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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
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External Affairs

NWTRB Releases Second Report to Congress and the Secretary of Energy

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) today released its *Second Report to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Secretary of Energy*. At a 9:00 A.M., press conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, Board members announced the release of the report, which reflects the Board's activities from January 1 to July 31, 1990. The *Second Report* tracks progress on topics that were identified in the Board's *First Report* (March 1990) and discusses issues central to determining early on the suitability of the proposed site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Dr. William D. Barnard, the Board's Executive Director, remarked in his opening statement that "during the last seven months, the Board has conducted more than a dozen meetings . . . and is pleased at this time to report its conclusions to the Congress and the Secretary of Energy."

During the press conference, at the Ramada-St. Tropez in Las Vegas (702-369-5400), Dr. Clarence R. Allen, Chair of the Structural Geology & Geoengineering Panel, and Dr. Ellis D. Verink, Jr., Chair of the Engineered Barrier System Panel, summarized the Board's recommendations. In particular they reviewed recommendations about seismicity and faulting in the Yucca Mountain area and about the importance of engineered barriers to the long-term performance of a repository.

Copies of the *Second Report* can be requested in writing from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402; (202) 783-3238. (Stock number 061-000-00752-1; \$4.75). The *First Report* is also available (Stock number 061-000-00747-4; \$4.50). Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

The NWTRB was created in 1987 legislation to evaluate the technical activities undertaken by the Department of Energy (DOE) in its program to manage the permanent disposal of civilian high-level radioactive waste (HLW). In that same legislation, Congress directed the DOE to characterize a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, as the possible location for a permanent geologic repository for HLW.

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