

*December 12, 1994
For Immediate Release*

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Winter Board Meeting in Beatty Includes Evening Public Comment Session

The Beatty Community Center, in Beatty, Nevada, will be the location of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's upcoming winter meeting. The meeting will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, January 10-11, 1995, and is open to the public; sessions will begin at 8:30 A.M. on both days.

Board members are interested in hearing the public's views on issues related to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Yucca Mountain project. Four periods have been set aside during the two-day meeting for comments and questions from the public: Tuesday, January 10, at 11:30 A.M., 4:30 P.M., and an evening session at 7:00 P.M. for those unable to attend during the day, and Wednesday, January 11, at 2:30 P.M. Presentations at the meeting will focus on environmental issues and the potential socioeconomic effects related to the Yucca Mountain project; the DOE's waste isolation strategy and program priorities; and the linkage between the waste isolation strategy and DOE plans for underground testing in the exploratory studies facility at Yucca Mountain.

Specific topics to be covered on Tuesday include the DOE's environmental monitoring studies at Yucca Mountain; the DOE strategy for complying with NEPA's (the National Environmental Policy Act) requirement to prepare environmental impact statements for multipurpose canister procurement and repository development; the integration of the repository environmental impact statement with Yucca Mountain site characterization studies; and DOE's analyses of socioeconomic impacts. Representatives of local, state, and tribal governments have been invited to present their views on those analyses.

On Wednesday, January 11, the meeting will focus on the DOE's emerging waste isolation strategy and resulting program priorities as they affect design of and underground testing in the exploratory studies facility.

Sleeping rooms are available at The Exchange Club in Beatty; Tel (702) 553-2333; Fax (702) 553-2441; and at the Burro Inn, also in Beatty; Tel (702) 553-2225; Fax (702) 553-2892.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review 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 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 the disposal of that waste.

Transcripts of the meeting will be available on computer disk or on a library-loan basis in paper

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format from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning February 22, 1995. For further information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; Tel: 703-235-4473; Fax 703-235-4495.

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