



U.S. NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

FISCAL YEAR 2027 Annual Performance Plan

INCLUDING BOARD PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

AND

EVALUATION OF BOARD PERFORMANCE IN FISCAL YEAR 2025

APRIL 2026

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U.S. NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

**FISCAL YEAR 2027
Annual Performance Plan**

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INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) is an agency in the Executive Branch of the federal government. The Board performs ongoing and objective peer review of the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the Secretary of Energy under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) (Public Law 97-425), as amended, including the packaging, transportation, and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The Board provides a source of independent expert advice to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Congress on technical issues and reviews DOE's efforts to implement the nuclear waste program.

Contained in this report is the Board's Performance Plan for FY 2027 and the Board's evaluation of its FY 2025 performance.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Board is to provide independent expert evaluation of the technical and scientific validity of U.S. Department of Energy activities related to the packaging, storage, transport, and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

ABOUT THE BOARD

The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board is an agency in the executive branch of the federal government. The Board is comprised of eminent scientists and engineers nominated by the National Academy of Sciences and appointed by the President. It is supported by highly qualified professional staff.

The Board was established in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 (NWPAA) to "...evaluate the technical and scientific validity of activities [related to managing and disposing of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste] undertaken by the Secretary [of Energy], including

- (1) site characterization activities; and
- (2) activities relating to the packaging or transportation of high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel."

According to the legislative history of the NWPAA, the purpose of the Board is to provide a source of independent expert advice to DOE and Congress on technical issues and to review DOE's efforts to implement the nuclear waste program. In order to provide timely feedback, the Board is expected to review DOE's activities as they occur, rather than after the fact. As the Administration and Congress decide on a path forward for the disposition of nuclear waste, DOE continues to have responsibility under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act for managing and disposing of nuclear waste, and the Board's statutory responsibility for evaluating DOE's implementation of those activities remains unchanged. By performing unbiased and ongoing technical and scientific peer review of DOE's activities to manage spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, the Board makes an essential contribution

to increasing confidence in the scientific process and to informing, from a technical and scientific perspective, decisions on the nuclear waste program. The Board reports its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy and Congress.

BOARD STRATEGIC GOALS FOR FYS 2026 THROUGH 2030

The Board developed a new Strategic Plan for FY 2026 through 2030 that includes four Strategic Goals. The Strategic Goals reflect the Board's continuing commitment to its mission established in the NWPAA, including (1) conducting an ongoing, independent technical and scientific evaluation of DOE activities related to the NWPA and (2) advising Congress and the Secretary.

For FYS 2026 through 2030, the Board's Strategic Goals are as follows:

Strategic Goal #1:

Perform timely, independent evaluations of key DOE activities to manage and dispose of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

Strategic Goal #2:

Maintain awareness of experiences and lessons learned from nuclear waste management activities in the U.S. and other countries.

Strategic Goal #3:

Effectively communicate Board findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

Strategic Goal #4:

Ensure continuing efficient and effective support of the Board's mission.

ACHIEVING THE STRATEGIC GOALS

LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT. On an annual basis, in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act, as amended, the Board's leadership identifies Performance Goals (PGs) for the current year and identifies Goals for the subsequent year that will lead to accomplishing the Strategic Goals. The PGs are included in the Board's Performance Plan.

LEARNING AGENDA APPROACH. The Board's Performance Plan for a given year includes its Strategic Goals, Strategic Objectives, PGs, and a description of Board attributes, activities, and practices supporting achievement of all goals. An evaluation of Board performance for the preceding FY is included in this report and used as input in updating the Performance Plan and developing the Board's budget request for the subsequent FY. In updating and implementing the plan, the Board's leadership is committed to using a learning agenda approach by consistently building and using evidence to:

- 1) proactively evaluate the agency's performance to determine what works well and where performance can be improved;

- 2) maximize results by strategically focusing resources and attention where the needs are greatest;
- 3) reinforce the strategic direction, timeliness, and relevance of the Board’s technical evaluations of DOE activities;
- 4) adapt agency direction as evidence and context shifts; and
- 5) ensure effective communications with DOE and Congress and ensure other stakeholders are informed of the Board’s activities.

