

briefing on revisions to the Yucca Mountain project's fiscal year 2001 work plan. These presentations will be followed by updates on the DOE's analysis of alternative repository designs, including the criteria used to compare and evaluate the designs, and on the DOE's uncertainty study interim report. After lunch, the DOE will discuss efforts to develop multiple lines of evidence for increasing confidence in the repository safety case. The DOE then will address Board questions related to performance assessment; first on aspects of the natural system and then on the engineered system. The questions on the natural system involve the long-term climate model and its possible effects on several aspects of repository performance assessment. The questions on the engineered barrier system (EBS) relate to differences in the performance of EBS components as designed and their performance as installed, to the potential consequences if weld treatment technologies needed for the waste packages are not perfected, to the effects of failure of the drip shields on repository and waste package performance, to the effects of corrosion products on the postclosure waste package environment, and to the effects on certain design parameters of a cooler repository design.

The session on Wednesday, May 9, will begin with an update of scientific and engineering activities at the Yucca Mountain site and will be followed by a briefing on corrosion investigations conducted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analysis. The Board then will hear from scientists from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on a joint DOE-State of Nevada study dating fluid inclusions at Yucca Mountain. The session is scheduled to end at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Opportunities for public comment will be provided before adjournment on both days. Those wanting to speak during the public comment periods are encouraged to sign the "Public Comment Register" at the check-in table. A time limit may have to be set on individual remarks, but written comments of any length may be submitted for the record. Interested parties also will have the opportunity to submit questions in writing to the Board. As time permits, the questions will be answered during the meeting.

A detailed agenda will be available approximately one week before the meeting. Copies of the agenda can be requested by telephone or obtained from

the Board's Web site at [www.nwtrb.gov](http://www.nwtrb.gov). Beginning on June 11, 2001, transcripts of the meeting will be available on the Board's Web site, via e-mail, on computer disk, and on a library-loan basis in paper format from Davonya Barnes of the Board staff.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Arlington Hilton & Towers. When making a reservation, please state that you are attending the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board meeting. For more information, contact the NWTRB; Karyn Severson, External Affairs; 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300; Arlington, VA 22201-3367; (tel) 703-235-4473; (fax) 703-235-4495; (e-mail) [info@nwtrb.gov](mailto:info@nwtrb.gov).

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board was created by Congress in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987. The Board's purpose is to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the Secretary of Energy related to managing the disposal of the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste. In the same legislation, Congress directed the DOE to characterize a site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, to determine its suitability as the location of a potential repository for the permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

Dated: April 2, 2001.

**William D. Barnard,**

*Executive Director, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.*

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

[Extension: Rule 15a-6; SEC File No. 270-329; OMB Control No. 3235-0371]

### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

Upon Written Request, Copies Available From: Securities and Exchange Commission, Office of Filings and Information Services, Washington, DC 20549.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the Securities and Exchange Commission ("Commission") is soliciting comments on the collection of information summarized below. The Commission plans to submit this existing collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget for extension and approval.

Rule 15a-6 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a *et*

*seq.*) provides, among other things, an exemption from broker-dealer registration for foreign broker-dealers that effect trades with or for U.S. institutional investors through a U.S. registered broker-dealer, provided that the U.S. broker-dealers obtains certain information about, and consents to service of process from, the personnel of the foreign broker-dealer involved in such transactions, and maintains certain records in connection therewith.

These requirements are intended to ensure (a) that the U.S. broker-dealer will receive notice of the identity of, and has reviewed the background of, foreign personnel who will contact U.S. institutional investors, (b) that the foreign broker-dealer and its personnel effectively may be served with process in the event enforcement action is necessary, and (c) that the Commission has ready access to information concerning these persons and their U.S. securities activities.

It is estimated that approximately 2,000 respondents will incur an average burden of three hours per year to comply with this rule, for a total burden of 6,000 hours. At an average cost per hour of approximately \$100, the resultant total cost of compliance for the respondents is \$600,000 per year (2,000 entities × 3 hours/entity × \$100/hour = \$600,000).

Written comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted in writing within 60 days of this publication.

Direct your written comments to Michael E. Bartell, Associate Executive Director, Office of Information Technology, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 5th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549.

Dated: March 30, 2001.

**Margaret H. McFarland,**  
*Deputy Secretary.*

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