

Start of High-speed Rail Construction Likely Delayed 2 Years

Virgin Trains USA was ready to break ground on a \$4 billion high-speed rail project between Las Vegas and Southern California as early as next year, but those plans were docked after it failed to secure tax abatements this legislative session.

Bob O'Malley, Virgin Trains' vice president of government affairs, said Thursday that after being in Carson City for over a month, the abatements the company was seeking didn't come to fruition.

Not getting those abatements will likely push the start of planned construction back at least two years, he added.

[Read full story.](#)

Monthly Luncheon: The I-15 Tropicana Interchange Reconstruction

Speaker: Jeff Lerud, P.E., CPM, Senior Project Manager with the Nevada Department of Transportation

The Department of Transportation is going through the NEPA process to environmentally clear the reconstruction of the Tropicana Interchange and the addition of HOV direct access ramps at Harmon Avenue. This presentation will discuss the history, current status, and next steps of the Tropicana reconstruction project.

[Register today.](#)

Complete the Engineering Team With NICET Certification

In the late 1950s, as the US came to rely more heavily on machines and automation, technically skilled workers who could support the work of engineers were in high demand. In 1961, NSPE rose to the challenge by forming an

organization to certify technicians and technologists.



But even though technicians have been an integral part of the engineering team and NSPE since then, that organization—the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies—is not always understood by PEs. A well-attended, NSPE-sponsored webinar on May 29 provided the full picture.

During the webinar, “[Quality and Safety Through a Qualified Engineering Team](#),” NICET Communications Director Chip Hollis detailed the institute’s operations and the technician’s role on the team. NICET was founded to recognize the qualifications of technicians. Its focus, Hollis explained, helps ensure a qualified engineering workforce, certifying both engineering technicians and technologists in areas such as construction materials testing, transportation construction inspection, electrical power, fire protection, and security systems.

Don't Miss This Upcoming Webinar



Stay current with essential professional development opportunities through NSPE webinars. Members receive a special rate on the upcoming live webinar:

On **June 26** at 2 p.m., the webinar [The Saint Joseph Water Crisis – Lessons Learned in the Age of Deteriorating Water Infrastructure](#) will focus on a water crisis in Saint Joseph, Louisiana, which lends many lessons related to the difficulties faced by small and large water systems in rural environments. In this session, David A. Martin, P.E., will present an overview of the state of the town’s water system prior to and after construction, as well as an overview of the new treatment process and applicability to other aquifer systems. Additionally, participants will be presented with the lessons learned during the crisis, including regulatory involvement, use of multiple funding sources, early owner procurement of long lead time equipment, and alternate project delivery.

Don't Miss...

- [Exemptions to Engineering Licensure Laws](#). NSPE has updated this report, with information current as of May 2019. It is free for members.
- [Take Action on Licensure Exemption Bills](#). It's imperative that lawmakers hear from their professional engineering constituents who [support bills](#) in the US House and Senate targeting licensure exemptions in public utility pipeline work.
- [PECON at a Glance](#). Take a look at the lineup of activities and educational sessions taking place at the 2019 Professional Engineers Conference in Kansas City.

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