

COMING ATTRACTIONS WITH CEMS (Mark your Calendars!)

June 25: CEMS Presentation at Geotech Field Days - See below

July 27: Annual CEMS Golf Tournament - See page 2

August 11: Monthly Luncheon - Topic TBA

September 15: CEMS Fall Conference and Call for Abstracts - See pages 2 and 3

Also in this issue: From the Board, Regulatory Updates, Movie Night Sponsors, New CEMS Members, and more.

CEMS June Luncheon – At Geotech Field Days

**So, You (Still) Want a Sustainable Career as an Environmental Professional?
Let's Talk...**

**Steve Brauner, PE, Environmental Engineer and Colorado Market Manager,
Environmental Works, Inc.**

Thursday, June 25, 2025, 12:15pm – 1:00pm (please note the special date and time)

In Person Location: Geotech Environmental Equipment

2650 East 40th Avenue, Denver, CO 80205

Register directly with [Geotech Environmental Equipment](#)

Lunch will be provided free of charge by Geotech Environmental Equipment starting at 11:30am and during the presentation. Parking is free.

Information and schedules can be found [here](#).

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

Most environmental professionals I've met have not been trained or coached to think about joy, capacity, or emotional well-being as core competencies. Instead, we are taught to seek logical, verifiable answers in our education, then push through constraints of budgets, schedules, and conflicting goals of those we work with in our professional career. In that context, the question is not whether we will experience stress and emotional complexity in our day-to-day work, but whether we can achieve "success" while sustaining what truly matters to us over the course of a career. For continued abstract information, and the speaker biography, follow this [link](#).

[REGISTER TO ATTEND FREE TO GEOTECH FIELD DAYS](#)

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

2026 Annual CEMS Scholarship Golf Tournament

8am Shotgun Start



ENGINEERING, SCIENTIFIC, & LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

For more information, please contact Kevin Wolfe
kevin.wolfe@stantec.com

[Click Here for Registration](#)

New location! The Ranch Country Club

Westminster, CO
Monday, July 27th, 2026



Thank You to Last Year's Gold, Silver, & Bronze Sponsors:



- Breakfast & Lunch provided
- 4-Person Scramble Format
- Hole Prizes & Competitions
- Raffle
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Industry-Leading Networking Opportunity
- Opportunity to Play Private Golf Course



Scan Here for Registration

SAVE THE DATE

for the

CEMS FALL CONFERENCE

From Policy to Practice: Environmental Leadership in 2026

Tuesday, September 15th

CSU Spur Hydro Confluence Theater

Additional information at www.COCEMS.org, or contact:

Melissa Armstrong marmstrong@integral-corp.com

Drezden Kinnaird dkinnaird@cgrs.com

Natalie Gold Natalie.Gold@sgs.com



Announcing the Colorado Environmental Management Society 2026 Fall Conference

Call for Abstracts

Conference Schedule: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 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 **"From Policy to Practice: Environmental Leadership in 2026"**. Join us for a day to share ideas, innovations, and insights shaping the future of natural resources, environmental and health.

CEMS is honored to welcome **Brad Udall**, Senior Water and Climate Research Scientist at the Colorado Water Center, as our keynote speaker. A nationally recognized expert on climate change, hydrology, and water policy in the American West.

We are excited to announce that, for the first time, our Fall Conference will feature a special panel discussion on Colorado's water resources and the challenges facing our state. The panel will be moderated by **Jason Ullmann**, State Engineer, who directs the Colorado Division of Water Resources in the performance of its responsibilities.

Submit Your Abstract Today!

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

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

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMITTAL

Monday June 15, 2026

SUBMIT TO

- Drezden Kinnaird :: dkinnaird@cgrs.com
- Melissa Armstrong :: marmstrong@integral-corp.com

Early Bird Registration
Through August 31, 2026

Regular Registration
September 1 - September 13, 2026

✨ Visit our website www.coems.org for further information

From the Board... Kevin Wolfe, Stantec Consulting Services

Participation in professional organizations has been recognized as one of the most effective ways to strengthen careers, expand professional networks, and remain engaged with evolving industry trends. Beyond the benefits for established professionals in a particular industry, such as conferences and continuing education, organizations that offer regular networking opportunities provide unmatched value to students and early-career professionals seeking to establish themselves in competitive industries as well.

One of the most important benefits of professional organizations is access - to information, to peers, and to decision-makers. Monthly meetings and networking events create consistency, allowing relationships to develop organically over time. Instead of one-time introductions, members have repeated opportunities to reconnect, collaborate, and build professional familiarity that often leads to mentorship, referrals, or more than likely in our relatively intimate environmental industry, career opportunities.

The Colorado Environmental Management Society (CEMS) provides a compelling example of how professional organizations can support both education and career advancement. Through its long-standing scholarship program, CEMS supports Colorado students pursuing studies in environmental science, engineering, geology, law, and other related fields. In addition to financial awards, scholarship recipients receive complimentary membership and are encouraged to attend monthly meetings and events, integrating them directly into the professional community they hope to join after graduation. This connection between financial support and professional engagement underscores CEMS' commitment to developing the next generation of environmental professionals.

What makes organizations like CEMS particularly valuable for students and young professionals is not only the existence of networking opportunities, but the quality and concentration of those networks. Monthly events tend to attract a consistent group of professionals, often from firms and agencies that students and young professionals are actively interested in working for. Over time, this creates an environment where faces become familiar and conversations deepen - far more effective than sporadic large-scale events where meaningful interaction can be limited - although we have those too!

