

State News for NSPE Members

Mississippi Power Completes Work on Pascagoula Substation

Mississippi Power has finished work on rebuilding its Bayou Casotte substation, which serves customers in Pascagoula, [DailyEnergyInsider reports](#).

The original Bayou Casotte substation was built in 1958 and had deteriorated due to age and the harsh environment. The old site was demolished and rebuilt to updated standards. It was also elevated approximately five feet as part of the company's continued storm-hardening efforts.

"This project provides a more resilient and reliable grid to serve our customers in the Pascagoula area," Fran Forehand, vice president of Power Delivery and Division Operations, said. "I'm proud of the teamwork and collaboration it took to finish this complex work safely."

During the construction process, the load was served from the Moss Point Elder Ferry substation which required several Distribution improvement projects, including converting the existing 4kV feeder to 23kV.

"Several years of planning went into upgrading this station, so it could be done without interrupting service to our customers," Jay Halford, Transmission construction manager, said. "We developed a great plan and we were able to successfully execute that plan."

In addition, transmission lines temporarily bypassed the Bayou Casotte substation to keep the transmission system intact. [Read more](#).

Mississippi State, Cenergistic Launch Campuswide Energy Conservation Program

Mississippi State is taking strategic steps to conserve energy and reduce utility

costs across campus with the launch of a comprehensive energy conservation program in partnership with Cenergistic, a national leader in energy and sustainability solutions, [Mississippi State University reports](#).

“This program reflects Mississippi State’s commitment to using resources more efficiently and leveraging any savings to reinvest in what matters most—our people, our programs and a campus environment that best supports our academic priorities,” said Les Potts, MSU vice president for Finance and Administration.

Using smart technology, the energy program analyzes factors such as space utilization and occupancy patterns of campus buildings to identify opportunities for greater efficiency. The data collected is then prioritized to adjust energy use. For example, systems in buildings that are unoccupied for extended periods can be programmed to reduce energy consumption while maintaining safety and functionality rather than operating at full capacity when it’s not needed.

“Every building on campus functions differently, and our job is to ensure each one operates efficiently,” said Saunders Ramsey, executive director of Campus Services. “This program helps us fine-tune how we manage energy day to day — it’s a smart, practical way to use our resources more responsibly and better serve our campus community.” [Read more](#).

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

NSPE Garners Victory for Tomorrow’s Workforce

On July 4, 2025, the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow’s Workforce Act was signed into law as part of the larger One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The new law expands 529 education savings plans to cover expenses related to licensure, certification, and other postsecondary credentials.

As written, the legislation covers programs accredited by organizations such as the National Commission on Certifying Agencies (NCCA) or the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), as well as tuition, required materials, and testing fees. These changes will provide more flexible financial tools to support individuals working toward credentials in highly technical fields, including engineering, where continued education and professional development are essential.

This marks a major win for NSPE and the many members who engaged over the years to make it happen. Implementation guidance is expected in the coming months, and NSPE will share updates as federal agencies roll out the new provisions. [Read more](#).

NSPE Backs Increased Mobility Through International Licensure Agreements

NSPE recently [issued a position statement](#) to express support for and encourage mobility of engineering licensure among US states, territories, and foreign countries as long as public safety, health and welfare is maintained.

To provide mobility with foreign countries, Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) between the National Council of Examiners for Engineers (NCEES) and their foreign equivalent should be encouraged, so long as the methods of establishing licensure in the two countries have been deemed equivalent in rigorousness. State boards are encouraged to adopt regulations to allow international comity, understanding individual states may continue to have requirements unique to engineering in those states.

NCEES and the Engineers Council of the United Kingdom [signed an MRA in April 2024](#) and 26 state boards agreed to consider adopting regulations to implement the MRA by signing on to it at the NCEES Annual Meeting in August 2024. The MRA builds on efforts by both organizations through the International Engineering Alliance and International Professional Engineers Agreement.

Professional Liability Trends Every Design Professional Should Know

Each year, NSPE, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Council of Engineering Companies join forces to conduct the annual [Professional Liability Insurance Carriers Survey](#) to provide highlight trends, coverage options, and risk management practices across the industry. Learn what's changing in professional liability and what it means for your firm in 2025 in a [new article](#).

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