

State News for NSPE Members

TVA Suing Holly Springs Over Power Grid Failures

The Tennessee Valley Authority, a federally created utility that sells wholesale power to local providers in the south including Mississippi, is suing the city of Holly Springs for breaching a contract by continuing to mismanage its electric department, [Mississippi Today reports](#).

TVA, which has sold power to north Mississippi city since 1935, alleges Holly Springs breached a power contract between the two parties by taking funds from its utility department when it shouldn't have, as well as by failing to make timely payments, increase its retail rates to customers, and provide regular financial updates to TVA.

That lawsuit, filed May 1 in the United States District Court in Oxford, lists as defendants: Holly Springs Mayor Sharon Gipson, who recently lost her bid for reelection, all five members of the city's Board of Aldermen, and Wayne Jones, the utility department's general manager. The suit asks the court to use its authority to enforce the contract.

Years of under-investment and deferred maintenance — as well as destructive weather, including a 2023 ice storm — have debilitated the utility to the point where customers experience unusually frequent and prolonged power outages, local officials, TVA and ratepayers told Mississippi Today. They said while the catastrophe was years in the making, decision-making under the current administration has exacerbated the problem. [Read more](#).

Mississippi's Power Play Launched to Make Mississippi an Energy Leader

Governor Tate Reeves has launched a new initiative aimed at making Mississippi a leader in American energy. The new initiative, named Mississippi's Power Play, will tear down red tape, stimulate private sector investment, and make Mississippi a model state for energy policy and investment. Additionally, it will allow for faster

permitting, reduced financial risk, and strategic investment within the state.

“Mississippi’s Power Play will help our state provide businesses with the energy they need to succeed, and to deliver affordable, abundant, American energy to Mississippians,” said Reeves. “This initiative is critical to continuing our state’s economic momentum. That’s because many of the major economic development projects you’ve heard about in the news were large energy-intensive projects. If we want to win more projects like these, we need to produce more energy in our state. Mississippi’s Power Play will help us attract more private sector investment and create more high-paying jobs for Mississippians.”

To kick off Mississippi’s Power Play, Reeves held a one-day summit in Jackson with energy industry leaders and government partners from around Mississippi and the country. During the summit, attendees robustly discussed issues that will maximize impact, drive continued economic growth and improve the lives of Mississippians. [Read more](#).

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

Get Involved! NSPE Seeks Volunteers for 2025–26 Committees

NSPE’s passionate and dedicated committee volunteers are essential to our mission. **Why serve?** In addition to giving back to the professional engineering community, NSPE volunteers form strong connections with committee colleagues, learn new skills, enjoy networking with leaders or hone their own leadership skills. [Learn more and apply to NSPE’s committees by June 4.](#) (You must log-in with your NSPE credentials to submit an application.)

If you do not see an opportunity that interests you in the link above, check out [Get Involved](#) throughout the year to learn more about other areas of engagement, including short-term projects.

Build Momentum – NSPECon25 Keynote Speakers



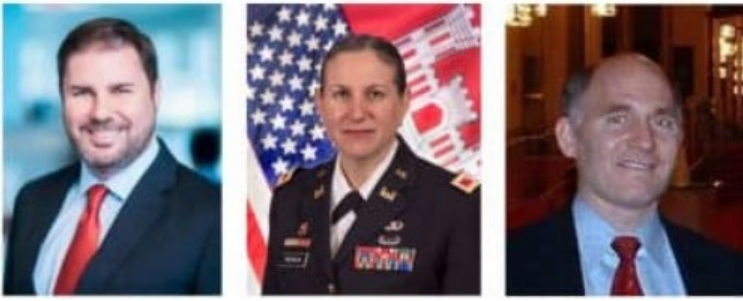
NSPECon25 (Kansas City, Missouri, August 6-8), the prime national event for professional engineers, will feature keynote speakers to provide inspiration and guidance to help elevate your career in addition to putting a spotlight on emerging issues within the industry. Meet your keynote speakers below and be sure to review the [full conference program](#).



Dr. Cindy Frewen, FAIA, urban futurist and architect, will present the session **“A World Gone Sideways: Engineering 2050 in a Post-Normal World.”** She will explore how engineers in 2050 can become not just problem-solvers, but storytellers, system-shapers, and stewards of a better world.



Coach Donnie Campbell will present the session **“What’s Your MVP? Leadership Lessons from the Coach Who Inspired Ted Lasso.”** In his leadership keynote, inspires audiences to discover their “MVP” – their mission, values, and principles to inspire individuals to reach their potential and teams to reach new heights.



A presentation on the “**Government and Private Industries’ Response to the Maryland Key Bridge Collapse**” will explore the coordinated efforts between government agencies and private industries in response to the tragic bridge collapse. **Stephen R. Skippen**, DBIA, CCM, ENV SP (senior project manager, Skanska USA Civil), **Colonel Estee Pinchasin** (director of logistics, National Security Agency), and **Paul Hankins** (director, salvage operations and ocean engineering, United States Navy), are the presentation panelists.

Early-bird discount rates are available until June 27. NSPECon25 will take place at the Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza. The [deadline for reserving a hotel room](#) at the discounted conference rate is July 4. We encourage you to make your reservation early since there are a limited number of conference-rate hotels rooms available.

Welcome 2025 Sponsors!

NSPE offers a range of sponsorship packages tailored to meet various goals and budgets, with a special exhibitor discount available for Kansas City-based businesses. Discover more about these opportunities in the [Sponsor and Exhibitor section](#) of the conference website.

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Don't Miss Out on the 2025 Spring Webinar Series



NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—“WORKability Wednesdays”—to support their professional development goals. Register now at [NSPE's PE Institute](#) to attend the webinar on **May 28**—[How Has Technology Shaped Workstyles Across Generations?](#)

Members can access a recording of the recent webinar held on May 14—[Using Your Engineering Expertise as a Forensic Expert](#) in addition to the webinars held in March and April. *Members are advised to consult their state licensing board to determine requirements for PDH or CPD credits.

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