


TO: NSPE Board of Directors

cc: NSPE House of Delegates
NSPE Committee, Task Force, Council and Interest Group Chairs
State Society Presidents and Presidents-elect
State Society Executives Council
NSPE Past Presidents

FROM: Mark J. Golden, FASAE, CAE 
Executive Director

DATE: December 20, 2016

RE: Board Update: December 1-20, 2016

Championing the PE License

[A new NSPE report](#) provides a comprehensive look at [how state laws define “the practice of engineering.”](#) Defining engineering practice is critical to understanding the professional engineer’s obligation to the public health, safety, and welfare. While the public places great trust in professional engineers, many people—legislators and regulators included—don’t know that engineering practice is, in fact, legally defined or that the definitions vary from state to state¹.

The Environmental Protection Agency has emphasized the key role of PEs in hazardous waste management, in yet another victory for the professional engineer and the public health, safety, and welfare. In the EPA’s final version of the [Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule](#), a professional engineer is required to certify that a containment building for hazardous waste complies with specified design standards. The revised rule has several objectives, including reorganizing the hazardous waste generator regulations to make them more user-friendly and thus improve their usability by the regulated community; providing a better understanding of how the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste generator regulatory program works; addressing gaps in the existing regulations to strengthen environmental protection; providing greater flexibility for hazardous waste generators to manage their waste in a cost-effective and protective manner; and making technical corrections and changes to address inadvertent errors. The rulemaking builds upon NSPE’s recent successful advocacy efforts to raise awareness of the key role of professional engineers in engineering projects across the country.

Oklahoma is the latest state to launch a review of occupational licensing requirements and “evaluate

NSPE encourages states to use the information in this report in newsletters or other updates to their membership to inform members on the activities of NSPE. As a suggestion, it may be most useful to take the bullets of most interest from the transmittal e-mail. The full report (and past reports) can always be found [online](#).

¹ As an interesting side note on NSPE’s commitment to creating member value, this is just the latest in a series of state-by-state summaries that NSPE has been compiling and making available, as a member benefit at no cost. Others include state-by-state summaries of licensure law exemptions, continuing education requirements, and PE licensure, renewal, reinstatement and exam fees. A promotion from the American Bar Association recently crossed my desk offering a similar, state-by-state summary (on toxic exposure claims), at a cost of \$139.75 for non-members and \$111.96 for members.

whether the public health and safety goals and concerns addressed by license requirements outweigh the barriers to entry they place on Oklahoma workers.” [Governor Mary Fallin has appointed a task force](#) within the Oklahoma Department of Labor and given it a deadline of December 31, 2017, to complete its work. Thanks to NSPE At-Large Director Kevin Cooper for making us aware of this development. Government relations staff is following up with our Oklahoma state society partner to respond.

Ethical Guide to the Profession

The NSPE Board of Ethical Review (BER) met at NSPE headquarters on December 12-13th. Among the issues discussed and acted on were the development of the twelve new 2016 Board of Ethical Review cases; review of the results of a survey on the NSPE Milton F. Lunch Ethics Essay Contest, BER charges; and other business. Following extensive discussion of the comments received from the survey, the BER has decided to revamp the NSPE essay contest to (1) offer a choice of four ethics scenarios instead of just one and (2) provide contestants with a choice of creative options for contest submission. Under the new rules, as an alternative to an essay, contestants will be able to submit a video, photo essay, power point or a poster which illustrate the facts, relevant NSPE Code of Ethics provisions, discussion and conclusions.

Earlier in December, the NSPE Board of Ethical Review received a generous contribution of \$500 from NSPE and NAFE member Steven Helfrich, P.E.

Powering Professional Advancement

NSPE staff was pleased to respond to a request from the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE, the advocacy body and voice of Ontario, Canada’s engineering community) for quotes and video testimonials on NSPE’s annual meeting, [PECon](#), for coverage in that society’s [online blog](#).

Look for the January/February issue of *PE* magazine. The cover story, “Power Up Your Professionalism,” addresses different ways members can boost their professionalism, whether they are just starting out, mid-career, or late career.

The National Academy of Forensic Engineers, a Chartered Affinity Group of NSPE, is holding their Winter Conference in New Orleans January 13-15. Fourteen (14) hours of continuing education can be had for just \$1,000. NSPE is promoting this opportunity for unique professional development to NSPE members. (Note: NAFE members must be current members in good standing of NSPE.) For more information visit www.nafe.org

The 2017 15 free webinars for members will go live on January 16. A last call e-blast for 2016 courses will be sent out prior to the end of the year.

Uniting the PE Community

National recently utilized a third-party web effectiveness service to test the NSPE website. Our website tested out with a “Domain Authority” score of 74/100. “Domain Authority” is a score that predicts how well a website will rank on search engines. This score places

the website in the "outstanding" category², meaning our website is on the top of all the search engine results.

