

SPHERE, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA SEVERUD ASSOCIATES CONSULTING ENGINEERS, PC GRAND AWARD





## THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE\*

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business voice of America's engineering industry. We represent nearly 5,500 member firms employing more than 500,000 engineers, architects, land surveyors, and other highly trained specialists and licensed professionals who design and improve our world.

ACEC is a federation consisting of 51 state and regional Member Organizations, advocating for policies at the federal, state, and local level that promote economic growth and improve the quality of life for every American.



The engineering and design industry directly employs 1.6 million workers plus another 4 million upstream and downstream workers.



Every \$1.00 produced by engineering and design industry activity results in \$1.50 added to the U.S. GDP.



In 2023, the engineering and design industry added \$656 billion to the U.S. GDP, a 4.7% increase over 2022.



Over that same time, the industry generated a total of \$91.8 billion in federal tax receipts and an additional \$43.5 billion in state and local receipts.



In 2023, the engineering and design industry's direct economic contribution increased 4.7% over the previous year, totaling \$251 billion.

\*"Economic Assessment of the Engineering and Design Services Industry 2024," the ACEC Research Institute.

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## FROM OUR CEO AND VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

At the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), when we say we embody the heartbeat of America's engineering industry, we mean every word.

ACEC proudly represents more than 5,500 member firms employing over 500,000 professionals — ranging from small, family-owned businesses to global engineering powerhouses. Our firms design and build the infrastructure that supports everyday life: from vital public works that strengthen our nation's transportation and water systems to the iconic skyscrapers that shape our urban skylines.

Our companies in many ways define an "America First" agenda, where American engineering firms are using cutting edge technologies to drive economic growth and create jobs here at home.

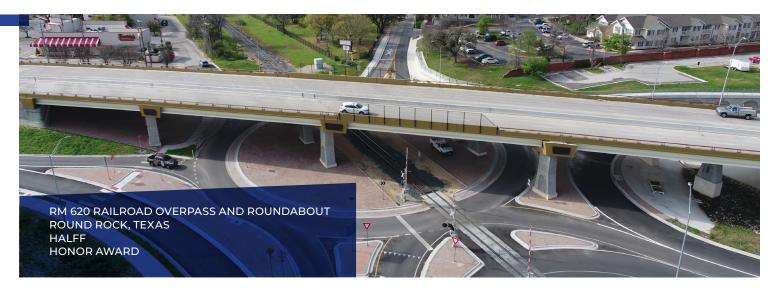
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ACEC member firms design and deliver core transportation and water infrastructure, support projects across the energy economy, support federal agency national security and diplomatic missions, as well as commercial developers, home builders, and other private sector markets.

Innovation is at the core of everything our industry does improving commerce and efficiency, protecting the health and safety of the public, and designing resiliency into the built environment. At its highest level, engineering sustains, strengthens, and propels the world around us.

It is our privilege to lead ACEC and work alongside our 51 affiliated State Member Organizations to advocate for policies that strengthen and protect the engineering industry. Together, we champion an agenda designed to help transform America into a 21st-century economic powerhouse.





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Our key priorities include:

- Securing long-term and growing infrastructure funding to **bolster economic competitiveness.**
- Implementing tax policies that incentivize innovation.
- Enacting regulations that prioritize resilient design techniques, capable of withstanding the escalating challenges posed by severe weather events.
- Establishing a **workforce agenda to grow the talent pipeline**, including STEM education and immigration policies that attract and retain top talent.
- Enhancing contracting and procurement policies that emphasize private sector innovation to prioritize project success and efficiency through Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) and innovative project delivery systems.

ACEC's agenda is not just about advancing the engineering industry; it's about **nurturing America's quality of life, fostering economic growth, and ensuring our nation's long-term prosperity**. A robust engineering sector is the cornerstone of a resilient and prosperous America.

