

State News for NSPE Members

District Court Rules Renewable Energy Must Be Considered in Puerto Rico Energy Rebuild

Conservation and community groups have won a legal challenge to federal plans to spend billions of dollars to rebuild Puerto Rico's electric grid back to the centralized, fossil fuel-dependent status quo instead of investing post-disaster funding in distributed renewable energy, [Solar Power World reports](#).

Thursday's ruling by the US District Court in Puerto Rico holds that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) violated the National Environmental Policy Act when it failed to consider rooftop solar, storage and other forms of distributed renewable energy to provide electricity to communities at risk from Puerto Rico's hurricane-battered grid. The ruling orders FEMA to prepare an environmental impact statement that analyzes distributed renewable energy as an alternative to fossil fuels.

The new ruling found that "[m]ost Puerto Ricans depend on an electrical power infrastructure that relies primarily on fossil fuels," which the court concluded "has proven inadequate, unreliable and extremely vulnerable to weather events, events whose effects will be more severe in the future due to climate change." [Read more](#).

Skytec, FirstNet Expand Safety Network Across Puerto Rico

Skytec Inc., a Puerto Rico-based provider of public safety technology, has partnered with FirstNet, Built with AT&T, to strengthen first responder communications across the island.

Through the agreement, Skytec is now authorized to sell FirstNet services to existing and future public safety clients, expanding access to advanced technology that improves emergency coordination and response.

Skytec's SkyCAD dispatch system is already used by 77 municipalities, 35 state and municipal agencies, and more than 140 private ambulance companies in Puerto Rico.

This new alliance will extend those capabilities, allowing first responders in those towns and agencies to integrate directly with FirstNet's secure, high-speed communication platform, officials said.

"This collaboration with Skytec underscores our unwavering commitment to the dedicated first responders who work tirelessly to protect our communities," said Wilfredo Pereira, FirstNet Caribbean Territories manager.

"By combining more than 25 years of Skytec's local expertise with advanced FirstNet capabilities, we are building a more resilient and prepared communication infrastructure to keep Puerto Rico's first responders connected when they need it most," he said. [Read more in News Is My Business.](#)

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

Call for NSPE Vice President Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominees to serve as vice president on the Board of Directors. The vice president serves four consecutive years: 2026-27 as vice president, 2027-28 as president-elect, 2028-29 as president, and 2029-30 as immediate past president. To learn more about qualifications, time and financial commitments, and how to apply, [please view the call for nominations packet in the governance section of the leadership toolbox](#).

Nominations are due to the NSPE Secretary at executive@nspe.org by **January 12, 2026**. Additional questions can be sent to executive@nspe.org.

Nominations Deadline Extended for FEYA

Federal engineers are at the forefront of our nation's most vital priorities from infrastructure and innovation to defense, public health, and safety. Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the Federal Engineer of the Year Award (FEYA). Nominations for the 2026 award have been extended until November 30, 2025. [Visit the online](#)



[portal for full guidelines and submission details.](#)

Why Does FEYA Matter?

Lt. Col. Brigham Moore, Ph.D., P.E., PMP, was named the 2025 Federal Engineer of the Year. Here's what Lt. Col. Moore had to say about the impact this award has had on his career: *"Being selected as Top Ten Finalist and ultimately as the Federal Engineer of the Year this past year has been an incredible highlight of my career. Within the Air Force, it has provided me opportunities to mentor and give back to the engineering community that I love. Professionally, it has reconnected me with previous advisors and engineering faculty, opening up doors and networking me with some people that I did not previously know. Finally, and personally, it served as a huge bolster to my confidence and commitment to continue making meaningful change with each project and major decision as I move forward."*

[Learn about Moore's government service and contributions to the profession.](#)



Engineers Week 2026 Resources and Outreach Grants

It's time to start planning for Engineers Week and Introduce a Girl to Engineering activities. NSPE members can [access resources on the NSPE website](#).

Outreach Grants

DiscoverE's grant opportunities are designed to



support volunteer and educator efforts to inspire the next generation of innovators through hands-on exploration of engineering. Grants range from \$250 to \$1,000. The application period for the grants will close on November 3. [Access more information and apply.](#)

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