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

NWTRB Open Data Plan

July 8, 2025

1. **Purpose:** Pursuant to the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act)[1], the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) is committed to improving the breadth and depth of our Open Data Catalog to make agency data findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable.

   This plan satisfies the requirements set forth in OMB Memorandum M-25-05 "Phase 2 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Open Government Data Access and Management Guidance."[2]

   NWTRB will comply with all requirements of OMB M-25-05 and the requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3511[3] when disseminating a public data asset pursuant to the Evidence Act.

2. **Open Data Plan:** This plan follows the structure of OMB M-25-05 section 6, AGENCY DATA REQUIREMENTS: OPEN DATA PLAN.

   a) **Data Collection Processes for Open Formats**
   b) **Data Usage Information**
   c) **Collaboration with Data Users**
   d) **Open Data Point of Contact**
   e) **Improvement Processes**
   f) **Open Data Goal Requirements**
   g) **Prioritizing Public Data Asset Review**
   h) **Compliance Status**
   i) **Updating the Strategic Information Resources Management Plan**

   The "Current Activities" and "Planned Activities" described below also address requirements listed in section 4, AGENCY REQUIREMENTS THAT APPLY TO ALL DATA ASSETS, and section 5, REQUIREMENTS THAT APPLY TO ALL PUBLIC DATA ASSETS of OMB M-25-05.

   a) **Data Collection Processes for Open Formats**
      Goal
      - Ensure that all NWTRB data assets are created, inventoried, and maintained in open, machine-readable formats using standardized collection procedures and

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[1] Public Law No. 115-435 (2019), *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018* is also referred to as the *Evidence Act.*

[2] OMB M-25-05 provided guidance on the contents of agency Open Data Plans. See Off. of Mgmt. & Budget, Exec. Off. of the President, OMB M-25-05 *Phase 2 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Open Government Data Access and Management Guidance* (2025).

[3] 44 U.S.C. § 3511: Data inventory and Federal data catalogue, available at 44 USC 3511: Data inventory and Federal data catalogue

processes with automated format validation to guarantee interoperability, transparency, and ease of reuse.

Current Activities
- NWTRB is currently piloting a solution to automatically discover, classify, and catalog data assets.

Planned Activities
- Develop data conversion processes to inventory, prioritize, and convert proprietary format datasets into machine-readable open formats.
- Research and deploy automated solutions to validate data assets are created and maintained in approved open formats.
- Establish training on open format standards and data collection processes to educate NWTRB staff.

b) Data Usage Information

Goal
- Ensure that digital information on data asset usage by internal and external users is collected and analyzed with usage of public data assets by non-government users published at www.nwtrb.gov/data on a regular basis.

Current Activities
- NWTRB is sending real-time website usage data to analytics.usa.gov where it is made publicly available.
- NWTRB currently maintains an open data page at www.nwtrb.gov/data.

Planned Activities
- Institute a quarterly process to extract and analyze metrics for data assets and publish usage information on www.nwtrb.gov/data.

c) Collaboration with Data Users

Goal
- Establish a collaboration framework that engages external stakeholders through feedback mechanisms to ensure ongoing user-informed improvements to the access and utility of data assets.

Current Activities
- NWTRB has established the OpenData@nwtrb.gov email address to receive and track comments and inquiries from external stakeholders about our public data assets.

Planned Activities
- Publicize the OpenData mailbox by displaying the contact address on www.nwtrb.gov/data.

d) Open Data Point of Contact

Goal
- Maintain an open data point of contact with published contact information to assist the public and respond to quality issues, recommendations, and complaints regarding open data requirements.

Current Activities
- NWTRB has designated an Open Data Point of Contact for open data inquiries.

Planned Activities
- Publish the Open Data Point of Contact's information on www.nwtrb.gov/data.

e) Improvement Processes
Goal
- Implement a process improvement cycle using analytics, stakeholder feedback, and best practices to evaluate and enhance open data quality.

