

State News for NSPE Members

US Supreme Court Takes Guam Superfund Site Case

The US and Guam will [argue before the US Supreme Court](#) over the responsibility of an \$160 million environmental cleanup, according to a Courthouse News Service report.

In 1940, the US Navy created a toxic waste disposal site without any environmental safeguards. When Guam was left with the responsibility of cleanup, it sought those costs under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

In 2018, a district court concluded that Guam's claim could proceed. Last year, the DC Circuit said, however, that Guam's claim was prevented by a specific section within the CERCLA, which has specific time restraints for intermediaries to file their challenges. The court held then that section prevented Guam's claims because of a decade-old consent decree, settling those claims under the Clean Water Act. Guam filed the lawsuit three years after that decree, so the claims were prevented.

Guam's Construction Sector Solid, but Faces Local Workforce Challenges

Guam's construction industry is stable in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic and will be "solid" for the next three years, needing more local and foreign skilled workers, Guam Contractors Association President James Martinez told the Rotary Club of Guam.

Shortly before his presentation, the Navy announced initial contract awards under a \$990 million multiple award construction contract over the next five years as part of the development of the new base that will host Marines' relocation from Okinawa to Guam, according to a *Guam Daily Post* report.

"At least for construction, the next three years would be quite promising and quite solid," Martinez said, "And we hope that trickles down to the rest of the economy by

providing additional jobs for local workers here, but also for small business companies and suppliers, to do more business with the military and get that sector going.”

[Read more.](#)

Guam Seeks Guidance on Sustainability Tracking

Guam is looking at Hawaii for examples of how the island can track its sustainability goals, according to a *Pacific Daily News* article.

Hawaii has the Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard, an online open-data platform to track progress, provide accountability and ensure transparency on Hawaii’s sustainability goals. Guam’s G3 Working Group is partnering with Hawaii Green Growth to implement a similar dashboard for Guam to track progress on goals outlined in the G3 Action Framework

The platform provides data that shows Hawaii’s progress in meeting its sustainable goals, including solid waste reduction, local food production and clean energy transformation. The website shows if the state is on track with the goals or if things can be improved.

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio signed the G3 Action Framework last September. The plan—a 10-year strategy to develop tangible solutions to sustainability challenges—was developed by the G3 Working Group, comprised of 80 members representing government, academia, private sector and nonprofit partners. The group was established in September 2019 and is facilitated by the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability.

[Read more.](#)

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

Society Announces New Executive

NSPE has announced Monika Schulz as the Society’s new executive director and CEO, beginning February 15.

“As we embark on the new year, we are starting a new chapter in NSPE’s history,” says NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE. “It is thrilling to be in this place where NSPE’s volunteer leadership recognized the value



that Monika's expertise and authentic leadership style will bring to our organization. Her collaborative, yet-data-driven, approach to management will facilitate the successful execution of our strategic plan, and she's demonstrated her ability to collaborate with state and local chapters to increase impact at her prior organizations."

Schulz has a long history in associations and a passion for the contributions they make to society. Before joining NSPE, she served for over five years as the CEO of the American String Teachers Association in Fairfax, Virginia. In this role, she collaborated with the organization's board on strategic planning, implementing data-driven decision making, and carrying out a rebranding initiative. She also built stronger ties among the organization's 50 state and local chapters, bolstered member engagement, and expanded a national conference and tradeshow as well as a national orchestra festival.

"I'm very excited to be joining the NSPE team," says Schulz, "and I look forward to collaborating with leadership, state societies, and the NSPE management team to further NSPE's vision, mission, and initiatives. Engineers make the world a better place in which to live, and I feel incredibly fortunate and proud to champion the important work of professional engineers."

Prior to serving as ASTA's CEO, Schulz spent 18 years at the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, in multiple leadership roles, including six years as chief operating officer.

The Virginia Tech graduate is active in the American Society of Association Executives and holds the CAE designation as a certified association executive.

EWeek 2021 Focuses on the Future

Engineers Week, with the theme "**Imagining Tomorrow**," will take place **February 21–27**, and this year's focus will be on virtual role models, distance learning, and diversity and belonging.

[Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day](#), or "Girl Day,"

will also carry this theme forward and will be held on February 25. The focus will also be on virtual role models and diversity and belonging, but it will also feature special editions of DiscoverE's "Chats With Change Makers" series in which a high school student interviews engineers and technicians who are working hard to make the world a better place.



This year's Future City Competition theme is "Living on the Moon." To adapt to the pandemic, teams will be allowed to work remotely and competitions will be virtual. Teams will make a video presentation of their cities, and their models will be presented in a slideshow format. There will be a live Q&A for the teams to answer questions about their models and presentations.

EWeek Event Dates

- Chats with Change Makers: new "season" began on September 25 and continues monthly.
- Future City Competition: September through April
- The Persist Series (formerly Global Marathon): begins January and continues monthly.
- Engineers Week: February 21–27, 2021
- Girl Day: February 25, 2021
- World Engineering Day: March 4, 2021

Access Your Member Benefit: 15 Free Webinars for 2021

To help members meet their continuing education requirements, NSPE has released a new slate of **15 free webinars** that will be available throughout 2021.

Members may earn credits by viewing the webinars from the comfort of their home or office and will receive an attendance certificate after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida.

FREE
15

Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

1. [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public *](#)
2. [How to Lead Without Authority](#)
3. [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design *](#)
4. [Licensing for Profitability, Agility and Growth for Small and Mid-Sized Engineering Firms](#)
5. [Passing Down Institutional Knowledge Through Coaching, Mentoring and Storytelling](#)
6. [The Saint Joseph Water Crisis: Lessons Learned in the Age of Deteriorating Water Infrastructure](#) (New York approval pending)

*Webinar has been approved for continuing education credit in New York

[Check out the complete lineup of 2021 courses.](#)

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