

State News for NSPE Members

Coming Soon - Nominations for the NSPE-DE Excellence Awards

The **Engineer of the Year**, **Young Engineer of the Year**, and **Government Engineer of the Year** are the most prestigious awards presented by NSPE-DE. These honors recognize individuals who provide sustained and unusual welfare, the advancement of the engineering profession, and/or service to humankind. More information about the nomination process for the 2026 awards will be available in September, so start thinking about someone who you think is deserving of one of these awards. [Learn more about this year's award winners.](#)

Get Involved! NSPE-DE Seeks Volunteers

NSPE-DE seeks volunteers to serve on committees to plan and organize MATHCOUNTS and Engineers Week activities. **Why serve?** In addition to giving back to the professional engineering community, volunteers can form strong connections with committee colleagues, learn new skills, enjoy networking with leaders or hone their own leadership skills.

MATHCOUNTS Committee

Middle school students from across our state come together for the Delaware MATHCOUNTS program and competition, the only in-person math competition of its kind. These students are capable and hardworking young mathematicians. This program doesn't work without the engagement of professional engineers who can mentor and inspire them.

Engineers Week Committee

NSPE-DE hosts an Engineers Week banquet to celebrate the profession, announce scholarship recipients, recognize newly inducted professional engineers (presented by the Delaware Association of Professional Engineers), and honor the Young Engineer of the Year, Government Engineer of the year, and Engineer of the Year award recipients.

Interested members should reach out to NSPE-DE President K. James Taylor, Jr., directly at admin@nspe-de.org or at 302-489-2261 to volunteer.

The DNREC Signs Agreement to Improve Wastewater Infrastructure and Protect Water Quality

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Kent County Levy Court have signed a Conciliation Order by Consent that resolves past wastewater treatment and sanitary sewer overflow violations and requires the County to enhance wastewater infrastructure, improve operational reliability and safeguard Delaware's waterways.

The Consent Order addresses compliance challenges and wastewater permit violations documented from 2017 to the present at Kent County's Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility in Milford and throughout the County's collection system. These challenges included:

- Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) from deteriorating infrastructure and during heavy rain events;
- Effluent discharge exceedances involving bacteria and suspended solids; and
- Maintenance and operational issues at the treatment plant.

Under the agreement, Kent County is required to complete a multi-year series of corrective actions with oversight from DNREC's Division of Water. The actions are designed to reduce the risk of future violations, protect public health and improve water quality in the Murderkill River and its tributaries.

Key Corrective Actions

These actions include:

- Biosolids Capacity Expansion Project to improve solids management;
- Grit system upgrades;
- UV disinfection upgrades;
- Backup generator installations at priority pump stations;
- Comprehensive pipeline condition assessment;
- Engineering evaluations of County and municipal collection systems to address infiltration and inflow (I&I); and
- Quarterly progress reports to DNREC.

These projects will enhance the treatment plant's performance, reduce overflows and improve compliance with state and federal water quality standards. [Read more.](#)

Delaware City Data Center Plans Submitted, Starting Clock on Controversial Project

The company proposing to build a massive and energy-hungry data center near the Delaware City Refinery submitted exploratory plans to New Castle County in early August, officially starting the regulatory review of a proposal that has already drawn opposition from hundreds of people in the state.

The official plans show how the first phase of the development would include six buildings – each about 500,000 square feet and two-stories tall. Six additional properties adjacent to the buildings are designated as “electrical yards.”

The electrical yards highlight the massive amounts of energy that the modern data center would consume as many expect it to power the latest revolution in artificial intelligent technologies.

Starwood Digital Ventures, the company behind the proposal, has said the future data center could use as much as 1.2 gigawatts of electricity per hour – an amount that would power nearly twice the amount of homes that exist in Delaware.

But critics of the project point to energy usage as the problem. They worry it could pile increased demand onto a regional electricity grid that already faces a supply crunch and surging prices. [Read more in Spotlight Delaware.](#)

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

Texas PE Takes the Lead of NSPE



Julia M. Harrod, P.E., F.NSPE, was installed as NSPE's 2025-2026 president during a ceremony at NSPECon25 on August 7. With over two decades of leadership and engineering experience, she brings a unique interdisciplinary perspective to the role—combining backgrounds in architecture, civil engineering, and business strategy.

“It’s a tremendous honor to lead NSPE and help advance the mission of fostering licensed professional engineers in service to society,” Harrod said. “We have an opportunity to expand our reach in advancing ethical leadership, innovation, and inclusion in engineering – and that starts with engaging and supporting the next generation of PEs.”

