



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
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November 5, 2020
For Immediate Release

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External Affairs

U.S. NWTRB to Hold Public Meeting on U.S. DOE Repository R&D Program and Priorities

The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) will hold a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, and Thursday, December 3, 2020, to review information on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) non-site-specific geologic disposal research and development (R&D) program. The Board is an independent federal agency established by Congress to conduct ongoing technical and scientific evaluation of activities undertaken by DOE to manage and dispose of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW).

Details for viewing and participating in the meeting will be available on the Board's website (www.nwtrb.gov) approximately one week before the meeting.

The meeting will begin on both days at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) and is scheduled to adjourn at around 5:00 p.m. EST. Speakers representing the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy and the national laboratories conducting the work for DOE will report on DOE's non-site-specific disposal R&D program. Speakers will describe DOE's program; including its purpose, scope, goals, technical approach, and prioritization of activities. Three presentations will address the reference disposal concepts and key considerations for a repository sited in crystalline, salt, and argillite rock. Next, speakers will present DOE's R&D activities, and their prioritization, in other program areas that address multiple disposal concepts. These speakers will address the disposal of dual-purpose canisters, geologic disposal safety assessment, engineered barrier systems, and international activity program areas and will describe a disposal concept and key considerations for an unsaturated alluvium reference case. The last presentation will address prioritization of international activities and DOE's 5-year plan for disposal research. A detailed meeting agenda will be available on the Board's website at www.nwtrb.gov approximately one week before the meeting.

The meeting will be open to the public, and opportunities for public comment will be provided at the end of each day of the meeting. Details on how to submit public comments during

the meeting will be provided on our website. A time limit on comments may be set. However, written comments of any length may be submitted to the Board staff by mail or electronic mail. All comments received in writing will be included in the meeting record, which will be posted on the Board's website after the meeting. An archived recording of the meeting will be available on the Board's website following the meeting. The transcript of the meeting will be available on the Board's website by February 3, 2021.

The Board was established in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 as an independent federal agency in the Executive Branch to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of DOE activities related to the management and disposal of SNF and HLW and to provide objective expert advice to Congress and the Secretary of Energy on these issues. Board members are experts in their fields and are appointed to the Board by the President from a list of candidates submitted by the National Academy of Sciences. The Board reports its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Energy. All Board reports, correspondence, congressional testimony, and meeting transcripts and related materials are posted on the Board's website.

For information on the meeting agenda, contact Bret Leslie at leslie@nwtrb.gov or by phone 703-235-9132; or Jo Jo Lee at lee@nwtrb.gov or by phone 703-235-4485. For information on logistics, or to request copies of the meeting agenda or transcript, contact Davonya Barnes at barnes@nwtrb.gov or by phone 703-235-9141. All three may be reached by mail at 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300, Arlington, VA 22201-3367; or by fax at 703-235-4495.
