

State News for NSPE Members

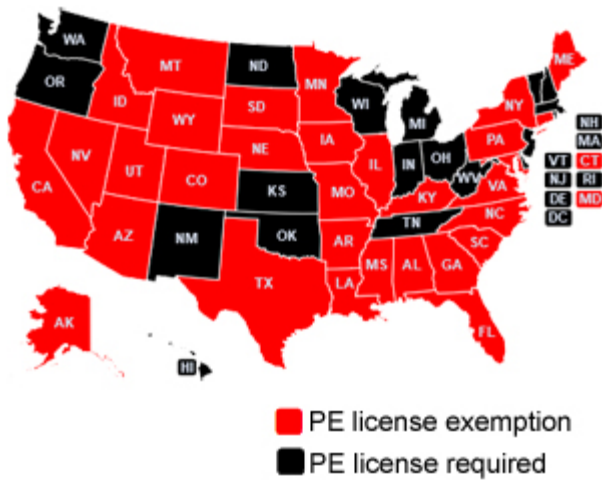
Continuing Education: Updates and Feedback

2019 Alaska license renewals are due by **December 31st**. This year the board added a late fee if you miss the deadline. They also added an option to pay for a continuing education extension for 30 days to complete your credits, if needed.

The AELS board would like your feedback on the CE process. As part of their spot check audit process, they have found that individuals may not be choosing courses of appropriate safety, health and welfare content. They have seen people taking online classes which do not appear to be of enough rigor to demand 1 hour of pdh that individuals are claiming. Other individuals do not have suitable documentation to back up their CEs. The board finds the audit process time-consuming for the board and licensees.

Licensees have noted that they really like the credit for attending professional society meetings (like your ASPE meetings) for the professional knowledge that is shared amongst the community, even if the content is primarily managerial content. They would like to see all professional society meetings clearly be acceptable continuing education.

If you have feedback on the CE process, please drop a note to the AELS board (aelsboard@alaska.gov), and they may incorporate your suggestions into some changes to the CE program for the next renewal.



NTSB Addresses Alaska License Exemption

The National Transportation Safety Board has identified Alaska as among the 31 states that currently do not require a licensed professional engineer on natural gas pipeline projects. The NTSB sent a letter to Governor Mike Dunleavy and the governors of each of the other states, urging them to end exemptions for gas pipeline operators and asking for an update within 90 days.

The NTSB issued an [investigation report](#) on the September 2018 Merrimack Valley gas pipeline explosions with two critical recommendations: first that all the states with license exemptions for public utilities eliminate the exemption, and second that a professional engineer be required to review and approve gas pipeline construction and maintenance of documents.

When the NTSB began its investigation, staff reached out to NSPE seeking information about licensing exemptions. Through a series of conversations and emails, NSPE shared report data, information on the licensing process and requirements, and its position statement on licensing exemptions. Consequently, NSPE was successful in getting the NTSB to adopt a policy of addressing and eliminating engineering license exemptions within the gas pipeline industry.

NSPE's national staff continues to be in conversation with the National Transportation Safety Board and state societies on this issue.

[Learn more and find out how you can make your voice heard.](#)



Input Requested for *PE* Magazine

NSPE's *PE* magazine is soliciting information for a possible story on how climate change may be affecting engineering work in Alaska. If you have input to share, please email Senior Staff Writer Eva Kaplan-Leiserson at ekaplan@nspe.org.

Alaska Commercial Interior Designers

Interior Designers are asking the AELS board to allow them to be licensed to provide services to Alaskans as Commercial Interior Designers. They have sent in a package of justification that would allow them to design portions of buildings within their education, exam, and experience that affect the safety of the community. This would include work like moving non-bearing walls, adding doors, signage, hardware, furniture layout for egress paths, etc.

The ASPE statewide board met with the interior designers and reviewed their request. We felt that the request was similar to the path that the engineers have used for licensure and it provided a similar rigor and content. We felt it would be better for the interior designers to be licensed to work in commercial building, because it removed the need to distinguish if their work needed a permit and to be sealed. Residential interior design would not be affected, or require licensing. We understand that there is overlap with the practice of Architecture, but we feel it can be managed just like the overlap in the engineering scopes.

If you have any opinion on licensing of interior designers, please feel free to [contact the AELS board](#) and provide public comment.

Fundraiser Request

The Alaska Professional Design Council (APDC), of which ASPE is a member society, is asking for donations from our Sustaining Companies to help cover additional costs for our Annual Legislative Fly-In scheduled for **February 5-6, 2020**, in Juneau.