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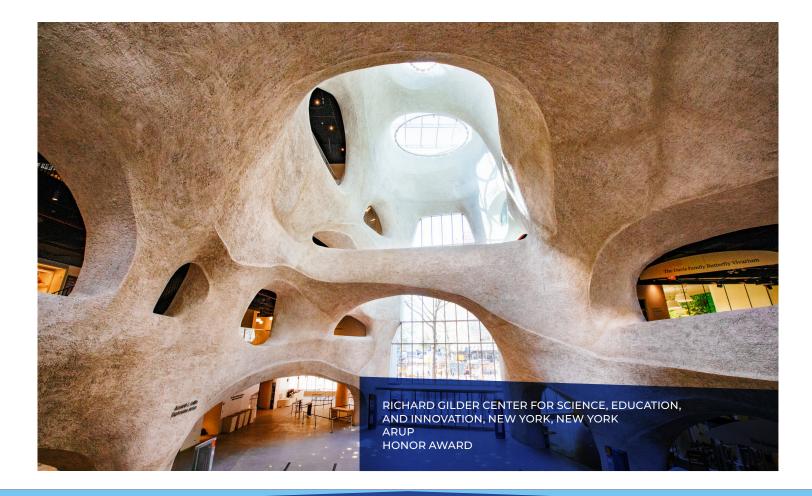
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## ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) expires in September 2026, and Congress should take steps to reauthorize and reform federal surface transportation infrastructure programs. These critical federal investments facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods, improve safety, and advance new economic development opportunities for our communities.

As part of a national infrastructure strategy, ACEC advocates for:



Sustaining long-term investment levels for highway and bridge, transit, and rail programs.



Raising revenues to restore solvency to the Highway Trust Fund and continuing to develop alternative funding mechanisms such as mileage-based user fees.



Boosting annual Airport Improvement Program funding and lifting the cap on Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs).



Incentivizing private investment through tax credits, and federal loans and loan guarantees such as TIFIA, WIFIA, RRIF, and Private Activity Bonds.





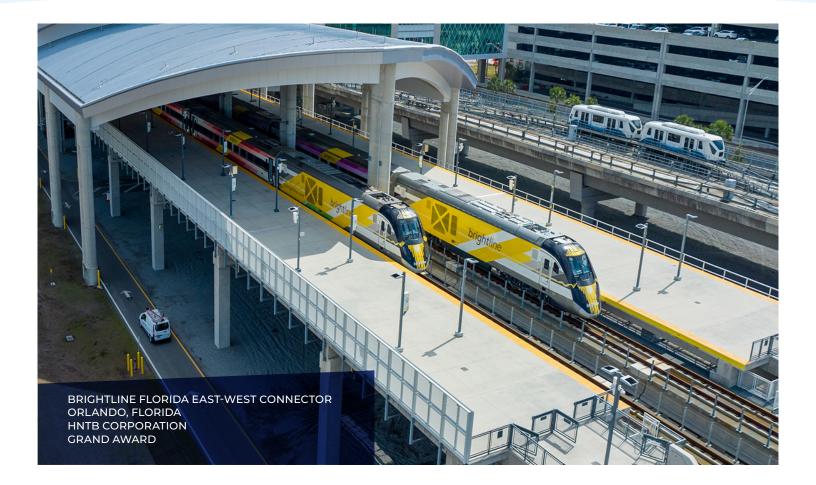
Modernizing regulations for efficient project delivery while protecting the environment and the public interest.



Procurement and contracting policies that incentivize innovation and deployment of new and emerging technologies.



Reasonable Buy America policies to strengthen the domestic manufacturing base while accommodating the acquisition of essential materials not currently available in the U.S.



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## SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

America's engineering industry confronts the challenges of climate change daily, working with public and private sector clients to reduce their carbon footprint and adapt to the effects of sea level rise and extreme weather events. Engineering firms are designing innovative solutions to increase efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance the resilience and sustainability of the nation's critical infrastructure and other structures from natural and man-made disasters.

Consistent with the industry's role, ACEC supports policies at the federal and state level to mitigate risk and encourage resiliency and sustainability:

- Retention of the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction.
- The continued extension of production tax credits and other incentives to support the development of wind, solar, and other clean energy sources.
- Create tax incentives for rebuilding to resilient standards after natural disasters.
- Public and private insurance programs, as well as initiatives and funding to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure against extreme weather events.
- Risk-based adaption and resilience strategies and policies to prioritize vulnerable critical infrastructure across jurisdictional boundaries to address geographic climate risks, such as flooding in riverine and coastal waters.



## INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS

ACEC members are designing the future, and innovation is at the heart of the services America's engineering industry provides to their clients. Looking ahead to the tax policy debate that Congress will undertake in 2025, ACEC supports a 21st-century innovation agenda that enables the industry to serve a growing economy, compete in the global marketplace, and raise the bar of what is possible.

## ACEC SUPPORTS:



Tax and regulatory policies – such as deductibility of R&D expenses and the related R&D tax credit – that promote innovation and incentivize growth.



Ensuring that the tax code maintains balanced tax treatment for engineering firms of all business structures.



The Export-Import Bank and its ability to approve project financing.



Trade agreements that protect strong engineering licensure standards and intellectual property.



Promoting and expanding the use of Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) in procuring engineering services to incentivize innovation, protect the taxpayer, and ensure project success.



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Policies to foster the advancement of new and emerging technologies such as unmanned aircraft systems, connected and automated vehicles, energy storage, advanced nuclear, and clean fossil fuel energy systems.

## PRO-GROWTH TAX POLICY

Key provisions in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are scheduled to expire at the end of 2025. Extension of the law is essential for the engineering firms that are designing the future.

ACEC supports a pro-growth tax agenda that enables the industry to serve a growing economy, advance innovation, compete in the global marketplace, and raise the bar of what is possible.

## ACEC SUPPORTS:



Ensuring that the tax code maintains balanced tax treatment for engineering firms of all business structures by extending the Section 199A passthrough tax deduction and retaining the 21% corporate tax rate.



Restoring deductibility of R&D expenses to promote innovation.



Incentives for investing in workforce recruitment and retention.



Support for employee ownership, including ESOPS and S ESOPS.



# AN ALL OF THE ABOVE ENERGY AGENDA

America's engineering industry is engaged throughout the energy sector – from traditional oil and gas to nuclear and leading-edge renewable sources – to support and sustain a growing economy.

The rapid expansion of AI and advanced manufacturing is transforming industries across the nation—but it is also intensifying energy demands at a scale unprecedented in American history. As the U.S. seeks to maintain its leadership in energy production, the convergence of these sectors presents unique challenges and opportunities.

ACEC supports an "all of the above" national energy strategy to make full use of the nation's diverse energy resources, including:

- Support policies to enhance the growth of American power generation technologies such as oil, natural gas, nuclear, and renewables to meet rising energy demands across the nation's economy, including growth drivers such as data centers and manufacturing.
- Advocate for the enhancement of oil and gas development to include the expansion of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) markets and delivery systems.
- Engage key federal agencies like the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to become a credible resource and help shape policies that focus on modernizing the electrical grid, or enhancing pipeline infrastructure, and promote small modular reactors (SMRs).
- Modernizing the regulatory and permitting process to speed up project construction.
- Programs that help to finance innovative, leading edge energy technologies and infrastructure, including funding to establish hydrogen hubs and clean hydrogen manufacturing, as well as carbon capture pilot and demonstration projects.
- Retention of the Section 179D energy-efficient commercial buildings tax deduction.
- The continued extension of production tax credits and other incentives to support the development of wind, solar, and other clean energy sources.
- · Create tax incentives for rebuilding to resilient standards after natural disasters.



## WATER & ENVIRONMENT

America's water resources play an essential role in the nation's economy and sustained economic growth.

ACEC was strongly supportive of the significant new investments in critical water infrastructure projects as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Going forward, sustained investment is essential for drinking water, wastewater, and land and water remediation projects to protect human health and the environment. More investment is also needed in the nation's ports and critical water corridors, both to facilitate navigation and the flow of commerce as well as protect against devastating floods and sea-level rise. ACEC also supports programs and standards that prioritize resilient design techniques and hazard mitigation.

ACEC supports an agenda to invest in America's water and environmental resources in the following areas:



Reauthorization of the water infrastructure programs in the IIJA, increased appropriations to fund the clean water and wastewater State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs at their authorized levels, USDA's rural water program, and innovative financing for water projects through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).



Timely passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and strong investment in Corps of Engineers water projects.



Stable funding and efficient procurement for the Superfund, DOE Environmental Management and other remediation programs.



