

State News for NSPE Members

Airport Connector Project Breaks Ground

Ground has been broken on the Airport Connector Project, which is aimed at making the ride safer for travelers to and from the airport, [according to the Newport Buzz](#).

Not only will the one-mile Airport Connector and three miles of Route 1 and Route 1A (Post Road) receive new pavement, but the project also eliminates hazardous drop-offs and includes new high visibility pavement markers. Pedestrian access on Post Road will be upgraded with new sidewalks and pedestrian ramps. A massive landscaping project will also add trees and greenery.

“Many more job-creating upgrades to Rhode Island’s roads, bridges, and airports are on the way thanks to the bipartisan infrastructure bill we passed in Washington,” said US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.

Gas Company Seeks Full Authorization for LNG Plant

Rhode Island Energy (formerly known as Narragansett Electric Co.) is seeking a full license for a liquified natural gas plant it has been operating for three winters under an emergency waiver, [Providence Business First reports](#). The LNG plant in Portsmouth is Rhode Island Energy’s preferred solution under new ownership, a spokesperson for the utility said.

The company will appear before the Energy Facility Siting Board in late July in its quest for permanent authorization for the facility, which received its waiver from EFSB in 2019 after an Aquidneck Island left thousands without gas.

LNG is used by the company during spikes in demand in the coldest months. The facility has been controversial, receiving criticism from neighbors and clean energy groups.

DOE Funding Supports Partnerships with URI Ocean Engineering

The University of Rhode Island has one of the best ocean engineering programs in the country, according to College Factual. With the engineering program's recent acceptance into the US Department of Energy's Testing Expertise and Access for Marine Energy Research program, known as TEAMER, companies can take advantage of URI's research facilities and expertise without being charged a fee, according to a [news release](#).

The acoustic tank is 7.5 meters long, 4 meters wide, 3.3 meters deep. It is used for experimentation with hydrophones, underwater camera calibrations, and autonomous and remote operated marine robotics testing.

Technology developers may use URI's wave-current flume, wave tank and acoustic tank to conduct tests. TEAMER will reimburse URI for research that costs up to \$150,000 per project, with projects scheduled for a nine-month period. [Read more](#).

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

Missouri PE Takes the Lead of NSPE



Britt Smith P.E., F.NSPE, has started his term as NSPE's 2022–23 president. A formal installation ceremony will take place during the Professional Engineers Conference in Philadelphia on August 2.

"I can say honestly that I could not be more humbled to be the next president of NSPE," Smith stated during the recent House of Delegates General Assembly. "I never dreamed that I would be in this position but knew that I wanted to just give back to the profession that has provided so much for me and my family."

Smith is currently the operations division director for the City of Jefferson, where he manages all aspects of operations related to streets, parking, central maintenance, city facilities, and the airport, and leverages all available resources to accomplish the varying missions of each division. He also has experience as an engineering consultant and served in the US Army. Smith graduated from the Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly the University of Missouri – Rolla) with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering.

Since becoming a member of NSPE and the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers in 1997, Smith has held many volunteer leadership positions with the

Society including serving on the Committee on Policy and Advocacy, the Honors and Awards Committee, the Delivery System, Communication, and Technology Task Force, and as Missouri's representative to the House of Delegates. Smith was named an NSPE Fellow in 2016. In Missouri, he served in a variety of chapter and state-level leadership positions, including as the 2011-2012 state president and president of the Jefferson City Chapter in 2001.

A strong dedication to volunteering also extends into Smith's local community where he is involved with the United Way of Central Missouri and as a counselor for the Jefferson City Marriage Encounter. He has previously dedicated many years to the local Boy Scouts troop and as a volunteer baseball/softball coach.

Reconnect at NSPECon 2022

Attendance at [NSPECon 2022](#) in Philadelphia, August 1-3, is the best opportunity to engage and learn with your colleagues. The conference features multiple education tracks in leadership, trends in the industry, and career development. [Registration is open until July 28.](#)

Featured Keynote Speaker



Commander Mary Kelly, US Navy (Ret.), Ph.D., CSP, CPAE, will present “6-5-7: The 6 Stages of Any Crisis, Challenge, or Change, the 5 Steps to P.I.V.O.T. for Success, and 7 Leadership Reminders To Lead Through It.” Registered attendees will receive exclusive access to an online vault full of bonus resources from Commander Kelly.

Conference Session Highlights

- [You Want Me to Lead WHO to do WHAT? Lessons from the Frontlines of Engineering Leadership](#)
- [Reliability and Resilience of Energy Systems under Extreme Weather Events](#)
- [Generation Next: Engaging Multi-Generational Engineers](#)
- [Defending the License](#)
- [Career Development in Practice, Not Theory](#)

- [PE Day Luncheon & Panel Discussion: Engineering Challenges of the 21st Century](#)

[Access the full NSPECon program.](#)

PE Day is Coming!

Celebrate licensure and the profession with PEs around the world on Wednesday, August 3, during the seventh annual [Professional Engineers Day](#)! Whether you plan to celebrate PE Day at home, in the office, or with your peers at the NSPECon 2022 in Philadelphia, you can show off your PE pride by sporting some PE Day logo wear for this year's event.

NSPE's [apparel shop](#) features the PE Day logo on a variety of items including many styles of t-shirts and other apparel for men, women, and kids, as well as accessories like mugs, notebooks, tote bags, wall prints, and even phone cases.

[Shop now to celebrate in style!](#)



You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, [click here to unsubscribe](#) .

Share with your network



**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**