Federal Funds for Infrastructure to Bolster State Tourism

The US Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration is investing $4.1 million in the City of Pigeon Forge to support the recovery and growth of the local tourism economy via infrastructure improvements and resiliency measures. These grants are funded by the American Rescue Plan.

A $3.3 million grant will be spent on transportation infrastructure improvements in the cities of Gatlinburg, Pigeon Forge, Sevierville, and on US 411 in Sevier County, to allow increased capacity for visitors traveling to the region's recreational attractions and special events. The EDA investment will be matched with $2 million in local funds.

Another $774,600 grant for Pigeon Forge will support development of a regional recovery strategy to plan resilience to future economic shocks. The EDA investment will be matched with $1.5 million in state and local funds. Read more.

PFAs Found in Drinking Water Near DOD Sites

Recently released data from the Department of Defense show high levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) found in drinking water near military bases, including in Tennessee, waterworld.com reports. The EPA says no level of the toxic, cancer-causing chemicals are considered safe for human consumption.

The chemicals were found in groundwater near 400 military installations in 18 other states, as well.

In June, the EPA issued four drinking water health advisories relating to PFAs. To help combat PFAS pollution, it has also invited states to apply for part of $1 billion in funding to address contaminants in drinking water, specifically in small or disadvantaged communities. An additional $4 billion will ultimately be available for this purpose as part of infrastructure law grant funding.
Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

Missouri PE Takes the Lead of NSPE

Britt Smith P.E., F.NSPE, has started his term as NSPE’s 2022–23 president. A formal installation ceremony will take place during the Professional Engineers Conference in Philadelphia on August 2.

“I can say honestly that I could not be more humbled to be the next president of NSPE,” Smith stated during the recent House of Delegates General Assembly. “I never dreamed that I would be in this position but knew that I wanted to just give back to the profession that has provided so much for me and my family.”

Smith is currently the operations division director for the City of Jefferson, where he manages all aspects of operations related to streets, parking, central maintenance, city facilities, and the airport, and leverages all available resources to accomplish the varying missions of each division. He also has experience as an engineering consultant and served in the US Army. Smith graduated from the Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly the University of Missouri – Rolla) with a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering.

Since becoming a member of NSPE and the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers in 1997, Smith has held many volunteer leadership positions with the Society including serving on the Committee on Policy and Advocacy, the Honors and Awards Committee, the Delivery System, Communication, and Technology Task Force, and as Missouri’s representative to the House of Delegates. Smith was named an NSPE Fellow in 2016. In Missouri, he served in a variety of chapter and state-level leadership positions, including as the 2011-2012 state president and president of the Jefferson City Chapter in 2001.

A strong dedication to volunteering also extends into Smith’s local community where he is involved with the United Way of Central Missouri and as a counselor for the Jefferson City Marriage Encounter. He has previously dedicated many years to the local Boy Scouts troop and as a volunteer baseball/softball coach.

Reconnect at NSPECon 2022

Attendance at NSPECon 2022 in Philadelphia, August 1-3, is the best opportunity to engage and learn with your colleagues. The conference features multiple
education tracks in leadership, trends in the industry, and career development. Registration is open until July 28.

**Featured Keynote Speaker**

Commander Mary Kelly, US Navy (Ret.), Ph.D., CSP, CPAE, will present “6-5-7: The 6 Stages of Any Crisis, Challenge, or Change, the 5 Steps to P.I.V.O.T. for Success, and 7 Leadership Reminders To Lead Through It.” Registered attendees will receive exclusive access to an online vault full of bonus resources from Commander Kelly.

**Conference Session Highlights**

- You Want Me to Lead WHO to do WHAT? Lessons from the Frontlines of Engineering Leadership
- Reliability and Resilience of Energy Systems under Extreme Weather Events
- Generation Next: Engaging Multi-Generational Engineers
- Defending the License
- Career Development in Practice, Not Theory
- PE Day Luncheon & Panel Discussion: Engineering Challenges of the 21st Century

Access the full NSPECon program.

**PE Day is Coming!**

Celebrate licensure and the profession with PEs around the world on Wednesday, August 3, during the seventh annual Professional Engineers Day! Whether you plan to celebrate PE Day at home, in the office, or with your peers at the NSPECon 2022 in Philadelphia, you can show off your PE pride by sporting some PE Day logo wear for this year’s event.

NSPE’s apparel shop features the PE Day logo on a
variety of items including many styles of t-shirts and other apparel for men, women, and kids, as well as accessories like mugs, notebooks, tote bags, wall prints, and even phone cases.

Shop now to celebrate in style!

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