

State News for NSPE Members

Morrissey Details '50 by '50' Initiative to Expand Coal, Gas and Nuclear Energy in West Virginia

Governor Patrick Morrissey provided additional details about his "50 by '50" energy initiative Wednesday during the West Virginia Energy Educational Forum in Wheeling, [WVNews reports](#).

The governor first set a goal of increasing the state's electrical generating capacity to 50 gigawatts by 2050 last month during the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Business Summit.

"West Virginia needs an energy policy that is not only forward looking, but that looks deep into the future," Morrissey. "That's why we are developing a 25-year energy policy that will take us to 2050."

The plan, which aims to more than triple the state's current capacity in the next 24 years, will prioritize the expanded use of "stable baseload generation" from coal, natural gas and nuclear energy, Morrissey said.

The state currently has about 15 gigawatts of total capacity. [Read more](#).

Nation's Largest Gas Well Owner Asks West Virginia Lawmakers to Weaken Water Protections

Earlier this month, a representative from the largest gas and oil well owner in the country asked West Virginia lawmakers to roll back water protections enacted in response to the 2014 Elk River chemical spill, saying the regulations have increased costs and delays, [according to the Mountain State Spotlight](#).

Todd Tetrick, senior vice president of upstream operations for the Diversified Energy Company, asked state lawmakers to exempt oil and gas tanks from regulations under the Aboveground Storage Tank Act.

During his September 7 testimony, he told lawmakers that while it was a “very well intentioned effort to protect public water systems,” the implementation of the law “has created significant operational and compliance burdens” for companies in the oil and gas sector.

Diversified was asked to speak to the Joint Committee on Energy and Public Works about their experiences under the law and its impact on the company’s business, according to a company spokesperson.

The Aboveground Storage Tank Act unanimously passed in 2014 in response to the Elk River chemical spill earlier that year. The chemical leak at Freedom Industries near Charleston left 300,000 people without clean drinking water for days after a tank containing MCHM, a chemical used to clean coal, leaked into the Elk and contaminated the public water supply. [Read more](#).

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

New Board of Ethical Review Cases Available

One of NSPE’s key resources includes the Board of Ethical Review case studies. The five new cases (24-01 – 24-05) address the topics of balancing client directives and the public welfare, use of artificial intelligence in engineering practice, public contracting practices, community engagement for infrastructure projects, and sustainable development and resilient infrastructure. [Access the BER cases](#).

Enhance your understanding of the new BER cases by attending the upcoming WORKability Wednesdays webinar [Board of Ethical Review: Fall 2025 Case Review and Discussion](#) on October 22.

Level Up Your Career: 2025 Fall WORKability Webinars

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members —“WORKability Wednesdays”— to support members with their professional development goals through NSPE’s PE Institute. The new season of webinars launched on September 10 with [Decarbonizing Concrete: Overcoming Challenges, Unlocking Opportunities](#) and on September 24 with [The Case for AI in Forensic Engineering: Enhancing Expert Testimony and Avoiding Obsolescence](#) (Recordings are available). Registration is open for these upcoming



webinars.

- October 8: [Marketing & Sales Best Practices for Engineering Firms](#)
- October 22: [Board of Ethical Review – Discussion of New Ethics Cases](#)
- November 5: **TBD**
- November 12: [Ethical Dimensions of Engineering in the 21st Century](#)

Missed the 2025 Spring WORKability Series? [Register for the package to get all 6 webinars](#) – free to members!

**Members are advised to consult their state licensing board to determine requirements for PDH or CPD credits.*

Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year Award

Federal engineers are at the forefront of our nation's most vital priorities from infrastructure and innovation to defense, public health, and safety. 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 2026 award are open until October 31, 2025. [Visit the online portal for full guidelines and submission details](#).



Why Does FEYA Matter?

Lt. Col. Brigham Moore, Ph.D., P.E., PMP, was named the 2025 Federal Engineer of the Year. Here's what Lt. Col. Moore had to say about the impact this award has had on his career: *"Being selected as Top Ten Finalist and ultimately as the Federal Engineer of the Year this past year has been an incredible highlight of my career. Within the Air Force, it has provided me opportunities to mentor and give back to the engineering community that I love. Professionally, it has reconnected me with previous advisors and engineering faculty, opening up doors and networking me with some people that I did not previously know. Finally, and personally, it served as a huge bolster to my confidence and commitment to continue making meaningful change with each project and major decision as I move forward."*

[Learn about Moore's government service and contributions to the profession.](#)



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22314**