

State News for NSPE Members

Registration Open: NSPE-UT 2023 Annual Continuing Education Conference

The Utah Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE-UT), in partnership with the University of Utah Engineering Alumni Association and the Utah Department of Occupational and Professional Licensing, will hold a full-day [2023 Continuing Education Conference](#) on **Saturday, May 20**, at the University of Utah Warnock Engineering Building.

This conference is free to all licensed PEs and is a great opportunity for all Utah PEs to learn and earn continuing education hours toward license renewal. A virtual broadcast will be offered again this year so the conference can reach those not able to attend the in-person event. Lunch will be available for a small fee (NSPE members and presenters eat free).

The conference schedule and registration information are available on the [conference website](#). **The RSVP deadline is Monday, May 15.**

Rocky Mountain Power Moves to Renewables and Nuclear

Rocky Mountain Power says it will [shut down its coal-fired power plants](#) in Emery County by 2032 and replace them with smaller nuclear-powered plants in the same locations, [The Salt Lake Tribune reports](#).

The utility company also announced it will reduce operations at the two coal plants starting this summer and install technology to remove some of the pollutants. With that combination, the company believes it can comply with the federal Ozone Transfer rule in the remaining years the plants stay open.

PacifiCorp, the Oregon-based parent company of Rocky Mountain, released its Integrated Resource Plan, which explains where the company intends to get power across its six-state system for the next 20 years, and that plan puts a period at the

end of coal power in Utah.

That end comes years before the original closure dates for the Huntington (2036) and Hunter (2042) plants. The other two utility-scale coal plants still operating in Utah — the Intermountain Power Plant near Delta and the Bonanza Power Plant near Vernal — are also expected to stop burning coal before 2030. [Read more.](#)

USU Receives \$2.5 Million to Launch Earthquake Engineering Research Center

A new research center at Utah State University will help bridge the gap between what we know about the devastating effects of earthquakes and how to better design our infrastructure to withstand them.

The Utah Earthquake Engineering Center will serve all of Utah as a training and research hub focused on developing Utah-specific seismic safety solutions. The goal of the new center is to better prepare the state for a quicker and more resilient recovery following a major tremor, [Utah State Today reports](#).

"Utah is long overdue for a damaging earthquake," said Brady Cox, professor of civil engineering at USU and a leading earthquake expert. "As we continue to grow in population and build homes, roads, bridges, buildings and utilities, we need to make sure our infrastructure is designed and constructed to withstand earthquakes with the overarching goal of minimizing deaths, dollars and downtime."

Cox says Utah has more than 175,000 unreinforced masonry buildings, a primary cause of earthquake-related deaths. One of the first tasks of the center will be to develop retrofit solutions for such buildings and other worrisome infrastructure. [Read more.](#)



NSPE's **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

Featured Job

[Strategic Planner III or II](#)

Salt Lake City, UT

[Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the NSPE Job Board.](#)

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

Don't Hesitate to Share Your PE Story

By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022–2023



Have you ever thought about how many people will ever need to hire an engineer? Probably not very many. But as engineers, we have a huge impact on their lives and in countless ways. For example, we all expect clean water to come out of the faucet, the lights to come on when we want, the bridge we cross on the way to work to be safe, the air we breathe to be clean, and the products we buy for our kids to be safe. When engineers do their best work,

most people don't even notice. Yet, as a profession we strive to make everyone's life better.

The work of our profession by design affects the lives of many people—likely tens of thousands on a daily basis. In my case, I work in the public works department in the community that I reside and that means the decisions I make don't just affect nameless strangers. The people in this community are my neighbors, my friends, and my family. [Read more.](#)

New Policy Documents: The Signature and Stamp, Key Issues for the PE

The Committee on Policy and Advocacy has released the “[What a PE Says with their Signature and Stamp](#)” document. The document provides a general awareness of the PE signature and stamp process and includes best practices and lessons learned for those considering developing or improving their own process. The committee recently updated and released the documents, “[What is a PE?](#)” and “[Key Issues for the Professional Engineer.](#)” Updated position statements can be accessed [here](#).



QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2023 QBS Awards. The [QBS Awards program](#) promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process.

Award winners [serve as examples of how well the QBS process works](#), and they help NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services. A maximum of one QBS Award may be presented to the federal government sector, the state government sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment sector.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, May 1** (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form [here](#).

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