

## State News for NSPE Members

### Louisiana Secures \$73 Million for EV Charging Infrastructure

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has approved the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment Plan and will allocate approximately \$73 million in federal funding to Louisiana over the next five years, according to a [news release](#).

This plan, which was submitted to the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program on August 1, outlines the intent to administer federal funds through a grant program currently under development. The grant program will fund up to 80% of EV charging infrastructure with a minimum 20% match by grant recipients.

“These funds will allow the state to move forward and provide additional fueling infrastructure to the ever-changing transportation industry,” said DOTD Secretary Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D. “Louisiana’s EV charging network is relatively low compared to our neighboring states, and we must be able to accommodate the growing shift in the way people travel. Creating a more sustainable and cleaner environment is of the utmost importance, and one way of accommodating this is by having more charging stations and allowing them to be affordable to the everyday motorist.”

DOTD will begin accepting grant applications in early 2023 for recipients to own, install, and operate EV charging stations that meet federal requirements. Recipients are anticipated to be selected, and funds dispersed, by summer 2023. The department is planning future outreach activities and virtual meetings to solicit feedback. For additional information, contact [DOTD-EVProgram@la.gov](mailto:DOTD-EVProgram@la.gov).

---

### East Baton Rouge Utility Plan Would Improve Flood Resilience, Officials Say

Leaders in East Baton Rouge Parish want to combine city and parish stormwater systems into a public utility district that would allow them to assess a new fee, which would help with planning for resiliency and flood protection measures, [The Advocate reports](#).

The Metro Council was slated to consider an agreement between the city of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish to create the utility in mid-September. Creating a fee under the utility district will require a separate vote, which would be held later in 2022, city-parish spokesman Mark Armstrong said.

“We need something to continue the progress and increase flood resiliency, decrease flood potential and protect our residents,” Armstrong was quoted. “Establishing a utility is something that needs to be done. That is how you adequately address your separate stormwater sewer system.”

The utility district will allow the city-parish to construct, improve, operate, and maintain the stormwater system, according to a council memo. [Read more](#).

---

## **Transmission Project Aimed at Shoring Up Electric Reliability**

Entergy Louisiana recently began construction of a \$100 million transmission project that aims to build resilience and increase the reliability of its electric grid in southwest Louisiana. The project will also increase capacity to hopefully attract new economic development projects in the region while benefitting existing customers, including those in industry.

The Mud Lake to Big Lake transmission project spans from an existing substation west of Mud Lake near the Calcasieu and Cameron parish line to a new substation being built in Lake Charles.

The project will take place in phases and is scheduled for completion next summer. Major components of the work include:

- Construction of nearly 15 miles of (230kV and 69kV) transmission lines
- Construction of a new substation, Big Lake substation
- Upgrades at three existing substations, including Mud Lake substation
- Installation of approximately 150 poles or structures

Portions of the new transmission line will be built to withstand winds up to 140 and 150 mph, with a crossing at Calcasieu River and Intracoastal Waterway being built to withstand winds of up to 175 mph, Entergy reports. [Read more](#).

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

---

## Moving the Society Closer to Our Vision

By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022-2023



What does NSPE mean to you? I'd like to try to tell you what it means to me. I began my career with a small civil engineering firm with a focus on municipal engineering. After a few years, I moved to the public works department in Jefferson City, Missouri. This is the same city where my wife and I have raised our three children. As a result, I've had the privilege of working for the community that I have called home most of my career.

Like many of you, I was approached by another engineer early in my career and asked to join NSPE. I have moved through various leadership and volunteer roles at the chapter, state, and national levels. I could not be more humbled to be the president of NSPE. I never dreamed that I would be in this position. As I got involved with NSPE, I met and built friendships with many wonderful engineers within my community, around the state, and across this great country. Each time I get involved and want to give back, I seem to receive so much more than I give. Our founder David Steinman probably had similar thoughts. Steinman understood that the technical problems of the various engineering disciplines are different, but the interests of the profession are shared. He founded NSPE to unite the profession around those common interests. NSPE was created, and continues today, to be the single national professional society, with solidarity of purpose and concentration of strength, to provide for the professional interests of the engineering profession.

NSPE has adopted as our vision: A world where the public can be confident that the engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Our vision statement is a simple statement, but a very powerful message. I heard once that the average engineer holds the lives of more people in their hands than any doctor could see in a lifetime. As I considered that statement, I couldn't help but think about the awesome responsibility we carry. NSPE was created and continues today to help all members of our profession fulfill that responsibility.

[Read more.](#)

---

## Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers

to innovation and service is the hallmark of the [Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#).

Nominations for the award, which attracts participation from more than a dozen federal agencies, are open until October 31.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 24, 2023, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January. [Apply or nominate a worthy engineer](#).



### The 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year

**Robert Zueck, Ph.D., P.E.**, was named NSPE's 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year for his discoveries and contributions in the engineering field during a [virtual awards event](#) in February.

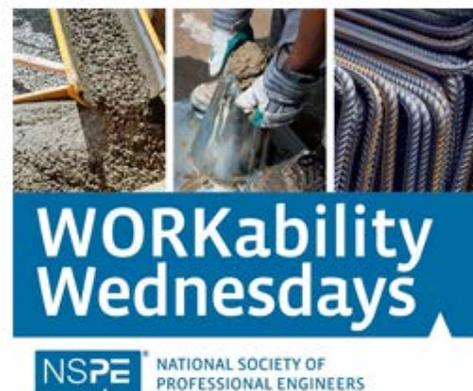
Prior to retirement, Zueck worked in the US Department of the Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), Expeditionary Warfare Center at Port Hueneme, California. He is heralded for applying his vibration research to military defense projects for which engineers can now design beyond the speed, agility, and stealth limitations of many military sensors, weapons, and platforms. Find out more about Zueck in a [PE article](#).



## Access Free WORKability Wednesdays Webinars

The reviews of the [Engineering: Addressing Unintended Consequences as a Professional](#) webinar are excellent. "Applicable to all engineering disciplines," says one attendee.

If you were busy this summer and missed it, there is time to watch this thought-provoking webinar at NSPE's PE Institute. All webinars in the [spring series](#) are available free to members. Watch for more information soon about what to expect in the fall series lineup!



To update your e-mail address, visit [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org) and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, [click here to unsubscribe](#) .

## Share with your network



**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA  
22314**