

## State News for NSPE Members

### DC Leads in Energy Efficiency

In its 2019 score card, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy named Washington, DC, as one of the top cities for energy efficiency and for increasing local generation of clean energy.

According to a [greenbiz.com article](#), the District scored well because the Clean Energy Act of 2018 emphasizes energy efficiency in US capital buildings, DC programs emphasize people's well-being, the city successfully quantifies the benefits of efficiency, local entities contribute to financing efficiency programs, and the city sets clear expectations about achieving energy efficiency in the future.

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### New \$1.9 Billion Bridge to Boost Rail Traffic Across the Potomac

Lawmakers in Virginia and in Congress have initiated the construction of a new rail bridge near the existing Long Bridge over the Potomac River, in addition to an adjacent pedestrian/cyclist bridge, increasing the number of passenger trains and commuter rail trains that can cross between Virginia and DC each day. This will ease traffic congestion in the DC-area and decrease transportation emissions significantly.

The \$1.9 billion bridge will be owned by Virginia, which funded the project with sales tax dating back to 2013. The current Long Bridge is an outdated bottleneck for rail travel; every passenger train in Virginia and most of the Southeast crosses the bridge. A new bridge would nearly double the number of Amtrak trains that can cross the river daily, according to [energynews.us](#).

[Read more.](#)

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### NCEES Monitors Pandemic as October Exams Near

NCEES is closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on the October 2020 pencil-and-paper exam administration. All exam site locations are proceeding with reduced capacity restrictions in place. Changes to state and local requirements that further reduce capacities for groups and events may impact the number of examinees that are able to test at a specific site. NCEES will continue to monitor these changes between now and exam day.

NCEES is aware that capacity restrictions are preventing many examinees from being able to register for the October exam administration. To accommodate as many examinees as safely as possible, NCEES has moved up the transition to computer-based testing for the PE Electrical and Computer: Power exam (registration is open with appointments starting in December 1) and will offer a regional pencil-and-paper exam administration in January for PE Civil examinees.

### **Regional Pencil-Paper PE Civil Exams Slated for January**

To accommodate as many pencil-and-paper examinees as safely as possible, NCEES has added a regional exam administration in several locations on January 26, 2021, exclusively for PE Civil examinees. Registration for the regional PE Civil exam administration will open November 1, 2020, and close December 13, 2020, at 3 p.m. (EST).

The exam will be administered in the following cities: Phoenix, Arizona; Pomona, California; Denver, Colorado; Hartford, Connecticut; Orlando, Florida; Topeka, Kansas; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Raleigh, North Carolina; Cleveland, Ohio; Houston, TX; and Seattle, Washington. Additional cities may be added before registration opens.

Examinees who are located outside of these states should check with their state licensing board prior to registering to determine their eligibility to test outside of their jurisdiction.

[Access ncees.org](https://ncees.org) for exam updates.

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

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## **Society Releases Policy Guide on Emerging Tech, Public Safety**

A new NSPE policy guide has added the professional engineer's voice to the growing conversation around the safe development and deployment of emerging technologies. The guide's safety recommendations begin with the premise that the public's interests are best served when licensed professional engineers oversee the design, development, and/or deployment of emerging technologies.

NSPE's Emerging Technologies Task Force crafted the recommendations as a

starting point for adopting standards that protect public safety and to provide guidelines to measure the safety readiness of technologies before they are deployed. The guide is intended for public policy decisionmakers, regulators, manufacturers, and others.

The Society strongly encourages the adoption of these recommendations and is available as a resource for information and drafting of regulations.

[Access the guide.](#)

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## **Nominations Open for Federal Engineer of the Year Award**

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the [Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#). Nominations for the award, which attracts participation from more than a dozen federal agencies, are open until **October 31**.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 18, 2021, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Tickets will be available for sale in January and [sponsorship opportunities](#) are available.

Timothy Sullivan, P.E., who has brought mechanical, civil, and environmental engineering expertise to the Air Force Civil Engineer Center in San Antonio, Texas, was named the 2020 FEYA winner. Sullivan developed the first-ever comprehensive execution guidebook to support \$604 million in nationwide construction, and as part of that three-year project, he crafted a project risk management process to identify vulnerabilities of construction projects greater than \$5 million.

[Apply or nominate a worthy engineer today.](#)

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## **Upcoming Webinars: Traffic Signals, Forensic Engineering, Communications Skills, Vintage Trolley Cars, Design Safety**

**PE** INSTITUTE

EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

NSPE's **PE Institute** helps members stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance in their careers through webinars on important topics. The webinars are held at 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST at a member price of \$99 (\$129 for nonmembers).

### **September 23**

#### [The Physics of the Yellow Traffic Signal: ITE's First Recommended Practice](#)

The webinar will focus on the Institute of Transportation Engineers' first recommended practice for calculating the duration of the yellow traffic signal.

*Presenter: Brian Ceccarelli, P.E.*

### **September 30**

#### [So, You Want to Launch a Forensic Engineering Consulting Practice](#)

Forensic engineers can operate as sole proprietorship, partnerships, professional corporations or be part of a multifaceted forensic engineering company or one of the many national forensic engineering investigation firms. This session addresses the opportunities for engineers interested in performing forensic engineering services as well as the issues they will need to address.

*Presenters: John Certuse, P.E., Michael Leshner, P.E., James Petersen, P.E., and Samuel Sudler P.E., F.NSPE*

### **October 7**

#### [The Four Languages of Influence](#)

Improve your influence by customizing your interactions to four distinct communication styles that will help make better connections.

*Presenter: Roger Grannis*

### **October 14**

#### [Vintage/Heritage Trolley Cars in Transit Use: Past, Present, and Future](#)

The presentation will help attendees better understand the unique nature, challenges, and opportunities of vintage and heritage trolley cars in actual public transit use in the modern age, including vehicle engineering support and technical assistance, for these vehicles.

*Presenter: Matthew Nawn, P.E., PMP*

### **October 21**

#### [Too Many Crashes at Your Roundabout? Learn Design Techniques to Optimize Safety](#)

This presentation will discuss how design safety principles affect how drivers receive and process information. For optimal safety and operations, the roundabout design must simplify decision-making and provide clear, concise information as to the correct way to drive the roundabout.

*Presenter: Mark T. Johnson, P.E.*

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**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA  
22314**

