

geologic system would work together to isolate radioactive waste in a Yucca Mountain repository.

Pursuant to its authority under section 5051 of Pub. L. 100-203, Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, members of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's Panel on the Natural System will meet in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday, March 9, and Wednesday, March 10, 2004. The panel will discuss issues related to a proposed repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, particularly how components of the natural geologic system would work together to isolate radioactive waste. The meetings will be open to the public, and opportunities for public comment will be provided. The Board is charged by Congress with reviewing the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as stipulated in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act.

The panel meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel; 4255 South Paradise Road; Las Vegas, NV 89109; (tel.) 702-369-4400; (fax) 702-369-3770. The meetings are tentatively scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. each day. Meeting times will be confirmed when agendas are issued, approximately one week before the meeting dates.

The purpose of the meeting is to examine aspects of the natural system that control transport of radionuclides from Yucca Mountain. Water flow will be the primary factor controlling that transport. The meeting is structured to consider the aspects of water flow and associated hydrogeologic phenomena that are important for estimating the amount of time required for the transport of radionuclides from the repository horizon to the regulatory boundary. The meeting is designed to gather information to help address the following questions.

- What is the median travel time of a molecule of water from the repository horizon at Yucca Mountain to the regulatory boundary?

- How much might travel time change for a radionuclide in that water, considering all factors relevant to radionuclide transport? Are all of the factors equally likely?

- Are the DOE's radionuclide transport estimates conservative, realistic, or optimistic?

- What is the technical basis for these estimates? What is the Board's assessment of the technical validity of the technical basis? What can be done to improve the technical basis of the DOE estimates?

- How much could the technical basis be improved by 2010 if the DOE pursues a rigorous scientific program?

On Tuesday, the meeting will focus on features and processes relevant to water flow and radionuclide transport in the unsaturated zone. Presentations will be made on unsaturated flow, sorption, matrix diffusion, colloid-facilitated transport, and radionuclide transport abstractions for total system performance assessment (TSPA). Evidence in the rock strata for evaluating the influence of climate change in the repository also will be presented.

On Wednesday, the features and processes relevant to water flow and radionuclide transport in the saturated zone will be discussed. Presentations will be made on the role of climate in the deposition of sediment that can slow radionuclide transport, the representation of climate in TSPA, ground-water flow of the Death Valley region and the Yucca Mountain site, sorption, matrix diffusion, colloid-facilitated transport, and radionuclide transport abstractions for TSPA.

The agendas on both days will conclude with roundtable discussions of the topics presented. Time will be made available at the end of each day for public comments. Those wanting to speak are encouraged to sign the public-comment register at the check-in table. A time limit may have to be set on individual remarks, but written comments of any length may be submitted for the record.

Detailed agendas will be available approximately one week before the meeting. Copies of the agendas can be requested by telephone or obtained from the Board's Web site at <http://www.nwtrb.gov>. Transcripts of the meetings will be available on the Board's web site, by e-mail, on computer disk, and on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes of the Board's staff, beginning on April 9, 2004.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Crowne Plaza hotel for meeting participants. When making a reservation, please state that you are attending the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board meeting. To receive the meeting rate, reservations should be made by February 20, 2004.

For more information, contact the NWTRB: Karyn Severson, External Affairs; 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300; Arlington, VA 22201-3367; (tel.) 703-235-4473; (fax) 703-235-4495.

Dated: February 5, 2003.

**William D. Barnard,**

*Executive Director, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.*

[FR Doc. 04-3298 Filed 2-13-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6820-AM-M**

## POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

### Briefing on New Cost Model

**AGENCY:** Postal Rate Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of public briefing.

**SUMMARY:** The Postal Rate Commission's advisory staff will present a briefing and demonstration of its new Windows-based CRA/Cost Rollforward model on Thursday, February 26, 2004 at 10 a.m. in the Commission's hearing room. The briefing will address the history of the Commission's model, reasons why the new version was developed, and components of the new model. A question-and-answer session will follow. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** Thursday, February 26, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Postal Rate Commission (hearing room), 1333 H Street NW., Washington, DC 20268-0001, Suite 300.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen L. Sharfman, General Counsel, 202-789-6818.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The CRA/Cost Rollforward model is the primary tool used to disaggregate the total costs of the U.S. Postal Service. It implements the attributable cost theory the Postal Service and the Commission use to allocate costs to the classes and subclasses of mail. It also prepares and prints reports used in Commission decisions and in Postal Service workpapers and exhibits to testimony.

The Commission has developed a new Windows-based version of this model. The new version is intended to replace the DOS-based version the Commission has used in every rate filing since Docket No. R84-1.

