



CEMS Movie Night

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Denver SIE FilmCenter

2510 E. Colfax Ave, Denver, CO

5:00 PM - Networking and Happy Hour

6:30 PM - Film Screening - Wildlife Theme

Welcome Home and Under the Wire

7:50 PM - Panel Discussion

Registration:

Includes One Drink
Ticket and Taco Bar

Individual: \$40

Student: \$25

Sponsorship:

\$150 Event Sponsorship
(Only a Few Spots Left!)

\$250 Drink/Popcorn Ticket
Sponsorship
(SOLD OUT)



Registration and Information



From the Board...by Ian Contreras, P.G., CDPHE

As the newest Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) liaison to join the CEMS I would like to take a few moments to reflect on my initial attraction, my experience so far, and the benefits I've observed since becoming involved. For a little background, I've been a CEMS member for almost two years, and I'm a project manager in the Federal Facilities Unit responsible for overseeing investigations and remedial actions (cleanup) of Department of Defense facilities in Colorado. In particular, I manage former Pueblo Chemical Depot, located ~15-miles east of Pueblo, CO, which is a World War II-era munitions maintenance, storage, and demilitarization facility that was officially decommissioned in 2024. The Depot is now beginning its transformation from a former military installation into a hub for economic growth in southern Colorado by repurposing for commercial and industrial development opportunities. It is my job as a regulator to continue oversight of ongoing environmental investigation and remediation efforts, facilitate property transfer pursuant to CERCLA regulation, and to promote the safe, responsible reuse of the property while protecting human health and the environment. The Federal Facilities Unit has a longstanding tradition of not only proudly serving Coloradans and the environment, but also serving as CDPHE liaisons for the CEMS organization. When I heard of an opening to join CEMS, I capitalized on the opportunity given the organization's dedication to our industry and professional development. I have engaged in professional development since I was in college hosting club meetings with industry professionals and networking as a consultant, so transitioning to the CDPHE liaison was a logical step for me. Being a relatively new member, I am integrating into the group seamlessly thanks to the support from experienced CEMS leadership, and have found meaningful connections through shared interests with fellow members. I am passionate about my job and the industry I work in, and it is quite evident that fellow CEMS members are the same way.

I also sit on the CEMS program committee and must say that CEMS offers unique ways to experience colorful Colorado in all its environmental glory. In March 2025, CEMS set up an exclusive field trip to see the ice cores at the National Science Foundation's Ice Core Facility curated by the USGS, followed up by a happy hour. CEMS goes above and beyond to further your understanding and to stay on the cutting edge of all things environmental by snagging some of our industry's best subject matter experts! I have had the opportunity to facilitate monthly luncheon meetings which are hosted virtually and at the lovely CDPHE campus in Glendale, CO.

(Continued on page 7)

2025 CEMS OFFICERS:

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

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

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

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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, PE, United States Army Corps of Engineers, (720)418-9317,

rachel.e.blomberg@usace.army.mil

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

Peter Jaacks, Burns Figa & Will, P.C., (303)796-2626, pjaacks@bfwlaw.com

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

Monica Genadio, Kleinfelder, Inc., (720)936-1694, mgenadio@gmail.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:

Rachel Blomberg, PE, United States Army Corps of Engineers, (720)418-9317,

rachel.e.blomberg@usace.army.mil

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

Nominations/Bylaw:

Suzanne Gabriele, Geosyntec Consultants, (303)790-1340, SGabriele@Geosyntec.com

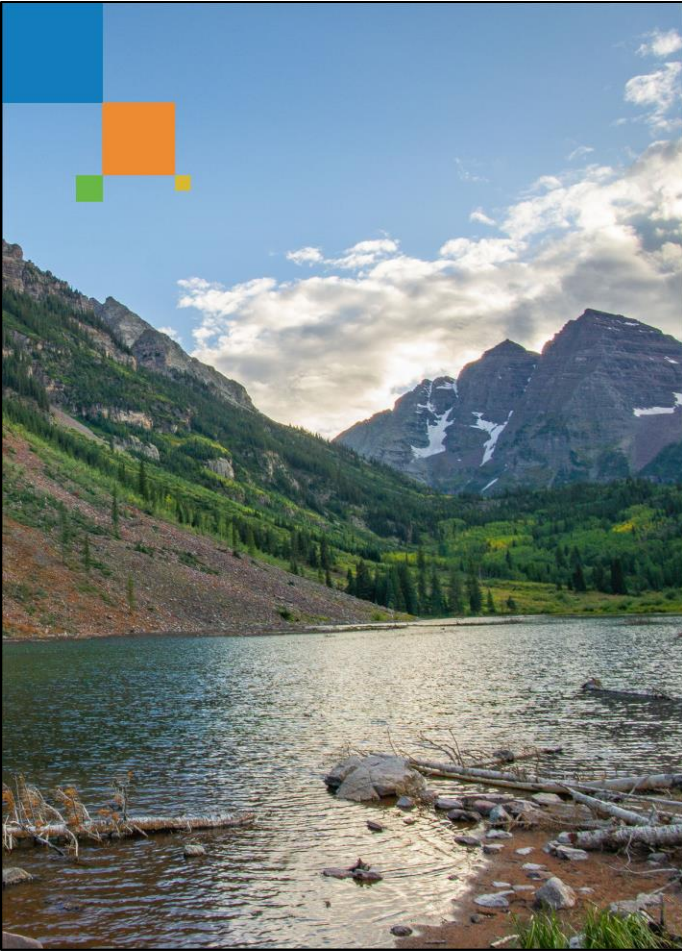
Glen Vallance, CGRS, Inc., (970)-493-7780, glen@cgrs.com

Membership:

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

Administrative Assistant: Juliana Reid, admin@coems.org

CEMS Lunch & Webinar Meeting/Newsletter Sponsors



Spencer Fane is proud to support the Colorado Environmental Management Society.

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Associate | 303.839.9750
esingleton@spencerfane.com

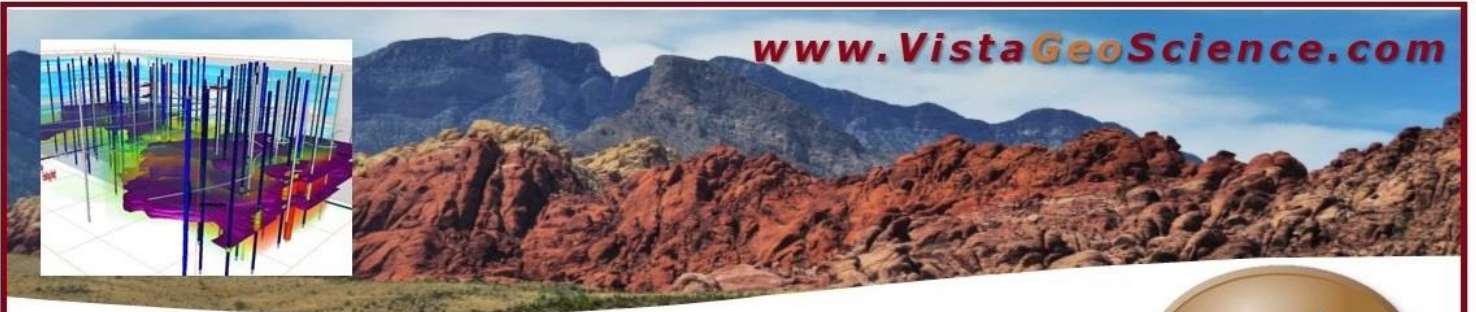


John Watson
Of Counsel | 303.592.8339
jwatson@spencerfane.com



Spencer Fane LLP | spencerfane.com
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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.

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.