The South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers (SCSPE) is the latest state society to adopt the new NSPE logo. Communications staff is working to prepare graphics files for the state and each of its chapters. Since the launch of the new NSPE logo in June, 19 state societies have adopted new state society logos in the brand family.

Let me reiterate: national is ***not*** requiring states to adopt the new logo, but we do believe there are many [advantages](#) for both national and our state partners from unified branding for membership marketing and communications purposes. In this regard, the rapid and widespread acceptance of the new logos is very encouraging. And while the state versions of the logo are in a standardized design (listing the state societies *actual name in full*, with a graphical element incorporating NSPE and the two state abbreviation), we are ***not*** requiring or even encouraging state societies to change their names.

National has now taken steps (at its own expense) to register the web addresses for the two-letter state abbreviations included in the graphical element of the logo (*www.nspe-two letter state abbreviation*). This will prevent any unrelated organization from registering domain names in the format that appears in the state society and chapter logos. We are working to set up those web addresses so if any member or potential member types them in their browser, ***they will be automatically redirected to each state society's existing home page, if the state society has a website.***

(See complete list below. The California, Colorado and Nevada societies had already registered these web addresses for themselves, so are not included on the list.)

NSPE-AL.org	NSPE-IA.org	NSPE-NH.org	NSPE-TN.org
NSPE-AK.org	NSPE-KS.org	NSPE-NJ.org	NSPE-TX.org
NSPE-AZ.org	NSPE-KY.org	NSPE-NM.org	NSPE-UT.org
NSPE-AR.org	NSPE-LA.org	NSPE-NY.org	NSPE-VT.org
NSPE-CT.org	NSPE-ME.org	NSPE-NC.org	NSPE-VA.org
NSPE-DE.org	NSPE-MD.org	NSPE-ND.org	NSPE-WA.org
NSPE-DC.org	NSPE-MA.org	NSPE-OH.org	NSPE-WV.org
NSPE-FL.org	NSPE-MI.org	NSPE-OK.org	NSPE-WI.org
NSPE-GA.org	NSPE-MN.org	NSPE-OR.org	NSPE-WY.org
NSPE-HI.org	NSPE-MS.org	NSPE-PA.org	NSPE-GU.org
NSPE-ID.org	NSPE-MO.org	NSPE-RI.org	NSPE-PR.org
NSPE-IL.org	NSPE-MT.org	NSPE-SC.org	
NSPE-IN.org	NSPE-NE.org	NSPE-SD.org	

This does not require any action on the part of the state societies. National is merely providing protection for searches people looking for your society might make and creating an additional avenue that increases the likelihood that members and prospective members in each state end up on your state society's website when they do go looking. ***Once the back office processing is complete, if a person types one of these addresses into their browser, they will be redirected to that state's current site.*** We will alert you once the links are all active.

² Domain Authority is measured on a 100-point, logarithmic scale. Thus, it's easier to grow your score from 20 to 30 than it would be to grow from 70 to 80.

Have you had a chance to login into the new NSPE Community just for PEs in Industry? We need your expertise and participation to make the latest in our growing inventory of online communities a success. Visit community.nspe.org today and introduce yourself to NSPE's new online Professional Engineers in Industry group.

You can update your e-mail preferences (click on Settings page under the “My Profile” tab) to choose which communities you wish to follow and the types of e-mail you receive, individual e-mails or a digest. Settings” page under the “My Profile” tab in the menu bar.

Renewal invoices for memberships expiring February 2017 were created and e-mailed on December 1st (First Invoice). Second notices for un-renewed memberships expiring January 2017 were also e-mailed on December 1st. Hard copy invoices for the large block of memberships expiring December 2016 started hitting mail boxes on December 1 (Final invoice). As always, please feel free to contact [Kim Granados](#) if you have any questions. All of these invoices are also directly available to state society staff and leadership when you log in to www.nspe.org and hit the green State Home button. State society leaders, SSEC and the board should also have received the [December membership analysis report](#) last week. The analysis can also be found in the [SSEC community library](#).

And remember, you always have access to NSPE leadership resources in the [Leadership Toolbox](#). This includes [talking point](#) scripts and presentations for use by NSPE officers, board members, and other leaders during state visits, chapter meetings, or other venues to promote NSPE and its activities, updated on an at-least quarterly basis. Current board members can access an online library of board meeting materials (past, current and future) through the online board book site, ([BoardBookIt](#)).

If you want to review NSPE’s history and how that has been translated into current plans with a future-focus, NSPE’s purpose, mission, vision and a history of the *Race for Relevance* and the resulting Strategic Plan is summarized in a section called “[Who We Are and What We Do](#).”