

ACEC/Matters

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

October 1, 2026

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Registration Open: Fall Energy, Environment & Utilities Markets Conference - New Speakers Confirmed

Registration is open for ACEC/MA's [Fall Energy, Environment & Utilities Markets Conference](#), taking place **October 20 from 11:00 AM–3:30 PM** at **CDM Smith in Boston**.

Michael Judge, Massachusetts Undersecretary of Energy, will open the conference with a **State of Energy in Massachusetts** keynote, providing an overview of the Commonwealth's energy landscape, key priorities and initiatives, and the issues shaping the future of energy infrastructure in Massachusetts.

Following the keynote, hear from leaders across Massachusetts' **energy, environmental, water, and utility sectors** about infrastructure priorities, upcoming projects and investment plans, procurement processes, and opportunities for engineering and design firms.

We are also pleased to confirm the following panelists, so far:

- **NEW**: John Scannell, Director, Division of Water Supply Protection, **Department of Conservation and Recreation**
- Deanna Moran, Chief Coastal Resilience Officer, **Office of Coastal Zone Management**
- Kathleen M. Murtagh, P.E., Chief Operating Officer, and Brian Kubaska, Chief Engineer, **Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)**.

We have invited senior leaders from **MassDEP, Boston Water and Sewer Commission, National Grid, Eversource, and Enbridge**, with speakers to be announced as they are confirmed.

This program is worth 3.5 PDHs (not in NY or FL). Virtual attendance will also be available.

[Register today for the Fall Energy, Environment & Utilities Markets Conference.](#)

2027 ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence Awards: Initial Entry Forms Due October 5!

Initial entry forms are due on October 5th for the [2027 ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence Awards Competition](#), recognizing engineering achievements that demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity.

Initial entry forms are due October 5, 2026 at 5:30 PM, with completed electronic project submissions due **October 26 at noon**.

Firms considering an entry should begin by identifying their project and securing permission from the client/owner to submit it. Projects involving construction must be substantially completed and ready for use between **November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2026**. Studies and Research or Surveying and Mapping projects must have been publicly disclosed by the client during that same period.

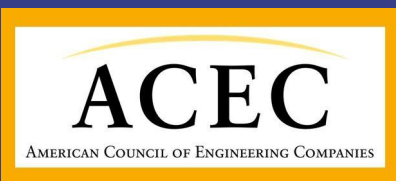
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ACEC/MA will also host a [virtual EEA Submissions Assistance Session on October 9 at 10:00 AM](#) for firms interested in learning more about the electronic project submission requirements.

Key Dates:

October 5, 5:30 PM: Entry Forms Due

October 9, 10:00 AM: Virtual EEA Submissions Assistance Session

October 26, 12:00 PM: Electronic Project Submissions Due

December 10: Presentations to Judges for Finalists

January 6, 2027: Eligible entries due to ACEC National

March 25, 2027: ACEC/MA Engineering Excellence Awards Gala at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel

ACEC/MA finalists and Silver Award winners are eligible to advance to the ACEC National Engineering Excellence Awards competition.

[2027 EEA Entry Forms, Key Dates & Submission Information](#)

[Register for the October 9 Virtual Information Session](#)

NEW DATE: Three Golfer Spots Available – Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available

Due to last week's nor'easter, the ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament at Ferncroft Country Club will be held NEXT **TUESDAY, October 6, 2026.**

Three golfer spots are available for October 6th! These are the only individual golfer spots currently available, so register now!

There are also several opportunities left to sponsor the tournament and support the ACEC/MA Education Corporation.

We're also looking for **raffle and live auction prizes** for the tournament, such as sports tickets, golf outings and equipment, restaurant or hotel gift certificates, bottles of wine or alcohol, and other experiences. If you or your firm have an item to donate, **please email [Gerry Preble](#).**

Tournament proceeds directly support the ACEC/MA Education Corporation's scholarships and its mission of investing in the next generation of engineering professionals.

[Register for one of the three remaining golfer spots or secure one of the remaining sponsorship opportunities on the ACEC/MA website.](#)

MBTA Hosting DBIA Certification Workshop – Registration Open

The MBTA is hosting a **DBIA Certification Workshop** on **November 16–18, 2026**, at **10 Park Plaza in Boston**. The workshop is open to both MBTA and non-MassDOT employees and is intended to build a common understanding of Design-Build principles and best practices among agency staff and industry partners.

Registration is currently limited to **three attendees per firm**, and attendance is expected to be capped at approximately **30 participants** (subject to change). The MBTA has already registered several attendees and plans to register additional staff, so interested participants are encouraged to register early.

[Additional information and registration are available here.](#)

MBTA Roadway Worker Protection Program Update

The MBTA is transitioning from its existing Right of Way (ROW) program to a new **Roadway Worker Protection (RWP) program**, beginning with the Blue Line on **October 25, 2026**. Personnel working within or potentially entering the foul zone will need RWP certification, which requires a two-day, in-person course.

Training will be prioritized based on project needs, with the MBTA estimating more than 2,300 contractors may require certification. Existing ROW certifications remain valid through **December 31, 2026** for lines that have not yet transitioned.

ACEC/MA member firms working on MBTA projects should review the attached MBTA memo for additional details and training information. Questions can be directed to mbtarwp@mbta.com.

The memo from the MBTA can be found [here](#).

ACEC Releases Annual Report and Updated Strategic Plan

ACEC National has released its **2025–2026 Annual Report, *Built to Lead***, highlighting the Council's work over the past year to advance and advocate for the engineering industry.

