

State News for NSPE Members

Vermont Seeks Federal Funds for EV Charger Buildout, Again

Vermont is taking steps to resume a long-planned buildout of electric vehicle chargers along its major highways after federal funding for the project was stripped away — and then, recently, made available again — by President Donald Trump's administration.

In February, the US Department of Transportation suspended funding for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, or NEVI, program, which was created under President Joe Biden's 2021 bipartisan infrastructure law. In Vermont, that meant almost \$16 million in funding was thrown into limbo, \$9 million of which had already been committed to help build high-speed chargers in 11 communities around the state.

But earlier this month, the Trump administration changed course — albeit, it seems, reluctantly. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy wrote in an August 11 press release that states could access program funding, again, if they submitted new plans on how they would use the money. The department also revised some of the program's guidance in an effort to get more chargers built, more quickly, the secretary said in the release. [Read more in the VT Digger.](#)

What to Know About Vermont's Air Quality Concerns

A wafting trail of Canadian wildfire smoke has blanketed Vermont, triggering air quality alerts across the state and causing a haze to block out its mountain views, [VTDigger reports.](#)

The National Weather Service issued a Code Orange air quality alert for Addison, Rutland and Windsor on Wednesday, a slight improvement from the statewide alerts on Monday and Tuesday.

Officials have urged Vermonters with health risks to be cautious. The Vermont

Department of Environmental Conservation said in an emailed statement that wildfire smoke pollutants can cause an array of health effects.

To many Vermonters, the haze of recent days is reminiscent of 2023, when record-breaking wildfires in Quebec and Ontario sent smoke southward. To health officials, this latest string of alerts is the harbinger of a worrying trend.

“These recurrent episodes of wildfire smoke are a new and serious risk for Vermont air quality,” said David Grass, senior environmental health program manager at the state Department of Health. [Read more](#).

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

Texas PE Takes the Lead of NSPE



Julia M. Harrod, P.E., F.NSPE, was installed as NSPE’s 2025-2026 president during a ceremony at NSPECon25 on August 7. With over two decades of leadership and engineering experience, she brings a unique interdisciplinary perspective to the role—combining backgrounds in architecture, civil engineering, and business strategy.

“It’s a tremendous honor to lead NSPE and help advance the mission of fostering licensed professional engineers in service to society,” Harrod said. “We have an opportunity to expand our reach in advancing ethical leadership, innovation, and inclusion in engineering – and that starts with engaging and supporting the next generation of PEs.”

Harrod leads MWM DesignGroup as its president and CEO. The Texas-based firm

provides integrated services in architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, land surveying, and permitting. She holds a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's degree in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

After earning her PE license in Texas, Harrod quickly emerged as a dedicated leader and passionate advocate for the profession. She began her service with NSPE and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 2001 as a volunteer with the Travis Chapter in Austin. Since then, she has held numerous leadership roles, championing ethical standards and professional excellence across the engineering community.

The 2025-2026 NSPE Board of Directors (BOD) were installed during NSPECon25. [Get acquainted with the members of the BOD](#).

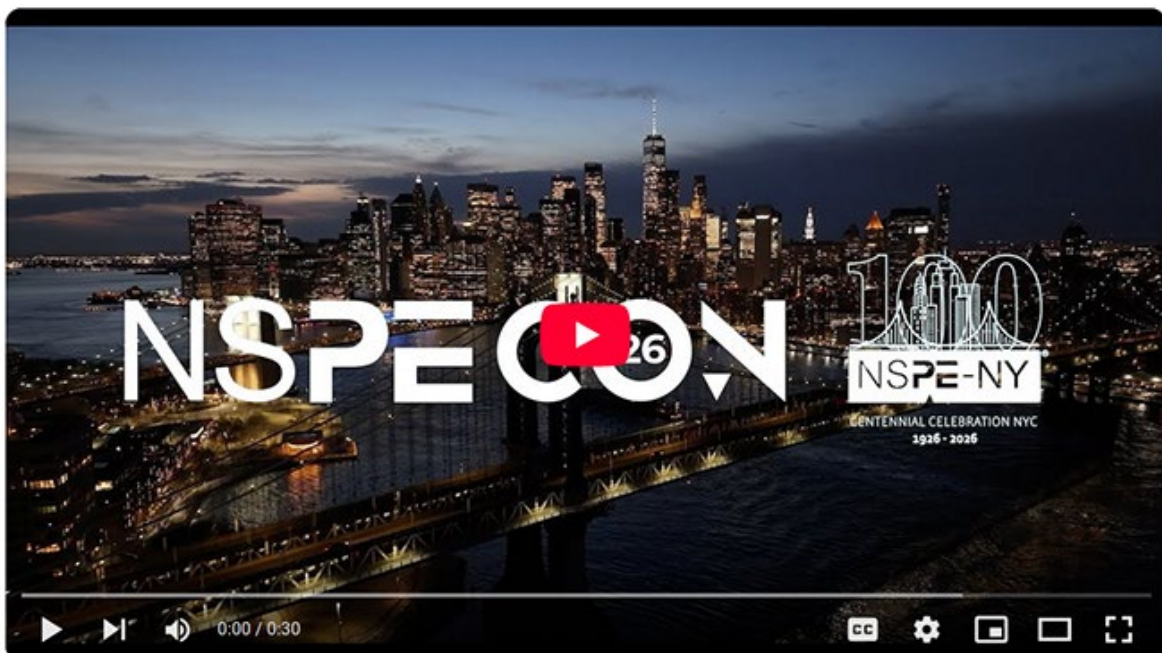


Save the Date: NSPECon26

We enjoyed seeing the NSPE community come together in Kansas City for NSPECon25 to celebrate PE Day, participate in sessions covering timely topics and engage in impactful conversations. Stay tuned for information on how to access photos from the event on the conference website.



Next year will be about bright lights and big opportunities, so add NSPECon26 to your calendar, because we're going to New York City, August 5-7. Help us celebrate NYSSPE's centennial anniversary in The Big Apple.



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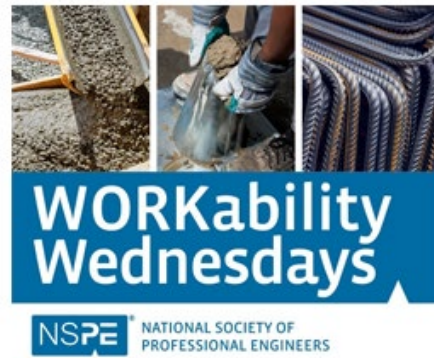
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Registration Open: 2025 Fall WORKability Webinars

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members —“WORKability Wednesdays”— to support members with their professional development goals through [NSPE's PE Institute](#) . The first webinar of the fall season will kick off on September 10 (2:00

p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET). Registration is open for the September webinars. Stay tuned for notifications to register for the additional webinars.



- September 10: [Decarbonizing Concrete: Overcoming Challenges, Unlocking Opportunities](#)
- September 24: [The Case for AI in Forensic Engineering: Enhancing Expert Testimony and Avoiding Obsolescence](#)
- October 8: **Marketing & Sales Best Practices for Engineering Firms**
- October 22: **Board of Ethical Review – Discussion of New Ethics Cases**
- November 5: **Winning More Business: Using Forensic Engineering Expertise as a Competitive Differentiator**
- November 12: **The Ethics of Sustainability in the Water, Food, and Energy Nexus**

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