

# MINE OPERATION AND RECLAMATION: A CEMS ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL

**Thursday, May 7, 2026**

**4 - 6pm: Panel Discussion @ Davis Graham**

3400 Walnut St, Denver, CO

**6 - 7pm: Networking Happy Hour @ Improper City**

3201 Walnut St #107, Denver, CO

With panelists from:



REGISTER [HERE](#)  
OR SCAN QR CODE



## Mine Operation and Reclamation: A CEMS Environmental Panel Discussion

Mining has a long history in Colorado, but its history in the state has oftentimes been accompanied by long-standing environmental impacts. This panel discussion will be focused on the past, present, and future of mine operations, related environmental protections, and needs for reclamation. The presentations will be divided into two parts:

- Part One: Legacy Environmental Impacts of mining activity. How these impacts are being addressed (often with substantial cost to taxpayers), and how these impacts have shaped today's regulatory and permitting requirements. We will hear from speakers representing the State of Colorado Department of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety (DRMS) and from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency Superfund cleanup division.
- Part Two: Mining Operations Today. How today's mining operations in Colorado and elsewhere are planning for and implementing environmental protections and reclamation goals, while maintaining a successful commercial bottom line. We will hear from speakers representing Colorado's SSR Mining and Newmont.

# CEMS MOVIE NIGHT

**Thursday, April 30, 2026**  
**Denver SIE FilmCenter**  
**2510 E. Colfax Ave, Denver, CO**

## **SAVE THE FARM** **SAVE THE FUTURE**

a FREE RANGE film

**Registration:**  
**Includes One Drink**  
**Ticket and Taco Bar**

**Individual: \$40**  
**Student: \$25**



Registration and Information

**Sponsorship:**  
**\$150 Event**  
**Sponsorship**

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

**5:00 PM - Networking and Happy Hour**  
**6:30 PM - Film Screening**  
**7:30 PM - Q&A**



Save the Date!  
Monday, July 27, 2026

New location!  
The Ranch Country Club  
Westminster, CO

2026 Annual CEMS  
Scholarship Golf Tournament

8am Shotgun Start



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

ENGINEERING, SCIENTIFIC, & LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

For more information, please contact Kevin Wolfe

[kevin.wolfe@stantec.com](mailto:kevin.wolfe@stantec.com)

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

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

## CEMS 2026 Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the Society provides scholarships for Colorado collegiate candidates with studies focused on the environmental science, engineering, or law arenas. In 2026, CEMS is pleased to announce we were able to award three scholarships of \$3,000 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:

- Ashlynn Mixon – B.S in Biology, Emphasis Ecology, Western Colorado University – [Ashlynn Mixon - essay](#)
- Kiersten Wilson – MS, Civil & Environmental Engineering, Colorado School of Mines – [Kiersten Wilson - essay](#)
- Mallory Tope – JD, University of Colorado Law School – [Mallory Tope - essay](#)

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

## *From the Board...Recognize, Retreat and Report! Munitions Safety and History by Ian Contreras, CDPHE*

Did you know that there are over 400 square miles of land - including public - in Colorado contaminated by military munitions? If you happen to find a munition, follow the **3R's of Munitions Safety**:

- 1) Recognize** a potential munition by its metal, often tube-shaped appearance, and consider it extremely dangerous;
- 2) Retreat** to a safe location without disturbing it by retracing your steps, and note your location;
- 3) Report** to local law enforcement via 911 and provide the approximate location of the object.

Munitions were designed to destroy equipment and kill or maim people. Munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) are considered a unique environmental contaminant existing at many current and former military installations, and they do not carry any acceptable level of risk, i.e. there is no tolerable limit, concentration or frequency of explosions detonating in proximity of any receptors. Remediating MEC sites requires special training, certifications, accreditations and an in-depth knowledge of geophysical data collection and processing techniques. While munitions may be a rare contaminant, what isn't rare is the rich history behind almost any environmental site. I sometimes feel the history of our environmental sites is often dismissed. This article intends to encourage its readers to stop and smell the history, not just at munition sites, but at all of our sites.

I recently attended a training event near Aurora Reservoir where I grew up fishing and catching crawdads as a kid. The event was held at Former Lowry Bombing and Gunnery Range (FLBGR) which is located 20 miles southeast of Denver, and encompasses approximately 58,000 acres. FLBGR opened in 1942 as an army airfield and was active during World War II and the Cold War. Military aircraft used to depart from Lowry Air Force Base and used FLBGR for various munitions related activities including bombing and explosive ordnance disposal training. I was staggered to discover not only was there a bombing range, but also multiple former Titan I Missile complexes (a decommissioned, derelict nuclear launchpad) on the same plains where I grew up listening to the warblers and meadowlarks! While not strictly open to public, it is a good example and reminder that these lands still present a danger of encountering munitions. I wish I had known the history and to Recognize, Retreat and Report munitions!

