Landry Administration Reorganizing Coastal Protection Authority

The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana recently conducted a web forum to discuss the Governor Jeff Landry administration's initiative to revamp the state's coastal agency, *The Center Square* reports.

The webinar featured Tyler Gray, the secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources; Simone Maloz, campaign director of Restore the Mississippi River Delta; and Rep. Jerome Zeringue, R-Houma, who was once the executive director of the CPRA.

On February 1, Landry issued an executive order placing the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and the CPRA Board under the Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

The reorganization hasn't been without controversy. The nonprofit Bureau of Governmental Research sent Landry a letter February 20, telling the first-term GOP governor the work of the CPRA and its board is "distinct" from the energy department's mission, they provide transparency and accountability and they can make a case for more federal funding for conservation projects.

A bill by Rep. Brett F. Geymann, R-Lake Charles, would make changes to the CPRA's governing board. House Bill 806 would remove several state officials from the CPRA board, including the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development; the secretary of the Department of Economic Development, the commissioner of administration; the commissioner of agriculture and forestry; the commissioner of insurance; and the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

The bill is before the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment. Read more.
With Green Energy, Louisiana Group Looks to Be Next Silicon Valley

In 1901, the twin oil discoveries of the historic Spindletop well in Beaumont, Texas, and Louisiana's first successful well in a Jennings rice field paved the way for the growth of an energy industry that modernized the Gulf South.

More than 120 years later, a consortium of Louisiana colleges, universities, governments and businesses has hopes of being the catalyst for the next leap forward in energy, turning the state into a new “Silicon Valley” for the transition away from fuels and industrial processes believed to contribute to climate change, Government Technology reports.

Known as the Future Use of Energy in Louisiana, or FUEL, the new consortium will be funded primarily, at first, through what could be the largest grant ever offered by the US National Science Foundation — $160 million over 10 years if the consortium meets its benchmarks and Congress fully funds the program.

Andrew Maas, an LSU associate vice president who helped lead the FUEL grant effort, said the creation of this transition could mean billions in new investment and jobs for the state. LSU officials cited projections that Louisiana's 250,000 jobs in the energy-related industries could double by 2050.

Since 2018, Louisiana has already seen nearly $60 billion in proposed capital investment tied to renewable or lower carbon-intensity projects, promising nearly 26,600 permanent jobs, according to the state Department of Economic Development. President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act has opened up tax breaks and other incentives to further that development, White House officials said. Read more.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Connect and Learn at NSPECOn24
Registration is open for NSPECon24 (Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9), the prime national event for professional engineers to engage and connect with their peers and to advance their careers. The early-bird discount rates are available until June 27. Access registration information and rates here. Access the preliminary conference program for details on keynote speakers and session topics.

The deadline for reserving a hotel room at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley for the NSPECon24 rate is July 15. We encourage you to make your reservation early since there are a limited number of conference rate hotels rooms available.

NSPECon24 also offers a variety of sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. A special exhibitor discount is being offered to Research Triangle-based businesses.

Welcome to Our 2024 Sponsors!
New Program: Leadership Institute for Women PEs

NSPE’s Women Leadership Program is sponsoring the Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers, a three-day program designed to support mid-career women PEs in confidently navigating their career path and leveraging their leadership skills.

The institute agenda is interwoven into the NSPECon24 program with participants attending pre-conference opening sessions on Wednesday, August 7, and sessions the mornings of Thursday, August 8 and Friday, August 9, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Attendees must register for NSPECon24 to attend the institute.

Access more information and register.

QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2024 QBS Awards. The QBS Awards program promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process in three categories: federal government sector, state governor sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment
sector. The deadline for nominations is June 7 (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form.

Read a PE magazine article about a longtime champion of QBS.

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