

State News for NSPE Members

Guam Awarded \$4 Million for Capital Improvement Projects

Guam has been awarded \$4 million by the Department of Interior in fiscal year 2021 Capital Improvement Projects funding for the following projects:

- \$3 million for architectural and engineering design and site improvements for the proposed Guam Environmental Protection Agency building; and
- \$1 million for the continued support to the Guam Department of Education to address deferred maintenance in schools.

"COVID-19 has created unprecedented socioeconomic challenges that have threatened much of our advances. A key component in our economic recovery is protecting our environment and natural resources. The Guam Environmental Protection Agency plays a critical role in ensuring our development does not harm our island, and it is time we give them the tools they need to continue their mission," said Governor Lou Leon Guerrero in a statement.

Business Assistance Act 2021 Signed Into Law

Legislation that temporarily waives business license renewal fees that are due by September 30, 2022 was signed into law on March 5.

The [Business Assistance Act of 2021](#) states that any fees that have been collected since October 1, 2020 will be credited to any fees owed by the license holder after the period waived by the act.

Vessel Operator and Engineers Sentenced for Apra Harbor Oil Waste Discharge Offenses

A vessel operating company was sentenced on February 18 in Hagatna, Guam, for illegally discharging oil into Apra Harbor, Guam, and for maintaining false and

incomplete records relating to the discharges of oily bilge water from the vessel Kota Harum.

Pacific International Lines Limited (PIL), Chief Engineer Maung Maung Soe, and Second Engineer Peng Luo Hai admitted that oily bilge water was illegally dumped from the Kota Harum directly into the ocean and into Apra Harbor without being properly processed through required pollution prevention equipment, according to a US Department of Justice press release. Oily bilge water typically contains oil contamination from the operation and cleaning of machinery on the vessel. The defendants also admitted that these illegal discharges were not recorded in the vessel's oil record book as required by law.

PIL pleaded guilty to five felony violations of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships for failing to accurately maintain the Kota Harum's oil record book, and one felony violation of the Clean Water Act for knowingly discharging oil into a water of the United States in a quantity that may be harmful. The judge sentenced PIL to pay a total criminal penalty of \$3 million and serve a four-year term of probation, during which all vessels operated by the company and calling on US ports will be required to implement a robust Environmental Compliance Plan.

Soe and Hai previously pleaded guilty and were sentenced to two years of probation and one year of probation, respectively. Additionally, both Soe and Hai are prohibited from serving as engineers onboard any commercial vessels bound for the US during their respective terms of probation.

[Read more.](#)

GAO Report: FEMA Needs to Address Long-Term Disaster Recovery for Pacific Islands

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and Hawaii experienced an unprecedented number of natural disasters in 2018—including typhoons, earthquakes, mudslides, and volcanic eruptions.

Due to distance from the continental US, disaster response and recovery can be challenging. FEMA has worked to address these challenges, but the agency could improve disaster recovery in several areas, according to a recent Government Accountability Office report. This report examines how FEMA and its federal partners prepared for and responded to the 2018 disasters; and the extent to which FEMA assisted the CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii in recovering from the 2018 natural disasters.

As of October 2020, FEMA obligated \$877 million—more than 70% of which was for individual and public assistance missions—following the 2018 disasters and made progress addressing some region-specific challenges. However, FEMA has

not fully addressed housing assistance issues in the CNMI.

GAO also identified delays in FEMA's obligation of public assistance program funds—used to repair or replace disaster-damaged public infrastructure such as utilities, roads, and schools. Specifically, on average, it took over a year for FEMA to approve funds for projects awarded after the 2018 disasters.

GAO is making four recommendations, including that FEMA 1) incorporate lessons learned into permanent housing construction guidance; and 2) use performance data to identify and address inefficiencies in the public assistance program. The Department of Homeland Security concurred, and FEMA is taking actions in response.

[Access the report.](#)

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

FAA safety engineer goes public to slam the agency's oversight of Boeing's 737 MAX

Haunted by the two deadly crashes of Boeing 737 MAX jets and his agency's role in approving the plane, veteran Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety engineer Joe Jacobsen is stepping forward publicly to give the victims' families "a firsthand account of what the truth is." In a detailed letter sent last month to a family that lost their daughter in the second MAX crash in Ethiopia two years ago this week, and in [interviews with The Seattle Times](#), Jacobsen gave the first personal account by an insider of the federal safety agency's response to the MAX crashes. Jacobsen should have been among the FAA specialists who reviewed the MAX's critical new flight control software during its original certification, which was largely controlled by Boeing. He's confident that he and other FAA engineers would have flagged its serious design flaws.

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Wanted: 2021 NSPE Emerging Leaders



NSPE is fostering a new generation of engineers who can think strategically, build effective teams, and lead successfully through its [Emerging Leaders Program](#). This intensive seven-month, professionally facilitated, virtual program is now accepting applications until **May 31**.

Early-career professionals with 5-8 years of experience who are just beginning to lead and think strategically in the profession are encouraged to apply. The program graduated its [first class of diverse, super achieving professionals](#) in February.

Between August 2021 and February 2022 participants will learn how to be successful at higher levels of leadership responsibility. Participants will engage in 90-minute leadership training sessions each month with learning discussions and mentoring on topics such as ownership, team development, communication skills, giving/receiving feedback, and presentation skills. There will also be ample networking opportunities with peers and national NSPE national leaders.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

Ethics Webinars for PEs and Those on the Licensure Path



Don't miss NSPE's upcoming ethics webinars on truthfulness and fidelity to employers and clients, with insight from Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq., NSPE's senior director for ethics and professional practice and NAFE executive director, and other NSPE ethics experts.

April 7

[Engineering Ethics—Canon III—Truthfulness](#)

Learn from a variety of situations in which circumstances can tempt (and even encourage) engineers to dance around the edges of Canon III.

Presenters: Hugh Veit, P.E., Susan Sprague, P.E., F.NSPE, and Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq.

May 5

Engineering Ethics—Canon IV—Fidelity to Employers/Clients

Examine the duties to employers and clients, and circumstances under which those duties can be pre-empted by higher duties, especially to the public health, safety, and welfare.

Presenters: David Kish, Ph.D., P.E., Jeff Greenfield, Ph.D., P.E., F.NSPE, and Rebecca Bowman, P.E., Esq.

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