

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***NRC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR WASTE TO HOLD WORKING GROUP
MEETING JUNE 10-11 ON YUCCA MOUNTAIN ISSUES***

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste (ACNW) will hold a working group meeting on the characteristics and behavior of engineered barriers to isolate high-level waste at the Yucca Mountain Repository, June 10-11 in Rockville, Maryland.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held in Room T-2B3, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville.

The meeting will feature discussions on predicting the behavior of radionuclides and engineered barriers designed to isolate them from the environment surrounding the high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. The working group will consist of three half-day sessions with plenary speakers and presentations by NRC and Department of Energy representatives in each of four broad areas, including: engineered barriers, environmental chemistry, waste package corrosion, and radionuclide chemistry in the near-field environment.

There will be a panel discussion on the afternoon of the second day that will feature the plenary speakers. There will be an opportunity for public comment. Dr. Raymond G. Wymer, of the NRC's Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA), will chair the meeting.

There will also be a video conference link with the CNWRA in San Antonio, Texas, and the DOE Yucca Mountain Project Office in Las Vegas, Nevada. There is no registration fee, but interested persons are asked to contact Ms. Barbara Jo White at B JW2@NRC.GOV or telephone (301) 415-7130 if they plan to attend.

ACNW working groups are conducted like workshops on specific topical issues. This meeting will bring together scientists and engineers from a variety of governmental, academic, private, and other organizations.

Although meetings of the ACNW are open, they are not part of the NRC's public hearing process. The ACNW was established in 1988 to advise the Commission on all aspects of nuclear waste management. While anyone may attend the meeting, the committee will consider only oral or written statements, arranged in advance and limited to specific matters set forth in a Notice of Meeting to be published in an upcoming issue of the Federal Register.

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(NOTE TO EDITORS: The use of self-contained tape recorders in the meeting room is permitted during open portions of the meeting when a transcript is being kept. The use of still, motion picture and television cameras - the physical installation and presence of which will not interfere with the course of the meeting - will be permitted both before and after the meeting, during any recess, and, at the discretion of the committee chairman, while the meeting is in session.)

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