



CEMS November Presentation – [Virtual Format Only](#)

Understanding A.I.: Foundations and Forensic Applications

**Dr. Thomas Geeza, Project Professional and
Raphael Siebenmann, P.E. (GA), GISP, Senior Principal, Geosyntec Consultants**

Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 11:45am-1pm

CEMS November Presentation (VIRTUAL ONLY) Details and Registration

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

Advancements in physical hardware, the proliferation of data, and the development of novel learning algorithms have reanimated the idea of “machine intelligence”, promising to revolutionize markets from advertising to manufacturing. While the concepts behind machine learning are rooted in decades old algorithms and centuries old mathematics, the marketing hype and sensationalism surrounding A.I. can make these methods appear more like Silicon Valley magic than clever algorithms powered by high school math and modern computer hardware. In the coming years, machine learning will significantly impact environmental forensics by improving analytical techniques, optimizing instrument performance, and expanding data interpretation and analysis. This will be felt strongly in the areas of source allocation, deconvolution, and liability litigation as these techniques provide additional tools for scientists to build robust, defensible conceptual models at contaminated sites. This talk discusses the origins of these models, the fundamentals of how the techniques work, and gives examples of where they can be effectively applied and interpreted by environmental professionals.

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

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

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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](#)

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.

From the Board...Finding Purpose and Connection at the CEMS Fall Conference by Melissa Armstrong, Integral Consulting, Inc.

As a long-time member of the CEMS, I've come to appreciate how deeply this organization and in particular the Fall Conference has shaped my professional journey. I have attended the Fall Conference for close to 10 years, been on the planning committee for 5 years and the Chairperson of the conference for 2 years. I have not only had the chance to work with great people, but networked within the community and feel as though I am part of something meaningful.

This year's conference was no exception. From the moment I walked into the CSU Spur Hydro Building, the perfect venue for the conference, I felt the energy of a community united by a shared commitment to environmental stewardship and professional excellence. The highlight of the day was the keynote address by former Governor Bill Ritter, whose message resonated deeply with our mission. He spoke passionately about the importance of people working together to find solutions for our environment. His words were bright during a time when it is easy to be negative, and perfectly captured the mission of CEMS and the conference itself: bringing together regulators, attorneys, consultants, and scientists to exchange ideas and advance environmental stewardship.

I was also given the privilege of presenting this year's CEMS scholarship recipient award to Sabal Dangi, whose hard work and passion to connect natural and social worlds through his study of climate science and environmental law was equally inspiring.

Reflecting on this year's Fall Conference, I am reminded once again of the tremendous impact that CEMS has had on my career and personal growth. I am excited for the continued opportunities to engage, learn, and contribute within CEMS and encourage others to get involved as well. Whether through attending future conferences, volunteering for a committee, participating in monthly luncheons, or simply reaching out to connect with fellow members, there are so many ways to get involved.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's conference a success and to those who keep striving to make CEMS better each year. Together, we are more than just a professional network—we are a community.

Ms. Melissa Armstrong specializes in groundwater remediation, fate and transport of contaminants, and management of environmental remediation sites. She has worked on a wide range of challenging environmental remediation sites and litigation cases.

Ms. Armstrong has more than 15 years of environmental experience, including conceptual site model development, remedial design and planning, and management of a variety of large site investigations for various contaminants of concern including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Her project management experience includes organizing and writing reports, project planning, cost estimating, preparing proposals, invoicing, and managing staff. In addition, Ms. Armstrong has extensive experience as a supporting technical expert in a variety of litigation cases, including construction defect cases and environmental contaminant fate and transport cases.