APDC representatives will meet personally with their state legislators to promote issues important to our design profession. We will advocate for:

1. Increased funding for capital improvements
2. Increased funding for the maintenance of existing infrastructure
3. Support education funding (both K through 12 and the University of Alaska)
4. Earthquake preparedness
5. Support the registration of design professionals through the Alaska State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors (AELS)

All costs associated with travel, lodging, and meals are paid by the individuals that volunteer to attend the fly-in. This year we plan to hold two additional events to increase our effectiveness in advocating for our profession. In order to host these events, APDC will require financial support from professional companies like you, our

Sustaining Companies. These events include:

1. Legislative Lunch & Learn: One of APDC's member organizations, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) – Alaska, has offered to present the findings of the State of Alaska Infrastructure Report Card to the legislators during their lunch break. This will require APDC to fund the meal. We anticipate 70-100 attendees at a total cost of \$2,000.
2. Legislative Meet & Greet: APDC's lobbyist has generously offered his home for a Meet & Greet Open House with our state legislators for lobbying and advocacy purposes. We propose to serve appetizers with beer & wine at a total cost of \$1,500.

Both these events will help the legislators become more familiar with APDC, its member organizations, and its sustaining companies to better understand the issues

that we are requesting they support. Your donation will help cover the costs for these additional advocacy events. Suggested donation amount: **\$100 to \$300**.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact myself at 771-4511 or Mike Rabe, P.E., Legislative Committee Chair, at 646-5634.

Sincerely,

Mark Kimerer, PLA, ASLA
APDC President

Learn more about APDC at their [website](#), or [email](#) for more info.



Take the Global Engineer Survey—You Could Win a \$50 Gift Card!

Share your opinions on the state of engineering today in the second annual [DiscoverE Global Engineer Survey](#). Encourage fellow engineers, technicians, and technologists to participate as well! DiscoverE will select 10 survey respondents at random to receive a \$50 gift card as thanks for participating.

The survey will be available until **January 10, 2020**. DiscoverE will announce the survey findings on **March 4, 2020**—World Engineering Day.

Versions of the survey are available in [English](#), [Arabic](#), [Chinese \(Simplified\)](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).

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Be sure to check the website often—special offers change frequently.

It's Not Too Late to Make the Most of the Holiday Season

Even though this year's holiday and shipping season is a week shorter, there's still time to get your shipments delivered on time and intact. Use the UPS Year-End Holiday Schedule to help you get packages to loved ones—or your customers—in time with the speed you need.

Remember, NSPE Savings include:

- **50%** off Domestic Next Day / Deferred
- **30%** off Ground Commercial / Residential
- **50%** off International Exports & **40%** off Imports
- Plus, UPS Smart Pickup® service is **free**

CREATE A SHIPMENT

Have Questions? Call: 1-800-MEMBERS (636-2377) M-F, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET



Honor Your Fellow PEs

NSPE is filled with members who exhibit the best of the profession. Take the time to recognize the contributions and achievements of a fellow PE with an NSPE Honor Award.

Submit applications by **January 31** so all deserving candidates can be considered for the

- **NSPE Award** —the highest award given by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind;
- **Distinguished Service Award** —recognizes a licensed member for exceptional contributions to the profession, to one's community, and specifically to NSPE;
- **Young Engineer of the Year Award** —recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the profession and the community.



[Learn more about NSPE Awards.](#)

Now Available: Commentary on Construction Documents

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee—a joint venture of NSPE, the American Council of Engineering Companies, and the American Society of Civil Engineers—recently released [commentary on its 2018 construction documents](#). EJCDC documents are the first choice, and most user-friendly, among standard documents for infrastructure and public works construction in the United States.

EJCDC documents are available to NSPE members at a 50% discount.

C-001 Commentary on the 2018 EJCDC Construction Documents, at 184 pages, contains in-depth descriptions of each of the 25 documents in the EJCDC construction series and explains their use. The commentary includes definitions of terms, cross-references and abbreviations, and a detailed discussion of terms and conditions.

The EJCDC construction series of documents assumes the design engineer is involved during construction. C-001 explains how to use each document in the series during the process. There is also a discussion of the *Contractor for Construction of a Small Project* document and its use.

[Access the Commentary.](#)

15 Free—Get Them Before They're Gone!

Earn PDHs with this year's roundup of [15 free courses](#) available to NSPE members, before they expire at the end of the year.

Develop and hone your professional skills without leaving your own workstation! Check out all of the 2019 free courses before the new year, including the four-part engineering ethics series and career development webinars.

[Access the courses.](#)



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