



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

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For Immediate Release*

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NWTRB May Meeting to Focus on Repository Design and Geochemistry

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) will meet in Pahrump, Nevada, on Monday, May 1, 2000, to review the status of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) efforts to develop a design for a potential repository for disposing of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The DOE also will present updates on geochemistry and on other scientific studies, including chlorine-36 investigations. In addition, the Board will hear from representatives of Nye County, Nevada, on recent scientific activities. The DOE is evaluating the Yucca Mountain site, about 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, to determine its suitability as the location of a repository for the permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

The meeting will be held at the Bob Ruud Community Center, 150 North Highway 160, Pahrump, Nevada 89048. The pay-phone number for the community center is (775)-727-9991. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m.

An overview of recent developments in the repository program will begin the meeting. The general overview will be followed by more-extensive presentations on the subsurface and engineered barrier system designs currently being considered by the DOE for a potential Yucca Mountain repository. Later in the day, the DOE will update the Board on the status of geochemical studies being conducted in connection with the characterization of the Yucca Mountain site. Representatives of Nye County, Nevada, also have been invited to comment and update the Board on their recent scientific activities, including the drilling program being conducted at the site under the auspices of the county.

The meeting will be open to the public. Time for public comment will be set aside before the lunch break and at the end of the session. Those wanting to speak are encouraged to sign the "Public Comment Register" at the check-in table. Depending on the number of requests, a time limit may be set on oral statements; written comments may be submitted for inclusion in the

record of the meeting. Interested parties also may submit written questions to the Board. As time permits, written questions will be answered during the sessions. Interested members of the public also are invited to join the Board for coffee from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m. before the meeting begins.

A detailed agenda will be available approximately one week before the meeting. Copies of the agenda can be requested by telephone or obtained from the Board's Web site at www.nwtrb.gov. Transcripts of the meeting will be available on the Board's Web site, via e-mail, on computer disk, and on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes of the Board staff, beginning on May 29, 2000.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Saddle West Hotel/Casino, 1220 South Highway 160, Pahrump, Nevada 89048. The telephone numbers for Saddle West are (800) 433-3987 and (775) 727-1111. When making a reservation, please state that you are attending the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board meeting.

For further information on the meeting, contact Karyn Severson, External Affairs, NWTRB, at 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300, Arlington, Virginia 22201-3367; (tel) 703-235-4473; (fax) 703-235-4495; (e-mail) info@nwtrb.gov.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board was created by Congress in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987. The Board's purpose is to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the Secretary of Energy related to managing the disposal of the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. In the same legislation, Congress directed the DOE to characterize a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, to determine its suitability as the location of a potential repository for the permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.
