

## State News for NSPE Members

### Utah DOT Signs Onto \$14.3 Billion Transportation Program

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) has signed the largest transportation program in state history, totaling more than \$14.3 billion over the next six years, [Mass Transit reports](#).

The money will be used to build and improve Utah's roads, trails and transit system in collaboration with local planning organizations, cities and counties and will help provide transportation choices for everyone.

"Looking back, it's incredible to think that just 10 years ago, our program totaled \$3 billion. During that time, our state has grown faster than any other state in the country and the increase in transportation funding reflects our commitment to meeting the needs of our growing population and economy, but even more impressive to me is the expanded scope of our responsibility, now versus 2013," said UDOT Executive Director Carlos Braceras in a statement. "This \$14.3 billion will help us deliver not only smoother, safer and more efficient highways, but also expansions and improvements to our transit system and new trail segments as part of our statewide trail network."

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### Utah Reservoirs Get a Boost from Late Summer Monsoons

A healthy monsoon season is helping to bolster Utah's water supply, with reservoir storage holding strong after an unusually wet back half of summer, [The Spectrum reports](#).

After years of drought and fast-evaporating reservoirs, the end of 2022 and most of 2023 have been unusually wet, and the trend has continued in recent weeks, with record rainfall across large swaths of the state in August and plenty of monsoon moisture continuing into September.

"Monsoonal moisture may not have acted as a panacea for our reservoirs, but it

has been a lifeline in reducing demand," Candice Hasenyager, director of the state Division of Water Resources recently stated. "It reminds us of nature's significant role in our quest for resilience, with reducing demand being the lever we can pull to secure our water future."

Evaporation is usually a major issue at state reservoirs, with the late summer heat burning off some of the already-low water levels caused by a drought that extended for the better part of two decades. This year, though, evaporation has been less of an issue. [Read more.](#)

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## Canadian Company is Buying Dominion Energy Utah Operations

Utah's largest supplier of natural gas is heading to new ownership after Alberta, Canada-based Enbridge announced this week that it is buying Dominion Energy's Utah operations, [The Salt Lake Tribune reports](#).

If the sale is approved by federal and state regulators, Dominion's Utah customers — about 90% of the state — will get their natural gas from a foreign company that is a major player in the pipeline business, both natural gas and petroleum. The deal also includes Dominion's Wyoming and Idaho operations.

"We move about 30% of the crude oil produced in North America, we transport nearly 20% of the natural gas consumed in the US, and we operate North America's third-largest natural gas utility by consumer count," Calgary-based Enbridge states on its "about us" page.

The sale will include Dominion's Utah exploration and development arm, Wexpro, which supplies much of the gas Utahns burn. Including Wexpro, Dominion employs about 1,000 people in the state. [Read more.](#)



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

their careers.

### **Featured Job**

#### **Department Chair**

(Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Utah)  
Salt Lake City, UT

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## **Workability Webinars Series to Focus on Emerging Tech**

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—"WORKability Wednesdays"—to support members with their professional development goals. The first webinar of this season took place on September 13 - [How New PFAS Regulations Will Impact Water and Wastewater Utilities](#). A webinar on [What Utilities Want Fleets to Know About Moving to Electric Vehicles](#) will take place on September 27.



NSPE members get free access to the webinars, but must register to attend. Visit the [PE Institute](#) to review the full series line-up and to mark your calendar for these live, online events.

## **Registration Open: 2023 NSPE Women's Leadership Virtual Fall Symposium**

Join us for these live, one-time events to hear from experts in the field and join your colleagues in important discussions organized by NSPE's Women Leadership Program Task Force: [The Cost of Leadership](#); [Leading Yourself: Learning to Increase Your Emotional Intelligence](#); and [Networking Strategies: An Unconventional Approach to Connecting with Others](#). The webinars will take place on October 12, October 19, and October 26 at 1:00 p.m. (ET). This exclusive package is free and includes all three live, one-time sessions. The sessions will not be recorded and PDH credits will not be issued for them.

[Register now.](#)

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## **#NSPECon23 Revisited**

NSPECon23 provided an opportunity to learn and build community in the heart of Louisville, Kentucky. Find photos from the All Things Louisville reception, the first-time attendee mixer, PE Day celebrations, recognition and installation ceremonies, and more on [NSPE's Flickr account](#). Relive the fun and excitement with all your PE peers that gathered to celebrate the engineering profession.



**Save the Date: NSPECon24—Raleigh, North Carolina—August 7–9**





## A False Solution for Our Workforce Challenges

*The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL) recently posted an opinion column that highlights the risks of weakening professional licensing requirements to address workforce challenges. NSPE is a member of ARPL.*

Workforce shortages, talent pipelines at a trickle and expensive labor are all-too-familiar challenges facing businesses and the public sector. In an attempt to tackle these problems, there is a growing trend of exploring the weakening or elimination of certain key job requirements. These proposals include getting rid of college degree requirements without equivalency alternatives, doing away with requisite testing, and downgrading credentials and licensure for professionals.

To be sure, there are some elements of the occupational licensure process that require continuous improvement and elimination of impediments disparately impacting underrepresented groups. However, in the rush to address workforce challenges, legislators and other policymakers must be cautious not to create new problems that leave employers and the public at risk.

Weakening professional licensing requirements is a false solution to various workforce ills. Minimum qualifications ensured by licensing exist to protect employers and the public they serve. This is particularly important for technical professions with high public impact, such as architecture, certified public accountancy, engineering, landscape architecture and land surveying. Care must be taken to ensure that critical licensing systems for such professions, designed to ensure public and economic protection, are not compromised and swept up in broad-brush calls for occupational licensing reform. [Read more](#) .

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