

State News for NSPE Members

Rhode Island Lawmakers OK Lead Pipe Replacement Bill

A bill that would require the replacement of lead pipes across Rhode Island over the next decade has been approved by state lawmakers, [The Westerly Sun reports](#).

The bill that passed the House would create a lead water supply replacement program for both public and private service lines, with a requirement that all affected lines be replaced within 10 years. The Senate previously approved the bill.

Under the bill, financial assistance for lead pipe replacement would be provided through the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, including no-cost options for property owners. To help develop the state's workforce, the legislation would set requirements for water suppliers and contractors to participate in apprenticeship programs.

The bill would require water suppliers to create a service line inventory no later than October 16, 2024, to determine the existence or absence of lead within each water connection in its service area. It would also establish new notification and reporting requirements for suppliers to ensure transparency in the identification and replacement of service lines containing lead. The bill would also require a lead risk assessment be conducted for any home built before 2011 as part of any transaction involving the property. Currently, those assessments are required only for homes built prior to 1978. [Read more](#).

East Providence Green Energy Partnership Aims to Save \$670k Annually

The City of East Providence has signed a 25 year agreement with Green Development LLC, a green energy project developer based in Cranston, [ABC6 reports](#).

The agreement is part of the Rhode Island Virtual Net Metering program and will

allow the city, school district, and housing authority to save significant amounts on energy bills while growing renewable energy sources in the state.

The agreement comes alongside plans for a solar canopy at the city's police facility which will include electric vehicle charging stations. The city expects the agreement to save the city \$670,000 annually on energy costs, with a lifetime savings of \$18.5 million.

"The long-term agreement will help us achieve our clean energy goals while enabling us to devote a greater portion of our budgets to programs and services that serve East Providence residents," Mayor Bob DaSilva said. [Read more.](#)

US Energy Secretary Says Block Island Wind Farm is Nation's Model

The Block Island Wind Farm should serve as a model for the rest of the country, US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm told reporters during a tour of the first-in-the-nation offshore wind facility, [according to *The Providence Journal*](#).

"We want to replicate this, even bigger, all up and down the Atlantic seaboard, but also in the Pacific and in the Gulf of Mexico and in the Great Lakes," Granholm said, standing aboard a ferry that rolled gently in the ocean swells. "We want to be able to generate clean energy all across America."

Granholm was joined by elected officials including Governor Dan McKee, Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse, and Representative Seth Magaziner, as well as representatives from Ørsted, which owns the wind farm. Only three of the five turbines were spinning: Routine maintenance will be taking place throughout the summer, while there are lighter winds and calmer conditions, Ørsted representatives said.

Ørsted is also behind the South Fork Wind Farm, which is under construction. Spokeswoman Meaghan Wims said the project is approaching "steel in the water" – the wind-farm equivalent of "cranes in the sky" or "shovels in the ground." In fact, as the Rhode Island Fast Ferry sped toward Block Island, the [Living Stone](#), a cable-laying ship deployed on the South Fork project, could be seen on the horizon. [Read more.](#)

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

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Keynote Speakers

Bill Samuels, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of Maker's Mark Distillery, will open the NSPECon 23 meeting. Samuels, who helped design both the Gemini and Polaris missiles and became friends with the founding administrator of NASA, will talk about the, "[Trials and Tribulations of a Failed Aerospace Engineer.](#)"



Megan Bendtzen, the CEO and founder of TheDoctorofFun.com, will give a keynote presentation on - [Beyond the Blueprint: Mastering the Most Important Project of Your Life](#) . In this clever and entertaining presentation, Bendtzen will completely shift your perspective, debunking the myth of work-life balance and revealing the single biggest lie surrounding the pursuit of happiness.



Conference Session Highlights

- [Ethical Obligations and Engineering Through a DEI Lens](#)
- [The Engineer's Blueprint: Success Principles for Winning at Work and at Home](#)
- [Lithium: The Race for North American EV Dominance But at What Cost to the](#)

Industry?

- Finding the Funds for Your Infrastructure Project
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- We Need YOU to Protect the License!
- Meeting the Challenges and Needs of The Engineering Workforce
- Speculative Technology and Exploratory Engineering for Designing the Future

[Access the full conference program.](#)

Sponsor and Exhibitor Opportunities

NSPECon23 offers sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. Access the [Sponsor and Exhibitor Prospectus](#) for more information.



New Webinar: Racing Towards Excellence

A new webinar will get you ready for NSPECon23 — [Racing Towards Excellence: Enhancing Customer Experience and Improving Safety at Churchill Downs](#) .

Neil Crawford, P.E., an accomplished engineer and project manager at Qk4 Inc., offers insight into the history of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby and its economic impacts on Kentucky. Learn about recent improvement projects to enhance the customer experience and also projects to improve equine/horseman safety and expand the racing operations.

The webinar is FREE for members and offers 1 PDH. [Register and watch now](#) .

Racing Towards Excellence: Enhancing Customer Experience and Improving Safety at Churchill Downs

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FREE TO NSPE MEMBERS - Part of the WORKability Wednesdays series

ARPL Offers New Advocacy Resources

ARPL has released two new advocacy resources. A video, [Universal Licensing: A Closer Look](#), (featuring Rebecca Bowman, Senior Director of Ethics and Professional Practice) and an advocacy document, [The Critical Role of Licensing in Business Success](#), based on recent research. As a sponsoring member of ARPL, NSPE has access to these resources and others on the [ARPL website](#).

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