

**ACEC Environment & Energy Committee
Summer Meeting
Merrick and Company
5970 Greenwood Plaza Blvd.
Greenwood, CO
303-751-0741**

August 23rd and 24th, 2017

Agenda

Wednesday, August 23, 2017

Themes:

- Water – Supply: Storage (Denver Water, Black & Veatch)
 - Conservation: Industrial Reuse (Merrick)
 - Reuse: Hydraulic Fracturing (Stantec, CSU)
- Energy - Navajo Generating Station, Retirement and Renewables (EDF)
 - Electricity Transmission (WGA)
- Environment - Regulatory Developments in Trump Administration,
NEPA strategies (Clark Hill, Pinyon Environmental)

8:00 a.m. Breakfast – Welcome - Introductions

Clint Robinson, Black & Veatch, Chairman, ACEC Environment & Energy Committee

8:30 a.m. Congressional Guest - Governmental Affairs –[Federal Overview](#) Legislative, Regulatory, Judicial

Congresswoman, Diana DeGette, Colorado 1st District, Energy and Commerce
Lynn Schloesser, Director, ACEC Environmental & Energy Programs

9:15 a.m. [Water Supply/Storage](#) – [Gross Reservoir Expansion](#) - Denver Water

Jeff Martin, Denver Water

Greg Zamensky, Black & Veatch

The Gross Reservoir Expansion Project is a major component of Denver Water’s long-term, multi-pronged approach to deliver safe, reliable water to the more than 1.4 million residents in the Denver area today and many of the projected millions who will call Colorado home in the decades to come. The project will raise the height of the existing dam by 131 feet, which will allow the capacity of the reservoir to increase. The presentation details expansion plans, permitting, construction and timing. The presenters will walk us through the project and its challenges.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. **Water Conservation** – **Waste Heat for Desalination** - R. James (Jim) McLaughlin, Merrick & Company; and William DeOreo, Aquacraft, Inc.

Colorado water law is very complicated, and water use in the Front Range is heavily dependent on trans-basin diversions from the Western Slope. Unlike water that falls east of the Continental Divide, the water that comes from the western basin can be recycled/reused. However, at some point the salinity in that water becomes an issue for reuse, and it is ultimately discharged to the South Platte River, causing salinity issues in the river. This presenter will focus on the possibility of using waste heat from a Front Range power plant to desalinate South Platte River water for reuse. This water could then be further reused by the water owners, reducing trans-basin diversions.

12:00 Noon **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **Water Reuse** – **Hydraulic Fracturing Produced Water**– Eric Johnson, Stantec; Ashwin Dhanasekar

Oil field produced waters used to be considered a nuisance byproduct to the Oil & Gas industry. However, as both the demand for oil and the water to oil cut ratio from producing wells has increased significantly over time, it is now recognized as a potentially valuable byproduct of the production process. The historical regulatory framework and treatment approaches have limited and often discouraged the potential for reuse of this resource. Recently, changing social and regulatory environments, combined with new treatment technologies and planning tools, are being used to optimize the value and uses of produced water while simultaneously reducing overall operator costs and removing the historic regulatory barriers which propped up the inefficient disposal methods of the past.

2:00 p.m. **Break**

2:15 p.m. **Energy - Navajo Generating Station** – Retirement and Renewables – Bruce Polkowsky, EDF

The future of the Navajo generating station, one of the largest coal-fired plants in the US, has been in a continual state of Flux over the recent years. After reaching an agreement with the EPA to shut down one unit in an effort to reduce regional haze, the owners recently announced their intent to shut down the entire plant. Bruce has been intimately involved in the planning over the years and will review the complicated history; the future of the plant; and trends in the Western Interconnect.

3:15 p.m. **Environmental Regulation in the Trump Administration** - NEPA best practices, strategies - Karen Bennet, Clark Hill; Lauren Evans and Leslie Watson, Pinyon Environmental

Read the news and it seems that getting federal approval under NEPA is getting more complicated and less certain. This panel will discuss best practices for completing the process in a manner that can weather challenges, how expectations differ between federal agencies, and what we might expect in the coming years under this new Administration. The recent Executive Orders, including that issued August 15, 2017 on “Environmental Review and Permitting Process” will be discussed.

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

6:00 p.m. **Dinner** - [Il Fornaio restaurant](#), ([map](#)), shuttle bus from hotel and back.

Thursday, August 24, 2017

8:15 a.m. **Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Energy - Electricity Transmission** –Lauren DeNinno, [Western Governors' Association](#)

- WGA policy/positions on permit streamlining (particularly related to transmission and water projects);
- WGA’s 10-year energy policy (which they are about to update), and introduce the RAPID toolkit for transmission lines (which they developed but have turned over to NREL).

10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:15 a.m. **Discussion/Lunch**

- Suggested Advocacy/Awareness/Education Action Items
 - energy resources development advocacy (e.g., shale, nuclear, eminent domain, ozone standard)
 - Superfund program (ACEC EEC Workgroup)
 - supply chain cyber security (ACEC EEC Workgroup)
 - sea level rise session ACEC fall conference
 - permit streamlining and NEPA (ACEC EEC Workgroup tbd)
- Topics and Date for Committee Winter Meeting (February 2018)

1:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

References

[Executive Order](#) - Establishing Discipline And Accountability In The Environmental Review And Permitting Process For Infrastructure Projects, August 15, 2017

[ACEC Superfund 2017](#) – Cleanup Accomplishments and the Challenges Ahead

[NERC Supply Chain Cyber Security Implementation Guidance](#) – This is the proposed standard’s implementation guidance. FERC is expected to approve both the standard and the guidance in 3Q or 4Q 2017.

[FERC Order 829 - directive to NERC on supply chain cyber security standard](#)

[Tropospheric Ozone Standard information U.S. Chamber](#) – This site provides quick and updated information on the ozone issue.

Recommended Books

- *The Future of the Professions* by [Richard Susskind & Daniel Susskind](#)
- *The Fourth Industrial Revolution* by [Klaus Schwab](#)
- *A Whole New Engineer: The Coming Revolution in Engineering Education* by [David E. Goldberg and Mark Somerville](#)
- *Leaders Make the Future: Ten New Leadership Skills for an Uncertain World* by [Bob Johansen](#)
- *Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations* by [Thomas Friedman](#)

Topical Path Forward (based on notes from the meeting discussion)

- ACEC Fall Conference 2017, Orlando – session October 16, Sea-level Rise and Energy Water Challenges in South Florida.
- EEC Winter meeting to be held February 26-27, 2018, Washington DC, ACEC offices. Topics to be developed and discussed:
 1. Permit streamlining and NEPA process
 2. Resiliency including cyber security
 3. Finance of energy and water infrastructure
 4. New technology including data analytics
- ACEC Annual Convention 2018 – session to be proposed on permit streamlining and NEPA
- ACEC Fall Conference 2018, Las Vegas - session to be proposed on one or more of the following:
 1. Water resource planning
 2. Nuclear power, waste management
 3. Renewable energy

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