Local Water Infrastructure Projects Receive Grant Funding

Governor Jim Justice has allocated the first grant awards from his new Economic Enhancement Grant Fund. A total of $12.8 million has been awarded to three water and wastewater infrastructure projects across the state.

The fund is managed by the West Virginia Water Development Authority. Working together with the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council and the West Virginia Department of Economic Development, the fund will provide matching grants to municipalities for use in upgrading infrastructure such as water and sewer systems.

The first grant recipients are the City of Lewisburg, which gets $7.586 million to improve its water system. The City of Ripley is receiving $3.433 million to construct a wastewater treatment plant for Ripley and the community of Evans. This completes the funding for Ripley’s $31.158 million project. And the City of Richwood gets $1.854 million for its Hinkle Mountain/Little Laurel water extension project. The $12.129 million project includes upgrades to the city’s water plant and an extension of water service to 118 customers.

“We all know that we still have places in West Virginia where water and sewer access isn’t as reliable as it should be,” Justice said in a news release. “Some of these projects would have been dead in the water without this funding.”

Battery Energy Storage Has Potential in West Virginia

State lawmakers from the Joint Standing Energy Committee were recently advised by two industry representatives about the potential for battery energy storage in West Virginia. They discussed the usefulness of this type of storage to help power the state, which is rapidly expanding in the US energy market, Government Technology reported.

Battery systems can be used to store energy from various sources - like wind and
solar - until customers need it. The legislators were considering the future of this technology in the state.

One of the presenters told the committee members that West Virginia is behind in pursuing battery energy pilot projects. In 2015, the state repealed a renewable energy portfolio standard that it had adopted in 2009, which would have required some electric utilities to own credits in an amount equal to at least 25% of the electric energy it sold to retail customers in the preceding calendar year.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

NSPECon 2022 Open for Registration

Engineers from all disciplines are invited to register for the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference (NSPECon 2022) in Philadelphia, August 1-3. Early-bird registration is available until June 30.

Invited speakers will address sustainability, emerging technology, the post-covid workplace and even, construction on the moon. Licensed professional engineers and those aspiring to be one are invited to join this multi-discipline community to engage with colleagues and hear more about relevant engineering topics.

Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities
Prospective conference sponsors and exhibitors will see newly created opportunities to highlight their companies and organizations throughout the conference. Sponsors can welcome attendees to the “Feel the Philly Love” opening reception, support a conference education track featuring seven unique sessions, or demonstrate how their solutions help clients overcome specific challenges by exhibiting.

PE Day
On the final day of the conference, attendees can celebrate PE Day in person and raise awareness about the importance of PEs as qualified and ethical professionals. Before attending, everyone is invited to gear up with PE Day logo wear to show PE Pride at the conference.
Call for 2022-2023 Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of NSPE and essential to helping the Society carry out its vision and mission and meet the goals of the strategic plan. Volunteer positions begin in mid-August and end at the 2023 Professional Engineers Conference.

There are three types of volunteer opportunities:

- **Level 1 (Highest Engagement)–Standing Boards and Committees**
  Often includes attending at least one in-person meeting. Most meetings held via video conference. Terms may be up to three years.

- **Level 2 (Intermediate Engagement)–Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces**
  Activities primarily include online correspondence and video conference meetings.

- **Level 3 (Lowest Engagement)–Ad Hoc Volunteer**
  Volunteer on a project-by-project basis.

Submit an application by July 15 to be considered for a 2022-2023 term.

House of Delegates Virtual General Assembly and Annual Meeting

The House of Delegates Virtual General Assembly will be live streamed on NSPE’s YouTube channel for members on **June 30** (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST). Following the live stream of the General Assembly, NSPE members will have an opportunity to ask questions and talk with President-Elect Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, and CEO Monika Schulz through a Reddit style AMA (Ask Me Anything) format in the Annual Meeting online community. All members are welcome.