

State News for NSPE Members

RIDOT Studying Faster, Cleaner Electric Trains

At a time when cars, buses and kitchen stoves are going electric, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority commuter rail trains still chug along behind diesel locomotives, even on wired Providence Line tracks shared with Amtrak.

Now Rhode Island leaders who have talked about the benefits of speeding commutes to Boston for years are taking some steps to bring faster electric trains to the Providence Line. The Rhode Island Department of Transportation and the MBTA have applied for a \$3-million federal grant to study what it would take to go electric on the Providence Line, [The Providence Journal reports](#).

"The full electrification of that route between Providence and Boston will benefit Rhode Island in that it will speed up the train service and ... allow for additional routes, more frequent routes to Boston," Rhode Island DOT Director Peter Alviti Jr. told senators in his confirmation hearing. "It will be a faster ride between Providence and Boston that we think will increase the number of people who take the train instead of driving their cars on the I-95 corridor, and would have very positive impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions." [Read more](#).

Orsted A/S and Eversource Energy Submit Joint Wind Farm Proposal

Familiar names in Rhode Island offshore wind are vying for a contract to bring even more offshore wind energy to the Ocean State, the [Rhode Island Current reports](#).

Orsted A/S and Eversource Energy are proposing an 884-megawatt wind farm off the coast of Block Island, within the same federal lease area as the 100-turbine project they are already developing for Rhode Island and Connecticut. The proposed Revolution Wind 2 project was submitted in response to a competitive solicitation from utility operator Rhode Island Energy seeking to buy up to 1,000 megawatts of offshore wind power.

Rhode Island Energy declined to share any details on other proposals received by the March 13 deadline. The utility operator plans to work with state energy and utility leaders to review proposals and select a bid for negotiation by June, according to a timeline posted in the company website.

The procurement to buy 1,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy for the state was first announced by Governor Daniel J. McKee in October as the state strives to meet mandatory emissions reductions benchmarks under the 2021 Act on Climate Law. [Read more.](#)

Will Coastal Resilience Projects Bring Relief to Rhode Island?

As Rhode Island's tides continue to rise, so do the stakes. The climate crisis is affecting the state at an alarming rate as our shorelines creep inland by nearly two feet per year, significantly higher than the global average, according to an opinion column in [The Providence Journal](#).

The good news is, some relief is on the way for the Ocean State. Last year, our coastal communities received a much-needed boost thanks to the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which opened the door to historic funding for coastal resilience projects that will help our state weather some of the worst climate impacts.

As new investments come, it's crucial that the most at-risk communities are first-in-line to receive funds to shore up their shorelines. This new funding couldn't come at a better time. We are seeing increased flooding, larger waves, and more severe, frequent nor'easters — all of which are chipping away at our coasts. Homes have collapsed into the sea and important infrastructure like the roads we rely on every day have become more susceptible to flooding. [Read more.](#)

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

TVA Engineer Named 2023 FEYA Winner

Stephen Craven, Ph.D., P.E., was named [NSPE's 2023 Federal Engineer of the Year](#) for his innovative work securing Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) substations and developing improved communication architecture. Now in its 44th year, the Federal Engineer of the Year Award is the only one of its kind to solely recognize outstanding engineers employed in the federal



government. Federal agency winners were honored during a ceremony held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, on February 24.

Stephen Craven is a third-generation TVA engineer, serving at the agency's Power Service Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Among his accomplishments, Craven has helped secure substations against cyber-attacks, designing ways to keep critical equipment disconnected from external attackers and yet still be remotely monitored for anomalies. He was also instrumental in the development of a new communication architecture that is faster, more reliable, and less expensive than previous schemes. [Read more](#) .

FEYA ceremony photos can be accessed on the NSPE [Flickr album](#) .

WORKability Wednesdays Are Back!

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—"WORKability Wednesdays"—to support members with their professional development goals. The series covers topics impacting the industry and helps to enhance your competencies in the profession. The spring season sessions kicked off on March 8 with [Understanding the New Requirements for Cybersecurity Insurance](#) . Register now at [NSPE's PE Institute](#) and invite a colleague to attend.

Upcoming webinars

- **March 22**—[Using Construction Manager at Risk Project Delivery to Manage the Current Challenges in Constructing Projects](#)
- **April 12**—[Doing Bad Things for Good Reasons: An Examination of Unethical Pro-Organizational Behavior Among Professional Workers](#)
- **Save the date for webinars on April 26, May 17, and May 31**

Take the Milton F. Lunch Ethics Challenge!

Match your wits and knowledge of engineering ethics with experienced professional engineers and engineering students throughout the country! All current NSPE individual members and NSPE chapters (including student members) are invited to participate in the [2023 NSPE Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest](#) . Contest submissions are due by **May 12**. [View past contest winner entries](#) .

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