



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

Hydropower Conference

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



8:30 AM **WELCOME PLenary – ALL TRACKS | Harbor Ballroom A-F**
 Opening Remarks: Lizzie Smith, 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**

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| <p>Session A1: Dam Safety Risk Intelligence Harbor Ballroom A-C <i>Session Chair: Jason Clere, Brookfield Renewable</i></p> | <p>Session B1: Hydro Plant Equipment Tech Demo Stage Harbor Ballroom D-F</p> | <p>Session C1: Hydro Operations & Planning Modelling Harbor Ballroom H-I <i>Session Chair: Nathalie Voisin, USDOE-PNNL</i></p> | <p>Session D1: Workforce Development – Harbor Ballroom G <i>Session Chair: Ronda Strauch, Seattle City Light</i></p> |
| <p>10:30 AM An interactive Digital Project Archive to Support Dam Safety Performance Doug Raigosa, Southern California Edison & Jenny Ramirez, Geosyntec</p> | <p>TGM Expert Suite: AI-Native Asset Intelligence for Modern Hydropower O&M Emmanuel Ngue, EN Solutions Hydro</p>  | <p>Enhancing Hydropower Decision-Making Through Integrated Hydrologic, Hydraulic, and Ice Forecasting Tools Kevin Sagan & Milan Bijeljanin, Manitoba Hydro</p> | <p>Growing Capability and Succession Planning: Learnings from New Zealand Dam Owners Peter Fox, Meridian and Katy Cottingham, Meridian/Dam Safety Intelligence</p> |
| <p>11:15 AM LifeSim in Action: Reducing Flood Risk Without Lifting a Shovel Erin Gleason, Denver Water and Jaime Lubeck & Jason Needham, HDR</p> | <p>Virtual Hands-On Training Platform for Generator Excitation and Hydro Governor Systems Mike Wallin & Derek Monk, Reivax</p>  | <p>Short-Term Hydroelectric Dispatch Model for Head-Dependent Units with Restricted Operating Zones Carlos Lopez Salgado, USDOE-Argonne National Lab</p> | <p>Plugging into the Pipeline: Connecting Academia with the Hydropower Industry Elise DeGeorge, USDOE-National Lab of the Rockies</p> |

12:00- 1:30 PM **NETWORKING LUNCH | Exhibit Hall**

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| <p>Session A2: Dam Safety Safety Management Harbor Ballroom A-C <i>Session Chair: Paul Lenemann, Tacoma Power</i></p> | <p>Session B2: HPE Turbine-Generator Alignment & Structural Interaction Harbor Ballroom D-F <i>Session Chair: Robert Gordon, Seattle City Light</i></p> | <p>Session C2: Hydropower Operations & Planning Tech Demo Stage Harbor Ballroom H-I</p> | <p>Session D2: Workforce Development Harbor Ballroom G <i>Session Chair: Marcel-Paul Raymond, CEATI</i></p> |
| <p>1:30 PM From Damage to Operational Adaptations: Enhancing Safety and Reliability of the Lake Almanor Low Level Outlet Randy Presleigh & Abbas Dorostkar, PG&E</p> | <p>Effects of Concrete Movement on Turbine-Generator Alignment David Elwood, GE Vernova & Wenbo Jai, Chelan PUD</p> | <p>Hydropower Optimization with RiverWare Timothy Magee, Operations Research Analyst, and Edith Zagona, Director, Center for Advanced Decision Support for Water and Environmental Systems (CADSWES)</p>  | <p>Assessing the Impact of Robotics and AI (RAI) on Workforce Transformation in Hydropower Haijing Liu & Elise DeGeorge, USDOE-National Lab of the Rockies</p> |
| <p>2:15 PM Lessons from a Troubled Siren System: Emergency Management and Public Alerting Challenge Ali Firoozfar, Seattle City Light & Greg Richards, GFT</p> | <p>Case Study: Stator Thermal Expansion Analysis - Boundary Dam Power Plant Unit U51 Enzo Cloutier, VibroSysM & David Elwood, GE Vernova</p> | | <p>Educators as Multipliers: Modeling and Piloting Hydropower Lessons for Future Generations Lora Davis, USDOE-Oak Ridge National Laboratory</p> |

