



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				
8:30 AM	WELCOME PLENARY – ALL TRACKS Harbor Ballroom A-F Opening Remarks: Catherine Rhea, CEATI Keynote Presentation: The Story of Firsts! Tom Bugert, Helion Energy & Brett Bickford, Chelan County PUD			
	9:45 - 10:30 AM COFFEE BREAK Exhibit Hall			
10:30 AM	Session A1: Dam Safety Risk Intelligence <i>Session Chair: Jason Clere, Brookfield Renewable</i> An interactive Digital Project Archive to Support Dam Safety Performance Doug Raigosa, Southern California Edison & Jenny Ramirez, Geosyntec	Session B1: Hydro Plant Equipment Tech Demo Stage TBD TBD	Session C1: Hydro Operations & Planning Modelling <i>Session Chair: Nathalie Voisin, USDOE-PNNL</i> Enhancing Hydropower Decision-Making Through Integrated Hydrologic, Hydraulic, and Ice Forecasting Tools Shane Wruth & Milan Bijeljanin, Manitoba Hydro	Session D1: Workforce Development <i>Session Chair: Ronda Strauch, Seattle City Light</i> Growing Capability and Succession Planning: Learnings from New Zealand Dam Owners Peter Fox, Meridian and Katy Cottingham, Meridian/Dam Safety Intelligence
11:15 AM	LifeSim in Action: Reducing Flood Risk Without Lifting a Shovel Erin Gleason, Denver Water and Jaime Lubeck & Jason Needham, HDR	TBD TBD	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 Elise DeGeorge, USDOE-National Lab of the Rockies
12:00- 1:30 PM NETWORKING LUNCH Exhibit Hall				
1:30 PM	Session A2: Dam Safety Safety Management <i>Session Chair: Paul Lennemann, Tacoma Power</i> From Damage to Operational Adaptations: Enhancing Safety and Reliability of the Lake Almanor Low Level Outlet Randy Presleigh & Abbas Dorostkar, PG&E	Session B2: Hydro Plant Equipment Turbine-Generator Alignment & Structural Interaction <i>Session Chair: Robert Gordon, Seattle City Light</i> Effects of Concrete Movement on Turbine-Generator Alignment David Elwood, GE Vernova & Wenbo Jai, Chelan PUD	Session C2: Hydropower Operations & Planning Tech Demo Stage TBD TBD	Session D2: Workforce Development <i>Session Chair: Marcel-Paul Raymond, CEATI</i> Assessing the Impact of Robotics and AI (RAI) on Workforce Transformation in Hydropower Haijing Liu & Elise DeGeorge, 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	Case Study: Stator Thermal Expansion Analysis - Boundary Dam Power Plant Unit U51 Enzo Cloutier, VibroSystM & Patrick Doyle, Seattle City Light & David Elwood, GE Vernova	TBD TBD	Strengthening Dam Safety through Skills Transfer and Succession: Lessons from Nalubaale Kiira Harriet Orishaba, Uganda Electricity Generation
3:00 - 3:45 PM COFFEE BREAK Exhibit Hall				
3:45 PM	Session A3: Dam Safety Tech Demo Stage TBD TBD	Session B3: Hydro Plant Equipment Materials, Lubrication & Manufacturing Quality <i>Session Chair: Jean Pellerin, CEATI</i> Oil Replacement Fluid for Turbine Runners (Kaplan) for Reduction of Friction Klas Olsson, Fortum	Session C3: Hydro Operations & Planning Decision-Making Under Uncertainty <i>Session Chair: Connor Werstuck, OPG</i> Beyond P50: Quantifying Portfolio Volatility for Multi-Asset Regime Aashish Bhardwaj & Julien Otis-Laperrière, Brookfield Renewable	Session AB1: Dam Safety & Hydro Plant Equipment Flow Control <i>Session Chair: Bruce Muller, CEATI</i> Gates Refurbishment or Replacement – Choosing the Right Approach Jenny Ramirez, Terry Sullivan, Geosyntec & Chris Manley, USACE
4:30 PM	TBD TBD	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 & Craig MacRitchie, Erode AI	Sumner Dam Radial Gate Modernization Jon East, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
5:30-7:00PM NETWORKING RECEPTION Exhibit Hall				

DAY 1
TUESDAY MARCH 17th,
2026

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 <i>Paul Slangen, Landsvirkjun; Denis Obiang, IADWP; Dan Forster, Meridian; Brian Saez, NYPA</i>
9:45 - 10:30 AM	COFFEE BREAK Exhibit Hall

DAY 2
WEDNESDAY 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>	From Signal to Strategy: Ultrasonic Data in Fitness-for-Service Evaluations <i>Sam Stephens, Quest Integrity</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	ASCE MOP 79 for Steel Penstock Design & CEATI Guidance on Inspection & Maintenance <i>John Bambei & Arne Nervik, ASCE Steel Penstock Committee; Bruce Muller, CEATI</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, Srijib Mukherjee, & Arjun Bhattacharya, 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: Brian 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 & Daniel Osmun, HDR; 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 CROH 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 & Eric Seetoh Powertech Labs, Geoff Dunbrack & Colton Davies , Yukon Energy</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	Evaluating Structural Failure Modes and Stabilization Alternatives Guided by High-Level Structural Analysis <i>Jim Rutherford, Hatch & Ian Hunter, Chelan County PUD</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](#)