

WM Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Criteria and Information



WM Lifetime Achievement Award – WM2026 Deadline October 31, 2025

For those at the pinnacle of their careers—a multi-decade body of work whose breadth and depth have permanently transformed the field.

The WM Symposia Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes an individual whose long-term dedication, spanning at least thirty-five years of service, has left a legacy of technical achievements in nuclear waste management and related activities through education, research, public policy, or practical implementation. Since its inception at WM2001, this award honors those whose careers have shaped the very fabric of nuclear waste management and related activities through education, research, public policy, or practical implementation.

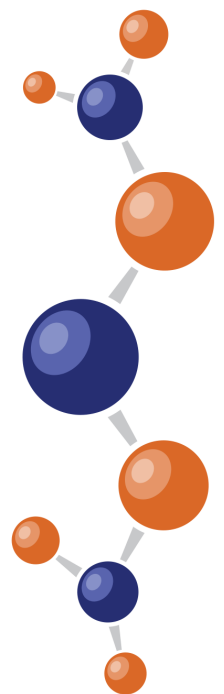
To be eligible, candidates must demonstrate an unbroken, sustained commitment to advancing nuclear waste management. Within the past decade, each nominee should have participated at multiple WM Symposia conferences or actively promoted WM Symposia within their organization and among peers, confirming ongoing engagement with the community. Over the course of their career, successful nominees will have provided generational stewardship, thought leadership and led multiple complex technical initiatives or research programs that produced measurable improvements—such as leading key investigations and reports, developing new technologies, designing landmark infrastructure, or introducing innovative processes.

Nominees should also have at least ten years of leadership in positions of significant responsibility, during which they guided organizations, influenced organizational culture, and mentored emerging professionals to cultivate the next generation of experts. While formal titles are not required, a doctoral degree or equivalent qualifications are advantageous. Evidence of foundational technical impact- published work or patented innovations will further strengthen the application by demonstrating industry recognition. Integrity and professionalism must have been maintained throughout the nominee's career.

The nomination package must include a concise statement of impact—explaining how the candidate's career has shaped the field—up to three key publications or reports, and letters of recommendation from respected peers or community leaders.

Nominations for Candidates:

Candidates may be nominated directly by any individual by submission of a nomination package to the WM website.



The nomination must be received by October 31st of the year prior to the award. The nomination shall be sent to the award review committee and specifically the chairperson of the committee who will keep the record. This duty may be assigned to WM staff.

Candidates nominated for the award will remain active candidates in the system for a rolling three-year period. If not selected within that period, the candidate's name will be removed from consideration. If the person is nominated again or nominated by a different person, the three-year rolling period will remain in effect from the latest date of nomination.

Selection and Appointment:

The nomination and selection committee will be the appointed WM Award Committee. The committee will meet virtually or in person at least three times per year to review candidates once in November after receiving nominations, once in December/ January prior to the print deadlines for the WM conference, and once at the WM conference in February/March.

The process for selection will include the individual nomination committee member review of all candidates' nomination packages, followed by a full nomination committee review, discussion and decision on awardee.

Evaluations are by individuals rank scoring against the criteria, and any ties are resolved by the committee. A committee member may recuse themselves if they believe a conflict arises; at which time a replacement member will be appointed by the WM Award Committee Chairman or the WM President.

Award and Renumeration:

- **Scholarship:**

\$5,000 paid in the awardee's name for the year of award to the Post Foundation. The awardee will be consulted on the recipient of the \$5,000 **Scholarship**. Alternatively, the awardee may opt to award a \$5,000 scholarship to an academic college or university institution of his/her choice.

- **Honorarium:**

\$2,500 paid directly to the awardee (no restrictions).

- **Airfare:**

- Domestic US travel: up to \$1,500 round trip.
- Overseas travel: up to \$2,500 round trip.

- **Hotel (2 nights):**

Two nights (Sunday & Monday) at the WM Symposia host-city rate

- **Technical Registration (1 day):**
Covers one-day presenter/attendee technical registration fee.
- **Miscellaneous (parking, meals, local transit):**
\$200 flat allowance.
- **Guest Plenary and Monday Luncheon Ticket:**
Provided at no additional cost (covered by WM Symposia).

Presentation and Recognition:

The award will be given during the WM Symposia conference or as directed by WM Symposia leadership. It will include the presentation of the scholarship award, a congratulatory speech by WM leadership, an acceptance speech by the awardee, and a photo or video opportunity to be posted on the WM website and recognized by WM Symposia.

Please submit your nomination [online](#).