

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OVERVIEW



From Legacy
to Leadership

Empowering the
Next Generation
of Dam Engineers

WELCOME

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We invite you to join us for the 2026 Annual Conference. It will be an opportunity to gather leaders, innovators, and professionals from across our field for several days of meaningful conversation, collaboration, and learning.

Through workshops, committee meetings, plenary sessions, and networking events, the program will reflect the depth of expertise within our community and our shared commitment to advancing the profession and strengthening the partnerships that move our work forward.

This conference will come to life because of the engagement of our speakers, volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees. We hope you will be part of it.

We look forward to welcoming you and to the energy, insight, and connection that will shape the days ahead.

Catrice Jones

Catrice Jones, CAE

Executive Director

2026 Conference Schedule at a Glance

This Conference Program is intended for registration approval and planning purposes. Full agenda available online.

MONDAY, May 4

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Pre-Conference Workshops
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Committee Meetings
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Joint Committee Collaboration (Committee Leaders Only)
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Legacy Lecture Lunch
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Committee Meetings
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Campfire Sessions
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Welcome Reception

TUESDAY, May 5

7:30 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Opening & Plenary Session
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Coffee Break – Expo Hall
10:30 AM – 12:10 PM	Morning Technical Sessions
12:10 PM – 1:35 PM	General Lunch & YP Mentoring Lunch
1:35 PM – 2:50 PM	Afternoon Technical Sessions
2:50 PM – 3:20 PM	Refreshment Break - Expo Hall
3:25 PM – 5:05 PM	Late Afternoon Technical Sessions
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Social Hour! Exhibit Hall Reception
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	USACE Town Hall (USACE Only)
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Young Professionals Social at Holey Moley

WEDNESDAY, May 6

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 AM – 10:10 AM	Technical Sessions
10:10 AM – 10:45 AM	Coffee Break – Expo Hall
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Late Morning Technical Sessions
12:00 PM – 1:45 PM	General & Committee Leader Lunch
1:50 PM – 3:05 PM	Afternoon Technical Sessions
3:05 PM – 3:30 PM	Grab & Go Break – Expo Hall
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM	Awards Ceremony
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Wrap Party at Pins Mechanical

THURSDAY, May 7

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Workshops
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Technical Tour

Workshops, tour, and off-site events can be added to your registration at any time before April 1. After April 1 availability may be limited.

Onsite Registration Assistance & Attendee Self Check-In

Please visit our Registration Desk on 6th Floor if you need assistance. Attendee Self Check-In is available on 6th Floor, starting at 7:00 AM daily.

