



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300
Arlington, VA 22201-3369

August 21, 2026

Mr. Theodore J. Garrish
Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Garrish:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board), I want to thank you and your staff for supporting a technical fact-finding meeting on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) activities related to storage and transportation of commercial spent (used) nuclear fuel held on August 13, 2026. The meeting provided the Board with useful updates on the high burnup research cask shipment, transportation readiness, and the Center for Used Fuel Research.

The Board was encouraged by DOE's progress with the high burnup research cask shipment. The planned shipment provides DOE with practical experience in transportation planning, equipment development, rail and site readiness, emergency preparedness, and coordination with Tribal, state, and federal partners. As a first-of-a-kind effort in the current program, this work has the potential to provide valuable lessons that could improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future national transportation activities.

The Board appreciates DOE's continued engagement on these topics and looks forward to receiving further updates in a public meeting in fiscal year 2027 on the high burnup research cask shipment, transportation readiness, and the Center for Used Fuel Research. The Board also looks forward to learning more about DOE's work on federal staging facilities as part of our ongoing evaluation of the technical and scientific validity of DOE activities related to the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

Sincerely,

Peter Swift
Chair

cc: Ms. Marla Morales, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Spent Fuel and High-Level Waste Disposition