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Or visit our website at <https://coems.org/golf/>



SAVE THE DATE

for the

2025 CEMS FALL CONFERENCE

Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>

Theme: Colorado's Innovative Environmental Leadership in the Face of  
Federal Regulatory Changes

Location: CSU Spur  
4777 National Western Drive, Denver, CO 80216

Additional information at [www.COEMS.org](http://www.COEMS.org),  
or contact Melissa Armstrong at [marmstrong@integral-corp.com](mailto:marmstrong@integral-corp.com) or  
Drezden Kinnaird at [dkinnaird@cgrs.com](mailto:dkinnaird@cgrs.com)

# Announcing the Colorado Environmental Management Society 2025 Fall Conference Call for Abstracts

**Conference Schedule: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 8:30am - 5:30pm**

**Conference Location: CSU Spur at the National Western Complex**

The CEMS Fall Conference Committee invites you to submit an abstract to present at this year's conference, themed "**Colorado's Innovative Environmental Leadership in the Face of Federal Regulatory Changes**". Join environmental industry leaders, policymakers, and technical experts as we explore how Colorado is making advancements in environmental practices and innovation, despite an evolving regulatory landscape.

CEMS is honored to welcome Governor **Bill Ritter Jr.** as our keynote speaker. Elected Colorado's 41st Governor in 2006, Ritter is widely recognized for establishing Colorado as a national and international leader in clean energy, laying the foundation for the state's New Energy Economy.

## Submit Your Abstract Today!

### SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Title
- Abstract Summary (<500 words)
- Presenter(s) Biography (<200 words)

### DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL

**Friday August 1, 2025**

### SUBMIT TO

- Drezden Kinnaird :: [dkinnaird@cgrs.com](mailto:dkinnaird@cgrs.com)
- Melissa Armstrong :: [marmstrong@integral-corp.com](mailto:marmstrong@integral-corp.com)

### Early Bird Registration

**August 17 - August 30, 2025**

### Regular Registration

**September 1 - September 23, 2025**



Visit our website [www.coems.org](http://www.coems.org) for further information

## *From the Board... The Value of Diverse Perspectives in the Colorado Environmental Management Society by Suzanne Gabriele, Geosyntec Consultants*

### Celebrating a Multifaceted Approach to Environmental Management

In an era where environmental challenges are multifaceted and complex, the Colorado Environmental Management Society (CEMS) stands as a beacon of diversity and collaboration. Our members represent a broad spectrum of perspectives, drawing from the environmental regulator, attorney, scientist, and engineering communities, as well as from those regulated under environmental law. This diversity is not merely a feature of our organization; it is a fundamental value that enriches our collective approach to environmental management.

### Encompassing Multiple Disciplines

Environmental issues demand solutions that are informed by various fields. Regulators bring crucial insights into policy and compliance, ensuring that our actions are aligned with legal frameworks and standards. Attorneys provide a legal perspective, helping navigate the complexities of environmental law and offering guidance on regulatory requirements. Scientists contribute their expertise in research and data analysis, driving evidence-based decision-making and innovative solutions. Engineers apply their technical know-how to design and implement practical and sustainable systems that address environmental challenges.

### Involving Those Impacted by Environmental Law

Equally important are the voices of those regulated under environmental law. These individuals and organizations offer a ground-level view of the impacts and effectiveness of environmental regulations. Their feedback helps refine policies and practices, ensuring that they are both effective and feasible.

*(Continue on page 7)*

## CEMS – New Website Same URL – [www.coems.org](http://www.coems.org)

Now we can accept payments, post events, take registrations, and track your membership all in one location! Thanks for your patience while we navigate our new one stop shopping website for CEMS!

