

CEMS March Luncheon – Virtual Webinar (not in-person)

1,4-Dioxane: Key Issues for Site Characterization and Management

David (Dave) Adamson, PhD, PE, Vice President/Principal Engineer, GSI Environmental Inc.

Note day change! Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 11:45am-1pm

CEMS March Presentation (VIRTUAL ONLY) Details and Registration

CEMS has applied for one (1) CLE credit for this presentation.

For full topic information and speaker biographies, follow this [link](#).

CEMS Members: [Online Registration for Free](#)

CEMS Non-Members: [\\$10.00 Guest Registration](#)

1,4-Dioxane is an emerging contaminant that has been increasingly detected at solvent-release sites, landfills, wastewater discharges, and in public water supplies. Its occurrence has prompted evolving regulatory responses and the development of cleanup levels by state programs as well as technical guidance by ITRC. This presentation will summarize 1,4-dioxane's environmental sources and occurrence patterns, highlight key regulatory benchmarks, and review implications for risk management at contaminated sites. It will examine fate and transport behavior governed by high solubility, low sorption and the tendency for large, dilute plumes and cross-media discharge to surface water. It will also describe emerging evidence that 1,4-dioxane can undergo natural attenuation despite its perception as a highly persistent contaminant. Building on this conceptual model, practical investigation strategies will be outlined, including identifying priority media, targeted screening of co-contaminants, and approaches to delineating diffuse, back-diffusion-controlled plumes. Finally, several current and emerging remedial technologies will be described, with an emphasis on ensuring efficient long-term management of groundwater plumes.

For full topic information and speaker biographies, 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](#)

**SAVE THE DATE
CEMS MOVIE NIGHT**

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026

SIE FILMCENTER

2510 EAST COLFAX AVE., DENVER, CO 80206

5:00PM - NETWORKING AND HAPPY HOUR

6:30PM - FILM SCREENING

Q&A TO FOLLOW

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!

From the Board...by Melissa Armstrong, Integral Consulting, Inc.

Since its founding in 1985, the Colorado Environmental Management Society (CEMS) has served as a forum for the exchange of information on technologies, laws and regulations, and emerging developments related to environmental health and safety, regulation and environmental cleanup. At the heart of this mission is the recognition that environmental challenges are best addressed through shared knowledge and professional collaboration. One such environmental challenge that is gaining increasing media attention is micro- and nanoplastics (MNPs).

Recent studies have detected higher levels of MNPs in bottled water than previous estimates, with some research indicating up to 240,000 particles per liter. In Colorado, microplastics were detected in all 16 samples collected from rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs along the front range.

This notable increase in observed detection and concentration has raised public concern about potential human health impacts and led to litigation. However, the mere presence of MNPs does not necessarily equate to a health risk. The key question remains: At what exposure levels do these particles begin to pose a real threat to human health? The answer to this is complex and requires a comprehensive evaluation of the nature of the MNPs, relevant toxicological data, and food- and beverage-specific exposure assessments.

So, what should be done to manage this environmental issue? In Colorado, regulations have focused on upstream plastic reduction and prevention. In 2021, the state passed the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act (HB 21-1162), which bans single-use plastic carryout bags, polystyrene food containers, and restoring local authority to enact more stringent plastic controls. These measures are intended to limit the sources of microplastics in Colorado. Additionally, consistent with the need to further understand MNPs, Colorado has supported research documenting the presence of microplastics in waterways and other environmental media, but has not yet established specific standards or health-based criteria.

Credit: I would like to acknowledge my colleagues at Integral for the idea for this article and much of the writing (<https://www.integral-corp.com/resources/microplastics-in-our-meals-a-scientific-perspective/>)

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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

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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

February 2026

On January 8, 2026, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) [finalized](#) a rule that removes all federal regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) from the Code of Federal Regulations. This action formally completes what had been an interim final rulemaking. The rule eliminates the centralized federal NEPA rules that agencies traditionally followed for environmental impact assessments and environmental impact statements on major federal actions. Agencies are now expected to develop their own NEPA procedures.

On January 13, 2026, the EPA released a [proposed](#) “restrictive Section 401 Water Quality Certification Rule” under the Clean Water Act (CWA) that would limit state and tribal authority to review and condition federal permits for projects that may affect water quality unless certification occurs within a specified timeframe. Section 401 requires state or tribal certification of compliance with water quality standards before federal agencies may issue licenses or permits for activities that may discharge into waters of the United States. If the certifying authority does not act within a reasonable time, certification is waived. Historically, states and tribes have also attached conditions to certifications, which then become prerequisites for federal authorization. Generally, under the current rule, certification decisions must be made within the default period of six months; however, that period may be extended up to one year after submission. While the proposed rule does not alter these periods, it proposes to eliminate automatic extensions for public notice procedures and force majeure events, requiring certifying authorities to rely on joint extension processes agreed upon with the federal agency and the applicant when necessary. EPA is accepting public comments on the proposed rule until February 17, 2026.

On February 12, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formally [revoked](#) the 2009 endangerment finding under the Clean Air Act (CAA), the scientific and legal determination that greenhouse gases like CO₂ and methane endanger public health and welfare. This determination had been foundational for federal climate rules, including vehicle emissions standards and other greenhouse gas regulation. Without the endangerment finding, EPA lacks statutory authority under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act to prescribe standards for greenhouse gas emissions.

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)*

Other references:

[Single-use Plastics in Colorado](#)

[FINAL-Colorado-Microplastics-report-5.24.23-compressed.pdf](#)

Ms. Melissa Armstrong is a Senior Consultant at Integral Consulting Inc, with nearly two decades of experience in groundwater remediation, contaminant fate and transport, and management of large environmental matters. Her experience spans diverse and technically challenging remediation projects and high-stakes litigation matters, providing strategic solutions to a wide range of industrial clients.

Ms. Armstrong serves as a consulting technical expert in litigation involving PFAS drinking-water treatment, water-resource disputes, construction-defect claims, and contaminant fate and transport. Her experience includes PFAS source identification, forensics, visualization and managing large site investigation. In addition to her technical depth, she brings disciplined project leadership, organizing and authoring reports, coordinating project planning, preparing proposals and cost estimates and directing interdisciplinary teams to deliver defensible, high quality work products.

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COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SOCIETY 2026 SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

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*