

State News for NSPE Members

Form Energy to Build \$760M Battery Plant in West Virginia

Form Energy, a Massachusetts battery manufacturer, chose Weirton, West Virginia, as the home of its first commercial-scale manufacturing facility, [Construction Dive reports](#).

Weirton's heyday in the steel industry helped build the United States. The company and state officials hope that it can now make real the clean-energy transition. "At one point, Weirton was one of America's most important steel towns— a national leader in steel production," Governor Jim Justice said in a news release. "Now, this historic city is looking toward the future, and it's very bright with Form Energy opening its doors."

The factory will be located at the site of a former steel plant. The town will help Form Energy commercialize its iron-air batteries. The startup touts the technology's long-lasting storage, able to store electricity for up to 100 hours, as a way to ease strain on the electric grid. [Read more](#).

Survey: Road Infrastructure, K-12 Improvements Most Important to West Virginians

West Virginia residents believe improving road infrastructure and the K-12 education system should be top priorities, according to a new survey, [The Center Square reports](#).

The [public survey](#) was aimed at looking at the attitudes and preferences of West Virginia residents. Survey respondents believed high-tech industry (21%), manufacturing (21%), tourism (13%) and the natural gas (11%) and coal industry (10%) have the best potential to create jobs in the state in the next five to 10 years.

Meanwhile, 65% said they are not at all or not very confident in the state's job opportunities over the next 15 years while just 4% were very confident. Only 3% believe West Virginia's K-12 public education system is excellent while 19%

believe it is good, 41% average, and 36% believe it is poor or failing. [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.
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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.](#)

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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