President’s Message
Dustin Doherty, P.E., CPESC
– FCC President

With the events going on today with the COVID-19 pandemic, the OSPE wants to remind all of our members to be careful and to exercise all precautions to stay safe and well. We care about you and are here to help you get through this difficult situation. OSPE has taken steps to honor the governor's mandate and protect our engineers by postponing or changing the format of some of our scheduled events. These events include the Spring Certificate Ceremony, EFO Benefit Golf Outing and the Ohio Engineers Legislative Day. The All Ohio Engineering Conference scheduled for Dayton will remain June 11-13th, but will now be totally virtual. Be sure to keep June 11-13th open to participate. Watch your mail, email and our website for updates on the conference and for new dates for our postponed events.

The Franklin County Chapter is in the process of finalizing the ballot for next year, and will be sending this out for your vote. This election will be for the Officers and Trustees who will serve on the Franklin County Chapter board next year. We still have a few positions that could use a candidate: PE in Construction, PE in Government, PE in Private Practice, and Retired Engineer Trustee. Please let me know if you would be interested in any of these positions, at ddoherty@cecinc.com.

I wanted to let you know that as a member of OSPE, there are so many resources available to you. If you did not know already, below are some other benefits provided by OSPE:

- Continuing Professional Development -- OSPE is your #1 source for state-mandated continuing education courses--all between 30% off!
- Health Insurance -- discounted through Oswald Companies
- E&O Insurance -- discounted through Oswald Companies
- Workers Compensation coverage -- discounted through CompManagement
- OfficeMax -- up to 81% off regular prices
- UPS Shipping -- expanded discounts to serve our members better
- Sequent -- human resources and payroll management services
- "State Board of Registration Email Update"
- Your OSPE government relations team is providing this COVID-19 -- Resources [COVID-19 - Resources](#)
- OSPE protects our license! perhaps our greatest member benefit of all!

**Please read the article prepared by L. Steve Day, PE, FNSPE “Do not assume PE licensure is in a state of permanence”. Be sure to read it – on page 3!**
Presidents Message - continued from page 1 -
Due to the pandemic, we have not pursued any additional Membership Drive and Social Events. In the future we have considered a variety of options, including: Crew, Blue Jackets, Destroyers, Clippers, Escape Room, Axe Throwing, Go-karts, etc. Please let me know at ddoherty@cecinc.com, if you have any further ideas for future membership drives.

Finally, I encourage you to continue to practice social distancing and follow any government mandates or recommendations. We will ride out this storm and be stronger for it. Thank you for your patience and commitment to NSPE, OSPE, your chapter and the Engineers Foundation of Ohio!

Communication on your terms: Update your profile and subscription preferences

NSPE is committed to providing the best service possible. To that end, we need to verify that member profile information is accurate. This includes preferred names and titles, and employer and contact information. NSPE asks all members to review their member profile and update their information.

Thanks to updates to the NSPE database, members can now also choose exactly what emails they want to receive. With new subscription management options, members can unsubscribe from some mailing lists without missing out on information of interest to them. In order-to make this possible, all members’ email settings have been reset to the default. Everyone will need to log into their account to manage their preferences, even if they have previously unsubscribed from a mailing list.

Update information and preferences
- (Excerpted from NSPE Daily Designs March 18, 2020 with hyperlinks removed)
Do not assume PE licensure is in a state of permanence
- By L. Steve Day, P.E. F.NSPE

➢ What if all your hard work in earning an Ohio PE license was for naught?

➢ What if your license was removed with the pound of a legislative gavel or the stroke of an executive’s pen?

I hope you have heard about the legislative threats to the PE license that are taking place around the nation. In the last few years, 32 or more states have seen some form of legislation or policy proposal that would undermine or altogether eliminate the state’s PE license.

There are currently both House and Senate Bills, introduced at the Ohio Statehouse, that attempt to undermine the importance of the engineering PE license or reduce the requirements for obtaining licensure in Ohio. In other states some have suggested that “a voluntary system, such as the self-certification registry” be put in place of the PE license.

