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Full Agenda Scheduled for NWTRB's January Meeting

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board has planned a full agenda for its winter meeting January 11-12, 1994, in Arlington, Virginia. Yucca Mountain performance assessment efforts, updates on the Department of Energy's (DOE) multipurpose container concept, top-level system studies, and two recent DOE task force studies will fill the majority of the schedule. The two-day meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Doubletree Hotel National Airport, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202; 703-892-4100 (Fax 703-521-0286). Reservations must be made *no later than December 20, 1993*, to ensure room availability at the government rate. Sessions will begin at 8:15 A.M. on both days.

The meeting will begin on Tuesday, January 11, with a review by the DOE of two task force studies initiated by former Secretary of Energy James Watkins: one on an alternative strategy for the DOE's civilian radioactive waste management program and one on how to strengthen public trust and confidence in that program. Dan Dreyfus, newly confirmed director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, has been invited to describe how the DOE plans to use of the results of these task force studies. The Board also has invited a representative from the Swedish National Council on Radioactive Waste (KASAM) to describe a proposed strategy for geologic disposal in Sweden. Representatives from the National Academy of Sciences, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the state of Nevada, Edison Electric Institute, and the National Association of Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners have been asked to provide their comments during the round-table discussion that will close the morning session. Tuesday afternoon will be devoted to a discussion of top-level systems studies that assess several alternatives for waste management and the DOE's multipurpose container concept.

On Wednesday, January 12, the Board will focus on performance assessment, including the latest iterations of Yucca Mountain total system performance assessments. Dr. John Garrick, an expert with extensive experience in the evaluation of risk at nuclear power plants, has been invited along with representatives from the Electric Power Research Institute and from WIPP (the Waste Isolation Pilot Project in New Mexico) to present their thoughts on performance assessment. A general discussion will follow the formal presentations.

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. 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.

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Transcripts of the meeting will be available from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning February 23, 1994 (if computer disk is desired, please specify size and format). For more information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (703) 235-4473; (FAX) 703-235-4495.