Power Company Implodes Major Symbol of Carbon Capture in the US

The Kemper project, which comprised half of a multimillion-dollar power plant in Mississippi and was a major symbol of carbon capture in the US, was imploded last month to eliminate equipment that was no longer needed, Energywire reports. The facility, Plant Ratcliffe, was run by Southern Mississippi Co., and the project was originally intended to be the first commercial-scale carbon capture venture on a large coal plant. Increased costs and delays caused the state to pivot and say the facility could run on natural gas alone in 2017. Construction of the carbon capture portion of the plan was halted.

However, in a sign of continued efforts toward capturing carbon last year, the Department of Energy funded a $23.5 million study on the feasibility of storing carbon dioxide from three of Southern’s power plants in Alabama and Mississippi. This could include capturing carbon from natural gas burned at Kemper, in theory.

Green Hydrogen Hub Coming to Mississippi

Hy Stor Energy, with partner Connor, Clark & Lunn Infrastructure, plans to develop, commercialize, and operate large-scale, long-duration hydrogen hubs that will serve as a model for the nation’s green hydrogen development efforts. The first major project, the Mississippi Clean Hydrogen Hub, is under development and has multiple sites permitted for hydrogen storage.

The planned scale of the hub is up to 10 times larger than any other green hydrogen project under consideration in the US and would be one of the largest in the world. During its first phase, it is expected to produce an estimated 110 million kg of green hydrogen annually and store more than 70 million kg of green hydrogen in its underground salt caverns. Pending regulatory approvals and equipment availability, the hub’s first phase is planned to enter commercial service by 2025.
Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

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NSPE is its members. It's a society made up of dedicated individuals who each bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. NSPE members are leaders. They are connected, inclusive, committed to ethical practice, and so much more. Members are sharing their stories ... join them. #IAMNSPE

I Am the Future

Anali Martinez Gonzalez, E.I.T.
Civil Engineer
NSPE Emerging Leader Class of 2020

“I have taken advantage of opportunities to grow as a leader and seek to
PECon 2022: Now Accepting Presentation Proposals

NSPE is now accepting presentation submissions for consideration for the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference, August 1–3, in Philadelphia. The deadline for proposals is November 30.

The Professional Engineers Conference provides presenters an opportunity to share their expertise at a national conference. The 2022 conference will focus on the theme of harnessing the power of PEs to create a better world.

Conference Topics

- Amplify Your Leadership Power Skills—Beyond being technically qualified
and committed to ethical practices, PEs are leaders. Presentations will be skills-focused for all career levels.

- Stay Informed About Issues and Trends Impacting the Profession—The workplace environment is constantly changing and evolving. Presentations should address the latest issues and trends impacting PEs and the engineering industry.

- Invest in Your Career—Choosing a career as a professional engineer is an intentional act by engineers committed to the public health, safety, and welfare. Presentations should address career development topics that will help engineers at all career stages achieve their highest potential.

Learn more and submit a proposal.

**Maryland Society Defends PE Requirement for Public Works Director**

The Maryland Society of Professional Engineers is opposing efforts to end the requirement for a PE to serve as director of the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation. MDSPE believes a licensed professional engineer can provide the most effective administration to protect public health and safety.

In August, the Baltimore County Council revised the required qualifications for the director position, allowing an unlicensed individual to hold the position if they have at least 10 years of supervisory experience in infrastructure planning and construction, or transportation engineering and management. The existing county charter requires the director to hold a Maryland PE license and have at least 10 years of experience in responsible charge of engineering work. As this modification will require a change to the county charter, voters will have the final say in a ballot initiative on November 8, 2022.

In a letter to the county council chair, MDSPE emphasized that the county charter has historically required the department’s director and deputy directors to be licensed professional engineers with extensive experience in their areas of practice because the department is responsible for significant engineering activities.

Without a license, the director would not be permitted to resolve differences in engineering decision-making between the PEs on staff, sign off on plans, or change plans without the approval of the PE. MDSPE believes that if an unlicensed director imposes undue influence on professional engineering decisions, it might create significant ethical and legal problems for the department and county.
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