Two companion bills House Bill 432 and Senate Bill 246 seek to modify occupational licensing by requiring the licensing authority to issue a license or government certification to an applicant who holds a license, government certification, or private certification or has “satisfactory work experience” in another state under certain circumstances. West Virginia has just recently defeated two almost identical bills.

I have found in meetings that many legislators see no difference between an occupational license and a professional license. It appears that the thrust behind all of these bills, is to make licensure easier to obtain, reduce the barriers or eliminate the need altogether.

In some minds a license is a license is a license, there really is no difference.

Another bill, House Bill 258, proposes to require the licensing authority to issue an occupational license to an applicant who completes a registered apprenticeship program and meets other requirements for licensure.

Yet another bill, House Bill 263, revises the initial occupational licensing restrictions applicable to individuals convicted of criminal offenses, by only allowing a five-year look back on criminal convictions.

Who makes the decisions on what is “satisfactory work experience” or a registered apprenticeship program etc. and how can this possibly replace education, experience and examination for the PE? I certainly don’t have the answer to this question.

A new national survey has just come out from the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing, which asked the public about professional licensure. The survey results indicate—widespread public support for maintaining rigorous professional licensing standards for professionals that have a clear impact on public health, safety and welfare.

NSPE/OSPE is the only organization that watches out for the PE license, and we are ever vigilant. We must because these threats keep coming year after year.
Virginia, Maine Make Progress on Gas Utilities PE Exemption

The Virginia legislature has passed a bill that ends the PE exemption for natural gas pipeline projects that pose a material risk to the public. The legislation was sent to the governor for his signature on March 12. If he takes no action, the bill will become law on April 11 and enacted on January 1, 2021.

The legislation (S.B. 385) was developed as a result of the National Traffic Safety Board’s investigation into the Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts, gas pipeline explosion. In the fall, the NTSB identified states that do not require a licensed professional engineer on natural gas pipeline projects. The governors of these states received a letter from the NTSB urging them to end these exemptions for gas pipeline operators.

While the legislation doesn’t close the exemption loophole outright, it puts the onus on industry to prove why its projects don’t put the public safety at risk. If a project is designated as one that poses a risk, then a professional engineer must be in responsible charge.

And in Maine, the Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers reviewed the state’s PE statutes and concluded that natural gas infrastructure would fall under the existing statutory definition of professional engineering and no exemptions would apply.

On February 12, the Maine board informed the NTSB chairman that it will clarify language in the state statute to clear up any confusion and ensure that all future natural infrastructure projects are designed, stamped, and overseen by a professional engineer. The board will introduce legislation for the 2021 legislative session and advise natural gas companies about the requirement for PE oversight.

- (Excerpted from NSPE PE Scope April 2020, hyperlinks removed)

New Jersey Contractor ‘Tracking’ Bill Resurfaces

AEC firms that contract with government agencies in New Jersey may want to be on the lookout for “tracking” bills that could pose a threat to public security.

The legislation (A. 702/S. 1965) seeks to mandate that all state contractors use software to verify the amount of time they are working on a state contract. The software tracks total keystrokes and mouse-event frequency; and records a screenshot at least once every three minutes. This requirement will apply to agencies that have an IT contract of more than $100,000.

- Continued on page 5
NSPE opposes this use of tracking software and believes the legislation will undermine existing progress on data-protection standards, raise costs, and expose both public and private information to new threats. The software could capture sensitive data like passwords, personal health information, and other personally identifiable information with no mechanism for redaction before being recorded or stored. For example, a contractor working 40 hours a week could generate as many as 800 screenshots each week.

The legislation first appeared in 2019 when Transparent Business - a company that sells tracking software - presented a model bill to more than 40 state legislatures. A version of the legislation was introduced in 23 states, including New Jersey, Arizona, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Montana, and Washington. - (Excerpted from NSPE SCOPE April 2020)

‘Indefinite shutdown’: Stress cracks endanger West Seattle Bridge,

By: Gary Horcher

SEATTLE — In a sudden, indefinite safety closure that many drivers found jolting, city SDOT engineers closed the West Seattle Bridge Monday night to repair cracks weakening the enormous support columns which hold the bridge up.

Estimates of the length of the closure vary, but the complexity of the issue suggests repairs could take months.

