

State News for NSPE Members

New York to Aid Puerto Rico in Solar Workforce Development

New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced this month that her state will work to expand solar power initiatives and workforce development support in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

New York State will provide new curriculum and permitting and financing expertise that will support the development of solar industries on the islands. This is a part of continued efforts by the state to help the islands recover after Hurricanes Irma and Maria and to further develop green energy and an associated workforce.

In 2019, the \$4.5 million Puerto Rican Solar Business Accelerator, Workforce and Small Business Development Program was established with support from the US Economic Development Administration.

[Find out more.](#)

Billions Go Unspent in Infrastructure Funding

FEMA and other US government agencies have allocated billions of dollars for Puerto Rico to rebuild and strengthen its electrical infrastructure. However, some say that money has gone largely unspent due to a leadership vacuum and mismanagement, according to [Solar Power World](#).

To obtain earmarked funds from FEMA, Puerto Rico must submit applications for projects to be funded. Luma Energy, formerly PREPA, the island's only electrical utility, failed to do that this fall. Renewable energy advocates would like to see the thousands of residential solar installations already on the island used together as a virtual power plant. But Luma has focused on obtaining energy from fossil fuels.

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

Share Your Story: #IAMNSPE



NSPE is its members. It's a society made up of dedicated individuals who each bring a unique story and perspective to the engineering profession. NSPE members are leaders. They are connected, inclusive, committed to ethical practice, and so much more. Members are [sharing their stories](#)....join them. #IAMNSPE

I Am the Future

Anali Martinez Gonzalez, E.I.T.
Civil Engineer
NSPE Emerging Leader Class of 2020

"I have taken advantage of opportunities to grow as a leader and seek to inspire the next generation of girls and women, especially Latinas, who want to be engineers one day."



PECon 2022: Now Accepting Presentation Proposals



NSPE is now accepting presentation submissions for consideration for the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference, August 1–3, in Philadelphia. The deadline for proposals is **November 30**.

The Professional Engineers Conference provides presenters an opportunity to share their expertise at a national conference. The 2022 conference will focus on the theme of harnessing the power of PEs to create a better world.

Conference Topics

- Amplify Your Leadership Power Skills—Beyond being technically qualified and committed to ethical practices, PEs are leaders. Presentations will be skills-focused for all career levels.

Stay Informed About Issues and Trends Impacting the Profession—The workplace environment is constantly changing and evolving. Presentations should address the latest issues and trends impacting PEs and the engineering industry.

- Invest in Your Career—Choosing a career as a professional engineer is an intentional act by engineers committed to the public health, safety, and welfare. Presentations should address career development topics that will help engineers at all career stages achieve their highest potential.

[Learn more and submit a proposal.](#)

Maryland Society Defends PE Requirement for Public Works Director

The Maryland Society of Professional Engineers is opposing efforts to end the requirement for a PE to serve as director of the Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation. MDSPE believes a licensed professional engineer can provide the most effective administration to protect public health and safety.

In August, the Baltimore County Council revised the required qualifications for the director position, allowing an unlicensed individual to hold the position if they have at least 10 years of supervisory experience in infrastructure planning and construction, or transportation engineering and management. The existing county charter requires the director to hold a Maryland PE license and have at least 10 years of experience in responsible charge of engineering work. As this modification will require a change to the county charter, voters will have the final say in a ballot initiative on November 8, 2022.

In a letter to the county council chair, MDSPE emphasized that the county charter has historically required the department's director and deputy directors to be licensed professional engineers with extensive experience in their areas of practice because the department is responsible for significant engineering activities.

Without a license, the director would not be permitted to resolve differences in engineering decision-making between the PEs on staff, sign off on plans, or change plans without the approval of the PE. MDSPE believes that if an unlicensed director imposes undue influence on professional engineering decisions, it might create significant ethical and legal problems for the department and county.

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