Responsible and achievable regulation of emerging contaminants, including PFAS chemicals.

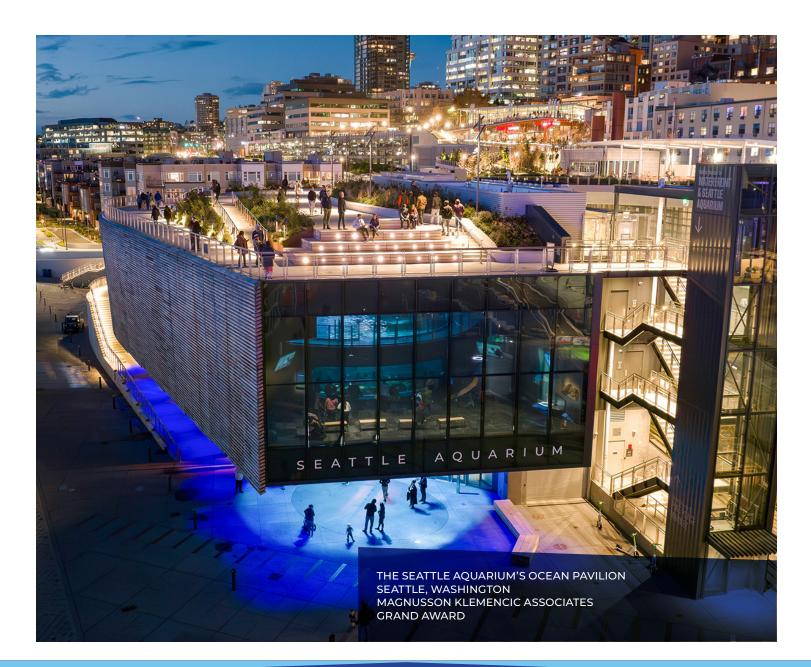




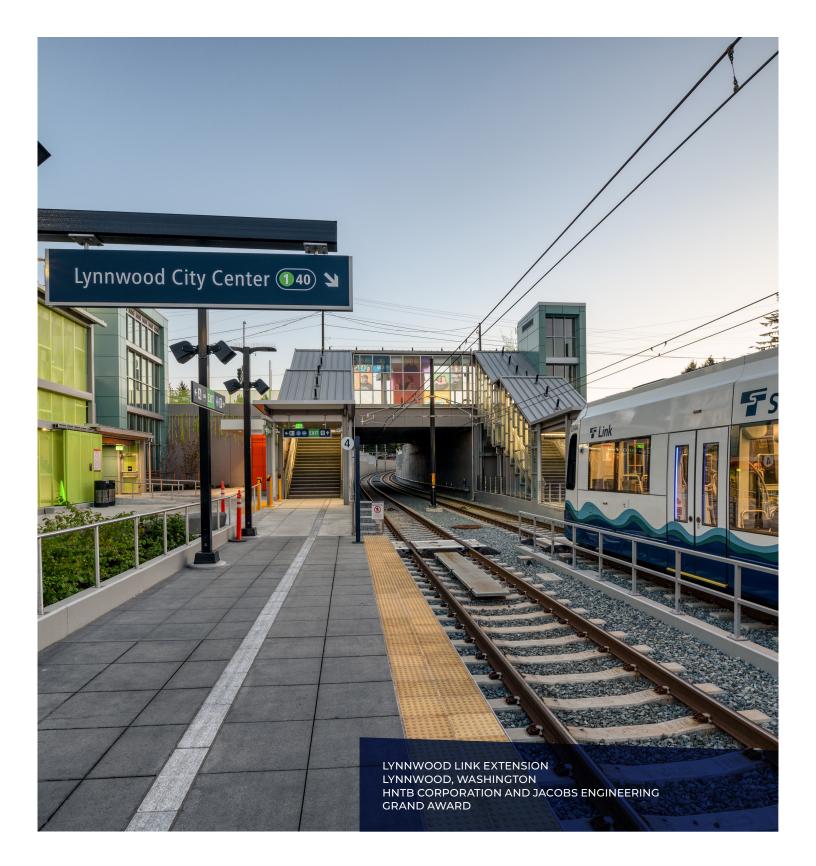
Public and private insurance programs, as well as initiatives and funding to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure against extreme weather events.



