

## State News for NSPE Members

### **Governor Signs \$74 Million Rural Water Infrastructure Bill**

Governor Tate Reeves signed House Bill 1715 into law on April 14, directing \$74 million to rural water infrastructure improvements, [wkrg.com reports](#).

The funds will be allocated to the Mississippi State Department of Health to help fund the ARPA Rural Water Associations Infrastructure Grant Program. The program assists rural water associations with the construction of eligible drinking water projects.

This follows the \$300 million invested into the program last year through House Bills 1538 and 1421.

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### **Mississippi Approves Nearly \$2 Billion for MDOT Projects**

The Mississippi Legislature voted to fund nearly \$2 billion in state infrastructure projects through the Mississippi Department of Transportation, according to a [Transportation Today report](#).

MDOT received \$1.5 billion earmark-free appropriations as well as a \$620 million supplemental appropriation, the department said. The additional funding will be spent on major construction projects, emergency road and bridge repairs, and multimodal projects like ports, railroads, and airports.

“I thank the Mississippi Legislature for providing MDOT consequential funding not seen since the 1987 Highway Bill,” said Brad White, MDOT’s executive director. “An earmark-free appropriation will allow the agency more flexibility to maximize federal funds and make prudent use of taxpayer dollars. Rest assured that with the trust bestowed upon the agency by the legislature, the men and women of MDOT are up to the task and ready to get to work for the people of the state.” [Read more](#).

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

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## Don't Hesitate to Share Your PE Story

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



Have you ever thought about how many people will ever need to hire an engineer? Probably not very many. But as engineers, we have a huge impact on their lives and in countless ways. For example, we all expect clean water to come out of the faucet, the lights to come on when we want, the bridge we cross on the way to work to be safe, the air we breathe to be clean, and the products we buy for our kids to be safe. When engineers do their best work, most people don't even notice. Yet, as a profession we strive to make everyone's life better.

The work of our profession by design affects the lives of many people—likely tens of thousands on a daily basis. In my case, I work in the public works department in the community that I reside and that means the decisions I make don't just affect nameless strangers. The people in this community are my neighbors, my friends, and my family. [Read more.](#)

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## New Policy Documents: The Signature and Stamp, Key Issues for the PE

The Committee on Policy and Advocacy has released the “[What a PE Says with their Signature and Stamp](#)” document. The document provides a general awareness of the PE signature and stamp process and includes best practices and lessons learned for those considering developing or improving their own process. The committee recently updated and released the documents, “[What is a PE?](#)” and “[Key Issues for the Professional Engineer.](#)” Updated position statements can be accessed [here](#).



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## QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2023 QBS Awards. The [QBS Awards program](#) promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process.

Award winners [serve as examples of how well the QBS process works](#), and they

help NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services. A maximum of one QBS Award may be presented to the federal government sector, the state government sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment sector.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, May 1** (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form [here](#).

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