Tuesday Technical Schedule

Subject to change:
updated calendar and session details available online

Session Time	Salon A - 4th Floor Dam Safety / Earthquakes / Embankments	Salon C - 4th Floor Adaptive Capacity / Construction and Rehabilitation / Levees	406 Construction and Rehabilitation / Dam Safety / Hydraulics and Hydrology	408 Hydraulics and Hydrology / Special Topics / Texas Focus	410 Scholarship Students / Foundations	412 Concrete / Construction and Rehabilitation / Embankments
10:30–10:55	SCREENING LEVEL RISK PRIORITIZATION [Dam Safety]	Addressing future flood conditions for a large portfolio of high hazard dams [Adaptive Capacity]	Drought Planning and Response During the Rehabilitation of Cooper Lake Dam [Construction and Rehabilitation]	Flood Hazard Analysis for A Complex Reservoir System with Interbasin Flow [Hydraulics and Hydrology]	Mechanics-Based Modeling of Rock Scour in Unlined Dam Spillways (Sonia Akter)	Finite Element Modeling of Lift Joints in Concrete Dams Subjected to Seismic Loading [Concrete]
10:55–11:20	5 Years After a Portfolio Risk Analysis – Upper Brushy WCIDs Risk Reduction Program [Dam Safety]	Infrastructure asset management framework for aged dam safety management considering climate change [Adaptive Capacity]	Labyrinth Spillways: Case Studies and Lessons Learned [Construction and Rehabilitation]	Evaluating Conservatism in Dam Failure Consequence Assessment [Hydraulics and Hydrology]	Incorporation of Recent Advances in Remote Sensing Platforms for Proactive Levee Health Monitoring (Debayan Ghosh)	Enhancing Seismic Safety of Concrete Dams through Bayesian Model Updating [Concrete]
11:20–11:45	Bastrop State Park Lake Dam Failure and TPWD’s Proactive Approach [Dam Safety]	Largest Labyrinth Weir in Texas - Performance History	Dam 101: Adaptive Construction for Foundation Mitigation and Flood Resilience [Construction and Rehabilitation]	Wareham Dam Spillways Design: Opportunities and Challenges [Hydraulics and Hydrology]	MECHANISTIC BASED EVALUATIONS OF TRANSVERSE CRACKING IN EMBANKMENTS (Mark Bancroft)	Evaluating Structural Failure Modes and Stabilization Alternatives [Concrete]
11:45–12:10	Advancements in Portfolio Dam Risk Assessment through India’s DRIP [Dam Safety]		Retrofit Design of a Low-Level Outlet at Lake Lure Dam [Construction and Rehabilitation]	Beyond the Matrix: Risk-Informed Decision Making in Action at a High Hazard Dam [Dam Safety]	A Bayesian Digital Twin Framework for Seismic Resilience of Dams (Enrique Gerardo Simbort Zeballos)	
01:35–02:00	Static Deformation Analysis for Chimney Hollow ACRD [Embankments]	Development of Central Valley Levee System Response Curves [Levees]	Hurricane Helene and System Risks in the Blue Ridge Mountains [Hydraulics and Hydrology]	Pumped Storage Education Project [Special Topics]	Three-Dimensional Seismic Stability of Earth Dams and Application to the Gatun Dam of the Panama Canal (Daniel M. Muschett)	Design and Construction Solutions to Rehabilitate Bachman Lake Dam [Construction and Rehabilitation]
02:00–02:25	WEAK ROCK: WHY AND HOW TO PRESERVE THE IN-SITU WATER CONTENT [Embankments]	Lessons Learned from Proprietary Closure Systems in USACE Levees [Levees]	Hydrology for Semi-Quantitative Risk Analysis (SQRA) [Hydraulics and Hydrology]	Building the Hydropower Workforce of the Future [Special Topics]	Modeling Dam Overtopping: Remediation Using Biopolymer Mixed Soil (Brock Huner)	Strategic Rehabilitation Design for Flat Rock Dam [Construction and Rehabilitation]
02:25–02:50	Particle Size Effects on Large Diameter Penetrometers [Embankments]		The Shingle Spillway Chute – A New Approach [Hydraulics and Hydrology]		Backward Erosion Piping: Evaluating Multiple Loading Effects and Head Loss Variability through Laboratory Experiments and Three-Dimensional Modeling (Deepika Ghorasaini)	Working Together in Lock Step – Foundation Construction for the New Soo Lock [Construction and Rehabilitation]
03:25–03:50	Physics-Based Simulation of Megathrust Ground Motions at 54 Dams in New Zealand [Earthquakes]	A Multifaceted Radial Gate Assessment [Construction and Rehabilitation]		Closing the Gap: The Final Shield for Downtown Dallas [Texas Focus]	Evaluating the Time-Rate of Scour in Rock [Foundations]	USACE-RMC Internal Erosion Suite [Embankments]
03:50–04:15	Enhancing Comprehensive Dam Assessments with Scenario-Based Seismic Hazard Maps [Earthquakes]	Improving Tainter Gate Reliability [Construction and Rehabilitation]	PRADO DAM MODIFICATIONS RISK INFORMED CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCING [Dam Safety]	Flood Envelope Exceedances in Texas [Texas Focus]	Pioneering Floodwall Foundation Design Using Embedded Pipe Piles [Foundations]	Material Testing to Inform Internal Erosion Risk Assessment [Embankments]
04:15–04:40	Sensitivity Studies on Nonlinear Dynamic Response of Concrete Gravity Dams [Earthquakes]	Gate-ways to the Future: (Re)Powering up Nolte Dam [Construction and Rehabilitation]	Lessons Learned from Pipestem Spillway Modification Project [Dam Safety]	Delivering Levee Projects in a Design- Build Environment [Texas Focus]	Prado Dam Labyrinth Control Structure Weir Design [Foundations]	Centrifuge Modeling of Cracking and Internal Erosion [Embankments]
04:40–05:05	Application of Updated USACE Seismic Design Regulations (2024) [Earthquakes]	Crest Gate Loading and Seal Plate Challenges [Construction and Rehabilitation]	Emergencies on Top of Emergencies [Dam Safety]	Rising to the Challenge: Update on TSSWCB Flood Control Program [Texas Focus]	Integrating UAV-Based and Field Mapping for Rock Mass Erodibility [Foundations]	Review of Simplified Seismic Deformation Procedures [Embankments]

