

State News for NSPE Members

Rhode Island Secures Approval for EV Charging Infrastructure Plan

Governor Dan McKee and the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) announced on September 15 that Rhode Island has received approval of its plan for electric vehicle infrastructure deployment, which the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) filed with the federal government in July.

As part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), RIDOT will receive \$3.8 million in federal fiscal year 2023, and \$22.9 million over the next five years under the Federal Highway Administration's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program. "Electric vehicle charging station infrastructure is a critical component of our plan to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector to achieve the objectives of the Act on Climate," said Governor Dan McKee in a news release. "This federal funding will help us expand our existing network of electric vehicle charging stations, making it easier than ever for electric vehicle drivers to find a place to charge." [Read more.](#)

Public Comment Period for Offshore Wind RFP

A public comment period for a drafted offshore wind procurement request for proposals is open through October 7. Rhode Island Energy is administering the RFP and will issue the procurement to the market no later than October 15.

In July, Governor Dan McKee signed into law historic clean energy legislation that seeks to expand Rhode Island's offshore wind energy resources. The RFP calls for an additional 600 to 1,000 MW of offshore wind, which has the potential to meet at least 30% of the state's estimated 2030 electricity demand. This electricity from the project has the potential to power about 340,000 homes each year. When added to the 30 MW Block Island Wind Farm and the planned 400 MW Revolution Wind project, about half of the state's project energy needs will be powered by offshore wind.

The draft RFP and instructions on how to submit comment can be accessed [here](#).

Clean Water Act Allegedly Violated by Textile Mill

The nonprofit group Environment Rhode Island announced that it has filed a lawsuit against Kenyon Industries Inc., and its parent company, Brookwood Companies Incorporated, for alleged violations of the federal Clean Water Act at their textile mill in Kenyon, Rhode Island.

Kenyon operates a textile manufacturing facility that straddles the Pawcatuck River in southern Rhode Island, less than a quarter mile upstream of Horseshoe Falls. Environment Rhode Island seeks to put an end to what it says is more than a decade of illegal discharges from the facility into the river. The complaint alleges that the mill has repeatedly violated the Clean Water Act, routinely discharging wastewater with more than two-and-a-half times the permitted concentrations of copper, a toxic pollutant.

“Requiring Kenyon to take the steps necessary to achieve compliance with its mandatory pollution limits, like every other company is required to do, will help improve water quality downstream of the facility and ensure the entire river lives up to its pristine reputation,” an Environment Rhode Island spokesperson said. [Read more](#).

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

Moving the Society Closer to Our Vision

By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022-2023



What does NSPE mean to you? I'd like to try to tell you what it means to me. I began my career with a small civil engineering firm with a focus on municipal engineering. After a few years, I moved to the public works department in Jefferson City, Missouri. This is the same city where my wife and I have raised our three children. As a result, I've had the privilege of working for the community that I have called home most of my career.

Like many of you, I was approached by another engineer early in my career and asked to join NSPE. I have moved through various leadership and volunteer roles at the chapter, state, and national levels. I could not be more humbled to be the president of NSPE. I never dreamed that I would be in this position. As I got involved with NSPE, I met and built friendships with many wonderful engineers

within my community, around the state, and across this great country. Each time I get involved and want to give back, I seem to receive so much more than I give. Our founder David Steinman probably had similar thoughts. Steinman understood that the technical problems of the various engineering disciplines are different, but the interests of the profession are shared. He founded NSPE to unite the profession around those common interests. NSPE was created, and continues today, to be the single national professional society, with solidarity of purpose and concentration of strength, to provide for the professional interests of the engineering profession.

NSPE has adopted as our vision: A world where the public can be confident that the engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Our vision statement is a simple statement, but a very powerful message. I heard once that the average engineer holds the lives of more people in their hands than any doctor could see in a lifetime. As I considered that statement, I couldn't help but think about the awesome responsibility we carry. NSPE was created and continues today to help all members of our profession fulfill that responsibility.

[Read more.](#)

Nominations Open: Federal Engineer of the Year

Honoring the commitment of federal engineers to innovation and service is the hallmark of the [Federal Engineer of the Year Award](#).

Nominations for the award, which attracts participation from more than a dozen federal agencies, are open until October 31.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 24, 2023, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January. [Apply or nominate a worthy engineer.](#)



The 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year

Robert Zueck, Ph.D., P.E., was named NSPE's 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year for his discoveries and contributions in the engineering field during a [virtual awards event](#) in February.

Prior to retirement, Zueck worked in the US Department of the Navy's Naval Facilities Engineering

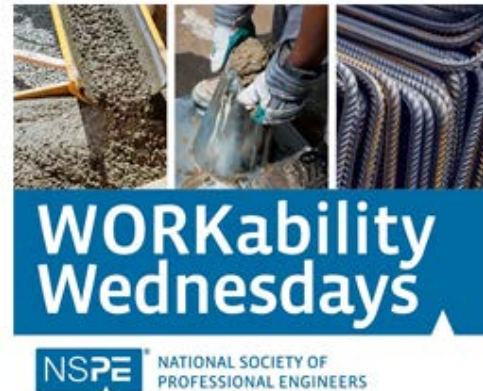


Systems Command (NAVFAC), Expeditionary Warfare Center at Port Hueneme, California. He is heralded for applying his vibration research to military defense projects for which engineers can now design beyond the speed, agility, and stealth limitations of many military sensors, weapons, and platforms. Find out more about Zueck in a [PE article](#).

Access Free WORKability Wednesdays Webinars

The reviews of the [Engineering: Addressing Unintended Consequences as a Professional](#) webinar are excellent. “Applicable to all engineering disciplines,” says one attendee.

If you were busy this summer and missed it, there is time to watch this thought-provoking webinar at NSPE’s PE Institute. All webinars in the [spring series](#) are available free to members. Watch for more information soon about what to expect in the fall series lineup!



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