

State News for NSPE Members

Defense Bill Would Allow Foreign Construction Workers in Guam

Congress voted on an annual defense bill that includes a provision allowing Guam to admit skilled foreign workers for both military and civilian construction projects, a move that could help ease a labor shortage in the US territory.

The projects would include the construction of the US Marine Corps facilities at the newly activated Camp Blaz, including several designed by Hawaii architecture firms as part of a military initiative partially funded by the Japanese government. It's one of the largest military construction endeavors in the Pacific region.

The provision, which would allow Guam to admit workers on H-2B visas is part of the \$740 billion National Defense Authorization Act for 2021. H-2B visas allow foreign workers to take temporary jobs in the US and its territories.

[Read more.](#)

EPA Awards Guam Nearly \$3.1 Million in Grants

The US Environmental Protection Agency announced \$3,080,680 in grants in 2020 to the Guam Environmental Protection Agency to strengthen its environmental protection program capacity, according to a *Pacific Daily News* report.

"We are pleased to support Guam EPA programs that are committed to achieving a better environment for Guam residents," said John Busterud, the EPA regional administrator.

"EPA continues to work closely with Guam EPA staff to develop priorities and provide technical assistance to improve environmental protection," Busterud said.

Guam EPA will use funding to support environmental inspections, monitor the safety of drinking water and beaches, clean up contaminated sites, inspect fuel storage tanks, protect coral reefs, and respond to environmental emergencies.

[Read more.](#)

Legislation on Septic Tank Systems Faces Opposition

Legislation which tightens regulations on septic tank systems built over the Groundwater Protection Zone, continues to prove divisive. Government officials back the measure while realtors and property owners oppose what they say is legislation that will hurt future development, according to *The Guam Daily Post*.

The legislation ([Bill 404-35](#)) was introduced by Senator Regine Biscoe Lee and is one of four intended to protect the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer. The bill is intended to limit nitrate contamination in groundwater, which has been increasing in concentration, according to the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific at the University of Guam.

[Read more.](#)



NSPE's **Job Board** is your one-stop resource for professional engineering employment. Whether you are on the hunt for your next career move or looking for today's top engineering leaders and talent, you will find it here.

NSPE provides the tools PEs need to keep current in the profession and advance their careers.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

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

NSPE Government Relations Staff Releases 2020 Advocacy Report

NSPE's Government Relations staff has released its year-end report—**By the Numbers**—a semi-deep dive into how advocacy campaigns performed, which issues staff tracked and how often, and which members of Congress were most and least supportive of NSPE issues.

The report provides summaries of lessons learned and establishes best practices. It also draws some fact-based conclusions on who are NSPE allies on the Hill, and which offices need a little more prompting before they get on board. It's an excellent capstone to an unexpected and difficult, but ultimately successful year!

[Access the report.](#)

Education Foundation Celebrates 60 Years of Giving Back



For 60 years, the NSPE Education Foundation has been a major source of support for the educational and ethical practice needs of engineering students, engineering teachers, and practicing professionals.

This past year, the foundation gave out five scholarships to [deserving engineering students](#) and supported young professionals in NSPE's [Emerging Leaders Program](#). In the coming year, the foundation will explore additional programs to broaden its reach and impact, and NSPE member support will mean more than ever before.

In this season of giving, and in honor of the NSPE Education Foundation's 60th anniversary, a donation of \$60 will help further its mission to support students, educators, young professionals, and the profession at large.

[Donate today.](#)

EJCDC Releases New Owner and Engineer Task Order Docs

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee has released a new document: [EJCDC E-505 2020, Agreement Between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services—Task Order Edition](#) . This document is available to NSPE members at a 50% discount.

EJCDC E-505 defines individual task orders for specific professional assignments. In a task order, the owner and engineer agree to task-specific terms, such as scope of services, schedule, and compensation, for each specific assignment. When a task order is issued, no drafting or negotiating is needed for provisions such as indemnification, insurance, claims, dispute resolution, suspension, or termination because these provisions will have been negotiated previously and set in place in the E-505 Main Agreement and its exhibits.

The E-505 is designed for multiple or recurring assignments (“tasks”) related to one or several projects; it is similar to the E-500 Agreement Between Owner-Engineer for Professional Services in structure, terminology, and conditions. Updates to the EJCDC E-505 include enhanced and reorganized exhibits to the E-505 main agreement and task order form to reflect evolving contract practice and improve ease of use. This edition is published in four parts, which are included in a downloadable zip file.

[Learn more.](#)

It's Not Too Late: Get Your 15 Free PDHs for 2020

Act now to take advantage of the annual NSPE membership benefit of 15 free PDHs. Access to the [2020 lineup of courses](#) will end after **December 31**.

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.



Don't have time to view the 15 free courses before December 31? Simply "purchase" the webinars by December 31 and add them to your NSPE member account. That way you can view them when you are ready. Webinars in your account can be accessed for up to one year.

Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

- [Engineering Ethics: The obligation to conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically and lawfully](#)
- [Drones: The Sky's the Limit](#)
- [How Not to Fail as a Leader](#)
- [Professional Engineer's Role on Application of Artificial Intelligence and Technology](#)
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Act now to access the [2020 free courses](#) .

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