



March 17th – 18th, 2026 | San Diego, CA

Hydropower Conference

Hydropower Unleashed: Tools, Trends &
Tactics for a Resilient Future



7:00 - 8:30 AM BREAKFAST Exhibit Hall Young Professionals Networking Breakfast - TBD					DAY 1 TUESDAY MARCH 17 th , 2026
8:30AM	WELCOME PLENARY – ALL TRACKS Harbor Ballroom A-F Opening Remarks: Catherine Rhea, CEATI Keynote Presentation: Tom Bugert, Helion Energy & Brett Bickford, Chelan County PUD				
9:45 - 10:30 AM COFFEE BREAK Exhibit Hall					
10:30AM	Session A1: Dam Safety Risk Management Session Chair: Jason Clere, Brookfield Renewable	Session B1: Hydro Plant Equipment Turbine-Generator Alignment & Structural Interaction Session Chair: Robert Gordon, Seattle City Light	Session C1: Hydro Operations & Planning Modelling Session Chair: Nathalie Voisin, USDOE-PNNL	Session D1: Workforce Development Session Chair: Ronda Strauch, Seattle City Light	
	From Probability to Prioritization: Implementing RIDM After a Level 2 Risk Analysis Matt Giovannoni, SMUD & Stacy Vorster, GFT	Effects of Concrete Movement on Turbine-Generator Alignment David Elwood, GE Vernova & Wenbo Jai, Chelan PUD	Enhancing Hydropower Decision-Making Through Integrated Hydrologic, Hydraulic, and Ice Forecasting Tools Shane Wruth & Milan Bijeljanin, Manitoba Hydro	Growing Capability and Succession Planning: Learnings from New Zealand Dam Owners Peter Fox, Meridian and Katy Cottingham, Meridian/Dam Safety Intelligence and Shreesh Basnyat, Watercare Services Limited	
11:15AM	LifeSim in Action: Reducing Flood Risk Without Lifting a Shovel Erin Gleason, Denver Water & Jaime Lubeck, HDR	Case Study: Stator Thermal Expansion Analysis - Boundary Dam Power Plant Unit U51 Enzo Cloutier, VibroSystM & Seattle City Light	Short-Term Hydroelectric Dispatch Model for Head-Dependent Units with Restricted Operating Zones Carlos Lopez Salgado, USDOE-Argonne National Lab	Plugging into the Pipeline: Connecting Academia with the Hydropower Industry Bree Mendlin, USDOE-National Lab of the Rockies	
12:00- 1:30 PM NETWORKING LUNCH Exhibit Hall					
1:30 PM	Session A2: Dam Safety Safety Management Session Chair: Paul Lennemann, Tacoma Power	Session B2: Hydro Plant Equipment Tech Demo Stage	Session C2: Hydropower Operations & Planning Tech Demo Stage	Session D2: Workforce Development Session Chair: Marcel-Paul Raymond, CEATI	
	From Damage to Operational Adaptations: Enhancing Safety and Reliability of the Lake Almanor Low Level Outlet Randy Presleigh & Abbas Dorostkar, PG&E			Harnessing AI and Digitalization in Hydropower: Workforce Impacts and Industry Needs Haijing Liu, Jennifer Daw, Bree Mendlin, USDOE-National Lab of the Rockies	
2:15 PM	Lessons from a Troubled Siren System: Emergency Management and Public Alerting Challenge Ali Firoozfar, Seattle City Light & Greg Richards, GFT			Strengthening Dam Safety through Skills Transfer and Succession: Lessons from Nalubaale Kiira Orishaba Harriet, Uganda Electricity Generation	
3:00 - 3:45 PM COFFEE BREAK Exhibit Hall					
3:45 PM	Session A3: Dam Safety Tech Demo Stage	Session B3: Hydro Plant Equipment Materials, Lubrication & Manufacturing Quality Session Chair: Jean Pellerin, CEATI	Session C3: Hydro Operations & Planning Decision-Making Under Uncertainty Session Chair: Connor Werstuck, OPG	Session AB1: Dam Safety & Hydro Plant Equipment Flow Control Session Chair: Bruce Muller, CEATI	
		Oil Replacement Fluid for Turbine Runners (Kaplan) for Reduction of Friction Klas Olsson, Fortum	Beyond P50: Quantifying Portfolio Volatility for Multi-Asset Regime Aashish Bhardwaj & Julien Otis-Laperrière, Brookfield Renewable	Gates Refurbishment or Replacement – Choosing the Right Approach Geosyntec & utility co-presenter	
4:30 PM		Managing Quality in International Manufacturing Stuart Bonnington, Snowy Hydro	What is MCP and Why Does it Matter? Context-Rich Interactions for Smarter Hydropower Operations Cody Kupferschmidt, Erode AI	Sumner Dam Radial Gate Modernization Jon East, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	
5:30-7:00PM NETWORKING RECEPTION Exhibit Hall					

