

Local And State Issues Highlight January Agenda

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For Immediate Release

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External Affairs

Two issues of local importance – transportation and total system performance assessment (TSPA) – highlight the first day's agenda for the NWTRB's winter meeting in Pahrump, Nevada, January 28-29, 1997. Presentations on transportation issues by the Department of Energy (DOE) and state, local and public interest groups will be complemented by an afternoon round-table discussion of the issues.

Also on the first day's agenda are presentations on TSPA by representatives of the DOE, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the National Academy of Sciences, and ANDRA, the French nuclear waste organization. These presentations will examine the "transparency" of the TSPA, by which the Board means not only easily understood language and concepts, but also clearly specified logic and assumptions.

The agenda for the second day includes updates on program activities within the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) and presentations on reducing hydrologic uncertainties at Yucca Mountain. The OCRWM updates will include the upcoming viability assessment, as well a brief look at the generic planning and analysis being done for possible interim storage of spent nuclear fuel. Hydrogeologic modeling efforts in both the saturated and unsaturated zones at Yucca Mountain, thermal and underground testing, and the scientific work being conducted by Nye County also appear on the agenda.

The meeting is open to the public and, in a change from the usual, will begin at 8:00 a.m. both days. Ample time is scheduled for questions and comments from the public. 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. Although a speaking time limit may have to be set, written comments of any length may be submitted for the record.

The meeting will be held in the Bob Ruud Community Center, 150 N. Highway 160, Pahrump, Nevada. Overnight accommodations are available at the Saddle West Hotel, 1220 S. Highway 160, Pahrump, Nevada 89048; Tel. (702) 727-1111; Fax. (702) 727-5315.

Transcripts of the meeting will be available via e-mail, on computer disk, or on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes, Board staff, beginning February 27, 1997. For more information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (Tel) 703-235-4473; (Fax) 703-235-4495; (E-mail) info@nwtrb.gov.

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.

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