"There's concerns that the West Seattle high rise bridge cannot safely support vehicular traffic at this time," said Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan.

Durkan explained engineers have been watching and repairing stress cracks in the high-rise West Seattle Bridge for years, but an inspection last weekend showed the cracks becoming severe enough to deteriorate the strength of the support columns. According to SDOT Director Sam Zimbabwe, the cracks were so severe, the bridge was not safe for typical pre-pandemic crisis traffic, which was about 100,000 vehicles per day.

"The extent and the type of cracking that we've seen have concerned our structural engineering experts to the point what we're removing live load traffic from the bridge in the best interest of public safety at this point," Zimbabwe said.

Cracks can clearly be seen in the sides of the upper high rise-rise bridge deck, but SDOT engineers say much of the danger is deteriorating the interior of the support columns, where water and air are said to be seeping in and weakening the structure.

Drivers navigating the maze of detour signs were frustrated at the thought of driving one of several longer routes to cross the Duwamish Waterway.

"It's going to be really hard travel to get across," said John Hampton. "I live all the way up in Bothell, and I work at the tire center here, so it's going to be stressful."

"In some ways I guess it's fortunate that traffic volumes are so low," Durkan said. "But we know that as we get through this COVID emergency, those traffics hopefully will be increasing and we have to have a plan in place."

According to SDOT, all vehicles will be prohibited from crossing the high-rise span of the bridge between I-5 and Fauntleroy Way SW.

Buses, freight and emergency vehicles will be moved to Spokane Street Bridge, which is also called the "low bridge.” Motorists should use the First Ave or South Park bridges. - (Excerpted from NSPE DAILE DESIGNS, March 23, 2020)
2019-2020 CALENDAR

Jan. 14  5:30 p.m.  FCC Board Meeting @ Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Jan. 16  5:00 p.m.  Deadline for February Columbus Engineer Newsletter
Jan. 23  11:30 a.m.  **Program:** “Ohio’s Approach to Post-Construction Storm Water Quality Management”
Feb. 8    8:00 a.m.  Regional MathCounts Competition (OSPE, see www.ohioengineer.com)
Feb. 11   5:30 p.m.  FCC Board Meeting @ Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Feb. 15   5:00 p.m.  Deadline for March Columbus Engineer Newsletter
Feb. 17-21  5:00 p.m.  National Engineer’s Week (see www.eweek.com)
Feb. 18   8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Engineer For A Day Program 2020
Feb. 20   11:30 a.m.  **Program:** E-Week Luncheon – Engineers: Pioneers of Progress
Mar. 7    8:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  Ohio State MathCounts Competition (OSPE, see www.ohioengineer.com)
Mar. 10   5:30 p.m.  FCC Board Meeting @ Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Mar. 19   11:30 a.m.  **Program:** CANCELLED
Mar. 20   5:00 p.m.  Deadline for April Columbus Engineer Newsletter
Mar. 14   8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  District Science Day @ CSCC
Apr. 14   5:30 p.m.  FCC Board Meeting @ Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
                      (Virtual Meeting)
Apr. 15   5:00 p.m.  Deadline for May Columbus Engineer Newsletter
Apr. 16   11:30 a.m.  **Program:** CANCELLED
May 12    5:30 p.m.  FCC Board Meeting @ Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
May 20    5:00 p.m.  Deadline for June Columbus Engineer Newsletter
May 21    6:30 p.m.  Chapter Officer Installation / Awards Dinner
June 9    5:30 p.m.  FCC Board Meeting @ Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
July (TBA)  FCC Budget Meeting – Location to be announced

Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Address: 250 Old Wilson Bridge Rd - Suite 250, Worthington, OH 43085

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

OSPE-FCC President E-mail & Phone:  ddoherty@cecinc.com  (614) 359-6321
OSPE-FCC WEBSITE:  www.fccospe.org
OSPE WEBSITE:  www.ohioengineer.com
NSPE WEBSITE:  www.nspe.org
To volunteer to help with MATHCOUNTS:  benjamin_brown68@yahoo.com  (614) 519-8978
To volunteer to help with Science Day:  yogesh.rege@terracon.com  (614) 863-3113
To volunteer to help with OSU Student Chapter:  mccarthy.226@osu.edu  (614) 247-1561
To volunteer to help with Imagine Engineering: devon_seal@gspnet.com  (614) 221-0768
FCC Luncheons / Programs: ebriedis@cecinc.com  (614) 468-6222
New Members / Membership Application: www.nspe.org or www.ohioengineer.com  (614) 223-1144

