



Upcoming Events 2026

September 15 - CEMS Fall Conference

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 FALL CONFERENCE 2026

From Policy to Practice: Environmental Leadership in '26

Schedule: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 8:30am - 5:30pm

Location: CSU Spur at the National Western Complex

Visit our website www.coems.org to register

Featured Keynote Speaker



Jason Ullmann

CO Department of Water Resources

Join us for the Keynote address from Jason Ullmann, "Managing Colorado's Original Drought Plan in the Driest Year on Record."

Water Panel

Colorado's Water Leaders on the Front Lines of Drought, Growth, & Change

MODERATOR:

Jean Cordova, Geosyntec Consultants

PANELISTS:



Greg Fisher, Denver Water



Luke Shawcross, Northern Water



Andrea Lopez, Ute Water

Conservancy District / DRIP



FEATURED TECHNICAL SESSIONS



Karah Conklin, Biohabitats

Cleanup Isn't the Finish Line. Why Remediation Alone Is Failing and How Ecological Design Can Rebuild Resilient Systems

Terry Obal, Ph. D., SGS North America

Microplastics – "The New PFAS?"

Tom Palaia, GSI Environmental Inc.

Flipping the Script: From Practice to Policy: The Tortuous Path of Technology Adoption in the U.S. Environmental Remediation Field and How It May Help Inform Future Environmental Leadership

Tom Sale and Joe Scalia, CO State University

Modern Subsurface Contaminant Hydrology: A Free Textbook Reframing How We Characterize and Manage Contaminated Sites

John Watson, Spencer Fane L.L.P.

The "New" NEPA – Federal Agencies Overhaul Their Procedures

Fonda Apostolopoulos, P.E. & Mark Rudolph, CDPHE

Navigating Redevelopment: State Resources Available for Brownfields Projects

Jean Zodrow, Geosyntec Consultants

The Important Role Risk Assessors Have in ACL Development

Eric Lovenduski, Geosyntec Consultants

A Simple Vapor Intrusion Site Closure Approach Applied in Colorado



Early Bird Registration
Through August 31, 2026



Regular Registration
September 1 - September 13, 2026

From the Board... In-Person Connections by Karen Trantow Lim, CDH Consulting, LLC

After college, I moved to Colorado, and it took me a few months to land a job in the environmental industry. I started working in Denver at EnecoTech Inc. in January 1990 and shortly thereafter began attending the lunch and learn seminars given by Colorado Hazardous Waste Management Society, Inc. (CHWMS), now known as Colorado Environmental Management Society (CEMS), with several of my co-workers. Everything at that time was, of course, in-person. My participation in the industry groups, networking events, and with my co-workers for the 3 years I worked in downtown Denver, created an amazing network of people that I am still working with today. I didn't really understand what I was creating at the time. There was no such thing as LinkedIn or social media to "track" your "progress" in this arena. It was merely connections and mutual respect, and hoping you'd see them at the next event or gathering.

I moved away to Philadelphia for 3 years while my husband pursued his grad degree out there. I was able to get a job out east via my connections at the National Groundwater Association (NGWA). It was when we came back to Denver that I realized the value of my Colorado network of environmental professionals. It felt like coming home. The people that are attracted to the Colorado lifestyle are welcoming, outdoor-adventure folks that are fun to hang out with, work with, and collaborate with on a daily basis. And those friendships were long-lasting. Moving back, I thought I was transferring internally with my company, but alas their Denver office said they didn't need me. I immediately contacted my previous connections and pretty quickly landed a job at a very small firm, LT Environmental, Inc., where 2 of my previous colleagues were working. I had been gone from Colorado for 3 years, with no internet at the time (hard to imagine, isn't it?) and am truly thankful for the prior network I made. Previous co-workers had become clients, or regulators, or moved up in consulting to hiring-level positions. I discovered all this by going back to the monthly lunch and learn programs at CEMS.

I think the moral of this story is to **value your in-person connections**, wherever they are made, and to realize what a **powerful tool** the networking events are that CEMS and other industry groups provide. Take advantage of these opportunities! And have fun **meeting new and interesting people!**

PS. None of the companies I mentioned above still exist. Just the people.