CEMS REGULATORY UPDATE
FEDERAL AND STATE ACTIONS IMPACTING COLORADO

By Peter D. Jaacks
Burns, Figa & Will, P.C.
April 2025

On Tuesday, March 4, 2025, the Supreme Court [issued](#) an opinion in *City and County of San Francisco, California v. Environmental Protection Agency*, in which the City and County of San Francisco challenged certain provisions in the Clean Water Act (CWA) National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for its Oceanside wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that conditioned its permit compliance on whether the receiving water body met certain water quality standards. Among other requirements and restrictions, the NPDES permit at issue prohibited the WWTP from 1) making any discharge that “contribute[s] to a violation of any applicable water quality standard,” and 2) performing any treatment or making any discharge that “create[s] pollution, contamination, or nuisance as defined by California Water Code section 13050.” San Francisco argued these permit requirements created significant uncertainty for the compliance status of its Oceanside WWTP by holding it responsible for a condition it could not directly control—the quality of the oceanwater into which the WWTP discharges. The EPA, on the other hand, argued that it needs the authority to impose these “end-result” permit requirements when the regulated entity does not provide the agency with adequate information to craft more specific requirements that will be adequately protective of receiving water quality. Justice Alito delivered the opinion of the Court, which held in a 5-4 opinion that the CWA provisions authorizing the EPA to impose “effluent limitations” (33 U.S.C. § 1311) in NPDES permits do not authorize such “end-result” requirements that “condition [permittees’] compliance on whether receiving waters meet applicable water quality standards.” In other words, the EPA cannot impose requirements that “simply tell[] a permittee that a particular end result must be achieved and that it is up to the permittee to figure out what it should do.” The main concern for the majority was the potential hole that “end-result” requirements could create in CWA Section 1342(k), which deems a permittee to be in compliance with the CWA if it is in compliance with its permit. This “permit shield” provision offers certain legal assurances to permittees that would otherwise be exposed to harsh civil and even criminal penalties for violations of the CWA that are ultimately outside of their control. The Court found that “end-result” permit requirements, by “making the permittee responsible for any drop in water quality below the acceptable standard,” would potentially swallow the protections offered by Section 1342(k) and result in significant civil and criminal exposure for permittees, even when they comply with all the other terms of their permits. The Court’s holding impacts NPDES permits across the country. “End-result” permit requirements in the form of receiving water limitations are commonly found in general NPDES permits. The Court’s holding also may impact pending regulatory and citizen-suit enforcement actions, at least to the extent such actions are based on “end-result” permit requirements similar to the ones rejected by the Supreme Court.

On March 12, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) (jointly, “the Agencies”) issued guidance addressing implementation of the definition of “waters of the U.S.” (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The guidance addresses the jurisdictional requirement that, for a wetland to be subject to Corps jurisdiction, the wetland must have a “continuous surface connection” to and directly abut an otherwise jurisdictional water (a traditional navigable water or a relatively permanent body of water connected to a traditional navigable water). Consistent with the Supreme Court’s 2023 decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, the Agencies state that WOTUS includes “only those adjacent wetlands that have a continuous surface connection because they directly abut the [jurisdictional water].” An adjacent wetland that is separated from the jurisdictional water by uplands, a berm, dike or similar feature does not directly abut covered waters and is not, therefore, jurisdictional. This interpretation provides a plain language reading of *Sackett*, and departs from and narrows the prior Administration’s interpretation, which allowed for jurisdiction over adjacent wetlands separated from a jurisdictional waterbody by a berm or similar feature.

CEMS 2025 Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the Society provides scholarships for Colorado collegiate candidates with studies focused in the environmental science, engineering, or law arenas. In 2025, CEMS is pleased to announce we were able to award one scholarship of \$3,000, and two scholarships of \$1,500 each to deserving students!

The annual scholarship coordination, including development and distribution of the scholarship application, is led by the Scholarship Committee. The applications are reviewed by the Scholarship Committee and recommendations on scholarship awards are presented to the Board for approval. A notice of the scholarship awards are made to the recipients and presented in the monthly newsletter for notice to the members.