Adopting a learning agenda approach ensures that the Board’s Performance Goals and Strategic Goals are prioritized to meet the agency’s mission.

EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH. To ensure the effective and efficient execution of its mission, as noted above, the Board employs a learning agenda and evidence-based approach to set priorities that guide its decision making, operational planning, and development of its budget. In accordance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-19-23, *Phase I Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018*, the Board has also appointed a Chief Data Officer and Data Governance Body.

PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR FY 2027

STRATEGIC GOALS, STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027. Presented below, and based on the Board’s Strategic Plan for FYs 2026–2030, are the Board’s Strategic Goals and Strategic Objectives, followed by the relevant PGs for FY 2027. Both the Strategic Objectives and the PGs reflect the goals of the agency leadership and are outcome oriented. Note, the “Management Goals” (MGs) that were tracked in FY 2025 are no longer required and are not included for FY 2027.

STRATEGIC GOAL #1: *The Board will perform timely, independent evaluations of key DOE activities to manage and dispose of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.*

Strategic Objective 1-1: Maintain awareness of DOE activities.

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 1-1-A: Conduct periodic staff-to-staff meetings with relevant DOE staff to obtain updated status and plans for the nuclear waste management program (quarterly meetings preferred) and disseminate information within seven calendar days.

PG 1-1-B: When planned by DOE, attend DOE’s annual multi-day program review meetings and disseminate information within thirty calendar days.

PG 1-1-C: When planned by DOE, attend the multi-day Spent Nuclear Fuel Working Group Meetings and disseminate information within thirty calendar days.

Strategic Objective 1-2: Prioritize DOE activities for Board evaluations

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 1-2-A: During the period of January 1 – May 15, conduct an internal strategic planning meeting with Board members and professional staff to review the scope of ongoing DOE activities and to set priorities for Board evaluations of DOE activities for the next 1-2 years. This effort will also inform the agency’s next Annual Performance Plan (typically due in the Fall).

PG 1-2-B: By the end of the meeting planned per PG 1-2-A above, produce an internal listing of the top priority DOE activities for the Board to review during the next 1-2 years.

Strategic Objective 1-3: *Conduct timely evaluations of DOE activities.*

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 1-3-A: Consistent with the priorities identified in PG 1-2-A above, conduct at least one public meeting that facilitates the Board’s evaluation of DOE activities.

PG 1-3-B: Complete a Board evaluation and publish the first Board report in a decade on DOE’s management of spent nuclear fuel at the Idaho National Laboratory.

STRATEGIC GOAL #2: *The Board will maintain awareness of lessons learned from nuclear waste management activities in the U.S. and other countries.*

Strategic Objective 2-1: *Maintain awareness of U.S. nuclear industry activities that may affect DOE’s nuclear waste management program.*

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 2-1-A: Attend at least four U.S. technical meetings, seminars, or conferences related to the management and plans for disposal of spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste, take notes, and disseminate information within thirty calendar days. Attendance is to be approved by the Board Chair and Executive Director.

PG 2-1-B: Attend at least one national standards development meeting, such as the ASTM C26.13 Spent Fuel and High-Level Waste Subcommittee Meeting, take notes, and disseminate information within thirty calendar days. Attendance is to be approved by the Board Chair and Executive Director.

Strategic Objective 2-2: *Maintain awareness of experiences and lessons learned in other countries during site selection processes for nuclear waste repositories.*

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 2-2-A: Conduct at least one technical exchange with representatives from the United Kingdom regarding the deep geologic repository site selection process in the United Kingdom, take notes, and disseminate information within thirty calendar days.

PG 2-2-B: Conduct at least one technical exchange with representatives from Japan regarding the deep geologic repository site selection process in Japan, take notes, and disseminate information within thirty calendar days.

Strategic Objective 2-3: *Maintain awareness of lessons learned in other countries during licensing, construction, and commencing operations at nuclear waste repositories.*

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 2-3-A: Conduct at least one technical exchange with representatives from Switzerland regarding the licensing process for the Swiss deep geologic repository, take notes, and disseminate information with thirty calendar days.

PG 2-3-B: Attend at least one International Atomic Energy Agency-sponsored meeting related to nuclear waste management, take notes, and disseminate information within thirty calendar days.

