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For Immediate Release*

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Board Studies Interim Storage Question

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board) will hold its winter meeting in Arlington, Virginia, on January 5-6, 1993. The meeting will focus primarily on the system implications of interim storage of spent nuclear fuel, from generation to disposal. Two additional topics include the Department of Energy's (DOE) Mission 2001 study, and its management and operations (M&O) contractor's development of a "roadmap" of studies related to decision-making requirements. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Key Bridge Marriott, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (703) 524-6400.

The Board has asked a number of organizations to present their views on issues related to interim storage. On Tuesday, January 5, and the morning of Wednesday, January 6, the Board will hear presentations from representatives of the DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management and its contractors, the Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, The Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Edison Electric Institute, the Electric Power Research Institute, and the utility industry. The Board is interested in the extent of interim storage that might be required, federal roles and activities (e.g., the function of the Office of the Nuclear Waste Negotiator), industry initiatives (i.e., the "universal container system" concept), current technologies, and emerging concepts for addressing storage and related waste management needs. A discussion involving all meeting participants will follow the Wednesday morning presentations.

On Wednesday afternoon, representatives of the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office and the M&O contractor will address Mission 2001 and the decision "roadmap."

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 the Board meeting will be available on a library-loan basis from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning February 17, 1993.