Wednesday Technical Schedule

Subject to change:
updated calendar and session details available online

Session Time	Salon A - 4th Floor Concrete / Dam Safety / Hydraulics & Hydrology	Salon C - 4th Floor Construction & Rehab / Public Safety, Security & EM	406 Hydraulics & Hydrology / Environment & Sustainability / Dam Safety	408 Monitoring of Dams & Foundations / Hydraulics & Hydrology	410 Public Safety, Security & EM / Monitoring of Dams & Foundations	412 Teton Dam / Embankments
08:30–08:55	A Primer on Joints Used in Reinforced Concrete Hydraulic Structures [Concrete]	Is Your Spillway Burping? Put a Big Straw in It! [Construction & Rehab]	Advancing Dam Safety Assessments Using Two-Dimensional Hydraulic Modeling and Cutting-Edge Risk Analysis Software for Flood Hazard Transformation	Performance Monitoring Case Histories [Monitoring of Dams & Foundations]	Recent Extreme Rainfall and Flooding, Are Things Changing or Is It More of the Same? [Public Safety, Security & EM]	Numerical Analysis of the Teton Dam Right Key Trench [Teton Dam]
08:55–09:20	KINEMATIC ROCK ABUTMENT HEAD-CUT ERODIBILITY ASSESSMENT FOR A HIGH-HAZARD VARIABLE-ARCH CONCRETE DAM [Concrete]	Meet in the Middle (of Nowhere): Extending the Life of Middle Dam [Construction & Rehab]	Hydrological analysis of the Taylor Draw hydroelectric dam – removing a “1”(x105) from the PMF estimate! [Hydraulics & Hydrology]	Connecting the Plots – Lessons Learned from a Comprehensive Data Evaluation of the 40-year Instrumentation Record for a Hydraulic Fill Embankment Dam	Emergency Planning in the Prairie: Gardiner Dam Break Modeling and Inundation Mapping [Public Safety, Security & EM]	Data Behind Dam Safety Decisions - Teton to Present [Teton Dam]
09:20–09:45	Analysis of an existing thin arch dam including the effects of the crest access bridge on the performance of the dam. [Concrete]	Indian Lake Dam Rehabilitation - Strengthening for Post-Tension Anchoring Aged Concrete and Stone Masonry [Construction & Rehab]	Applicability of the Air Entrainment Model in FLOW-3D HYDRO to Free Surface Air Entrainment in Chute Type Spillways	Managing Long-Term Inclinometer Displacement Data with Multiple Re-Baselines [Monitoring of Dams & Foundations]	Comparative Analysis of Alternative Probabilistic Approaches for Estimating Downstream Consequences [Public Safety, Security & EM]	Applying Construction Risk Analysis to Teton Dam Design - Could that have prevented failure [Teton Dam]
09:45–10:10	Comparative Analysis of Modeling Techniques for Intake Tower Structures: Part I - SAP2000 Analysis [Concrete]	Guiding Structural Repairs of Morris Sheppard Dam: From Damage Assessment to Implementation [Construction & Rehab]	Panama Canal: Water Resilience, Feasibility, and the Rio Indio Dam Project [Hydraulics & Hydrology]		Beyond the Dam: Automating Hazard Insight and Emergency Readiness [Public Safety, Security & EM]	If these Abutments Could Talk: Evolution of Embankment Performance Monitoring Within Reclamation [Teton Dam]