Current Activities
- NWTRB is engaged in early-stage planning to develop improvement processes.

Planned Activities
- Formalize an open data improvement workflow that integrates analytics.usa.gov metrics, stakeholder feedback, and best practices.

f) Open Data Goal Requirements
Goal
- Embed open by default principles into all data operations to reliably publish, manage, and continuously enhance agency data assets overseen by a skilled workforce that facilitates open data sharing.

Current Activities
- NWTRB has chartered a Data Governance Body to oversee data publication practices and policies.

Planned Activities
- Implement machine-readable formats, persistent identifiers, and standardized metadata for data assets.
- Establish training programs for data stewards and operators on open-by-default practices and data management.

g) Prioritizing Public Data Asset Review
Goal
- Implement an assessment framework to identify, evaluate, and prioritize public data assets for release and inclusion in the Federal Data Catalog based on public feedback and criteria established in OMB M-25-05.

Current Activities
- NWTRB is currently piloting a solution to automatically discover, classify, and catalog data assets.

Planned Activities
- Develop and implement a prioritization framework to identify public data assets for review based on usage analytics, public feedback, and OMB requirements.
- Integrate prioritized public data assets into the Federal Data Catalog submission process and schedule quarterly reviews to ensure timely publication.

h) Compliance Status
Goal
- Compliance with all requirements of OMB M-25-05 and the requirements of 44 U.S.C. § 3511 when disseminating a public data asset pursuant to the Evidence Act.

Current Activities
- Refer to the Current Activities outlined in Sections a) through g).

Planned Activities
- Refer to the Planned Activities outlined in Sections a) through g).

     i) Updating the Strategic Information Resources Management Plan
     Goal
- Possess a Information Resources Management (IRM) Strategic Plan that formally incorporates all OMB M-25-05 requirements, is published to www.nwtrb.gov/data, and is reviewed annually.

     Current Activities
- NWTRB is in the process of creating a new IRM Strategic Plan.

     Planned Activities
- Develop and publish the IRM Strategic Plan on www.nwtrb.gov/data.
- Institute procedures to review and update the IRM Strategic Plan annually.

3. **Definitions:** This plan follows the structure of OMB M-25-05 section 6, AGENCY
   - **Data**: Recorded information, regardless of form or the media on which the data is recorded. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)
   - **Data Asset**: A collection of data elements or data sets that may be grouped together. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)
   - **Federal Data Catalog**: A centralized public online interface dedicated to sharing U.S. government data assets with the public; maintained by GSA and available through Data.gov. (OMB M-25-05)
   - **Machine-readable**: Data in a format that can be easily processed by a computer without human intervention while ensuring no semantic meaning is lost. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)
   - **Metadata**: Structural or descriptive information about data such as content, format, source, rights, accuracy, provenance, frequency, periodicity, granularity, publisher or responsible party, contact information, method of collection, and other descriptions. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)
   - **Open Data**: Publicly available data structured in a way that enables the data to be fully discoverable and usable by end users. (OMB M-13-13)
   - **Open Format**: A file format for storing digital data where the format is platform independent and machine-readable and is maintained (A) at no cost to the public; and (B) with no restrictions on copying, publishing, distributing, transmitting, citing, or adapting such a format. (OMB M-25-05)
   - **Open Government Data Asset**: A public data asset that is-
     - machine-readable;
     - available (or could be made available) in an open format;
     - not encumbered by restrictions, other than intellectual property rights, including under titles 17 and 35, that would impede the use or reuse of such asset; and
     - based on an underlying open standard that is maintained by a standards organization. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)
   - **Open License**: A legal guarantee that a data asset is made available-
     - at no cost to the public; and
     - with no restrictions on copying, publishing, distributing, transmitting, citing, or adapting such asset. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)
   - **Public Data Asset**: A data asset, or part thereof, maintained by the Federal Government that has been, or may be, released to the public, including any data asset, or part thereof, subject to disclosure under section 552 of title 5. (44 U.S.C. § 3502)