Revised 4/22/2020
DDoherty, DMorrison
# 2019-2020 Officers, Trustees & Committee Chairs

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Prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick


If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have COVID-19, follow the steps below to help protect other people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care.
- **Stay home.** Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and are able to recover at home without medical care. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- **Take care of yourself.** Get rest and stay hydrated.
- **Get medical care when needed.** Call your doctor before you go to their office for care. But, if you have trouble breathing or other concerning symptoms, call 911 for immediate help.
- **Avoid public transportation,** ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home.
- **As much as possible, stay in a specific room** and away from other people and pets in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people or animals in or outside of the home, wear a cloth face covering.
  - See COVID-19 and Animals if you have questions about pets: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#COVID19animals

Monitor your symptoms.
- **Common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever and cough.** Trouble breathing is a more serious symptom that means you should get medical attention.
- **Follow care instructions from your healthcare provider and local health department.** Your local health authorities will give instructions on checking your symptoms and reporting information.

If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 get **medical attention immediately.** Emergency warning signs include*:
- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or not able to be woken
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 if you have a medical emergency. If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the operator that you have or think you might have, COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before medical help arrives.

Call ahead before visiting your doctor.
- **Call ahead.** Many medical visits for routine care are being postponed or done by phone or telemedicine.
- **If you have a medical appointment that cannot be postponed, call your doctor’s office.** This will help the office protect themselves and other patients.

If you are sick, wear a cloth covering over your nose and mouth.
- **You should wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth** if you must be around other people or animals (even at home).
- You don’t need to wear the cloth face covering if you are alone. If you can’t put on a cloth face covering (because of trouble breathing for example), cover your coughs and sneezes in some other way. Try to stay at least 6 feet away from other people. This will help protect the people around you.

**Note:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical grade facemasks are reserved for healthcare workers and some first responders. You may need to make a cloth face covering using a scarf or bandana.

cdc.gov/coronavirus
Cover your coughs and sneezes.

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Throw used tissues** in a lined trash can.
- **Immediately wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean your hands often.

- **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Use hand sanitizer** if soap and water are not available. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- **Soap and water are the best option**, especially if your hands are visibly dirty.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing personal household items.

- **Do not share** dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home.
- **Wash these items thoroughly after using them** with soap and water or put them in the dishwasher.

Clean all “high-touch” surfaces everyday.

- **Clean and disinfect** high-touch surfaces in your “sick room” and bathroom. Let someone else clean and disinfect surfaces in common areas, but not your bedroom and bathroom.
- **If a caregiver or other person needs to clean and disinfect** a sick person’s bedroom or bathroom, they should do so on an as-needed basis. The caregiver/other person should wear a mask and wait as long as possible after the sick person has used the bathroom.

High-touch surfaces include phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.

- **Clean and disinfect areas that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.**

- **Use household cleaners and disinfectants.** Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then use a household disinfectant.
  
  - Be sure to follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Many products recommend keeping the surface wet for several minutes to ensure germs are killed. Many also recommend precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
  
  - Most EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.

How to discontinue home isolation

- **People with COVID-19 who have stayed home (home isolated) can stop home isolation under the following conditions:**
  
  - **If you will not have a test** to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after these three things have happened:
    
    ▪ You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)
    
    AND
    
    ▪ other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath has improved)
    
    AND
    
    ▪ at least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.
  
  - **If you will be tested** to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after these three things have happened:
    
    ▪ You no longer have a fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)
    
    AND
    
    ▪ other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath has improved)
    
    AND
    
    ▪ you received two negative tests in a row, 24 hours apart. Your doctor will follow CDC guidelines.

In all cases, follow the guidance of your healthcare provider and local health department. The decision to stop home isolation should be made in consultation with your healthcare provider and state and local health departments. Local decisions depend on local circumstances.
Stay Safe, Stay Healthy!