

CEMS MOVIE NIGHT

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Denver SIE FilmCenter

2510 E. Colfax Ave, Denver, CO

SAVE THE FARM SAVE THE FUTURE

a FREE RANGE film

Registration:
Includes One Drink
Ticket and Taco Bar

Individual: \$40
Student: \$25



Registration and Information

Sponsorship:
\$150 Event
Sponsorship

\$250 Drink/Popcorn
Ticket Sponsorship
(ONLY 2 AVAILABLE)

5:00 PM - Networking and Happy Hour

6:30 PM - Film Screening

7:30 PM - Q&A



***From the Board... John V. Fontana, CPG,
CWD, 2026 Treasurer for CEMS
President & CEO, Vista GeoScience***

I recently stumbled on the application I sent in to join this organization back in 2011, back when it was still called the Colorado Hazardous Waste Management Society (CHWMS). I had attended some events back in the 90's but was not an involved member but wish I had become involved sooner. A couple of years after rejoining, I think it was Todd Bragdon, CDM, who first convinced me to join the Board of Directors. I was first active on the program committee, when we expanded the fall half day workshop to a full day conference. I then served as a Board Director, President (in 2015), and since then in the Treasurer's position. I am proud to have served on the board, meeting and networking with so many other great professionals in our field. It's a great feeling to be part of something that provides so many good educational and networking opportunities for our professional community and an even better way to get to know the top operators in our industry.

Since I joined, our half day workshop evolved into an annual full day **Fall Conference**, and our Spring Social event evolved into a **Movie Night and Panel Discussion (COMING SOON TO THE SIE FILM THEATER)**. During COVID, we quickly pivoted to replace our monthly luncheon meetings to an online webinar format and then shifted back to a hybrid format where we have **Hybrid Monthly Educational Luncheons** that include a webinar broadcast to our remote members for convenience. Since I joined, CEMS has always run a very successful **Charity Golf Tournament** to raise money for student scholarships! This past year, we again raised \$9,000 for our scholarship funds. New this year, we also held the **2nd New Years' Confluence of Colorado Environmental Organizations**, a super gathering of CEMS, SWEP, CGWA and RMAEP, further expanding our professional networking. We continue to try and expand **Young Professional** events, but could do better in this arena, along with increasing student participation. We promote and participate in other educational events including **RemFest** and **EnviroWorkshops** most recently.

As the current Treasurer for 10 years now, I can tell you that we have managed to improve the quantity and quality of our networking opportunities and events, while maintaining the same membership fees during that entire period. **I paid the same \$55 dues in 2011!** As our administrative costs have increased over the years, our savings account has dropped over the past several years, and we are working to slow or stop that decline, but we are still in good financial shape for now. Our board takes pride in the fact that we have kept our dues the same for so long, and keep our event fees as low as possible, thanks to the hard-working volunteers we have on our various committees as well as generous sponsors.

(Continued Page 6)

2026 CEMS OFFICERS:

President: Evan Singleton, Spencer Fane LLP, (720)760-2211, esingleton@spencerfane.com

Vice President: Michael Whelan, PE, Anchor QEA, LLC, (303)952-4850, mwhelan@anchorqea.com

Secretary: Karen Trantow Lim, CDH Consulting, LLC, (303)501-3415, ktrantowlim@cdhconsult.com

Treasurer: John Fontana, Vista GeoScience, (303)277-1694, jfontana@vistageoscience.com

Past President: Glen Vallance, CGRS, Inc., (970)493-7780, glen@cgrs.com

CDPHE Liaison: Ian Contreras, P.G., CDPHE, (303) 692-2136, ian.contreras@state.co.us

OPS Liaison: Tom Fox, CDLE; Division of Oil and Public Safety, (720)346-1885, tom.fox@state.co.us

US EPA Liaison: Jeffrey Fitzgibbons, US EPA Region 8, (303)312-6633, Fitzgibbons.Jeffrey@epa.gov

Board Members:

Melissa Armstrong, Integral Consulting, Inc., (303)596-8093, marmstrong@integral-corp.com

Rachel Blomberg, Independent Consultant, (720)418-9317, rblomberg4@gmail.com

Tom Fox, CDLE: Division of Oil and Public Safety, (720)346-1885, tom.fox@state.co.us

Paul Gruca, Weaver Consultants Group, (312)478-8972, pgruca@wcgrp.com

Peter Jaacks, Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resources Law LLC, (303) 513-4653, pjaacks@jjnrlaw.com

Kevin Wolfe, Stantec Consulting Services, (607)339-7380, kevin.wolfe@stantec.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON(S):

