



Last Word

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NAMED BEST WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER BY ASSOCIATION TRENDS

ACEC NEWSLINE

Energy

Department of Energy Releases \$100 Million for Innovative Research Projects

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced at the inaugural ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit that \$100 million...[click here](#) for more.

Turning Office Windows into Solar Power Generators

The Center for Architecture Science and Ecology (CASE) wants to create technology that enables office windows to...[click here](#) for more.

ACEC Seminar Provides Insider Details on \$3 Billion in Department of Energy Grants

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided nearly \$3 billion...[click here](#) for more.

Buildings/Land

State Budget Deficits Threaten Public Construction

State law requires budgets to be balanced, so the current deficits will have to be eliminated through tax increases...[click here](#) for more.

Engineers Strive To Design an Earthquake-Proof Building

Collapsing buildings are the most dangerous part of earthquakes. The technology exists to engineer and build...[click here](#) for more.

Water

Indianapolis Eyes Privatization of Water/Sewer Systems

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard is hoping to use public-private partnerships to raise revenues for city projects...[click here](#) for more.

Acoustic Leak Detectors Can Cut Water Loss in Pipelines by Half

Roughly 7 billion gallons of treated drinking water is

Eight Firms Vie For Engineering's Top Honor at EEA Gala at Convention

Now that the Oscars are over, the spotlight turns to the "Academy Awards of the engineering industry"—the upcoming Engineering Excellence Awards at the ACEC Annual Convention in Washington, D.C. on April 27.

The annual black-tie EEA Gala will celebrate 163 engineering projects by Member Firms. Emmy Award-winner Ross Shafer will serve as the Master of Ceremonies.

Vying for the Grand Conceptor Award—the highest honor—will be eight Member Firms: **Walter P Moore** for Cowboys Stadium, Arlington, Texas; **Hatch Mott MacDonald/Jacobs Joint Venture**, Central Link Section 710, Beacon Hill Station and Tunnels, Seattle, Wash.; **Magnusson Klemencic Associates**, Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre, Dallas, Texas; **HNTB Corp.**, Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, Omaha, Neb.; **Brown and Caldwell**, Littleton/Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant, Englewood, Colo.; **Hatch Mott MacDonald**, Sea-To-Sky Highway Improvement, Horseshoe Bay to Whistler, British Columbia; **Michael Baker Jr., Inc.**, TMI Steam Generator Transport Project, Middletown, Pa.; **HDR Engineering Inc.**, Gills Onions Advanced Energy Recovery System, Oxnard, Calif.

Convention registrants must have a ticket to attend the EEA Gala. For more information about the EEA Gala and the rest of the ACEC 2010 Annual Convention, [click here](#).

Senate Approves Tax Bill to Promote Jobs; Would Extend R&D Tax Credit

The Senate cleared a jobs bill this week that extends several key tax provisions of interest to the engineering industry, including the R&D tax credit and the expensing of brownfields remediation costs.

Although these provisions expired at the end of 2009, under the legislation they would be extended for the entire 2010 tax year. Engineering firms continue to use the R&D tax credit as an incentive to expand their research and experimentation activities. Only R&D jobs located in the U.S. are eligible for the credit.

Among the bill's other provisions is an extension of unemployment benefits and the COBRA subsidy through the end of 2010.

The House approved similar legislation in December as part of a much larger jobs bill that also included significant new investments for infrastructure. The Senate is expected to take up additional jobs bills in the coming weeks to assist small businesses and to follow the House's lead on new infrastructure spending.

wasted per day mainly on account of leaks in pipelines throughout...[click here](#) for more.

Transportation

Administration Announces Nearly 200 ARRA Transit Projects in 42 States

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood have announced more...[click here](#) for more.

Obama Administration Looking to Speed Up Transportation Funding

President Barack Obama's administration is changing how it awards funds for transportation projects in an effort...[click here](#) for more.

[Click here](#) for more News Briefs.

[Click here](#) for a printer-friendly *Last Word*.

Find Key Services in ACEC Supplier's Directory

ACEC's enhanced Supplier's Directory is now online, providing access to companies offering the products and services Member Firms need to meet their operational goals.

To bookmark the Supplier's Directory and use it as an ACEC "yellow pages," [click here](#).

Learn how your company can appear in the ACEC Supplier's Directory by contacting Nina Goldman at ngoldman@acec.org or 202-682-4325.

ACEC PUBLICATIONS

Effective Financial Management from the ACEC Bookstore

IT Best Practices for Financial Managers

Janice M. Roehl-Anderson

A comprehensive guide CFOs and controllers will rely on to radically improve organizational productivity, increase revenue, and decrease spending, *IT Best Practices for Financial Managers* defines clear action plans for the specific phases of IT implementation, including scoping, planning, designing, building, testing, and deploying, and looks at the roles and responsibilities of the CFO to enhance security, controls and privacy.