## **2025 CEMS OFFICERS:**

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

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

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#### **Fall Conference:**

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Dresden Kinnaird, CGRS, Inc., (970)-493-7780, [dkinnaird@cgrs.com](mailto:dkinnaird@cgrs.com)

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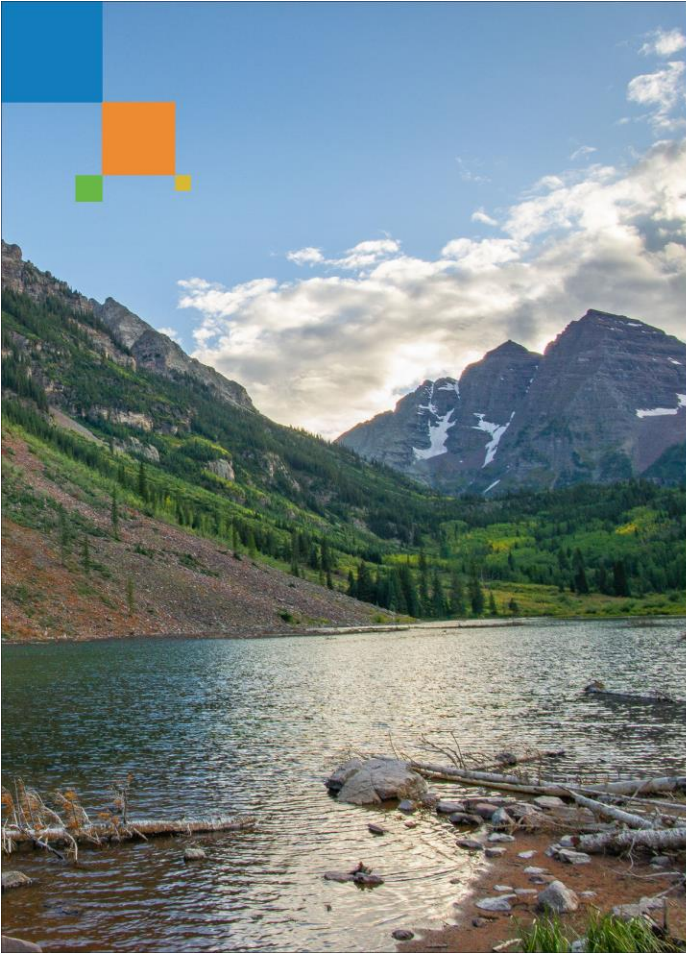
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#### **Membership:**

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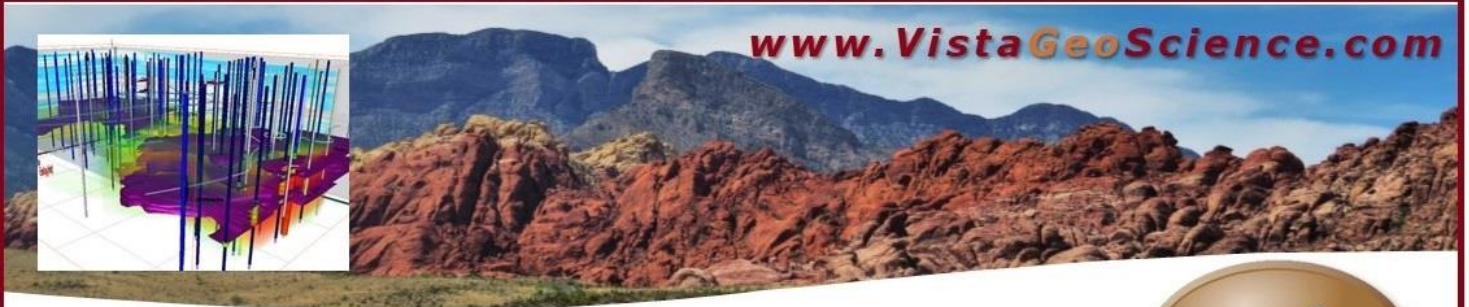


