

State News for NSPE Members

Energy Department Extends Emergency Order to Strengthen Grid Security in Puerto Rico

The Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced the extension of the emergency orders that are strengthening Puerto Rico's electric grid, the [US Department of Energy reports](#). The orders, issued in May, have empowered Puerto Rico's government to conduct commonsense fixes to restore the fragile grid and put Puerto Rico on track for sustained energy resilience. Extending the orders will ensure this critical work can continue throughout the peak summer demand season.

"A reliable and secure power grid is essential for modern life, and the residents of Puerto Rico deserve solutions now. Thanks to President Trump's leadership, we are able to take action, moving from years of instability toward measurable, lasting progress," said US Secretary of Energy Chris Wright. "By extending these orders, DOE is ensuring critical work continues, urgent energy reliability needs are addressed, and the grid is more prepared to withstand the most demanding stretch of hurricane season for the 3.2 million Americans who call Puerto Rico home."

[Read more.](#)

Puerto Rico to Get \$1.2M in Federal Ferry Boat Program Funding

Puerto Rico will receive \$1,191,331 from the Federal Highway Administration's Ferry Boat Program to improve publicly owned terminals and vessels, the US Department of Transportation said, [NewsIsMyBusiness reports](#).

The funding is part of \$175 million being distributed to 35 states, the US Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

Funds may be used to construct and operate ferry boats, terminals and maintenance facilities. Eligible projects include ferries carrying both cars and

passengers, or passengers only, when service is on a public route where building a bridge or tunnel is not feasible.

Integrated Transportation Authority (ATI, in Spanish) Executive Director Josué Menéndez said the formula funds will be used to rehabilitate the Maritime Transportation Maintenance Base, where maintenance and major repairs, including dry dock, will be done “in-house, without having to ship vessels to St. Thomas or the continental United States.”

The program aims to improve mobility, fill transportation gaps and provide access to communities without other travel options. The FHWA says improvements can increase ridership and relieve congestion on nearby highways. [Read more.](#)

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

Texas PE Takes the Lead of NSPE



Julia M. Harrod, P.E., F.NSPE, was installed as NSPE’s 2025-2026 president during a ceremony at NSPECon25 on August 7. With over two decades of leadership and engineering experience, she brings a unique interdisciplinary perspective to the role—combining backgrounds in architecture, civil engineering, and business strategy.

“It’s a tremendous honor to lead NSPE and help advance the mission of fostering licensed professional engineers in service to society,” Harrod said. “We have an opportunity to expand our reach in advancing ethical leadership, innovation, and inclusion in engineering – and that starts with engaging and supporting the next

generation of PEs.”

Harrod leads MWM DesignGroup as its president and CEO. The Texas-based firm provides integrated services in architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, land surveying, and permitting. She holds a degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master’s degree in engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

After earning her PE license in Texas, Harrod quickly emerged as a dedicated leader and passionate advocate for the profession. She began her service with NSPE and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 2001 as a volunteer with the Travis Chapter in Austin. Since then, she has held numerous leadership roles, championing ethical standards and professional excellence across the engineering community.

The 2025-2026 NSPE Board of Directors (BOD) were installed during NSPECon25. [Get acquainted with the members of the BOD](#) .

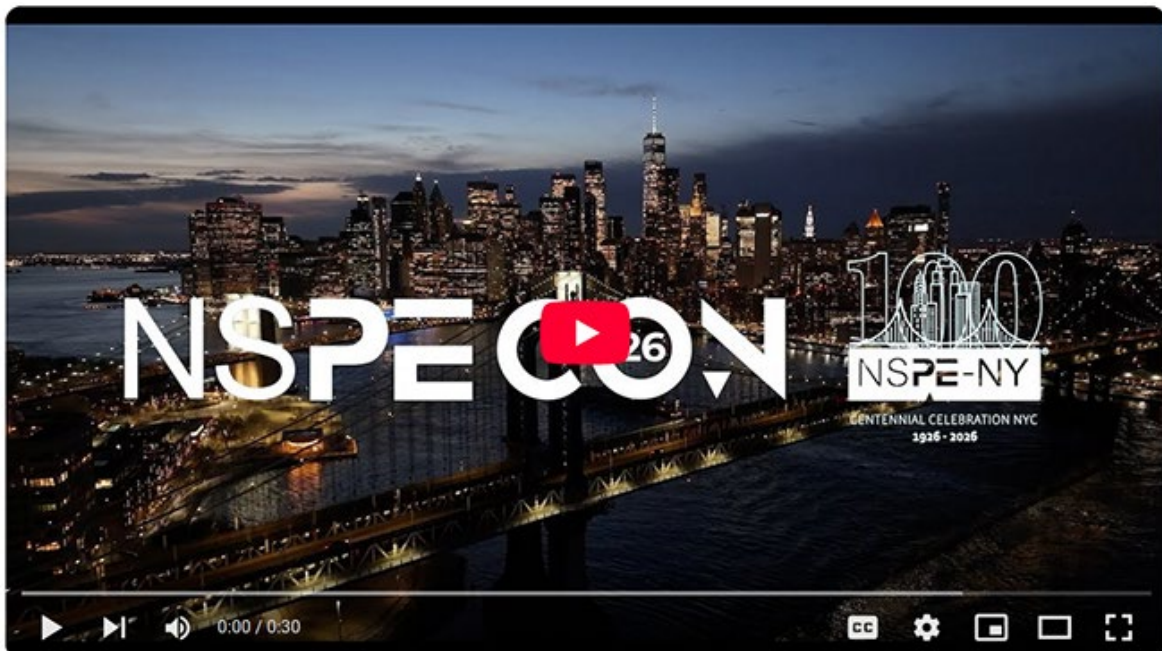


Save the Date: NSPECon26

We enjoyed seeing the NSPE community come together in Kansas City for NSPECon25 to celebrate PE Day, participate in sessions covering timely topics and engage in impactful conversations. Stay tuned for information on how to access photos from the event on the conference website.



Next year will be about bright lights and big opportunities, so add NSPECon26 to your calendar, because we're going to New York City, August 5-7. Help us celebrate NYSSPE's centennial anniversary in The Big Apple.



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Registration Open: 2025 Fall WORKability Webinars

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members —“WORKability Wednesdays”— to support members with their professional development goals through [NSPE's PE Institute](#) . The first webinar of the fall season will kick off on September 10 (2:00

p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET). Registration is open for the September webinars. Stay tuned for notifications to register for the additional webinars.



- September 10: [Decarbonizing Concrete: Overcoming Challenges, Unlocking Opportunities](#)
- September 24: [The Case for AI in Forensic Engineering: Enhancing Expert Testimony and Avoiding Obsolescence](#)
- October 8: **Marketing & Sales Best Practices for Engineering Firms**
- October 22: **Board of Ethical Review – Discussion of New Ethics Cases**
- November 5: **Winning More Business: Using Forensic Engineering Expertise as a Competitive Differentiator**
- November 12: **The Ethics of Sustainability in the Water, Food, and Energy Nexus**

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