Monthly Programs:

Michael Whelan, PE, Anchor QEA, LLC, (303)952-4850, mwhelan@anchorqea.com

Spring Movie Event:

Maggie Mandell, Environmental Works, Inc., (301)943-2830, mmandell@environmentalworks.com

Fall Conference:

Melissa Armstrong, Integral Consulting, Inc., (303)596-8093, marmstrong@integral-corp.com

Drezden Kinnaird, CGRS, Inc., (970)-493-7780, dkinnaird@cgrs.com

Golf:

Kevin Wolfe, Stantec Consulting Services, (607)339-7380, kevin.wolfe@stantec.com

Scholarship:

Kevin Wolfe, Stantec Consulting Services, (607)339-7380, kevin.wolfe@stantec.com

Nominations/Bylaw:

Evan Singleton, Spencer Fane LLP, (720)760-2211, esingleton@spencerfane.com

Glen Vallance, CGRS, Inc., (970)-493-7780, glen@cgrs.com

Membership:

Paul Gruca, Weaver Consultants Group, (312)478-8972, pgruca@wcgrp.com

Administrative Assistant: Juliana Reid, admin@coems.org

Thursday, May 7, 2026

**Mine Operation and Reclamation: An Environmental Panel
Discussion
In-Person Afternoon Event (4pm-6pm)
Networking Happy Hour Afterwards**

Davis Graham, 3400 Walnut Street, Denver RiNo District

CEMS Lunch & Webinar Meeting/Newsletter Sponsors

Your company could be advertising here!

Please follow the links to the webinar advertising and sponsorship
page:

[WEBINAR ADVERTISING SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!](#)

Or email admin@coems.org



CEMS has a New LinkedIn Corporate Landing Page

CEMS is updating to a new LinkedIn page. Follow us [HERE](#).

CEMS REGULATORY UPDATE
FEDERAL AND STATE ACTIONS IMPACTING COLORADO

By Pete D. Jaacks

Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resource Law LLC

March 2026

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review a ruling by the Colorado Supreme Court in *Suncor Energy Inc. v. County Commissioners of Boulder County* that allowed Boulder's lawsuit against Exxon and Suncor Energy to proceed to trial. The Boulder lawsuit is the second climate lawsuit to survive a state supreme court ruling. In granting certiorari, the Supreme Court outlined two questions for the litigants to address. The first is about timing—whether the court has statutory and Article III jurisdiction to hear the case before it has worked its way through the state court system. The more substantive question centers on preemption—whether federal law precludes state-law claims seeking relief for harms allegedly caused by the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on global climate. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments for *Suncor Energy Inc. v. County Commissioners of Boulder County* in the fall of 2026.

On March 9, 2026, the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari in *Department of the Air Force v. Prutehi Guahan*, a case that asks whether the Air Force's submission of a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit renewal application is reviewable final agency action and triggers National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. The Court is returning to NEPA one year after *Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County*, continuing a period of active Supreme Court attention to NEPA-based challenges. The case concerns the Air Force's practice of open burning and open detonation (OB/OD) of hazardous waste munitions at Tarague Beach, Guam. For nearly four decades, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency approved RCRA permits for the Air Force's OB/OD of the hazardous munitions, but in 2021, the agency delayed the Air Force's renewal application based on public comments. A year later, an environmental non-profit group filed suit, alleging that the Air Force violated NEPA by failing to conduct a NEPA review in seeking renewal of its RCRA permit in 2021. The district court in Guam dismissed the action, finding that a permit renewal was not final agency action and that no NEPA analysis was required because RCRA "specifically deals with the environmental issue at hand." The Ninth Circuit reversed in a February 2025 split decision. The Ninth Circuit concluded that the Air Force's submission of the renewal application constituted reviewable final agency action and that RCRA's permitting framework did not render NEPA superfluous in this context. The court reasoned that, by submitting the application, the Air Force had effectively committed itself to a particular method and location for munitions disposal, thereby triggering NEPA. The case presents two questions at the intersection of RCRA, NEPA, and administrative law: whether a federal agency's submission of a permit renewal application under a comprehensive permitting program may constitute reviewable final agency action, and whether NEPA review must precede that submission. Oral arguments will likely occur in the fall at the start of the Court's next Term, with a decision likely by the end of June 2027.

