State News for NSPE Members

Alaska Licensing Board Regulations

The State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors has issued proposals to update various regulations relating to applications, registration by comity, exam postponements, application deadlines, education and work experience requirements, eligibility, verification, dates of experience, standards, examination, course requirements, retired status, seal requirements, and definitions.

Access the full proposals document here. Written comments are **due on July 8** by 4:30 p.m.

Anchorage School District Seeks Internship Partners

One of the best things that we can do as professional engineers is to mentor and train the next generation who are coming along in our footsteps and are eager to learn everything that we can offer them. The Anchorage School District Career and Technical Education Internship Program is seeking partnerships with engineering firms and licensed professionals to provide internships for high school students.

The Anchorage School District (ASD) has established four engineering academies at major high schools across the city. The primary mission of these academies is to produce top-quality graduating seniors who are fully prepared and ready to succeed in the challenging world of collegiate professional engineering studies. During their senior year or following graduation, these students are encouraged to participate in unpaid internships totaling 60 hours of professional and industry contact and mentoring.

For years BP and other major oil field exploration and production companies have always welcomed ASD interns into mutually beneficial learning environments. With the recent departure of these businesses from Alaska, ASD internships have fallen on hard times, and our next generation of engineers truly needs your help.

If you or your firm can help out with this vitally important educational program, please reach out to Anne Adasiak-Andrew (Coordinator, Secondary Career & Technical Education for ASD) at adasiak-andrew_anne@asdk12.org. Access more information here.

Developers are Planning a Wind-power Project West of Alaska's 'Sleeping Lady'

A Fairbanks green energy company is planning a wind farm on Little Mount Susitna, northwest of Anchorage, with plans to feed some of the power needs of Alaska's largest city, according to an *Alaska Beacon* article.

Alaska Renewables LLC, owned by Matthew Perkins and Andrew McDonnell, has filed planning documents with the state of Alaska, seeking a wind-farm lease and the ability to construct meteorological towers that are typically used to measure wind speeds ahead of construction at wind power plants.

According to a public notice published May 25, a wind farm at the site "would connect into existing Chugach Electric Association power grid lines with new high voltage transmission lines as a part of CEA's effort to expand on its affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy portfolio."

State law requires the Department of Natural Resources to consider competing bids for a wind-power project at the site, what's known as a solicitation of interest. Read more.

Researchers Investigate How Climate Change Impacts Permafrost

As Alaska warms due to climate change, permafrost researchers at the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center's (ERDC) Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) Permafrost Tunnel Research Facility are working to address challenges with building on permafrost.

Tom Douglas, a senior science technical manager with ERDC, has been studying snow, ice and permafrost for 20 years, and while he does not consider himself a climate change scientist, the things being impacted by climate change put him in that world.

"Permafrost is a good bellwether for climate change, because it's either frozen or thawed," said Douglas. "Though that sounds simple, the different processes that lead to that happening, like warming climates, increased fire, changing snowpack or a longer summer season — when those are altered by climate drivers — can

affect the stability of permafrost," said Douglas. "It's really easy to measure permafrost instability; we can track it."

The United States' "Last Frontier" is the nickname for the state of Alaska's permafrost — earthen material like rock, soil, ice or organic matter that remains frozen for multiple years and found beneath nearly 85% of the state. Frozen ground is typically very strong; however, as the ice in the permafrost begins to warm, it weakens, and foundations may begin to fail. Read more.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

NSPECon 2022 Open for Registration

Engineers from all disciplines are invited to register for the 2022 Professional Engineers Conference (NSPECon 2022) in Philadelphia, August 1-3. Early-bird registration is available until June 30.

Invited speakers will address sustainability, emerging technology, the post-covid workplace and even, construction on the moon. Licensed professional engineers and those aspiring to be one are invited to join this



multi-discipline community to engage with colleagues and hear more about relevant engineering topics.

Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities

Prospective conference sponsors and exhibitors will see newly created opportunities to highlight their companies and organizations throughout the conference. Sponsors can welcome attendees to the "Feel the Philly Love" opening reception, support a conference education track featuring seven unique sessions, or demonstrate how their solutions help clients overcome specific challenges by exhibiting.

PE Day

On the final day of the conference, attendees can celebrate PE Day in person and raise awareness about the importance of PEs as qualified and ethical professionals. Before attending, everyone is invited to gear up with PE Day logo wear to show PE Pride at the conference.

Call for 2022-2023 Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart of NSPE and essential to helping the Society carry out its vision and mission and meet the goals of the strategic plan. Volunteer positions begin in mid-August and end at the 2023 Professional Engineers Conference.

There are three types of volunteer opportunities:

- Level 1 (Highest Engagement)—Standing Boards and Committees
 Often includes attending at least one in-person meeting. Most meetings held via video conference. Terms may be up to three years.
- Level 2 (Intermediate Engagement)
 –Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces

Activities primarily include online correspondence and video conference meetings.

Level 3 (Lowest Engagement)—Ad Hoc Volunteer
 Volunteer on a project-by-project basis.

Submit an application by July 15 to be considered for a 2022-2023 term.

House of Delegates Virtual General Assembly and Annual Meeting

The House of Delegates Virtual General Assembly will be live streamed on NSPE's YouTube channel for members on **June 30** (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST). Following the live stream of the General Assembly, NSPE members will have an opportunity to ask questions and talk with President-Elect Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, and CEO Monika Schulz through a Reddit style AMA (Ask Me Anything) format in the Annual Meeting online community. All members are welcome.

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