CEATI

7:00 - 8:30 AM	BREAKFAST Exhibit Hall
8:30 AM	PANEL SESSION - ALL TRACKS - Harbor Ballroom A-F Hydropower Unleashed: Tools, Trends & Tactics for a Resilient Future TBD
9:45 - 10:30 AM	COFFEE BREAK Exhibit Hall

DAY 2
TUESDAY MARCH 18th,
2026

	Session AB2: Dam Safety & Hydro Plant Equipment Flow Control <i>Session Chair: Matt Muto, SCE</i>	Session B4: Hydro Plant Equipment AI & Predictive Maintenance <i>Session Chair: Joe First, Lewis County PUD</i>	Session AC1: Hydro Operations & Planning & Dam Safety <i>Session Chair: Chuck Bach, CEATI</i>	Session D3: Pumped Storage <i>Session Chair: Robert Gordon, Seattle City Light</i>
10:30 AM	Life Extension of an Aging Penstock using Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer Lining <i>Gary Brunet, TransAlta</i>	Enabling Physics-Based Predictive Maintenance with AI, Semantics & Simulation <i>John Nixon, Siemens & Ivan Nayda, Siemens</i>	Leveraging a Platform for Hydrological Prediction to Support Dam Safety Monitoring <i>Kin Sun Lam, Deltares & Chris Rogers, SunWater</i>	Pumped Hydro Storage as a Transmission Asset in Brazil: The Coastal Paranaq Case Study <i>Rodrigo Fader Parana, COPEL</i>
11:15 AM	Penstock Design, Inspection and Maintenance <i>Arne Nervik, GFT</i>	Enhancing Generator Reliability Through Offline Diagnostic Tools: A Case Study of a 32MW Hydro Generator <i>Krzysztof PYC, Kinectrics</i>	Integrated Hydrologic and Hydraulic Evaluation for Spring Flood Management and Dam Safety Planning <i>Zahra Zahmatkesh, KGS</i>	Multi-metrics Valuation of Future Craig-Hayden Pumped Storage Hydropower Plant <i>Rodney Itiki, USDOE-Oakridge National Lab</i>

12:00 - 1:30 PM	NETWORKING LUNCH Exhibit Hall
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	Session A4: Dam Safety Risk & Uncertainty <i>Session Chair: Bruce Muller, CEATI</i>	Session B5: Hydro Plant Equipment Mechanical Integrity <i>Session Chair: Brain Luffman, Duke Energy</i>	Session C4: Hydro Operations & Planning Forecasting <i>Session Chair: Ronda Strauch, SCL</i>	Session D4: Pumped Storage <i>Session Chair: Robert Gordon, Seattle City Light</i>
1:30 PM	California State Water Project: Quantitative Risk Analysis Plans, Workshops, and Risk Reduction Measures <i>Genny Schrader & David Sarkisian, California Department of Water Resources</i>	Spiral Casing Integrity: Inspection, FFS Analysis & Risk-Based Repair Strategy <i>Jamie Scanlan, Quest Integrity</i>	Advancing Inflow Forecasting with Ciroh and Reclamation <i>Chris Frans, USBR & Shaun Carney, RTI</i>	A Modern Digital Delivery Framework for Pumped Storage Hydropower Projects <i>James O'Reilly, Knight Piesold</i>
2:15 PM	Managing Foundation Uncertainty for the Stability of Dams <i>Ramy Saadeldin, Portage Power</i>	Root Cause Analysis of Rotor Pole Connectors Failure in a Small Hydro-Generator <i>Ibrahim Gadala, Powertech Labs & Geoff Dunbrack, Yukon Energy Corporation</i>	Data-Driven Flood Mitigation for the Lower Volta Basin: Leveraging Modelling, Geospatial Intelligence, and Emerging Technologies <i>Abdul Noor Wahab & Kwadwo Asante Addo, Volta River</i>	Taum Sauk Dam Failure – 20 Years Later <i>Gene Campbell & Bryan Moore, Ameren</i>

