TDEC Announces Additional $125.9 Million in Water Infrastructure Investments

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) recently announced that $125,954,007 from the state’s American Rescue Plan (ARP) fund will be administered through 24 grants for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects.

The recent grants follow the announcement of 18 grants totaling $72,496,030 from the ARP fund in August and October, bringing the total awarded by TDEC year-to-date to $198,450,037, according to a news release. This month’s grants include two collaborative grants and 22 non-collaborative grants to execute drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure planning, design, and construction projects.

Tennessee received $3.725 billion from the ARP, and the state’s Financial Stimulus Accountability Group dedicated $1.35 billion of those funds to TDEC to support water projects in communities throughout Tennessee.

“These grants will address important water infrastructure needs throughout our state, especially those among disadvantaged communities,” Governor Bill Lee said. “We look forward to the improvements the projects will bring, and we commend the communities who have gone through the application process.” Read more.

Harnessing Tennessee’s Wind Energy Potential

Wind power accounts for nearly half of all renewable energy in the US, and virtually all of it comes from outside the Southeast. It doesn’t have to, though, according to WPLN News.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, for example, has 0.025 gigawatts of wind in Tennessee. That is less than what’s needed to power Vanderbilt University, and the federal utility does not currently have plans for any additional wind
Tennessee could, however, make wind its dominant source of power, according to data analysis by the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL).

“If communities and wind developers were to follow best management practices, Tennessee would have 73 gigawatts of potential,” said Anthony Lopez, a senior researcher at NREL who leads their research on renewable potential in the US. Read more.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

NSPECon23 Call for Presentations

Share your expertise with professional engineers during NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky, August 2-4. Presentation proposals are being accepted on a submissions site until January 25. The sessions will focus on three topics: amplify your leadership human skills; stay informed about issues and trends impacting the profession; and invest in your career.

Accepted presenters will receive:

- The unparalleled opportunity to give back to the professional engineer community at a nationally recognized conference.
- Recognition on the conference website with a headshot photo, biography, and session description.
- A customized press release announcing your participation and contribution to the conference to share with your employer and/or clients.
- Assistance with (and guidelines for) promoting your session on social media outlets.
- Follow-up survey results and comments related to your presentation.

Get Ready for Engineers Week: Creating the Future!

Engineers Week (February 19–25, 2023) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated
future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week seeks to inspire the next generation by celebrating all the way engineers are Creating the Future! A free **Countdown to Engineers Week webinar** will take place on **Wednesday, January 18**, at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (ET). **Register and attend the webinar** to receive an Engineers Week planning guide and starter pack.

**Access more information and resources.**

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**New Board of Ethical Review Cases**

The NSPE **Board of Ethical Review** (BER) annually provides advisory opinions to provide guidance on ethical dilemmas. The Board of Ethical Review (BER) has **released a new set of cases** on various topics including on conflict of interest, duty to report, and professional qualifications.

Check out a BER case focused on the PE role in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

**Facts:** City passes an ordinance requiring a sprinkler system in residences with less than eight feet between them and makes the ordinance effective as to all construction which has not yet received an occupancy permit. This means that projects under construction must have a sprinkler system added. Engineer A, who happens to have both structural and fire protection credentials, is hired by Homeowner to design a retaining wall system to stabilize a rear yard. Homeowner allowed Engineer A to store equipment in the integral garage. Engineer A observes that the builder routed the piping for the retrofitted sprinkler system through the unheated garage, exposing the pipes to freezing temperatures.

**Questions:** What are Engineer A’s obligations?

**Access the full case to read the BER’s discussion and conclusion.**
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