



Upcoming Events 2026

October 13 – CEMS Luncheon

**APCD - Clearing the Air: Colorado's Recent
Rulemakings and Clean Air Goals at CDPHE**

November 10 – CEMS Luncheon

Career Workshop at Davis Graham, RiNo

December 8 Legal Ethics Webinar

**Register
Here**



www.coems.org

CEMS October Luncheon – In Person Only

Clearing the Air: Colorado's Recent Rulemakings and Clean Air Goals

David Beckstrom, Manager, Climate Change Program

Leah Martland, Supervisor, Regulatory Development and Engagement Unit, Planning and Policy Program,

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Air Pollution Control

Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 11:45am-1pm

CDPHE, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Building B, Room B1F

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

State air pollution agencies have varied directives and goals. The mission of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) to improve and protect outdoor air quality in Colorado. The Division works to safeguard public health and the environment by enforcing state and federal air pollution laws, reducing emissions, and monitoring air quality across the State. Some of the Division's emissions reductions efforts include leading innovative rulemakings to target ozone, greenhouse gases, and air toxics across diverse industries. Over the recent decades, the Air Quality Control Commission has adopted numerous regulations proposed by the Division including

- Oil and gas: extensive emissions reporting, upstream NOx and methane intensity targets, midstream combustion equipment CO2e targets, storage tank controls, pneumatic controller retrofit and replacement, leak detection and repair, alignments with EPA's Emission Guideline OOOOc;
- Greenhouse gas: emissions reporting, industrial and manufacturing facility emissions reductions, landfills, and building performance standards;
- Ozone: oil and gas reductions, consumer product content limits, and lawn and garden equipment use restrictions; and
- Air toxics: emission control strategies to reduce emissions of priority toxic air contaminants.

They will overview some of these recent rulemakings as well as Colorado's ozone, greenhouse gas, and air toxics goals.



For full topic information, speaker biographies, reservation information, and box lunch orders, please follow this [link](#).

In Person Location: CDPHE, 4300 Cherry Creek S. Drive, Denver, CO 80246, Building B, Room B1F, [MAP with parking](#)

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 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for the use of meeting space and would like to emphasize that the use of CDPHE space does not constitute endorsement of CEMS, sponsors of CEMS functions, or the content of CEMS workshops or meetings.

CEMS November Luncheon – In Person Only**CEMS Career Workshop: Beyond Technical Expertise****Tuesday, November 10, 2026****Davis Graham, 3400 Walnut Street #700, RiNo District, Denver**

Technical expertise builds credibility, but as professionals advance, their impact increasingly depends on skills that are rarely part of their formal training. They are expected to think and communicate more strategically, influence decisions, deepen client relationships, recognize opportunities, lead others, and prepare the next generation to step up.

This interactive session explores how the definition of professional value changes as careers progress. Participants will examine the shift from technical expert to trusted advisor and leader, identify the capabilities that can expand their impact, and discuss real-world challenges and priorities submitted by the CEMS audience in advance.

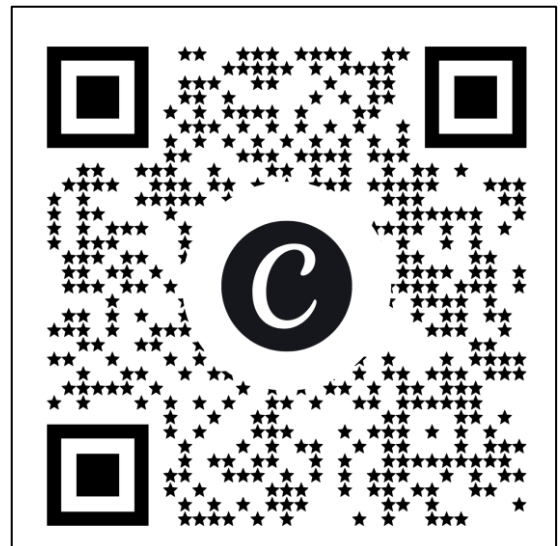
Speaker Bio:

Erin Kane is the founder of Ascend Strategy Co., where she helps technical professionals and organizations strengthen leadership, client relationships, and business growth. She began her career as a geologist and spent more than 15 years in environmental consulting and corporate strategy, holding senior roles across marketing, sales, and client success. Erin is also a certified coach and brings a practical, real-world perspective to helping technical experts navigate the people, business, and leadership challenges that become increasingly important as their careers advance.

