

Public Comment Submitted on June 10, 2026

It was great to see the TRB up and running after too long a time. Grassroots and public interest groups rely on you to hold meetings where presenters are asked for clarification and challenged when their findings appear questionable. We appreciate that you do that as well as welcoming public comments.

The Board meeting on June 9 was good in that it was truly international. The countries presenting were in very different stages of development of high-level nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel disposition facilities. Thank you for your questions to the presenters about the level of social/community acceptance.

One of the parts of the presentations I found most valuable for us here in the U.S., were those about “lessons learned,” especially where previous disposal programs had failed. I plan to further review the presenters’ slides.

Currently there are energetic U. S. government efforts to produce more waste but no plan in place for its disposal. Both government agencies and Congressional delegations have a few ideas about how to proceed toward addressing nuclear waste disposal but there is little assurance of progress.

The presenters who were from countries where repository programs had failed had good lists of lessons learned and they appeared to be well informed by them. The U.S. needs legislation that would rule out Yucca Mountain, look at the mistakes made with that project and others, and establish a new approach with strong public approval. I think the lessons learned that were presented at your meeting could help with that.

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