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For Immediate Release

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External Affairs

Engineered Barriers — Topic of NWTRB Panel Meeting

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's Panel on the Engineered Barrier System (EBS Panel) will hold a one-day meeting on March 10, 1994, on the status of current and future research planned by the Department of Energy (DOE) for the area of engineered barriers that could be used in a potential repository at Yucca Mountain. Examples of topics that will be addressed include barrier materials and materials corrosion, and potential filler materials. A site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, currently is being characterized by the DOE for its suitability as the possible location of a permanent repository for civilian spent fuel and defense high-level waste. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Sheraton Inn, 5115 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton, California 94588; telephone (510) 460-8800; fax (510) 847-9455.

One important focus of the meeting will be the DOE's strategy and timing for determining what the long-term corrosion performance will be for various materials — particularly modern materials, such as stainless steels and nickel alloys. Panel members also are interested in current and future linkages between engineered barrier system research and performance assessment, and in the corrosion models that will be used in future total systems performance assessments.

Other specific subjects to be covered at the meeting include the DOE's plans and timing for developing filler materials for canisters, for determining potential changes in engineered barrier system research plans due to the evolution of the waste package design, the potential effects of anthropogenic substances on repository performance, and for determining the potential for microbially influenced corrosion in a repository located in the unsaturated zone. The panel has invited representatives from the DOE and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) to make presentations at the meeting.

On Friday, March 11, 1994, LLNL representatives will conduct a brief morning tour of the laboratory facilities. Transportation for the tour will be provided by the laboratory. The tour is open to the public; *unfortunately, however, space is limited*. Those wishing to attend must submit the following information to Frank Randall at the Board's offices by February 17, 1994 (Tel: 703-235-4473; Fax: 703-235-4495): Complete name, home address, telephone number, social security number, place of birth, date of birth, and your employer's name and address. You must also bring a photo-ID with you to the badging office when beginning the tour. Please indicate what type you will bring, the ID number, and the state where it was issued.

The NWTRB 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. Transcripts of the meeting will be available on computer disk or on a library-loan basis in paper format from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning April 22, 1994. For further information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; 703-235-4473.