



CEMS October Luncheon – Hybrid Format

Supporting Industry with State Programs

**Rayna Oliker, Green Business and Environmental Assistance Unit Manager,
Colorado Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability, CDPHE**

Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 11:45am-1pm

In Person Location: *Davis Graham LLP*

CEMS October Luncheon (Hybrid Format) Details and Registration

Please join us in person if you are able, or virtually if you prefer!

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

Learn more about the Colorado Green Business Network. CGBN is a free state program designed to support businesses in implementing resource efficiency into their operation. The program also recognizes and certifies businesses who have taken steps toward operational sustainability. In addition to a broad program overview, we will discuss:

- What kinds of technical assistance and support the program provides, and the process for a business to receive support.
- Case studies of projects completed this year across multiple sectors.
- Recognition Criteria, and the use of third-party certifications as a motivation tool

Rayna Oliker joined CDPHE to oversee the Colorado Green Business Network in 2021, with the goal of taking the program to the next level with regard to business support and advising in sustainable operations. With over 15 years of experience in operational sustainability, Rayna's focus is on increasing awareness of best practices and incentivizing the implementation of new initiatives and efficiency projects across industry.

For full topic information, speaker biography, and ***registration options*** follow this [link](#).

In Person Location: Davis Graham, 3400 Walnut Street, Suite 700, Denver, CO, 80205 ([map it](#)). Guests will check-in with the security guard on the first floor of the building, he will then let folks up to the 6th floor. Parking and entrance information [here](#).

For reservation information, box lunches, webinar, please 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](#)

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

From the Board... How Artificial is AI? by Tom Fox, CDLE: Division of Oil and Public Safety

The term "artificial intelligence" (AI) was coined in 1956 to describe early versions of "thinking machines". Early AI research focused on problem-solving, leading to the development of programs that could play games like chess or solve mathematical problems. The 1980s introduced machine learning (ML), which allows systems to learn from data and make predictions rather than relying solely on explicit programming. The introduction of the Internet further accelerated advancements. Natural language processing (NLP) allows machines to understand and interpret human language, facilitating applications like chatbots, translators, and virtual assistants. These technologies work together to create systems that perform tasks previously thought to be exclusive to humans.

In healthcare, AI is used for predictive analytics, personalized medicine, and medical imaging analysis. In finance, AI helps detect fraud, assess credit risk, and optimize trading strategies. The retail sector leverages AI for inventory management, customer service, and personalized marketing.

Despite its remarkable progress, AI and ML face several challenges, particularly in environmental assessment and cleanup work. One significant issue is bias, where AI systems produce skewed results due to training data. For example, if an AI model used to assess environmental risks is trained on data that predominantly reflects certain geographic areas or geologic conditions, this can lead to ineffective or inappropriate cleanup strategies.

Another challenge is that AI operates as a "black box," making it difficult to understand how decisions are made. In environmental assessment, this lack of transparency can hinder trust and acceptance among stakeholders. For instance, if an AI system predicts contamination levels in a specific area without clear reasoning, it may face skepticism from those impacted by the cleanup efforts.

On a personal level, data privacy and job displacement are critical considerations. If the interns and "newbies" are replaced by AI, who will be the next generation of "experts" in a few decades who will decide if the AI results are realistic or "hallucinations"? On a societal level, what will "excess" workers do to earn a living or find fulfillment? How will the financial profits from increased productivity be shared?

But the potential benefits of these technologies are substantial... **IF** humans can adapt quickly enough. Some might say that makes it unclear who is actually "in charge", us or the machines.