Risk-based adaptation and resilience strategies and policies to prioritize at-risk critical infrastructure across jurisdictional boundaries to address geographic risks, such as flooding in riverine and coastal waters.



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## **SUPPORTING FEDERAL, STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

America's engineering industry is a trusted partner to federal, state, and local agencies planning, designing, and managing construction of innovative and sustainable solutions in the built environment, including infrastructure projects and public facilities such as courthouses, schools, and military installations. By engaging local engineering companies, public agencies benefit from the specialized experience, innovation, and on-budget and ontime performance that the private sector brings to the table to ensure project success.

### ACEC SUPPORTS:

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Policies that promote a strong partnership between public agencies and the engineering industry.

Requiring all federal agencies to include FAR compliance as a condition of receipt of funding by state and local governments for grant, loan, and aid programs. Maintaining and expanding public procurement rules that require the use of QBS to emphasize innovation and qualifications to facilitate successful project delivery.

Policies to address cost and schedule growth resulting from ongoing supply chain challenges and inflation.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

America's engineering industry serves clients representing a broad range of markets and needs more engineering graduates to support and sustain a growing economy. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that there are not enough engineers, and projected employment growth in engineering and design services occupations is insufficient to meet demand.

The American Society for Engineering Education reports that bachelor's degrees awarded in key engineering fields declined from 2019 to 2023. Their data also shows that international students are earning most graduate degrees in engineering.

ACEC supports a workforce agenda that seeks to expand the engineering talent pipeline by attracting more young people to the profession, make it easier for firms to assist recent graduates with student loan debt, and advance federal immigration policies that enable firms to attract and keep the best and brightest talent from around the world when there are not enough qualified Americans.

## ACEC SUPPORTS:



Federal immigration policies to attract the best and brightest talent from abroad, including increasing the number of H-1B visas and recapturing unused employment-based green cards.



Expanding learning opportunities beyond engineering for paraprofessional roles in the engineering industry.





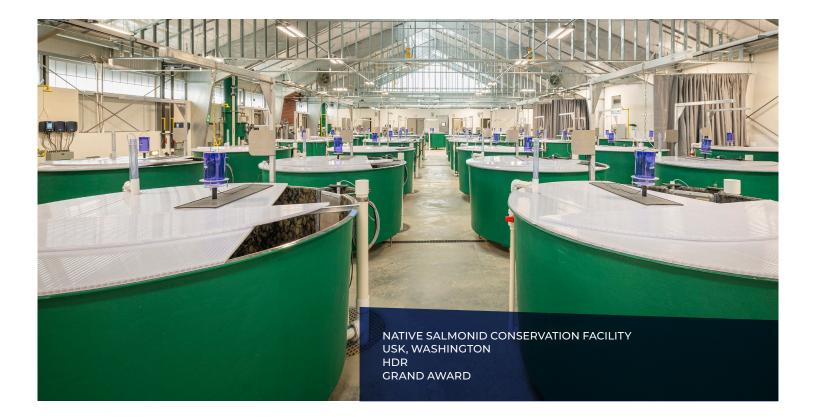
Loan forgiveness and other incentives for engineering graduates.



State and federal programs that expand STEM education and grow the engineering talent pool over the long term.



Ensuring state engineering licensure requirements for the advancement and betterment of public health, safety, and welfare.



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## GLOBAL LEADER IN ENGINEERING SERVICES

America's engineering industry is essential to the global economy.

America's engineering industry represents the gold standard in quality, safety, and resiliency and it remains sought-after beyond our borders. American engineering companies have a global footprint that brings clean water, modern transportation networks, safe schools and hospitals, and reliable energy systems to the world. This is achieved through coordination and partnerships with a variety of U.S. diplomatic and developmental missions abroad including the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the World Bank, the Export-Import Bank, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) as well as the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC). Each of these organizations plays an important role in helping American engineering companies compete in the international marketplace.

### ACEC SUPPORTS:

Continued operations and funding for organizations providing project financing to enable American engineering firms to compete effectively for physical infrastructure projects around the world.