Key themes:

- Thinking and communicating beyond your technical specialty
- Building influence and navigating increasingly complex organizations
- Becoming a trusted advisor and approaching business development more naturally
- Developing others through delegation, coaching, visibility, and opportunity
- Adapting as your role and responsibilities evolve

QR code below: Fill out our questionnaire to help us shape the workshop! Participants will be entered into a prize drawing.



From the Board... One Site, Many Perspectives by Tom Fox, CDLE; Colorado Division of Oil and Public Safety

Environmental management rarely has a single perspective. Consider a hypothetical contaminated property: a former site with a history of chemical use, a changing regulatory landscape, and a proposed redevelopment that could bring new economic activity to the community. At first glance, the problem may seem straightforward—characterize the contamination, determine the risk, develop a remedy, and move forward. But ask five people involved with the site what needs to happen next, and you may get five very different answers. The consultant may be focused on data quality and technical defensibility. The regulator may be thinking about compliance, protectiveness, and long-term stewardship. The property owner may be focused on cost, schedule, and the feasibility of redevelopment. The attorney may be evaluating liability and risk allocation. A nearby resident may simply want to know whether the site is safe for their family and what will happen next.

All of these perspectives represent a legitimate piece of the larger environmental-management puzzle. The challenge comes when we mistake our own perspective for the whole picture.

This is where collaboration becomes a critical part of good environmental management. Bringing different perspectives into the conversation early can identify questions that might otherwise surface only after significant time and money have been invested. The consultant can explain what the data actually tell us—and what they do not. The regulator can clarify the standards and expectations that will shape the project. The attorney can identify potential liabilities and contractual considerations. The owner can explain the practical constraints driving the project. Academic and technical experts can contribute emerging research, innovative approaches, and lessons from other sites. And community members can provide local knowledge and raise concerns that may not appear in a sampling plan or regulatory file. The goal is not for everyone to agree on every issue. It is to understand the problem well enough to make better decisions.

This multidisciplinary approach is one of the things that makes CEMS particularly valuable. CEMS brings together people who may approach the same environmental challenge from very different starting points. That diversity can sometimes make conversations more complicated, but it also makes them more productive. The best environmental solutions are rarely produced in isolation. They emerge when people with different expertise are willing to listen, ask questions, challenge assumptions, and recognize the constraints facing others at the table.

(Continued on Page 7)

2026 CEMS OFFICERS:

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

Vice President: Michael Whelan, PE, Anchor QEA, LLC, (303)952-4850, mwhelan@anchoragea.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: Glen Vallance, CGRS, Inc., (970)493-7780, glen@cgrs.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, Independent Consultant, (720)418-9317, rblomberg4@gmail.com

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

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

Peter Jaacks, Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resources Law LLC, (303) 513-4653, pjaacks@jinnrlaw.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@anchoragea.com

Spring Movie Event:

Maggie Mandell, Environmental Works, Inc., (301)943-2830,

mmandell@environmentalworks.com

Fall Conference:

Melissa Armstrong, Integral Consulting, Inc., (303)596-8093, marmstrong@integral-corp.com

Drezden Kinnaird, CGRS, Inc., (970)-493-7780, dkinnaird@cgrs.com

Golf:

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

Scholarship:

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

Nominations/Bylaw:

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

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

MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS

New Individual

Paul Bireta, Anchor QEA, Inc.
 Steven Childs, Denver Community College
 Sierra Ely, Halker
 Taylor Gold, Tetra Tech
 Katherine Knudtsen, Colorado School of Mines
 Maureen McNerny

Laura Michel, Waste Connections
 Richard Moody, Lifetime Radon Solutions
 Kate Pellegrino, Acquisition Entrepreneur
 Skyler Pixley, Eagle Synergistic Optimizing Technologies, LLC
 Kasha Wright, Cameron-Cole LLC

Renewal Individual

Alisha Dahal, WSP USA Inc.
 Rich DeMuis, Inszone
 Amanda Erling, Cameron-Cole LLC
 Robert Ford, Aeroqual
 Jessica Francis, RE | Solutions
 Christine Jochim, K&L Gates LLP

Joe Middleton, Middleton Environmental Law LLC
 Noreen Okubo, Retired US EPA Region 8
 Rannen Reindl, Weaver Consultants Group
 Liz Schaack, WSP
 Kay Vollmayer, Bronco Environmental

Renewal Corporate

CTL | Thompson, Inc.

