

State News for NSPE Members

TVA is First US Utility to Apply for an SMR Construction Permit

The Tennessee Valley Authority recently became the first American utility to submit a small modular reactor construction permit application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In a statement hailing “a significant milestone for TVA, our region and our nation,” TVA President and CEO Don Moul said the application would accelerate “the development of new nuclear technology, its supply chain and delivery model to unleash American energy.”

TVA says it will be the first to deploy GE Hitachi’s BWRX-300 boiling water SMR. The design borrows from larger boiling water reactors developed by GE since the 1960s, but occupies a significantly smaller footprint and incorporates passive safety features that nuclear experts say reduce the risk of safety events.

Advanced nuclear reactors like the BWRX-300 will help power producers deliver the energy needed to support artificial intelligence, quantum computing and advanced manufacturing industries, TVA said in a news release.

In 2023, TVA said it would form a working group with GE Hitachi, Ontario Power Generation and Synthos Green Energy to develop a standard design for the BWRX-300 and its modular components. The \$400 million effort aimed to ready the reactor for deployment in the US, Canada, Poland and other countries, TVA said.

[Read more in Utility Dive.](#)

Corps Invests \$205 Million in Tennessee, Kentucky Projects

The US Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District has received \$205 million in the fiscal year 2025 Work Plan for Army Civil Works, supporting infrastructure, navigation, flood risk management, hydropower, recreation and environmental

stewardship within the Cumberland River Basin in Tennessee and Kentucky, [the US Army reports](#).

"This significant investment empowers us to continue delivering solutions that benefit communities, infrastructure and the environment throughout the Cumberland and Tennessee River basins," said Lt. Col. Robert Green, commander of the Nashville District. "From maintaining aging infrastructure to ensuring safe and efficient navigation, our dedicated team is ready to execute this important work."

The fiscal 2025 Work Plan, announced last Thursday, includes \$173 million for operations and maintenance, and \$32.2 million for continued construction of the Chickamauga Lock in Chattanooga, Tennessee. [Read more](#).

CN Announces \$30 Million Investment to Enhance Infrastructure in Tennessee

CN has announced an investment of approximately \$30 million in Tennessee as part of its 2025 capital investment plan, focusing on infrastructure, technology, and network improvements to enhance efficiency and safety in goods transportation, [NASDAQ reports](#).

This initiative aims to support the long-term sustainable growth of the state's economy, with CN's President emphasizing the importance of building a resilient network.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation has expressed enthusiasm for the investment, highlighting its potential to improve the transportation system's reliability and facilitate connections for customers.

This follows CN's substantial investment of \$36 million in 2024 for various infrastructure projects in Tennessee, underscoring the company's commitment to regional development and service excellence. [Read more](#).

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

Get Ready to Celebrate PE Day

The annual [Professional Engineers Day](#) will be celebrated on August 6, 2025. Save the date and get ready to share your photos and selfies as part of the online virtual event using the hashtag #LicensedPEday on X (Twitter), Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn.

Share your reasons for being a PE and give special recognition to your colleagues and teams. Prepare for the celebration and gear up by visiting the [PE Day Logo Store](#).



Showcase the Contributions of PEs During National Safety Month

NSPE is recognizing [National Safety Month](#) on our social media channels during June. This is a great way to promote professional engineers and the ways in which your companies/organizations are keeping the public and employees safe in all the

work that you do.

If you have any onsite/project related photos and messaging (details to summarize activities and safety philosophy) that will illustrate the following topics areas -- Employee Engagement (June 8-14), Roadway Safety (June 15-21) and Wellbeing (June 22-30)—share them on your own social media channels using the hashtag #NationalSafetyMonth and tag NSPE so we can help spread the word!

2025 Spring Webinar Series Available On-Demand

Did you miss any of our spring WORKability Wednesdays Webinars? No worries! Members can access recordings of the following webinars free of charge through the [PE Institute](#). *Members are advised to consult their state licensing board to determine requirements for PDH or CPD credits.

- [Board of Ethical Review: Case Review and Discussion](#)
- [My Way or the Highway? The Impact: Designing Flexible and Future-Ready RTO Policies That Work](#)
- [Trust Matters: Empowering Leaders to Foster Team Trust and Performance](#)
- [Design Liability in a Changing Climate](#)
- [Using Your Engineering Expertise as a Forensic Expert](#)
- [How Has Technology Shaped Workstyles Across Generations?](#)

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