Harrod leads MWM DesignGroup as its president and CEO. The Texas-based firm provides integrated services in architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, land surveying, and permitting. She holds a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master’s degree in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

After earning her PE license in Texas, Harrod quickly emerged as a dedicated leader and passionate advocate for the profession. She began her service with NSPE and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 2001 as a volunteer with the Travis Chapter in Austin. Since then, she has held numerous leadership roles, championing ethical standards and professional excellence across the engineering community.

The 2025-2026 NSPE Board of Directors (BOD) were installed during NSPECon25. [Get acquainted with the members of the BOD](#) .

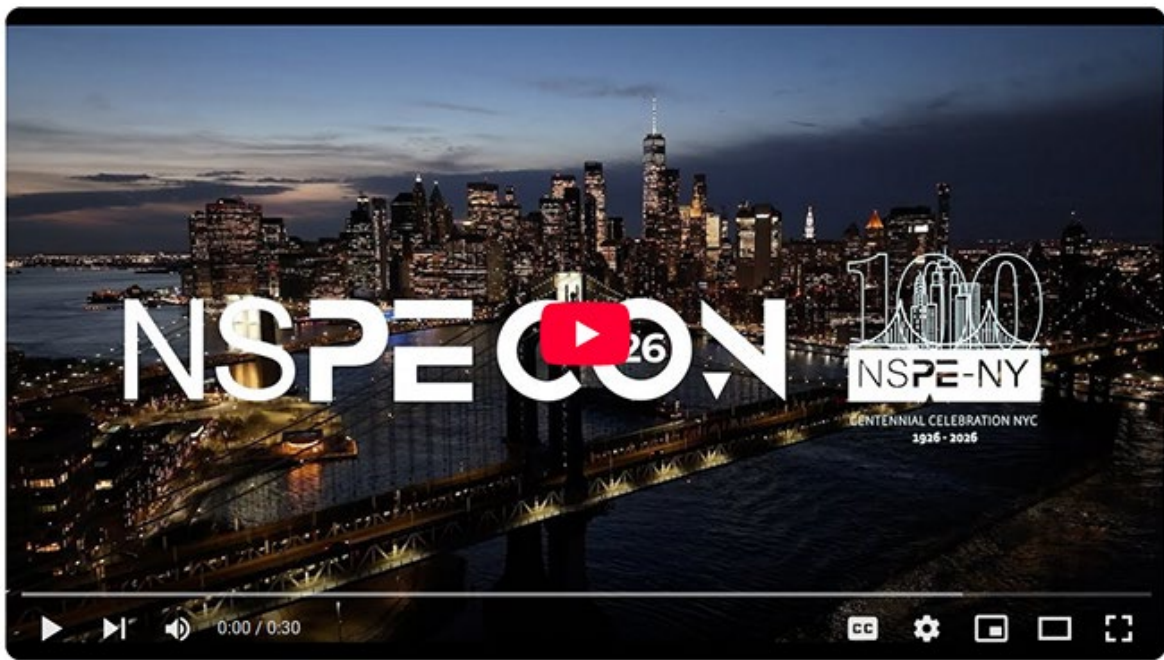


Save the Date: NSPECon26

We enjoyed seeing the NSPE community come together in Kansas City for NSPECon25 to celebrate PE Day, participate in sessions covering timely topics and engage in impactful conversations. Stay tuned for information on how to access photos from the event on the conference website.



Next year will be about bright lights and big opportunities, so add NSPECon26 to your calendar, because we're going to New York City, August 5-7. Help us celebrate NYSSPE's centennial anniversary in The Big Apple.



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Registration Open: 2025 Fall WORKability Webinars

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members —“WORKability Wednesdays”— to support members with their professional development goals through [NSPE's PE Institute](#) . The first webinar of the fall season will kick off on September 10 (2:00

p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET). Registration is open for the September webinars. Stay tuned for notifications to register for the additional webinars.



- September 10: [Decarbonizing Concrete: Overcoming Challenges, Unlocking Opportunities](#)
- September 24: [The Case for AI in Forensic Engineering: Enhancing Expert Testimony and Avoiding Obsolescence](#)
- October 8: **Marketing & Sales Best Practices for Engineering Firms**
- October 22: **Board of Ethical Review – Discussion of New Ethics Cases**
- November 5: **Winning More Business: Using Forensic Engineering Expertise as a Competitive Differentiator**
- November 12: **The Ethics of Sustainability in the Water, Food, and Energy Nexus**

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