



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: John Carney
202-347-7474
202-682-4310(direct)
jcarney@acec.org

Media Release

May 2, 2002

ACEC Backs GAO Panel Report

Washington, DC--- The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) strongly urges adoption of the recommendations of the congressionally mandated Commercial Activities Panel promoting the use of “best value” when outsourcing government services. The panel’s recommendations emphasize procurement decisions that are based on quality rather than the cheapest bid, a principle that ACEC has advocated for many years.

“In selecting engineering services the government is wise to use a value-based selection criteria, over one weighted more heavily toward price,” said ACEC Chairman Stephen G. Goddard. “Under current regulations engineering and related services are treated as a simple commodity, meaning they may be procured on low cost, not on technical competency.”

“ACEC has long advocated for a resolution of the conflict between Federal law (the Brooks Act) and OMB Circular A-76,” says ACEC Procurement Committee Chairman Win Westfall. “We are optimistic that this conflict can be resolved under the commercial activities panel’s plan.”

ACEC encourages The Office of Management and Budget to exercise its authority to implement the panel’s recommendations for all Federal agencies except the Department of Defense. It is likely that both the Senate and House Armed Services Committees will hold hearings on the panel’s recommendations.

###

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business association of America’s engineering industry, representing about 6,000 independent engineering companies throughout the United States engaged in the development of America’s transportation, environmental, industrial, and other infrastructure. Founded in 1910 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and regional organizations