

*To: R. Browning*



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD  
1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910  
Arlington, VA 22209

For Immediate Release

July 24, 1990

**Packaging of Spent Fuel  
First Topic Examined By New NWTRB Panel**

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board's (NWTRB) recently formed Engineered Barrier System Panel will hold it's first meeting on August 28-29, 1990, at the Pleasanton Hilton, Pleasanton, California. Members will be briefed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on work in progress to study and develop ways to package for permanent disposal the nation's commercial spent fuel.

On Tuesday, August 28, 1990, presentations will focus on the DOE's strategy for the development of packaging for spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste, including alternative packaging approaches and the DOE's plans to implement the strategy. In the afternoon, representatives from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Savannah River Laboratory will present information on important topics in developing waste packaging for defense high-level waste. Topics will include an overview of the characterization and qualification activities for the high-level waste produced by the Defense Waste Processing Facility and West Valley Demonstration Plant and glass dissolution studies in saturated and unsaturated environments.

On Wednesday, August 29, 1990, the DOE will brief the panel on current spent fuel studies, including information on the fuel's cladding, and the oxidation and dissolution of spent fuel. The afternoon session will focus on the DOE's methods for gathering data on the characteristics of spent fuel.

The two-day meeting will be held from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday and from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday in the Gold Room, Pleasanton Hilton Hotel, 7050 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton, California (415-463-8000). The public is welcome

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to attend. Transcripts will be made available on loan beginning September 18, 1990, on a first-come, first-served basis from the NWTRB.

The U.S. Congress created the Board in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (NWPAA) of 1987. The Board's purpose is to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of the DOE's work to characterize proposed sites for the permanent disposal of the nation's commercial spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste. The Board is also charged with evaluating spent nuclear fuel transportation and packaging activities undertaken by the DOE. In the same law, Congress designated the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada as the candidate for a repository, subject to extensive studies of its suitability and other conditions.

For further information contact Paula N. Alford, Director, External Affairs, 1111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (703-235-4473).