Presentation Opportunities for Upcoming CEMS Meetings

The CEMS Program Committee is currently searching for "interesting, topical and informative" presentations for our meetings in 2026. This is a great opportunity to network with your peers, share information and technology, and become more involved with the environmental community. CEMS is interested in a variety of topics relevant to environmental and natural resources professionals. Each monthly presentation is roughly 50 minutes, followed by a question-and-answer period.

If you or someone you know is interested in presenting at our monthly meetings, or our annual conference, please feel free to contact our Programs Committee: Chairperson Michael Whelan at mwhelan@anchorqa.com.

MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS *(continued page 6)***Renewal Individual**

Costin McQueen, Glenn Springs Holdings, Inc.
Cynthia Teel, Lathrop GPM LLP

Renewal Corporate**AECOM**

Katie Abbott	Christopher Ahrendt	Victoria Aragon	Anjal Armbruster	Devin Arnold
Delaine Austin	David Batts	Robyn Bingham	William Bock	Stephanie Bowler
Joseph Burpoe	Carmen Caceres-Schnell	Brian A. Caldwell	Thomas Carr	Rich Chamberlain
Jonathan Chandler	Matt Clark	Patrick Clem	Noelle Cochran	Christine Coder
Jeremy Cook	Emily Cooper	Graham Dawson	Jeffrey Dawson	Robert DeBaca
Brett Denkler	Anne Ferguson	Tom Fiersten	Suzana Firican	Griffin Fraser
Anthony Galligan	Zoe Ghali	Molly Giere	Scott Guinn	Bradley Handziuk
Travis Haselhorst	Sarah Haugen	Catherine Hawk	Misty Hawkins	Denise Hazelman
Olivia Helinski	Justin Henry	Jamie Herman	Ian Hodgson	Kara Hoppes
Greg Hronich	Amber Huggins	Jeremy Hurshman	Angela Jaspers	Evan Jaworski
Connor Johnson	Jenna Jonker	Jesse Kahler	Vasanta Kalluri	Bill Killam
Shana LaCrosse	Robert Lavie	Carl Leth	Steve Leu	Jack Levy
Tom Lindsay	Meredith Linhoff	Jim Litz	Elena (Nena) Lopez	Paul Lorenz
Allison Martinelli	Brandon McBride	Tiffani McClain	Bill Melton	Alexa Molthen
Kim Murdock	Colin O'Connor	Dwight Parks	Katie Patterson	Jason Pelton
Sara Piccolomini	Ken Pinnella	Greg Pipis	Helen Potter	Lance Preuss
Shannon Regan	Elaine Reilly	Camila Reiswig	David Rice	Marcia Rickey
Joseph (Joe) Rigley	Erin Riley	Grace Rink	Conner Rothe	Brian Rothmeyer
Stephanie Ruybal	Leila Saboori	Nancy Sandberg	Lily Schneider	Kevin Schroeder
Tyler Searle	Adrina Shaikh	Brittany Shaw	Lillia Shub	Matt Spansky
Megan Stone	Ros Suddaby	Sunani Suresh	Kevin M. Taylor	Kevin Theimer
Roger Thompson	Alina Voicu	Laura Waterworth	Charles Waugh	Emily West
Meng Xu	Emily Yonker	Margaret Zebley		

Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co., Inc.

Allison Akare	Olga Beach-Vasilev	Jennifer Bell	Grace Bello	Kayla Benson
Jeffrey R. (Ryan) Blacklock	Robert Blu	David Bouaphakeo	Lars Boyd	Crystal Bravo-Cogar
Clive Briggs	Greg Buck	Angie Cain	Mackie Carrigan	Kori Davis
David Dean	Karli Eheart	Stephen Ensley	Brian Fletcher	Roosevelt (RJ) Glorso
Jennifer Henry	Fauve Herron	Brooke Hines	Brett Horton	Kevyn Johnson
Brittany Keating	Russell Kerle	Kalli Kilmer	Damien King	Jack Leever
Ryann Loomis	Thomas Lux	Dusty Madison	Gretchen Mathiason	Jacob Millam
Kate Parker	Erika Powell	Kassidy Ricketson	Jeffrey Rusch	Christopher Rutledge
Riley Shannon	Catherine Shapiro	Karen Simpson	Jenna Sitta	Kathryn Stephenson
Britt Sutherland	Chris Thebo	Kayla Theilig	Trey Towndrow	Shawn Turk
Michael Zinsmeister				

Are you a lawyer, looking for CLEs?

CEMS offers a very inexpensive way to earn those needed CLEs.

Just RSVP on the luncheon meeting link and attend.

MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS *(continued from page 5)*

City and County of Denver - Denver International Airport

David Azzolini	Adeline Bowman	Andrea Christensen	Emanuel Cormos	Madeline Dougherty
David Fridland	Janet Kieler	Rick Langlois	Ted Langlois	Sean McCarthy
Nick Miranda	Scott Morrissey	Kim Ohlson	Anya Petersen	David Plakorus
Caleb Rosenberg	Alexa Rosenstein	Tom Somers	Krystina Spencer	

City and County of Denver – Environmental Quality Division

Jeff Arneson	Paul Bedard	Bill Benerman	Christiane Bohn	Julia Brazer
Andrea Christensen	Zach Clayton	Joe Donlon	Allison Eng	Esmeralda Esme Cabrera
Joseph Greene	Gene Hook	Faisal Hussain	Corazon Langowski	Ocanas
Brendan Lawlor	Agatha Linger	Rose Maes	Mark McMillan	Ephraim Milton
William Obermann	Monica Ortiz	Emma Pappas	Sylvie Peeples	Mark Petersen
Lori Ann Phillips	Andrew Ross	Nick Schroeter	Gregg Thomas	Brian Tietze
Andy Whitty	Dave Wilmoth	Michelle Wolford	Cali Zimmerman	

From the Board *(continued from Page 2)*

In all, we manage a cashflow in and out of around \$70,000 each year. We had a good cash reserve when I first started as Treasurer, but our membership fees have not changed over that period, and our overhead expenses have crept up over the years, causing a loss over the last several years.

I am also working on the **Membership Committee**, and we are looking at ways to make up for the difference in overhead costs without raising our membership dues. The solution we see is for the companies (Consulting Firms, Law Firm, Vendors) that benefit most from this **CEMS's low cost educational and networking opportunities** to help sponsor the organization at a higher level. So, we are discussing ideas for a sponsorship program that will provide great benefits of recognition and advertising on the website, newsletter and luncheon programs, but most importantly, keep the organization funded at a safe level to continue our success in the future. **So please talk to your company about helping CEMS** continue to provide **great networking programs and affordable education** by supporting this great organization! And send me an email if you are interested in helping!

Thank-You!

JOHN V FONTANA, CPG, CWD
Current CEMS Treasurer

John is an AIPG Certified Professional Geologist, NGWA Certified Well Driller, and a licensed driller in several states. As President, CEO and owner of Vista GeoScience, John's expertise includes management of environmental and geotechnical drilling services, high resolution site characterization (HRSC) systems, 3D data modeling and interpretation, in-situ remediation design and injection technologies, soil gas (vapor intrusion) and stray gas investigations. John presents at conferences and workshops across the country on these topics. He is currently serving as a subject matter expert on the ITRC Update on Advanced Site Characterization Guidance writing team, and previously assisted writing guidance on In-Situ Remediation and Hydrocarbon Remediation teams. He was also nominated to, and served on, the EPA's Science Advisory Board on Hydraulic Fracturing's Impacts on Drinking Water. John has served on the CEMS board as President and Past President, before taking on his current role as treasurer. John also served as a Board Advisor for the AIPG Colorado Section. John earned a degree in Geology, Oceanography and Physics from Humboldt State University in California in 1981.



University of Colorado **Denver**

CU IN THE CITY

CU Denver – Hydrologic, Environmental, and Sustainability Engineering Registration

This semester, registration season starts about two weeks earlier for the Fall 2026 lineup of graduate courses in [Hydrologic, Environmental, and Sustainability Engineering](#) (HESE) at CU Denver. Please share with your networks inside or outside CEMS!

CVEN-5335 Vadose Zone Hydrology

Instructor: David Mays, P.E., Ph.D.

Monday/Wednesday 5:00-6:15 pm starting Monday 8/17th

<https://engineering.ucdenver.edu/dmays/5335>

CVEN-5401 Introduction to Environmental Engineering

Instructor: Arun Karunanithi, Ph.D.

Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:45 pm starting Tuesday 8/18th

CVEN-5404 Water and Wastewater Treatment

Instructor: Ram Ramawwami, P.E., Ph.D.

Thursday ONLY 5:00-7:45 pm starting Thursday 8/20th

CVEN-5427 Storm Water System Design

Instructor: Gerald Blackler, P.E., Ph.D.

Monday/Wednesday 11:30 am-12:15 pm starting Monday 8/17th

Happy to answer any questions. We are in the business of making customized plans for advanced study in engineering.

Many thanks!

David C. Mays, P.E., Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Department of Civil Engineering

University of Colorado Denver

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<https://engineering.ucdenver.edu/dmays>

[Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#)