Annual Continuing Education Conference - May 2024

Registration is now open for the USPE Annual Continuing Education Conference to be held on Saturday, May 11, at the University of Utah Warnock Engineering Building.

The full-day event is free to all licensed PEs in the state of Utah and features eight knowledgeable speakers on various engineering topics of current interest. PEs can receive PDHs toward re-licensure for sessions they attend. A virtual broadcast will be available for those not able to attend in-person.

Please visit the conference page to view the agenda, register for the conference and receive information about the virtual broadcast. For those attending in person, lunch is available for a small fee. As a local link of the Order of the Engineer, USPE will hold an induction ceremony during lunch for any qualified candidates (please indicate interest during registration). The deadline to RSVP is May 6.

Presented by the USPE and the University of Utah Engineering Alumni Association. Partial funding for this educational opportunity has been provided by the Utah Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing and the Education and Enforcement Fund.

Savage Tooele Railroad Line Gains Approval

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) has granted Savage Tooele Railroad Company (STR) the authority to build and operate approximately 11 miles of rail line in Tooele County, Utah, including the rehabilitation of existing track, according to a news release.

The STR rail line will connect to Union Pacific Railroad for tenants of the Lakeview Business Park in Grantsville, Utah, linking supply chains and providing an alternative to truck-only transportation with a more environmentally-friendly option.
STR is one of the only new railroads approved in the US this year and one of the first railroads owned and operated by a Utah-headquartered company in the state's history.

"I want to congratulate Savage Tooele Railroad on the approval of their Tooele Valley rail project by the Surface Transportation Board," said Governor Spencer J. Cox. "The historic nature of this project, including its positive economic and environmental impacts, will be a tremendous advantage for Utahns and our businesses for generations to come." Read more in Utah Business.

Utah’s Solar Power Production Soared Over the Past Decade

Utah's solar power production has grown exponentially since 2014, despite efforts to keep the state's coal plants open.

Why it matters: Solar and wind power are producing a comparatively small but growing share of America's overall energy supply — yet they make up a bigger slice of the energy pie in some states, Axios Salt Lake City reports.

By the numbers: Utah generated 4,823 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity from solar power and 684 GWh from wind power in 2023, per the analysis from Climate Central, a climate research nonprofit. That's enough to power over half a million homes.

Just 39 GWh of electricity was produced from solar energy in 2014. Meanwhile, wind power production in Utah, which lacks sustained high-wind areas, has remained steady since 2014. Read more.

UVU Students Seek to Reduce Emissions with Autonomous Electric Tug

There are many steps that take place before your plane is ready to take off. Before even boarding the plane, it first needs to be taxied by airport staff to the gate — a method that involves running the jet engines.

"They put out a lot of pollutants,""Brett Stone, a Utah Valley University mechanical engineering professor, told Deseret News. "And the real problem there, too, is that they're putting a lot of pollutants right next to the tarmac workers who are there breathing that in constantly."

He, his colleague Matt Jensen and 14 UVU students believe they are close to solving that problem. Recently at the Provo Airport, they tested their prototype electric and autonomous vehicle, which promises to reduce emissions while
moving airplanes at airports.

The students involved in the two-semester senior capstone course are mechanical engineering and computer science students.

"At the beginning of last semester, we had a problem statement from Dr. Stone that said, 'We want a tug that's going to pull a plane, and it's got to be all-electric, and you have $10,000, go,'" Ammon Traeden, a mechanical engineering major on the project, told the Deseret News. Read more.

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**Connect and Learn at NSPECon24**
Registration is open for NSPECon24 (Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9), the prime national event for professional engineers to engage and connect with their peers and to advance their careers. The early-bird discount rates are available until June 27. Access registration information and rates here. Access the preliminary conference program for details on keynote speakers and session topics.

The deadline for reserving a hotel room at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley for the NSPECon24 rate is July 15. We encourage you to make your reservation early since there are a limited number of conference rate hotels rooms available.

NSPECon24 also offers a variety of sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. A special exhibitor discount is being offered to Research Triangle-based businesses.

Welcome to Our 2024 Sponsors!
New Program: Leadership Institute for Women PEs

NSPE’s Women Leadership Program is sponsoring the Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers, a three-day program designed to support mid-career women PEs in confidently navigating their career path and leveraging their leadership skills.

The institute agenda is interwoven into the NSPECon24 program with participants attending pre-conference opening sessions on Wednesday, August 7, and sessions the mornings of Thursday, August 8 and Friday, August 9, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Attendees must register for NSPECon24 to attend the institute.

Access more information and register.

QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2024 QBS Awards. The QBS Awards program promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process in three categories: federal government sector, state governor sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment
sector. The deadline for nominations is June 7 (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form.

Read a PE magazine article about a longtime champion of QBS.

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