

State News for NSPE Members

France's Orano Selects Tennessee Site for Uranium Enrichment Plant

France's state-owned nuclear fuel company Orano has selected Oak Ridge, Tennessee, as a preferred site to build a multi-billion dollar US uranium enrichment plant, MSN reports. The move comes months after the administration of President Joe Biden signed legislation meant to eventually end dependence on Russia, the world's top supplier of enriched uranium. The law imposed a ban on imports of Russian enriched uranium and freed up to \$2.7 billion in US funding for domestic uranium projects.

Jean-Luc Palayer, CEO and president of Orano USA, said the company was preparing the next required steps for the plant, including securing U.S. federal support, customer commitments, and obtaining a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and approval from Orano's board. "But today we celebrate this major milestone towards bringing a new enrichment facility online to help meet our country's need for an increased, secure domestic nuclear fuel supply," said Palayer. Orano USA is based in Bethesda, Maryland.

The plant would create more than 300 jobs in Tennessee, officials said. The project is also supported by Tennessee's Nuclear Energy Fund, which has about \$60 million. The officials did not say exactly how much the plant would cost to build.

[Read more on msn.com.](#)

Tennessee Senator Wants to Pour a Billion More Into Roads

The first stretch of Tennessee's toll lanes isn't expected to be completed until 2031-32, leading one senator to call for a billion-dollar annual infusion into the state's building fund to expedite highway projects.

Republican Senator Mark Pody of Lebanon says he plans to revive a measure to

bolster Department of Transportation work by \$1 billion annually after a similar bill failed last session, the [Tennessee Lookout reports](#). Pody's plan would dedicate sales taxes revenue on automobiles and tires to the Department of Transportation for road work and earmark a share of the sales tax revenue for administrative costs.

"I really believe we need to have another dedicated source to be giving solid money to our department. We need to get it up to another billion dollars. We should double our state budget to TDOT," says Pody, a Senate Transportation Committee member whose district includes a portion of eastern Davidson County.

Otherwise, the state will never catch up on infrastructure needs, Pody says, contending the state is "decades behind" on road projects. He calls the governor's \$3.3 billion plan the Legislature approved in 2023 "not sufficient" to do the job. [Read more.](#)

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

Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the Federal Engineer of the Year Award (FEYA). Nominations for the award are open until **November 22**. [Access nomination information](#).

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 21, 2025, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January.



Capt. Stephen B. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., was named the 2024 Federal Engineer of the Year. He is a renowned expert in ventilation, engineering controls, and airborne infectious disease transmission that focused his expertise on mitigating the global COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more about Capt. Martin's contributions](#).



Learning and Building Community at #NSPECon24



Professional engineers nationwide converged on Raleigh, North Carolina, for NSPECon24 in August. Take a moment to look through the photos captured from this year's event on the [NSPE Flickr Account](#). Conference attendees participated in a variety of sessions and activities including tours, NSPE's Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers, first-time attendee mixer, engaging keynote speakers, a new professionals trivia night, education sessions and more!

**Save the Date: NSPECon25—Kansas City, Missouri—
August 6–8**



AUGUST 6-8 | KANSAS CITY, MO | NSPECON.ORG | #NSPECON25

Engineers Week 2025 Kickoff Webinar

It's time to start planning Engineers Week (February 16-22, 2025)! On **October 23** (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET), a webinar will provide information about the Engineers Week theme, brand new resources, and outreach grants. Attend this [free and informative webinar](#) to get ideas you can start using right away.

RSVP Today

2025 Emerging Leaders Program – Application Deadline Extended

The [NSPE Emerging Leaders Program](#) is seeking the next group of engineering change-makers. The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) is an intensive national five-month program with guided instruction and mentorship. The application deadline is extended to Tuesday, October 15. Prior to applying for the program, please review the [2025 ELP syllabus and related time-commitments](#).

The Ideal ELP Candidate

Candidates for the ELP have 5–8 years of professional experience in the engineering field and are prepared to think strategically about their career and begin taking on leadership roles are invited to apply. Selected participants come from a variety of firms with a range of engineering expertise. **There are no age restrictions on participation in the program.**

Apply Now

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