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

ERO Resources Corporation

Andrew Cafaro	Taylor Culp	Jack Denman	Giovanna Mendoza	Steve Mitchell
Courtney Sockwell				

GeoTech Environmental Equipment, Inc.

Nikko Aragon	Bryan Feack	Addis McDonald	Jeff Popiel	Erick Villalobos
--------------	-------------	----------------	-------------	------------------

Vista Geoscience LLC

Andrew Arellano	David Fontana	John Fontana	Cory Harmon	Eric Jones
Nicholas Klinefelter	Garrett Murphy	Liam Murphy	Luka Pavlakis	Joel Rice
Kirstin Sammons	Ted Stockwell	Heather White		

CEMS REGULATORY UPDATE FEDERAL AND STATE ACTIONS IMPACTING COLORADO

By Pete D. Jaacks

Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resource Law LLC

September 2026

On July 30, 2026, the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (“NAW”) [filed](#) a federal lawsuit challenging Colorado’s Producer Responsibility Program for Statewide Recycling Act, commonly referred to as Colorado’s extended producer responsibility (“EPR”) program for packaging. The lawsuit, *National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors v. Ryan*, was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado against Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) Executive Director Jill Hunsaker Ryan. NAW also filed a motion for preliminary injunction seeking to prevent CDPHE from enforcing the program against NAW and its members while the litigation proceeds. Colorado’s EPR program requires producers of covered packaging and paper products to participate in the state’s approved producer responsibility organization, the Circular Action Alliance (“CAA”), and producers began paying program fees in January 2026. NAW contends, among other things, that Colorado improperly delegated regulatory and fee-setting authority to CAA, that mandatory participation and funding requirements violate the First Amendment and Due Process Clause, and that restrictions concerning disclosure of EPR costs on invoices violate protected speech. The challenge is particularly significant because similar EPR programs have been adopted in several other states and NAW has also challenged programs in Oregon and California. For now, Colorado’s requirements remain in effect; NAW’s preliminary-injunction motion seeks relief only while the constitutional claims are litigated.

On August 6, 2026, Governor Jared Polis issued [Executive Order D 2026-013](#), directing Colorado agencies to develop a pilot program intended to streamline environmental and other permitting for designated “strategic industries.” The Executive Order calls for a single statewide digital portal that would allow applicants to submit and track materials used by multiple state agencies, replacing portions of the existing agency-by-agency permitting process with what the Order describes as a single digital point of entry. Agencies participating in the initiative include CDPHE’s Air Pollution Control Division, Water Quality Control Division, and Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division, as well as the Energy and Carbon Management Commission. Potential strategic industries include advanced manufacturing, aerospace, bioscience, electronics, energy and natural resources, infrastructure engineering, and technology and information. In addition to creating the portal, the Order directs agencies to establish permitting-performance metrics, assign personnel responsible for overseeing the entire permitting workflow, identify opportunities for parallel agency review, and evaluate changes that could eliminate unnecessary regulatory complexity while maintaining the purposes of the underlying environmental reviews. The Air Pollution Control and Water Quality Control Divisions are also directed to make progress toward digitizing at least 50 percent of their permitting volume by April 2027. Participating agencies are expected to report on the pilot program and permitting performance by December 15, 2026.

On September 9, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [published](#) a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning the definition of “waters of the United States” (“WOTUS”) under the Clean Water Act. The supplemental proposal follows the agencies’ November 2025 proposed WOTUS rule and seeks additional comment on how to implement the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Sackett v. EPA*. Most significantly for western states such as Colorado, the agencies are considering a new alternative under which a waterbody generally would be considered “relatively permanent” only if it is perennial, meaning it contains standing or continuously flowing water every day of the year under ordinary conditions. The proposal would allow limited exceptions for anomalous events such as drought and, under one proposed approach, a single interruption of flow lasting no more than 30 consecutive days during otherwise ordinary conditions. A waterbody that predictably lacks water for approximately 90 days each year, for example, would not qualify as relatively permanent under the supplemental approach. The agencies are also requesting additional comment concerning the meaning of a “continuous surface connection” between wetlands and jurisdictional waters. EPA and the Corps are accepting comments on the supplemental WOTUS proposal through October 9, 2026.