To order, [click here](#).



ACEC continues to urge the Senate to act on an infrastructure-based jobs bill, and to build into the package sufficient flexibility for the states to engineer and construct bigger and more long-term infrastructure improvements.

Reserve Convention Hotel Rooms Now; ACEC Discount Ends March 19

ACEC's reserved room block for the upcoming ACEC 2010 Annual Convention and Legislative Summit is filling up fast. Convention attendees must reserve their rooms at the Grand Hyatt Hotel by March 19 in order to take advantage of the ACEC discount, which provides substantial savings off the normal rate.

All of the Convention activities will be in the Grand Hyatt. Whether you have early morning meetings or late evening networking, the Grand Hyatt is your best hotel choice during the Convention.

Washington, D.C. is a popular destination in the spring and the Grand Hyatt Hotel is located in the center of most of the top attractions. Don't delay. Reserve your room today by calling the Grand Hyatt Hotel at 202-582-1234 and referencing ACEC.

ACEC Promotes Key Water/Wastewater Legislation Up for Reauthorization



Jordan Dorfman, (left) of the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Wastewater Management, briefed the ACEC Environment and Energy Committee on the implementation of Recovery Act funding to the states for distribution to local governments.

House and Senate staffers emphasized the importance of passing legislation this year to reauthorize and expand the State Revolving Funds (SRFs) for wastewater and drinking water projects at a recent meeting of ACEC's Environment and Energy Committee.

The House-passed bill (H.R. 1262) authorizes nearly \$14 billion over 5 years for wastewater, and requires that QBS be utilized to select engineering firms. The Senate bill (S. 1005), which totals nearly \$35 billion for both wastewater and drinking water, awaits floor action.

The committee also received a briefing on upcoming energy and climate change legislation from Deborah Estes, counsel to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

"We learned some important lessons in focusing our federal advocacy on specific issues that are likely to result in significant business opportunities for our firms," said Committee Chairman Mike Cline, with Hannum, Wagle & Cline.

The Strategic Treasurer

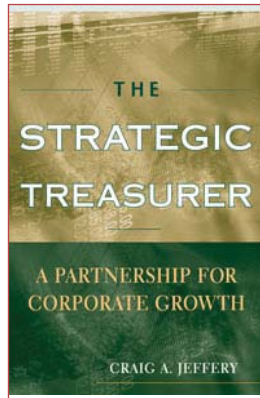
A Partnership for Corporate Growth

Craig A. Jeffery

An important reference, *The Strategic Treasurer: A Partnership for Corporate Growth* systematically equips today's corporate treasurers to move from merely being the liquidity manager to becoming a strategic driver and steward of corporate value, as well as an equal partner with senior management.

To order, [click here](#).

To see more great products available through the ACEC Bookstore, [click here](#).



For more information or to join the Environment and Energy Committee, contact Diane Shea, director of environmental & energy programs at 202-347-7474 or dshea@acec.org.



ACEC Director of Environmental and Energy Programs Diane Shea (third-from-right) recently briefed more than 50 members of ACEC/Massachusetts about water infrastructure funding. Pictured from left: ACEC/MA Program Committee Member Marina Pereira (CDM); Joe Delaney, Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection; Charlie But-ton, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Shea; ACEC/MA President David Young (CDM); and Ron Koontz, USDA.

ACEC JOB BOARD

Nab March Savings on the ACEC Job Board

Get lucky this month in your search for new engineering talent with the [ACEC Job Board](#). Your firm should be using the most comprehensive job board serving the engineering industry for all your hiring needs. To make this pot of gold even better, save 15 percent on 30- and 60-day postings by using the promo code LUCKY2010 when you check out.

Why should you use ACEC's Job Board?

Member Firms receive discounted rates and we are a member of the [Engineering & Science Career Network](#), so your job posting appears on 37 industry job sites, at no additional charge. Your firm will have exposure to thousands more job seekers and access to our resume database with more than 17,000 searchable candidate resumes.

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

Sign Up Now For ACEC's 2010-2011 National Committees

ACEC members are encouraged to sign up for service on ACEC National committees. Participation on ACEC committees brings vitality to the Council and ensures that the issues and interests of members are brought into Council operations and public policy.

ACEC committee membership is open to all employees of ACEC Member Firms. The deadline for submissions to appointed committees is March 19.

Most of ACEC's committees are "open" (i.e., sign up and you're on!). A few require appointment by the incoming ACEC chairman, and the terms of appointed committee members begin during the 2010 Annual Convention, April 25-28. If you are interested in one of the committees, click on the link below.

