



U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board

NWTRB
www.nwtrb.gov

Learning from National Repository Programs

Presented to:
Spring 2026 Meeting

Presented by:
Dr. Bret Leslie, Acting Executive Director

June 9, 2026

Need for a US National Repository

“Finding: The nation needs one or more deep geologic repositories for permanent disposal of domestic spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.”

“Recommendation: The Board recommends that the Department of Energy take the steps necessary, working with Congress as needed, to create a workable pathway to site, license, construct, and operate a geologic repository for the permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.”



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300
Arlington, VA 22201-3367

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
President Pro Tempore
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

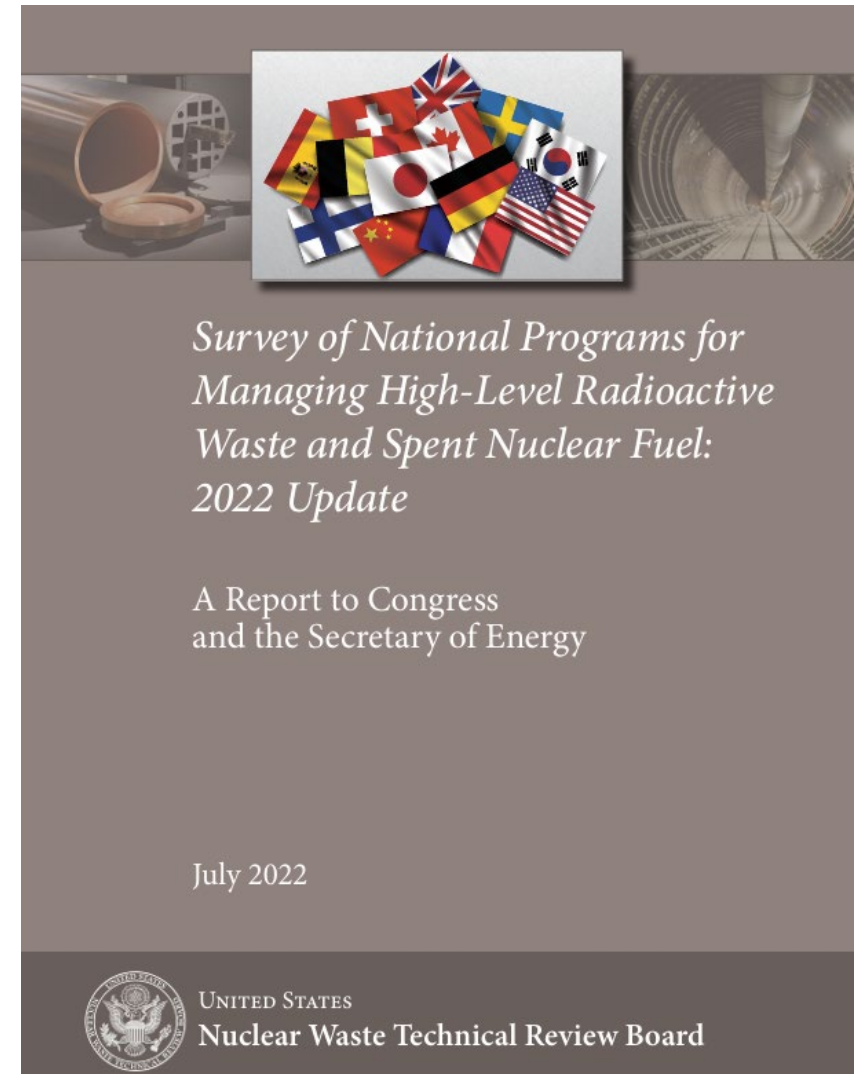
The Honorable Christopher Wright
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Speaker Johnson, Senator Grassley, and Secretary Wright:



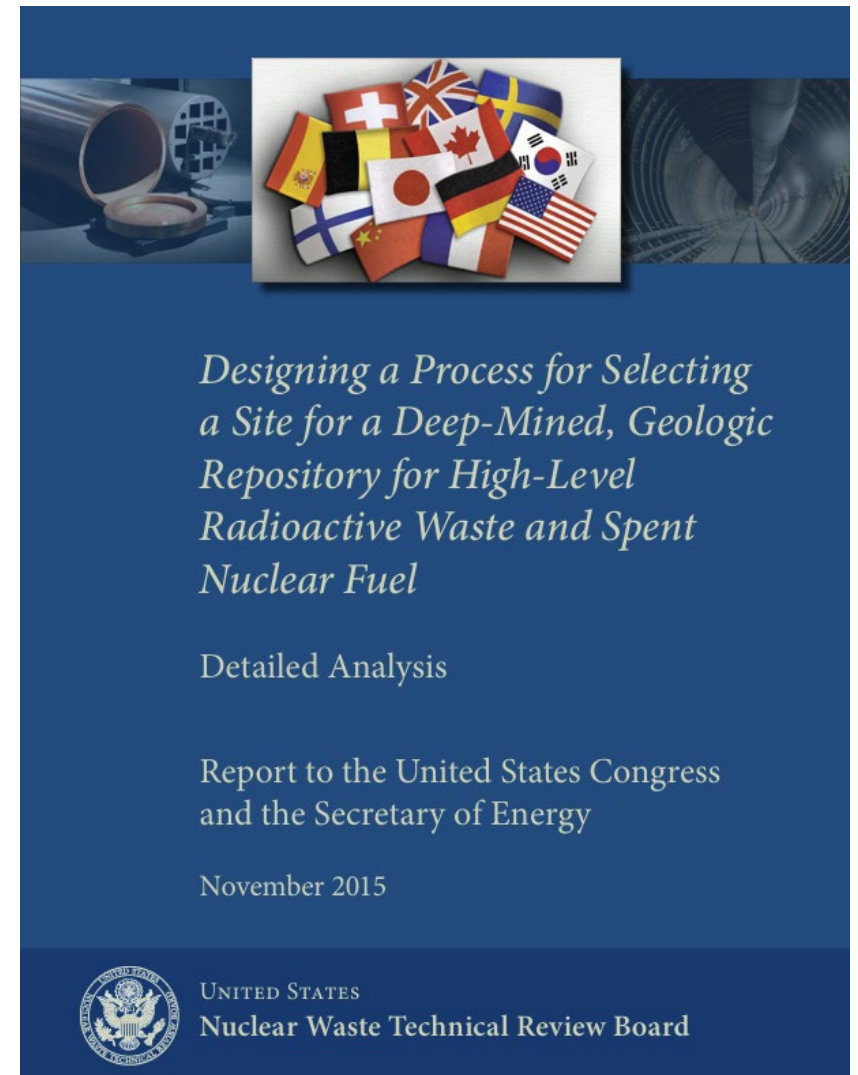
National Repository Programs

- The Board learns from other national repository programs
 - Surveys
 - Board meetings
 - Detailed analyses
 - Visiting and hosting representatives
- Reports to Congress and the Secretary of Energy