(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

Treasurer: John Fontana, Vista GeoScience, (303)277-1694, jfontana@vistageoscience.com

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

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, Newmont, (720)418-9317, Rachel.Blomberg@newmont.com

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

Peter Jaacks, Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resources Law LLC, (303) 513-4653, pjaacks@jnlr.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, Newmont, (720)418-9317, Rachel.Blomberg@newmont.com

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

Nominations/Bylaw:

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

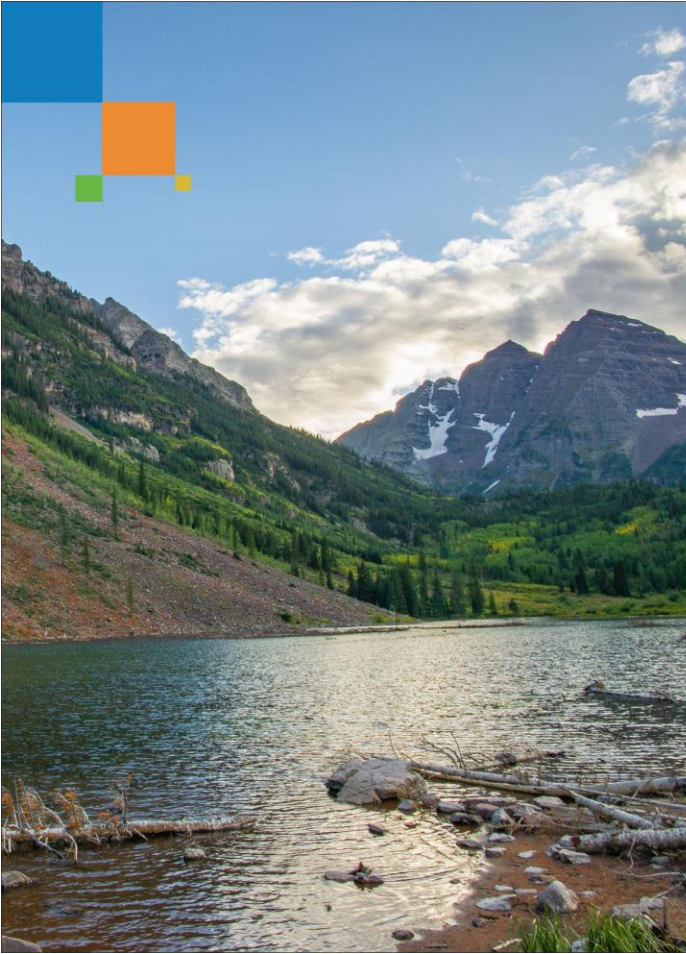
Glen Vallance, CGRS, Inc., (970)-493-7780, glen@cgrs.com

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.

Businesses face considerable uncertainty in navigating environmental matters amid profound changes in environmental laws and regulations. The Spencer Fane Environmental team understands these challenges and has deep experience developing practical solutions to even the most complex environmental problems.



Evan Singleton
Associate | 303.839.3750
esingleton@spencerfane.com

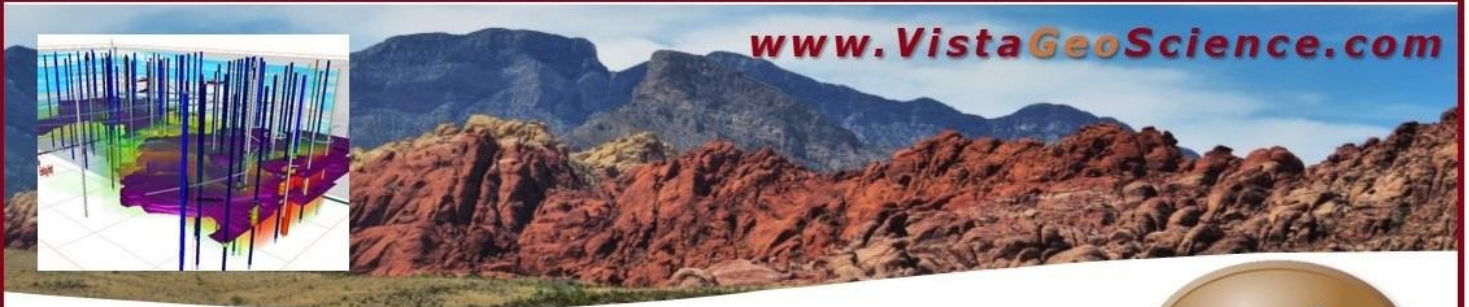


John Watson
Of Counsel | Cell: 303.882.7941
jwatson@spencerfane.com



Spencer Fane LLP | spencerfane.com
1700 Lincoln Street, Suite 2000 | Denver, CO 80203

© 2025 Spencer Fane LLP. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely on advertisements.