PG 2-3-C: Attend at least one meeting of the Nuclear Energy Agency, including the Integration Group for the Safety Case, take notes, and disseminate information within thirty calendar days.

STRATEGIC GOAL #3: *The Board will effectively communicate Board findings, conclusions, and recommendations.*

Strategic Objective 3-1: *Produce well-targeted review products (letters, reports, etc.) in a timely manner.*

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 3-1-A: After each Board public meeting conducted per PG 1-3-A, publish the associated Board letter within 60 calendar days.

PG 3-1-B: Following the Board evaluation noted in PG 1-3-B, publish the associated Board report by September 30, 2027.

PG 3-1-C: Develop and publish to the NWTRB website at least one update to the Board's interactive "Table of Repository Programs" by September 30, 2027.

Strategic Objective 3-2: *Maintain awareness of evolving communication channels and adjust Board's communications accordingly.*

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 3-2-A: The Director of External Affairs will monitor nuclear industry press and social media and, by September 30, 2027, provide recommendations to the Executive Director for updating and improving the Board's public communications.

Strategic Objective 3-3: *Broadly disseminate Board findings, conclusions, and recommendations.*

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 3-3-A: For each Board letter and Board report produced pursuant to PG 1-3-A and PG 1-3-B, present Board findings, conclusions, and recommendations to representatives of DOE no later than seven calendar days after publication on the Board's website.

PG 3-3-B: When requested by Congressional members or Congressional staff, brief the requestor(s) on recent Board findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

PG 3-3-C: Following final Board approval of a Board letter or Board report, publish the letter or report on the Board's website within three business days of approval.

Strategic Objective 3-4: *Establish and maintain relationships with government officials and other stakeholders.*

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 3-4-A: Within 10 business days of the end of each Board public meeting conducted per PG 1-3-A, collect and post to the Board's website all public comments submitted for the record.

PG 3-4-B: Maintain a detailed list of government officials and other stakeholders and update the list quarterly.

STRATEGIC GOAL #4: *The Board will ensure continuing efficient and effective support of the Board's mission.*

Strategic Objective 4-1: *Develop and maintain an outstanding and interdisciplinary staff (engaged, up-to-date, adaptable leaders, or leaders in the making).*

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 4-1-A: For each new professional staff position to be filled, the Executive Director will receive direction from the Chair, with input from the other Board members, regarding the functional area or discipline to prioritize during the hiring process and ensuring that expertise with artificial intelligence is addressed regardless of the functional area or discipline.

PG 4-1-B: For each new employee hired (if any), arrange and complete at least one job-related training session within nine months of the employee's start date, including one that advances their efficiency, for example through the application of artificial intelligence.

PG 4-1-C: For each professional staff member, identify and complete at least one technical training session or one professional society meeting/seminar (or similar) to enhance professional/technical knowledge and connections including one that advances their efficiency through the application of artificial intelligence.

Strategic Objective 4-2: *Foster a culture of excellence and teamwork.*

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 4-2-A: Complete one team training session in an area that enhances efficiency, communications, or teamwork (e.g., exploring new AI tools to improve work productivity).

PG 4-2-B: When appropriate, the Executive Director or Director of Administration will recognize outstanding individual work performance, including considering how efficiency has improved, via a special act or service award.

Strategic Objective 4-3: *Ensure up-to-date management and IT infrastructure and processes*

PERFORMANCE GOALS FOR FY 2027

PG 4-3-A: Consistent with guidance from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and other government directives, make hardware and software upgrades to the agency's IT systems on or before published deadlines.

BOARD ATTRIBUTES, ACTIVITIES, AND PRACTICES SUPPORTING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE GOALS. The following attributes, activities, and practices support the implementation of the Board's ongoing peer review and reflect the Board's commitment to its core values of objectivity, openness, technical and scientific rigor, and timeliness.

AUTHORITY UNDER THE LAW. The Board has the necessary authority, under the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 [Public Law 100-203] to achieve its Strategic Objectives and PGs.

