



To: R. Browning

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

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Paula N. Alford
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NWTRB Quality Assurance Panel Holds First Meeting

The NWTRB's Quality Assurance Panel will hold its first panel meeting on November 1-2, 1990, in the NWTRB office in Arlington, Virginia. Discussions will focus on the Department of Energy's (DOE) implementation of quality assurance programs. Members will be briefed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the DOE, the State of Nevada, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and others. The two-day meeting, which is open to the public, will be held at the NWTRB Conference Room, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia, 22209; (703) 235-4473. On Thursday, November 1, the meeting will be from 8:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. and on Friday, November 2, from 8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

On November 1, NRC presenters will brief the panel on NRC quality assurance (QA) regulatory requirements. The DOE will follow with its interpretation of these requirements and explain its implementation of the QA program at DOE headquarters, field, and contractors' offices. Discussions will address organizational concerns and issues involved in the implementation of these programs. Also, representatives from the State of Nevada will discuss their experiences with implementing QA programs. EPA representatives also will provide a perspective on implementing QA programs at their agency.

On November 2, panel members will hear presentations from other organizations with experience implementing QA programs. The organizations making presentations include the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), and Sandia National Laboratories (SNL). The briefings will be followed by discussions.

Members of the public are welcome to participate as observers. However, space is limited. Those wishing to attend are asked to contact the NWTRB office on or before October 24, 1990, at (703-235-4473). The meeting will be transcribed, and transcripts will be available on a library-loan basis beginning November 28, 1990. Those interested should contact Ms. Victoria Reich, NWTRB librarian (703-235-4473).

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The NWTRB was established by the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act (NWPAA) of 1987 (Pub. L. 100-203) to evaluate the scientific and technical validity of activities undertaken by the DOE in its civilian nuclear waste disposal program. The Board is charged with evaluating activities related to the packaging and transportation of high-level radioactive waste, including spent fuel. In the same law, Congress directed the DOE to characterize a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, as a possible location for a permanent underground repository for spent nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste.

For further information contact the NWTRB office, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 910, Arlington, Virginia 22209; (703) 235-4473.
