



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Maine

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ACEC of Maine
Maine Engineering Excellence Awards
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AUGUSTA - ACEC of Maine announces their 2015 Engineering Excellence Awards as a prelude to the national ACEC competition for the most innovative engineering projects in the country. At this year's awards event hosted at the University of Maine, six firms received recognition.

S. W. Cole Engineering received this year's top honor - "The Grand Conceptor Award". They were honored for their work on the North Haven Beach Bridge Replacement project. S. W. Cole performed geotechnical engineering a deteriorating and load restricted bridge that also served as a Town Wharf. Their solution included geosynthetic reinforced soil (GRS) bridge abutments that employs mechanically-stabilized earth (MSE) wall design and construction methods to reduce construction time and cost. The project is the first GRS bridge constructed in Maine and considered to be the first in the United States constructed in a tidal environment.

ACEC of Maine presented three Special Recognition Awards for Engineering Excellence. **Becker Structural Engineers, Inc.** was awarded Special Recognition for their work on the Casco Bay Ferry Terminal in Portland. The project involved design of a new 4,500 SF addition at the south end of the existing terminal to house a ticket office, waiting area, and support spaces. A portion of the existing terminal superstructure was demolished to allow for the new addition. In close collaboration with the architect, Becker Structural Engineers, Inc. creatively and carefully detailed the exposed structure and selected construction materials to achieve a technically sound, beautifully functional building structure.

The second Special Recognition Award went to **Kleinschmidt Associates**. As consulting engineer for the Milford Fish Elevator project, Kleinschmidt developed innovative solutions that employed every available space at the complicated site. Upstream migrating fish find the entrance and are held until a hopper rises from the floor to lift them and the 4,700 gallons of water that they are swimming in 30 feet to the head pond. Once lifted, fish journey through a system of pneumatic gates, tanks, screens and sluices that allow them to be identified, counted, sorted by species, visually examined, and returned upriver or loaded for transport elsewhere without ever being removed from the water or touched by humans.

The third Special Recognition Award was given to **Sebago Technics** for their work on the Baxter Boulevard North Storage Conduit Combined Sewer Overflow Project for the City of Portland. The project is the first subsurface conduit storage project for the City and included 2 million gallons of off-line linear conduit storage located beneath Baxter Boulevard and Payson Park. This project improved the Water Quality of Back Bay/Casco Bay through a significant reduction of combined stormwater and sewerage that previously discharged into the marine estuary each year during storms.

Two Honor Awards for Engineering Excellence were also presented. The first was to **Kleinschmidt Associates**. The new power station at PPL Holtwood, LLC's Holtwood Hydroelectric Project now generates 125 MW of clean, renewable electric power to serve more than 100,000 homes. As the Engineer of Record for the Holtwood Expansion Project, Kleinschmidt Associates designed a complete package that addressed the technical, environmental, and logistical challenges associated with constructing a new hydroelectric generating station adjacent to an operating, 100-year-old hydroelectric facility within the floodplain of a very large river.

The second Honor Award for Engineering Excellence went to **Becker Structural Engineers, Inc.** for their work on the Hyatt Hotel – Old Port. A series of complex foundation systems were engineered, as were equally complex framing systems, that were selected and implemented using a performance based approach to deliver thoughtful, innovative and cost-effective solutions.

The American Council of Engineering Companies congratulates and thanks these engineering firms for their continuing efforts to improve, innovate and design our built environment.

Special thanks to this year's Judges Panel of: David Early, Construction Management Program Coordinator at the University of Southern Maine; Kevin Reilley, President of Benchmark Construction and AGC Maine Board of Directors; Lauren Swett, Civil Engineer at Woodard & Curran and President ASCE Maine; Judy Johnson, Principal at Harriman Architects + Engineers and President AIA Maine; and, Theresa Patten, President of Credere Associates and Representative of ACEC of Maine, and host of the judging panel, Wright-Pierce. ACEC of Maine also thanks Carolyn Bird and Laurene Ryan of Casco Bay Engineering for managing this year's competition.