The report also introduces ACEC's updated [Strategic Plan](#), adopted by the Board of Directors in May. Building on ACEC's core advocacy, education, research and leadership work, the plan identifies four areas of increased focus: **Digital Transformation, Licensure Protection, Workforce Development and Membership Growth**.

The plan will serve as a living roadmap, with ACEC reviewing it annually to respond to changes affecting the industry.

[Read the Annual Report](#)

U.S. DOT Finalizes Changes to DBE Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation has issued its **final rule updating the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program**, largely maintaining the framework established last fall that eliminated automatic presumptions of disadvantage based on race and gender and requires individualized demonstrations of social and economic disadvantage.

The final rule includes several clarifications sought by ACEC. U.S. DOT clarified that individualized determinations may consider an applicant's experiences involving race or gender; established a **December 24 deadline** for certifying agencies to complete reevaluations; and streamlined interstate certification so that, once a firm is reevaluated by its home state, other states generally must accept that determination without imposing additional requirements.

[Final Rule](#)

[ACEC Comments on the DBE Rule](#)

Support ACEC/PAC and Enter the 2026 Fall Sweepstakes

ACEC/PAC is the engineering industry's primary tool for political engagement at the national level. Strong participation from ACEC members helps ensure the engineering industry has a voice in Washington and supports ACEC's efforts to advance policies that

strengthen the business environment for engineering firms and promote investment in the nation's infrastructure.

ACEC's advocacy has helped deliver historic federal infrastructure investment, protect QBS, promote contracting out, strengthen federal procurement rules, and advance important tax policies for engineering firms. [Learn more about ACEC/PAC's accomplishments and current policy priorities.](#)

The [2026 ACEC/PAC Fall Sweepstakes](#) is underway, with **18 prizes totaling \$50,000**, including a \$10,000 grand prize. Members can participate with a **\$200 contribution to ACEC/PAC**, with the drawing taking place October 27 during the ACEC National Conference in Phoenix.

Special for ACEC/MA members: Make a \$200 contribution by October 7 and you'll also receive an invitation to the ACEC/MA PAC Champions Event at Jacobs on October 7.

Please note that ACEC/PAC participation is subject to federal election law. Employees of corporate ACEC member firms may be solicited only if their firm has provided ACEC with prior approval to solicit eligible employees. **Contributions must be made with personal funds; corporate checks and corporate credit cards are prohibited. Contributions are voluntary and are not tax deductible.**

[Enter the ACEC/PAC Fall Sweepstakes here.](#)

2026 ACEC Fall Conference Registration Open

Join engineering leaders from across the country at the **2026 ACEC Fall Conference**, October 25–28, at the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Phoenix, Arizona.

The conference brings together more than 1,100 engineering industry leaders for four days of education, networking, and discussions on the issues shaping the future of the profession. Attendees will gain insights on emerging technologies, business strategy, leadership, market trends, and the opportunities and challenges facing engineering firms.

Registration is now open. Hotel information for the ACEC room block will be provided with your registration confirmation.

[Click here to register.](#)

Government Affairs

[Government Affairs Committee](#)

The October GAC meeting will be held on Thursday, October 22 at 10:00AM.

[Request Zoom for 10/22/26.](#)

Join us as we review bills impacting the engineering, land surveying, and design professional community.

[Join ACEC/MA GAC](#)

IN THE NEWS

[Who will build the new Sagamore Bridge? Mass. seeks bidders for massive project](#)

[Green Line upgrades needed to pave way for new trains](#)

[New poll finds strong voter support for auditing the Legislature holding steady](#)

[Healey seeks project labor agreement for Cape bridge project](#)

[New England leaders — and protesters — gather in Mass. for nuclear summit](#)

[As fuel prices rise, the MBTA's doing just fine](#)

[It cost \\$1 billion more to run the commuter rail than the T contracted. The bill is about to get bigger.](#)

[Mass. voters hold Trump, utilities most responsible for high energy costs, new poll finds](#)

[Blocking the bus lane? The MBTA is about to start using cameras to ticket lane violators](#)

[State using multiple strategies to fill housing pipeline](#)

[Mass. Inspector General raises concerns over MassDOT highway service plaza contract](#)

ACEC and Federal Updates

[**A/E Industry Shows Resiliency in the Face of National Economic Volatility**](#)

[**Monitoring U.S. DOT Changes to the Disadvantaged Business**](#)

[**Enterprise \(DBE\) Program**](#): ACEC National's continually updated landing page on DBE-related resources, including DBE FAQs on the Interim Final Rule (IFR), an interactive State DOT DBE Policies map, and ACEC Resources

Monitoring the Trump White House's Impact on Engineering:

[**Bookmark this ACEC page**](#) - announcements, executive actions, & decisions **including tariffs** from White House that directly impact America's engineering & design services industry

ACEC/MA STEM Task Force

Opps & Resources to promote **STEM careers**, particularly in Engineering & Land Surveying.

See our [**STEM Task Force page**](#) for opportunities to increase awareness about engineering and land surveying careers.

Upcoming Major Events to Save the Dates

UPDATED October 6: ACEC/MA Education Corporation Golf Tournament - [**Golf Registration & Sponsorship Information.**](#)

October 20: Fall Energy, Environment & Utilities Markets Conference - [**Register here.**](#)

Program Registration

***If Your Firm is an ACEC/MA Member, You're an ACEC/MA member.**

Get the ACEC/MA Member Rate for Programs: Register with your Individual username/password. Never use someone else's login info. ?s: Contact acecma@engineers.org or 617-227-5551.

Links live 10/01/2026; Next issue: 10/08/2026

ACEC/Matters: Produced by Kevin O'Shea

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