State’s Unreliable Electrical Grid Will be Evaluated by Engineering Firm

Louisiana’s elected utility regulators want outside engineers to evaluate the state’s electrical infrastructure to explain why so many wires and poles come down after storms, causing outages. The state’s annual average outage durations are nearly twice the US average, according to The Advocate.

Even taking major storms into consideration, Louisiana is 47th in the nation in grid reliability, said Craig Greene, R-Baton Rouge, one of the five regulators on the Public Service Commission. The regulators plan to hire an engineering firm next month to draw up a statewide resiliency plan.

Chemical Manufacturing Expected To Have a Great Year in Louisiana

Industry leaders say the outlook for chemical manufacturing in Louisiana is the best they have seen in years, according to the Greater Baton Rouge Business Report.

Low natural gas prices and rising demand for vehicles and homes contributed to that confidence. In addition, they feel Louisiana is well-positioned for the transition to a lower-carbon, more sustainable future, according to participants in a webinar hosted by 10/12 Industry Report and Business Report. However, concerns about inflation and companies’ supply chains were also voiced.

The more optimistic participants emphasized that Louisiana’s geology is conducive to carbon capture and sequestration projects, and said the industry’s role in the energy transition could be important for attracting and retaining talent.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.
Take the 2022 Engineering Outlook Survey

Share your opinions on current issues affecting the practice of engineering by completing the 2022 *Engineering Outlook Survey*. The survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Once completed, you will have the option to enter our drawing for one of four $50 Amazon gift cards.

All responses will be kept anonymous and only used in aggregated results unless you give us permission to contact you regarding your responses. The results of the survey will be shared in an upcoming article in *PE* magazine, as well as other NSPE publications (website, newsletters, social media, etc.).

Start the survey.

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**NSPE Endorses Sustainability and Resilience Statement**

NSPE believes licensed professional engineers should be good stewards of the environment in order to preserve and protect our world for future generations. The NSPE Board of Directors recently endorsed “The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change,” a statement intended to unite, energize, and motivate people within and across organizations, and to fulfill their desires for meaning and purpose in their professional lives. Facilitated by Engineering Change Lab-USA, the statement was prepared with input from a working group of sixteen organizations including NSPE.

Read more about NSPE’s position on the environment, sustainability, and resilience.

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**New Live Webinar Series: Workability Wednesdays**

Would colleagues consider you workable? How easy is it for you to mold, flow, and bend in today’s work environment? Is your knowledge up-to-date and relevant? Please join us for this new webinar series to learn more about topics impacting the industry and to enhance your competencies in the profession.

These live and interactive webinars are free to NSPE members and will be held at 2:00 pm EDT on the first and third Wednesday of the months of April, May, and June. The next webinar on April 20 will focus on *The Future of Wichita’s Water - The Northwest Water Treatment*
Learn more about the upcoming webinars and register.

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