Open Committees

Contract Documents Committee

Environment & Energy Committee

Federal Agencies & Procurement Advocacy Committee

Institute for Business Management Committee

International Committee

Management Practices Committee

Membership Committee

Public Relations Committee

Risk Management Committee

Tax and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Transportation Committee

Appointed Committees

Engineering Excellence Awards Committee

Planning Cabinet

Bylaws & Procedures Committee

Tellers Committee

ACEC JOB BOARD

Over 550 Searchable
Jobs Posted

Over 17,400 Searchable
Resumes Posted

Over 2,100 Registered
Employers

Last Five "Help Wanted"
Open Positions:

Civil Engineer II—Bismarck, ND

Group Leader/Civil Site PE—Atlanta, GA

Texas Water Program Leader—
Fort Worth, TX

Assistant Engineer—Lawndale, CA

Facilities Service Area Manager—
Alexandria, VA

Military Project Manager—Orange County, CA

A Sampling of Posted Resumes:

Geotechnical Engineers—1,560

Water Resources/Wastewater

Engineers—1,874

Transportation—1,562

Civil Engineers—2,455

Structural Engineers—1,691

Environmental Engineers—1,597

View These Resumes and Jobs
on ACEC's Job Board

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

ACEC EDUCATION

Stay Competitive, Get Bottom-Line Topics Online

Whether it's an update on the multi-functional expertise you need to manage your business more successfully, first-hand reports on the newest technology tools, market insights from key government insiders, or necessary know-how to tap the bottom-line potential of new markets, ACEC's Institute for Business Management is your best resource.

Here's a look at upcoming topics:

[Click here](#) to view the committees. Click on committees of interest to see their goals and rosters. If you are interested in joining one or more of the committees, click on the link at the bottom of that page.

If you are already an open committee member, it will be assumed that you wish to continue unless you tell us otherwise.

Questions about the committee appointment process? Contact Mary Ann Emely, ACEC vice president of operations & membership at memely@acec.org, or 202-682-4300.

Promote Your EEA Achievements in *Engineering Inc.* Magazine

Maximize the benefits of winning or being a finalist in this year's Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) by promoting your firm's success with an ad in the May/June issue of *Engineering Inc.*

The EEA are the biggest, most well-known awards in the engineering industry. An *Engineering Inc.* ad featuring your EEA project will highlight your firm's innovation and quality and expand your business opportunities with both clients and potential partners.

With the annual EEA competition the primary focus, the May/June *Engineering Inc.* is the most popular issue of the year and has the highest pass-along rate.

As a special incentive, EEA winners and finalists can save 15 percent on ad space in the May/June issue of *Engineering Inc.* Additionally, you can highlight your ad with a special winner seal to recognize your achievement.

For more information and to place an ad, contact Nina Goldman at 202-347-7474 or ngoldman@acec.org.

INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Catch 'Red Flags,' Hone Negotiating Skills and Get Best-Possible Deals

Closing the Deal With A/E/C Contracts: Recognize Pitfalls, Negotiate Winners

May 20-21, San Francisco

Identify and demystify "red-flag contract provisions," acquire the skills and principles of toe-to-toe negotiating to maintain professional standards and protect your business. Learn the differences between custom contracts and model contracts, the pitfalls, and how to negotiate win-win agreements.

Closing the Deal With A/E/C Contracts: Recognize Pitfalls, Negotiate Winners is an in-depth course designed to meet the contract needs of engineers, architects, contractors, project managers, contracting officers, specifiers, and those responsible for procuring construction or design services.



March

16—**[Recommended Practices for Engineering Expert Witnesses](#)** by Gary S. Brierley, Brierley Associates, LLC

18—**[DOE Energy Efficiency Block Grant Funding: Market Opportunities in a \\$3 Billion Program](#)** by Mark Johnson, U.S. Department of Energy

23—**[Understanding the Economic Loss Doctrine, Las Vegas and Beyond](#)** by Richard Nakamura and Nick Wieczorek, Morris, Polich & Purdy LLP

24—**[Limitation of Liability Clauses in Design Professional Agreements: A 2010 Update](#)** by Beth Andrus, Skellenger Bender, P.S.

April

6—**[Writing the 'Perfect' Cumulative Impact Analysis](#)** by Owen Schmidt, Consultant

7—**[Floodplain Risk Mapping—Nationwide Changes Since Katrina](#)** by Josh Smith, FEMA and Michael Buckley, Dewberry

15—**[Greenhouse Gas Reporting: How to Ensure Compliance With The New EPA Rule](#)** by Mark vanSoestbergen, International Carbon Bank and Exchange

May

12—**[Fundamentals of Implementing the Integrated Project Delivery Process](#)** by Kenneth W. Cobleigh and Markku Allison, American Institute of Architects

18—**[Developing Future Leaders: Best Practices and Lessons Learned for Growing 20-35-year-olds in Leaner Times](#)** by Mike Baker, David Evans and Associates, Inc.; Geordie Aitken, Aitken Leadership Group

25—**[Commissioning: A Market Growing in Size, Impact and Professionalism](#)** by Michael King, AR-COM; Earle Kennett, NIBS; Patrick Prendergast, GBA/ViroCon Inc.

