



Comments of the Association of Communication Engineers  
Prepared for Oral Presentation to  
Joint NTIA/RUS Public Meeting  
Regarding ARRA ("Stimulus Act") of 2009

March 24, 2009

My name is Bob Tupper and I am here representing ACE, the Association of Communication Engineers.

Our members include approximately 30 firms providing professional telecommunications engineering services throughout the United States. For over 50 years our members have designed and implemented a broad array of communications systems including the construction of buried and overhead cables in public rights-of-way. Such systems need to be properly designed to protect public safety.

In all fifty states the practice of engineering is regulated by statute to "safeguard life, health, and property", and to enforce a strict code of ethics.

The use of professional engineers will enhance viability and will help ensure accountability and transparency in the implementation of the Recovery Act.

ACE recommends that both NTIA and RUS require the use of independent, registered Professional Engineers, or equally qualified employees of any grantees or borrowers, to:

Number 1) Perform engineering services for the grantees or borrowers, and

Number 2) to Certify that the projects constructed with Recovery Act funds meet the intent of the program.

ACE will file more extensive written comments; however, I would be happy to try to answer any questions the moderator or panelists may have at this time.

Thank you!