Board Reports on Repository Siting

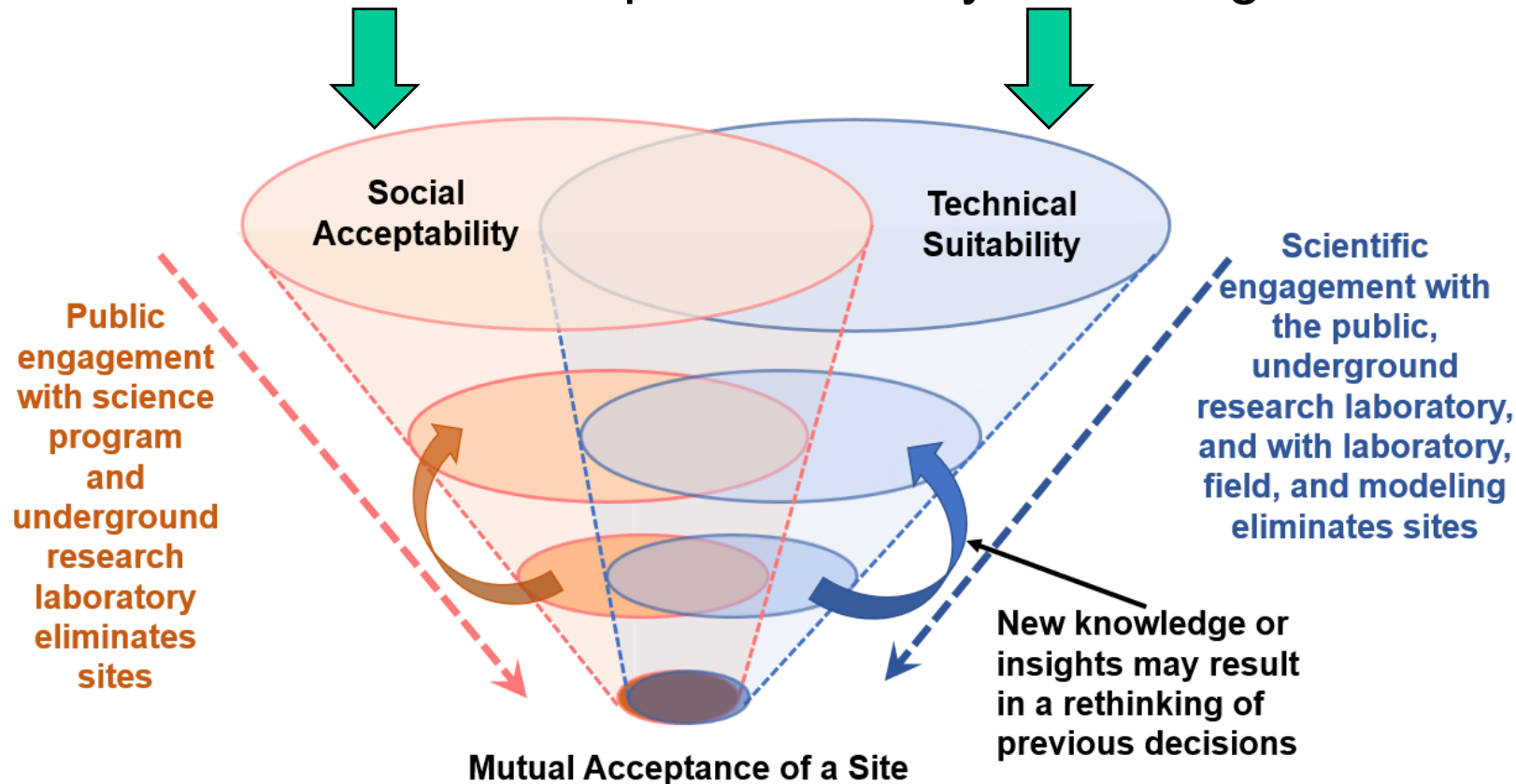
- 2015 Board report analyzed two dozen siting efforts over the last fifty years in ten nations
 - Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States
 - Siting of a repository requires a socially acceptable siting process and a technical suitable site
- Proceedings of the Board's 2023 International Workshop on Siting of Radioactive Waste Facilities



Focusing on Technical Lessons Learned

Board's 2023 Workshop

Today's Meeting



- Lessons from siting
 - Republic of Korea
 - Japan
 - Czech Republic
 - Germany
- Post-siting lessons
 - Finland
 - Switzerland

Development of a convergent pathway for siting a geologic repository

[revised from Figure 4-3 in *Six Overarching Recommendations for How to Move the Nation's Nuclear Waste Management Program Forward* Report]

