

## State News for NSPE Members

### Hahnville PE Wins Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest

Historic rainfalls and significant storm events are becoming quite the norm, bringing with them increased risks for public safety. So, what happens when an engineer wants to prepare a coastal residential development project for these risks, yet the engineer's client doesn't want to design the project to deal with them? What are the engineer's obligations?

NSPE member Linda Hartle Bergeron, P.E., of Hahnville, Louisiana, provided the best assessment of this ethical dilemma to win this year's Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest. She was awarded \$2,000 and her [review of this ethics case](#) is featured in the Sept/Oct issue of *PE* magazine.

The [Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest](#) challenges members to consider the facts of a scenario and the questions it raises. The contest is named for NSPE's former general counsel, who played a key role in the founding of the NSPE Board of Ethical Review.

The board provides different fact situations to choose from, or contest participants can submit their own case. Participants can develop an essay, video, photo essay, poster, or PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate understanding of the facts and the [NSPE Code of Ethics](#).

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### At Your Fingertips: Louisiana PE Laws and Rules

As a service to members, state societies, the engineering community, and the public, NSPE offers a number of reports on state professional engineer laws and rules. They cover topics such as continuing education requirements, digital signing and sealing of engineering documents, PE exam timing, and more.

NSPE members can easily view report information by state. Access all the information for Louisiana on one convenient page or easily see information related to a particular topic for the state. Want to know about exemptions to engineering

licensure laws in Louisiana? The language is a simple click away.

Go to the [state reports page](#) to search via the interactive map or search portal.

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## Louisiana Green Lights Self-Driving Trucks

In August, a law took effect that regulates the operation of autonomous commercial trucks. The law ([Act 232](#)) authorizes the use of autonomous commercial motor vehicles in Louisiana without a conventional driver physically present in the vehicle if the vehicle meets all of the following criteria:

- Is capable of operating in compliance with applicable federal law and the traffic and motor vehicle laws of this state including but not limited to applicable laws concerning the capability to safely navigate and negotiate railroad crossings.
- Is properly registered and titled in accordance with existing law.
- Is certified in accordance with federal law as being in compliance with federal motor vehicle safety standards and bears the required certification label or labels, including reference to any exemption granted under applicable federal law.
- Is capable of achieving a minimal risk condition if a failure occurs rendering the vehicle unable to perform the dynamic driving task relevant to its intended operational design domain or if the vehicle exits its operational design domain.
- Is covered by motor vehicle liability coverage in an amount not less than \$2,000,000.

The act also outlines requirements for licensing and adhering to traffic and motor vehicles laws.

### NSPE on Autonomous Vehicles Technologies

NSPE has been [working on multiple fronts](#) to promote and protect the public in the development and deployment of autonomous vehicle technologies. The Society has adopted a [policy guide](#) providing public policy decision-makers, regulators, manufacturers, and others with guidelines to measure the safety readiness of autonomous vehicles under consideration for deployment.

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## Advocacy Campaign a Success—But More Action Needed





 **Trish Hatley** @triciahatley - Aug 7. Met with Senator Inhofe's field rep @BrysonPanas this morning in our @FreeseNichols office to talk about the need to reduce licensure exemptions and how PE's help protect the public health, safety and welfare. [#LicensedPEday](#) [#PEDayAdvocate](#)

More than 100 NSPE members either met with or called their legislators and staffers on August 7 as part of the Society's Professional Engineers Day advocacy campaign. It was the largest such campaign in remembered NSPE history. PEs joined together to speak up for the importance of licensure and passage of a federal bill that would require PE oversight of utility pipelines, following the 2018 Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts, gas line explosion.

NSPE's Manager of Government Relations and Advocacy Stephanie Hamilton called the day "a strong success" as enthusiastic NSPE members worked to build lasting relationships that will help them be seen as experts on licensure and technical matters now and in the future.

However, the week before the campaign, the Senate version of the bill was added as an amendment to a larger pipeline safety bill and watered down to remove the PE requirement. According to Hamilton, the Society was "disappointed" and "dismayed" about this change to the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act, named after the teenager killed.

It's not too late to make a difference, however. NSPE members are urged to contact their legislators.

### Read More

- [PE article on the advocacy campaign](#);
- [Hamilton's column on the changes to the bill and how members can take action](#);
- [Popular Mechanics article highlighting the personal impacts of the deadly explosion](#).

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## 2019 Fall Webinar Series Open for Registration



Register now for the [2019 Fall Webinar Series](#) ! Develop your skills and earn continuing education credits this fall. Stay current on a variety of topics from the comfort of your home or office. Don't miss NSPE Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel Arthur Schwartz's Ethics Forum each month—register for individual webinars or [get a special bundle price](#) until **September 17**.

Sign up now for these webinars:

- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Employers and Clients](#)  
**September 18**
- [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design](#)  
**September 25**
- [Mindfulness in Action](#)  
**October 2**
- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Vendors and Colleagues](#)  
**October 16**
- [Clients are from Venus, Consultants from Mars: A Guide to Effective Management of Consultants](#)

**November 6**

- [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public](#)

**November 13**

And don't forget that, as part of your NSPE membership, you also receive access to [15 free online seminars](#) .

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## Find Quality Candidates or a Great New Job



NSPE's online event for employers and job seekers will take place again on **October 2** from 11 am – 3 pm Eastern.

Whether you're an engineer just starting out or an experienced professional looking for a new opportunity, you can connect with employers from the comfort of your home, office, smartphone, or tablet. The event is free for job seekers.

Companies in search of top talent will be able to access professionals representing all engineering sectors around the country.

[Employers: Learn more and register.](#)

[Job seekers: Learn more and register.](#)

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