



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

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For Immediate Release

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External Affairs

Board to Focus on DOE's Repository Design at Beatty Meeting

On Tuesday and Wednesday, June 29 and 30, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) will meet in Beatty, Nevada, to review the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) analysis comparing possible repository designs and to hear reports on the status of scientific studies related to the characterization of a potential repository site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The meeting is open to the public. The Board will host an informal gathering from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 29, for members of the public who would like to meet and talk with Board members. Interested parties also are invited to join the Board for coffee from 7:15 to 7:55 a.m. on Wednesday, June 30.

The meeting and associated events will be held at the Beatty Community Center, 200 A Avenue South, Beatty, Nevada 89003, (tel) 702-553-2050. The Board meeting sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. on June 29 and at 8:00 a.m. on June 30.

The meeting sessions on June 29 will focus on the results of the DOE's License Application Design Selection project, which compares several alternative designs for a potential repository at Yucca Mountain. Presentations will include discussions of the criteria and assumptions that were used to compare the designs as well as issues that could affect repository design such as the use of ventilation to cool repository tunnels. Other presentations on that day will include updates on the status of the DOE's draft site-suitability criteria and of site-characterization efforts at Yucca Mountain.

The status of scientific studies being conducted at the Yucca Mountain site will be the subject of the June 30 session. Presentations will be made on tests being conducted to obtain information on the unsaturated zone, the saturated zone, and the effects of heat on the mountain. Also on the agenda for June 30 are updates on the status of the Total System Performance Assessment (the analytical tool used to predict the performance of the potential repository) and of laboratory tests being conducted to determine the corrosion rates of potential waste package materials.

The Board is providing several opportunities for public comment at the Beatty meeting. Time will be set aside in the late morning and at the end of the session on June 29 and at the end of the session on June 30 for comments from the public. Those wanting to speak are encouraged to sign the "Public Comment Register" at the check-in table. Depending on the number of requests, a time limit may be imposed on oral statements, but written comments of any length may be submitted for inclusion in the record of the meeting. Interested parties also may submit questions in writing to the Board. As time permits, written questions will be answered during the sessions on both days.

A detailed agenda will be available approximately one week before the meeting. Copies of the agenda can be requested by telephone or obtained from the Board's Web site at www.nwtrb.gov. Transcripts of this meeting will be available on the Board's Web site, via e-mail, on computer disk, and on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes, Board staff, beginning on July 19, 1999. For further information, contact the NWTRB, Karyn Severson, 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. Its purpose is to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the DOE related to managing the disposal of the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. In the same legislation, Congress directed the DOE to characterize a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, to determine its suitability as the location of a potential repository for the permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.
