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8725 W Higgins Rd, Suite 535
Chicago, IL 60631
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(630) 907-7055

ILLINOIS SECTION AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

12550 S 100th Ave, Palos Park, IL 60464
Phone * (708) 654-4593

E MAIL: illinoissection@isasce.org * WEBSITE: <http://isasce.org>



ILLINOIS SECTION GEO-INSTITUTE & UESI SEPTEMBER 2026 DINNER MEETING

Powering the Future: Engineering Support for Data Centers

PLACE:	HBK • 2101 W. Carroll Ave, Chicago, IL 60612 • (312) 253-1800 (Free parking is located in gravel lot across from the building)	
DATE & TIME:	September 9, 2026 Drinks 5:00 pm, Dinner & Presentation 6:00 pm	
SPEAKERS:	Patrick Houston, P.E. – HBK Engineering Alex Andrew, P.E. – HBK Engineering Angela Magnuson, P.E. – HBK Engineering Matt Bicknell – HBK Engineering	
COST:	\$70 General (Contractor, Consultant with reservation) \$55 Education/Government Employees (with reservation) \$25 Students (with reservation) (if paying with check, make checks payable to ASCE IL Geo-Institute)	
ONLINE REGISTRATION:	Registration Link (1.0 PDH will be provided to all attendees)	
CONTACT:	Institute	asceilgeotech@gmail.com
	Ryan Cummings	ryan.cummings@nicholsonconstruction.com
	Rachel Kizer	rkizer@menardusa.com
	Rahul Yadav	rahul.yadav@terracon.com

Abstract

Join us as we explore the geotechnical, civil, and electrical engineering solutions that form the foundation of today's data center infrastructure. This presentation will highlight how our teams support the design and construction of temporary earth retention systems (ERS), reinforced concrete structures, site infrastructure, and electrical facilities that enable the rapid deployment and reliable operation of mission-critical, power-intensive data centers serving the growing digital economy.

About the Speaker



Patrick Houston, P.E. is a Senior Licensed Professional Engineer with HBK Engineering, based in the Philadelphia office. With more than a decade of geotechnical engineering experience, he specializes in geotechnical field explorations, engineering analysis, reporting, and earth retention system design. Patrick holds M.S. in Civil (Geotechnical) Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Delaware. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Illinois and has supported a wide range of private commercial development and infrastructure projects throughout his career.



Alex Andrew, P.E. is a Licensed Professional Engineer with HBK Engineering specializing in structural engineering for utility and data center infrastructure projects. Since joining HBK in 2017, he has supported the design of earth retention systems, reinforced concrete structures, and utility support facilities for clients including BP, Chase, CTA, and Union Station. Since 2022, Alex has focused on supporting large-scale data center developments, helping deliver schedule-driven infrastructure projects. He earned both his B.S. in Civil Engineering and M.S. in Structural Engineering from Wayne State University and obtained his Professional Engineer license in 2026. Outside of work, Alex enjoys

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spending time with his wife Ann and their friends and family. Alex and Ann are newly parents to a 2-month-old daughter, Ruth.



Angela Magnuson, P.E. is a Senior Project Engineer at HBK Engineering here in Chicago, where she serves as a technical lead across utility infrastructure projects, with recent work focused on ComEd transmission and high-voltage distribution underground design. Over her career, she has worked across transmission and distribution engineering for power providers nationwide. She holds Professional Engineer licenses in Illinois, Wisconsin, Louisiana, and other states. Angie earned her B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and, outside of her project work, serves as a board member of STRIVE, HBK's women's employee resource group.



Matthew Bicknell is a Senior Engineering Specialist at HBK Engineering here in Oak Brook, Illinois. Since joining the team in 2017, he has worked on a variety of ComEd programs, including but not limited to energizing small and large new-business customers, addressing capacity issues, reducing outage durations, developing ComEd standards, and improving overall infrastructure quality. Since 2020, he has been involved in data center projects throughout ComEd's service territory. In this role, he not only develops and reviews electrical plans but also serves as a project engineer, helping ensure projects progress smoothly from conception through construction. He also serves as a board member of Empower, HBK's LGBTQ+ led employee resource group

HBK Engineering 2101 W. Carroll Ave. Parking Map

