

The logo for the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) features the acronym "ACEC" in a large, bold, serif font. Above the letters is a thin, curved yellow line. Below the acronym, the full name "AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES" is written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

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NEWS RELEASE

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Engineering CEOs Say Energy Infrastructure Shortfall is Decade's Most Critical Engineering Challenge

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Expeditious development of renewable and traditional energy infrastructure has been named the decade's most critical engineering challenge by top engineering company leaders, according to a just-released survey conducted by the American Council of Engineering Companies.

The survey of 323 U.S. engineering CEOs, chairmen and presidents yielded a rank ordering of the top six engineering challenges of the decade.

Remediating the nation's inadequate energy infrastructure was ranked first by the largest group of respondents (30 percent) followed closely by upgrading deficient transportation infrastructure (29 percent).

Energy infrastructure topped the list, notwithstanding that only 4 percent of the respondents identified energy as their firm's primary area of expertise, compared to 30 percent who named transportation and 22 percent who named water/wastewater.

Engineering executives with principal operations in the South and West gave greater priority to energy than those in the Northeast and Midwest who ranked transportation as the most critical challenge.

Other survey choices included: expanding the nation's inadequate water, wastewater and flood control infrastructure (21 percent); securing the nation's social and economic infrastructure against cyber attacks (11 percent); implementing sustainable building designs to reduce environmental degradation (5 percent); and improving the national electric grid (5 percent).

"This unique survey of top engineering leaders underscores the necessity of putting energy and transportation higher on our national list of priorities," says ACEC President and CEO David A. Raymond. "The extraordinary fact is that we as a nation are not anywhere close to adequately addressing either of these problems."

For detailed survey data, contact Alan D. Crockett at acrockett@acec.org

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business association of America's engineering industry, representing nearly 5,500 independent engineering companies throughout the United States engaged in the development of America's transportation, water and energy infrastructure, along with environmental, industrial and other public and private facilities. Founded in 1909 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and regional organizations.