

*September 28, 1992
For Immediate Release*

*Contact: Paula N. Alford
External Affairs*

Board Meets to Consider Source Term, Yucca Mountain Budget

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (the Board) will hold its fall meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 14 and 15, 1992. The Board meeting, which is open to the public, will address two issues: the source term and the fiscal year 1993 budget for the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office. The meeting will be held at the Plaza-Suite Hotel, 4255 South Paradise, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89109; telephone (702) 369-4400. In conjunction with the meeting, the Board will host a tour of the Yucca Mountain site on Friday, October 16. The tour will be conducted by the Department of Energy (DOE).

On Wednesday, October 14, and the morning of Thursday, October 15, representatives from the DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management and its contractors will make presentations on the source term, which can be defined as the kinds and amounts of radionuclides that could be released from the waste package and its immediate repository surroundings under various release scenarios and, thereby, be available for transport. Three areas will be addressed. First, how could factors such as fuel characteristics, fuel oxidation, glass dissolution rates, and cladding failure affect the source term? Second, how could geochemical reactions at the potential site affect the source term? For example, factors affecting the potential release of ^{14}C and the effects of backfill materials on solubility and sorption will be discussed. Finally, how has the source term been treated in previous performance assessment calculations, and how might it be treated in future performance assessments?

During the afternoon of Thursday, October 15, Carl Gertz, director of the Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Project Office, will review that office's fiscal year 1993 budget and its implications for the 2001 license application target date.

Friday, October 16, will be devoted to a tour of the Yucca Mountain site. The Board is interested in progress to characterize Yucca Mountain as a potential site for repository development. The tour will include members of the general public who have pre-registered with the NWTRB office in Arlington, Virginia.

The U.S. 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

(over)

the nation's spent fuel and defense high-level waste. In that same legislation, Congress directed the DOE to characterize a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for its suitability as a potential location for a permanent repository for disposing of that waste.

Transcripts of the Board meeting will be available on a library-loan basis from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning November 30, 1992.
