



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

# Last Word

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NAMED BEST WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER BY ASSOCIATION TRENDS

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### Sen. Dodd Floats Water, Road Legislation

### U.S. Infrastructure Stocks Rise After Bridge Collapse

### Energy Bill Aids Expansion Plans of Atomic Power

### Secretary Peters Asks Inspector General to Review the National Bridge Inspection Program

### GM Plant Construction Starts in 3-D

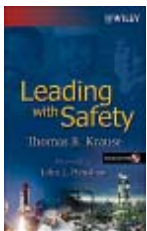
### GSA Takes Alternative Route to Funding, Asks for Help

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## ACEC PUBLICATIONS

### Safety Books Available At The ACEC Bookstore



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*Thomas R. Krause*

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*Roger L. Brauer*

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## Bridge Collapse Prompts Shift In Infrastructure Funding Debate

Now a symbol of the nation's crumbling infrastructure, the Minneapolis bridge disaster is prompting renewed pledges to address infrastructure needs.

Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-MN), the chairman of the powerful House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee promised increased funding: "When the next highway bill comes up in 2009, Congress won't settle for a 'bargain basement' measure," Oberstar said.

In 2005, SAFETEA LU was passed two years late and almost \$90 billion short of the \$375 billion that the Department of Transportation said was needed.

Rep. Don Young (R-AK) the former House Transportation Committee chairman, said there are 500 bridges around the country similar to the Minneapolis span, and "these are potential deathtraps. "We have to, as a Congress, grasp this problem. And yes, I would even suggest, fund this problem with a tax," he said. "May the sky not fall on me."



ACEC President Dave Raymond says we "can't compete in the 21st century with mid-20th century systems."

CDM Executive Vice President Bill Howard, a former ACEC chairman, notes that the bridge collapse is also indicative of subsurface infrastructure needs. "Our infrastructure under the ground—our water and utility systems—are in just as sore need of repair and replacement as our above-ground infrastructure," Howard said.

ACEC members have been active as spokespersons for media inquiries following the bridge collapse. HNTB Federal Systems Chairman General Barry McCaffrey, appeared on MSNBC citing the deplorable state of America's infrastructure. Even in the week before the collapse, ACEC President Dave Raymond's comments on America's growing lack of competitiveness due to infrastructure shortcomings were carried on WTOP radio in Washington, D.C.

In a joint statement, ACEC Chairman Mac MacMurray and Raymond called the bridge collapse a "tragic wake-up call" to focus on the nation's aging infrastructure both above and below ground.

"The tragic events in Minneapolis should remind us that the loss of human life is too high a price to pay for deteriorating and over-stressed systems," the statement read. To read the entire statement [click here](#).



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## Double Your Savings With ACEC's Job Board and *Engineering Inc.*

Are you ready to hire new employees, but don't know where to start? ACEC's Job Board combined with *Engineering Inc.* is the best first step.

The November/December issue of *Engineering Inc.* will tackle different aspects of recruitment and retention in the engineering industry. This issue is an excellent opportunity to highlight your firm in both *Engineering Inc.* and on the Job Board. Any firm that places an ad in the magazine will receive a discount on their print ad, and a special promo code to receive a 25 percent discount on Job Board postings—this equals double savings!

The [ACEC Job Board](#), your source for new employees. For more information, please contact Nina Goldman at 202-682-4325 or write [ngoldman@acec.org](mailto:ngoldman@acec.org).

### ACEC JOB BOARD

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#### Last Five "Help Wanted" Open Positions:

**Marine Structural Engineer**—Sarasota, FL

**Staff Geotechnical Engineer**—Northern New Jersey

**Transportation Engineer**—Hudson Valley, NY

**Senior Waterfront Engineer**—Madison, WI

**Director of Engineering**—Denver, CO

#### A Sampling of Posted Resumes:

Geotechnical Engineers—**401**

Water Resources/Wastewater Engineers—**815**

Civil Engineers—**1,809**

Structural Engineers—**667**

Environmental Engineers—**478**

**View These Resumes and Jobs  
on ACEC's Job Board**

<http://www.acec.org/jobbank>

## ACEC/PAC Support Growing in 2007

Support for ACEC/PAC is up in 2007 as more ACEC members are realizing the value of the Council's political program.

To date, ACEC/PAC has raised \$303,547, compared to \$258,385 at this point in 2006. ACEC has also hosted a number of engineering industry events in Washington this year to support key industry leaders in Congress.

"While the political winds in Washington shift from time to time, the one constant is the need for a very robust and aggressive political program," said ACEC President Dave Raymond. "The continued growth of ACEC/PAC is a good indication that our members understand this fact and are willing to step up."

[Click here](#) to view a list of ACEC/PAC donors from each state. To learn more about ACEC/PAC, contact Steve Hall, vice president for Government Affairs, at 202-347-7474 or [shall@acec.org](mailto:shall@acec.org).

