

State News for NSPE Members

PJM Isn't Ready for Data Center Growth, Expert Says

The 13-state electricity grid that includes West Virginia may not be ready for the expected growth in data centers, [West Virginia Public Broadcasting reports](#).

PJM, which includes part of all of 12 states and the District of Columbia, hasn't kept up with new investments in generation and transmission to support data centers.

That's what Jon Gordon, director of Advanced Energy United, told energy journalists during a Zoom presentation. "These data centers couldn't come at a worse time," he said.

Gordon said the critical infrastructure in PJM is 50 to 60 years old, and electricity demand is increasing as older power plants are retired. "A data center can be built much more quickly than the infrastructure needed to support it, so you have kind of an inherent mismatch there," he said.

PJM has been slow to approve new resources, especially renewables, to connect to the grid.

Gordon said policymakers will have to keep the data center buildout from harming electricity consumers and grid reliability. [Read more](#).

West Virginia Announces Millions in Clean Water Awards

Governor Patrick Morrisey recently announced two new clean water grants in Tucker and Wood counties and that the state has secured nearly \$100 million in 2026 fiscal year match money from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), [My Buckhannon reports](#). This will help ensure that West Virginia communities can fully leverage available federal resources to upgrade aging infrastructure, protect public health, and expand water and sewer systems.

“Today’s awards are investments in West Virginia’s future,” said Governor Morrisey. “As I’ve said numerous times, West Virginians deserve safe, reliable water and wastewater services, and these projects reflect our continued commitment to strengthening the state’s infrastructure.”

The Town of Davis received an Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council (IJDC) grant in the amount of \$480,000 to rehabilitate the Weimer Run Dam structure and replace sections of failing waterline to ensure that the town can continue to provide safe, reliable water service to its customers. These system improvements will affect 446 customers. The town also received a \$480,000 IJDC low-interest loan and a \$35,000 IJDC preliminary funding assistance grant. These funds, along with \$35,000 from the town, provide a total of \$1,030,000 for this project. [Read more.](#)

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

NSPE Garners Victory for Tomorrow’s Workforce

On July 4, 2025, the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow’s Workforce Act was signed into law as part of the larger One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The new law expands 529 education savings plans to cover expenses related to licensure, certification, and other postsecondary credentials.

As written, the legislation covers programs accredited by organizations such as the National Commission on Certifying Agencies (NCCA) or the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), as well as tuition, required materials, and testing fees. These changes will provide more flexible financial tools to support individuals working toward credentials in highly technical fields, including engineering, where continued education and professional development are essential.

This marks a major win for NSPE and the many members who engaged over the years to make it happen. Implementation guidance is expected in the coming months, and NSPE will share updates as federal agencies roll out the new provisions. [Read more.](#)

NSPE Backs Increased Mobility Through International Licensure Agreements

NSPE recently [issued a position statement](#) to express support for and encourage mobility of engineering licensure among US states, territories, and foreign countries as long as public safety, health and welfare is maintained.

To provide mobility with foreign countries, Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) between the National Council of Examiners for Engineers (NCEES) and their foreign equivalent should be encouraged, so long as the methods of establishing licensure in the two countries have been deemed equivalent in rigorousness. State boards are encouraged to adopt regulations to allow international comity, understanding individual states may continue to have requirements unique to engineering in those states.

NCEES and the Engineers Council of the United Kingdom [signed an MRA in April 2024](#) and 26 state boards agreed to consider adopting regulations to implement the MRA by signing on to it at the NCEES Annual Meeting in August 2024. The MRA builds on efforts by both organizations through the International Engineering Alliance and International Professional Engineers Agreement.

Professional Liability Trends Every Design Professional Should Know

Each year, NSPE, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Council of Engineering Companies join forces to conduct the annual [Professional Liability Insurance Carriers Survey](#) to provide highlight trends, coverage options, and risk management practices across the industry. Learn what's changing in professional liability and what it means for your firm in 2025 in a [new article](#).

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22314**