Public Comments Sought on Electric Grid Modernization Plans

The Vermont Department of Public Service is seeking written public input from electric power stakeholders and ratepayers on how the state should distribute federal funding provided under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The IIJA creates funding opportunities open to Vermont to facilitate electric grid modernization for the purpose of preventing outages and enhancing the resilience of the electric grid. States and Indian tribes may receive grants over a five-year period for uses that meet certain criteria.

The US Department of Energy recently extended the deadline for states to apply for this funding until March 2023. The public comment period ends on September 23. Comments should be sent to PSD.IIJAGridResilience@vermont.gov. Find out more.

Water Infrastructure Receives Infusion of Federal Funds in Vermont

Unprecedented financial resources are available for investment in water infrastructure, Governor Phil Scott recently announced. Altogether, Vermont is on track to invest nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars in water infrastructure projects over the next five years.

Programs to be funded by the American Federal Rescue Plan’s allocation to Vermont include:

- The Clean Water State Revolving Fund program, an EPA partnership that provides communities low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects; and
- Drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects.
The investments that are underway will ensure that the water system is able to provide consistent, high quality drinking water for users, the Governor's Office stated in a news release.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Moving the Society Closer to Our Vision

By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022-2023

What does NSPE mean to you? I'd like to try to tell you what it means to me. I began my career with a small civil engineering firm with a focus on municipal engineering. After a few years, I moved to the public works department in Jefferson City, Missouri. This is the same city where my wife and I have raised our three children. As a result, I've had the privilege of working for the community that I have called home most of my career.

Like many of you, I was approached by another engineer early in my career and asked to join NSPE. I have moved through various leadership and volunteer roles at the chapter, state, and national levels. I could not be more humbled to be the president of NSPE. I never dreamed that I would be in this position. As I got involved with NSPE, I met and built friendships with many wonderful engineers within my community, around the state, and across this great country. Each time I get involved and want to give back, I seem to receive so much more than I give.

Our founder David Steinman probably had similar thoughts. Steinman understood that the technical problems of the various engineering disciplines are different, but the interests of the profession are shared. He founded NSPE to unite the profession around those common interests. NSPE was created, and continues today, to be the single national professional society, with solidarity of purpose and concentration of strength, to provide for the professional interests of the engineering profession.

NSPE has adopted as our vision: A world where the public can be confident that the engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Our vision statement is a simple statement, but a very powerful message. I heard once that the average engineer holds the lives of more people in their hands than any doctor could see in a lifetime. As I considered that statement, I couldn’t help but think about the awesome responsibility we carry. NSPE was created and continues today to help all members of our profession fulfill that responsibility.
Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the Federal Engineer of the Year Award. Nominations for the award, which attracts participation from more than a dozen federal agencies, are open until October 31.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 24, 2023, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January. Apply or nominate a worthy engineer.

The 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year

Robert Zueck, Ph.D., P.E., was named NSPE’s 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year for his discoveries and contributions in the engineering field during a virtual awards event in February.

Prior to retirement, Zueck worked in the US Department of the Navy’s Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), Expeditionary Warfare Center at Port Hueneme, California. He is heralded for applying his vibration research to military defense projects for which engineers can now design beyond the speed, agility, and stealth limitations of many military sensors, weapons, and platforms. Find out more about Zueck in a PE article.

Access Free WORKability Wednesdays Webinars

The reviews of the Engineering: Addressing Unintended Consequences as a Professional webinar are excellent. “Applicable to all engineering disciplines,” says one attendee.

If you were busy this summer and missed it, there is time to watch this thought-provoking webinar at NSPE’s PE Institute. All webinars in the spring series are available free to members.
Watch for more information soon about what to expect in the fall series lineup!

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