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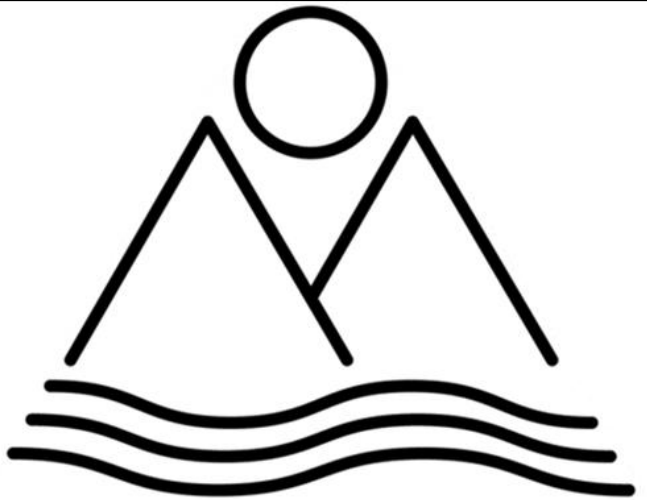
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**CEMS has a New LinkedIn Corporate Landing Page**

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

**Members on the Move**

Rachel Blomberg is the new LATAC Specialist for Site Closure at Newmont. She supports mine sites in the Latin America and Caribbean Region in developing and implementing long-term closure strategies that align with corporate standards and regulatory expectations. This includes integrating technical, environmental, and social considerations into closure planning, supporting accurate closure cost forecasting, advancing concurrent reclamation, and collaborating across teams to reduce closure-related risks and optimize post-mining environmental and land use outcomes.

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**CEMS REGULATORY UPDATE**  
**FEDERAL AND STATE ACTIONS IMPACTING COLORADO**

**By Pete D. Jaacks**  
**Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resource Law LLC**  
**July 2025**

On May 8, 2025, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [published](#) a rule proposing to approve state implementation plan (SIP) submittals under the Clean Air Act (CAA) that address contingency measures requirements for the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the Denver Metro/North Front Range (DMNFR) ozone nonattainment area. These revisions include contingency measures designed to reduce ozone-forming emissions if the region fails to meet the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Key features include: a revised Regulation 7, reorganizing parts into Regulation 25 and updating rules for surface coating facilities; VOC content limits and control requirements for motor vehicle coatings; and interim measures deferring federal sanctions while the EPA completes its review.

On June 18, 2025, the Supreme Court decided [Oklahoma v. EPA](#) and [EPA v. Calumet](#), a pair of cases that focus on the Clean Air Act's (CAA) venue selection provisions. The judicial review provisions of the CAA send review of "nationally applicable" EPA actions to the DC Circuit and review of "locally or regionally applicable" EPA actions to the regional circuits. However, in an exception to that rule, venue may lie in the DC Circuit for regionally applicable actions that are "based on a determination of nationwide scope or effect." In the Court's two recent decisions, it explained that the CAA venue analysis called for a two-step inquiry. First, courts must decide whether the EPA action is nationally applicable or only locally or regionally applicable; if nationally applicable, the case belongs in the DC Circuit. Second, if locally or regionally applicable, courts must decide whether the case falls within the exception for "nationwide scope or effect" to override the default rule of regional circuit review. In *Oklahoma*, the Court held that EPA's disapproval of the Oklahoma and Utah state implementation plans (SIPs) belonged in a regional circuit, not the DC Circuit. At the first step, the Court found the SIP disapprovals were "[c]learly" "locally or regionally applicable." The Court held that the disapproval of a SIP is always a locally or regionally applicable action. At the second step, the Court set forth a high standard that EPA must clear in order to show that a locally or regionally applicable action is based on a determination of nationwide scope or effect: That determination must serve as the most important part of EPA's rationale. EPA receives no deference on this issue. In *Oklahoma*, the Court explained that the SIP disapprovals were based on a variety of state-specific facts and that EPA's various nationwide determinations were not the primary reasons for disapproving the SIPs. Thus, the exception did not apply, and the litigation belonged in the Tenth, not DC, Circuit.

