

## State News for NSPE Members

### From the NSPE-DE President

By K. James Taylor, Jr., P.E.



In February, we announced that we would be started a new Lunch and Leadership series later this year. We are now accepting presentation submissions for consideration to be a part of this program. Topic areas to be discussed included engineering crisis management, professionalism, risk management, and liability, engineering ethics, licensure and threats to licensure, leading project teams, communications, strategic planning, contracts and public policy. Starting out, events will be conducted virtually and will eventually move to an in person format. If interested in doing a presentation, please submit the following information to [president@nspe-de.org](mailto:president@nspe-de.org):

- Contact information
- Abstract
- Proposed Title of Session
- Session Description
- Learning Outcomes
- Any additional information

NSPE-DE will be working on the schedule and sessions to be provided over the next couple of months. This is just one step we're taking at NSPE-DE to help provide additional value to our membership. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions and we're looking forward to some great sessions in the near future!

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## Company Chosen for Selective Shell Incubator Project

Wilmington-based Vesogen, formerly known as W7energy, has been selected for the fourth cohort of Shell's Gamechanger Accelerator Powered by NREL. The highly competitive incubator program partners with startups to support their efforts in developing tech for the transition away from fossil fuels. Participating companies get access to resources, experts, and world-class facilities available through DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Gamechanger.

Versogen is developing electrolyzer technology that uses water and renewable energy to produce green hydrogen at scale in a reliable and affordable way. Versogen's systems are built around its patented anion exchange membranes and earth-abundant materials.

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## Delaware Licensing Board Council Seats Open

In 2021, the following DAPE Council seats will be up for election: "Other" Engineering, Government and Chemical Engineering. Individuals interested in getting involved in DAPE's Council for the first time can start by volunteering on a committee. More information on committees can be found at [www.dape.org](http://www.dape.org).

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## White House Identifies Need for Infrastructure Investment in Delaware

In its "[American Jobs Plan](#)," the Biden White House released state fact sheets identifying areas of need, and cited infrastructure as an area lacking in investment in Delaware. The state received a "D" grade on its Infrastructure Report Card.

The report identified 12 segments of infrastructure that the White House says will be boosted by the Jobs Plan. For example, it points out that there are 19 bridges and more than 250 miles of highway in Delaware in poor condition and says the plan will dedicate \$600 billion to our nation's transportation infrastructure. Other areas of need emphasized in the state include public transportation, infrastructure resilience, drinking water, housing, broadband, manufacturing, and energy.

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

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## We Need Your Input on Proposed Changes to Engineers' Creed

The [Engineers' Creed Survey](#) will be open until 9:00 pm EDT on April 23. As outlined in previous communications, NSPE is collecting feedback on proposed modifications to update outdated language without altering the philosophical underpinnings of the organization. The hope is that the use of broad, inclusive language will help all engineers within our organization incorporate their personal beliefs and experiences to better the profession.

Thank you to members who have already completed the survey. Please note: If you previously completed the survey, you will not be able to take it again.

If you have not had a chance to provide feedback, we encourage you to do so. Your input is important.

Thank you for your assistance, and thank you for being a member of NSPE.

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## **Watch NSPE's New YouTube Vlog on Legislative and Regulatory Issues**

Episode 3 of NSPE's new [Committee Corner](#) vlog covers the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the March 24 markup of S.914 - the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021.

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## **Ask Your Senators to Back Drinking and Wastewater Infrastructure**

Professional Engineers play an integral role in the development and maintenance of the nation's infrastructure, including infrastructure that provides clean drinking water and safe wastewater treatment.

Every community in the United States needs clean drinking water, and wastewater treatment facilities that keep the community clean and safe. The Senate is expected to vote this week on a bill to fund these vital systems.

### [Ask Your Senators to Vote "Yes" on S.914](#)

S. 914, The Drinking and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, ensures that communities have both, by providing much-needed funding for our drinking and wastewater systems. The bill authorizes funding for the Safe Drinking Water Act programs, and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. It also establishes programs that direct services and funding to low-income and under-served communities, and allocates money to respond to cyber threats. Share your engineering expertise with your lawmakers, and ask them to support this crucial funding.

S. 914 was voted out of the Senate Environment and Public Works committee with unanimous, bipartisan support. And in a press release dated April 15th, Majority Leader Schumer said the bill could be voted on by the full Senate as early as this week.

[Ask Your Senators to Vote "Yes" on S.914](#)

Please take a moment to contact your Senators, express your support, and ask them to vote "yes" on S. 914.

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## **Society Backs House Bills on Engineering Education and 529 Savings Plans**

NSPE supports the WORKER Act ( [H.R. 594](#) ), which establishes a \$20 million grant program to make specialized engineering programs available in K–12 schools. The bill was introduced by Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH) and Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA) to improve worker training, retention, and advancement.

The grants will assist with teaching students the overall analytical and experimental approaches used in engineering and engineering technology; and increase participation of under-represented student groups in the engineering and engineering technology pipeline.

NSPE continues to advocate for passage of the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act ( [H.R. 2171](#) ). This legislation was successfully reintroduced by Rep. Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) with support from the Professional Certification Coalition. The bill allows the beneficiaries of tax-advantaged 529 education savings plans to pay the costs associated with obtaining or maintaining postsecondary credentials—including professional licensing and private certification—with funds from their plan. As introduced, the legislation supports both new and existing PE licenses and NICET certifications. A companion bill, [S. 905](#) , was introduced by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

NSPE will work with the Professional Certification Coalition leadership to help move these bills through the legislative process.

Members can view and participate in advocacy campaigns at the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#) .

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## **Scammers Target Licensed Professionals**

Scammers typically pose as someone from your bank, the IRS, or tech-support services to steal sensitive information and money, but these bad actors have

added a twist to their schemes. Now, authorities are warning professional licensees that they are becoming prime targets for fraud.

In March, Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge issued a fraud alert to licensees and state licensing boards. Scammers are calling license holders with claims that their licenses are under investigation and at risk of being suspended if they don't make an immediate payment. The license holder's caller ID may even display the legitimate licensing office's phone number that has been spoofed by the scam callers.

These latest scams have increased for nurses and other licensed medical professionals, but they aren't limited to a particular state, region, or profession. In February, the Maryland Department of Labor issued an alert about phishing emails targeting licensees. The Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs warned licensees in July 2020 about individuals posing as state officials or law enforcement agents to intimidate potential victims into divulging personal information. And as early as 2019, the California Department of Consumer Affairs issued a fraud scheme alert to licensees of the agency's boards and bureaus, including the board that licenses design professionals.

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## Take Advantage of NSPE's Spring Webinars



Throughout April and May, NSPE will host a webinar every Wednesday starting at 2 p.m. EST. The webinars are available to members for \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers) and will include an online discussion and a 10-question quiz for the sessions to qualify for continuing education credit.

**April 28:** [Turn Your Ideas Into Gold - A Guide to Intellectual Property](#)

**May 5:** [Engineering Ethics: Canon IV - Fidelity to Employers/Clients](#)

**May 12:** [Engineering Leadership Success By Design - Emotional Intelligence and Neuroscience as Career Differentiators](#)

**May 19:** [Energy Storage: The Other Half of Renewable Energies](#)

**May 26: Catapult Your Win Rate by 50%**

[Register now.](#)

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