CEMS received many applications for scholarships this year. We are pleased to offer scholarships to each of the following students:

- Isabella Chittumuri – PhD, Applied Statistics, Colorado School of Mines – [Chittumuri, Isabella essay](#)
- Sabal Dangi – BS Environmental Engineering with Double Minor, Climate Geophysics and Public Affairs, Colorado School of Mines – [Dangi, Sabal essay](#)
- Kiersten Wilson– BS Environmental Engineering, Colorado School of Mines – [Wilson, Kiersten essay](#)

Follow the link aside each scholarship winner to view their application essays. Winners will be present at a CEMS upcoming luncheon or event to receive their awards.

MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

Renewal Individual

Ken Forster, CTEH - Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, LLC

David Lipson, HRS Water Consultants, Inc.

Tracy Loftus, Rule Engineering, LLC

Mike Mazzaresse, AST Environmental, Inc.

Tim Murphy, Pioneer Technical Services

Matthew Piper, Ground Penetrating Radar Systems (GPRS)

Chris Purcell, E2C Environmental, LLC

Jack Riggi, Leidos

Lisa Woodward, Colorado School of Mines

From the Board *(Continued from Page 2)*

I happily converse with some of the most talented environmental professionals CEMS has to offer. This past month (April 2025) Mary White and Hannah Williams from Colorado Dept. of Labor and Employment, Division of Oil and Public Safety, gave an outstanding presentation on Updates to Petroleum Storage Tank Regulations. I learned a lot and reflected on how wonderful it is to meet new, dedicated folks with wide-ranging backgrounds in law, engineering, policy and science alike to showcase our expertise and collaborate. This month (May 13, 2025) CEMS is hosting a Wildlife-Themed Movie Night at the Denver SIE Film Center, and will offer a social hour and the chance to talk shop and get to know other attendees in a relaxed setting. What better way to establish connections than exclusive field trips, movie nights, luncheons and happy hours? The CEMS program committee is currently planning some great events with many more to come, so stay tuned! Meanwhile, if you see your friendly, neighborhood CDPHE liaison at the next wonderfully curated CEMS event, please say hi and I will do the same! It's a small, environmental world out there and I hope to see you in it!

Ian Contreras is a registered Professional Geologist (P.G.) and project manager in the Remediation and Restoration Program of the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). At CDPHE Ian provides regulatory oversight of Department of Defense and other federal facilities under RCRA impacted by numerous contaminants. Prior to working for CDPHE, Ian was a project manager for an environmental consulting firm dedicated to remediation of legacy sites characterized by complex geology, geochemistry and hydraulics. Mr. Contreras specializes in hydrogeologic investigation, contaminant fate and transport, remedial design, and statistical groundwater analysis. Ian earned a Master's degree in Hydrology from the Colorado School of Mines, and a Bachelor's degree in Geology and Mathematics from the University of Colorado Boulder. Ian is from Aurora, Colorado and enjoys restoring retro electronics, brewing, beekeeping, off-roading, and camping.

Congratulations to CEMS Member Lisa Woodward

Congratulations for CEMS member Lisa Woodward. This week Lisa will be presented the Stanley E. Knappe Award for the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. in Washington, DC. This Award is presented to the Board-Certified Environmental Engineer or Board-Certified Environmental Scientist who has performed extraordinary and outstanding service contributory to significant advancement of public awareness to the betterment of the total environment and other objectives to the Academy.

Lisa Woodward, P.E., BCEE, is an adjunct instructor for Senior Design at the Colorado School of Mines. She holds a Professional Engineer's license and is Board Certified in Environmental Engineering. Lisa is a past president of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Rocky Mountain Section, a former member of the SWE WE Local Advisory Board, and a longtime member of the Colorado Environmental Management Society (CEMS).

Lisa has been recognized nationally for her leadership and contributions to the engineering profession. She received the Distinguished Engineer Award from the Society of Women Engineers in 2024, the Women in Leadership Award from the Colorado School of Mines in 2024, and the Stanley E. Kappe Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists in 2025.



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 8/18th

<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 8/19th

CVEN-5427 Storm Water System Design

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

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

CVEN-5434 Biological Treatment Processes

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

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

[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

303-315-7570

david.mays@ucdenver.edu

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

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