

## *State News for NSPE Members*

### **Florida Structural Licensing Bill Raises Concerns**

Legislation introduced in Florida to create a discipline-specific license is raising a red flag, as NSPE believes that the professional engineering license must be the only legal designation required for the practice of engineering.

The legislation (H.B. 375/S.B. 940) institutes a professional structural engineering license and prohibits individuals who are not licensed professional structural engineers from using specified names and titles or practicing professional structural engineering.

NSPE believes that fragmenting the PE license into discipline-specific titles or practice acts weakens rather than strengthens the integrity of the license. Continued recognition of professional engineering licensure as the defining qualification for professional practice is crucial to the public's understanding of the profession and ensuring the trust and protection of the public.

As professional engineers and constituents, NSPE members have an important voice in the conversation around this issue. Members can [share the Society's position with legislators](#) and ask them to oppose this legislation.

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### **Dept of Labor Cites Two Contractors After Accident.**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited a Bradenton Beach company for failing to hire a professional engineer to design a scaffolding system that could have prevented a deadly accident.

Alejandro Carpentry Inc. has been penalized for not taking appropriate measures to protect two workers who were doing framing work at a residential construction site. The platform beneath them failed, and they fell 25 feet. One worker was killed and the other seriously injured. OSHA cited the company for not hiring a PE to design scaffolding, for failing to anchor or brace the outrigger's beams properly,

and for failing to have a competent person train the workers to recognize fall hazards.

In addition, the company was cited for not reporting a deadly accident to the agency within eight hours, which is required by law. Alejandro Carpentry faces \$41,739 in proposed penalties.

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## Controversy Over Proposed Solar Power Legislation

Controversy has arisen regarding a proposed change to rooftop solar energy law in Florida. State Senator Jennifer Bradley introduced the bill; she was accused by some of bowing to Florida Power & Light, the largest power company in the US, who had been lobbying for the law change. This was discovered by the *Miami Herald* and *Floodlight*, [according to The Guardian](#).

FPL's parent company was a contributor to Bradley's political campaign. Bradley denied any impropriety in introducing the bill, which critics say will hurt rooftop solar.

FPL says net metering, the practice through which rooftop solar customers sell unused energy back to power companies, could cost Florida utilities \$700 million between 2019 and 2025. Only about 1% of Florida customers sell energy back to the electrical grid, but net metering has significantly helped to expand rooftop solar in the state. Those in the solar industry say this legal change, which would end the subsidization of solar by non-solar customers, would decimate their business.

FPL is also facing a lawsuit that was recently certified as a class action, [CBS 12 reported](#). The company is accused of not doing its due diligence in regard to storm preparedness before Hurricane Irma four years ago. The storm caused widespread, long-lasting power outages in Florida.

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

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## Meet the Top 10 FEYA Nominees

NSPE is pleased to announce the 10 finalists for [the 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#), honoring engineers employed by a federal agency with at least 50 engineers worldwide. All have made extensive contributions to their organizations and also to the public that PEs ultimately serve.

The winner of this year's award will be announced February 24 and will be selected from the following finalists.

**MAJ John M. Kulikowski, P.E.**

*US Department of the Air Force, Pacific Air Forces*

Position: Engineering Flight Commander (Director, Engineering Design & Construction) 51st Civil Engineer Squadron, Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea

**LCDR Joshua M. Lewis, P.E.**

*US Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command*

Position: Operations Officer for Officer In Charge of Construction, Marine Corps Base Marianas, Guam

**Eric Marshall, P.E.**

*US Department of the Army, US Army Corps of Engineers*

Position: District Commander, Honolulu District, US Army Corps of Engineers

**LCDR Chaolong Qi, Ph.D., P.E.**

*US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Position: Senior Research Engineer

**LCDR Gary J. Riley, P.E.**

*US Department of Interior, National Park Service*

Position: Environmental Engineer and Program Manager

**Christopher L. Saucier, P.E.**

*Tennessee Valley Authority*

Position: Principal Project Manager

**Davood (Dave) Tashakkori, P.E.**

*US Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Construction & Facilities Management*

Position: Senior Mechanical Engineer

**LCDR Michael Wandersee, P.E.**

*US Department of Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service*

Position: Project Engineer

**James V. Works, P.E.**

*US Department of the Air Force, Air Force Civil Engineer Center*

Position: Air Force Fuels Infrastructure Subject Matter Expert.

**Robert F. Zueck Ph.D., P.E.**

*US Department of the Navy, Naval Engineering Systems Command*

Position: Structural Engineer

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**Engineers Week 2022: Reimagining the Possible!**

Engineers Week (February 20–26) is a time to

recognize the critical work of engineers, technicians, and technologists. Engineers Week was founded by NSPE in 1951. This year's theme—**Reimagining the Possible!**—pays tribute to engineers for the new possibilities they create all the time. From green buildings to fuel-efficient cars to life-saving vaccines, engineers work together to develop new technologies, products and opportunities that change how we live.

Here's how you can celebrate and inspire the next generation to become the engineers who turn dreams into reality.



### **Join the social media parade #Eweek2022 #WhatEngineersDo.**

Post photos of your team, engineering projects, and even selfies! Share a message about engineering's vital role in innovating solutions to global challenges, the value of engineers, or engaging students in engineering.

### **Host an Engineers Week event.**

It can be as simple as coffee or lunch with a few colleagues to hosting an organization-wide celebration. Recognize individuals to honor their achievements—in person, online, or by nominating them for an award. Invite an inspiring speaker to deliver a virtual or live talk during Engineers Week.

### **Advocate for the field.**

Ask your mayor, governor, or congressional representative to issue [a proclamation](#) recognizing the contributions of engineers. Work with your corporation, society, or college communications team to post a message from leadership.

### **Lead STEM activities.**

Leading open-ended STEM activities is a great way to engage students in the engineering design process. Students at Engineers Week and Girl Day events say activities are their favorite thing (they like the snacks too!) and they want to do more.

On January 20, DiscoverE will host an outreach webinar to help plan in-person and virtual events for Engineers Week and Girl Day 2022. Register [here](#).

[Get More Ideas to Celebrate Engineers Week.](#)

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**New 15 Free Webinars for Members**

To help members meet their continuing education requirements, NSPE issued a new slate of 15 free webinars on January 15.

1. Climate Action for Engineers Series: ACC Overview\*
2. Climate Action for Engineers Series: Categories of Action\*
3. Cyber Security Essentials\*
4. Emotional Intelligence at Work
5. Engineering Ethics – Objectivity and Truthfulness, Public Health and Safety, Signing and Sealing of Engineering Drawings and Misrepresentation\*
6. Engineering Ethics – Conflicts of Interest, Licensure, Confidentiality and Public Criticism\*
7. Engineering Ethics – Disclosure, Payment, Expert Testimony and Conflicts of Interest\*
8. Engineering Leadership Success by Design
9. Ethics in our Changing World\*
10. Fire Protection Engineering in Property Risk Management\*
11. Negotiate It! How to Crush Your Fears, Develop Your Negotiation Muscle, and Gain Power in the Workplace
12. The Physics of the Yellow Traffic Signal\*
13. Too Many Crashes at Your Roundabout? Learn Design Technique\*
14. Tools to Ensure Effective Litigation Preparation
15. Turn Your Ideas Into Gold

*\* Approved for continuing education credit in New York by the Practicing Institute of Engineering*

NSPE's 15 free webinars for 2022 are posted [here](#) .

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