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For Immediate Release*

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Board Explores Challenges of Spent Fuel Storage

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board) will hold a workshop on the technical challenges associated with interim storage of spent nuclear fuel — storing the fuel from generation until final disposal. The workshop will be held on November 1-2, 1993, by the Board's panels on the Engineered Barrier System and Transportation & Systems. The one-and-one-half-day workshop, which is open to the public, will be held at the Doubletree Park West Hotel, 1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75234; telephone (214) 869-4300.

Participation in the workshop will be broadly based. Dr. Chauncy Starr, president emeritus of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), will provide a keynote address on Monday, November 1, beginning at 8:30 A.M., followed by Robert Bernero of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), who will present the NRC's views on the technical and security considerations of storing spent fuel. Representatives from the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management also have been invited to discuss the Department of Energy's (DOE) management strategy for the storage of all U.S. spent nuclear fuel.

After lunch, the workshop will focus on institutional issues relating to on- and off-site storage. Speakers include representatives from the National Academy of Sciences, the Tennessee governor's office, the Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator, the National Congress of American Indians, the citizenry of Michigan, and a representative from Sweden's high-level waste management program. A round-table discussion will end the first day's activities, which should recess at 4:30 P.M.

On Tuesday morning, November 2, workshop discussions begin at 8:30 A.M. and will focus on the technical issues and challenges of interim storage. Representatives from the DOE and their management and operating contractor (M&O) and a representative from Canada's Ontario Hydro will lead Tuesday's discussions. A final period for statements from the public, followed by closing remarks from Board members, will end the workshop at approximately 12:30 P.M.

The 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 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 disposing of that waste.

Transcripts of this meeting will be available on a library-loan basis from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning December 17, 1993.
