



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

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For Immediate Release*

*Bret W. Leslie  
External Affairs*

## **U.S. NWTRB to Hold International Workshop on Siting of Radioactive Waste Facilities**

The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (Board) will hold a workshop on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, to update its understanding of the lessons learned from the siting of radioactive waste management facilities, domestically and in other countries. The Board's objectives for the workshop are to obtain information that may be applicable to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) efforts to develop one or more federal interim storage facilities for commercial spent nuclear fuel, using a consent-based siting process and to enhance the Board's evaluation of the scientific and technical validity of DOE's activities.

The workshop will be held in conjunction with the Board's Summer Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, August 30, 2023. The Board will issue a separate press release on that public meeting.

The hybrid (in-person/virtual) workshop will begin at 8:00 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time (MDT) and is scheduled to adjourn at approximately 5:00 p.m. MDT. The Board workshop will be held at Snake River Event Center, 780 Lindsay Blvd, Idaho Falls, ID 83402, which is located at the Shilo Inns Idaho Falls. The event center telephone number is (208) 497-0611 and the hotel telephone number is (208) 523-0088. Details for joining and viewing the workshop will be available on the Board's website approximately one week before the workshop.

The workshop will include introductory comments by the Board and DOE. Planned presentations include descriptions of the siting experiences regarding geologic repositories and a monitored retrievable storage facility in the United States and geologic repositories in Canada, Switzerland, and Sweden. These presentations will be followed by a facilitated panel discussion. DOE will describe how it is incorporating best practices and lessons learned from international and domestic siting efforts, and from environmental justice efforts in its consent-based siting activities. The workshop will close with a facilitated panel discussion on all the workshop topics. After the workshop is adjourned there will be an open house to enable discussions among all participants and attendees.

A detailed workshop agenda will be available on the Board's website at [www.nwtrb.gov](http://www.nwtrb.gov) approximately one week before the workshop. Workshop presentations and an acronym list will be available on the Board's website the day before the workshop. The workshop will be open to the public and there will be an opportunity for public comment prior to workshop adjournment. Those attending the workshop in person and wanting to provide oral comments are encouraged to sign in at the Public Comment Register at the check-in table. Oral commenters will be taken in the order in which they signed in. Depending on the number of speakers, a time limit on individual remarks may be set. Attendees also are encouraged to pre-register, by providing your name and affiliation to [SitingWorkshop@nwtrb.gov](mailto:SitingWorkshop@nwtrb.gov), to reduce their time for signing in at the check-in table.

Public comments can also be submitted during the workshop via the online workshop viewing platform, using the "Comment for the Record" form. Comments submitted online during the day of the workshop will be posted to the Board's website the following day. 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 workshop record, which will be posted on the Board's website after the workshop. An archived recording of the workshop will be available on the Board's website following the workshop, and a transcript of the workshop will be available on the website by October 30, 2023.

The Board was established in the 1987 amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) as an independent federal agency in the Executive branch to perform an ongoing objective evaluation of the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by the DOE related to implementing the NWPA. 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 is required to report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Energy. Board reports, correspondence, congressional testimony, and meeting transcripts and related materials are posted on the Board's website.

For information on the workshop, contact Bret Leslie at [leslie@nwtrb.gov](mailto:leslie@nwtrb.gov) or by phone 703-235-9132; or Yoonjo Lee at [lee@nwtrb.gov](mailto:lee@nwtrb.gov) or by phone 703-235-4482. For information on meeting logistics, 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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