



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
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External Affairs

Board Summarizes Activities in 2000

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) today released a report summarizing its activities in calendar year 2000. *Report to the U.S. Congress and the Secretary of Energy* discusses issues identified in 2000 as part of the Board's technical and scientific review of the Department of Energy's (DOE) characterization of a possible repository site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. It does not address recently released DOE reports or documents.

In 2000, the Board identified four priority areas for evaluating the potential repository at Yucca Mountain. The areas are the following:

- meaningful quantification of conservatisms and uncertainties in the DOE's performance assessments
- progress in understanding the underlying fundamental processes involved in predicting the rate of waste package corrosion
- an evaluation and a comparison of the base-case repository design with a low-temperature design
- development of multiple lines of evidence to support the safety case of the proposed repository, the lines of evidence being derived independently of performance assessment and thus not being subject to the limitations of performance assessment.

The report summarizes the Board's views on each priority area. More-detailed discussions of these areas, as well as of other technical issues, were transmitted to the DOE by letter during 2000. The letters are presented among the report appendices.

This and other Board reports, correspondence, and information may be downloaded from the Board's Web site at **www.nwtrb.gov**.

The 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 Secretary of Energy, including characterization of the Yucca Mountain site and packaging and transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

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