



**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 to Hold Public Meeting on U.S. DOE R&D Activities
Related to the Geologic Disposal Safety Assessment Framework**

The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) will hold a virtual public meeting on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, and Thursday, November 4, 2021, to review information on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) research and development activities related to the geologic disposal safety assessment framework. 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 joining and viewing the meeting will be available on the Board's website (www.nwtrb.gov) approximately one week before the meeting.

The meeting will begin on both days at 12:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and is scheduled to adjourn at approximately 5:00 p.m. EDT. On the first day, the initial speaker, from the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy, will provide an update on DOE's Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition Program. The remaining speakers representing the national laboratories conducting the work for DOE will report on DOE's activities to support the development of a capability to model the post-closure performance of a repository for SNF and HLW. Speakers will describe DOE's program including its objectives, research thrusts, and recent accomplishments. They will describe advanced simulation capabilities, including the Geologic Disposal Safety Assessment (GDSA) Framework and PFLOTRAN, as well as examples of how features and processes are integrated into the GDSA Framework.

On the second day, a final example of how features and processes are integrated into the GDSA Framework will be described by a speaker from the national laboratories. Speakers from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the United Kingdom's Radioactive Waste Management organization will present their perspectives on development of a performance assessment capability to model the post-closure performance of a repository. Speakers from the national laboratories will present work on the development of uncertainty and sensitivity

analysis tools for GDSA Framework and the implementation of GDSA Framework to generic repository reference cases for bedded salt, shale, and crystalline host rocks. They will present a case study in integrating insight and experience from the international community in GDSA. A detailed meeting agenda will be available on the Board's website at www.nwtrb.gov approximately one week before the meeting.

The meeting will be open to the public and there will be opportunities for public comments. Public comments can be submitted during the meeting via the online meeting viewing platform, using the "Comment for the Record" form. Comments submitted during each day of the meeting will be read into the record by Board staff during the public comment period just prior to adjournment. A time limit on comments may be set. However, 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, and a transcript of the meeting will be available on the website by January 3, 2022.

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 or by phone 703-235-9132; or Roberto Pabalan at pabalan@nwtrb.gov or by phone 703-235-4486. For information on logistics, or to request copies of the meeting agenda or transcript, contact Davonya Barnes at 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.
