

State News for NSPE Members

TransWest Poised to Expand Reach of Wyoming Renewables

After 15 years of planning and permitting, construction will begin this year on the TransWest Express high-voltage transmission line, [EnergyCentral reports](#), a milestone expansion of Wyoming's electric power export industry to markets in the American Southwest and one of the largest transmission upgrades to the western grid in decades.

The Bureau of Land Management granted TransWest Express LLC a "notice to proceed" in April, culminating years of work and millions of dollars invested in a "vision" to bring Wyoming's renewable energy potential to the rest of the West, according to company officials. While TransWest Express LLC was mired in planning and a painstaking bureaucratic permitting process that included obtaining rights-of-way from hundreds of entities across the 732-mile route, its affiliate Power Company of Wyoming was already doing preliminary construction work on the wind farm that will energize the line. The Anschutz Corporation owns both companies.

The Chokecherry and Sierra Madre wind energy project will span some 320,000 acres in Carbon County and generate 3,000 megawatts of electricity — representing about 28% of Wyoming's current electrical generation capacity today, according to US Energy Information data. It will be the largest onshore wind energy facility in North America, according to Power Company of Wyoming. [Read more.](#)

Wyoming's EV Infrastructure Plan on Hold Due to 'High Risk' Profile

Wyoming has decided to hold off on implementing its national electric vehicle infrastructure plan after learning more about the details of the program, state lawmakers heard last month, [County10.com reports](#).

"We made the decision to pull back the reins and not do anything at this point until

some clarity happens,” Wyoming Department of Transportation director Darin Westby told the Joint Transportation, Highway and Military Affairs Committee during a meeting in May.

WYDOT had already received approval from the federal government to install seven electric vehicle charging stations along interstate corridors in Wyoming, Westby said, and the agency’s request for proposals from contractors interested in building the charging stations was “ready to go out the door.”

But then WYDOT did “further diligence on the actual (NEVI) agreement” and learned that Wyoming might be “on the hook to pay the federal government back on the construction costs” for the charging stations if the contractor decides to abandon the project after five years, he said.

The problem is compounded by “market research” that shows it would take “almost 20 years” for the charging stations to “pencil out” for a private business, he added. “So ... we are not going to release the RFP at this point,” Westby said. “We pulled back and said, ‘Let’s pause.’” [Read more.](#)

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

Connect with Your Colleagues at #NSPECon23



Register now for NSPECon23 and connect with your colleagues in Louisville, Kentucky, August 2-4. The conference [features multiple education tracks](#) in leadership, trends in the industry, and career development with the opportunity to earn up to 10 PDHs. Also stay tuned for information on engineering-related tours. **Register by June 29 to take advantage of discounted rates.**

Register Now!

Keynote Speakers

Bill Samuels, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of Maker’s Mark

Distillery, will open the NSPECon 23 meeting. Samuels, who helped design both the Gemini and Polaris missiles and became friends with the founding administrator of NASA, will talk about the, “[Trials and Tribulations of a Failed Aerospace Engineer.](#)”



Megan Bendtzen, the CEO and founder of TheDoctorofFun.com, will give a keynote presentation on - [Beyond the Blueprint: Mastering the Most Important Project of Your Life](#) . In this clever and entertaining presentation, Bendtzen will completely shift your perspective, debunking the myth of work-life balance and revealing the single biggest lie surrounding the pursuit of happiness.



Conference Session Highlights

- [Ethical Obligations and Engineering Through a DEI Lens](#)
- [The Engineer's Blueprint: Success Principles for Winning at Work and at Home](#)
- [Lithium: The Race for North American EV Dominance But at What Cost to the Industry?](#)
- [Finding the Funds for Your Infrastructure Project](#)
- [Leaders Leading Leaders](#)
- [We Need YOU to Protect the License!](#)
- [Meeting the Challenges and Needs of The Engineering Workforce](#)
- [Speculative Technology and Exploratory Engineering for Designing the Future](#)

[Access the full conference program.](#)

Sponsor and Exhibitor Opportunities

NSPECon23 offers sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. Access the [Sponsor and Exhibitor Prospectus](#) for

more information.



New Webinar: Racing Towards Excellence

A new webinar will get you ready for NSPECon23 — [Racing Towards Excellence: Enhancing Customer Experience and Improving Safety at Churchill Downs](#) .

Neil Crawford, P.E., an accomplished engineer and project manager at Qk4 Inc., offers insight into the history of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby and its economic impacts on Kentucky. Learn about recent improvement projects to enhance the customer experience and also projects to improve equine/horseman safety and expand the racing operations.

The webinar is FREE for members and offers 1 PDH. [Register and watch now](#) .



ARPL Offers New Advocacy Resources

ARPL has released two new advocacy resources. A video, [Universal Licensing: A Closer Look](#) , (featuring Rebecca Bowman, Senior Director of Ethics and

Professional Practice) and an advocacy document, [The Critical Role of Licensing in Business Success](#) , based on recent research. As a sponsoring member of ARPL, NSPE has access to these resources and others on the [ARPL website](#) .

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