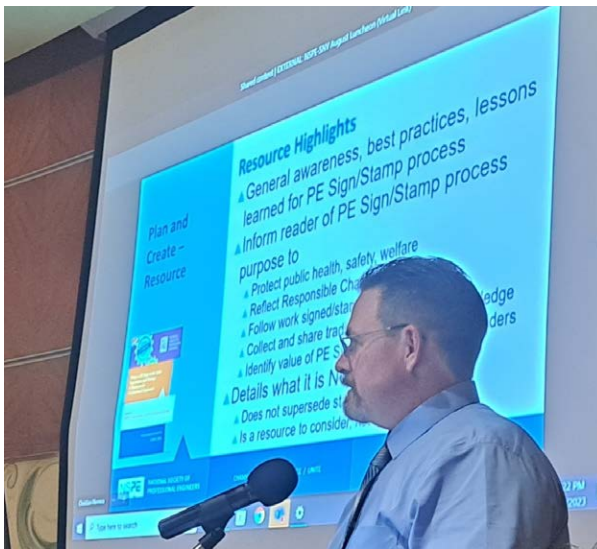


State News for NSPE Members

NSPE-NV August Luncheon Meeting Recap

NSPE-NV hosted a luncheon meeting on August 15 featuring a presentation on **"What a PE Says with Their Signature and Stamp: A Resource for Professional Engineers"** by Craig Sisco, P.E., F.NSPE.

The NSPE Committee on Policy and Advocacy released the ["What a PE Says with Their Signature and Stamp"](#) document earlier this year. The document provides a general awareness of the PE signature and stamp process and includes best practices and lessons learned for those considering developing or improving their own process.



Thanks to Our Sponsor!



State Licensing Board Meeting

The [Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors](#) is holding a board meeting on **Thursday, September 21**. Access the meeting information and Zoom link [here](#).

Nevada to Get More Water as Drought Restrictions Change

Drought restrictions along the Colorado River will be relaxed after an exceptionally wet winter helped raise the levels of Lake Mead and Lake Powell, [according to a report](#) from the US Bureau of Reclamation.

A Tier 1 shortage will be in effect for 2024 — an improvement over Tier 2a restrictions currently in place, [8newsnow.com reports](#). The difference: Southern Nevada will gain the right to use another 4,000 acre-feet of water. That's the equivalent of about 1.3 billion gallons — enough to supply 8,000 to 12,000 more households.

Southern Nevada is so far ahead of the curve on conservation that the extra water probably won't be used anytime soon, information from the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) shows. Last year, Southern Nevada used 224,000 acre-feet, and is on pace to use 19% less than that for 2023 if current projections hold true.

"While shortage conditions improved slightly, Southern Nevada must remain focused on water conservation. Our community's conservation programs, policies and practices are successfully reducing water use and managing water demands," according to Bronson Mack, SNWA Outreach Manager.

Projections in the report show Lake Mead is expected to be at 1,064.78 feet in September — about a foot and a half higher than its current level (1,063.33 feet). Lake levels are expressed as the elevation of the surface above sea level. [Read more](#).

Nevada Shows How to Build Workforce for Solar Energy Boom

In northern Nevada, east of Reno, a mountainous desert unfolds like a pop-up book. Wild horses on hillsides stand still as toys. Green-grey sagebrush paints the sandy land, which is baking under the summer sun.

On a 10-acre slice of this desert, people are working to turn this sunshine into paychecks. As society phases out fossil fuels and builds huge new solar energy plants, this region is grabbing a share of that green gold rush by retraining workers for work that is spreading across the West.

At this training center for the Reno branch of the Laborers' International Union of North America, Francisco Valenzuela uses a wrench to secure brackets to a long steel tube on posts about four feet off the ground. What looks like the start of a giant erector set is the support structure common on large-scale solar farms. "The brackets, they hold the panels and we set it up," said Valenzuela.

A few years ago, Valenzuela did electrical work for a solar project not far from here – the 60-megawatt Turquoise Solar Farm. Now, he's gaining more skills so he can land more jobs. The 43-year-old is originally from Sonora, Mexico, but lives in Reno for trade jobs in northern Nevada. He has two kids in Las Vegas and visits when work is slow. "You stay busy the whole year working," he said. It's good pay, too, he added, with some companies paying \$20 to \$30 an hour, or more.

These days, clean energy infrastructure construction is booming and with that, so are solar industry jobs. Nevada has jumped to the forefront in retraining workers for jobs at large-scale solar plants, so much so that now, workers from other states are coming here for guidance.

[Read more of this KUNR report.](#)

Are You Ready to Lead Within NSPE-NV?

NSPE-NV is seeking individuals to serve as vice president at the Southern Nevada chapter level and secretary for the state society/foundation boards.

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

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Vermont PE Rises to Top Leadership



William (Bill) Atkinson, P.E., F.NSPE, was installed as NSPE's 2023–24 president during a ceremony at NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky, on August 3. He has spent most of his career volunteering for NSPE and various engineering organizations that hold true to his passion for protecting the public through licensure and ethical engineering decision making.

Atkinson serves as the engineering manager and lead engineer at Vermont Mechanical Inc., a mechanical and plumbing design build contractor that focuses on healthcare and commercial construction (where he has been employed since 2001). He currently directs the service and engineering departments.

Throughout his engineering career, Atkinson has taken on various volunteer and leadership positions within NSPE, the Vermont Society of Professional Engineers, ASHRAE, and NCEES. He served on the Vermont Board of Professional Engineers and the University of Vermont College of Engineering Advisory Board. He has also served as an ABET observer and as the president of the Clarkson University Vermont Alumni Chapter. He is a licensed professional engineer in New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

Atkinson lives in Essex, Vermont, with his wife, Kim Atkinson, P.E., and two young active sons. When he and his wife are not working they are often found coaching or enjoying the outdoors in all seasons.

Honoring Excellence in the Profession

NSPE members were recently honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession during NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Engineering Education Excellence Award

This award recognizes licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. It is sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Higher Education (PEHE) interest group.



Waterloo Tsutsui, Ph.D., P.E., is a senior research associate in the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University where his primary aim is to provide a rigorous education that nurtures an engineering mindset among students and empowering them to analyze, communicate, and solve complex problems. He ensures students derive maximum advantage from meticulously designed educational experiences integrated into their curriculum, fostering lasting knowledge and capabilities that extend far beyond the confines of the classroom

for the ultimate benefit of students. As an example, Tsutsui implemented virtual labs and visualization in lab courses as an innovative way to link engineering practice to education.

New Professional of the Year Award

This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career.



Sri Kumar, P.E., is the president and CEO of Connico, a national consultancy serving the aviation, civil, and transportation markets. In his current role, he is responsible for outlining the company's strategy for the future, ensuring the company continues to execute its goals, and delivering excellence to clients from Tampa to Seattle. He is also committed to building Connico's employee-focused culture and is passionate about developing a strong, diverse, and uniquely talented team who work each day on solving some of the nation's most complex infrastructure challenges.

Emerging Leaders Program Seeks Candidates



The [NSPE Emerging Leaders Program](#) is seeking the next group of engineering change-makers. Candidates with 5–8 years of professional experience in the engineering field who are prepared to think strategically about their career and begin taking on leadership roles are [invited to apply](#).

The 2024 ELP syllabus and related time-commitments are available and the application for the program is due by **Thursday, August 31**.

[Apply Now](#)

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