In *Calumet*, the Court reached a different conclusion regarding challenges to exemptions under the CAA's renewable fuels program for fuel refineries. Although EPA's denial of exemption petitions was "locally applicable," the Court concluded that EPA had relied on national legal and economic determinations that applied "generically to all refineries, regardless of their geographic location." Because those nationwide determinations provided the basis for denying the individual exemption requests, they lay at the core of EPA's action and thus triggered the exemption to bring venue to the DC Circuit. Together, these decisions clarify the line between national and local or regional EPA actions for purposes of venue under the CAA. *Oklahoma* suggests that actions grounded in state-specific facts (like SIP disapprovals) belong in regional circuits, even if decided in omnibus fashion or using a shared analytical framework. *Calumet* shows that when EPA applies a uniform national rationale not grounded in state- or region-specific considerations, challenges belong in the DC Circuit.

**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.**

## **Presentation Opportunities for Upcoming CEMS Meetings**

The CEMS Program Committee is currently searching for "interesting, topical and informative" presentations for our meetings in 2025. 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@anchorqea.com](mailto:mwhelan@anchorqea.com).

### **From the Board** *(Continued from Page 3)*

By including these perspectives, CEMS fosters a comprehensive understanding of environmental management that extends beyond theoretical approaches to practical realities.

#### **Generational Diversity**

Our members span generations, from those who have been with CEMS since its inception 40 years ago to those who are relatively new to the industry. This generational diversity enriches our dialogue and decision-making processes. Veteran members bring historical knowledge and long-term perspectives that are invaluable for understanding the evolution of environmental issues and policies in the state. Newer members inject fresh ideas and contemporary approaches, ensuring that our strategies are innovative and forward-looking. Together, this blend of experience and modernity creates a dynamic environment where knowledge is continuously shared, and growth is perpetual.

#### **The Power of Collaboration**

The diverse perspectives within CEMS foster collaboration that is both deep and wide-ranging. Members are encouraged to engage in robust discussions, share their expertise, and learn from one another. This collaborative atmosphere not only enhances our collective knowledge but also strengthens our ability to tackle environmental issues from multiple angles. It leads to solutions that are holistic, well-rounded, and more likely to succeed in the real world.

#### **Conclusion**

The Colorado Environmental Management Society thrives because of the rich tapestry of perspectives that our members bring to the table. By valuing and integrating these diverse viewpoints, we are better equipped to address the environmental challenges of today and tomorrow. This diversity is our strength, enabling us to foster a community that is not only knowledgeable and skilled but also adaptable and resilient. Together, we can continue to make meaningful contributions to environmental management and sustainability.

For more information about our organization and how you can get involved, please visit our (new!) website and attend any and all of our events!

*Suzanne Gabriele is a Senior Principal with Geosyntec Consultant. She has more than 35 years of professional experience focused in the areas of environmental policy and management systems development and implementation, environmental, health and safety compliance, and environmental site assessment and remediation for clients in a variety of industries including but not limited to mining, manufacturing, and food processing.*

## MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

### Renewal Individual

David E. Kreutzer, Colorado Office of the Attorney General



University of Colorado **Denver**



## CU Denver – Hydrologic, Environmental, and Sustainability Engineering Registration

Fall 2025 graduate course registration is now underway in [Hydrologic, Environmental, and Sustainability Engineering](#) (HESE) at CU Denver. Registration for Fall 2025 starts April 1, 2025. Please register by August 15 to ensure enrollment.

### **CVEN-5334 Groundwater Hydrology**

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

Monday/Wednesday 5:00-6:15 pm starting Monday 8/18<sup>th</sup>

<http://engineering.ucdenver.edu/dmays/5334>

[Brochure](#)

### **CVEN-5401 Introduction to Environmental Engineering**

Instructor: Arun Karunanithi, Ph.D.

Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:45 pm starting Tuesday 8/19<sup>th</sup>

### **CVEN-5427 Storm Water System Design**

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

Monday/Wednesday 11:00-12:15 pm starting Monday 8/18<sup>th</sup>

### **CVEN-5434 Biological Treatment Processes**

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

Thursdays 5:00-7:30 pm starting Thursday 8/21<sup>st</sup>

[Brochure](#)

If anyone needs more information, please contact David directly—he would be delighted to help you, or your colleagues, to create a customized plan for advanced study in engineering.

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

**Associate Professor**

**Department of Civil Engineering**

**University of Colorado Denver**

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