

State News for NSPE Members

Upcoming Event: GSPE November Luncheon/Membership Meeting

The [Guam Society of Professional Engineers](#) will host a luncheon/membership meeting on **Tuesday, November 21**, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., at Three Squares (416 Chalan San Antonio, Tamuning). The meeting topic will focus on updates from the [Guam Board of Registration for Professional Engineers, Architects, and Land Surveyors](#) featuring guest speaker Nixon Issac, a board investigator.

Members should RSVP to attend the meeting no later than Monday, November 20. Access the meeting flyer [here](#) for registration details and additional meeting information.

Annual Golf Tournament Raises Funds for MATHCOUNTS Program

GSPE hosted its **12th Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser** on Saturday, October 21, to support the MATHCOUNTS Guam chapter program. The [MATHCOUNTS](#) program helps to promote middle school mathematics achievement. A significant portion of the funds raised will help to finance the Guam team's participation at the prestigious national level. Access information about our sponsors and supporters [here](#).

The Winners

1st Place: Van Shelly & Spencer Steffy
2nd Place: Eric Mendiola & Cyle Tass
Closest to the Pin: Arthur Clark
Longest Drive: Spencer Steffy

GPA Post-Typhoon Recovery and Resiliency Efforts

John Benavente, P.E., general manager of the Guam Public Authority (GPA),

recently provided a presentation on the post-typhoon recovery and resiliency efforts at a Guam Contractors Association luncheon meeting in October. Access the presentation [here](#).

Adelup to Lobby Support from Engineers for Medical Complex

With the debate on where to build the medical complex as contentious as it was when the governor proposed Eagles Field in Mangilao, the administration continues its effort to lobby support for the Eda Agaga area of Barrigada one talk at a time.

Adelup spokesperson Krystal Paco-San Agustin will be the featured guest speaker for the Society of American Military Engineers Guam Post November membership meeting, but instead of talking about Typhoon Mawar, as originally planned, she will be focused on lobbying support.

"It'll be a similar talk to what's being presented at (the) governor's informational meetings for the medical complex," Paco-San Agustin told [The Guam Daily Post](#).

The governor's Bill 184-37 seeks to allow the Guam Ancestral Lands Commission the authority to negotiate the sale or lease of crown lands in Barrigada known as Eda Agaga for the purpose of building a medical complex to include a new hospital.

The bill already went through a public hearing on November 1, which was continued on November 3, and now will be heard again on November 16. Speaker Therese Terlaje, chair of the Committee on Health, Land and Justice, said information continues to be lacking on the proposed site as it was not one of the three sites studied by Matrix - the company that assessed the viability and suitability of a new medical facility.

The governor has carried out informational meetings with Guam Memorial Hospital employees, veterans, and residents of Mangilao and Barrigada. [Read more](#).

Leachate Flow Discussed as Court Tours Ordot Dump Site

District Court of Guam Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood toured the former Ordot dump on November 9 to get additional information on the facility's condition and learn about its operation and maintenance, [The Guam Daily Post reports](#). She visited various areas at the now-capped former dump facility, including its leachate collection and removal system and areas where water leaks and seeps had been discovered.

The former dump site is overseen by the federal receiver, Gershman, Brickner &

Bratton Inc., as part of an ongoing partial consent decree. Local solid waste services were placed under federal receivership in 2008 by the District Court, a consequence of the 2002 federal lawsuit to force the closure of the Ordot dump over environmental concerns.

The court eventually turned over day-to-day trash collection and disposal services to the Guam Solid Waste Authority in 2019, but held that GBB would stay responsible for mitigation efforts at the former dump site. Local agencies, federal authorities and the receiver have been working toward a complete termination of the receivership.

Harvey Gershman, a representative for the receiver, said last week that he is targeting July 1, 2024, as the end date for the receivership. He noted, however, that the court holds final authority over that decision.

Federal and local authorities joined the chief judge and GBB officials for the tour. GBB representative Chris Lund took Tydingco-Gatewood to the place where a leak was identified near Dero Road, which runs adjacent along part of the former dump site. [Read more.](#)

Creating Hydrogen Energy for Guam Using Seawater Electrolysis

When mechanical engineer Fleur de Peralta visited her native Guam in 2021, a question began to form in her mind. How could she bring the engineering and energy expertise of her employer, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), to her home island?

"What I heard from people in Guam was the importance of energy independence from renewable sources," said de Peralta. Guam, a US territory located in a string of Western Pacific islands known as Micronesia, currently meets its energy needs in the form of imported fossil fuels and intermittent renewable energy. Its goal is to generate 100% of its energy from renewable sources by 2045.

The answer to her question came in the form of a new funding opportunity from the Department of Energy's Reaching a New Energy Sciences Workforce (RENEW) program. RENEW was created specifically to provide research partnerships between the national laboratories and educational institutions that serve populations historically underrepresented in science, such as Pacific Islanders.

De Peralta's vision led to a successful proposal to investigate the science necessary to turn seawater into hydrogen using renewable electricity.

The abundant seawater surrounding Guam provides an enticing energy source: hydrogen. Through a process called electrolysis, energy from electricity splits water

into hydrogen and oxygen. This generates a fuel that can also be stored and used when renewable electricity is not available.

"Being able to produce hydrogen from seawater would be a game changer for Guam," said John Limtiaco, an assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Guam (UOG) and the project lead. "UOG is a hub for students throughout Micronesia. We want to bring in students from outlying islands and get them excited about scientific research." [Read more.](#)

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

Check Out the Latest Issue of *PE*

Future Forward

Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and nanotechnology are revolutionizing the world. But these technologies are developing at a pace much faster than can be effectively absorbed into critical engineered infrastructure. The NSPE Emerging Technologies Committee is laser focused on ensuring that new technologies can benefit society and the profession with minimal risk to safety and security.



Claiming a Seat at the Table

Does it ever seem like your ideas go unnoticed? Do you sometimes feel like you have stalled in your organization? Does it seem like your team is not getting the support it needs? If you want to “claim a seat at the table,” how you show up, use your influence, and communicate can be the difference between winning opportunities or not.

[Access the full issue online.](#) Members who subscribe to the digital edition of *PE* can also access the current and back issues.

Engineers Week 2024 — Welcome to the Future!

Founded by NSPE in 1951, [Engineers Week](#) (February 18–24, 2024) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week — **Welcome to the Future!** — seeks to inspire the next generation to play a vital role in innovating solutions to global

challenges that impact future generations. By working together to develop new technologies, products, and opportunities, engineers create new possibilities that make the world a better place.



Engineers Week is a time for you to:

- Celebrate how engineers make a difference in our world.
- Add your voice to the conversation about the need for engineers, technicians, and technologists.
- Engage students in engineering.

[Access promotional resources.](#)

Share Your Views: Outreach to the Next Generation

What are you doing to promote the engineering profession to young people? Send your comments (250 words or less) to pemagazine@nspe.org.

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