Venture Global Kicks Off Louisiana’s Construction ‘Thrill Ride’

An unfathomable procession of up to 6,000 workers enters the gates of Venture Global’s Plaquemines LNG site every day. At $21 billion, the around-the-clock, two-phased project is touted to be the largest in the nation, according to the 1012 Industry Report.

Unfortunately, construction of the mammoth facility is draining the local skilled labor force and could continue to do so for years to come should the company’s equally substantial third phase – dubbed Delta LNG – reach a Final Investment Decision (FID) soon.

It seems Louisiana’s long-predicted construction surge is really happening. The Venture Global job, as large as it is, is merely a bellwether of things to come, unlike previous years when reality didn’t quite live up to expectations. While other LNG projects might have tapped the brakes a bit across south Louisiana, there are plenty of other projects announced along the 10/12 corridor either breaking ground, in design or expected to reach FIDs soon.

“Of the $120 billion in announced projects, about half of them are evenly divided between Lake Charles and the Baton Rouge to New Orleans corridor,” says economist Loren Scott with Loren C. Scott & Associates in Baton Rouge.

The reason for the unprecedented surge is simple. Industrial plants in Europe and Asia can’t compete with those in the US, which benefit from significantly lower natural gas prices. “We’re making stuff from natural gas that costs $2 per million BTUs and they’re having to pay $12 to $20,” Scott adds. “There’s no way they can compete with that. That’s why you’re seeing so many of these firms expanding here.” Read more.

New Orleans Improves Focus on Energy Efficiency
A report by an advocacy group gave New Orleans much improved, but still mid-pack grades for energy efficiency and steps taken to deal with climate change. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, a nonprofit organization devoted to advocacy on energy efficiency and decarbonization, ranked the Crescent City 39th in the annual City Clean Energy Scorecard, *The Center Square* reports.

New Orleans jumped 28 spots from last year's scorecard, which the authors say is due to a mandate passed by the City Council that requires electric vehicle charging stations for new residential and commercial buildings. They also said a push for electricity to be generated by carbon-free sources by 2040 and lobbying of lawmakers to update the state's building codes for energy efficiency contributed to improved score.

A score of 15.5 out of 45 points on community-wide initiatives reflects the inability to be on track for greenhouse gas reduction goals. A score of 15 out of 70 on building policies was helped by advocating for higher efficiency standings for state building codes. Read more.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](https://www.nspe.org/advocacy-center).

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**Get Involved! NSPE Seeks Volunteers for 2024-25 Committees**

NSPE’s passionate and dedicated committee volunteers are essential to our mission. *Why serve?* In addition to giving back to the professional engineering community, NSPE volunteers form strong connections with committee colleagues, learn new skills, enjoy networking with leaders or hone their own leadership skills.

Learn more and apply to NSPE's 2024-25 Committees by June 3. *(You must log-in with your NSPE credentials to submit an application.)*

If you do not see an opportunity that interests you in the link above, check out Get Involved throughout the year to learn more about other areas of engagement, including short-term projects.

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**NSPECOn24 Keynote Speakers**
NSPECon24 (Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9), the prime national event for professional engineers, will feature keynote speakers to provide inspiration and guidance to help elevate your career in addition to putting a spotlight on emerging issues within the industry. Early-bird registration rates are available until June 27. Access registration information and rates here.
Paul Doherty, chairman and CEO of The Digit Group, will present the session “Unlocking the Metaverse: AI, Engineering the Future of Our Industry” to provide insight on emerging technologies and explore real-world solutions and projects that are challenging our industry.

Dan Heath, author and senior fellow, The Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (CASE), Duke University, will present the session “RESET: How to Change What’s Not Working” to explore a framework for getting unstuck and making the changes that matter.

Access the preliminary NSPECon24 program for more details on the keynote speakers and session topics.

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!
Inaugural 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.