CULTURE OF ACCOUNTABILITY. Analyses of DOE’s technical and scientific work are performed by Board members who are appointed by the President from a list of nominees submitted by the National Academy of Sciences. The Board members are eminent experts in their fields and serve part-time. They are supported by a small, full-time professional staff whose members are highly credentialed in the relevant scientific and technical disciplines. The Board reports its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Energy. The Chair, other Board members, and professional staff testify before Congress, as requested. Board reports, testimony, and correspondence, along with meeting agendas, transcripts, presentations, webcasts, and public comments, are posted on the Board’s website at www.nwtrb.gov.

EFFECTIVE USE OF ANALYTICAL RESOURCES. Board members and the Board’s professional staff are assigned by the Chair to lead or support Board activities, as appropriate. The Board maintains the option of organizing panels and working groups to help facilitate, integrate, and focus its technical and scientific review, and for other purposes. The Board is authorized by its enabling legislation to hire expert consultants to support in-depth reviews of specific technical topics.

TRANSPARENCY. To support its peer review and information gathering activities, the Board holds public meetings at which technical information is presented by representatives of DOE, its contractors, and other organizations involved in nuclear waste management and disposal. At these meetings, Board members and professional staff question presenters, and time is provided for input and comments from interested members of the public. The Board typically holds two or three public meetings per year and announces them on its website and in the *Federal Register* four to six weeks before the meetings are held. The Board continues its goals of transparency of deliberations by webcasting its public meetings and archiving them on the Board’s website. In order to continue its review of DOE’s activities as effectively as possible, the Board will continue to host its public meetings in the hybrid format (virtual and in-person), unless the virtual option is in the best interest of participant safety and cost savings. The Board also continues to improve its customer experience by ensuring that its electronic reports and other digital products meet the Section 508 requirements of the *Rehabilitation Act*, as amended.

FEDERAL MISSION RESILIENCE (FMR) STRATEGY. The Board has an established continuity of operations plan that implements a proactive posture to minimize disruption in executing the Board’s mission. Furthermore, the Board’s succession plan enables leadership to ensure the essential functions of the Board continue to be carried out as required in its enabling legislation.

EVALUATION OF BOARD PERFORMANCE IN FY 2025

The Board uses annual evaluations of its performance as input in updating its PGs for the current year and identifying PGs for the subsequent year. The PGs reflect the objectives of the agency leadership and are outcome oriented. The annual evaluations of the Board’s performance are also used as input to the development of the Board’s annual budget request.

BOARD PERFORMANCE IN FY 2025 – PERFORMANCE GOALS. The PGs, which are the subject of this evaluation, were listed in the Board’s Performance Plan for FY 2025, contained in the Board’s FY2025 Budget Request. In the following evaluation, the Strategic Objectives for FYs 2022 through 2026, on which the PGs are based, are stated followed by a table displaying the associated PGs and the activities undertaken by the Board to accomplish the PGs in FY 2025.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #1: *The Board will continue its evaluation of DOE activities related to implementation of the NWPA and relevant amendments to that Act. Based on its evaluation, the Board will report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Congress and the Secretary.*

FY 2024 – 2025 PERFORMANCE GOALS	BOARD ACTIVITIES
<p>PG 1-A: In FY 2024, the Board will hold a public meeting on DOE’s generic disposal studies focused on spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste disposal in crystalline host rock and related topics.</p>	<p>The Board held a public meeting on May 21-22, 2024, on DOE’s generic disposal studies focused on spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste disposal in crystalline host rock and related topics: May 21-22, 2024 Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Following the meeting, the Board issued a letter to DOE, providing its findings and recommendations: May 22, 2025 Board letter
<p>PG 1-B: In FY 2024 through 2025, the Board plans to dedicate portions of at least two public meetings to continue its evaluation of DOE activities to develop a consent-based siting approach for a federal interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel.</p>	<p>The Board held a public meeting on August 29, 2024, that included topics from DOE’s Office of Spent Fuel and High-Level Waste Disposition and the consent-based siting approach for a federal interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel: August 29, 2024 Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Following the meeting, the Board issued a letter to DOE, providing its conclusions and observations: June 9, 2025 Board letter. <p>A second public meeting, originally planned for August 2025, was postponed to FY 2026, after DOE representatives notified the Board that they were not prepared to support the meeting: November 13, 2025 Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Board plans to submit a letter to DOE to provide its feedback in FY 2026.

