

Commission (NRC), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and the State of Nevada—to present their research and views on the potential for corrosion of waste packages during the “thermal pulse,” the period of approximately 1,000 years after closure when temperatures would be above boiling inside a repository for high-level radioactive waste planned for Yucca Mountain in Nevada. In a letter and a report to the DOE last fall, the Board concluded that, based on analyses of DOE and other data, all the conditions necessary for localized corrosion of waste packages will likely be present in repository tunnels during the thermal pulse.

The Board meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel; 1250 22nd Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037. The telephone number is 202-857-3388, and the fax number is 202-293-3173. The meeting is open to the public, and opportunities for public comment will be provided. The meeting sessions will begin at 8 a.m. on both days.

Tuesday's session will begin with overviews of the status of program activities related to the Yucca Mountain project and updates on activities related to basic science, seismicity, and transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. On Tuesday afternoon, representatives of the NRC, EPRI, and the State of Nevada will present their views and relevant research on the potential for corrosion on waste packages during the thermal pulse.

Most of the meeting on Wednesday will be devoted to presentations by the DOE and to discussion of DOE views, research, and analyses related to repository tunnel environments and the potential for localized corrosion during the thermal pulse. Meeting participants will have an opportunity to make brief wrap-up comments at the end of the day on Wednesday.

The meeting agenda will include time for public comment 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.

An 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: [www.nwtrb.gov](http://www.nwtrb.gov). Beginning on June 21, 2004, 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 Embassy Suites Hotel. A meeting rate is available for reservations made by April 19, 2004. 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.

The 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 the Yucca Mountain site 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 5, 2004.

**William D. Barnard,**  
*Executive Director, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.*

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## COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY

### Preliminary Report

**ACTION:** Notice of public availability and comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy was established pursuant to the Oceans Act of 2000 to make recommendations to the President and Congress for a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy. The preliminary draft of the final report is being made available to the nation's Governors and other interested parties for their review and comment.

**DATES:** The preliminary report will be available for public review on April 20, 2004. Comments on the report must be received in the Commission office no later than the close of business on May 21, 2004, e.t.

**ADDRESSES:** Send electronic comments (e-mail) to:  
[comments@oceancommission.gov](mailto:comments@oceancommission.gov). Comments may also be mailed to: U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, 1120 20th Street, NW., Suite 200 North, Washington, DC 20036. Comments may be sent by facsimile to: 202-418-3475.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Kearns, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, 1120 20th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20036, 202-418-3442, [kearns@oceancommission.gov](mailto:kearns@oceancommission.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is being issued pursuant to the Oceans Act 2000 (Pub. L. 106-256, sec. 3(g)(1)(A)). The report and detailed instructions for submitting comments will be available at the Commission's Web site, [www.oceancommission.gov](http://www.oceancommission.gov), on April 20, 2004, when the report is released to the public. The report is also available for public review at the Commission's office at 1120 20th Street, NW., Suite 200 North, Washington, DC 20036, from 2 p.m.-5 p.m. e.t. on April 20th and thereafter from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. e.t., Monday through Friday, during the remainder of the comment period. Comments sent by facsimile should include the words “Public Comment on Preliminary Report” on the coversheet. All public comments must include the individual's name, institutional affiliation (optional), address, telephone number, and e-mail address. Comments should contain no attachments. All public comments received will be reviewed by the Commission and will become part of the official record of its work. Only comments received electronically will be acknowledged. Public comments will not be posted to the Web site. Sufficient time will be allowed for any needed changes to the report as a result of gubernatorial or other stakeholder comments. When such changes are made and the final report is approved by the Commission, it will be transmitted to the President and Congress.

Dated: April 9, 2004.

**Thomas R. Kitsos,**  
*Executive Director.*

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## PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

**Required Interest Rate Assumption for Determining Variable-Rate Premium; Interest on Late Premium Payments; Interest on Underpayments and Overpayments of Single-Employer Plan Termination Liability and Multiemployer Withdrawal Liability; Interest Assumptions for Multiemployer Plan Valuations Following Mass Withdrawal**

**AGENCY:** Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.