

## State News for NSPE Members

### US DOE Funds Ocean Energy Systems Research in Guam

The US Department of Energy (DOE) is allocating \$400,000 in funding for research at the University of Guam to explore the potential for ocean energy systems to power the proposed Guam Aquaculture Innovation Center.

[Offshore Energy reports](#) that the funding will be awarded through DOE's Water Power Technologies Office for two years to explore the potential for ocean thermal energy conversion and wave energy technology, among others, for powering the proposed center.

In December 2022, US DOE Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO) launched a \$10.5 million call for new marine energy projects, expected to advance the research and development of this renewable energy industry. [Read more.](#)

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### New Construction Certification Requirement Targets Pollution

As of New Year's Day, Erosion and Sediment Control certification is required from all construction site managers and superintendents for all building permits to prevent and control water pollution on island.

The Guam Environmental Protection Agency announced that it has begun enforcing the requirement for all building permits, including clearing, grubbing, grading and stockpiling permits, [The Guam Daily Post reports.](#)

"Over the past year, numerous contractor personnel have completed courses in ESC practices and our inspectors have noticed a significant improvement in compliance at their construction sites," Guam EPA Administrator Walter Leon Guerrero said. "Ensuring that construction operations are managed by properly trained personnel will serve to protect the environment and the construction industry as a whole. I encourage all contractors to sign up for these courses, if you have not done so already, and to join the rest of the industry in moving forward as

stewards and partners in the protection of Guam's environment and quality of life.”  
Read more.

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## Licensing Board Meeting

The [Guam Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects and Land Surveyors](#) will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, January 26**. Access more information [here](#).

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

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## NSPECon23 Call for Presentations

Share your expertise with professional engineers during [NSPECon23](#) in Louisville, Kentucky, August 2-4. Presentation proposals are being accepted on a [submissions site](#) until **January 25**. The sessions will focus on three topics: amplify your leadership human skills; stay informed about issues and trends impacting the profession; and invest in your career.



Accepted presenters will receive:

- The unparalleled opportunity to give back to the professional engineer community at a nationally recognized conference.
  - Recognition on the conference website with a headshot photo, biography, and session description.
  - A customized press release announcing your participation and contribution to the conference to share with your employer and/or clients.
  - Assistance with (and guidelines for) promoting your session on social media outlets.
  - Follow-up survey results and comments related to your presentation.
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## Get Ready for Engineers Week: Creating the Future!

Engineers Week (February 19–25, 2023) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated

future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week seeks to inspire the next generation by celebrating all the way engineers are Creating the Future! A free **Countdown to Engineers Week webinar** will take place on **Wednesday, January 18**, at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (ET). [Register and attend the webinar](#) to receive an Engineers Week planning guide and starter pack.



[Access more information and resources.](#)

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## New Board of Ethical Review Cases

The NSPE [Board of Ethical Review](#) (BER) annually provides advisory opinions to provide guidance on ethical dilemmas. The Board of Ethical Review (BER) has [released a new set of cases](#) on various topics including on conflict of interest, duty to report, and professional qualifications.

Check out a BER case focused on the PE role in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

**Facts:** City passes an ordinance requiring a sprinkler system in residences with less than eight feet between them and makes the ordinance effective as to all construction which has not yet received an occupancy permit. This means that projects under construction must have a sprinkler system added. Engineer A, who happens to have both structural and fire protection credentials, is hired by Homeowner to design a retaining wall system to stabilize a rear yard. Homeowner allowed Engineer A to store equipment in the integral garage. Engineer A observes that the builder routed the piping for the retrofitted sprinkler system through the unheated garage, exposing the pipes to freezing temperatures.



**Questions:** What are Engineer A's obligations?

[Access the full case to read the BER's discussion and conclusion.](#)

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