

*June 5, 1992
For Immediate Release*

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DOE and M&O to Update Board on Activities

As part of its congressional mandate to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of the Department of Energy's (DOE) activities to manage the disposal of the nation's spent fuel and defense high-level radioactive waste, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board) will hold its summer Board meeting July 7-8, 1992, in Denver, Colorado. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street, Denver, Colo. 80207; (303) 399-7500.

The Board has invited Dr. John W. Bartlett, director of the DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, to provide an update on the DOE's strategy for determining as soon as possible the suitability of the site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The Board also has asked representatives of the Management and Operating (M&O) contractor to outline its role and the scope of its current and planned activities. Of special interest to the Board are activities in progress at the M&O's Nevada and Virginia offices, including details of how the M&O is organized, how it operates, its short- and long-term goals, and the status of ongoing studies, including its strategy for developing an engineered barrier system.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board was created by Congress in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 (NWPAA) 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 that waste.

Transcripts of the meeting will be available on a library-loan basis from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning August 24, 1992.
