Governor Scott Signs $123 Million Infrastructure Package Into Law

Governor Phil Scott signed a two-year infrastructure package into law on June 14, appropriating $122.8 million in bonded dollars for a wide array of initiatives, including courthouse upgrades, clean water projects, and repairs at the Vermont Veterans' Home, VT Digger reports.

The capital bill is Vermont's regular spending legislation that finances state construction and maintenance projects, and this biennium's package, H.493, also authorizes an additional $50 million through a separate cash fund. But that pot of money is technically appropriated in the so-called "Big Bill," or state budget, H.494, which Scott vetoed last month over unrelated objections. (Lawmakers are planning an override.)

"The capital bill I signed today will yield dividends for years to come. In my inaugural address, I made clear one of my priorities was to use one-time surpluses for future required match funding, so that we can take full advantage of federal funding opportunities," Scott said in a statement released by his office. The governor also highlighted the spending package's clean water investments, which include $15.9 million in bonded dollars for various initiatives, plus $9.8 million in the cash fund. Read more.

Clean Energy Technologies Plans Facility in Lyndonville

Vermont Renewable Gas LLC, an affiliate of Clean Energy Technologies (CETY) in Costa Mesa, California, has entered into an agreement with Northeastern Vermont Development Association to purchase eight acres in the Saint Johnsbury/Lyndon Industrial Park. The property will serve as a site for VRG-Lyndonville, a biomass renewable energy processing facility, according to Waste Today Magazine.

With an investment of $10 million, CETY will design, construct, and operate the facility in Lyndonville. This facility will convert low-grade, woody fiber sourced from
local working lands into renewable natural gas (RNG) and biochar fertilizer. The RNG generated will subsequently be converted into renewable electricity and heat. The plant, which should be fully commissioned within 12 months, is expected to yield more than 14,600 megawatt hours (MWh) of renewable electricity and 1,500 tons of biochar annually. With the purchase agreement now in effect, the immediate focus will be on site permitting and final engineering.

At the heart of this project is CETY’s revolutionary high-temperature ablative fast pyrolysis reactor (HTAP biomass reactor). The HTAP biomass reactor is a proprietary technology that transforms organic waste by using ultra-high temperatures to produce renewable electrical power, biochar fertilizer and high-heating value fuel gas in addition to other commercially valuable chemicals. Read more.

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### Keynote Speakers

**Bill Samuels, Jr.**, Chairman Emeritus of Maker’s Mark Distillery, will open the NSPECon 23 meeting. Samuels, who helped design both the Gemini and Polaris missiles and became friends with the founding administrator of NASA, will talk about the, “Trials and Tribulations of a Failed Aerospace Engineer.”

**Megan Bendtzen**, the CEO and founder of TheDoctorofFun.com, will give a keynote presentation on - Beyond the Blueprint: Mastering the Most Important Project of Your Life. In this clever and entertaining presentation, Bendtzen will completely shift your perspective, debunking the myth of work-life balance and revealing the single biggest lie surrounding the pursuit of happiness.

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- Finding the Funds for Your Infrastructure Project
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- We Need YOU to Protect the License!
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**New Webinar: Racing Towards Excellence**

A new webinar will get you ready for NSPECon23 — Racing Towards Excellence: Enhancing Customer Experience and Improving Safety at Churchill Downs.

Neil Crawford, P.E., an accomplished engineer and project manager at Qk4 Inc., offers insight into the history of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby and its economic impacts on Kentucky. Learn about recent improvement projects to enhance the customer experience and also projects to improve equine/horseman safety and expand the racing operations.

The webinar is FREE for members and offers 1 PDH. [Register and watch now.]
ARPL Offers New Advocacy Resources

ARPL has released two new advocacy resources. A video, *Universal Licensing: A Closer Look*, (featuring Rebecca Bowman, Senior Director of Ethics and Professional Practice) and an advocacy document, *The Critical Role of Licensing in Business Success*, based on recent research. As a sponsoring member of ARPL, NSPE has access to these resources and others on the ARPL website.

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