(Continued Page 7)

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**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.**

## MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

### New Individual

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Natasha Musalem, Energy and Sustainability

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

**By Pete D. Jaacks**

**Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resource Law LLC**

**April 2026**

On March 4, 2026, the State of Colorado [filed](#) a Clean Air Act (CAA) challenge in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, seeking review of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) rejection of the State's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP) under the CAA. The case, *Colorado v. EPA*, arises from a dispute over how Colorado may satisfy its obligation to improve visibility in federally protected areas, including Rocky Mountain National Park and other Class I wilderness areas. Colorado's SIP relied in substantial part on a combination of existing emission controls and anticipated reductions tied to the planned retirement of certain coal-fired power plants. The State argued that this approach complied with the Clean Air Act's regional haze program, which is designed to achieve gradual, long-term visibility improvements through reasonable progress measures. The EPA, however, rejected the plan, concluding that Colorado had not required sufficiently stringent, source-specific controls—particularly with respect to nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from remaining coal units—and that reliance on future plant closures was not an adequate substitute for enforceable emission limitations. Colorado argues EPA exceeded its authority by substituting its preferred regulatory approach for the State's, while EPA maintains the plan lacked enforceable emissions limits. The outcome will determine the scope of state discretion under the Clean Air Act and whether EPA may impose a federal plan with stricter controls.

On March 10, 2026, the EPA [published](#) a final rule finalizing new source performance standards (NSPS) and emission guidelines (EG) for the large municipal waste combustion (MWC) source category. The final rule makes revisions the preceding rule for municipal waste combustion and publishes the results of the five-year review required by the CAA. The final rule revises the remanded emission limits for cadmium, lead, particulate matter, polychlorinated dibenzodioxins and dibenzofurans, mercury, hydrogen chloride, and sulfur dioxide for all sources subject to the NSPS and EG and the remanded emission limits for nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide for some sources subject to the EG and all sources subject to the NSPS. This final rule also removes certain startup, shutdown, and malfunction (SSM) exclusions and exemptions. The rule is effective May 11, 2026.

On March 19, 2026, the EPA [proposed](#) a rule to take a significant step toward approving Colorado's request for "primacy" over the regulation of Class VI underground injection wells used for carbon sequestration. Class VI Underground Injection Control (UIC) wells are regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to manage the permanent geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide. Established by the EPA, these wells must meet strict technical criteria for construction, operation, monitoring, and closure to protect underground sources of drinking water. If finalized, this action would transfer primary permitting and enforcement authority from the federal government to the State, likely through the Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission. The proposed approval reflects EPA's preliminary determination that Colorado's regulatory program meets federal requirements under the SDWA. Comments must be received on or before May 4, 2026.

### **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](mailto:mwhelan@anchorqea.com).

## From the Board *(continued from Page 4)*

Camp Hale, a National Monument, is a whopping, 200,000+ acre former military training area spanning four counties and two national forests, located 70 miles west of Denver. Homelands of the Ute people, Camp Hale was established in 1942 to provide novel winter and mountain warfare training to troops (10th Mountain Division) in preparation of the Italian campaign of World War II. Once home to 15,000 allied soldiers, Camp Hale also housed German prisoners of war from the African theater and used them to dismantle on-site infrastructure at the end of the war. Interestingly, from 1959 -1964 the CIA secretly trained Tibetan soldiers at Camp Hale before being dismantled in 1965 and transferred to the US Forest Service. Now, the area is primarily used for numerous outdoor recreational activities as part of the Camp Hale National Monument, White River and San Isabel National Forests so follow those 3Rs even in the High Country.

Another public facing munitions response site, Former Camp George West (CGW) Artillery Range is a 466-acre site located in Lakewood (yes, Lakewood), CO. The former range is located on William F. Hayden Park on Green Mountain and traces its roots back to 1859. Notably, William F. Hayden Park consists of 2,400 acres of recreational open space and a network of year-round trails and boasts an estimated 500,000 annual park visitors. The Colorado National Guard established its training facility three miles east of Golden, CO in 1903. Green Mountain was leased from the Hayden family between 1903-1939 and the northern slopes were used as a live fire artillery impact area. Today the CGW is historically registered, while the former range is slated for remedial cleanup. With a similar history, the Delta Range of Delta County, CO hosts 14,513 acres of munition-bearing, live-stock grazing, public-recreating BLM managed land. Past instances of MEC found here combined with a frequent, high volume of traffic poses a potential risk of encountering unexploded ordnance - observe the 3 “R’s” even when you’re grabbin’ some trail.

Plain to mountain, east to west, regrettably I can only fit so much history into this article. Though I didn’t discuss Colorado Mining, you can on **May 7, 2026 at [CEMS’ Mine Operation and Reclamation Panel](#)** featuring industry professionals to answer your questions – see you there! For more information regarding munitions safety please visit DENIX’s 3Rs program page and the CDPHE website. For more local history visit the History Colorado Center, Camp Hale National Monument, Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, Plains Conservation Center and **remember the 3Rs of Munition Safety: Recognize, Retreat and Report!**

*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). 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. Mr. Contreras specializes in hydrogeologic investigation, contaminant fate and transport, remedial design, and statistical groundwater analysis.*



University of Colorado **Denver**

**CU IN THE CITY**

## 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 8/18<sup>th</sup>

### **CVEN-5404 Water and Wastewater Treatment**

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

Thursday ONLY 5:00-7:45 pm starting Thursday 8/20<sup>th</sup>

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

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

Monday/Wednesday 11:30 am-12:15 pm starting Monday 8/17<sup>th</sup>

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.**

**Associate Professor**

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