

State News for NSPE Members

Tropical Energy Code Legislation Introduced

Senator Sabina Perez introduced legislation ([Bill 413-35](#)) to adopt the Guam Tropical Energy Code. The measure aims to reduce the overall cost of home ownership and limit Guam's carbon footprint by establishing a minimum building energy standard, according to a news release. The bill is co-sponsored by Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes and Senator Joe S. San Agustin.

The Guam Tropical Energy Code (GTEC) is an updated set of building standards promoting energy conservation and was specifically developed by local experts for use in Guam's tropical climate. Once enacted, it will set minimum standards for lighting, air conditioner unit ratings, and other construction methods and standards that impact energy use. Such standards will apply to new construction on Guam, as well as remodeling projects to existing structures that are significant enough to require a building permit.

[Read more.](#)

University of GU Secures \$21.7 Million for Engineering Building Project

The US Department of Agriculture approved a \$21.7 million loan to the University of Guam Endowment Foundation, to expand and renovate the university's student services center and build a school of engineering.

The university last year launched a new engineering program that for the first time will allow students to earn a bachelor's degree in civil engineering without having to leave the island, according to a *Pacific Daily News* article.

Engineering students at UOG had been required to begin their studies on Guam then transfer after two years to an off-island university in order to complete their degree. Students who want to pursue other engineering disciplines still must leave the island to complete their degrees.

[Read more.](#)

Climate Change to Disrupt Life, Says New Report

“Hotter weather, risks to freshwater supplies, coral reef death, and stronger typhoons” are among the major challenges detailed in the new report, [Climate Change in Guam: Indicators and Considerations for Key Sectors](#).

The report was released by the Pacific Islands Regional Climate Assessment, a consortium of several government and nongovernment organizations and research entities, which in part, compiles findings from previous studies that typhoons will be stronger, there will be hotter days, extreme rainfall will bring more flash floods, more corals will be at risk of dying and droughts will bring more wildfires and put pressure on the drinking water supply. [It] suggests areas in which planners, engineers and policymakers, among others, will have to take into account.

[Read more.](#)

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

PEs, Technicians, and Teamwork

Construction projects come with numerous roles and responsibilities that must be carried out with skill and efficiency to achieve success. For professional engineers, perhaps the most critical relationship is with the project’s engineering technicians.

In a recent [NSPE webinar](#) on PEs, technicians, and the engineering team, Shannon Looney, P.E., F.NSPE, called the contributions of skilled technicians “invaluable.” As the senior project manager for the Glenn E. Mitchell and Company Inc. in Knoxville, Tennessee, Looney specializes in concrete construction. He relies heavily on the data collected by technicians—“the technicians with their hands on the ground that work directly with the labor force and is able to tell us the data we need...to make real-time decisions on important aspects of production.”

The webinar covers many aspects of the PE-technician dynamic and the factors that make a strong team. In addition to Looney, the webinar panel included Kent Dvorak, P.E., of Terracon’s Salt Lake City office; John Quidley, SET, president and senior quality consultant with Caliber Consulting Services LLC; and Kenny Johnson Jr., P.G., with expertise in the geotechnical and materials testing industry.

The webinar, “Put Me in, Coach! The Engineering Team from Concept to Completion,” can be [accessed online for free](#).

Georgia Adopts Structural PE Requirement

Beginning January 1, a professional engineer who designs, signs, and seals plans for “designated structures” in Georgia must be licensed as a structural engineer. Legislation signed into law in August, creates a professional structural engineer licensing process, which includes a requirement that a licensure applicant take the 16-hour PE Structural exam.

The process [establishes several paths](#) for current licensees to be grandfathered into obtaining an SE license, which is supplemental to the PE license. An individual licensed in Georgia will have to submit an affidavit form and pay fees to the [State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors](#) from November 1 to December 31, 2020 to participate in this grandfather process.

In June, NSPE and the Georgia Society of Professional Engineers expressed concerns that a SE license requirement would create an additional layer of bureaucracy, requiring an engineer who is qualified to practice in more than one area to obtain multiple licenses.

NSPE believes that fragmenting the professional engineering license into discipline-specific title or practice acts weakens rather than strengthens the integrity of the license. The Society advocates for an alternative structural engineering certification that could be obtained after earning a PE license to offer more flexibility and without drawing a hard line between structural and other engineering disciplines.

Officer Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for the positions of NSPE 2021–22 vice president and 2021–23 treasurer. The individual nominated for vice president will advance to president-elect in 2022–23 and president in 2023–24. The deadline for submitting nomination packages for either position is **January 11, 2021**.

Please share this information with those you believe should be considered for the next leaders in our Society. Additional details can be found in the [Leadership Toolbox](#). If you have any questions, email the NSPE Executive Office at executive@nspe.org.

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