

# PE MATTERS

STATE NEWS

NSPE-WV™ WEST VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

>>> MARCH 2020

## *State News for NSPE Members*

### **West Virginia Construction and Design Expo Cancelled**

Due to concerns over the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) the West Virginia Construction and Design Expo scheduled for March 25-26 has been cancelled.

### **New Tools Available for PE Advocates**

As “occupational reform” bills spring up across the country and put professional licensing at risk, an NSPE-formed coalition has prepared a useful resource kit that can be used by PE advocates to set the record straight.

The Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing is working to remind lawmakers that highly complex and technical professions, like engineering, rely on a rigorous system to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. It’s this rigor that clearly sets these professions apart from the vocational occupations that lawmakers often cite in defense of their efforts to weaken licensing requirements.

You can learn more about the threat in an ARPL-produced webinar covering the organization’s background, its work on behalf of highly technical licensed professions, and the state advocacy tools it’s created.

You’ll also find advocacy and messaging resources on the main page of the public Drop Box, titled “State Partner Tools and Resources (ARPL).” On this page, you’ll see folders for Key Messages and Talking Points, Lawmaker Outreach Handouts, Public Opinion Research, Sample Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds, Social Media, State Specific Folders, Video Files, and a folder for the webinar.

In addition to NSPE, alliance members include the American Institute of Architects, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

If you have questions, please contact Margaret Edwards at [medwards@nspe.org](mailto:medwards@nspe.org).

## NCEES: Latest Information on COVID-19 response

NCEES has been monitoring the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and its potential impact on our programs and services for several weeks. With a pandemic officially declared for COVID-19, NCEES is taking the following actions to help contain and slow the spread of the virus.

- The April 2020 paper-and-pencil exam administration is canceled.
- Examinees who are registered to take an exam during this administration will receive an automatic full refund of fees paid to NCEES.
- Exams offered only once a year during the April 2020 administration will be offered during the October 2020 administration.
- Registration dates for the October 2020 exam administration will be announced soon.
- Additional information will be emailed directly to affected examinees.
- All NCEES meetings scheduled to take place between March 15 and May 2 are canceled.
- Meetings scheduled to begin after May 2 will be reassessed as we learn more.
- Meeting attendees will receive an email with additional information specific to their meeting. The email will include instructions on canceling travel arrangements and if the meeting will be rescheduled.

The decision to cancel the April 2020 exam administration and upcoming meetings was not made lightly. These actions support the NCEES vision and mission to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public. While we strive to achieve this every day through the programs and services we provide to the engineering and surveying professions, this decision should serve as a reminder that safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public is at the heart of everything we do.

Read more of the [latest info from NCEES](#).

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## West Virginia Current Threats to Professional Licensure:

1. Threat Type: "Right to Engage in a Lawful Occupation Act." Seeks to establish the least restrictive means of regulating an occupation. Often proposes the elimination of licensure requirements for certain professions. Professional engineers aren't specifically targeted, but are included.

Threat Status: Active Threat

Legislative/Executive Order/Regulatory: Legislative

Bill Number: WV S.B. 646

Status: Referred to Government Organization Committee, 1/30/2020

2. Threat Type: Other: A legislative, regulatory, or executive action that falls outside other threat categories, including proposed elimination of other occupational licenses, that doesn't directly threaten professional engineers but requires attention.

Threat Status: Active Threat

Legislative/Executive Order/Regulatory: Legislative

Bill Number: S.B. 313/H.B. 4011

Status: S.B. 313: Referred to Senate Government Organization Committee, 1/13/2020; H.B. 4011: Referred to House Government Organization Committee, 1/9/2020

3. Threat Type: "Consumer Choice": Allows unlicensed persons to practice occupations that require licensure, provided the persons disclosed that they are unlicensed.

Threat Status: Active Threat

Legislative/Executive Order/Regulatory: Legislative

Bill Number: S.B. 218

Status: Referred to Government Organization Committee, 1/9/2020

[View more threats to West Virginia professional licensure.](#)

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## Climate Change Special Issue

As climate change effects proliferate, professional engineers are taking on the crisis. They're working to provide solutions as part of their responsibility to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

The [March/April issue of PE magazine](#) includes three articles highlighting PEs' work in this area:



- "[Climate Changers](#)" – Young engineers feel a responsibility to take action on climate with their work—and they're increasingly choosing to work for companies that share this perspective.
- "[Harsh Realities Drive Adaptation](#)" – Cities are targeting climate-change impacts with comprehensive policies. Professional engineers and AEC firms are showing that their expertise can help bring these plans to fruition.
- "[A Grand Challenge Needs to Inspire Grand Solutions](#)" – Professional engineers have an abundance of opportunities to invent creative, innovative solutions to issues surrounding environmental sustainability and resilience.

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## Share Your Views on the Engineering Profession

Do you support the elimination of state licensure exemptions? Should states align their licensing requirements to help PEs easily practice in multiple jurisdictions? Does your place of employment welcome diverse perspectives?

These are just some of the issues facing the professional engineering community. NSPE encourages you to provide your perspectives on these topics and more by participating in the [2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey](#).

The 15-minute survey is open to NSPE members, engineering students, and engineering professionals. Participants will be eligible to enter a drawing for one of four \$50 Amazon gift cards.

The results of the survey will be made available to participants and will also be shared in *PE* magazine and other NSPE publications.

[Access the 2020 Engineering Outlook & Salary Survey.](#)

## Communication on Your Terms: Update Your Preferences

### My Account

The screenshot shows the 'My Account' section of the NSPE website. On the left, there is a profile picture of a woman with an 'EDIT' button. In the center, there are two main sections: 'Step 1: Update your profile' pointing to 'CONTACT INFO' and 'DEMOCRAPHICS' buttons, and 'Step 2: Select your email preferences' pointing to 'NSPE COMMUNITIES', 'STATE HOME', and 'ENTERPRISE ADMIN' buttons. To the right, a sidebar titled 'My Account Links' lists various account management options like 'My Degrees', 'My Donations', and 'Manage my Subscriptions'. At the bottom of the page, there is a blue footer bar with text about newsletter subscription and a 'Share with your network' button.

NSPE is committed to providing the best service possible. To that end, we need to verify that member profile information is accurate. This includes preferred names and titles, and employer and contact information. NSPE asks all members to [review their member profile and update their information](#).

Thanks to updates to the NSPE database, members can now also choose exactly what emails they want to receive. With new subscription management options, members can unsubscribe from some mailing lists without missing out on information of interest to them. In order to make this possible, all members' email settings have been reset to the default. Everyone will need to log into their account to manage their preferences, even if they have previously unsubscribed from a mailing list.

[Update information and preferences.](#)

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