

State News for NSPE Members

State Licensing Board Initiates Biennial Renewal Process

Effective immediately, the [Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors](#) has initiated a biennial (every two years) renewal process in connection to changes made to Rules 5.2 and 15.3 of the Rules and Regulations for the Mississippi Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors.

With this change, the board approved a two-phase approach for the renewals. Individuals licensed in odd years will be the first renewed under the new system. Individuals licensed in even years will initially be renewed for one year (and will renew biennial next cycle). **Fees for license renewal will double for those who are being licensed for the biennial process.** The licensure system will automatically display the applicable renewal fee.

Online licensure renewal for 2024 began on October 1, 2023, and continues through December 31, 2023. Licenses which are not renewed within this time frame will be considered expired, after December 31. Expired license renewals will be accepted through June 30 of the following year (with the appropriate late fee applied).

Email notices about the updated license renewal process were distributed earlier this month. See the notice at this [link](#) for additional information.

Construction Begins on New Energy Storage Facilities in Mississippi

The first of three Origis Energy projects that combine for 550 MW of solar and 150 MW of energy storage have begun construction in Mississippi. The projects are expected to deliver electricity to customers in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) service territory, [PV Magazine reports](#).

Golden Triangle I is a 200 MWac project with 50 MW of battery storage, expected

to be completed in summer 2024. Golden Triangle II, a 150 MWac project contains 50 MW of battery storage, planned to be complete in spring 2024. These projects are located in Lowndes County, Mississippi. The third phase is called Optimist, and this 200 MWac project with 50 MW battery storage is located in Clay County and has a projected completion date of mid-2025.

The utility-scale battery storage for each site is provided by Mitsubishi Power Americas. About 1.5 million solar modules will be installed on the sites, which are expected to generate the equivalent electricity of the demand of 126,000 homes.

Origis Energy is the developer, construction firm, and operator of the solar and storage assets. The projects will deliver electricity to TVA via power purchase agreements. [Read more.](#)

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

Looking Toward a Promising Future

By Bill Atkinson, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2023–24



As I continue on my professional journey as the NSPE president, I often reflect on what our organization has done since its founding in 1934 and what NSPE needs to do going forward. The next stage of NSPE's future begins with our vision to ensure that the public lives in a world where engineering decisions are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. This will require that a unified engineering community step up to protect licensure laws across the nation and maintain high standards for professional practice. It will require that we embrace innovation and emerging technologies. This future will be bolstered by a new generation of engineers that we must encourage to understand that they can truly make a difference in the world. I look forward to playing my part and supporting others in these efforts.

Licensure and Emerging Technologies

Protection of the public health, safety, and welfare is at our core as professional

engineers. Licensure is key to ensuring consistent standards of practice and professional competencies. We must make sure that these standards and competencies remain relevant to how we do things today, while looking toward the future.

We must continually question ourselves and the regulations that are in place. Are state licensing laws adequately regulating the profession of engineering without precluding otherwise qualified individuals from practicing? Is our current licensure model adequately serving its purpose? Are engineering licensure exemptions creating gaps where the public could be harmed? The answers to these questions can help drive us to better ways of safeguarding the public.

I believe that most individuals that become engineers do so because they are good at making things better. They are not tied to the world they are in today and are always pursuing excellence and improvement. I believe that by pooling our experiences as engineers, we can bring the best and brightest together to tackle any challenge that we may face as we seek to evolve. This evolution will involve the development and use of emerging technologies to spur innovative solutions. NSPE is supporting members by providing professional development that showcases the use of these technologies in a manner that is ethical and will benefit the public. [Read more.](#)

NSPECon24 – Call for Presentation Proposals

Prepare to share your expertise during NSPECon24 in Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9, 2024. [Review the topics](#) NSPE seeks in the areas of career development, leadership, and issues and trends, and think about how you can contribute. The submission site will open on November 1 and the proposal deadline is **January 10, 2024**.

The [NSPECon23 program](#) is still available online and may give potential presenters some ideas about the caliber of sessions needed for next year.

Volunteers are the Heart of NSPE: Get Involved and Share Your Voice



Volunteers are essential to advancing NSPE's vision to ensure a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Volunteering is also a great opportunity for members to grow their professional network and connect with other leaders in the field.

There are [several ways to get involved](#)...here a few opportunities to consider

Serve as a mentor for an engineering student. If interested, send an email to education@nspe.org.

NSPE online community champion. Virtual opportunity to promote community and sharing of ideas through NSPE's online channels. If interested, send an email to membership@nspe.org.

Write an article for *PE* magazine. Share your expertise and insights on professional practice, education, ethics, leadership, licensure, public policy, DEI, emerging technologies, and sustainability and resilience by serving as a guest writer for *PE* magazine. If interested, email pemagazine@nspe.org for submission guidelines.

Collaborate with staff to draft/supply input on federal legislation, regulations or public comments to federal Congressional staff and committees (Identify your area(s) of vocational expertise.) If interested, send an email to governmentrelations@nspe.org.

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