



To: Ronald Earlford

**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD**
1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910
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For Immediate Release

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External Affairs

**DOE and Others to Brief NWTRB Panel on Performance
Assessment Activities**

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's (the Board) Panel on Risk & Performance Analysis will hold a meeting on May 20-21, 1991, in Arlington, Virginia, on performance assessment for the proposed high-level radioactive waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The two-day panel meeting, which will run from 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. both days, will be held at the Board's Offices, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (703) 235-4473.

Performance assessment is an analysis that predicts the behavior of a system or component of a system under a given set of conditions. In this case, the system includes the repository and its geologic, hydrogeologic, and biologic environment. Performance assessment is being used to guide programmatic decision making and will be applied to determine whether specific regulatory criteria are met.

On Monday, May 20, panel members will hear from the Department of Energy (DOE) and its consultants on past, present, and future DOE performance assessment activities. Topics will include the results of PACE (Performance Assessment Computational Exercises) 90; the use of performance assessment in the DOE's task force studies; planned studies for fiscal years 1991 and 1992; and the systematic integration of performance assessment into the proposed repository program.

On Tuesday, May 21, representatives from groups primarily outside of the DOE have been invited to present their views on performance assessment. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will discuss the results of its ongoing demonstration performance assessment and the NRC perspective on the use of performance assessment for the proposed repository. A consultant to the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analysis has been invited to discuss

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probabilistic risk analysis of nuclear power plants and provide any insights that may apply to the use of performance assessment for a proposed repository. The Electric Power Research Institute also will present its views on performance assessment. At the end of the meeting, the panel will hold a round-table discussion on performance assessment in general, and the DOE's program in particular.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting as observers. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Hyatt Arlington, 1325 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (703) 525-1234. To be included in the block and receive the preferred rate, individuals must contact the Hyatt Arlington Hotel *on or before April 28, 1991*, and indicate that they are attending the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board meeting.

Transcripts of the meeting will be available on a library-loan basis from Victoria Reich, Board librarian, beginning June 10, 1991.
