New Report Highlights Challenges for Montana Roadways

Montana's aging roads and bridges are failing to keep up with population booms around the state—and the fix won't be cheap. That's the takeaway from a new report identifying the challenges Montana's transportation system faces, according to ktvq.com.

The report, published by the National Transportation Research Nonprofit, is titled "Keep Moving Montana Forward: Progress and Challenges in Achieving a 21st Century Transportation System."

A press conference was recently held with the director of policy and research for the group, Rocky Moretti. Moretti was joined by David Smith, president of the Montana Infrastructure Coalition, and Mack Long, the director of the Montana Department of Transportation.

"The report points out that Montana continues to experience significant growth," Moretti said. "In population, economic growth, and also vehicle travel growth." But maintaining those transportation systems requires a lot of planning—and with the growing population—things become tricky. Read more.

NorthWestern Energy to Increase Ownership Share in Colstrip

NorthWestern Energy said it will acquire Washington-based utility Avista's ownership stake in the aging Colstrip coal power plant, a move the company said would keep the plant in operation through the end of the decade, the Montana Free Press reports.

NorthWestern, Montana's dominant power utility, has been trying for several years to expand its stake in Colstrip, which is owned in part by Washington- and Oregon-based companies that have been planning a 2025 exit in the face of their states' climate action targets. Read more.
Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

NSPECon23 Call for Presentations

Share your expertise with professional engineers during NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky, August 2-4. Presentation proposals are being accepted on a submissions site until January 25. The sessions will focus on three topics: amplify your leadership human skills; stay informed about issues and trends impacting the profession; and invest in your career.

Accepted presenters will receive:

- The unparalleled opportunity to give back to the professional engineer community at a nationally recognized conference.
- Recognition on the conference website with a headshot photo, biography, and session description.
- A customized press release announcing your participation and contribution to the conference to share with your employer and/or clients.
- Assistance with (and guidelines for) promoting your session on social media outlets.
- Follow-up survey results and comments related to your presentation.

Get Ready for Engineers Week: Creating the Future!

Engineers Week (February 19–25, 2023) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week seeks to inspire the next generation by celebrating all the way engineers are Creating the Future! A free Countdown to Engineers Week webinar will take place on Wednesday, January 18, at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (ET). Register and attend the webinar to receive an Engineers Week planning guide and
New Board of Ethical Review Cases

The NSPE Board of Ethical Review (BER) annually provides advisory opinions to provide guidance on ethical dilemmas. The Board of Ethical Review (BER) has released a new set of cases on various topics including on conflict of interest, duty to report, and professional qualifications.

Check out a BER case focused on the PE role in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

**Facts:** City passes an ordinance requiring a sprinkler system in residences with less than eight feet between them and makes the ordinance effective as to all construction which has not yet received an occupancy permit. This means that projects under construction must have a sprinkler system added. Engineer A, who happens to have both structural and fire protection credentials, is hired by Homeowner to design a retaining wall system to stabilize a rear yard. Homeowner allowed Engineer A to store equipment in the integral garage. Engineer A observes that the builder routed the piping for the retrofitted sprinkler system through the unheated garage, exposing the pipes to freezing temperatures.

**Questions:** What are Engineer A’s obligations?

Access the full case to read the BER’s discussion and conclusion.