

## State News for NSPE Members

### Call for Nominations: Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame

The Montana Society of Engineers is seeking nominations for the Montana Professional Engineers of Hall of Fame, which recognizes professional engineers who have made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and public welfare. The award is open to all professional engineers licensed in Montana.

Recipients are honored with a commemorative plaque residing at Montana State University in Roberts Hall, the original home of the MSU's Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering. Active, retired or deceased engineers are eligible for the award, which is traditionally given annually at the Joint Engineers Banquet in November.

Nominations will be accepted through **March 31**. Learn more and access the nomination forms [here](#).

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### Remembering Allan McDonald: Montana Native, Engineer, Whistleblower in Challenger Disaster

Allan J. McDonald, a rocket scientist and whistleblower who refused to sign off on the launch of the *Challenger* space shuttle over safety concerns and, after its explosion, argued that the tragedy could have been averted had officials heeded warnings from engineers like himself, died March 6 at a hospital in Ogden, Utah. He was 83, according to [an obituary](#) in the *Washington Post*.

Although McDonald wasn't able to stop the disaster, he didn't regret adhering to his professional and ethical obligations. The ethics lecturer and author of *Truth, Lies, and O-Rings: Inside the Space Shuttle Challenger* spoke at NSPE's annual meeting in 2015.



McDonald also contributed to a PE magazine [feature article](#) on taking an ethical stand. In the article he stated, “A company pays you for your professional opinion, so you should give it to them. They may not like it or may not accept it, but it’s your responsibility to speak up.”

[Read a commentary on Allan McDonald and his ethical convictions.](#)

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## **Nuclear Energy on the Radar in State Legislature**

Nuclear energy is having a moment in the Montana Legislature. With uncertainty surrounding the future of the state’s coal-fired power plants and the Biden administration’s aggressive targets for reducing fossil-fuel emissions to combat climate change, Montana’s energy landscape is in flux. Nuclear energy development has come up in past legislative sessions, but this year lawmakers—Republican lawmakers in particular—seem motivated to pave the way for adding nuclear to Montana’s energy mix, according to a *Missoula Current* article.

The House passed a simultaneously controversial and low-profile measure last month that seeks to “eliminate restrictions on nuclear facility development.” The most obvious thing [House Bill 273](#) does is repeal a 1978 law that requires a majority of Montana voters to approve any nuclear energy facilities before they can be built here. The bill drew unanimous support from Republicans and near-unanimous opposition from Democrats in passing the House on February 16.

HB 273 is 22 pages long, but discussion has been hyper-focused on four lines the bill would remove from Montana law: “If the [Department of Environmental Quality] decides to issue a certificate for a nuclear facility, it shall report the recommendation to the applicant and may not issue the certificate until the recommendation is approved by a majority of the voters in a statewide election called by initiative or referendum according to the law of the state.”

[Read more.](#)

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NSPE's **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

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## **FAA safety engineer goes public to slam the agency's oversight of Boeing's 737 MAX**

Haunted by the two deadly crashes of Boeing 737 MAX jets and his agency's role in approving the plane, veteran Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety engineer Joe Jacobsen is stepping forward publicly to give the victims' families "a firsthand account of what the truth is." In a detailed letter sent last month to a family that lost their daughter in the second MAX crash in Ethiopia two years ago this week, and in [interviews with The Seattle Times](#), Jacobsen gave the first personal account by an insider of the federal safety agency's response to the MAX crashes. Jacobsen should have been among the FAA specialists who reviewed the MAX's critical new flight control software during its original certification, which was largely controlled by Boeing. He's confident that he and other FAA engineers would have flagged its serious design flaws.

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## Wanted: 2021 NSPE Emerging Leaders



NSPE is fostering a new generation of engineers who can think strategically, build effective teams, and lead successfully through its [Emerging Leaders Program](#). This intensive seven-month, professionally facilitated, virtual program is now accepting applications until **May 31**.

Early-career professionals with 5-8 years of experience who are just beginning to lead and think strategically in the profession are encouraged to apply. The program graduated its [first class of diverse, super achieving professionals](#) in February.

Between August 2021 and February 2022 participants will learn how to be successful at higher levels of leadership responsibility. Participants will engage in 90-minute leadership training sessions each month with learning discussions and mentoring on topics such as ownership, team development, communication skills, giving/receiving feedback, and presentation skills. There will also be ample networking opportunities with peers and national NSPE national leaders.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

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## Ethics Webinars for PEs and Those on the Licensure Path



Don't miss NSPE's upcoming ethics webinars on truthfulness and fidelity to

employers and clients, with insight from Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq., NSPE's senior director for ethics and professional practice and NAFE executive director, and other NSPE ethics experts.

### **April 7**

#### [Engineering Ethics—Canon III—Truthfulness](#)

Learn from a variety of situations in which circumstances can tempt (and even encourage) engineers to dance around the edges of Canon III.

*Presenters: Hugh Veit, P.E., Susan Sprague, P.E., F.NSPE, and Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq.*

### **May 5**

#### [Engineering Ethics—Canon IV—Fidelity to Employers/Clients](#)

Examine the duties to employers and clients, and circumstances under which those duties can be pre-empted by higher duties, especially to the public health, safety, and welfare.

*Presenters: David Kish, Ph.D., P.E., Jeff Greenfield, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE, and Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq.*

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