

PE MATTERS

STATE
NEWSNSPE-UT™ UTAH SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

>>>> SEPTEMBER 2019

State News for NSPE Members

How salt caverns could transform renewable energy storage for the US

According to statistics from Carnegie Mellon University, carbon emissions in the US energy sector have decreased by 30% since 2005 due to a combination of renewable energy and natural gas replacing coal-fired power plants.

Having become a global market share leader for heavy duty gas turbines Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems (MHPS) has become an important part of the US' energy transition efforts, and has developed gas turbine technology that allows natural gas and hydrogen to produce power with even lower emissions.

However in many parts of the western US, there are times of day when production of renewable energy is higher than the demand for electricity. This can lead to negative energy pricing and restrictions on renewable generation.


For renewable energy to be viable in the long-term the excess power needs to be stored for later use, which requires a system with a large storage capacity to meet the demands of the entire western US.

A potential solution to the dilemma has come in the form of the Advanced Clean Energy Storage (ACES) project in Utah, which MHPS along with a consortium of partners announced on 30 May 2019. They are planning to develop 1,000MW of clean energy storage in the world's largest project of its kind.

[Read the full story.](#)

Advocacy Campaign a Success—But More Action Needed



 **Trish Hatley** @triciahatley - Aug 7. Met with Senator Inhofe's field rep @BrysonPanas this morning in our @FreeseNichols office to talk about the need to reduce licensure exemptions and how PE's help protect the public health, safety and welfare. #LicensedPEday #PEDayAdvocate

More than 100 NSPE members either met with or called their legislators and staffers on August 7 as part of the Society's Professional Engineers Day advocacy campaign. It was the largest such campaign in remembered NSPE history. PEs joined together to speak up for the importance of licensure and passage of a federal bill that would require PE oversight of utility pipelines, following the 2018 Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts, gas line explosion.

NSPE's Manager of Government Relations and Advocacy Stephanie Hamilton called the day "a strong success" as enthusiastic NSPE members worked to build lasting relationships that will help them be seen as experts on licensure and technical matters now and in the future.

However, the week before the campaign, the Senate version of the bill was added as an amendment to a larger pipeline safety bill and watered down to remove the PE requirement. According to Hamilton, the Society was "disappointed" and "dismayed" about this change to the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act, named after the teenager killed.

It's not too late to make a difference, however. NSPE members are urged to contact their legislators.

Read More

- [PE article on the advocacy campaign](#);
 - [Hamilton's column on the changes to the bill and how members can take action](#);
 - [Popular Mechanics article highlighting the personal impacts of the deadly explosion](#).
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2019 Fall Webinar Series Open for Registration



Register now for the [2019 Fall Webinar Series](#) ! Develop your skills and earn continuing education credits this fall. Stay current on a variety of topics from the comfort of your home or office. Don't miss NSPE Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel Arthur Schwartz's Ethics Forum each month—register for individual webinars or [get a special bundle price](#) until **September 17**.

Sign up now for these webinars:

- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Employers and Clients](#)
September 18
- [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design](#)
September 25
- [Mindfulness in Action](#)
October 2
- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Vendors and Colleagues](#)
October 16
- [Clients are from Venus, Consultants from Mars: A Guide to Effective Management of Consultants](#)
November 6
- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public](#)
November 13

And don't forget that, as part of your NSPE membership, you also receive access to [15 free online seminars](#) .

Find Quality Candidates or a Great New Job



NSPE's online event for employers and job seekers will take place again on **October 2** from 11 am – 3 pm Eastern.

Whether you're an engineer just starting out or an experienced professional looking for a new opportunity, you can connect with employers from the comfort of your home, office, smartphone, or tablet. The event is free for job seekers.

Companies in search of top talent will be able to access professionals representing all engineering sectors around the country.

[Employers: Learn more and register.](#)

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