

State News for NSPE Members

Registration Board Announces Rule Changes

The state board of registration for PEs has announced changes to [legislative rules on examination, licensure, and the practice of professional engineers](#). The changes, which took effect on April 1, include allowing for early taking of the PE exam via decoupling, low income and military fee waivers for initial licensure for qualifying applicants, and a reduction or removal of some fees, specifically COA reinstatement fees and PE exam retake fees.

WVDOT Proposes Rehab of Wheeling Suspension Bridge

The West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, is [proposing to rehabilitate](#) the Wheeling Suspension Bridge. The bridge was [closed indefinitely](#) to vehicular traffic on September 24, 2019, due to continued public disregard of weight limit and safety signs.

The bridge is a US National Historic Landmark. It was constructed in 1847 and was part of the National Road – the first major improved highway in the United States built by the federal government, running from Maryland to Illinois.

You may comment about the proposal [online](#) or in writing. Comments are due by Thursday, June 4, 2020. Send written comments to:

Mr. RJ Scites, P.E.
Director, Engineering Division
West Virginia Division of Highways
1334 Smith Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25301

State's Bridges In Need of Support

The Mountain State has [the second most structurally deficient bridges](#) in the country as a percent of its total bridge inventory (21%), according to the American Road & Transportation Builders Association. Rhode Island has the most, at 22.3%.

Get Ready for *Virtual* PE Conference 2020 (#NSPEVirtual)

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of our members, while continuing to provide meaningful and valuable education and engagement opportunities, NSPE leadership has decided to postpone this year's Professional Engineers Conference (**PECon**) in Philadelphia until summer 2021. In its place, the Society will host an online Virtual PE Conference in August. Events will be centered around the annual celebration of PE Day, August 5.



The new virtual program will make it easier for attendees to participate according to their schedules. Sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by accessing recordings at a more convenient time. Virtual **PECon** will be easily accessible and affordable due to the elimination of travel costs and reduction in registration fees. PDH credits will be available for education sessions comparable to the amount you could earn at a regular **PECon**. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues in addition to professional development opportunities.

Current plans include:

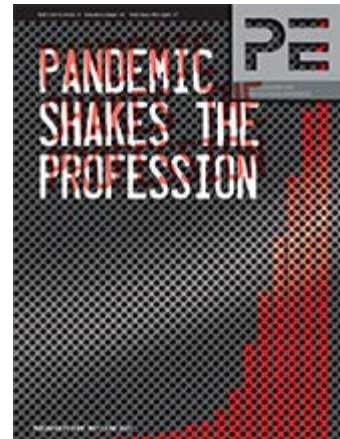
- Education tracks and sessions, featuring many of the sessions already planned for **PECon** 2020;
- Tracks spread throughout the week at various times of day, empowering attendees to take in more of the content they desire;
- Recording all sessions to make them available for on-demand viewing;
- Hosting keynote speakers and senior leaders allowing for interactive Q&A with attendees; and
- Networking/roundtable topic discussions with peers by region and areas of practice, geared to increase dialogue and member engagement.

Stay tuned for more information on content and registration to come.

Pandemic Forces Profession to Adjust

NSPE and its certification division [NICET](#), as well as state societies and individual members, are all adapting to a changed world.

Our latest [PE cover story](#) highlights how organizations and individual PEs are meeting the challenges with courage, compassion, and innovation. NSPE and its state societies are continuing to provide information, advocacy, and continuing education as staffers are sheltering at home. PEs are running companies from their bedrooms or dining rooms and working to ensure employee well-being while keeping businesses afloat.



No one knows what the future holds. But professional engineers will be among those helping to create that future—as always, prioritizing the public health, safety, and welfare.

[Read more from May/June PE magazine.](#)

Update: NICET's certification testing for engineering technicians has started to return but on a reduced schedule. Pearson VUE, the company that manages testing centers for NICET exams as well as NCEES exams and those in many other professions, began reopening on May 1. Centers will be operating at 50% capacity and for limited hours. The reopening of testing centers in Pennsylvania and Alaska has not been scheduled, due to locally imposed restrictions. For the latest information, visit [NICET's COVID-19 response web page](#).

[Read the latest on NCEES's FE and PE exams.](#)

Don't Miss These Upcoming Webinars



NSPE is increasing the number of its webinars to serve members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance your

career by tuning in.

- [Engineering Exemptions and Education: Diminish the First and Enhance the Second](#) - **May 20**
- [Negotiate It! How to Crush Your Fears, Develop Your Negotiation Muscle, and Gain Power in the Workplace](#) - **May 27**
- [Fire Protection Engineering in Property Risk Management](#) - **June 3**
- [Ethics in our Changing World](#) - **June 10**
- [Engineers, Building Water Systems and Legionella: What You Need to Know](#) - **June 24**

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