



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300
Arlington, VA 22201

***March 31, 1998
For Immediate Release***

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External Affairs***

Panel examines TSPA-VA base case and selected sensitivity tests

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's Panel on Performance Assessment (Panel) will examine the Department of Energy's (DOE) total system performance assessment for the viability assessment (TSPA-VA) April 23-24, 1998, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. both days and is scheduled to end at noon April 24.

The Panel will focus on the two major elements of the TSPA-VA: a base case and sensitivity tests. The base case is believed by many to be the most useful tool in obtaining the best estimate of the behavior of a potential repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Sensitivity tests will highlight the effects of different parameter, design, and modeling assumptions.

During the one-and-one-half-day meeting, which is open to the public, the Panel will hear presentations by the DOE and its contractors describing the basic components, assumptions, and results of the TSPA-VA base case and selected sensitivity tests. Panel interest will focus on the key assumptions that drive the TSPA-VA results, the treatment of uncertainties, and presentation of the TSPA-VA in a manner that is understandable to all interested stakeholders. The Panel has invited representatives of the TSPA Peer Review Panel, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the state of Nevada to provide their comments on the TSPA-VA at the meeting.

Ample time will be allotted for questions from the Board and other interested individuals during the entire meeting. Additionally, specific times have been set aside both days 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 at the Sheraton Uptown Albuquerque Hotel, 2600 Louisiana Boulevard, NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110; Toll-free (800) 252-7772; Tel (505) 881-0000; Fax (505) 881-3736.

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 May 21, 1998. For more information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300, Arlington, Virginia 22201-3367; (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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