



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD  
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300  
Arlington, VA 22201

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For Immediate Release*

*Frank Randall  
External Affairs*

## **Board hosts workshop on waste package alternative designs and materials research needs**

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board will host a workshop addressing waste package alternative designs and research needs on May 18-19, 1998, in Falls Church, Virginia. The workshop, which is open to the public, will begin at 8:30 a.m. both days in the Doubletree Hotel at Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22043; Tel (703) 893-1340; Fax (703) 749-8528.

The purpose of the workshop is to help develop a firm technical basis for the Board to review and evaluate the scientific and technical merits of waste package designs and materials research activities that may arise from the Department of Energy's program for managing the geologic disposal of commercial spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste.

The Board has chosen a facilitated, brainstorming approach for the workshop. This approach will allow participants to explore and discuss waste package concepts and associated materials research needs for direct disposal of spent nuclear fuel in a hypothetical repository designed for Yucca Mountain in Nevada. The workshop will be facilitated by Kevin Coppersmith of GEOMATRIX, Inc. Participants will include invited panelists John Kessler (Electric Power Research Institute), Digby Macdonald (SRI International), Joe Payer (Case Western Reserve University), David Shoesmith (Atomic Energy of Canada Limited), Michael Streicher (corrosion consultant), and members of the Board and its professional staff.

On May 18, the participants will hear presentations on the status of the Yucca Mountain project, the current waste package design, and the materials research program and will be given several possible scenarios for the tunnel environment in a potential repository at Yucca Mountain. Then, Dr. Coppersmith will facilitate discussion on possible alternative waste package designs, materials required for those alternative designs, and the research that would be needed to support the designs and their required materials. The discussions will continue through May 19.

Time has been set aside on the agenda for technical comments from the public that pertain to the discussion. Depending on the number of people wanting to make comments, time limits may have to be set. Written comments of any length may be submitted for the record. Those wanting to make comments will be asked to sign up at the registration table.

Transcripts of the meeting will be available via e-mail, on computer disk, or on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes, Board staff, beginning June 16, 1998. For more information, contact Frank Randall, External Affairs, 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300, Arlington, Virginia 22201-3367; (Tel) 703-235-4473; (Fax) 703-235-4495; (E-mail) [info@nwtrb.gov](mailto:info@nwtrb.gov).

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.

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