploration and testing activities at Yucca Mountain, and past and future climates and hydrology at Yucca Mountain. Representatives from the Department of Energy (DOE) and its contractors have been invited to make presentations to the Board, along with speakers from the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the University of Arizona, Los Alamos National Laboratory, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and Sandia National Laboratories.

Specific topics concerning the ESF will include updates on tunnel boring machine operations and scientific activities, lessons learned from ESF exploration, and the status of the waste isolation strategy and thermal testing. Presentations on climate and its effects on hydrology will include discussions of the geological structure at Yucca Mountain, historical perspectives and current views on both climate and hydrology, and climate modeling. Time has been set aside on the second day for a round-table discussion of all topics covered by the meeting.

Agendas are available by FAX or mail from Frank Randall, 703-235-4473.

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.

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

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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 August 21, 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.

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