



U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board

**NWTRB**  
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# U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board

Presented to:

**Spring 2026 Meeting**

Presented by:

**Dr. Peter Swift, Chair**

**June 9, 2026**

# U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board

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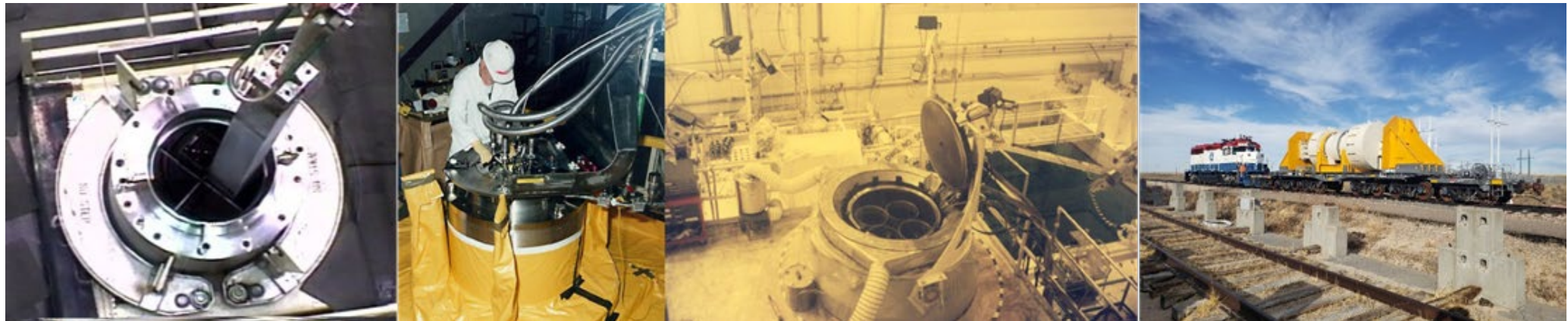


The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) was established by Congress in the 1987 amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act



# Board Mission

- The Board evaluates the “technical and scientific validity” of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) activities related to implementing the Nuclear Waste Policy Act
- These DOE activities include:
  - Packaging of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste and transportation of the wastes to a storage or disposal facility
  - Siting, site characterization, design, and development of facilities for disposing of spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste



# Board Members

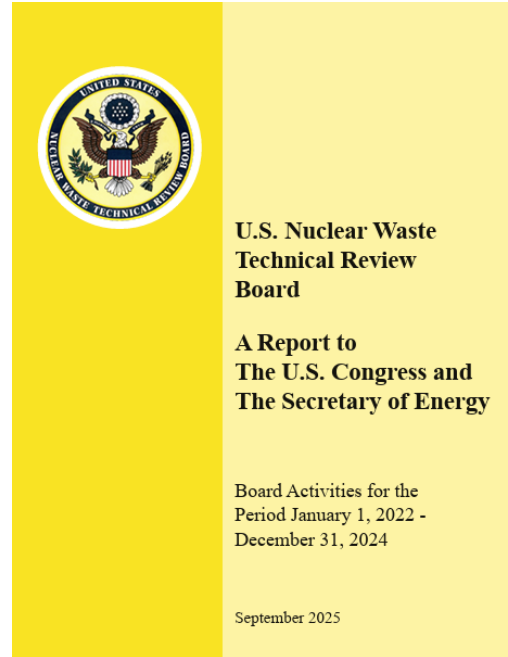


At full strength, the Board has eleven members:

- Candidates nominated by National Academy of Sciences solely on
  - Eminence in a field of science or engineering
  - Established records of distinguished service
- Appointed by the President
- Serve part time in four-year, staggered terms
- May serve until replaced
- Peter Swift, Ph.D., Chair
- Supported by permanent, full-time staff



