



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

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*For Immediate Release*

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*External Affairs*

## **U.S. NWTRB Adds Speakers and Starts Its Public Meeting on U.S. DOE Repository R&D Program Earlier**

The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) will hold a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, and Thursday, December 3, 2020, to review information on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) non-site-specific geologic disposal research and development (R&D) program. The Board is an independent federal agency established by Congress to conduct ongoing technical and scientific evaluation of activities undertaken by DOE to manage and dispose of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW).

Details for viewing and participating in the meeting, and the detailed meeting agenda, are now available under Latest News, on the Board's website ([www.nwtrb.gov](http://www.nwtrb.gov)). Meeting presentations for each day will be available the day of the meeting under Latest News, on the Board's website.

The meeting will now begin earlier on both days, starting at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) and is scheduled to adjourn at around 5:00 p.m. EST. Speakers representing the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy and the speakers from national laboratories conducting the work for DOE will report on DOE's non-site-specific disposal R&D program. Speakers will describe DOE's program; including its purpose, scope, goals, technical approach, and prioritization of activities. Three presentations will address the reference disposal concepts and R&D activities for a repository sited in crystalline, salt, and argillite rock. Additional speakers from Switzerland and the United Kingdom will describe geologic disposal research strategies from abroad. Next, speakers from the national laboratories will present DOE's R&D activities, and their prioritization, in other program areas that address multiple disposal concepts. These speakers will address the disposal of dual-purpose canisters, geologic disposal safety assessment, engineered barrier systems, the HotBENT experiment, and will describe an unsaturated alluvium reference case. The last presentation will address prioritization of international activities and DOE's 5-year plan for disposal research.

The meeting will be open to the public, and opportunities for public comment will be provided at the end of each day of the meeting. Once you have joined the meeting, you will be able to submit written comments using the “Comment for the Record” section. Comments we receive before the end of each day’s last break period will be read online by a Board staff member in the order they are received. Time for each comment may be limited depending on the number of comments we receive, but the entirety of the submitted comments will be included as part of the meeting record. Written comments of any length may be submitted to the Board staff by mail or electronic mail. All comments received in writing will be included in the meeting record, which will be posted on the Board’s website after the meeting. An archived recording of the meeting will be available on the Board’s website following the meeting. The transcript of the meeting will be available on the Board’s website by February 3, 2021.

The Board was established in the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987 as an independent federal agency in the Executive Branch to evaluate the technical and scientific validity of DOE activities related to the management and disposal of SNF and HLW and to provide objective expert advice to Congress and the Secretary of Energy on these issues. Board members are experts in their fields and are appointed to the Board by the President from a list of candidates submitted by the National Academy of Sciences. The Board reports its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Energy. All Board reports, correspondence, congressional testimony, and meeting transcripts and related materials are posted on the Board’s website.

For information on the meeting agenda, contact Bret Leslie at [leslie@nwtrb.gov](mailto:leslie@nwtrb.gov) or by phone 703-235-9132; or Jo Jo Lee at [lee@nwtrb.gov](mailto:lee@nwtrb.gov) or by phone 703-235-4485. For information on logistics, or to request copies of the meeting agenda or transcript, contact Davonya Barnes at [barnes@nwtrb.gov](mailto:barnes@nwtrb.gov) or by phone 703-235-9141. All three may be reached by mail at 2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1300, Arlington, VA 22201-3367; or by fax at 703-235-4495.

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