

## *State News for NSPE Members*

### **Town of Smithfield (RI) Honored for QBS Commitment**

The Township of Smithfield, Rhode Island, received a QBS Award for championing the use of qualifications-based selection procurement. The Town of Smithfield has been utilizing qualifications-based selection consistently since 2007 for professional engineering services. Smithfield residents have benefited by receiving design services from the most qualified consultants in building, preserving, and rehabilitating the town's infrastructure.

NSPE and ACEC cosponsor the awards program to recognize organizations that promote and make exemplary use of QBS methods to procure the professional services of consulting engineers at the federal, state, or local level. These public and private entities serve as examples of how well the QBS process works, and also promote the practice in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services. [Learn more about NSPE's position on the QBS process.](#)

---

### **Infrastructure Bank Releases Municipal Resilience Program Rolling Application**

The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank has released a rolling application for its [Municipal Resilience Program](#). Municipalities with approved applications will participate in a workshop process to identify and prioritize local actions through the program and become eligible for grant funding to implement projects that increase climate resilience.

"Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank is committed to accelerating investments in municipal resilience projects that better prepare our cities and towns for the impacts of a changing climate" said Jeffrey R. Diehl, CEO of Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, in a [news release](#). "The Municipal Resilience Program supports cities and towns in identifying and funding priority resilience projects, with a particular focus on projects delivering co-benefits, such as nature-based solutions and benefitting disadvantaged communities."

Municipalities can apply individually or in partnership with a neighboring municipality. Review of incoming MRP Participation Applications will take place quarterly, and applicants can expect responses approximately eight weeks after application submission. [Read more](#).

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

---

## NSPECon23 Call for Presentations

Share your expertise with professional engineers during [NSPECon23](#) in Louisville, Kentucky, August 2-4. Presentation proposals are being accepted on a [submissions site](#) until **January 25**. The sessions will focus on three topics: amplify your leadership human skills; stay informed about issues and trends impacting the profession; and invest in your career.



Accepted presenters will receive:

- The unparalleled opportunity to give back to the professional engineer community at a nationally recognized conference.
  - Recognition on the conference website with a headshot photo, biography, and session description.
  - A customized press release announcing your participation and contribution to the conference to share with your employer and/or clients.
  - Assistance with (and guidelines for) promoting your session on social media outlets.
  - Follow-up survey results and comments related to your presentation.
- 

## Get Ready for Engineers Week: Creating the Future!

Engineers Week (February 19–25, 2023) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week seeks to inspire the next generation by celebrating all the way engineers are Creating the Future! A free **Countdown to**

**Engineers Week webinar** will take place on **Wednesday, January 18**, at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (ET). [Register and attend the webinar](#) to receive an Engineers Week planning guide and starter pack.



[Access more information and resources.](#)

---

## New Board of Ethical Review Cases

The NSPE [Board of Ethical Review](#) (BER) annually provides advisory opinions to provide guidance on ethical dilemmas. The Board of Ethical Review (BER) has [released a new set of cases](#) on various topics including on conflict of interest, duty to report, and professional qualifications.

Check out a BER case focused on the PE role in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.

**Facts:** City passes an ordinance requiring a sprinkler system in residences with less than eight feet between them and makes the ordinance effective as to all construction which has not yet received an occupancy permit. This means that projects under construction must have a sprinkler system added. Engineer A, who happens to have both structural and fire protection credentials, is hired by Homeowner to design a retaining wall system to stabilize a rear yard. Homeowner allowed Engineer A to store equipment in the integral garage. Engineer A observes that the builder routed the piping for the retrofitted sprinkler system through the unheated garage, exposing the pipes to freezing temperatures.



**Questions:** What are Engineer A's obligations?

[Access the full case to read the BER's discussion and conclusion.](#)

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

To update your e-mail address, visit [www.nspe.org](http://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**