NSPE-NV March Luncheon Recap

NSPE-NV recently held its monthly luncheon on the topic – Planning of Future Large Regional Water Facilities – with the featured speaker Janelle Boelter, P.E., the director of infrastructure for infrastructure management for the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Janelle Boelter leads the Asset Management, Planning and Engineering Services, Maintenance Engineering, OT Systems & Compliance, and Facilities divisions, which collectively include nearly 200 employees, and manages a $98 million capital and operating budget. She graduated from the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and is a licensed professional engineer. She has worked in the utility industry for 23 years and has the highest levels of Water Operator certifications in both distribution and treatment.

Thanks to Our Sponsor!
Are You Ready to Lead Within NSPE-NV?

NSPE-NV is seeking an individual to serve out the rest of the term for secretary for the state society/foundation boards for the 2022-2024 term (ends June 30). We are also seeking members that would like to serve on NSPE-NV's next board for the term of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2026.

Please contact Martin Jensen (mjensen@teamues.com) or Bob Thomsen (Bob.Thomsen@gesnevada.com) if you are interested.

State Licensing Board Meeting

The Nevada State Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors will hold an interim board meeting on Thursday, April 11. Access meeting information here.

Industry, Academia Work to Develop UN-Reno Industrial Engineering Program

Representatives from industry, economic organizations, and academia gathered on March 14 to discuss a new industrial engineering program expected to launch in fall 2024 or spring 2025 within the College of Engineering. The Nevada System of Higher Education approved the program in November 2023, Nevada Today reports.

Industrial engineering is concerned with the design, improvement and installation of integrated systems of people, materials, information, equipment and energy. With the growth of manufacturing in Nevada, many are eager for such a program, which would be the first of its kind in the state.

"It's really needed, as we continue to diversify the economy our state," Tom
Simpkins of Manufacture Nevada, an organization that bridges industry and state, said. "We have so many manufacturers moving here and this checks one of the boxes for them."

About 20 professionals from such companies as Arrow Electronics, Hamilton, Lithium Americas, Redwood Materials, Tesla and Verus as well as the Governor's Office of Economic Development, the Economic Development Authority of Northern Nevada and Manufacture Nevada gathered with Engineering leadership to listen to three industrial engineering experts and to provide input on the new program. They also discussed how to support the endeavor, whether it's providing student internships or supplying guest lecturers and adjunct staff to instruct in their areas of expertise.

Additionally, the group laid the foundation for an advisory board to guide the program and discussed the timeline for accreditation through ABET, the international nonprofit that accredits programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology. Read more.

Regulators Approve NV Energy Coal-to-Gas Repower Project

NV Energy will move forward with plans to eliminate coal from the company's portfolio and add additional transmission infrastructure throughout the state after receiving approval from the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN). The projects were included as part of the fifth amendment to the company's 2021 Integrated Resource Plan, Power Engineering reports.

This order allows NV Energy to move forward with ceasing coal operations at North Valmy Generating Station and transition to a natural gas-fired plant by the end of 2025. North Valmy is the company's final coal plant in its portfolio. The two-unit, 522 MW facility is jointly owned by NV Energy and Idaho Power.

Unit 1, which went into service in 1981, produces 254 MW with a Babcock & Wilcox Boiler and Westinghouse turbine/generator. Unit 2 came online in 1985 and generates 268 MW with a Foster Wheeler Boiler and GE turbine/generator. Coal for the plant is shipped via railroad from various mines in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado.

PUCN also approved NV Energy's plan to build additional transmission infrastructure to support continued growth in the state, including in the Apex area in the city of North Las Vegas – a growing center of economic development in Southern Nevada. NV Energy also received conditional approval to begin developing the Sierra Solar project, a 400 MW solar site with a four-hour battery storage system in Northern Nevada. Read more.
Career Opportunities

Structures Specialist for Nevada FEMA Search and Rescue Team
Access a brochure with details about the structures specialist position. For more information or if interested in applying, please contact Raphael Thomas at raphael.thomas.usar@gmail.com or 702-455-8426.

Find more job openings or reach the right employees on the NSPE Job Board.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—“Workability Wednesdays”—to support members with their professional development goals. The first webinars of the spring season will take place on April 3—NSPE’s Board of Ethical Review Presents: The Duty to Act; April 17—Second Best Protection Against Risk; and May 1—Enhancing Building Safety: Mitigating Risks of Slip, Trips, and Falls (Celebration of National Building Safety Month).

Additional presentations will take place in May and June. Register now at NSPE’s PE Institute and invite a colleague to attend.

NSPECon24 Sponsorships and Exhibitor Opportunities
Put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the engineering industry attending the 2024 Professional Engineers Conference (NSPECon24) August 7-9, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

NSPE offers a variety of sponsorship packages to meet specific goals and budgets. A special exhibitor discount is being offered to Research Triangle-based businesses. Learn more about these opportunities in the Sponsor and Exhibitor section of the conference website.

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EJCDC® Releases New Teaming and Joint Venture Documents

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee has released new documents - EJCDC® E-580, Teaming Agreement to Pursue Joint Professional Services Opportunity and EJCDC® E-590, Joint Venture Agreement for Professional Services (2024 editions). NSPE members will receive a 50% discount on the EJCDC documents.

The E-580, Teaming Agreement to Pursue Joint Professional Services Opportunity is intended for a collaboration between two design firms that have decided to join together to pursue an opportunity to obtain work. The E-590, Joint Venture
Agreement for Professional Services is a contract document in which two or more design firms agree to join together to provide specific professional services to a third party.

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