

*February 28, 1991
For Immediate Release*

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NWTRB Reviews DOE Quality Assurance Procedures

Two panels of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) will hold a joint meeting on March 26, 1991, in Dallas, Texas, to review the quality assurance (QA) program that the Department of Energy (DOE) has implemented for the design and construction of an exploratory shaft facility at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Pending resolution of a suit filed by the State of Nevada, the DOE intends to sink an exploratory shaft at the site at Yucca Mountain, which is being characterized by the DOE as a possible location of a repository for permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste. The meeting, which will be sponsored by the panels on Structural Geology & Geoen지니어ing and Quality Assurance, will run from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and will be held at the Adolphus Hotel, Sam Rayburn Room, 1321 Commerce, Dallas, Texas 75202; (214) 742-8200.

The next day, March 27, 1991, the Quality Assurance Panel will hold a meeting from 10:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. in the same room to review several aspects of the DOE's overall QA program for designing and constructing a permanent repository. DOE representatives will update panel members on recent progress in remedying a number of QA implementation problems and brief members on an important component in the QA process called "grading," which refers to the process of determining whether and how an activity should be subjected to the QA process.

The members of the Panel on Quality Assurance also are hoping to be briefed by a member of a new QA technical advisory committee, which is being created to address QA problems raised by researchers in the DOE's site-characterization program.

The public is welcome to attend the meeting as observers. Transcripts of the meeting will be available on a library-loan basis from Ms. Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning April 22, 1991.
