

*September 9, 1996  
For Immediate Release*

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External Affairs*

## **NWTRB Meeting Focuses on Scientific Progress at Yucca Mountain**

Dr. Daniel Dreyfus, director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM), will provide the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's (the Board) with an overview of OCRWM's fiscal year 1997 activities, and how those activities will drive a decision in 1998 on whether or not the DOE views Yucca Mountain as a viable site for a repository.

Dr. Dreyfus will make his remarks at the Board's fall meeting, October 9-10, 1996, in Arlington, Virginia. The meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 8:30 A.M. on both days, and will conclude at approximately 1:00 p.m. on October 10.

In addition to hearing from Dr. Dreyfus, the Board will listen to presentations on the progress in interpreting recent data showing evidence of Chlorine 36 in the exploratory studies facility, and the results of system sensitivity studies to the new data. Representatives of OCRWM will discuss the progress being made to develop models based on sound assumptions about the hydrogeologic properties of the site, and studies to assure the credibility of performance assessment evaluations. The meeting will also focus on the progress being made in designing an underground repository system, including various options for operating the repository, the possible use of backfill to surround the waste canisters, and engineering design issues that need to be addressed in designing and building a potential facility.

Time will be provided on both meeting days for public comment and questions. 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. While a speaking time limit may have to be set, written comments of any length may be submitted for the record.

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The meeting will be held at the Days Inn Crystal City, 2000 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202; Tel. (703) 920-8600; Fax. (703) 920-2840. The nearest METRORAIL stop is Crystal City, which is accessible from both the Blue and the Yellow lines. To receive the preferred rate, reservations must be made by September 20, 1996.

Transcripts of the meeting will be available on computer disk or on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes, Board staff, beginning November 6, 1996. For more information, contact Paula Alford, External Affairs, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (Tel) 703-235-4473; (Fax) 703-235-4495.

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. 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 the disposal of that waste.

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