

State News for NSPE Members

Next-Gen Nuclear Reactor Coming To Wyoming

Wyoming has had a prominent place in the nuclear news cycle over the past couple weeks. As [reported in Power Engineering](#), a next-generation, small nuclear plant will be built at a soon-to-be retired coal-fired power plant in Wyoming in the next several years. The plant featuring a sodium reactor and molten salt energy storage system will perform better, be safer and cost less than traditional nuclear power, Microsoft cofounder and TerraPower founder and chairman Bill Gates said. Bellevue, Washington-based TerraPower is working with Rocky Mountain Power, an electric utility serving Wyoming and other Western states, to put the Natrium reactor at one of four of the utility's power plants in Wyoming, with the location to be decided later this year.

The [Casper Star Tribune](#) quoted Jacopo Buongiorno, a professor of nuclear science and engineering at MIT: "It is certainly going to be one of the first pioneering groundbreaking projects in small modular reactors."

Along with Berkshire Hathaway Energy subsidiary PacifiCorp and GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy, members of the demonstration project team include engineering and construction partner Bechtel, Energy Northwest, Duke Energy and nearly a dozen additional companies, universities and national laboratory partners, [according to World Nuclear News](#).

Innovation Center Breaks Ground in Gillette

After more than four years of working to secure funding, supporters of the Wyoming Innovation Center have broken ground for the new facility, [reports the Gillette News Record](#). The facility, formerly known as the Advanced Carbon Products Innovation Center, will be located on 9.5 acres at a former mine site north of Gillette. It will allow businesses and researchers to test technologies on a larger scale. Seven pilot pads will range from 24,150 square feet to 42,000 square feet, office and lab space, and a building dedicated to processing materials such as

coal, rare earth minerals, and fly ash.

“I couldn’t overstate how important that is,” said the executive director of the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources. “Technologies go through a valley of death, and one of the hardest points is when they’re at the pilot scale.”

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

Register for the 2021 Virtual PECon

Registration is now open for NSPE’s [Virtual Professional Engineers Conference 2021](#) (August 3–5). The [early bird registration](#) rate deadline is **July 15**.

Attendees will have access to up to 14 unique and insightful PDH sessions (live and on-demand sessions) and will have the opportunity to collaborate with peers and experts from across the country through morning “coffee chats” and Mastermind sessions. In the Mastermind sessions, attendees will address their most pressing professional issues and tap into the knowledge, experience, and advice of their peers and PE experts to help workshop solutions. There will also be virtual engineering facility tours and a celebration of [PE Day](#) (August 4).



PECon at a Glance

- [Bridging the Gap to Leadership: Connecting the Skills You Have with the Skills You Need](#) (Shelley Row, P.E., CSP, Leadership and Decision-Making Expert)
- [Florida International University Bridge Failure, A Study in Ethics](#) (Susan Sprague, P.E., F.NSPE, Senior Associate, and Eric Tappert, P.E., Consultant)
- [AI and the Evolving Role of the “Traditional” Engineer: An Engineer’s Perspective from NASA to Infrastructure and Beyond](#) (Kimberly Johnson, P.E., Founding Principal)
- [Reaching New Heights in Engineering](#) (Alan Mallory, P.E., PMP, Speaker, Author, and Performance Coach)

Registration Options

A **Day Pass** for NSPE members is \$99 until July 15 and \$149 after July 15. The pass provides access to four PDH sessions, networking morning “coffee chat” roundtables of your choice each day, and evening post-session discussions.

The **All Access Pass** for NSPE members is \$249 until July 15 and \$299 after July 15. This pass provides access to 14 PDH sessions, access to daily networking morning “coffee chat” roundtables, and evening post session discussions.

Student members can register for a Day Pass or the All Access Pass for free until July 15. The rate for both passes is \$50 after July 15. Nonmembers can join NSPE for \$299 and receive member pricing.

Women in Engineering Event to Explore Gender and Racial Equity

DiscoverE and the Congressional Women in STEM Caucus will co-host an event on **June 23**, in celebration of [International Women in Engineering Day](#). The event will include a lively panel discussion exploring the factors that attract girls to engineering, why women persist in the field, and the role you can play in achieving gender and racial equity in engineering and technology.

NSPE Government Relations staff coordinated the participation of the Women in STEM Caucus for the event. The Women in STEM Caucus seeks to bring public and congressional awareness to policies, programs, and initiatives that support women in STEM fields, and develops the next generation of women leaders. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), Rep. Debbie Lesko (R-AZ), Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI), and Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-IN) serve as caucus co-chairs.

NSPE [recognizes](#) the benefits of a diverse population of licensed engineers in shaping the future of engineering. Diverse backgrounds foster unique contributions and capabilities and create an inclusive community ultimately leading to a more creative, effective and technically respected community.

[Register here.](#)

2021–22 Call for Volunteers

NSPE needs your knowledge, expertise, and time to help the Society carry out its [vision and mission and meet the goals of the strategic plan](#). Volunteer positions

begin in mid-August and end at the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference.

There are three types of volunteer opportunities:

- **Level 1 (Highest Engagement)–Standing Boards and Committees**
Often includes attending at least one in-person meeting. Most meetings held via video conference. Terms may be up to three years.
- **Level 2 (Intermediate Engagement)–Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces**
Activities primarily include online correspondence and video conference meetings.
- **Level 3 (Lowest Engagement)–Ad Hoc Volunteer**
Volunteer on a project-by-project basis.

[Submit forms by July 9 to be considered for a 2021-22 term.](#)

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