Water System Overhaul Hits Snag with Red Tape

Louisiana’s failing water system was allocated $300 million for repairs and maintenance by the state legislature this year, but the community-level application process was plagued by confusion and logistical problems ahead of the Nov. 1 deadline, the Illuminator reports.

Reportedly, 20% of the 1,287 water systems in the state aren’t up to code. Many communities began applications but didn’t complete them. Completed applications required an engineer-provided cost estimate, and some towns had trouble finding engineers, while others were confused about the application forms, State Rep. Jeremy LaCombe said. The initial application deadline was in September, but it was extended as states dealt with the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. At least 66 applications had been completed by the end of October.

Louisiana Plastics Plant Faces Delays, Scrutiny by Army Corps of Engineers

A massive $9.4 billion plastics complex planned for St. James Parish faces a likely two-year delay as the project is scrutinized for possible environmental impacts. Plans for the project owned by plastics company Formosa were initially approved by the US Army Corps of Engineers, but the approval was later rescinded, and the Corps said it had made errors, the Advocate reports. Environmental groups filed a lawsuit saying the environmental study was insufficient; now the Army Corps will take time to research and draft an environmental impact statement.

Many applaud this close examination because the area along the Mississippi River already suffers from significant pollution. But advocates for the plant say that it will create 1,200 permanent jobs in the area and boost the local economy.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.
NSPE is its members. It’s a society made up of dedicated individuals who each bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. NSPE members are leaders. They are connected, inclusive, committed to ethical practice, and so much more. Members are sharing their stories ... join them. #IAMNSPE

I Am the Future

Anali Martinez Gonzalez, E.I.T.
Civil Engineer
NSPE Emerging Leader Class of 2020

“I have taken advantage of opportunities to grow as a leader and seek to inspire the next generation of girls and women, especially Latinas, who want to be engineers one day.”
PECon 2022: Now Accepting Presentation Proposals

NSPE is now accepting presentation submissions for consideration for the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference, August 1–3, in Philadelphia. The deadline for proposals is **November 30**.

The Professional Engineers Conference provides presenters an opportunity to share their expertise at a national conference. The 2022 conference will focus on the theme of harnessing the power of PEs to create a better world.

**Conference Topics**

- **Amplify Your Leadership Power Skills**—Beyond being technically qualified and committed to ethical practices, PEs are leaders. Presentations will be skills-focused for all career levels.
Stay Informed About Issues and Trends Impacting the Profession—The workplace environment is constantly changing and evolving. Presentations should address the latest issues and trends impacting PEs and the engineering industry.

- Invest in Your Career—Choosing a career as a professional engineer is an intentional act by engineers committed to the public health, safety, and welfare. Presentations should address career development topics that will help engineers at all career stages achieve their highest potential.

Learn more and submit a proposal.

Maryland Society Defends PE Requirement for Public Works Director

The Maryland Society of Professional Engineers is opposing efforts to end the requirement for a PE to serve as director of the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation. MDSPE believes a licensed professional engineer can provide the most effective administration to protect public health and safety.

In August, the Baltimore County Council revised the required qualifications for the director position, allowing an unlicensed individual to hold the position if they have at least 10 years of supervisory experience in infrastructure planning and construction, or transportation engineering and management. The existing county charter requires the director to hold a Maryland PE license and have at least 10 years of experience in responsible charge of engineering work. As this modification will require a change to the county charter, voters will have the final say in a ballot initiative on November 8, 2022.

In a letter to the county council chair, MDSPE emphasized that the county charter has historically required the department’s director and deputy directors to be licensed professional engineers with extensive experience in their areas of practice because the department is responsible for significant engineering activities.

Without a license, the director would not be permitted to resolve differences in engineering decision-making between the PEs on staff, sign off on plans, or change plans without the approval of the PE. MDSPE believes that if an unlicensed director imposes undue influence on professional engineering decisions, it might create significant ethical and legal problems for the department and county.
To update your e-mail address, visit 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