

## State News for NSPE Members

### Free Virtual Meeting

#### How to Manage the COVID-19 Situation and Associated Stress at Home and at Work

Join your NSPE-NV colleagues for an opportunity to obtain professional development by attending a free virtual luncheon meeting on the topic “**How to Manage the COVID-19 Situation and Associated Stress at Home and at Work**” on **Tuesday, July 21**, 12 p.m.–1 p.m. (Pacific) with presenter Subhash Kelkar. This month’s luncheon is cosponsored by the state chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.



**Subhash Kelkar** will be presenting on unique techniques for dealing with stress in corporate life as well as family life. Kelkar has a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and a graduate degree in computers. He is a software professional and business leader who has worked as a chief technology officer, chief information officer and in other senior level positions. He is currently serving as chief technology officer in a cash logistics company. His career has led to his travel and residence in many countries, such as the US, Japan, the United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands, and New Zealand

He is a student and practitioner of Jeevanvidya philosophy for the last 35 years. He is currently the President Trustee of Jeevanvidya Foundation Trust, a registered non-profit organization in India. He is also a faculty member of various Jeevanvidya courses, including corporate courses.

## Registration Details

[Join the WebEx meeting here](#)

Meeting number (access code): 145 634 1844

Meeting password: Y9vvuBukd54

[Join by phone](#)

Tap to call in from a mobile device (attendees only)

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

1-844-621-3956 United States Toll Free

Global call-in numbers | Toll-free calling restrictions

[Join from a video system or application](#)

Dial 1456341844@swgas.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

[Please RSVP.](#)

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## Nevada DOT Nuclear Reactor Vessel Move to Utah Is a Record Breaker

On June 29, a 770-ton reactor pressure vessel started a slow journey from North Las Vegas to the Energy Solutions' Nuclear Waste Facility in Clive, Utah, 75 miles west of Salt Lake City, reports *Engineering-News Record*. According to a Nevada DOT spokesman, the 2.4-million-pound move is the heaviest load ever to cross Nevada roadways.

[Read more.](#)

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## What's the Status of Bridges in Nevada?

A recent American Road & Transportation Builders Association report provides a snapshot of the status of bridges in the US. The association compiled [state profiles and rankings](#) from the Federal Highway Administration's 2019 National Bridge Inventory Data (released in April 2020).

The recent report showed that more than one third (37%) of US bridges—nearly 231,000 spans—need repair work. More than 46,000 bridges are rated in poor condition and classified as “structurally deficient.” A total of 81,000 bridges should be replaced. While the number of structurally deficient bridges declined by 900 compared to 2018, it still would take more than 50 years to repair them all.

The [profile highlights](#) the following about bridges in Nevada

- Of the 2,029 bridges in the state, 26, or 1.3%, are classified as structurally deficient. This means one of the key elements is in poor or worse condition.
- This is down from 30 bridges classified as structurally deficient in 2015.
- The deck area of structurally deficient bridges accounts for 1.0% of total deck area on all structures.
- 3 of the structurally deficient bridges are on the Interstate Highway System.
- 23 bridges are posted for load, which may restrict the size and weight of vehicles crossing the structure.
- The state has identified needed repairs on 267 bridges at an estimated cost of \$744.5 million.
- This compares to 273 bridges that needed work in 2015.

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## **New Tech Developed by University of NV-Reno for Monitoring of Earthquake Damage**

Earthquake damaged buildings, bridges and other critical infrastructure may be evaluated more quickly for safety and response options following an event with new optical sensor technology and software that is being developed and field tested by the University of Nevada, Reno and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

According to a *Nevada Today* article, the system is designed to provide an unprecedented ability to rapidly determine a facility's integrity after a major earthquake and enable and expedite informed response decisions and efforts related to safety assessment, repair and reoccupancy of buildings following a major earthquake.

[Read more.](#)

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## **We Want to Hear from You!**

Do you know of engineering news in Nevada that would be great for this newsletter? Maybe it's a project you or your firm is working on, or perhaps you read some interesting engineering news in your local newspaper. Or maybe you know of a fellow PE or student who deserves a little recognition. If so, we want to hear from you. Email your ideas to [pemagazine@nspe.org](mailto:pemagazine@nspe.org).

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## **NSPE Urges Veto of Structural Engineering Bill**

In a letter to Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, NSPE encouraged the veto of a bill to

establish a separate licensing system for structural engineers.

President-Elect Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE, wrote that creating a new licensing system for structural engineering does not improve the public health, safety, or welfare. “Instead, it muddies the water, creating confusion and requiring regulatory authorities to make arbitrary distinctions to define structural engineering,” she added. “Rather than reducing regulatory burdens, the change would add a new layer, requiring one engineer to obtain multiple licenses in order to do work that, previously, required only one.”

Instead of creating a separate licensing system, NSPE recommends a certification process that occurs after the professional engineering license has already been obtained. “This system would allow for the SE designation, if required or requested by potential employers or RFPs, without drawing the same, hard line between structural and other types of engineering,” Hatley wrote.

[Read the full letter.](#)

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## **Take Action on Federal Infrastructure Bills**

You have an important opportunity to add your voice to the debate around pending infrastructure legislation.

The first two bills are the House and Senate’s surface transportation infrastructure reauthorization bills—The INVEST in America Act ([H.R. 2](#)) and the America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019 ([S. 2302](#)). This is an opportunity to communicate to members of Congress the importance and value of having PEs involved in engineering decisions to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

[Take action on surface transportation reauthorization!](#)

The third bill, the SMART Infrastructure Act ([H.R. 4687](#)), would take decision-making authority away from professional engineers and instead give it to state and local authorities, allowing them to select “appropriate” construction materials. The bill would establish that these entities would have the flexibility to select appropriate construction materials that meet the performance requirements of the contract and enhance the service life, sustainability, and resiliency of the project.

NSPE opposes this bill because its enactment would prevent PEs from making the final decision on the appropriate construction materials for a project. Additionally, it establishes a federal interagency task force charged with deciding whether state and local procurement practices have artificial barriers to competition for new and innovative materials and recommending actions that can be taken to remove barriers. Their decisions could put the public at risk should these new and

innovative materials present unforeseen harms to the public.

[Voice your opposition to H.R. 4687!](#)

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## Celebrate PE Day!

NSPE is celebrating licensed professional engineers with the [fifth annual Professional Engineers Day](#) on Wednesday, **August 5**. Join the Society in raising awareness about what it means to be a PE and showing appreciation for the work they do every day.



In lieu of in-district meetings with legislators, like those conducted last year, NSPE members will be able to participate in a series of panel discussions. The discussions will include members of Congress and/or their staff, who will share information on pending legislation that impacts the engineering profession. NSPE members will have opportunities to ask questions and to take action on the bills that are discussed by the panel.

PE Day falls within the week of the Virtual **PECon** (August 3–7). As a highlight of PE Day, NTSB Chairman Robert Sumwalt III, will discuss [“The Role and Responsibility of Professional Engineers in Ensuring Safety of Our Nation’s Infrastructure.”](#) His presentation will touch on the NTSB’s recommendation for eliminating the PE license exemption for public utility work, and the requirement for a professional engineer’s seal on public utility engineering drawings, stemming from the tragic pipeline explosions and fires in the Merrimack Valley of Massachusetts.



SUMWALT

IBM’s Global Chief Technology Officer Ben Amaba, is also featured as a keynote speaker and will cover the [professional engineer’s role](#) in artificial intelligence and technology.



AMABA

[Register for the Virtual PECon.](#)

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