Presented by a faculty of experts with years of industry experience, the course will update attendees' knowledge in critical contract areas including:

- Controversial contract provisions, from every angle
- The elements of good negotiating and errors to avoid
- The latest revisions to the most-used contracts
- Recent court rulings involving construction contracts
- Protecting the bottom-line: how profits can be won or lost in negotiations

To view the course brochure, faculty bios and agenda, [click here](#).

For details and to register, [click here](#).

SEI Unequaled for 'Skills and Insights to Prosper,' Registration Open

Since its inception, ACEC's prestigious Senior Executives Institute (SEI) has attracted public and private sector engineers and architects from firms of all sizes, locations, and practice specialties.

SEI is the right choice at the right time for those who are drawn to a highly interactive, energetic, exploratory and challenging learning opportunity.

In the course of five separate five-day sessions over an 18-month timeframe, participants acquire new tools and high-level skills and insights to prosper in our changed—and challenging—A/E/C business environment.

As always, course size is limited, and registrations for Class 16, starting in September 2010, are now being accepted. Executives with at least five years' experience managing professional design programs or business are invited to register for this unique leadership building Institute.

For an overview of SEI and to register, [click here](#).

To browse the SEI brochure, [click here](#).

To inquire further, contact Deirdre McKenna at 202-682-4328.

The Expert Witness and 'Standard of Care' Cases

Recommended Practices for Engineering Expert Witnesses

March 16, 1:30-3 p.m.

What does it mean to be an "expert witness" in lawsuits involving the standard of care for civil engineering projects? Gary S. Brierley, Brierley Associates, LLC, discusses some key topics including ethical considerations, qualified requirements, work products, objectivity vs. advocacy, how to prepare an expert report and how to prepare for a deposition.

For details and to register, [click here](#).

Download AASHTO Audit Guide Online Seminars

ACEC's popular series of online seminars detailing the new AASHTO *Uniform Audit and Accounting Guide* are now available for purchase and download on-demand through the ACEC Bookstore.

To order, click on the seminar title of interest:

- [*New State DOT Compensation and Audit Rules That Will Affect Your Bottom Line*](#)
- [*New Rules on Allowable and Reasonable Compensation*](#)
- [*FAR Compliance in a Time of Increased Government Oversight*](#)
- [*New Guidance for Successful Overhead Audits*](#)

\$3 Billion DOE Grants: Get All of the Insider Details

DOE Energy Efficiency Block Grant Funding: Market Opportunities in a \$3 Billion Program

March 18, 1:30-3 p.m.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided nearly \$3 billion for the Department of Energy's new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. The program provides grants to eligible cities and counties for a wide variety of projects to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, and for improvements in energy efficiency.

DOE has already awarded more than 1,700 EECBG grants—ranging from energy efficiency and conservation plans to energy audits and conservation-oriented transportation programs—and many more are in the pipeline. This online seminar will help you position your firm to take advantage of this expanding sector.

Mark Johnson, EECBG lead for the Department of Energy, presents an inside look at the program in a timely online seminar that outlines details of how a community applies for funding, what type of projects are eligible, reporting requirements, and other critical information.

To register, [click here](#).

Economic Loss Doctrine Varies from State to State; Learn the Differences

Understanding the Economic Loss Doctrine, Las Vegas and Beyond

March 23, 1:30-3 p.m.

The Economic Loss Doctrine continues to evolve from its simple beginnings to a nuanced doctrine that varies from state to state. For design professionals—particularly those practicing across state lines—understanding this complexity is a key component of effective risk management.

Join Richard H. Nakamura and Nick Wieczorek of Morris, Polich & Purdy LLP, for a talk-through of key developments since 2009, with an emphasis on how courts in different jurisdictions apply the Economic Loss Doctrine in legal disputes involving design professionals.

For details and to register, [click here](#).

All Limitation of Liability Clauses are 'Not Created Equal'

Update on Limitation of Liability Clauses in Design Professional Agreements

March 24, 1:30-3 p.m.

Which form contracts provide the best liability protection and which may need to be modified to add appropriate risk allocation language? While many standard agreements contain Limitation of Liability clauses, some do not.

Beth M. Andrus of Skellenger Bender, P.S., discusses and updates the 2010 Limitation of Liability (LOL) legal landscape, including recent case decisions regarding enforceability as courts nationwide have evaluated their validity. This timely seminar will explore different approaches in drafting “the best” limitation of liability clauses.

For details and to register, [click here](#).

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