High Resolution Site Characterization

MiHpt (PID, FID, XSD), OiHPT-UV, OiHPT-G, HPT, HPT-GWP
3D Data Visualization & Modeling, Detailed Expert Reports

Optimized Injection Systems

Clean-Inject In-Situ Remediation Systems; ISCO, ISCR, ISBR
Custom Top-Down or Screened Lateral Injection Tooling
Hydraulic Emplacement of Proppants & Reagents
Permeability Enhancement for AS/SVE Systems

Environmental & Geotechnical Drilling

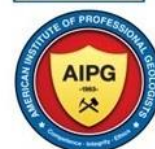
Direct-Push & Auger, Geoprobe Dual Technology Rigs
Dual-Tube Continuous Coring Systems, Auto Hammer SPT
Discrete Ground Water Sampling Tools, Pneumatic Slug Tests
Monitor Wells, Piezometers, Nested Wells

Soil Gas & Vapor Intrusion Services

Active & Passive Soil Gas, Sub-Slab Sampling
Soil Gas Sampling/Monitoring Wells, Nested Implants
Tier-2 Landfill (Method 25C) NMOC Surveys
Stray Gas Migration Surveys & Forensic Analysis
Carbon Capture/Sequestration Monitoring

John Fontana, CPG, CWD
JFontana@VistaGeoScience.com

Licensed: CO, UT, NE, SD, KS, NM, TX, OK, MT



Corporate Office: 303.277.1694

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

Members on the Move

Beth McDonald, PE, PG, has recently joined **RE | Solutions, LLC** as Environmental Director. With more than 25 years of experience in environmental compliance, geological engineering, and project management, Beth brings a proven ability to deliver sustainable and innovative solutions. In her new role, she is leading environmental initiatives that strengthen RE | Solutions' redevelopment projects and ensure they meet the highest standards of regulatory compliance and environmental stewardship.

RE | Solutions is proud to welcome Beth into this leadership position, where her expertise and collaborative approach will directly impact the success of projects across Colorado and beyond. Her addition to the team underscores the company's commitment to integrating strong environmental leadership into every redevelopment effort.

Beth is also an active leader in the professional community through CEMS, the Urban Land Institute (ULI), and CREW. Earlier this year, she was recognized in ULI Colorado's Monthly Member Spotlight for her dedication to the built environment and her leadership on the WLI Steering Committee. She also helped CREW Denver's Foundation Committee raise nearly \$20,000 for national scholarships for commercial real estate-related fields. We are fortunate to have Beth's knowledge, leadership, and collaborative spirit contributing to RE | Solutions.

Beth McDonald, Environmental Director

RE | Solutions

[1525 Raleigh Street, Suite 240, Denver, CO 80204](#)

Email: beth@resolutionsdev.com

Cell: 720-626-5148



CEMS – New Website

Same URL – www.coems.org

Now we can accept payments, post events, take registrations, and track your membership all in one location! Thanks for your patience while we navigate our new one stop shopping website for CEMS!

Any questions or concerns, please email admin@coems.org.

CEMS REGULATORY UPDATE FEDERAL AND STATE ACTIONS IMPACTING COLORADO

By Pete D. Jaacks

Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resource Law LLC

September 2025

On September 4, 2025, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published the Trump Administration's Spring 2025 Unified Agenda. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Unified Agenda includes the following rulemakings regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

