**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 and 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, Galileo Project, Pinyon)

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

Clint Robinson, 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;

Chris Mueller, Black and Veatch

Greg Zamensky, Black and Veatch

10:30 a.m. **Break**

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

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– Eric Johnson, Stantec; Ashwin Dhanasekar and Ken Carlson, CSU

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 and likely future of the plant.

3:15 p.m. **Environmental Regulation in the Trump Administration -** NEPA best practices, strategies **-** Karen Bennett, Clark Hill; Grace Ellis, Galileo Project; 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.

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

6:00 p.m. **Dinner -** [Il Fornaio restaurant](http://www.ilfornaio.com/greenwoodvillage), ([map](https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Merrick+%26+Company+-+Corporate+Headquarters/Il+Fornaio+Denver+Tech+Center,+8000+East+Belleview+Avenue,+Ste+G-10,+Greenwood+Village,+CO+80111/@39.6155042,-104.9068814,15z/am=t/data=!3m1!4b1!4m13!4m12!1m5!1m1!1s0x0:0x30821a0f65df23c0!2m2!1d-104.8981427!2d39.6070122!1m5!1m1!1s0x876c86f94c89f0d9:0x285251c2e6aaf0cf!2m2!1d-104.8950876!2d39.6237267)), shuttle bus from Merrick. No shuttle after dinner.

*Thursday, August 24, 2017*

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

9:00 a.m. **Energy - Electricity Transmission** –Lauren DeNinnio, Western Governor’s 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
  + shale resources development advocacy
  + Superfund program
  + supply chain cyber security
  + sea level rise session ACEC fall conference
  + other
* Topics and Date for Committee Winter Meeting (February 2018)

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