

## State News for NSPE Members

### Montana Energy Utility Program Could Make Power Plants Cheaper

NorthWestern Energy wants Montana's utility regulating board to use its "reliability rider" to help with the cost of building power plants, [Montana Free Press reports](#).

The company says the reliability rider is a "more efficient regulatory alternative" to a rate case process. NorthWestern says it is part of the company's effort to secure "reliable, safe energy service" for its 400,000 customers.

Company spokesperson Jo Dee Black said the reliability rider will help NorthWestern reduce the "regulatory lag" between a new power plant coming online and the next rate review. Also, it would allow investments in new electric assets that will help ensure reliability, she said. [Read more](#).

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### Montana State Receives \$4.47 Million to Improve Cybersecurity

Building on nearly five years of helping the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security improve methods for resisting cyberattacks, Montana State University is leading a new effort to reduce software vulnerabilities across a wide range of systems, according to a [news release](#).

The project, funded by a \$4.47 million, three-year DHS contract award, will draw on advanced computing and data science techniques to develop innovative tools for identifying computer code that could be exploited by cybercriminals or foreign enemies.

"We're growing the work we've done already and expanding into new areas," said project leader and principal investigator Clem Izurieta, professor in the Gianforte School of Computing in MSU's Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering. "As we see an increase in the frequency of cyberattacks and the types of systems being

breached, there's a real need for detecting the potential for attacks before they occur." [Read more.](#)

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

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## NSPE Stays Focused on Sustainability and Resilience

The United Nations Climate Change Conference ( [COP27](#) ) kicked off in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt last week. As the conference takes place, NSPE will [provide conference highlights](#) of interest to professional engineers.



NSPE believes licensed PEs should be good stewards of the environment to preserve and protect our world for future generations. The Society recognizes that attention to sustainable and resilient design practices is critical to the health of the planet and is an integral part of the practice of engineering. PEs are uniquely positioned to be a positive and driving influence in creating, maintaining, and renewing sustainable communities.

In early 2022, the NSPE Board of Directors endorsed “The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change.” The statement was prepared with input from a working group of 16 organizations, including NSPE, and facilitated by ECL-USA. It is intended to unite, energize, and motivate people within and across organizations, and to fulfill their desires for meaning and purpose in their professional lives.

### **The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change:**

Climate change is real – the impacts are serious, and they are accelerating. There is an urgent imperative for the Engineering Community to take informed and intentional actions now to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. It is our duty and purpose to contribute our skills and knowledge of human-centered technologies and of the natural world to lead humanity out of the climate crisis with a focus on sustainable, resilient, equitable, and innovative approaches. [Learn more](#) .

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## Honor Awards Open for Nominations

The [NSPE Honor Awards](#) promote the professional engineer’s contributions to society and recognize the achievements of the profession’s very best. The deadline

for award submissions is **January 31, 2023**.

### NSPE Award

The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. **Howard (Skip) Harclerode II, P.E., F.NSPE, F.AIChE**, received the award in 2022. He is the founder and president of KBD Engineering Company Inc., based in Phoenix, Maryland, and has been a tireless advocate for the engineering profession.



### New Professional of the Year Award

This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the Engineering Profession and the community during the early years of one's career. **Holly Ahumada, P.E., CFM**, and **Dylan Ward, P.E., MPA**, received the award in 2022. Holly Ahumada specializes in stormwater and floodplain management at Freese and Nichols in Fort Worth, Texas. Dylan Ward is a project manager for the City of Henderson in Kentucky.



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## Upcoming Webinar: Election Recap

Join your colleagues for the next Workability Wednesdays webinar: [Election Recap: How Can PEs Prepare for the 2023 Legislative Session](#) (November 30).

Register now for these FREE webinars for NSPE members and earn PDHs before the end of the year. If you missed any recent webinars? No problem.... [check out the recordings](#) .



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