The new version uses Microsoft Excel spreadsheet software. It is intended to be closer in structure and format to the Postal Service's current CRA/Cost Rollforward model than the version the Commission has been using. It is also intended to be easier to operate and more compatible with the software used to develop much of the primary cost input into model.

The Commission's advisory staff and the contractor responsible for programming the new model will present a public briefing on the new model on February 26, 2004 at 10 a.m. in the Postal Rate Commission's hearing

room. The briefing will describe the history of the Commission's CRA/Cost Rollforward model, identify reasons why the new version was developed, and describe the new model's components. The demonstration will use cost data from Docket No. R2001-1, which is the most recently completed omnibus rate filing. A question-and-answer session will follow with members of the Commission's staff responsible for the development and future operation of the model. All interested parties are invited to attend.

**Steven W. Williams,**  
Secretary.  
[FR Doc. 04-3305 Filed 2-13-04; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 7710-FW-P

**SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

**[Declaration of Disaster #P019]**

**State of Maine**

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration for Public Assistance on February 5, 2004 the U.S. Small Business Administration is activating its disaster loan program only for private non-profit organizations that provide essential services of a governmental nature. I find that Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford, Piscataquis, Somerset and Waldo Counties in the State of Maine constitute a disaster area due to damages caused by severe storms, flooding, snow melt and ice jams occurring on December 10, 2003 and continuing through December 31, 2003. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on April 5, 2004 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Blvd., South, 3rd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

The interest rates are:

	Percent
For Physical Damage:	
Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	3.061
Non-Profit Organizations With Credit Available Elsewhere ...	4.875

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is P01911.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59008)

Dated: February 9, 2004.  
**Herbert L. Mitchell,**  
Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.  
[FR Doc. 04-3374 Filed 2-13-04; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**[Public Notice 4605]**

**Notice of Intent To Establish the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Leadership and Management**

*Summary:* Pursuant to section 9(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the general authority of the Secretary and the Department of State, as derived from the President's constitutional authority and as set forth in sections 2656 and 2651a of Title 22 of the United States Code and other relevant statutes, this is a notice of intent to establish the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Leadership and Management.

The Advisory Committee is being created as a vehicle to address leadership and management issues as they arise and not in response to a specific issue or pending concern. Members of the Advisory Committee may include former senior U.S. government officials and members of congress and representatives of corporations, not-for-profit non-governmental organizations, professional associations, public policy or academic institutions, and other experts as needed. All meetings of this Committee will be published ahead of time in the **Federal Register**.

Additionally, the establishment of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Leadership and Management is essential to the conduct of Department of State business, and is in the public interest. Further information regarding this committee may be obtained from Julie Wilhelm, Office of Management Policy, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, phone (202) 647-1285.

Dated: February 4, 2004.  
**Marguerite Coffey,**  
Deputy Director, Office of Management Policy, Department of State.  
[FR Doc. 04-3381 Filed 2-13-04; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4710-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**[Public Notice 4607]**

**Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy; Notice of Open Meeting**

The Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy (ACIEP) will meet from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 in Room 1107, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. The meeting will be hosted by Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs E. Anthony Wayne and Committee Chairman R. Michael Gadbaw.

The ACIEP serves the U.S. Government in a solely advisory capacity concerning issues and problems in international economic policy. Topics for the March 2 meeting are transparency and anti-corruption efforts, China's economic growth, public-private partnerships, and subcommittee updates.

The public may attend this meeting as seating capacity allows. Admittance to the State Department building will be by means of a pre-arranged clearance list. In order to be placed on this list, please provide your name, title, company or other affiliation if appropriate, social security number (or other identification number, such as driver's license number), date of birth, and citizenship to the ACIEP Executive Secretariat by fax (202) 647-5936 (Attention: Gwendolyn Jackson), e-mail ([jacksongl@state.gov](mailto:jacksongl@state.gov)), or telephone (202) 647-0847 by February 26. On the date of the meeting, persons who have registered should use the C Street entrance.

For further information about the meeting, please contact Eliza Koch, ACIEP Secretariat, by e-mail ([kochek@state.gov](mailto:kochek@state.gov)) or telephone (202) 647-1310.

Dated: February 10, 2004.  
**Eliza K. Koch,**  
ACIEP Secretariat, Office of Economic Policy and Public Diplomacy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State.  
[FR Doc. 04-3382 Filed 2-13-04; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**[Public Notice 4603]**

**Shipping Coordinating Committee**

*Summary:* The Shipping Coordinating Committee (SHC) will conduct an open meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2004, in Room 2415 of the United