



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

***October 1, 1997
For Immediate Release***

***Frank Randall
External Affairs***

**Fall meeting will cover repository design and operations,
waste package design and modeling**

Potential repository design and operations and waste package design and modeling headline the Board's fall meeting in Fairfax, Virginia, October 22-23, 1997. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 22, and is open to the public. It will be held at the Hyatt Fair Lakes, 12777 Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax, Virginia 22031; (tel) 703-818-1234; (fax) 703-818-3140.

On Wednesday morning, October 22, Department of Energy (DOE) representatives will update the Board on the high-level nuclear waste management program and current and future activities at the potential repository site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The next session will cover the mined geologic disposal system and will begin with a description of potential underground repository layout, design, and construction. Following lunch, repository thermal management, the engineered barrier system, and alternative repository concepts will be discussed. The last session of the day will cover the repository concept of operations, including the subsurface operational area, remote operations, and performance confirmation facility design.

Thursday, October 23, will be devoted to waste package design and modeling. The first session will cover package design, criticality analysis, and waste package fabrication, closure, and examination. The second, and final, session will examine the waste package degradation expert elicitation project. The meeting should adjourn at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Ample time is scheduled for questions and comments from the public on both days. To ensure that everyone wishing to speak is provided time to do so, the Board encourages those who have comments to sign the *Public Comment Register*, which will be located at the sign-in table. Although a speaking time limit may have to be set, written comments of any length may be submitted for the record.

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 November 19, 1997. 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.

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.

#####