10:45–11:10	When Legacy Codes Still Deliver: Feasibility-Level Risk-Informed Seismic Dam Design and Reliability [Dam Safety]	Let’s Keep this Real! Current Industry Trends and Best Practices Using Realistic Scenarios for More Effective and Collaborative EAP Drills and Exercises	Innovative Ecohydraulics Approach for Nature-like Fish Passage Design: Insights from Juvenile Salmonid Navigation [Environment & Sustainability]	Big Changes for Big Dams: Why the Probable Maximum Floods Doubled for the Two Largest USACE Reservoirs [Hydraulics & Hydrology]	Established Threshold and Action Levels for Concrete Dams and Hydraulic Structures based on Performance Tests [Monitoring of Dams & Foundations]	RISK INFORMED DECISION MAKING AND ADVANCED MODELING FOR CONCRETE DAMS [Teton Dam]
11:10–11:35	Variability in Flood Risk: Implications for Dam and Levee Safety in the United States [Dam Safety]	Lions, Tigers, and Dams, Oh My! Formal Inspections at the Phoenix Zoo [Public Safety, Security & EM]	Newts & Bolts: Modernizing the Dam Without Ruffling Any Tails [Environment & Sustainability]	Garrison Dam Spillway Modification - Crest Structure Physical Hydraulic Modeling, Part 1 [Hydraulics & Hydrology]	DRONE PHOTOGRAMMETRY FOR DAM SAFETY: A FIVE-YEAR REVIEW [Monitoring of Dams & Foundations]	Evolution of preparedness and risk communication in Reclamation since the Teton Dam Failure [Teton Dam]
11:35–12:00		Incorporating Operational Flexibility in Dam Designs for Emergency Situations [Public Safety, Security & EM]	Quantitative Assessment of Sedimentation Risk in Dam Infrastructure Under Extreme Weather Events [Environment & Sustainability]		Improved Liftoff Testing Techniques for Post-Tensioned Anchors [Monitoring of Dams & Foundations]	
01:50–02:15	Developing Areal Reduction Factors for Tropical Storm Precipitation Frequency in the Tennessee Valley [Hydraulics & Hydrology]	Two complex ongoing projects with geomembranes in USA : Courtright, Fordyce [Construction & Rehab]	Comparative Assessment of Agricultural Flood Impact Modeling: USACE, USBR, and FAPRI Approaches for Dam Safety and Risk-Informed Decision-Making [Dam Safety]	Now You Hear Me, Now You Don’t [Monitoring of Dams & Foundations]		Seismic Performance Evaluation of Embankment Dams: A Fragility-based Approach [Embankments]
02:15–02:40		Watching Winter, Constructing Repairs at a High-Elevation Colorado Dam [Construction & Rehab]	RISK OF DAM FAILURE DUE TO OVERPUMPING AT PUMP STORAGE PROJECTS: CASE STUDY OF LUDINGTON PROJECT USING FAULT TREE ANALYSIS WITHIN A RISK INFORMED FRAMEWORK [Dam Safety]	Portfolio Implementation of Digital Technologies Across Salt River Project Facilities for Use in Comprehensive Reviews [Monitoring of Dams & Foundations]		A Parametric Analysis of Oroville Dam [Embankments]
02:40–03:05		Rapid Gate Isolation Using a Gantry-Deployed Stoplog System for Dam Maintenance [Construction & Rehab]				El Capitan Dam - A Case Study in Subsurface Investigation and Adaptive Field Execution for a Seismic Stability Evaluation [Embankments]

