

## State News for NSPE Members

### 463rd Engineer Battalion powers emergency response at Fort Hunter Liggett

Before Staff Sgt. Jack Kuhn even settled in with the Wheeling, West Virginia-based 463rd Engineer Battalion, his unique skillset became his immediate ticket to California, [the U.S. Army Reserve reports](#). An urgent call from Fort Hunter Liggett needed his expertise, and his new leadership knew he was the right person for the mission.

The installation's enduring electrical issues in January 2025, originating from the outside distribution network, led to power surges and blackouts. With critical systems at risk, the Fort Hunter Liggett Directorate of Public Works (DPW) initiated a request through U.S. Army channels for electrical and generator support.

The Vicksburg, Mississippi-based 412th Theater Engineer Command knew it had the capability to support this request. It put out a notice across its subordinate units asking for electricians and power generation mechanics to volunteer to support these efforts. The New Windsor, New York-based 411th Engineer Brigade reached out to subordinate 463rd Engineer Battalion, who answered without hesitation and found the right Soldiers to perform this highly technical mission.

Kuhn became the non-commissioned officer in charge of a small team made up of an electrician, Pfc. Tyler Sipes, and power generation mechanic Pvt. Brandon Pearce, bringing a powerful combination of skills to help provide solutions. [Read More](#).

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### West Virginia American Water Launches \$350K Infrastructure Upgrade in Nitro

West Virginia American Water has kicked off a \$350,000 infrastructure improvement project in Kanawha County, aiming to enhance water service reliability and long-term quality for customers in the Nitro area, [WVNews reports](#).

The project, which began the week of April 29, focuses on replacing approximately 910 feet of outdated water main along Kanawha Avenue—from the 500 block to Hickory Street—with new 2-inch PVC piping. The upgrade is designed to reduce service interruptions and support consistent water quality for area residents and businesses.

Construction crews are working weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with traffic restrictions in place during those hours. The initial phase of the project is scheduled for completion by the end of June, while full street restoration is expected to follow in the summer of 2025.

This Nitro upgrade is part of a broader investment strategy by West Virginia American Water, which plans to allocate over \$104 million to infrastructure improvements statewide in 2025. These capital investments not only improve essential services but also contribute to local economic growth. According to industry data, every \$1 million invested in water infrastructure supports the creation of approximately 15 jobs within the local economy. [Read more.](#)

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## **W.Va. nonprofits rally against funding cuts, warn of severe local infrastructure impact**

The West Virginia Nonprofit Association convened various groups to address the impact of funding cuts on their operations and workforce on Tuesday.

"I want to be clear, this is not just a budget decision, it's a break in local infrastructure," said Rosemary Ketchum, executive director of the WVNPA.

AmeriCorps, which has provided opportunities for service and volunteering in areas such as education and economic opportunity, has seen over 16,000 West Virginians serve since 1994, according to the WVNA.

"Nonprofits are the ones showing up when no one else can," Ketchum said. "Nonprofits fill the government gap, which is really important to understand. They're doing the work quietly, creatively, and persistently to keep people fed, housed, supported and connected."

Jodi Adams, executive director of Grow Ohio Valley, expressed concern over the loss of workforce due to the cuts. [Read More.](#)

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

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## **Get Involved! NSPE Seeks Volunteers for 2025–26 Committees**

NSPE's passionate and dedicated committee volunteers are essential to our mission. **Why serve?** In addition to giving back to the professional engineering community, NSPE volunteers form strong connections with committee colleagues, learn new skills, enjoy networking with leaders or hone their own leadership skills. [Learn more and apply to NSPE's committees by June 4.](#) (You must log-in with your NSPE credentials to submit an application.)

If you do not see an opportunity that interests you in the link above, check out [Get Involved](#) throughout the year to learn more about other areas of engagement, including short-term projects.

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## Build Momentum – NSPECon25 Keynote Speakers



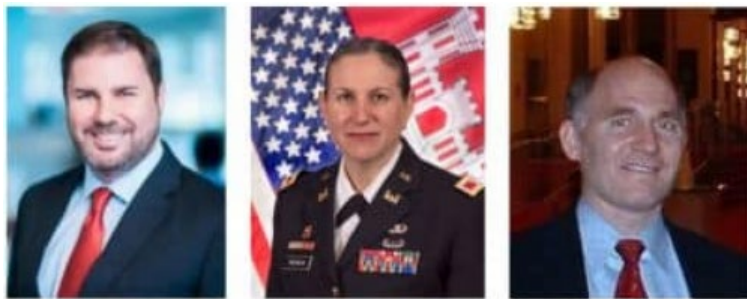
NSPECon25 (Kansas City, Missouri, August 6-8), the prime national event for professional engineers, will feature keynote speakers to provide inspiration and guidance to help elevate your career in addition to putting a spotlight on emerging issues within the industry. Meet your keynote speakers below and be sure to review the [full conference program](#).



**Dr. Cindy Frewen, FAIA, urban futurist and architect**, will present the session **“A World Gone Sideways: Engineering 2050 in a Post-Normal World.”** She will explore how engineers in 2050 can become not just problem-solvers, but storytellers, system-shapers, and stewards of a better world.



**Coach Donnie Campbell** will present the session **“What’s Your MVP? Leadership Lessons from the Coach Who Inspired Ted Lasso.”** In his leadership keynote, inspires audiences to discover their “MVP” – their mission, values, and principles to inspire individuals to reach their potential and teams to reach new heights.



A presentation on the **“Government and Private Industries’ Response to the Maryland Key Bridge Collapse”** will explore the coordinated efforts between government agencies and private industries in response to the tragic bridge collapse. **Stephen R. Skippen**, DBIA, CCM, ENV SP (senior project manager, Skanska USA Civil), **Colonel Estee Pinchasin** (director of logistics, National Security Agency), and **Paul Hankins** (director, salvage operations and ocean engineering, United States Navy), are the presentation panelists.

**Early-bird discount rates are available until June 27.** NSPECon25 will take place at the Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza. The [deadline for reserving a hotel room](#) at the discounted conference rate is July 4. We encourage you to make your reservation early since there are a limited number of conference-rate hotels rooms available.

### **Welcome 2025 Sponsors!**

NSPE offers a range of sponsorship packages tailored to meet various goals and budgets, with a special exhibitor discount available for Kansas City-based businesses. Discover more about these opportunities in the [Sponsor and Exhibitor section](#) of the conference website.

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**Don't Miss Out on the 2025 Spring Webinar Series**



NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—“WORKability Wednesdays”—to support their professional development goals. Register now at [NSPE's PE Institute](#) to attend the webinar on **May 28**—[How Has Technology Shaped Workstyles Across Generations?](#)

Members can access a recording of the recent webinar held on May 14—[Using Your Engineering Expertise as a Forensic Expert](#) in addition to the webinars held in March and April. \*Members are advised to consult their state licensing board to determine requirements for PDH or CPD credits.

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