3:00 - 3:45 PM **COFFEE BREAK | Exhibit Hall**

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| <p>Session A3: Dam Safety Tech Demo Stage Harbor Ballroom A-C</p> | <p>Session B3: HPE Materials, Lubrication & Manufacturing Quality Harbor Ballroom D-F <i>Session Chair: Jean Pellerin, CEATI</i></p> | <p>Session C3: HOP Decision-Making Under Uncertainty Harbor Ballroom H-I <i>Session Chair: Connor Werstuck, OPG</i></p> | <p>Session AB1: Dam Safety & Hydro Plant Equipment Flow Control Harbor Ballroom G <i>Session Chair: Bruce Muller, CEATI</i></p> |
| <p>3:45 PM Modernizing Hydropower Inspections: Safe, Scalable, Remote Operations in Action Christina Park & Corey Hitchcock, Skydio</p>  | <p>Oil Replacement Fluid for Turbine Runners (Kaplan) for Reduction of Friction Klas Olsson, Fortum</p> | <p>Beyond P50: Quantifying Portfolio Volatility for Multi-Asset Regime Aashish Bhardwaj, Brookfield Renewable</p> | <p>Gates Refurbishment or Replacement – Choosing the Right Approach Jenny Ramirez, Terry Sullivan, Geosyntec & Chris Manley, USACE</p> |
| <p>4:30 PM</p> | <p>Managing Quality in International Manufacturing Stuart Bonnington, Snowy Hydro</p> | <p>What is MCP and Why Does it Matter? Context-Rich Interactions for Smarter Hydropower Operations Cody Kupferschmidt & Craig MacRitchie, Erode AI</p> | <p>Sunmer Dam Radial Gate Modernization Jon East & Nathan Werner, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation</p> |

5:30-7:00PM **NETWORKING RECEPTION | Exhibit Hall**

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| 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 facilitated by John Yale, CEATI <i>Paul Slangen, Landsvirkjun; Denis Obiang, LADWP; Dan Forster, Meridian; Brian Saez, NYPA</i> |
| 9:45 - 10:30 AM | COFFEE BREAK Exhibit Hall |

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| 10:30 AM | Session AB2: Dam Safety & Hydro Plant Equipment Flow Control Harbor Ballroom A-C <i>Session Chair: Hugh Armitage, CEATI</i> | Session B4: Hydro Plant Equipment AI & Predictive Maintenance Harbor Ballroom D-F <i>Session Chair: Joe First, Lewis County PUD</i> | Session AC1: Hydro Operations & Planning & Dam Safety Harbor Ballroom H-I <i>Session Chair: Chuck Bach, CEATI</i> | Session D3: Pumped Storage Harbor Ballroom G <i>Session Chair: Robert Gordon, Seattle City Light</i> |
| | 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 Parana: Case Study <i>Rodrigo Feder 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>Srijib Mukherjee, & Arjun Bhattacharya, USDOE-Oakridge National Lab</i> |

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| 12:00- 1:30 PM | NETWORKING LUNCH Exhibit Hall |
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| 1:30 PM | Session A4: Dam Safety Risk & Uncertainty Harbor Ballroom A-C <i>Session Chair: Bruce Muller, CEATI</i> | Session B5: Hydro Plant Equipment Mechanical Integrity Harbor Ballroom D-F <i>Session Chair: Brian Luffman, Duke Energy</i> | Session C4: Hydro Operations & Planning Forecasting Harbor Ballroom H-I <i>Session Chair: Ronda Strauch, SCL</i> | Session D4: Pumped Storage Harbor Ballroom G <i>Session Chair: Robert Gordon, Seattle City Light</i> |
| | California State Water Project: Quantitative Risk Analysis Plans, Workshops, and Risk Reduction Measures <i>Genny Schrader, California Department of Water Resources & Daniel Osmun, HDR</i> | Spiral Casing Integrity: Inspection, FFS Analysis & Risk-Based Repair Strategy <i>Eric Scheibler, 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 & Eric See-Toh Powertech Labs, Geoff Dunbrack, 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> |

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| 3:00 - 3:45 PM | COFFEE BREAK Exhibit Hall |
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| 3:45 PM | Session A5: Dam Safety Emergency Preparedness & Long-Term Recovery Harbor Ballroom A-C <i>Session Chair: Jennifer Dodd, TVA</i> | Session B6: Hydro Plant Equipment Reliability & Cost Strategies Harbor Ballroom D-F <i>Session Chair: John Yale, CEATI</i> | Session C5: HOP Hydrologic Data for Risk-Informed Water & Hydropower Management Harbor Ballroom H-I <i>Session Chair: Marcel-Paul Raymond, CEATI</i> |
| | Evaluating Structural Failure Modes and Stabilization Alternatives Guided by High-Level Structural Analysis <i>Gurinderbir Sooch, 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 |

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| 5:30-7:00 PM | WOMEN IN POWER NETWORKING RECEPTION Hillcrest A-C - Katy Cottingham, Meridian, Christina Park, Skydio, Sandy McKay, Tacoma Power |
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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](#)