Trade agreements that protect strong engineering standards and intellectual property. Licensed professional engineers, held to U.S. standards will ensure the quality, safety, and longevity objectives of projects that matter to the U.S. and to our interests abroad.

The use of procurement rules internationally that are reliably implemented and enforced with transparency.

Dialogue with international stakeholders, including embassies, banks, industry partners, and internationally minded coalitions and industry organizations.



## ACEC ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

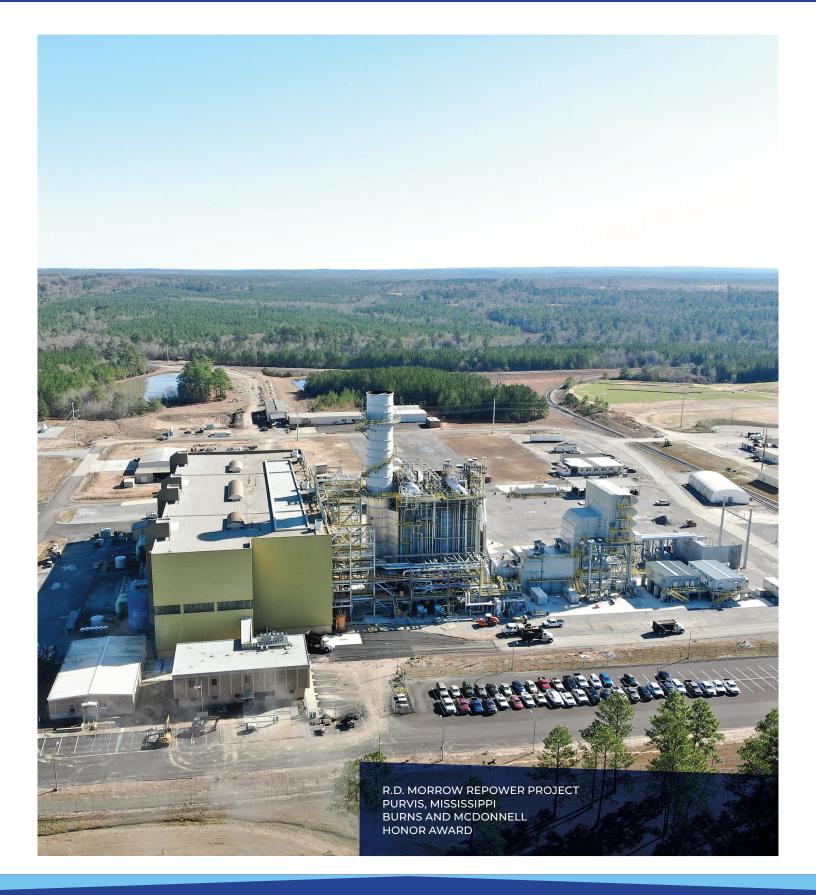
ACEC's annual Engineering Excellence Awards is the premier awards event for engineering, showcasing the year's best achievements in design. In 2024, 203 projects were honored at the awards event, with 24 projects winning a coveted Grand or Honor award.

The year's most outstanding achievement is named the Grand Conceptor and is kept secret until announced at the black-tie gala awards event.

The captioned photos featured throughout this booklet are a selection of the Grand and Honor Award-winning projects that were honored at the 2024 awards gala event in Washington, DC.









