

State News for NSPE Members

Government Coal Mandate Hits Free-Market Hurdle

A legislative effort to prop up the coal industry is hitting free-market headwinds, according to the [Gillette News Record](#).

The 2020 measure mandated that utilities looking to close coal-fired power plants first try to retrofit the facilities with carbon capture technology. Black Hills Energy, however, announced last week that it is struggling to find bidders to take on the work at two of its facilities.

None of the eight companies solicited to bid on the installation and operation of amine-solution CO2 scrubbing facilities at the Neil Simpson II and Wygen II coal-power plants outside Gillette responded with proposals, according to Black Hills Energy's interim report ordered by the Wyoming Public Service Commission.

Black Hills did receive proposals from two companies specializing in cryogenic CO2 capture systems. Those, however, are still under review. [Read more](#).

Cheyenne Agency Looks to Reduce Certain Water Use

Cheyenne may make voluntary cuts to its municipal water use and be paid per acre-foot of water saved, as many across the West continue to face historic drought.

The city of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities will seek to save 1,500 acre-feet of water historically drawn from the Little Snake River and could be paid about \$150 per acre-foot for any water sent downstream. However, according to BOPU Director Brad Brooks, no shortage for municipal users will actually occur. Through an exchange system, the city would make up those acre-feet from other sources.

"The whole concept of this is to check out ways to reduce the amount of water that is being used that would ultimately go down into the Colorado River system," Brooks stated in an interview with the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#).

The voluntary water usage reduction program is called the System Conservation Pilot Program (SCCP) and is an incentivized program run by the Wyoming State Engineer's Office that would pay water users in the Green River Basin to conserve water, instead allowing that water to flow downstream into the Colorado River and Lower Basin states like Arizona, California and Nevada. The Bureau of Reclamation allotted \$125 million in funding to the Upper Colorado River Basin to be used toward the system conservation program. [Read more.](#)

Wyoming, Federal Government Clash Over EV Infrastructure Placement

The State of Wyoming and the federal government are arguing over where the state should place EV infrastructure, [reports Autobody News](#).

Despite the news in January that Wyoming was considering banning EVs, Wyoming may be far less anti-EV than one would think. According to EnergyWire, the state is staunchly in support of placing EV infrastructure. However, the federal government denied its proposed location for chargers.

The directive set by the Biden Administration was clear---EV chargers should be placed every 50 miles along US interstates, ensuring Americans are never too far from a charger for their vehicle. This sounds like a good idea, but representatives in the Wyoming State Legislature believe it is counterintuitive. [Read more.](#)

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Meet the FEYA Top 10 Finalists

NSPE is pleased to announce the 10 finalists for the [2023 Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#), honoring engineers employed by a federal agency with at least 50 engineers worldwide. All have made extensive contributions to their organizations and also to the public that PEs ultimately serve.

The winner of this year's award will be announced during a ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, on February 24, and will be selected from the following finalists.

- **Stephen Craven, Ph.D., P.E.**, electrical engineer, networks/WAN specialist; Tennessee Valley Authority
- **Steven C. Dunn, Ph.D., P.E.**, electrical engineer; General Services Administration Public Buildings Service

- **Maj. Dustin L. Gooden, P.E., PMP, LSSBB**, chief, strategic basing corporate branch; US Department of the Air Force, Headquarters US Air Force
- **Chad C. Hogan, P.E.**, lead engineer; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Material Command
- **Capt. Jeneé A. Jagoda, P.E., PMP**, engineering flight commander; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Global Strike Command
- **Capt. Christopher C. Jankowski, P.E., PMP, ENV SP**, chief of operations engineering; US Department of the Air Force, Pacific Air Forces
- **Andrew R. Lawrence, P.E.**, salvage engineering response team principal architect; US Department of Homeland Security, US Coast Guard
- **Nicholas Brian Melly, P.E.**, fire protection engineer; US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- **Dr. Brandon L. Toliver, P.E.**, branch chief, basing and beddown; US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Installation & Mission Support
- **Brian R. Wybrecht, P.E.**, civil engineer; US Department of the Army, US Army Europe and Africa



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

FEDERAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR



Stephen
Craven, Ph.D., P.E.



Steven C.
Dunn, Ph.D., P.E.



Major Dustin
Gooden, P.E., PMP,
LSSBB



Chad C.
Hogan, P.E.



Captain Jeneé A.
Jagoda, P.E., PMP



Captain Christopher C.
Jankowski, P.E., PMP,
ENV SP



Andrew R.
Lawrence, P.E.



Nicholas Brian
Melly, P.E.



Dr. Brandon
Toliver, P.E.



Brian R.
Wybrecht, P.E.

Congratulations to the 2023 Top 10 Finalists!

2023 Lineup of 15 Free PDHs Are Available

NSPE membership offers the benefit of access to 15 on-demand webinars. This year's webinars address various topics of interest to professional engineers including ethics, emerging technologies, construction projects, and licensure. Upon successful completion of each webinar quiz (with a passing score of 70% or higher), the quiz taker will receive an attendance certificate with the appropriate credits earned for that session. [Access the free webinars](#).

2022 NSPE Scholarship Winners

The NSPE Education Foundation awarded several scholarships to support talented students pursuing engineering degrees in ABET-accredited programs.

Auxiliary Legacy Scholarship

Leah Griesmer, from Broadview Heights, Ohio, is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

Katelyn King, from Basking Ridge, New Jersey, is studying biomedical engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Maureen L. and Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering

Sebastian Rodriguez, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is attending Carnegie Mellon University to study mechanical engineering.

The George B. Hightower, P.E. Fellowship

Tyler Kleinsasser is a graduate student at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Swadesh and Om P. Popli, P.E., P.L.S. Scholarship

Eli Ordaz is studying civil engineering at Brigham Young University.

Steinman Scholarship

Kathleen Abrams is attending the University of South Carolina, majoring in biomedical engineering.

Michael Chavez is studying electrical engineering, with an emphasis on renewable energy, at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Jake Schneider, of Fort Thomas, Kentucky, is pursuing his degree in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Louisville.

Lindsay Steis, of Ridgway, Pennsylvania, is attending Gannon University, majoring in environmental engineering.

Jonathan Windham, of Sumrall, Mississippi, is pursuing an electrical engineering degree at Mississippi State University.

The 2023 Scholarship Season Opens

The NSPE Education Foundation is [now accepting applications](#) for the 2023 scholarship season through an online submission platform. The application deadline is **April 1**.



EDUCATION FOUNDATION
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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