- [PFAS Requirements in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\) Permit Applications](#): EPA notes that the list of pollutants in the NPDES application regulations has not been updated since 1987 and currently does not include PFAS. According to EPA, this proposed rulemaking seeks to update requirements for several of the existing NPDES permit applications to address monitoring and reporting of PFAS. EPA intends to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in November 2025 and a final rule in May 2027.
- [Extending the Compliance Deadline for the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation \(NPDWR\) Rulemaking](#): EPA states that it will propose a new rule that provides additional time for public water systems to meet the compliance deadlines for the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) in the NPDWR for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). EPA states that through this rule, it "intends [to] address the most significant compliance challenges EPA has heard from public water systems and other stakeholders while still ensuring the long-term protection of the American people from PFAS-contaminated drinking water." EPA intends to issue an NPRM in October 2025 and a final rule in April 2026.
- [Listing of Specific PFAS as Hazardous Constituents](#): On February 8, 2024, EPA published a proposed rule to add nine specific PFAS, their salts, and their structural isomers, to its list of hazardous constituents. If issued in final, when corrective action requirements are imposed at a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) treatment, storage, and disposal facility, these PFAS would be among the hazardous constituents expressly identified for consideration in assessments and, when necessary, further investigation and cleanup of these facilities. EPA intends to issue a final rule in April 2026.

On September 5, 2025, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (D.C. Circuit) [reinstated](#) an affirmative defense under the Clean Air Act (CAA) for exceedances occurring as a result of an emergency, ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rescission of that defense was arbitrary and capricious. EPA had first established that affirmative defense for state-issued CAA Title V permits in 1992 and then expanded it to federally-issued CAA Title V permits in 1996. In doing so, it created a limited shield to liability for exceedances of emissions limitations if the operator could prove that the exceedance was due to "any situation arising from sudden and reasonably unforeseeable events beyond the control of the source." By 2016, however, EPA had concluded that the affirmative defense unlawfully encroached on the judiciary's role to impose appropriate civil penalties for CAA violations or, alternatively, rendered applicable emissions limitations "non-continuous" in violation of CAA. EPA then rescinded the regulation affording the affirmative defense in 2023. In sum, EPA's rescission of the Title V defense was based on a legal interpretation of the CAA that the D.C. Circuit has since rejected, rendering the agency's action arbitrary and capricious. As a result, the Title V affirmative defense for emergencies remains a liability shield for operators.



CEMS has a New LinkedIn Corporate Landing Page

CEMS is updating to a new LinkedIn page. Follow us [HERE](#).

From the Board *(Continued from Page 2)*

Collaborative AI, where humans and machines work together, is expected to become a prominent model in various fields as these technologies evolve. For example, AI can analyze satellite imagery and sensor data to monitor changes in land use, deforestation, and pollution levels in real time. This capability allows environmental scientists to identify areas at risk and prioritize cleanup efforts more efficiently. Moreover, AI can help anticipate potential environmental hazards before they occur by analyzing historical data and current trends.

In the near future, we can expect AI and ML to play an increasingly integral role in environmental assessment and cleanup work. So, think of AI as another tool in your toolbox, if you can. Teach yourself to work with AI, because we surely cannot stop it any more than the Luddites could prevent the adoption of more primitive machines 200 years ago. One promising application is using drones equipped with AI algorithms to cover large areas quickly and gather data on air and water quality, enabling rapid (and safer) contamination assessment. Organizations can respond more swiftly to environmental threats by automating data collection and analysis. Additionally, AI can enhance stakeholder engagement by utilizing NLP tools to analyze public sentiment, help tailor communication strategies, and ensure that concerns are addressed. By simulating different scenarios and outcomes, these systems can provide valuable insights into the best approaches for remediation, ultimately leading to more sustainable practices.

Raphael Siebenmann and Thomas Geeza (both with Geosyntec) will speak more about AI at the CEMS meeting on November 18, 2025. I hope you can attend.

Disclosure: the above text was created with the help of AI. In other words, I didn't just rely on AI; I used it. This is my first time trying this, and it's both an exciting and intimidating experience. I also believe it's essential to tell an audience, as I do here, that AI helped generate some of the content. Only humans have emotions and opinions, so I'm curious to hear how people feel about my attempt with AI here. Did this pass the Turing Test? tom.fox@state.co.us

Trained with a Master's degree as a petroleum geologist, Tom Fox joined the Colorado Division of Oil and Public Safety (OPS) in 2007 after 20 years of environmental consulting experience. His routine work at OPS has involved reviewing over 600 petroleum releases. Tom is active with classroom and webinar presentations and group activities in multiple organizations outside of OPS, including CEMS, ASTSWMO, ITRC, ASTM, and NEIWPC. He might even know what all those acronyms mean. (and AI didn't help write this)

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.

MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

New Individual

Luke Arnsberger, Dolan Integration Group, LLC
 Bob Crabtree, Independent Consultant
 Anthony Dolan, Dolan Integration Group, LLC
 John Gabriele, Ahtna Solutions, Inc.
 Jaymee Gaterman, EFI Global, Inc.
 Natalie Gold, SGS North America, Inc.
 Kylan Jin, Colorado School of Mines
 Patrick Kline, Rad Pros
 Scott Lakey, ECS Southwest, LLP
 Rolfe Larson, University of Denver
 Jeff Linn, Ahtna Solutions, Inc.
 Mitchell Lockwood
 Kyle Virva, Broadbent & Associates, Inc.

Renewal Individual

Rich DeMuisis, Inszone Insurance A&E
 Russell Fontaine, Fontaine dbMax Solutions, Inc.
 Jessica Francis, Brown and Caldwell
 Alexis Fricke, Indigo B2B, LLC
 Paul Gruca, Weaver Consultants Group, LLC
 Chad Howell, City of Thornton
 Christine Jochim, K&L Gates LLP
 Karen Maestas, SES Constructors (Bristol Bay)
 Noreen Okubo, Independent Consultant
 Mike Skridulis, EFI Global, Inc.
 Rich Townsend, Envirocon, Inc.
 John Watson, Spencer Fane LLP
 Tracy Williams, Clark Hill PLC

Corporate Renewal

CTL|Thompson, Inc.

Claire Asmussen	Katie Emery	Kendal Fosbaugh	Bianca Hodge Pardo	Laura Mooney
Ben Rief	Kim Talbert	Trevor Truett	Matthew Wardlow	

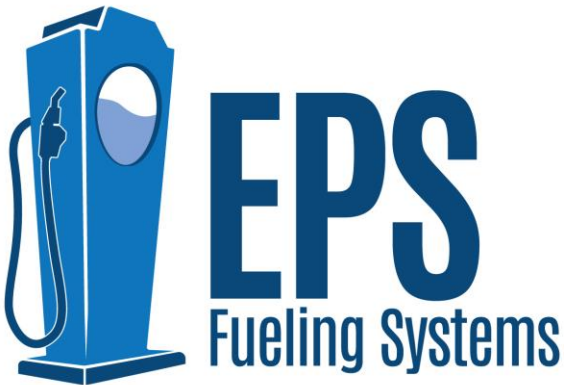
ERO Resources Corporation

Jack Denman	Giovanna Mendoza	Steve Mitchell	Craig Sovka	Courtney Sockwell
-------------	------------------	----------------	-------------	-------------------

Integral Consulting, Inc.

Michele Abbene	Diane Achman	Melissa Armstrong	Taylor Burnham	Jennifer Coleman
Jerritt Collord	Karah Conklin	Roger (Will) Cooper	Reagan Cuddy	William Cutler
Richard Neil Davies	Jarrod Gasper	Marcia Greenblatt	Steven Helgen	Howard Kidder
Daniel Lauer	William Locke	Joseph Lohman	Michael Martin	Amanda Miller
Karen Minter	Andrew Nicholson	Morgan Parslow	Benjamin Petri	John Quigley
Brooke Redding	Natalie Schneider	Jedidiah Sirk	William Stansfield	Madeline Streifer
Michael Sweetenham	Mandy Tulich			

*THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S
GOLFERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND
SPONSORS!!!*
Gold Sponsors



*THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S
GOLFERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND
SPONSORS!!!*

Hole Table Sponsors



Cart Sign Sponsor



*THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S
GOLFERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND
SPONSORS!!!*
Hole Sponsors



*THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S
GOLFERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND
SPONSORS!!!*

Breakfast Sponsor



Lunch Sponsor



CASCADE

Sign Printing Sponsor