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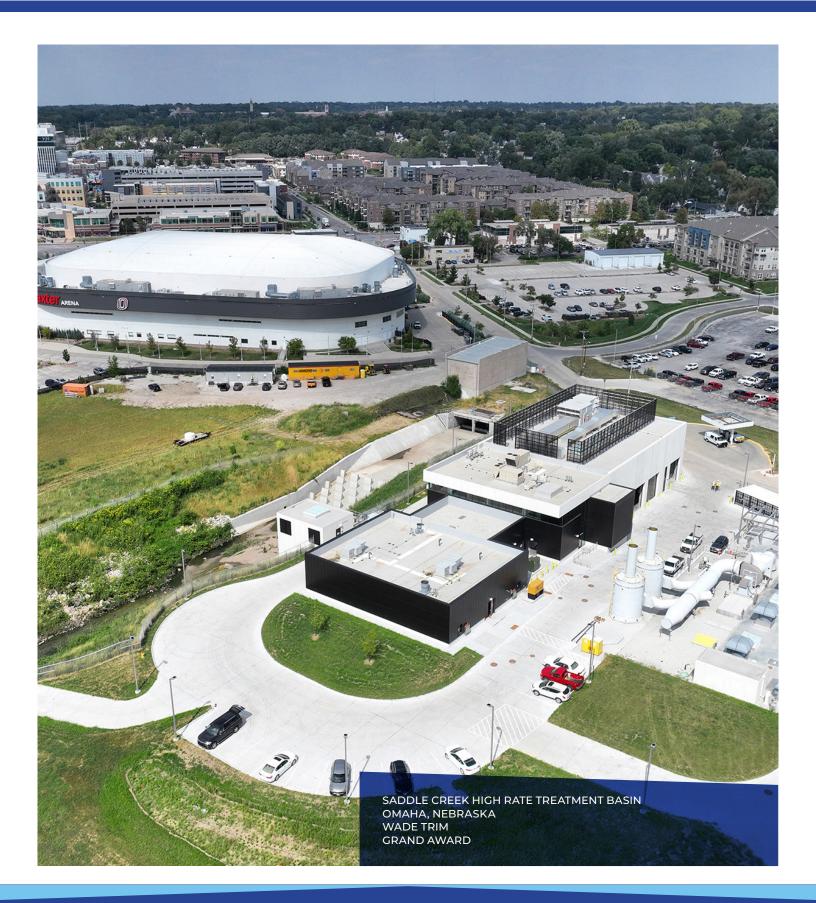
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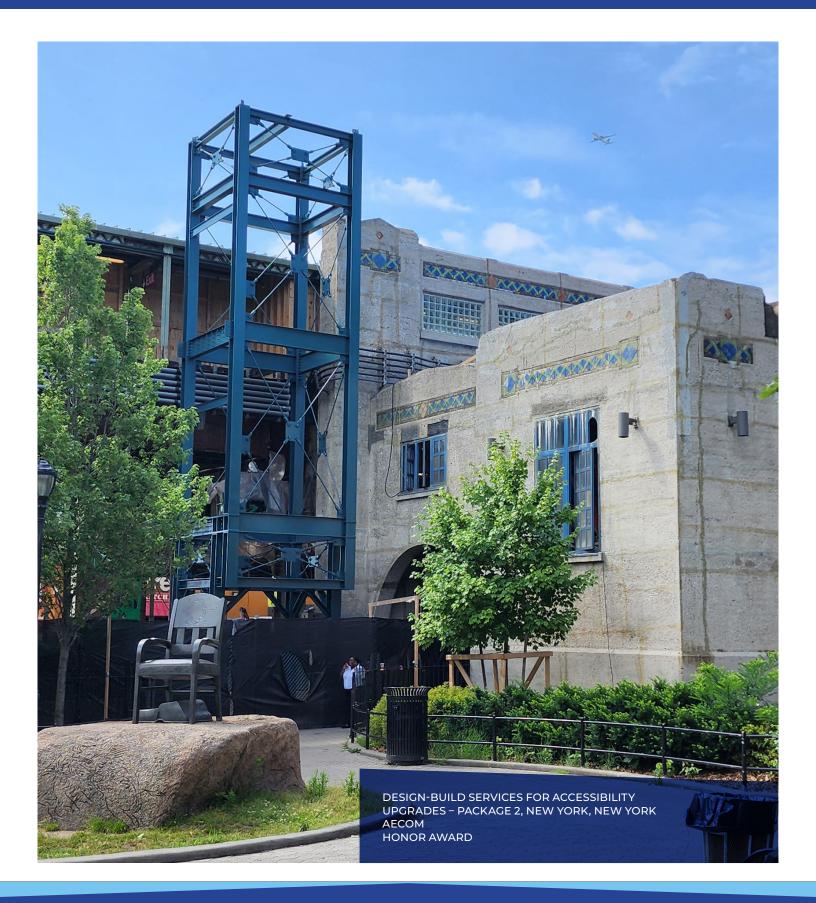
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