From the Board (continued from Page 4)

Perhaps the next time we encounter a difficult environmental problem, the first question should not be, “What is the solution?” Instead, we might ask, “Who sees this problem differently?” Identifying those perspectives early can reveal risks, opportunities, and solutions that a single discipline might miss. One site can tell many stories, depending on where you stand. Our job as environmental professionals is not simply to defend our own viewpoint, but to bring those perspectives together into a clearer understanding of the problem—and, ultimately, a better outcome for the environment and the communities we serve.

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. He is considered a petroleum subject matter expert (SME) for OPS. Tom is active with classroom and webinar presentations and group activities in multiple states, Europe, China, India, and South Africa; and for multiple organizations, including CEMS, ASTSWMO, ITRC, ASTM, and NEIWPCC.

Presentation Opportunities for CEMS Meetings in 2027

The CEMS Program Committee is currently searching for "interesting, topical and informative" presentations for our meetings **in early 2027**. 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.

THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S FALL CONFERENCE SPONSORS!!!

BIGHORN SHEEP SPONSORS



Drezden Kinnaird

CGRS, Inc.

dkinnaird@cgrs.com



Scott Clark

Clark Hill

saclark@clarkhill.com



Melanie Granberg

Davis, Graham & Stubbs LLP

melanie.granberg@davisgraham.com



Earl White

Dolan Integration Group, LLC

ewhite@digforenergy.com



Janet Castle

Eagle Synergistic Optimizing Technologies, LLC

jcastle@eaglesynergistic.com

*THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S
FALL CONFERENCE
SPONSORS!!!*

BIGHORN SHEEP SPONSORS



Maggie Mandell

Environmental Works, Inc

mmandell@environmentalworks.com



Andrew Lindemann

GeoTech Environmental Equipment, Inc.

andrewl@geotechenv.com



Mark Blanchard

HydroGeoLogic, Inc.

mblanchard@hgl.com



Melissa Armstrong

Integral Consulting, Inc.

marmstrong@integral-corp.com



Mike Pompiano

Quantum Water and Environment

mike@quantumwaterco.com

THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S FALL CONFERENCE SPONSORS!!!

BIGHORN SHEEP SPONSORS



Beth McDonald
RE | Solutions
beth@resolutionsdev.com



Natalie Thompson
SGS North America, Inc.
natalie.thompson@sgs.com



John Fontana
Vista GeoScience, LLC
jfontana@VistaGeoScience.com

BLUE SPRUCE SPONSORS



Nate Jones
EA Engineering, Science, and
Technology, Inc., PBC
njones@eaest.com

THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S FALL CONFERENCE SPONSORS!!!

BLUE SPRUCE SPONSORS



Robin Young

EIS - Environmental Infrastructure
Solutions
robin.young@eisholdings.com



Dylan Johnson

Elevation Diagnostics, LLC
dylan@elevationdiagnostics.com



Melissa Nelson

ERIS - Environmental Risk
Information Service Ltd.
mnelson@erisinfo.com



Joe Reese

Eurofins
Joe.Reese@et.eurofinsus.com



Spencer**Fane**

Evan Singleton

Spencer Fane, LLP
esingleton@spencerfane.com

THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S FALL CONFERENCE SPONSORS!!!

CUTTHROAT TROUT SPONSORS



Hannah Anderson

Onterris Lab Services

hannahanderson@onterris.com

LUNCH SPONSORS



Suzanne Gabriele

Geosyntec Consultants, Inc.

sgabriele@geosyntec.com

HAPPY HOUR SPONSORS



Paul Gruca

Weaver Consultants Group, LLC

pgruca@wcgrp.com

NAME BADGE SPONSOR



John Fontana

Vista GeoScience, LLC

jfontana@VistaGeoScience.com