CONFERENCE EVENTS

Committee Meeting Schedule - May 4

Committee Meetings	9-10:00 AM	10-11:00 AM	2-3:00 PM	3-4:00 PM	Room
Dam Safety					Salon DE
Construction & Rehab					616AB
Environment & Sustainability					602
Hydromechanical					619
Education & Training					616AB
Foundations					619
Climate Resiliency					602
Levees					410
Emerging Professionals					408
Hydraulics & Hydrology					616AB
Earthquakes					412
Tailings Dams					602
Embankment Dams					408
ICOLD Engagement					412
Dam Decommissioning					602
Advocacy and Awareness					619
Monitoring of Dams and Their Foundations					616AB
Concrete					410

START PLANNING YOUR CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE NOW!

Scan the QR code to explore full session details, speakers, and learning opportunities.



MONDAY, May 4

- 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Listen, Learn, Lead: The Proactive Professional’s Toolbox – Part III
- 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Long-Term Reservoir Sedimentation Analysis using HEC-HMS
- 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Fragility Curves for Quantitative Risk Analysis in Dam Engineering
- 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Campfire Sessions- Collaborative Roundtables
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Welcome Reception

TUESDAY, May 5

- 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Social Hour! Exhibit Hall Reception
- 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Young Professionals Social at Holey Moley- walkable from hotel

WEDNESDAY, May 6

- 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM Wrap Party at Pins Mechanical - bus transportation begins at 5:45 PM

THURSDAY, May 7

- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Benchmark Workshop on Analysis of Embankment Seismic Response
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Remote Sensing Workshop
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Risk Informed Decision-Making Basics for SMEs
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Technical Tour

LOCATION INFORMATION

Hotel Information

Centrally located in Austin, with walkable food and entertainment, the Hilton Austin is this year's conference venue. **All conference sessions will take place in the Hilton Austin.**

USSD has secured a low rate for conference attendees. It is vital to the event's success that attendees book through the room block.

The room block closes April 13, 2026 or when full. Access Regular and Government Block Links here:



Austin, Texas

Visit our Location page for recommendations from USSD Austin locals!



Event Locations

Join your fellow conference attendees out in Austin at the Emerging Professionals Social and the Conference Wrap Party!

Young Professional Social at **Holey Moley**
Just a short walk from the conference hotel, join fellow attendees at Holey Moley Austin for a lively evening of mini golf, cocktails, and connection. It's the perfect way to unwind and build meaningful connections.

Conference Wrap Party at **PINS Mechanical Co.**
Wrap up the USSD 2026 Annual Conference with a night of great food, drinks, and friendly competition.

Your \$25 ticket includes:

- Food and drinks
- Access to all games and activities
- Round-trip transportation provided from the conference hotel

EXHIBITOR RECOGNITION

EXHIBITOR LIST AS OF 4/21/26

Advanced Construction Techniques Inc.
AECOM
Aecon
Ames Construction
Aquarius Systems
ASI Marine
ASTERRA
Ballard Marine Construction
Barnard Construction Company, Inc.
Barr Engineering Co.
BDI
Betts Drilling
Black & Veatch
Brayman Construction Corporation
Bureau of Reclamation
Campbell Scientific
Carpi Tech & Hydro Plus
Cascade Drilling, L.P.
CDM Smith
Certerra Subsurface Imaging
Collier Geophysics
Colliers Engineering & Design
ConeTec, Inc.
Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program
COWI North America
CSG srl Centro Servizi di Geoingegneria
Dam Safety Services
DamLogics
EWS Monitoring
EZ Scaffold

Flow Science
Forgen
Freese and Nichols
GEI Consultants, Inc.
Geocomp
Geokon
Geosyntec Consultants
GFT
GZA, GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
Hatch
Hazen and Sawyer
HDR Engineering Inc.
Hibbard Inshore, LLC
Keller
KGS Group
Kiewit
Kinometrics
Knight Piesold
Malcolm Drilling
Mapei
Massman Construction
McMillen, Inc.
Measure
Michels Construction, Inc.
Morgan Corp.
National Inventory of Dams
& National Levee Database
Nicholson Construction Company
Niricson

O'Brien Engineering, Inc.
Odin
Pacific Netting Products, Inc.
Phillips Heavy, Inc.
Raba Kistner, Inc.
Ramboll
RBC Bearings
Renesco INC
Research Triangle Institute International
Rezatech
Richard Goettle
RIZZO International, Inc.
Rocscience
Ruen Drilling, Inc.
Schnabel Engineering
Sequoia Services LLC
Sixense, Inc.
Stantec
Thalle Construction Co., Inc.
Tolunay-Wong Engineers, LLC
Vertical Access, LLC
W. W. Wheeler and Associates, Inc.
WALO International Limited
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WEST Consultants, Inc.
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WSP

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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

General Feb 18 – March 31, 2026		
Registration Type	USSD Member	Non-Member
Attendee	\$1,195	\$1,450
Presenter	\$1,095	\$1,350
Young Professional	\$1,095	\$1,345
Student	\$200	\$200
Single Day Pass	\$575	\$825
Booth Staff	\$995	\$995

Late / Onsite (Highest Rate) April 1, 2026 or later		
Registration Type	USSD Member	Non-Member
Attendee	\$1,295	\$1,550
Presenter	\$1,145	\$1,400
Young Professional	\$1,145	\$1,395
Student	\$200	\$200
Single Day Pass	\$650	\$775
Booth Staff	\$1,195	\$1,195

Ready to Join Us?

Scan the QR code to see what's included with each registration option and secure your spot today. Everything you need to know—just one quick scan away!