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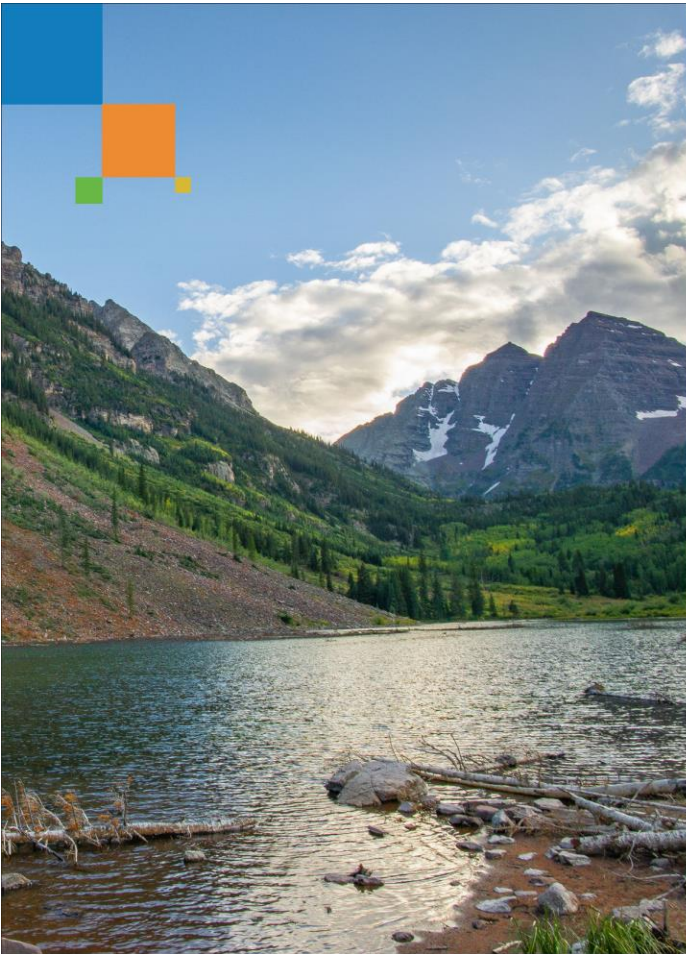
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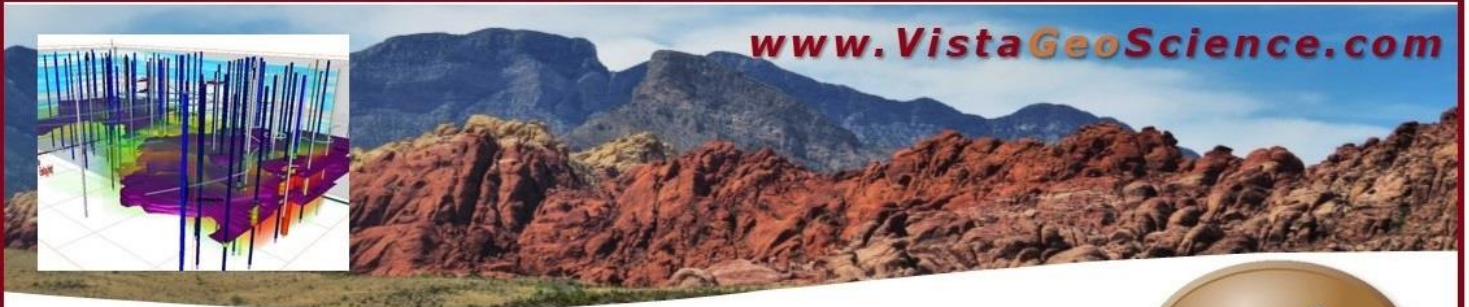


John Watson
Of Counsel | Cell: 303.882.7941
jwatson@spencerfane.com



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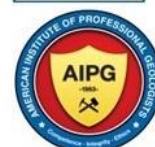
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CEMS REGULATORY UPDATE
FEDERAL AND STATE ACTIONS IMPACTING COLORADO
By Pete D. Jaacks
Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resource Law LLC
October 2025

On September 17, 2025, EPA [announced](#) that it will retain the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous substance designation for PFOA and PFOS, two PFAS compounds. The [final rule](#) designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA became effective on July 8, 2024. Substances designated as hazardous under CERCLA are subject to release reporting requirements, specific spill rules, release tracking requirements, and additional reporting mandates under other environmental statutes. Further, EPA may require potentially responsible parties – PRPs – to clean up or pay for the cleanup of hazardous substances. In the announcement, EPA stated its intention to initiate a rulemaking to “establish a uniform framework governing designation of hazardous substances under section 102(a) of CERCLA moving forward.” Such a “Framework Rule” would establish a uniform approach to guide future CERCLA hazardous substance designation, including EPA’s method for considering the costs of proposed designation. EPA further stated that it will prioritize holding polluters accountable while still providing certainty for passive receivers (such as water utilities) that did not manufacture or generate PFOA or PFOS, and that it believes new statutory language will be necessary to fully address concerns regarding passive receiver liability.

On September 23, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [proposed](#) amendments to the procedural framework rule for conducting existing chemical risk evaluations under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). When conducting an existing chemical risk evaluation under TSCA, EPA must determine whether a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment, without considering costs or nonrisk factors, including unreasonable risk to a potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation identified as relevant to the risk evaluation, under the conditions of use (COU). EPA states that it “proposes to rescind or revise certain 2024 amendments to the procedural framework rule to effectuate the best reading of the statute and ensure that the procedural framework rule does not impede the timely completion of risk evaluations or impair the effective and efficient protection of health and the environment.” The proposed rule includes the following proposed amendments: a requirement for EPA to make a determination of unreasonable risk for each of the COUs within the scope of the chemical’s risk evaluation as dictated by Congress in TSCA, instead of a single risk determination on the chemical substance as a whole; clarifications as to how EPA will consider occupational exposure controls such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and industrial controls when conducting risk evaluations and making risk determinations; and clarifications regarding EPA’s discretionary authority to determine which COUs, exposure routes, and exposure pathways it will consider in a risk evaluation. Comments on the proposed rule are due November 7, 2025.

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CGRS, Inc.

dkinnaird@cgrs.com



Melanie Granberg

Davis, Graham & Stubbs LLP

melanie.granberg@davisgraham.com



Janet Castle

Eagle Synergistic Optimizing Technologies, LLC

jcastle@eaglesynergistic.com



Maggie Mandell

Environmental Works, Inc

mmandell@environmentalworks.com



Andrew Lindemann

GeoTech Environmental Equipment, Inc.

andrewl@geotechenv.com

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mblanchard@hgl.com



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beth@resolutionsdev.com



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John Fontana
Vista GeoScience, LLC
jfontana@VistaGeoScience.com

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Weaver Consultants Group, LLC

pgruca@wcgrp.com

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sgabriele@geosyntec.com



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Inszone Insurance Services
rdemuis@inszoneins.com

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John Fontana
Vista GeoScience, LLC
jfontana@VistaGeoScience.com

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Derek Wintle
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