Additionally, these networking environments frequently include senior professionals and hiring managers - individuals who influence recruiting decisions and shape organizational culture. As a hiring manager myself, I tend to lean less on qualifications outlined in resumes and more on interpersonal relationships and an individual's personality. Regular interactions at CEMS-led events demystifies the hiring process and allows potential candidates to establish those relationships long before submitting a resume.

(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

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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

Dresden 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:

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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

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

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.

Members on the Move

Obsidian Analytical opened in February of 2026 with the goal of providing rapid and reliable analytical testing for the Colorado environmental industry. Locally owned and operated and founded with the hope of pushing the beautiful state of Colorado forward into a more sustainable future, Obsidian aims to be a supportive educational resource for the community.



Jacob Wood

Vice President

✉ [Jwood@obsidian-analytical.com](mailto:jwood@obsidian-analytical.com)

☎ 720.630.3126

🌐 Obsidian-analytical.com

CEMS REGULATORY UPDATE
FEDERAL AND STATE ACTIONS IMPACTING COLORADO
By Pete D. Jaacks
Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resource Law LLC
May 2026

On April 17, 2026, the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission (CAQCC) [adopted](#) measures to control emissions of five priority air toxic contaminants: benzene, ethylene oxide, formaldehyde, hexavalent chromium compounds, and hydrogen sulfide. Affected facilities will be required to reduce emissions by implementing new technologies, adjusting work practices, and using less toxic materials. The rules target specific high-emitting source categories: benzene from petroleum refineries; formaldehyde from stationary spark-ignition engines and combustion turbines; hexavalent chromium from decorative and functional chrome plating operations; ethylene oxide from sterilization facilities; and hydrogen sulfide from asphalt processing, roofing products, and manure digesters. Both existing and new sources are subject to the regulations, with new sources required to meet more stringent control requirements. The regulations prioritize reducing emissions from sources located near or within communities disproportionately impacted as defined by Colorado law, and in areas with multiple sources of priority air toxic contaminants. This rulemaking stems from the Public Protections From Toxic Air Contaminants Act (HB22-1244). The commission is required to revisit the pollutant list and control measures every five years.

On April 6, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [released](#) the draft of its sixth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) issued under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), including for the first time microplastics as a priority contaminant group. Section 1412(b)(1)(B)(i) of SDWA, as amended in 1996, requires that EPA publish the CCL every five years. The contaminants on the List are not regulated under national primary drinking water regulations, but either occur or are likely to occur in public drinking water systems. Inclusion on the List indicates that the chemical or group of chemicals warrants consideration for regulation under SDWA. This sixth iteration of the CCL contains 75 chemicals, four chemical groups, and nine microbes. The four groups are microplastics, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), disinfection byproducts, and pharmaceuticals. According to the notice, these four groups are included because EPA has identified them as priorities for evaluation, due to both public stakeholder input and other EPA action. EPA will evaluate the groups and certain individual chemicals within the groups using available data. Comments on the draft CCL are due June 5, 2026.

From the Board *(continued from Page 4)*

For students and early-career professionals, participation signals initiative and engagement - qualities that employers consistently value. It all results in a more authentic and lower-risk setting than traditional recruitment processes.

In an industry where relationships, reputation, and trust matter, organizations like CEMS provide far more than meetings on a calendar. Through monthly networking and access to engaged professionals, they create a bridge between education and employment that benefits individuals, firms, and the industry as a whole. Hope to see you at the next event!

Kevin has more than 20 years of experience in environmental engineering, and project and account management. Kevin earned a BS in Biological and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York in 2004. He and his wife Liana moved to Colorado in 2006 from the Hudson Valley of New York, and they are raising two daughters in the foothills of Golden. In the free time that a parent with two primary school-aged children might have to pursue their own interests, Kevin is always trying to find live music to attend. Otherwise, Kevin will be camping in the summer, finding a hut trip to take in the winter, and hunting in the fall.

Kevin Wolfe
Stantec Consulting
Kevin.wolfe@stantec.com

MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

New Individual

Phillip Crouse, Stantec

Renewal Individual

Muhammed Abdul-Shakoor

Robert Kelter, BELFOR Environmental, Inc.

Luke Lesnik, WSP USA Inc.

Tim Murphy, Pioneer Technical Services

Matthew Piper, Ground Penetrating Radar Systems (GPRS)

Joe Reese, Eurofins

Mary Stewart, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

New Corporate

SSR Mining

Josh Adams

Paulina Barela

Brian Doering

Tony Matarrese

Shelby Mullin

Kaitlyn Ragsdale

Jorge Ricaurte

Brayden Wilson

Renewal Corporate

Republic Services Group

Steve Derus

Sam Hatmaker

Melissa Montgomery Ted Risberg

Jack Vitha

ArkDSS Groundwater Project - Seeks Aquifer Properties Data

The Arkansas River Decision Support System (ArkDSS) is a joint project between the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) and Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) and has been in development since 2011. The project involves data collection; analytical tools to support data centered water resources planning and administration; and modeling of the Arkansas River Basin. If you have access to (1) hydraulic testing information including pumping tests, aquifer tests, or slug tests or (2) aquifer property data including hydraulic conductivity, transmissivity, specific yield, or storativity for specific location(s), please reach out to us using the form located here:

<https://cdss.colorado.gov/arkansas-river-dss>



CEMS would like to thank the following Movie Night Sponsors *Drink/Popcorn Sponsors*



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Name Tag Sponsor





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.

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