## Congress Approves America COMPETES Act To Expand Math And Science Education

The House and Senate approved ACEC-backed legislation that authorizes more federal funding to support math, science and engineering education programs critical to addressing the engineering shortage.

The America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education and Science Act (America COMPETES Act) was signed into law by President Bush on Thursday.

ACEC members lobbied extensively in May during the Annual Convention in support of additional funding for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education programs.

"It's critical that we get more young people into the pipeline to pursue engineering careers," said Rod Hoffman of HDR in Colorado. "Inspiring them at an early age is the key to success, which means more programs geared towards the math and science building blocks necessary to educate future engineers, scientists and architects."

The America COMPETES Act is based on the recommendations of the 2005 National Academy of Sciences' report "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." That report found that significant numbers of K-12 math and science teachers do not have a degree or certification in those fields.

In response to these concerns, the legislation authorizes a total of \$33.6 billion for federal STEM education programs during fiscal years 2008 through 2010. It also authorizes several grant programs to help educate math and science teachers.

## ACEC Special Interest Forums—Time Well Spent For Financial And IT Professionals

ACEC's forums continue to grow in popularity, as unique opportunities for education, idea and experience sharing, and invaluable peer networking.

Fall 2007 dates and locations are set for ***Information Technology Forum*** and ***Finance Forum***, both taking place September 10-11, Chicago. ***Early bird registration prices for these two events have been extended through Friday, August 17.***

The 1-1/2-day agenda for *IT Forum* attendees consists of a range of key discussion topics including Storage Strategy, Business Continuity, Hardware Deployment Cycles, Terminal Server/Citrix Server, Remote Office Connectivity, Business Applications Support, CAD & Engineering Application Support, Multiple Office Strategy, and IT Attitude.

*A/E/C Financial Forum* participants will examine and exchange information on a number of issues including Key Performance Indicators, Ownership Transition/ESOP/Buy-Sell, Federal Agency Regulations (FAR), Strategic Planning, Acquisition and Integration and Sales Tax.

## Organizational Peer Review Summer Special: Save \$250 Now!

Dog days of summer got everyone down? Maybe it's more than just the weather. Schedule an ACEC Organizational Peer Review (OPR) by August 31 at a special savings (we'll waive the usual registration fee), and get ready for a breath of fresh air!



As countless peer-reviewed firms have told us, this unique, unbiased outside-in look at your company's business practices by a team of experienced peer reviewers will prove rejuvenating and refreshing—for years of summers to come. Peer review is an affordable, positive and effective way to facilitate positive change within your firm; over 1,100 reviewed firms give OPR a 99 percent approval rating.

## Fall Conference Registration Reaching New Heights; Additional Maui Resort Added

Strong registration numbers for the upcoming Fall Conference in Maui (September 26-29) has prompted the need for an additional hotel to accommodate members and guests.

The primary Conference Hotel—The Grand Wailea—is sold out and limited availability remains at the Fairmont Kea Lani. The Maui Prince Hotel—another fabulous resort—has been added as additional overflow accommodations and is located just a five-minute shuttle ride from the primary Conference site.

Billed as the *National Conference on the Built Environment*, the Conference features an exceptional lineup of education sessions moderated by owners and practitioners. The Conference also offers outstanding guest speakers including Wally “Famous” Amos, the father of the gourmet chocolate chip cookie industry; David Billington, one of the world's most distinguished structural engineers; and Gary Wendt, a creative and path-breaking engineer who revolutionized the financial services industry.

Other Conference highlights include an expanded trade show and a full complement of networking and social activities.

Organizations co-sponsoring the Fall Conference are: the American Public Works Association (APWA), American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Council of American Mechanical and Electrical Engineers (CAMEE), Council of Professional Surveyors (COPS), National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), National Association of State Facilities Administrators (NASFA) and the Council of American Structural Engineers (CASE), which is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a special convocation at the Conference.

For more information and to register, [click here](#). Early Bird registration discount ends on August 25.



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Save the \$250 registration fee when you register by August 31, and schedule your review over the next 12 months. For more information, e-mail [skaska@acec.org](mailto:skaska@acec.org) or [click here](#) for more information.

## **August Online Seminars Look Into *Risk Management, Design and Delivery, and Sustainable Engineering Practice***

ACEC's popular online seminars are focused 1-1/2-hour learning sessions presented by experienced professionals and delivered in real time through Internet access and telephone audio. Kicking off the fall calendar, late summer sessions cover a variety of topics and interests:

**August 15: *Risk Management Considerations for Green Buildings***—Tim Corbett, A/E SmartRisk, discusses managing the potential risks and liabilities inherent in green building design.

[Click here](#) to register.

**August 21: *Design and Delivery: Using Technology for Better Teamwork***—Diane Li, Autodesk, offers insights into processes for more effectively sharing design, engineering, and construction data.

[Click here](#) to register.

**August 29: *The Business Case for Sustainable Engineering Practice***—Bill Wallace, Wallace Futures Group LLC, explores sustainable engineering and its growing economic feasibility for innovative companies.

[Click here](#) to register.