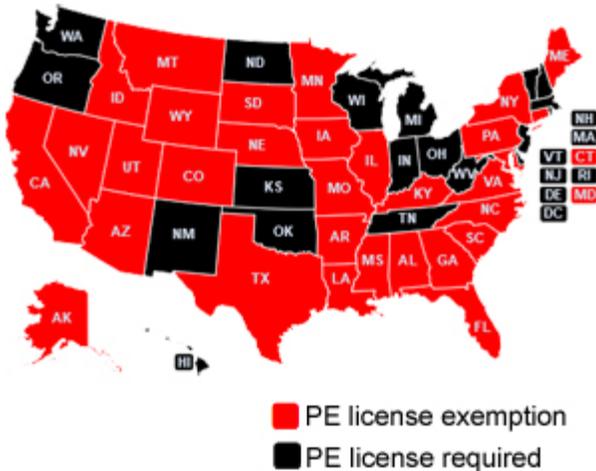


## State News for NSPE Members



### Will States Act to Remove the PE Exemption?

The National Transportation Safety Board has [identified 31 states](#) that currently do not require a licensed professional engineer on natural gas pipeline projects. The NTSB sent a letter to the governors of each of the states in the fall, urging them to end exemptions for gas pipeline operators and asking for an update within 90 days.

The [NTSB issued an investigation report](#) on the September 2018 Merrimack Valley gas pipeline explosions with two critical recommendations: first that all the states with license exemptions for public utilities eliminate the exemption, and second that a professional engineer be required to review and approve gas pipeline construction and maintenance documents.

When the NTSB began its investigation, staff reached out to NSPE seeking information about licensing exemptions. Through a series of conversations and emails, NSPE shared report data, information on the licensing process and requirements, and its position statement on licensing exemptions. As a result of conversations with NSPE and other organizations, the NTSB adopted a policy of addressing and eliminating engineering license exemptions within the gas pipeline industry.

NSPE's national staff continues to be in conversation with the National

Transportation Safety Board and state societies on this issue.

### **State Actions to Date**

The Virginia Society of Professional Engineers has offered to assist the Virginia State Corporation Commission Division of Utility and Railroad Safety in developing legislation to eliminate the current exemption for licensed engineers to prepare gas pipeline design and construction plan drawings. The Virginia PE board has drafted potential language that can address this exemption in the state PE statute.

In Illinois, the state society is engaging with the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to understand what actions will be taken to address the NTSB letter and recommendations.

The Maine State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers has reviewed the NTSB letter sent to Governor Jane Mills. A three-person subcommittee was formed to review the issue in detail and draft a response for the governor's office.

Is your state taking action? [Let NSPE's manager of government relations and advocacy know!](#)

### **A Call to Action**

Call your members of Congress to express your [support for ending licensing exemptions](#) on public utility pipelines! The NTSB report on the deadly pipeline explosion in Massachusetts in September 2018 calls for a significant legislative change that NSPE has strongly advocated for years: elimination of professional engineer licensure exemptions.

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## **MES Winter Meeting**

- Save the date
- February 26–28, 2020
- Jackson Convention Center
- Jackson, MS



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**Chevron, Mississippi State team up to support diversity**

## initiatives in STEM education

Chevron and Mississippi State University's Bagley College of Engineering have partnered in a new educational program designed to help increase the number of minority and female students who pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (S.T.E.M.) educational opportunities.

Known as CREATE, which stands for Chevron's Reaching Excellence, Accelerating diversity & inclusion and Transforming Engineers, the innovative and comprehensive program will also help develop a pathway for a well-educated, diverse student population to ultimately enter the professional engineering workforce. The program is part of Chevron's ongoing support for S.T.E.M. education in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and university partnership programs.

Read the full story on [Mississippi State's James Worth Bagley School of Engineering site](#).

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## Honor Your Fellow PEs

NSPE is filled with members who exhibit the best of the profession. Take the time to recognize the contributions and achievements of a fellow PE with an NSPE Honor Award.

Submit applications by **January 31** so all deserving candidates can be considered for the



- [NSPE Award](#)—the highest award given by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind;
- [Distinguished Service Award](#)—recognizes a licensed member for exceptional contributions to the profession, to one's community, and specifically to NSPE;
- [Young Engineer of the Year Award](#)—recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the profession and the community.

[Learn more about NSPE Awards.](#)

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## Now Available: Commentary on Construction Documents

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee—a joint venture of NSPE, the American Council of Engineering Companies, and the American Society of Civil

Engineers—recently released [commentary on its 2018 construction documents](#) . EJCDC documents are the first choice, and most user-friendly, among standard documents for infrastructure and public works construction in the United States.

EJCDC documents are available to NSPE members at a 50% discount.

*C-001 Commentary on the 2018 EJCDC Construction Documents* , at 184 pages, contains in-depth descriptions of each of the 25 documents in the EJCDC construction series and explains their use. The commentary includes definitions of terms, cross-references and abbreviations, and a detailed discussion of terms and conditions.

The EJCDC construction series of documents assumes the design engineer is involved during construction. C-001 explains how to use each document in the series during the process. There is also a discussion of the *Contractor for Construction of a Small Project* document and its use.

[Access the Commentary.](#)

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## 15 Free—Get Them Before They're Gone!

Earn PDHs with this year's roundup of [15 free courses](#) available to NSPE members, before they expire at the end of the year.

Develop and hone your professional skills without leaving your own workstation! Check out all of the 2019 free courses before the new year, including the four-part engineering ethics series and career development webinars.



[Access the courses.](#)

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