



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

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For Immediate Release

Frank Randall
External Affairs

NWTRB Summer Meeting Focuses on Waste Package and Repository Design Alternatives

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will hold its summer meeting June 24, 1998, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The one-day meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 8:00 a.m. in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4225 South Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109; (tel) 702-369-4400; (fax) 702-369-3770.

The Department of Energy's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) has been invited to make presentations on alternative waste package designs that could be used to dispose of the nation's commercial spent nuclear fuel, and alternative designs for constructing a repository at the potential site at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

During the morning session, the Board will hear about the total system performance assessment the OCRWM is preparing for its viability report, which is due later this year. Based on its interest in alternative waste package and repository designs, the Board has asked the OCRWM to report on its sensitivity studies in this area. A presentation will be made on studies that are aimed at evaluating the effects of drip shields and other design enhancements on the potential performance of a repository. The Board also will hear about what additional research the OCRWM believes must be conducted between the viability assessment this year and the site recommendation to the President in the year 2000.

In the afternoon session, representatives of the OCRWM will continue with presentations pertinent to alternative approaches to waste package and repository design. The Board will hear a presentation on alternatives to the *current* waste package and repository designs. The Board also has asked for a presentation of how alternative repository designs at Yucca Mountain will be analyzed in the environmental impact statement. The Board is interested in hearing the technical basis for the selection of the designs that will be evaluated.

Following these presentations, technical experts from Nye County will present an update on Nye County's drilling program and their review of the DOE's alternative design work at Yucca Mountain.

Time has been set aside during the meeting for 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.

A detailed agenda for this meeting will be available by mail, fax, e-mail, or from the Board's web site at **www.nwtrb.gov** approximately two weeks prior to the meeting. Transcripts of the meeting will be available for download as a zipped FTP file via the Internet, as a zipped word-processing file via e-mail or on computer disk, or in paper format on a library-loan basis from Davonya Barnes, Board staff, beginning July 22, 1998.

The U.S. 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 Secretary of Energy as part of the Department of Energy's program to manage the disposal of the nation's spent nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste. For more information about the Board or this meeting, visit the Board web site at **www.nwtrb.gov** or 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.

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