3:00 - 3:45 PM	COFFEE BREAK Exhibit Hall
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	Session A5: Dam Safety Emergency Preparedness & Long-Term Recovery <i>Session Chair: Jennifer Dodd, TVA</i>	Session B6: Hydro Plant Equipment Reliability & Cost Strategies <i>Session Chair: John Yale, CEATI</i>	Session C5: Hydro Operations & Planning Hydrologic Data for Risk-Informed Water & Hydropower Management <i>Session Chair: Marcel-Paul Raymond, CEATI</i>
3:45 PM	Building Partnerships with Exercises <i>David Baker, Allele</i>	Establishing a Standard Methodology to Evaluate Start/stop and Cycling Costs and Impacts <i>Chris Brown, Scanning Solutions & Jim DeHaan, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation</i>	Accurate, Basin-Wide Snowpack Mapping is a Critical Resource for Reservoir Management & Power Generation Optimization <i>Jeffrey Deems, Airborne Snow Observatories</i>
4:30 PM	Nolichucky Dam Stability Assessment & Hydraulic CFD Modeling: Lessons from the 2024 Overtopping Event <i>James Bryant, TVA & Gurinderbir Sooch, Hatch</i>	Applicable Test Criteria for Generator Bars Submitted to Cycling <i>Alexander Schwery, GE Vernova</i>	A Hydropower Drought Monitor and Outlook <i>Vincent Tidwell & Nathalie Voisin, USDOE-Pacific Northwest National Lab; Elizabeth Ossowski & Jason Gerlich, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration</i>
5:15 PM	Closing Remarks	Closing Remarks	Closing Remarks

5:30-7:00 PM	WOMEN IN POWER NETWORKING RECEPTION TBD
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Event Overview:

For more than 15 years, CEATI has gathered utility leaders, experts and influencers at this prestigious event to share practical insights and breakthrough developments shaping the future of hydropower. Our 2026 event will host over 700 utility professionals from a variety of leadership roles, including Dam Safety Engineers, Hydro Plant Managers, Engineering Directors, Hydrologists, Water Resource Managers and Business Executives.

The event will feature presentations on the following themes:

- Dam Safety
- Hydropower Plant Equipment
- Hydropower Operations & Planning

Within These Tracks, Our Conference Planning Team Will Prioritize Content Related To:

- Hydro equipment and facility life cycle planning
- Hydropower facility adaptation and retrofitting initiatives (ex. upgrades, restorations to facilities)
- Implementation of new technologies & techniques through innovation
- Recruitment, skill building and succession planning
- Risk management and enhanced planning
- Innovation and transferrable learnings from other industries
- Informed business decision making around our assets, programs and operations under greater uncertainty & constraints
- Cyber security – implementation, risk & mitigation

Additional tracks will be featured this year:

- Tech Demo Stage
- Pumped Storage
- Workforce Development
- Flow Control Equipment

Who should attend:

- Electric Utilities and Dam Owners
- Consultants
- Equipment Manufacturers and Suppliers
- Research Facilities and Laboratories
- Academics

Event Details:

- [Week at a Glance Schedule](#)
- [Participating CEATI Utility Members](#)
- [Member Registration](#)
- [General Registration](#)
- [Event Website](#)