

State News for NSPE Members

Governor Announces Transition at Montana DOT

Governor Greg Gianforte announced Mack Long, who leads the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), will retire on March 22, 2024, and MDT Deputy Director Larry Flynn will serve as MDT's Interim Director, according to a [news release](#).

"I'm grateful to Mack for his leadership at MDT and his service to the people of Montana," Governor Gianforte said. "On his watch, the agency has emphasized the importance of customer service and streamlined permitting to improve our state's transportation infrastructure. I appreciate the personal sacrifice Mack and his family made as he entered public service. I'll miss the good-natured approach he brought to serving Montana and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement."

Appointed by Governor Gianforte as director in January 2021, Long brought 25 years of experience in professional construction operations and management, serving as president of the JTL Group, a construction company started by his grandfather in Billings. After his retirement from JTL, Long served as the owner of an oil field service business in Montana and Wyoming.

"It's been an honor to lead MDT and be a part of the governor's successful, productive administration," Director Long said. "I'm proud that we've reduced red tape, improved our customer service, and made great progress to improve the safety and resiliency of our state's transportation infrastructure. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have served the state I call home, and after talking with my wife and family, it's time for me to retire and spend time with them at our home in Billings."

Montana Receives \$8.1M for Water Infrastructure Improvements

US Department of Agriculture Rural Development has selected four projects from counties, cities, towns, and sewer districts to invest \$8.1 million to improve and upgrade critical water infrastructure in the state, according to USDA's state director

Jake Ceartin, [NBC Montana reports](#). The Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program will allow funds to go toward access to clean drinking water and improved water infrastructure in Hobson, Wolf Point, Power and Teton County Water and Sewer District, and Wheatland County.

“Water infrastructure is essential for delivering safe, reliable, clean water to residents across Montana, and for ensuring a healthy, basic standard of living they can count on,” said Ceartin. “Through its water infrastructure programs, USDA will continue working with local governments to ensure they continue can meet the most basic needs of their residents.”

USDA Rural Development provides loans, loan guarantees, and grants to expand economic opportunities, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural and Tribal areas. [Read more](#).

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

Registration Open: 2024 Spring Webinar Series

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—“Workability Wednesdays”—to support members with their professional development goals. The first webinars of the spring season will take place on **April 3**—[NSPE's Board of Ethical Review Presents: The Duty to Act](#); **April 17**—[Second Best Protection Against Risk](#); and **May 1**—[Enhancing Building Safety: Mitigating Risks of Slip, Trips, and Falls](#) (Celebration of National Building Safety Month).



Additional presentations will take place in May and June. Register now at [NSPE's PE Institute](#) and invite a colleague to attend.

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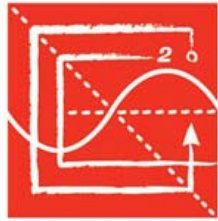
NSPE offers a variety of sponsorship packages to meet specific goals and budgets. A special exhibitor discount is being offered to Research Triangle-based businesses. Learn more about these opportunities in the [Sponsor and Exhibitor section of the conference website](#) .

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The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee has released new documents - EJCDC® E-580, Teaming Agreement to Pursue Joint Professional Services Opportunity and EJCDC® E-590, Joint Venture Agreement for Professional Services (2024 editions). NSPE members [will receive a 50% discount on the EJCDC documents](#) .

The [E-580, Teaming Agreement to Pursue Joint Professional Services Opportunity](#) is intended for a collaboration between two design firms that have decided to join together to pursue an opportunity to obtain work. The [E-590, Joint Venture](#)

[Agreement for Professional Services](#) is a contract document in which two or more design firms agree to join together to provide specific professional services to a third party.

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