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*External Affairs*

## SG&G Panel Looks at Seismic and Volcanic Hazard Estimation at Yucca Mountain

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's Panel on Structural Geology & Geoengineering (SG&G) has planned a two-day meeting on seismic and volcanic hazard estimation for March 8-9, 1994. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, San Francisco Airport, 600 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, California 94010; telephone (415) 340-8500; fax (415) 340-0599.

Presentations at the meeting will focus on seismic and volcanic hazard estimates for the area around Yucca Mountain, Nevada. A site at Yucca Mountain currently is being characterized by the Department of Energy (DOE) for its suitability as the possible location of a permanent repository for civilian spent fuel and defense high-level waste. The DOE has assigned a key role to probabilistic hazard estimation in determining site suitability and the design and licensability of the proposed repository. The Board is interested in the methodology the DOE is using to make probabilistic seismic and volcanic hazard estimates, in the existing results, and in how those estimates are being used. The results of two reports will be discussed: the DOE topical report on seismic hazards assessment and the Los Alamos National Laboratory report on volcanic hazard studies. In addition, the Board has asked for an update on recent seismological and geologic investigations that have a bearing on hazard estimation.

The Board also has invited other interested parties, including the state of Nevada, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and their contractors, to comment on the DOE's presentations and to present the latest results of similar studies on Yucca Mountain. A number of eminent outside scientists will be attending to provide their views on probabilistic hazard estimation.

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. Transcripts of the meeting will be available on computer disk or on a library-loan basis in paper format from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning April 20, 1994. For further information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (703) 235-4473.

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