# About the Board



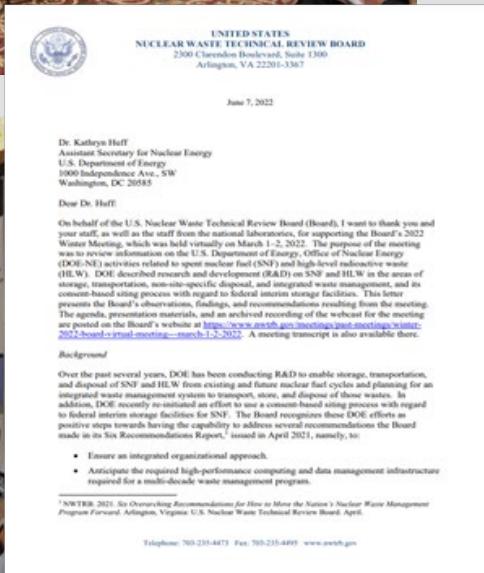
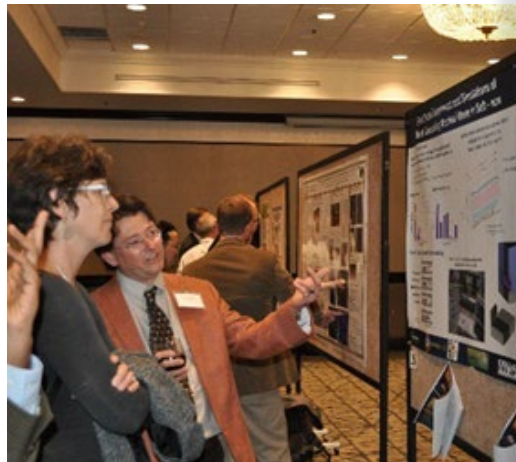
- Conducts independent and objective peer review of DOE activities
- Required to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the U.S. Congress and the Secretary of Energy
- By law, has access to draft DOE documents – allows Board recommendations to be made during decision-making, not after the fact
- Provides congressional testimony at the invitation of Congress



# About the Board (cont.)



- Holds public meetings in different locations in the United States
- The meetings are webcast
- Provides technical and scientific comments in letters or reports to DOE following public meetings
- Makes all official documents (meeting transcripts and materials, reports, correspondence, congressional testimony, etc.) available on its website: [www.nwtrb.gov](http://www.nwtrb.gov)



# Meeting Information

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- Meeting agenda, presentations, and an acronym list are available online
- Public comment period (at the end of the day)
  - Oral commenters encouraged to sign the public comment register
    - Depending on the number of speakers, a time limit on individual remarks may be set
  - Virtual commenters
    - Use “Comment for the Record”
    - Comments submitted online during the workshop will be posted to the Board’s website shortly after workshop adjournment
- The meeting is being webcast live and recorded (the transcript and archived recording of the meeting will be available [www.nwtrb.gov](http://www.nwtrb.gov))



# Meeting Objectives

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- Support the Board's strategic goal to maintain awareness of experiences and lessons learned from nuclear waste management activities in other countries.
  - Disseminate insights from meeting to advise Congress and the DOE
- Review the technical lessons-learned from the siting and development of geologic repositories in other countries.
  - Countries undergoing site selection will discuss key success factors
    - Regulatory framework
    - Technical criteria
    - Site characterization methods
  - Countries in post-siting phase presentations will discuss factors
    - Engineering considerations
    - Optimization and implementation issues



# Meeting Agenda

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**8:00 a.m. EDT**

**Call to Order and Introductory Statement**

*Peter Swift, Board Chair*

**8:15 a.m. EDT**

**Learning from National Repository Programs**

*Bret Leslie, Board Acting Executive Director*

**8:20 a.m. EDT**

**Update for HLW Management Program in Korea**

*Song Bok Lee and Jane Joo Korea Radioactive Waste Agency  
(KORAD, Republic of Korea)*

**9:00 a.m. EDT**

*Questions, discussion*

**9:15 a.m. EDT**

**Current Status of Deep Geological Repository Program in Japan**

*Hiromitsu Saegusa, Yoshito Kitagawa, and Hideaki Hyodo, Nuclear  
Waste Management Organization of Japan (NUMO, Japan)*

**9:55 a.m. EDT**

*Questions, discussion*



# Meeting Agenda

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- 10:10 am EDT**      **Break**
- 10:25 a.m. EDT**      **Deep Geological Repository Siting in the Czech Republic: From Site Screening to Final Site Selection**  
*Markéta Dohnálková, Czech Radioactive Waste Repository Authority (SÚRAO, Czech Republic)*
- 11:05 a.m. EDT**      *Questions, discussion*
- 11:20 a.m. EDT**      **From Rock to Repository: The Iterative Process of Site Characterization and Facility Design**  
*Barbara Pastina, Posiva Oy (Finland)*
- 12:00 p.m. EDT**      *Questions, discussion*
- 12:15 p.m. EDT**      **Lunch (1 hour)**



# Meeting Agenda

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- 1:15 p.m. EDT**      **The Swiss Deep Geological Repository Project ‘Terradura’ – From Site Selection to Further Project Development**  
*Dr. Michael Schnellmann and Ingo Blechschmidt, National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste (Nagra, Switzerland)*
- 1:55 p.m. EDT**      *Questions, discussion*
- 2:10 p.m. EDT**      **German Site Selection Procedure – Current Status and Lessons Learned**  
*Dr. Axel Liebscher, Federal Company for Radioactive Waste Disposal (BGE, Germany)*
- 2:50 p.m. EDT**      *Questions, discussion*
- 3:05 p.m. EDT**      **Public Comments**
- 3:20 p.m. EDT**      **Adjourn**

