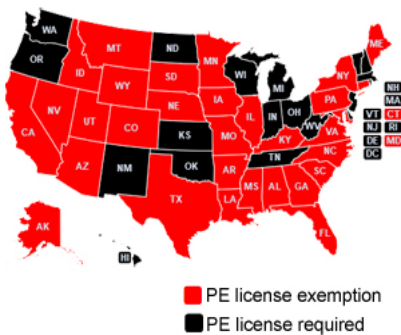


## State News for NSPE Members

### Will Louisiana Act to Remove the PE Exemption?



The National Transportation Safety Board has [identified Louisiana and 30 other states](#) that currently do not require a licensed professional engineer on natural gas pipeline projects. The NTSB sent a letter to the governors of each of the states in the fall, urging them to end exemptions for gas pipeline operators and asking for an update within 90 days.

The NTSB issued [an investigation report](#) on the September 2018 Merrimack Valley gas pipeline explosions with two critical recommendations: first that all the states with license exemptions for public utilities eliminate the exemption, and second that a professional engineer be required to review and approve gas pipeline construction and maintenance documents.

When the NTSB began its investigation, staff reached out to NSPE seeking information about licensing exemptions. Through a series of conversations and emails, NSPE shared report data, information on the licensing process and requirements, and its position statement on licensing exemptions. As a result of conversations with NSPE and other organizations, the NTSB adopted a policy of addressing and eliminating engineering license exemptions within the gas pipeline industry.

NSPE's national staff continues to be in conversation with the National Transportation Safety Board and state societies on this issue.

## Baton Rouge Red-Light Camera Contract Raises Licensure Concerns

A case of potential unlicensed engineering practice and red-light camera installation strikes again—this time in Louisiana. Efforts to renew a Baton Rouge red-light camera operations contract has come with some controversy over a firm unlicensed to practice engineering in the state.

Vera Mobility, formerly known as American Traffic Solutions, operates 24 red-light cameras in 16 intersections in Baton Rouge. The city's previous professional services contract with the firm specified that installation drawings be stamped by a civil engineer licensed in Louisiana according to [an article](#) published by *The Advocate* on November 19.

Louisiana state statute requires firms that practice engineering to be licensed in order to safeguard life, health and property, and to promote the public welfare. Vera Mobility isn't licensed with the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council [voted to extend the firm's contract](#) until 2023 despite a pending lawsuit that seeks to take the red-light cameras out of operation, according to *The Advocate*.

The case is similar to one in which the North Carolina engineering licensing board concluded, after an investigation in 2018, that American Traffic Solutions Inc., violated the law when it installed red-light cameras and produced survey data without a license to practice in the state.

In August 2019, the Colorado State Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyors issued a cease and desist order to Redflex Traffic Systems for practicing engineering without a license in the state. Redflex Traffic Systems provided professional services to the city and county of Denver in July 2008 in violation of state engineering law.

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## A Passion for the Profession

*By 2019–20 President David Martini, P.E., F.NSPE*

One of the many privileges of being president of NSPE is the opportunity to travel and meet people from around the country. My travels have allowed me to expand my knowledge of the engineering profession and see the wonderful things that are happening every day to promote and protect the value of the PE. I have also had the chance to meet with many of NSPE's partners that promote the profession and reach audiences beyond those that NSPE can efficiently reach on its own.

During a recent trip to Kansas City, I learned about exciting programs that look to expand young people's exposure to STEM. The KC STEM Alliance is an example of a collaborative network of educators, business partners, and organizations that inspires interest in science, technology, engineering, and math careers. The alliance aims to address the lack of STEM education opportunities for students in KC's central city—opportunities that are afforded to students in the metro area's more affluent zip codes. The alliance provides resources for students to participate in programs like FIRST Robotics and Project Lead the Way. Financial and volunteer support is provided along with the physical space that is necessary to grow these programs.

[Read more.](#)

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## Take the Global Engineer Survey—You Could Win a \$50 Gift Card!

Share your opinions on the state of engineering today in the second annual [DiscoverE Global Engineer Survey](#). Encourage fellow engineers, technicians, and technologists to participate as well! DiscoverE will select 10 survey respondents at random to receive a \$50 gift card as thanks for participating.

The survey will be available until **January 10**, 2020. DiscoverE will announce the survey findings on March 4, 2020—World Engineering Day.

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## Honor Your Fellow PEs

NSPE is filled with members who exhibit the best of the profession. Take the time to recognize the contributions and achievements of a fellow PE with an NSPE Honor Award.

Submit applications by **January 31** so all deserving candidates can be considered for the



- [NSPE Award](#) —the highest award given by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind;
- [Distinguished Service Award](#) —recognizes a licensed member for exceptional contributions to the profession, to one's community, and specifically to NSPE;
- [Young Engineer of the Year Award](#) —recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the profession and the community.

[Learn more about NSPE Awards.](#)

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## Now Available: Commentary on Construction Documents

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee—a joint venture of NSPE, the American Council of Engineering Companies, and the American Society of Civil Engineers—recently released [commentary on its 2018 construction documents](#). EJCDC documents are the first choice, and most user-friendly, among standard documents for infrastructure and public works construction in the United States.

EJCDC documents are available to NSPE members at a 50% discount.

*C-001 Commentary on the 2018 EJCDC Construction Documents*, at 184 pages, contains in-depth descriptions of each of the 25 documents in the EJCDC construction series and explains their use. The commentary includes definitions of terms, cross-references and abbreviations, and a detailed discussion of terms and conditions.

The EJCDC construction series of documents assumes the design engineer is involved during construction. C-001 explains how to use each document in the series during the process. There is also a discussion of the *Contractor for Construction of a Small Project* document and its use.

[Access the Commentary.](#)

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## 15 Free—Get Them Before They're Gone!

Earn PDHs with this year's roundup of [15 free courses](#) available to NSPE members, before they expire at the end of the year.

Develop and hone your professional skills without leaving your own workstation! Check out all of the 2019 free courses before the new year, including the four-part engineering ethics series and career development webinars.

[Access the courses.](#)

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