

State News for NSPE Members

Wyoming Legislators Consider 43% Fuel Tax Hike, WYDOT Warns of \$400M Budget Shortfall

Wyoming lawmakers recently lamented a predicament: political dread of raising taxes, and a projected \$400 million annual shortfall for the state's highway department.

The legislative Transportation, Highways and Military Affairs Committee then took a cautious approach to a proposed bill to increase Wyoming's fuel tax from 23 cents per gallon to 33 cents by the summer of 2027. They amended the bill so that the two-part, 10-cent tax hike would not go into full effect until the summer of 2028, instead.

Then they voted to table the bill and debate it again at the committee's Oct. 20 meeting in Cheyenne.

The Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) is facing a \$411 million annual shortfall over the next decade, based on projections from conditions analyzed in 2019, WYDOT Chief Financial Officer Dennis Byrne told the committee.

He believes that the budget shortfall has worsened since the analysis, Byrne added.

"We're going to need more, significant money for a longer amount of time, and if we don't, the obvious conclusion is, we have to start prioritizing within the (agency's) mission what gets done," said Byrne.

A tax hike is a daunting goal in Wyoming, committee members said. [Read more in the Cowboy State Daily.](#)

Utilities Brace for Staggering Power Demands From AI,

Data Centers in Wyoming

A tsunami of demand for artificial intelligence and data computation promises to plant stacks of servers in Wyoming. Those servers will require a volume of electricity that will eclipse the state's power generation capacity and transform the physical and regulatory utility landscape in and outside the state, some familiar with Wyoming's utility industry say.

For example, a joint venture — Cruse and Tallgras — recently announced plans for a computational campus south of Cheyenne requiring 1,800 megawatts of electricity, then “hyperscale” to 10,000 megawatts. That's equal to Wyoming's existing generation capacity, and it's merely the latest in a series of data center proposals targeting the state.

Prometheus Hyperscale is partnering with others to add 1,200 megawatts of electricity for data centers in southwest Wyoming, while Microsoft and Meta are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on power-thirsty data centers around Cheyenne. Local utilities say they field new inquiries weekly.

Opinions vary about whether Wyoming is prepared to meet the demand and how it might impact “legacy” or regular utility customers in the state. [Read more in WyoFile.](#)

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

Texas PE Takes the Lead of NSPE



Julia M. Harrod, P.E., F.NSPE, was installed as NSPE's 2025-2026 president

during a ceremony at NSPECon25 on August 7. With over two decades of leadership and engineering experience, she brings a unique interdisciplinary perspective to the role—combining backgrounds in architecture, civil engineering, and business strategy.

“It’s a tremendous honor to lead NSPE and help advance the mission of fostering licensed professional engineers in service to society,” Harrod said. “We have an opportunity to expand our reach in advancing ethical leadership, innovation, and inclusion in engineering – and that starts with engaging and supporting the next generation of PEs.”

Harrod leads MWM DesignGroup as its president and CEO. The Texas-based firm provides integrated services in architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, land surveying, and permitting. She holds a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master’s degree in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

After earning her PE license in Texas, Harrod quickly emerged as a dedicated leader and passionate advocate for the profession. She began her service with NSPE and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 2001 as a volunteer with the Travis Chapter in Austin. Since then, she has held numerous leadership roles, championing ethical standards and professional excellence across the engineering community.

The 2025-2026 NSPE Board of Directors (BOD) were installed during NSPECon25. [Get acquainted with the members of the BOD](#).

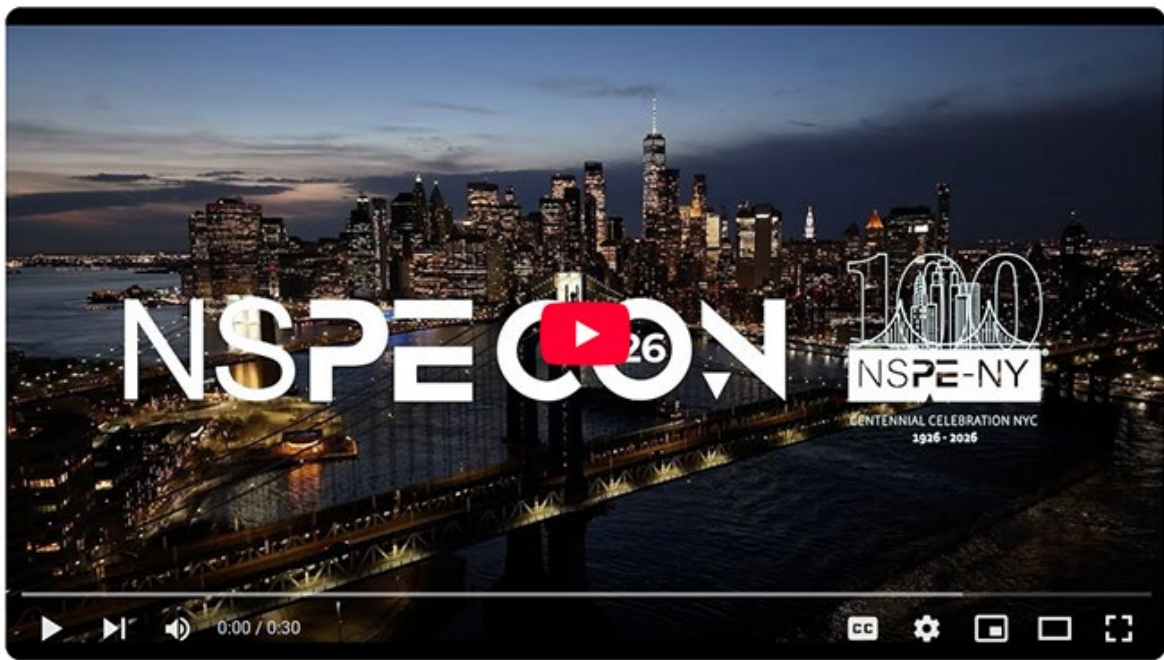


Save the Date: NSPECon26

We enjoyed seeing the NSPE community come together in Kansas City for NSPECon25 to celebrate PE Day, participate in sessions covering timely topics and engage in impactful conversations. Stay tuned for information on how to access photos from the event on the conference website.



Next year will be about bright lights and big opportunities, so add NSPECon26 to your calendar, because we're going to New York City, August 5-7. Help us celebrate NYSSPE's centennial anniversary in The Big Apple.



Thank You to Our NSPECon25 Sponsors

DIAMOND LEVEL SPONSOR



GOLD LEVEL SPONSOR



SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS



BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS



BRASS LEVEL SPONSORS



Registration Open: 2025 Fall WORKability Webinars

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members —“WORKability Wednesdays”— to support members with their professional development goals through [NSPE's PE Institute](#) . The first webinar of the fall season will kick off on September 10 (2:00

p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET). Registration is open for the September webinars. Stay tuned for notifications to register for the additional webinars.



- September 10: [Decarbonizing Concrete: Overcoming Challenges, Unlocking Opportunities](#)
- September 24: [The Case for AI in Forensic Engineering: Enhancing Expert Testimony and Avoiding Obsolescence](#)
- October 8: **Marketing & Sales Best Practices for Engineering Firms**
- October 22: **Board of Ethical Review – Discussion of New Ethics Cases**
- November 5: **Winning More Business: Using Forensic Engineering Expertise as a Competitive Differentiator**
- November 12: **The Ethics of Sustainability in the Water, Food, and Energy Nexus**

You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, [click here to unsubscribe](#).

Share with your network



**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**