

State News for NSPE Members

Highway Funding Needed as Tax Revenue Drops

To deal with the sharp drop in fuel tax revenue caused by reduced driving during the pandemic, Utah's cities and towns are looking to the legislature for help. The *Salt Lake Tribune* [reports](#) that the localities are asking for \$60 million to \$70 million in bonds for highway projects. Federal relief will also be sought.

Welcome New Members!

- Louis Stuart
- Daniel Donahoe, P.E., 1000 kilometers PLLC
- Michael Gibson, P.E., Horrocks Engineers
- Joel Jacobson, P.E., Jacobson Engineering Services
- Jenson Walters, student, Utah State University
- Mark Johnson, student, BYU
- Austin Schlirf, student, University of Utah
- Lacey Fauci, student, American Public University System
- Hayden Andersen, EI/EIT, student, BY

Did You Know?

The average salary for an engineer in Utah is \$71,750 per year, according to Indeed.com. The average is based on 188 salaries as of May 2.

New Report Shows State's Energy Trends

The state's petroleum industry is experience significant changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the *Utah Geological Survey*. On May 4, the UGS released Utah's Energy Landscape (5th Edition) and a supporting [fact sheet](#) that show some of the pandemic's early effects on energy. Due to delays in data

reporting, the picture will become clearer over time.

Notable trends include the following:

- The weakening of crude oil prices plus operator turnover in the Uinta Basin, which has led to reduced drilling and a plateau in Utah's crude oil production;
- Low natural gas prices and reduced production;
- The exponential growth in residential rooftop solar, plus energy efficiency measures that have changed electricity demand growth; and
- Increases in renewable and natural gas-generated electricity, which have led to a reduction in coal-fired power generation.

Licensing Board Meeting on Tap

Board Utah Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors Licensing Board [electronic meeting scheduled](#) for May 20 at 9:00 a.m. The board's last meeting, scheduled for March 18, was canceled.

Major Study on Colorado River Basin Released

Anyone interested in Utah's water issues will want to check out the new report [Colorado River Basin Climate and Hydrology: State of the Science](#) (2020).

As one of the seven states that make up the Colorado River Basin, Utah receives 23 percent of the Colorado River water supply available to the Upper Basin, according to the Department of Natural Resources. Uncertainty about the future of the basin's water supply has grown in recent decades because increasing water demand, dry conditions, and warming temperatures have impacted the river. Brad Udall, senior water and climate research scientist at Colorado State University, says, "This is by far the most comprehensive scientific report ever produced about the Southwest's iconic river."

Get Ready for *Virtual* PE Conference 2020 (#NSPEVirtual)

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of our members, while continuing to provide meaningful and valuable education and engagement opportunities, NSPE leadership has decided to postpone this year's Professional Engineers Conference (PECon) in Philadelphia until summer 2021. In its place, the Society will host an online



Virtual PE Conference in August. Events will be centered around the annual celebration of PE Day, August 5.

The new virtual program will make it easier for attendees to participate according to their schedules. Sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by accessing recordings at a more convenient time. Virtual **PECon** will be easily accessible and affordable due to the elimination of travel costs and reduction in registration fees. PDH credits will be available for education sessions comparable to the amount you could earn at a regular **PECon**. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues in addition to professional development opportunities.

Current plans include:

- Education tracks and sessions, featuring many of the sessions already planned for **PECon** 2020;
- Tracks spread throughout the week at various times of day, empowering attendees to take in more of the content they desire;
- Recording all sessions to make them available for on-demand viewing;
- Hosting keynote speakers and senior leaders allowing for interactive Q&A with attendees; and
- Networking/roundtable topic discussions with peers by region and areas of practice, geared to increase dialogue and member engagement.

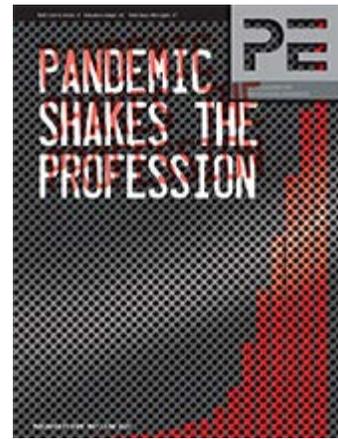
Stay tuned for more information on content and registration to come.

Pandemic Forces Profession to Adjust

NSPE and its certification division [NICET](#), as well as state societies and individual members, are all adapting to a changed world.

Our latest [PE cover story](#) highlights how organizations

and individual PEs are meeting the challenges with courage, compassion, and innovation. NSPE and its state societies are continuing to provide information, advocacy, and continuing education as staffers are sheltering at home. PEs are running companies from their bedrooms or dining rooms and working to ensure employee well-being while keeping businesses afloat.



No one knows what the future holds. But professional engineers will be among those helping to create that future—as always, prioritizing the public health, safety, and welfare.

[Read more from May/June PE magazine.](#)

Update: NICET's certification testing for engineering technicians has started to return but on a reduced schedule. Pearson VUE, the company that manages testing centers for NICET exams as well as NCEES exams and those in many other professions, began reopening on May 1. Centers will be operating at 50% capacity and for limited hours. The reopening of testing centers in Pennsylvania and Alaska has not been scheduled, due to locally imposed restrictions. For the latest information, visit [NICET's COVID-19 response web page](#).

[Read the latest on NCEES's FE and PE exams.](#)

Don't Miss These Upcoming Webinars



NSPE is increasing the number of its webinars to serve members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance your career by tuning in.

- [Engineering Exemptions and Education: Diminish the First and Enhance the Second - May 20](#)
- [Negotiate It! How to Crush Your Fears, Develop Your Negotiation Muscle,](#)

and Gain Power in the Workplace - **May 27**

- Fire Protection Engineering in Property Risk Management - **June 3**
- Ethics in our Changing World - **June 10**
- Engineers, Building Water Systems and Legionella: What You Need to Know - **June 24**

Visit NSPE's PE Institute.

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