<p>PG 1-C: In FY 2024 through 2025, the Board will continue to review the technical issues DOE will need to address before it can begin the implementation of an integrated program for the nationwide transport of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.</p>	<p>The Board continued its review in this area, conducting monthly staff-staff meetings with DOE-NE staff and requesting and reviewing associated DOE documents.</p> <p>The Board also attended the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum, May 19–22, 2025, where DOE presented several updates on its plans to transport spent nuclear fuel.</p> <p>However, in 2025, DOE reprioritized its program and halted much of the DOE/national laboratory work in this area.</p>
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #2: *The Board will develop objective technical and scientific information that will be useful to policy makers in Congress and the Administration on issues related to spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste management and disposal. The Board will communicate such information to Congress and the Secretary in letters, reports, and testimony.*

FY 2024 – 2025 PERFORMANCE GOALS	BOARD ACTIVITIES
<p>PG 2-A: In FY 2024, the Board will report on the system-wide implications of using large canisters for the dry storage of spent nuclear fuel, with a focus on the potential for direct disposal of those canisters.</p>	<p>In February 2024, the Board issued a report on the system-wide implications of using large canisters for the dry storage of spent nuclear fuel and on DOE R&D efforts regarding the direct disposal of spent nuclear fuel in large canisters: February 2024 Board Report.</p>
<p>PG 2-B: In FY 2024, the Board will hold a public meeting on the DOE activities related to packaging, drying, and dry storage of DOE-managed spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.</p>	<p>The Board held a public meeting on August 29, 2024, on the DOE activities related to packaging, drying, and dry storage of DOE-managed spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste: August 29, 2024 Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Following the meeting, the Board issued a letter to DOE-EM, providing its conclusions and observations: August 7, 2025 Board letter
<p>PG 2-C: In FYs 2024 through 2025, the Board plans to evaluate DOE research and development on the integrity of spent nuclear fuel canisters during storage and transportation, including research related</p>	<p>In FY 2025, the Board continued to collect information and evaluate DOE activities in this area. During October 21-24, 2024, the Board attended a meeting of the Electric Power Research Institute Extended Storage Collaboration Program where details of DOE-</p>

<p>to the consequences of a potential canister breach.</p>	<p>sponsored R&D on the potential for corrosion in spent nuclear fuel canisters were presented.</p> <p>Later in FY 2025, DOE reprioritized its R&D activities, shifting funding away from research on spent nuclear fuel canister integrity.</p>
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #3: *The Board will compile information and report to Congress and the Secretary on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations from experience gained during 35 years of reviewing the U.S. nuclear waste management and disposal program and from observing waste management efforts in other countries.*

FY 2024 – 2025 PERFORMANCE GOALS	BOARD ACTIVITIES
<p><u>PG 3-A:</u> In FY 2024 through 2025, the Board will continue its efforts to identify recent siting lessons-learned, such as those from Canada and Switzerland, which could be applicable to DOE’s effort to use a consent-based siting approach for a federal interim storage facility.</p>	<p>As a follow-up to a technical exchange with Canadian representatives during FY 2024 (prior to their site selection), and after Canada selected its site in FY 2025, the Board met with the Canadian implementer and representatives of the selected site and gained valuable insights into their success.</p> <p>During October 7-10, 2024, the Chair of the Board attended the Probabilistic Safety Assessment and Management (PSAM 17) meeting in Sendai, Japan, and made several connections with senior personnel. Among the connections is the President of Japan’s Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NUMO), the agency responsible for planning and siting a nuclear waste repository in Japan.</p>
<p><u>PG 3-B:</u> In FY 2024 through 2025, the Board will continue its technical information exchange activities with countries such as France, Sweden, and Finland, where sites for deep geologic repositories for spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste are being selected, licensed, or constructed.</p>	<p>During October 8-10, 2024, at the Integration Group for the Safety Case Symposium 2024, which focused on experiences during site selection, licensing and construction, Board staff conducted information exchanges with representatives of the French, Swedish, Swiss, and Finnish implementers. Subsequently, on November 20, 2024, the Board met in person with a senior scientist from Finland’s Posiva Oy, the Finnish implementer of that country’s deep geologic repository. The Board learned valuable information regarding engineering challenges</p>

	during the construction and plans for operation of a repository.
PG 3-C: In FYs 2024 through 2025, the Board will continue to monitor activities in other countries related to disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. International disposal program information will be made available on the Board’s website as a resource for Congress and the public.	The Board continued to monitor the progress of repository programs in other countries and, in March 2025, published an update to its online, interactive table of repository programs: Table of Repository Programs

