



CEMS February Luncheon – Hybrid Format, In-Person Attendance Encouraged

**Current Guidance on Vapor Intrusion Testing:
ITRC Technical Resources and Hands-On Demonstration**

**Bobbilyne Koepke, R.G. P.G., Remedial Operations Manager, Environmental Works, Inc.
and Shannon Thompson, P.E., Environmental Engineer and Vapor Intrusion Specialist,
CGRS Inc.**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 11:45am-1pm

In Person Location: *Davis Graham LLP*

Details and Registration:

Join CEMS for a two-part lunchtime presentation.

We will have a web broadcast available, but this one is best attended in person so you can see the demonstration!

CEMS has applied for one (1) general CLE credit for this presentation. One PDH is available for this presentation.

Vapor Intrusion (VI) is often one of the driving risk factors for release sites and is also a rapidly developing area of science with new discoveries being made every year. This presentation will touch briefly on the previous three ITRC Vapor Intrusion Guidance documents, journey through the process of how the ITRC VI Update Team tackled this massive undertaking, then continue with an overview of the new ITRC VI Toolkit which updates and combines the previous resources into one comprehensive web-based resource.

For the first half-hour, Bobbilyne Koepke R.G. P.G., Remedial Operations Manager with Environmental Works, Inc., will be speaking on the latest ITRC Vapor Intrusion guidance. She has served as the Program Advisor for the ITRC Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Training Team (VIM-1) and the recent ITRC Vapor Intrusion Update Team (VI Toolkit).

For the second half-hour, Shannon Thompson P.E., Environmental Engineer and Vapor Intrusion Specialist with CGRS Fort Collins, will be doing a direct hands-on demonstration of vapor intrusion evaluation for the in-person audience, how to obtain valid soil vapor samples and setup, and explaining soil vapor sampling vs sub-slab.

For full topic information, speaker biography, and **registration options** follow this [link](#).

In Person Location: Davis Graham LLP, 3400 Walnut Street, Suite 700, Denver, CO, 80205 ([map it](#)). Guests will check-in with the security guard on the first floor of the building, he will then let folks up to the 6th floor. Parking and entrance information [here](#).

For reservation information, box lunches, webinar, please follow this [link](#).

Sponsorship: CEMS accepts sponsorships to defer expenses associated with its webinar series. ***Sponsorships are also accepted to fund the Scholarship Fund.*** Information about sponsorship can be found here: [Sponsorship Program](#)

Notice: CEMS would like to thank Davis Graham LLP for the use of meeting space and would like to emphasize that the use of Davis Graham LLP space does not constitute endorsement of CEMS, sponsors of CEMS functions, or the content of CEMS workshops or meetings.

From the Board...by Rachel Blomberg, P.E., CEMS Board Member

As we step into a new year, I'm reminded of the incredible progress our community has made toward reclaiming environmentally impacted sites across Colorado. Since becoming a Board Member of the Colorado Environmental Management Society in 2018—and serving as Vice President and Scholarship Committee Chair—I've had the privilege of working alongside passionate professionals who share a common goal: restoring land and water resources across Colorado and beyond.

As a Specialist in mine closure planning, I have witnessed drastically different outcomes from historic mining sites where no closure planning occurred, compared to active sites where closure planning is an integral piece of the operations process. Whenever possible, planning for closure while a site is still active is critical to adequately account for legal, social, environmental, technical, and regulatory obligations while actively implementing cost control. This can be applied across all industries – federal facilities; oil and gas; chemical processing – closure liabilities diminish when strategic planning for closure and reclamation is implemented throughout the life of a project.

Another key factor for successful closure is identifying all stakeholders early and fostering collaboration. Engaging regulators, local communities, tribal representatives, and other affected parties ensures that remediation strategies are inclusive, practical, aligned with shared goals, and result in ultimate acceptance by the communities in which we operate. This collaborative approach not only builds trust but also helps anticipate and overcome challenges while creating solutions that stand the test of time. By incorporating the post mining land use vision of local communities early in the planning process, we ensure that reclaimed lands provide lasting value—whether for recreation, habitat restoration, or economic redevelopment.

Equally important is the need for robust sampling and monitoring programs accompanied by focused closure studies. These efforts provide the data and insights necessary to design safe, effective closure plans protective of human health and the environment. Comprehensive monitoring helps identify and model potential risks early, while targeted studies ensure that closure plans are grounded in science and tailored to site-specific conditions and risks. Our mine sites across the Colorado Rockies and beyond often reside in high altitude, remote, harsh environments which require resourceful thinking to produce sustainable, long-term remedies. Opportunities exist for optimizing designs through engineering with nature to construct passive engineered treatment systems protective of ecosystems and communities with the final goal from regulatory bodies being unlimited use, uncontrolled exposure.

(Continued on Page 5)

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

**By Pete D. Jaacks
Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resource Law LLC
January 2026**

On December 11, 2025, a Montana federal court [decision](#) in *Center for Biological Diversity v. US Forest Service* vacated approvals for a condition-based forest-treatment project near Yellowstone National Park because the administrative record did not contain the specific analyses needed under NEPA, the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Over the past year, both the executive branch and the courts sought to pare back certain stringent aspects of NEPA reviews. However, the Montana court decision illustrates that agencies cannot defer conducting NEPA-required reviews until after project approval. While the court recognized that condition-based management can be lawful, it held that NEPA's hard-look requirement is not satisfied when an agency defers the spatial details that drive environmental effects, that NFMA requires demonstrated compliance with forest plan standards at the time of decision, and that ESA analyses must use the best available science and account for how temporary road placement affects secure habitat. The court vacated the agencies' decisions on those items and remanded for further analysis.