Karen Trantow Lim, P.G., Program Manager, Environmental Compliance, CDH Consulting, LLC. Karen is a compliance program manager and senior geologist with 38 years of environmental consulting experience, has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology, and is a registered professional geologist in Texas and Wyoming. Her areas of expertise include due diligence audits, phase I/II environmental site assessments, stormwater permits and plans, complex NPDES permitting, FRP/SPCC plans, SARA Title III Tier 2 and TRI reporting, hydrogeologic investigations, pollution prevention and waste management primarily for the oil and gas industry. Karen grew up in Santa Barbara, California, studied abroad in Sweden, and moved to Colorado after college to start her career.

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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 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.

MEMBERSHIP – RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERS**New Individual**

Tommy Kim, REGENESIS

Kate Pellegrino, Independent

Todd Rhea, eAnalytics Laboratory

Renewal Individual

Russell Fontaine, Fontaine dbMax Solutions, Inc.

Hannah Fristed-Weaver, Trihydro Corporation

Erin Kane, Ascend Strategy Co.

Mike Mazzaresse, AST Environmental, Inc.

Renewal Corporate**DS Environmental Consulting, Inc.**

Thomas Holzfaster

Chris Lehman

Dalton Lopez

Gabe Mesquita

David Moss

Erin Orthun

Ryan Passarelli

Beth Polichio

Steve Shurtliff

Brandon Sinkbeil

Sean Work

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

**By Pete D. Jaacks
Jewell Jimmerson Natural Resource Law LLC
August 2026**

On June 23, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [proposed](#) to approve portions of Colorado's State Implementation Plan (SIP) addressing Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) requirements for the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards in the Denver Metro/North Front Range ozone nonattainment area. The proposal would approve additional reporting requirements adopted by Colorado for several source categories, including metal parts and metal products coating operations, wood products coating operations, combustion equipment at major sources of nitrogen oxides (NOx), and foam manufacturing operations. EPA previously issued a limited disapproval concerning the adequacy of reporting requirements for these sources. EPA now proposes to find that Colorado's subsequent revisions address those deficiencies and satisfy federal enforceability requirements. EPA's proposal would also approve portions of Colorado's reorganization of certain requirements formerly contained in Regulation 7 into Regulations 25 and 26. The public comment period on the proposed approval closed July 23, 2026.

On July 21, 2026, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser [joined](#) a coalition of 19 attorneys general in filing a petition for review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit challenging EPA's recent revisions to its hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Technology Transitions regulations under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act. EPA's revised rule delays certain restrictions on the use of higher-global-warming-potential refrigerants in remote condensing units, cold-storage warehouses, and supermarket refrigeration systems. For example, the revised rule establishes interim global-warming-potential limits for certain refrigeration systems beginning in 2026 or 2027 but delays more stringent limits for those systems until 2032. Colorado and the other petitioners contend that EPA's rollback is contrary to the AIM Act and that EPA failed to adequately justify its change from the prior regulatory approach. The litigation could affect the timing of the transition to lower-GWP refrigerants for supermarkets, cold-storage facilities, and other regulated refrigeration operations in Colorado.

On July 29, 2026, EPA Region 8 [issued](#) a final Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class VI permit to Carbon Storage Solutions, LLC for the Front Range 1-1 well near Windsor in Weld County. The permit authorizes construction and operation of the well for geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide generated by the Front Range Energy ethanol facility, with injection into the Lyons Formation. EPA also issued an injection-depth waiver associated with the project. Class VI wells are regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act and are specifically designed for long-term underground sequestration of carbon dioxide while protecting underground sources of drinking water. The permit becomes effective August 29, 2026, and includes requirements governing well construction, mechanical integrity, monitoring, financial responsibility, emergency response, post-injection site care, and closure. The permit represents a significant step for carbon capture and geologic sequestration development in Colorado as the state and EPA continue to develop the regulatory framework for Class VI projects.

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