

State News for NSPE Members

Utah's Largest Solar Project Comes to Coal Country

A Utah company has announced an agreement with PacifiCorp to build the state's largest solar farm and battery storage facility in the heart of Utah's coal country, [The Salt Lake Tribune reports](#).

rPlus Energies and Rocky Mountain Power parent PacifiCorp signed an agreement for PacifiCorp to purchase the power generated by a 400-megawatt solar farm and associated 200-megawatt battery storage facility. The \$750 million "Green River Energy Center" will occupy about 3,200 acres of private property north of the small Emery County town of Moore.

Emery County offers two advantages: sunshine and transmission lines. The transmission lines are there because PacifiCorp's Hunter and Huntington coal-fired power plants are the single biggest sources of electricity for Utahns.

The addition of battery storage addresses the limiting factor on solar energy: it stops producing when the sun goes down. "To me, what it [battery storage] does is it makes solar more valuable," said Emery County Commissioner Kent Wilson, who noted there is so much solar power in the Western US now that "you can't give it away" in the middle of the day. [Read more](#).

Proclamation Closes Great Salt Lake Basin to New Water Right Appropriations

With Utah's Great Salt Lake reaching new record lows, Governor Spencer Cox has [issued a proclamation](#) suspending new water appropriations within the Great Salt Lake Basin.

"Extreme drought, climate change, and increased demand continue to threaten the Great Salt Lake," Governor Cox stated in a [news release](#). "We are united in our efforts to protect this critical resource and are taking action to ensure existing flows

continue to benefit the lake. When conditions improve, the suspension can be lifted."

The suspension allows for existing water rights and applications to be used and developed while promoting more efficient use of the existing supply. The suspension pauses further appropriations of surface water and groundwater that are tributary to Great Salt Lake. It also provides an opportunity for some of the conservation measures proposed during the 2022 legislative session to be implemented while allowing time for additional research to be completed.

A declining Great Salt Lake has far-reaching consequences and could result in increased dust, worsening air quality, reduced snow, diminished lake access, increased salinity, habitat loss, and negative economic repercussions to the state.

[Read more.](#)

Interior Department Celebrates 30th Anniversary of Central Utah Project Completion Act

The Department of the Interior recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Central Utah Project Completion Act (CUPCA), Utah's largest and most comprehensive federal water resource development project. Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Tanya Trujillo joined local, state, and federal partners to celebrate progress in completing the Central Utah Project and related mitigation actions, and to outline the work ahead as the West battles ongoing drought conditions, according to a [news release](#).

The event also highlighted how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$50 million in funding to accelerate the completion of the Utah Lake System pipeline construction. These new funds will expedite delivery of 60,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial water to Salt Lake and Utah Counties and provide increased water security, helping communities adapt to and increase their resiliency under changing climate conditions. The law also helps fund the Provo River Delta Restoration Project, which is a key component of the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program.

The Central Utah Project moves water from the Colorado River Basin in eastern Utah to the western slopes of the Wasatch Mountain range, where the state has seen a rapid growth in population. It provides water for municipal and industrial use, irrigation, hydroelectric power, fish and wildlife, conservation, and recreation.

[Read more.](#)



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

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

NSPE Stays Focused on Sustainability and Resilience

The United Nations Climate Change Conference ([COP27](#)) kicked off in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt last week. As the conference takes place, NSPE will [provide conference highlights](#) of interest to professional engineers.



NSPE believes licensed PEs should be good stewards of the environment to preserve and protect our world for future generations. The Society recognizes that attention to sustainable and resilient design practices is critical to the health of the planet and is an integral part of the practice of engineering. PEs are uniquely positioned to be a positive and driving influence in creating, maintaining, and renewing sustainable communities.

In early 2022, the NSPE Board of Directors endorsed “The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change.” The statement was prepared with input from a working group of 16 organizations, including NSPE, and facilitated by ECL-USA. It is intended to unite, energize, and motivate people within and across

organizations, and to fulfill their desires for meaning and purpose in their professional lives.

The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change:

Climate change is real – the impacts are serious, and they are accelerating. There is an urgent imperative for the Engineering Community to take informed and intentional actions now to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. It is our duty and purpose to contribute our skills and knowledge of human-centered technologies and of the natural world to lead humanity out of the climate crisis with a focus on sustainable, resilient, equitable, and innovative approaches. [Learn more](#) .

Honor Awards Open for Nominations

The [NSPE Honor Awards](#) promote the professional engineer's contributions to society and recognize the achievements of the profession's very best. The deadline for award submissions is **January 31, 2023**.

NSPE Award

The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. **Howard (Skip) Harclerode II, P.E., F.NSPE, F.AIChE**, received the award in 2022. He is the founder and president of KBD Engineering Company Inc., based in Phoenix, Maryland, and has been a tireless advocate for the engineering profession.



New Professional of the Year Award

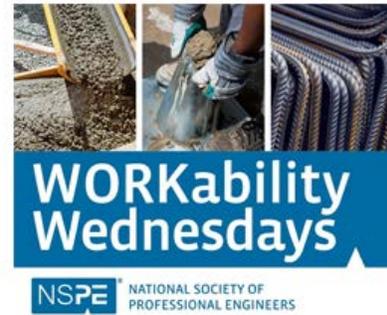
This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the Engineering Profession and the community during the early years of one's career. **Holly Ahumada, P.E., CFM**, and **Dylan Ward, P.E., MPA**, received the award in 2022. Holly Ahumada specializes in stormwater and floodplain management at Freese and Nichols in Fort Worth, Texas. Dylan Ward is a project manager for the City of Henderson in Kentucky.



Upcoming Webinar: Election Recap

Join your colleagues for the next Workability Wednesdays webinar: [Election Recap: How Can PEs Prepare for the 2023 Legislative Session](#) (November 30).

Register now for these FREE webinars for NSPE members and earn PDHs before the end of the year. If you missed any recent webinars? No problem.... [check out the recordings](#) .



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