

RISPE CHAT: RISPE Annual Banquet



Dear Rhode Island Engineers,

This past month, RISPE hosted our Annual Banquet, officially marking the end of our 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. The event was held at Naval Station Newport and over 50 RISPE Members, Colleagues, and Friends joined us for the event.

Our first guest speaker was NSPE Executive Director and CEO, Mark Golden, who gave an update on NSPE and their accomplishments this past year. Our second guest speaker was the Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies, Rhode Island (ACEC-RI), Marcel Valois who provided an overview of their organization and their recent activities and State legislative wins.

Our main speaker for the evening was Mr. Neil McLaughlin, Director of Projects & Finance for Pangaea

Logistics Solutions, who provided an overview of the types of marine/waterfront projects their firm takes on. In addition, Neil discussed his firm's involvement in the long-term development of Brayton Point and some of the challenges they face in developing the site as a deep-water dry bulk terminal and wind farm logistics hub.

The event also included recognition of the 2019 RISPE Young Engineer of the Year, Mr. Frank Marinaccio, PE and the 2019 RISPE Scholarship Recipient, Mr. Timothy Vitkin of Cumberland High School. Some of Rhode Island's newly registered Professional Engineers were also in attendance and received their new Professional Engineer Certificates from the Rhode Island Board of Registration.

On behalf of the RISPE Executive Board, I would like to thank all who attended and participated in the event as well as the sponsorship from our RISPE membership. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,
David Arpin, PE
RISPE President

Upcoming RISPE Event: NSPE Annual Meeting, Kansas City

As RISPE takes its summer break and prepares for the upcoming 2019-2020 Fiscal Year, some of our members will be attending the 2019 NSPE Annual Meeting which is being held this year in Kansas City, Missouri! The event will take place at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown starting on Wednesday, July 17 and all RISPE Members, Friends, and Colleagues are invited to attend.

The event will be an excellent opportunity for PEs and those on the path to licensure to connect with like-minded professionals, earn continuing education credits, and learn about the profession's top issues. In addition to the conference and its engaging seminars, there will be several optional tours and receptions including a Kansas City Street Car Tour, a Boulevard Brewery Tour, and the NSPE Welcome to KC Reception.

For more information and to register for the event, please refer to the link below:

<https://www.nspe.org/resources/2019-professional-engineers-conference>

Army Corps of Engineers seeking public comment on Invenergy's proposed power plant

Invenergy and National Grid have filed a joint permit with the United States Army Corps of Engineers "to conduct work in waters of the United States in conjunction with constructing a transmission line, an energy center and upgrading a substation in the vicinity of Burrillville, Rhode Island."

Invenergy is seeking to build a \$1 billion fracked gas and diesel oil burning power plant in the midst of the irreplaceable forests of northwest Rhode Island.

This work is proposed in various waters and wetlands in which the mainstay of the project is located south of

Wallum Lake Road (State Route 100) in Burrillville, Rhode Island,” says the Army Corps of Engineer in a press release.

Invenergy and National Grid “have jointly submitted a permit application to the Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The proposed project would consist of two major components, Invenergy’s proposed power plant and the Burrillville Interconnection Project. More specifically, the application proposes to construct an electric generating facility; construct a dedicated 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line interconnection known as the Burrillville Interconnection Project (BIP); and upgrade an existing substation known as the Sherman Road Switching Station.

[Read full story.](#)

Complete the Engineering Team With NICET Certification

In the late 1950s, as the US came to rely more heavily on machines and automation, technically skilled workers who could support the work of engineers were in high demand. In 1961, NSPE rose to the challenge by forming an organization to certify technicians and technologists.



But even though technicians have been an integral part of the engineering team and NSPE since then, that organization—the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies—is not always understood by PEs. A well-attended, NSPE-sponsored webinar on May 29 provided the full picture.

During the webinar, “[Quality and Safety Through a Qualified Engineering Team](#),” NICET Communications Director Chip Hollis detailed the institute’s operations and the technician’s role on the team. NICET was founded to recognize the qualifications of technicians. Its focus, Hollis explained, helps ensure a qualified engineering workforce, certifying both engineering technicians and technologists in areas such as construction materials testing, transportation construction inspection, electrical power, fire protection, and security systems.

Don't Miss This Upcoming Webinar



Stay current with essential professional development opportunities through NSPE webinars. Members receive a special rate on the upcoming live webinar:

On **June 26** at 2 p.m., the webinar [The Saint Joseph Water Crisis – Lessons Learned in the Age of Deteriorating Water Infrastructure](#) will focus on a water crisis in Saint Joseph, Louisiana, which lends many lessons related to the difficulties faced by small and large water systems in rural environments. In this session, David A. Martin, P.E., will present an overview of the state of the town's water system prior to and after construction, as well as an overview of the new treatment process and applicability to other aquifer systems. Additionally, participants will be presented with the lessons learned during the crisis, including regulatory involvement, use of multiple funding sources, early owner procurement of long lead time equipment, and alternate project delivery.

Don't Miss...

- [Exemptions to Engineering Licensure Laws](#). NSPE has updated this report, with information current as of May 2019. It is free for members.
- [Take Action on Licensure Exemption Bills](#). It's imperative that lawmakers hear from their professional engineering constituents who [support bills](#) in the US House and Senate targeting licensure exemptions in public utility pipeline work.
- [PECON at a Glance](#). Take a look at the lineup of activities and educational sessions taking place at the 2019 Professional Engineers Conference in Kansas City.

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