

State News for NSPE Members

Work Plan increases Vicksburg District funding for fiscal year 2020

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Vicksburg District has announced that its Work Plan for the 2020 fiscal year includes \$102 million in funding for its civil works program, the largest amount of funding since the 2013 fiscal year.

The Work Plan will fund projects, programs and activities that received funding in the three previous fiscal years and will prioritize ongoing work that can reach significant milestones or produce significant outputs during the 2020 fiscal year.

The distribution of funds for the district's Work Plan is as follows:

\$3.15 million for environmental infrastructure for key project locations in Clinton, Oxford and Sardis, Mississippi

\$43.75 million for mitigation work and riverfront development on the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway

\$4.2 million for operation and maintenance of existing projects, including hydropower facilities at Blakely Mountain Dam, Lake Ouachita and DeGray Lake and dredging efforts on navigable waterways, including the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway

\$54 million for Mississippi River & Tributaries project activities, including the study, design, construction, operation and maintenance of water resources projects in the historic flood plain of the Mississippi River, and:

\$2.25 million for the collection and study of basic data for flood damage reduction

\$34.8 million for mainline construction of Mississippi River channel improvement dikes and levees and Yazoo River Basin projects, including those in the Upper Yazoo Basin, Big Sunflower and the Yazoo Backwater

\$16.9 million for operations and maintenance, including Mississippi River levee slide repairs, gantry crane rehabilitation for the Tensas River Basin, Tensas and Boeuf rivers, and Lake Chicot; hydraulic gate cylinder repairs at the Tensas Cocodrie Pumping Plant; and slide repairs, operation and maintenance at the district's four flood control reservoirs in the Yazoo River Basin, Arkabutla, Enid, Grenada and Sardis lakes

The district's Work Plan funds, combined with those from the President's Budget, provide the district with a total of \$207 million in regular funding for the 2020 fiscal year. This funding allows the district to continue critical work in missions such as reducing flood risk, improving navigation and sustaining the environment.

The Vicksburg District is engineering solutions to the nation's toughest challenges. The district encompasses a 68,000-square-mile area across portions of Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana that holds seven major river basins and incorporates approximately 460 miles of mainline Mississippi River levees. The district is engaged in hundreds of projects and employs approximately 1,100 personnel.

Read the [full story](#).

Learn About NSPE's New Strategic Plan



Join NSPE Executive Director Mark Golden as he [shares NSPE's recent strategic planning process](#) in a new animated video. The NSPE Strategic Plan—including our vision, mission, values, and goals—is developed by the NSPE Board of Directors in collaboration with NSPE's representative House of Delegates. It is not a static document. Rather, it is a commitment to ongoing, open, and transparent strategic planning and execution.

[Access NSPE's Who We Are and What We Do page.](#)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and NSPE

Diversity is a major theme in [NSPE's Strategic Plan](#), and it recently gained a place in the [NSPE Code of Ethics](#). For any future-focused, proactive profession or professional society, diversity is increasingly a strategic imperative. But there needs to be an acknowledgement of the missed opportunities created by the biases in our personal, professional, and societal lives.

Learn more about how NSPE is making strides toward its goal of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Can You Meet the 2020 Ethics Challenge?



How should ethics factor into the development of artificial intelligence or in guiding the future of the profession? These are just two of the issues that professional engineers and engineering students can address in this year's [NSPE Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest](#).

NSPE members can participate through their state societies and local chapters (including student chapters). State societies and local chapters are encouraged to consider using this contest as a state or chapter activity to generate member discussion and spur greater interest in engineering ethics.

Participants can select from one of four issues to develop a submission (video, photo essay, poster, essay, or PowerPoint presentation) that demonstrates an understanding of the ethical issues involved. Participants are encouraged (but not required) to consider and cite in the submission the [NSPE Code of Ethics](#) and previous NSPE Board of Ethical Review opinions.

NSPE will award the author of the winning entry \$2,000, a certificate, and recognition in *PE* magazine. All submissions must be received by **April 20**.

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Develop your skills and earn continuing education credits with NSPE's webinars. Stay current on a variety of topics from the comfort of your home or office. Don't miss the Ethics Forum each month, presented by NSPE Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel Arthur Schwartz. Register for individual ethics webinars or [get a special bundle price](#) until **March 17**. All webinars are held 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Eastern.

March 4

[The 2020 EJCDC Engineering Agreements](#)

March 18

[Engineering Ethics – Disclosure, Payment, Expert Testimony and Conflicts of Interest](#)

March 25

[Emotional Intelligence at Work](#)

April 15

[Engineering Ethics – Conflicts of Interest, Licensure, Confidentiality and Public Criticism](#)

May 13

[Engineering Ethics – Objectivity and Truthfulness, Public Health and Safety, Signing and Sealing of Engineering Drawings and Misrepresentation](#)

Check Out the New 15 Free Courses

Included with your NSPE membership are 15 free on-demand webinars. Take advantage of the courses to further your professional development and meet your continuing education requirements.

[Access the 2020 courses.](#)

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