

Southern Delivery System S4A Central Tunnel Construction

Ashley Heckman

Lead Tunnel Engineer, Rocky Mountain Region, MWH

Wednesday, February 24th at NOON in BB W210

Lunch Provided –



The Southern Delivery System (SDS) is a regional project to bring water from the Arkansas River to Colorado Springs, the City of Fountain, the Security Water District, and the Pueblo West Metropolitan District. Phase 1 of this multi-phase project includes all of the components necessary to begin delivering water to the partner communities by April 2016. The SDS made significant progress in 2015, and construction remains on schedule to be completed in early 2016. After five years of construction, the SDS began pumping and treatment system testing in 2015. Activities in early 2016 include running pumps at the pump stations at various rates to gauge performance, operating the processes needed for water treatment, and operating the many pieces of equipment that must all work in concert to deliver drinking water once construction is complete.



Ms. Heckman has been a tunnel engineer for 10 years and a geologist for 15 years. She worked for the USGS as a geomorphologist for 5 years before attending grad school at CSM. During her time at Mines, she taught Dr. Ozbay's Rock Mechanics class for 4 semesters and spent summers designing and constructing wine caves in northern California. Upon graduation in 2008, she took a project engineer position at Lachel and Associates in Atlanta. Missing her home in Colorado, she returned after 5 years and took a job with MWH where she is now the Lead Tunnel Engineer for the Rocky Mountain Region. As a tunnel engineer, she has worked on many multi-discipline projects, in both hard and soft ground, in which she has performed such tasks as geologic mapping, geotechnical analysis and characterization, structural analysis and design for initial support and final lining, slope stability, foundation analysis, cost estimates, contract document preparation, risk analysis, and construction management. She has considerable construction experience and has worked on numerous tunneling projects throughout the US and several outside the US.

Questions? Dig in with us at uct.mines.edu or contact us uct@mines.edu

