

State News for NSPE Members

Net Metering Limits Lifted for Solar Power Company

The Block Island Power Company successfully lobbied to have a 3% cap removed on its solar power net metering program, the *Energy News Network* reports. The unique move was made by the small utility, a rate-payer nonprofit with about 1,600 members. Net metering involves buying unused solar power from customers and adding it to the grid.

Legislation signed by Governor Daniel McKee in July allows the town of New Shoreham, as well as the Pascoag Utility District in northwestern Rhode Island, to set its own maximum percentage for net-metered power. The amount is subject to approval by the state Public Utilities Commission.

Utilities and distributors nationwide have traditionally fought against net metering, arguing that it unfairly passes distribution costs onto non-solar customers.

Environmental Management Agency Seeks Comment on Water Quality Study

Rhode Island's Department of Environmental Management is seeking comments on a draft study of total maximum daily load in an effort to improve biodiversity and protect water quality in Buckeye Brook and Warwick Pond, where water quality does not meet state-required standards. A study on means for improvement began in 2008. Two proposed solutions are better stormwater management and remediation of a nearby landfill that closed in 1978. It is believed the site contains buried metals that are leaching into groundwater.

The study examined the effects of poor water quality on bottom-dwelling macroinvertebrates, and potential stressors adding to the problem. It concluded that to meet water quality criteria and restore aquatic life, reductions of cadmium, copper, and iron are required, and stormwater runoff must be reduced. Written comments on the [draft TMDL](#) should be sent by September 1 to skip.viator@dem.ri.gov.

Rhode Island Job Opportunities

[Engineer \(NBIS Bridge Inspection\)](#)

Steere Engineering Inc.

[Senior Engineer/Project Manager \(Bridges/Marine Structures\)](#)

Steere Engineering Inc.

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

Texas PE Takes Lead of the Society

Rick Guerra, P.E., F.NSPE, was recently installed as NSPE's 2021–22 president during the [2021 Installation Ceremony](#) at NSPE headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. In the latest issue of *PE* magazine, he [offers a perspective](#) on the engineering workforce pipeline, climate change, and engineering licensure.



Guerra is the president and CEO of Jose I.

Guerra, Inc. a full-service, facilities engineering firm with offices in Austin, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi, Texas. The firm provides a comprehensive range of civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fire protection engineering services to clients throughout the state.

As an active member of NSPE since 1994, Guerra has served in numerous leadership roles at the chapter, state, and national levels, including as president of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 2016-17 and was named a NSPE Fellow in 2018. In 2007, he was appointed by Governor Rick Perry as the licensed professional engineer member of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners, serving until 2019. He received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1982 and a master's degree in engineering in 1988, both from the University of Texas at Austin.

Guerra continues to promote the engineering profession by serving as a guest lecturer at UT Austin, acting as a high school career day host and serving as an engineering mentor for local high school students. He is also an active volunteer for his church, the Boy Scouts of America, and various other community organizations.

Celebrating Excellence in the Profession

NSPE members were honored on August 4 for their outstanding contributions to the profession during the 2021 Virtual Professional Engineers Conference.

Young Engineer of the Year Award

Stephanie Blain, P.E. was named the 2021 Young Engineer of the Year for her outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community. She is employed with Palmer Engineering Company in Winchester, Kentucky.



Engineering Education Excellence Award

Scott R. Hamilton, Ph.D., P.E., received the Engineering Education Excellence Award, which recognizes licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. He is chair of the Civil & Mechanical Engineering Department at York College in York, Pennsylvania.



The Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest winner and the QBS Award winners were also recognized during the conference.

The [2021 Milton F. Lunch Ethics Contest](#) provides an opportunity for NSPE members to put their ethics knowledge to the test on topics that present ethical challenges such as artificial intelligence, climate change, and the industrial exemption. **Michael Rademacher, P.E.**, of St. Louis, Missouri (Burns & McDonnell), is this year's winner. He will receive \$2,000, a certificate, and recognition in *PE* magazine.



The [QBS Awards](#) are cosponsored by NSPE and ACEC to recognize public and private entities that make exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process at the federal, state and local levels. The **City of San Diego** was honored in the state/city government category and the **Idaho QBS Facilitators Council** received a special recognition award.

The award winners serve as examples of how well the QBS process works, and they help promote the practice in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services.

Introducing the 2021 Class of Society Fellows

By demonstrating exemplary and devoted service to their profession, the Society, and

their community, 12 professional engineers have been honored as the 2021 Class of Fellow members.



- **Susan Best, P.E. (PA)**
- **Lee Czor, P.E. (KY)**
- **Beth Fifield Hodgson, P.E. (WA)**
- **Erin Gates, P.E. (WY)**
- **Angela Hanz, P.E. (WI)**
- **Kiel Johnson, P.E. (KS)**
- **Sharon Kimbrough, P.E. (AL)**
- **Matt Kruse, P.E. (NE)**
- **Andy Rogers, P.E. (SC)**
- **Breck Washam, P.E. (MO)**
- **Hardy Willis, P.E. (NC)**
- **Brian Malm, P.E. (MN)**

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