

January 12, 2022

AGENCY EQUITY ACTION PLAN SUBMITTED TO DPC AND OMB

(1) Executive summary

- Agency name and mission: U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB or Board)

The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board was established as an independent federal agency in the 1987 amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) 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.”

In fulfilling its mission, the Board conducts objective, ongoing, and integrated technical and scientific peer review of Department of Energy (DOE) activities related to the management and disposition of commercial and DOE-managed spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The Board reports its conclusions, findings, and recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Energy.

- Summary of Action Plan

NWTRB provides technical expertise and does not administer any programs, benefits, or services. The Board maintains a policy of openness and transparency and works to improve outreach. The Board offers several avenues for communicating with the public and for receiving feedback and input on its activities. The Board conducts periodic public meetings that can be joined virtually and provides advance notice of its public meetings by issuing press releases and by noticing the meetings in the Federal Register. During the Board’s public meetings, all members of the public are invited to provide comments, and all who chose to provide comments are given consistently fair, just, and impartial treatment. The public comment feature of the Board’s public meeting virtual platform is displayed in a prominent manner. Public comments received during the public meeting are recorded and made part of the meeting record.

(2) Summary of early accomplishments

- Please highlight any equity-related achievements or successes (e.g., innovative stakeholder engagement, notable changes in policies or operations, new partnerships, etc.) since E.O. 13985 was released on January 20, 2021.

Since NWTRB does not administer government benefits or service programs, deliver services to communities, or administer policies and programs, it focuses on its strength of providing

independent expert advice to DOE and the Congress on technical issues and reviewing the technical and scientific validity of activities undertaken by DOE to implement the NWPA.

In accordance with its practice of openness and transparency, NWTRB continues to improve outreach in providing information to the public. During December 2021 and January 2022, NWTRB reached out to Tribal representatives and included additional Tribal contacts in the Board's email distribution list.

(3) Equity action plan

NWTRB is a micro agency consisting of 11 full-time staff and six part-time Board members (11 members when at full strength). NWTRB provides technical expertise and does not administer any programs, benefits, or services and has no offices responsible for advancing civil rights pursuant to Section 5(d) of E.O. 13985. With regard to Section 7(a) of E.O. 13985, NWTRB has a dedicated financial manager who is supported by services provided through a third party (General Services Administration). NWTRB's minimal procurement opportunities are conducted through the GSA Multiple Award Schedule and focus on small businesses, including disadvantaged, women-owned, HubZone, veteran-owned, and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, whenever possible. NWTRB intends to continue operating in this manner.