BOARD PERFORMANCE IN FY 2025 – MANAGEMENT GOALS. To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Board activities supporting its Strategic Objectives and PGs, the Board identified the following MGs for FYs 2024 through 2025:

FY 2024-2025 MANAGEMENT GOALS	BOARD ACTIVITIES
MG-1: The Board will continue to implement actions to optimize organizational efficiency and accountability and maximize employee performance.	In FY 2025, the Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ proactively evaluated its performance to identify opportunities for improvement; ➤ focused on where needs were greatest to ensure efficient operations; and ➤ evaluated how to achieve the best results.
MG-2: The Board will identify any potential constraints on the agency’s ability to perform its mission and implement the changes that may be necessary for mitigating such constraints through proactive management and allocation of resources.	In FY 2025, the Board assessed operational constraints that may affect its ability to achieve its mission and focused attention and resources on addressing and mitigating the constraints.
MG-3: The Board will continue to maintain effective communication among its geographically dispersed Board members. The Board will also facilitate communication between Board members and the professional staff members who support the Board’s technical and	In FY 2025, the Board continued to use an electronic drop box to facilitate Board member access to source materials, information write-ups by professional staff, and draft Board documents. The staff continued to provide monthly

<p>scientific review of DOE activities from the Board offices located in Arlington, Virginia.</p>	<p>reports and schedule monthly video teleconferences for Board members.</p>
<p>MG-4: The Board will continue webcasting its meetings and making available archived recordings of the webcasts on its website. Furthermore, the Board will continue to utilize its office resources located in Arlington, Virginia, to foster collaboration with internal and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>The Board held two hybrid public meetings in FY 2024 and, in line with its past practices, archived the meetings on the Board’s website at www.nwtrb.gov. A Board public meeting planned for FY 2025 was rescheduled into FY 2026 at the request of DOE personnel, who were unable to participate in the 2025 meeting.</p>
<p>MG-5: The Board will continue to conduct its ongoing reviews in the most cost-effective means possible. The Board will use videoconferencing to hold its meetings in a hybrid format (virtual and in person), to the extent this can be done without reducing the effectiveness of the meetings concerned.</p>	<p>The Board continues to plan and conduct its public meetings in a hybrid manner and to conduct internal meetings via videoconferencing, when appropriate and when most cost-effective.</p>
<p>MG-6: The Board will take action to pass on institutional memory and expertise to succeeding Board members and staff. When appropriate, the Board may also provide opportunities for one or more undergraduates or graduate students in disciplines related to the Board’s activities to support the Board’s technical staff in performing information research and technical analysis.</p>	<p>The Board held an orientation meeting in October 2024 to exchange institutional knowledge and expertise with the new Board members appointed in September 2024. In September 2025, senior Board staff provided a knowledge management seminar to all professional staff, passing on valuable institutional knowledge.</p>
<p>MG-7: The Board will update its technical resources and capabilities, as necessary, to maintain and improve the core competencies of its professional staff. The Board will identify, recruit when necessary, and retain highly qualified professionals with the expertise and related knowledge needed to support the work of the Board members and to help the Board achieve its Strategic Objectives and PGs.</p>	<p>In FY 2025, the Board continued to increase the efficiency of its technological resources and capabilities. Key IT systems and programs are continuously updated to take advantage of technological advances. The Board will maximize the use of electronic resources to reduce its reliance on a physical library system.</p>

<p>MG-8: The Board will develop and support innovation and collaboration to foster staff engagement and morale while also promoting diversity and inclusion.</p>	<p>In FY 2025, the full-time staff completed six online AI seminars: the OPM “Gov2Gov Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals” seminar; and five seminars from the GSA-sponsored “2024 AI Training Series.”</p> <p>In January 2025, at the direction of White House and OPM, the Board confirmed that no activities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion were continuing.</p>
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