On December 18, 2025, the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) adopted the Air Pollution Control Division's proposed [Regulation 31](#), establishing regulations to reduce methane emissions from municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills. AQCC designed Regulation 31 to reduce methane emissions from MSW landfills to help Colorado meet statutory greenhouse gas reduction goals established in C.R.S. § 25-7-102(2)(g). Colorado's new regulations go beyond existing federal regulations by requiring more landfills to install gas collection and control systems (GCCS), implement stronger monitoring requirements, and phase out open flares.

On January 9th, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [formally disapproved](#) Colorado's revised 2022 Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP), which had proposed retiring several coal-fired power plants earlier than federal deadlines to reduce air pollution affecting protected areas. EPA cited Clean Air Act non-compliance and issues with plant consent and signaled it may either help Colorado revise the plan or implement a federal substitute. The move reinforces federal control over Colorado's haze reduction strategy and influences the timing of coal plant retirements tied to air quality goals.

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@anchorqea.com.

**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.**

From the Board *(continued from Page 2)*

Here in Colorado, we have unique opportunities—and responsibilities—when it comes to legacy mining lands such as those in Leadville, Silverton, and the Central City area. These sites, where many of us recreate in both the summer and winter, remind us of the importance of proactive closure planning, community engagement, novel treatment technologies, and learning from our past. They also highlight how thoughtful reclamation can transform former disturbed landscapes into spaces that support recreation, history, wildlife habitat, economic revitalization, and even prime tourist destinations.

At CEMS, we proudly offer valuable information and training on current best practices for remediation and reclamation that can impact the successful remediation of sites right in our backyards. Our luncheons, networking opportunities, and annual Fall Conference provide a platform for learning, collaboration, and innovation. If you believe you have valuable insights to share, the call for abstracts for presentations at our monthly luncheons or the Fall Conference is always open. Your expertise and insights are invaluable in helping our community stay informed and prepared for the challenges ahead.

In 2026, our focus must remain on collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing. Whether it's implementing best practices for soil remediation, advancing sustainable water treatment technologies, or mentoring the next generation through the CEMS scholarship, every effort contributes to a resilient environment, stronger communities, and a healthy reclamation industry. I encourage each of you to stay engaged, share your expertise, and continue driving solutions that make a lasting impact. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities and ensure that Colorado remains a leader in environmental management.

Thank you for your dedication, and here's to a productive and inspiring year ahead!

Rachel Blomberg is a Mining Closure Specialist for the Americas Business Unit of Newmont Mining Corporation. She holds a B.S. in Natural Resources Policy and Management from Cornell University, an M.S. in Hydrologic Science and Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines, and is a licensed Environmental Professional Engineer. Her career includes roles with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where she managed groundwater, asbestos, and legacy mining remediation projects. Outside of work, Rachel enjoys exploring the Colorado outdoors with her fiancé, stepson, and their bulldog. Whether it's backpacking, rafting, fishing, or cross-country skiing, she loves making the most of Colorado's natural beauty year-round.

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A huge thank you to the sponsors for January's Confluence event!



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SOCIETY 2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Colorado Environmental Management Society (CEMS) is a non-profit organization created in 1985 to provide a forum for the exchange of information concerning technologies, laws and regulations, and other current environmental and health and safety (EHS) issues. CEMS membership consists of technical and legal professionals from EHS organizations, government agencies, academia, industry and the private sector.

Mission Statement

To provide a mechanism for professional enhancement of its members with respect to environmental and health and safety (EHS) management. In addition, CEMS seeks to serve government, industry, environmental organizations and individuals in the development and use of prudent EHS management practices in the State of Colorado. It is the intent of the Society to be the premier non-profit professional EHS management organization in Colorado.

www.coems.org

A. Eligibility

- Students must be currently enrolled in and attending an undergraduate or graduate program at a Colorado university or college.
- Applicants cannot graduate before the end of the 2026 Fall semester.
- Students must be studying engineering, geology, environmental sciences, law, or another field in which EHS issues are addressed.
- Students must intend to work in the fields listed above.
- Students must complete and return the application as noted below.
- CEMS Officers, CEMS Board of Directors, the CEMS Scholarship Selection Committee, and family members of these individuals are not eligible to receive these scholarships.

B. General Information

- CEMS plans to award up to three scholarships: One for an undergraduate, one for a graduate (Master's or Doctoral) student, and one for a law student. The amount to be awarded in 2026 is up to \$3,000 per scholarship. Awardees will be notified on or before March 31, 2026, and will be announced on our website after all awardees have been notified.
- In addition to monetary compensation, awardees selected to receive this scholarship:
 - Will have their essays and biographies published in the CEMS monthly newsletter.
 - Will receive one-year free membership to CEMS. Awardees and a colleague may attend each monthly meeting at no charge.
 - Awardees must attend one monthly CEMS meeting in the spring/summer of 2026 to be recognized and honored by our membership. Meetings occur from 11:30-1:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month via a GotoMeeting Virtual call or at a location tbd.
 - Awardees are invited to participate in a poster session at the CEMS Fall Conference

[CEMS Scholarship Application 2026 \(.docx\)](#)

[CEMS Scholarship Application 2026 \(.pdf\)](#)

Return completed application via email to: scholarships@coems.org

Applications must be received by midnight Mountain Standard Time on *Sunday, March 1, 2026*