

State News for NSPE Members

Morrissey Announces Water, Sewage Investments in Four WV Counties

West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrissey recently announced millions of dollars in water and sewer project investments across the state, [West Virginia Watch reports](#).

The money being disbursed totals about \$14 million and is split between grants (\$4.96 million) and a “low-interest” loan of \$9.2 million. Combined, the money will go to projects in six different communities in four different counties.

A majority of the grant funds — all but \$1.34 million — comes from the state Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council, which is a clearing house for infrastructure projects in the state. The remaining grant funds will be disbursed by the state Department of Environmental Protection's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

Water and sewage projects in West Virginia tend to be high-cost, but also highly necessary. Water infrastructure is rapidly aging across the state and dilapidated service structures often lead numerous communities to going without adequate drinking water service. Other areas of the state are still not connected to centralized water and sewage systems, relying instead on private wells or outdated septic systems that can illegally drain sewage directly into drinking water sources. [Read more.](#)

West Virginia Wants to Install More Structural Monitoring Systems on Older State Bridges

Gov. Patrick Morrissey and state Department of Transportation (WVDOT) Cabinet Secretary Stephen Todd Rumbaugh joined Shaz Umer, the director of strategic initiatives for the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), for an event Aug. 7, 2025, to celebrate the initial phase of a project to install sophisticated Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) equipment on the Frank Gatski Memorial Bridge over the Ohio River.

The \$812,000 project, started by WVDOT in 2024, is being funded through USDOT's Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program. The funds will go toward the deployment of advanced structural health monitoring technology that uses sensors and data-driven tools to enable real-time tracking of bridge conditions.

The SHM system includes accelerometers, crack meters, tilt sensors and vessel collision detectors, according to a news release from Morrissey's office. These tools provide continuous data that allows engineers to quickly address threats that could go undetected for months or even years.

According to officials, the system helps maintenance workers shift from reactive repairs to proactive monitoring. It is designed to enhance safety, improve efficiency, save tax dollars and establish the state as a leader in infrastructure innovation.

West Virginia is the first state in the country to use the Stage One SMART Grant specifically for this type of advanced bridge monitoring. [Read more.](#)

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

Texas PE Takes the Lead of NSPE



Julia M. Harrod, P.E., F.NSPE, was installed as NSPE's 2025-2026 president during a ceremony at NSPECon25 on August 7. With over two decades of leadership and engineering experience, she brings a unique interdisciplinary perspective to the role—combining backgrounds in architecture, civil engineering,

and business strategy.

“It’s a tremendous honor to lead NSPE and help advance the mission of fostering licensed professional engineers in service to society,” Harrod said. “We have an opportunity to expand our reach in advancing ethical leadership, innovation, and inclusion in engineering – and that starts with engaging and supporting the next generation of PEs.”

Harrod leads MWM DesignGroup as its president and CEO. The Texas-based firm provides integrated services in architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, land surveying, and permitting. She holds a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master’s degree in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

After earning her PE license in Texas, Harrod quickly emerged as a dedicated leader and passionate advocate for the profession. She began her service with NSPE and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 2001 as a volunteer with the Travis Chapter in Austin. Since then, she has held numerous leadership roles, championing ethical standards and professional excellence across the engineering community.

The 2025-2026 NSPE Board of Directors (BOD) were installed during NSPECon25. [Get acquainted with the members of the BOD](#).



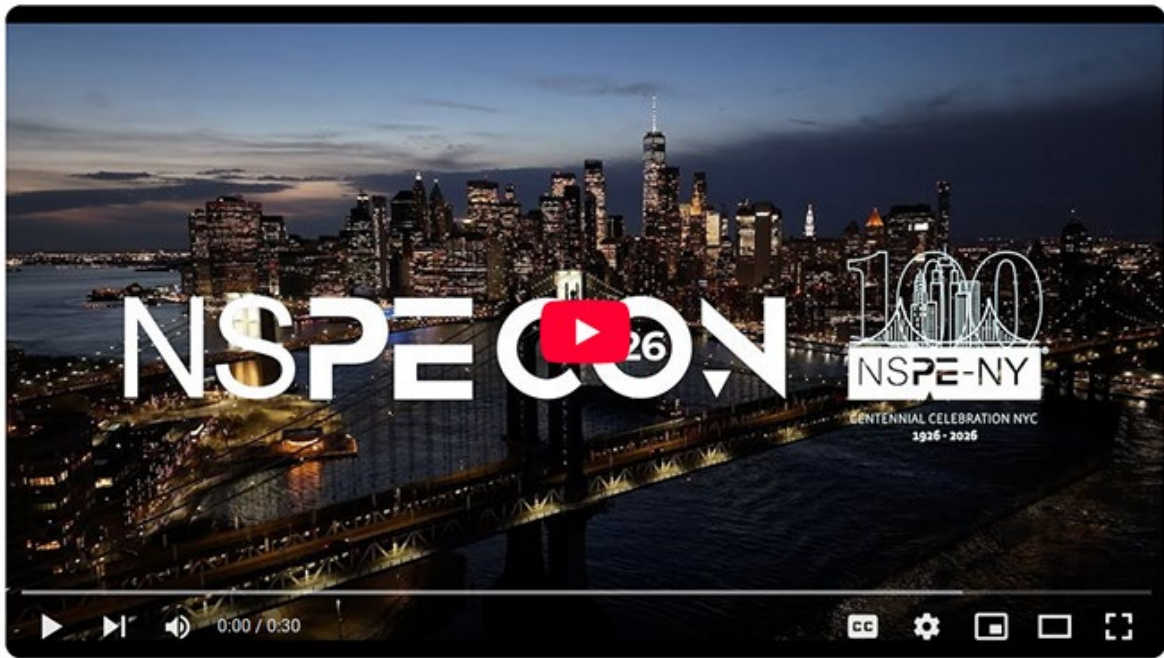
Save the Date: NSPECon26

We enjoyed seeing the NSPE community come together in Kansas City for NSPECon25 to celebrate PE Day, participate in sessions covering timely topics

and engage in impactful conversations. Stay tuned for information on how to access photos from the event on the conference website.



Next year will be about bright lights and big opportunities, so add NSPECon26 to your calendar, because we're going to New York City, August 5-7. Help us celebrate NYSSPE's centennial anniversary in The Big Apple.



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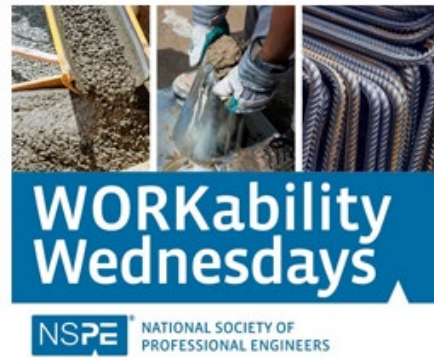
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Registration Open: 2025 Fall WORKability Webinars

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 first webinar of the fall season will kick off on September 10 (2:00

p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET). Registration is open for the September webinars. Stay tuned for notifications to register for the additional webinars.



- September 10: [Decarbonizing Concrete: Overcoming Challenges, Unlocking Opportunities](#)
- September 24: [The Case for AI in Forensic Engineering: Enhancing Expert Testimony and Avoiding Obsolescence](#)
- October 8: **Marketing & Sales Best Practices for Engineering Firms**
- October 22: **Board of Ethical Review – Discussion of New Ethics Cases**
- November 5: **Winning More Business: Using Forensic Engineering Expertise as a Competitive Differentiator**
- November 12: **The Ethics of Sustainability in the Water, Food, and Energy Nexus**

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