



USSD  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE &  
EXHIBITION  
2018  
APR 30  
THROUGH  
MAY 4  
MIAMI FL



**38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
AND  
EXHIBITION**

April 30-May 4, 2018  
Miami, Florida

Host:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Jacksonville District

ANNOUNCEMENT AND  
**CALL FOR  
PAPERS**

# INTRODUCTION

The 2018 USSD Conference Theme is ***A Balancing Act: Dams, Levees and Ecosystems***. Dams and levees have, and continue to provide significant benefits to society. These benefits include flood control, water supply, irrigation, renewable energy, navigation, recreation, and habitat and environmental enhancement. Many of our existing dams and levees are poised to provide additional benefits and solutions to some of our nation's future infrastructure, environmental, social, and economic challenges.

For the first time, the USSD annual conference will be held in Florida. The Conference theme represents some of the unique challenges that coastal environments and delicate ecosystems face, which requires balancing the purposes and authorizations of dams and levees with environmental, social and economic interests.

USSD continues to recognize, discuss and communicate the beneficial and adverse impacts of these important facilities. USSD and its members continually work to identify and advance solutions that minimize impacts and maximize the benefits of dams and levees in their environment, working toward structural, economic and environmental sustainability. Papers and presentations addressing the Conference theme and other technical topics remind ourselves, and the greater community, of the value of, and need for, dams and levees to society while increasing awareness of how these structures contribute to environmental sustainability.

## A BALANCING ACT: DAMS LEVEES AND ECOSYSTEMS



# CONFERENCE INFORMATION

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

A Planning Committee chaired by Christina Winckler, AECOM, will develop the conference program. All USSD members are invited to join the Planning Committee, and if available, attend an important meeting in Miami on Wednesday, August 30. Visit the Conference website to join the Committee.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Activities will begin on Monday, April 30, with **USSD Committee Meetings**. The Conference **Opening Session** at 5 pm will be followed by the **Kick-off Reception and Exhibition Opening**. Tuesday morning will feature a **Plenary Session**, with **concurrent technical sessions** taking place on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday.

Thursday and Friday will provide additional opportunities for learning, with field tours and workshops. Meals and social events throughout the week will offer plenty of networking opportunities.

## EXHIBITION AND SPONSORSHIPS

An Exhibition will be held for organizations wishing to showcase their products and services to a wide range of professionals involved in dams, levees and water resources.

Event and product sponsorships throughout the Conference will offer additional marketing opportunities.

Exhibitor reservations and the sponsorship program will be available this fall.

## FIELD TOURS

Two field tours will be featured during the Conference. A half-day tour on Thursday afternoon will visit the Tamiami Trail, part of the Florida Everglades restoration project.

The day-long Friday tour will feature the Herbert Hoover Dike, a 143-mile earthen dam that surrounds Lake Okeechobee, the heart of the Kissimmee-Okeechobee-

Everglades system. Various construction projects designed to reduce the risk of catastrophic failure of the aging structure are ongoing.

## WORKSHOPS

Several concurrent workshops, organized by USSD Technical Committees, will be held on Thursday and/or Friday. USSD Committees are invited to submit workshop proposals.

## MIAMI HYATT REGENCY

All Conference activities will take place in the downtown Miami Hyatt Regency and the connected Miami Convention Center. Overlooking the Miami River, the Hyatt Regency Miami is a landmark hotel with easy access to popular attractions, like Brickell City Center, Wynwood Art District, Coral Gables, Port of Miami, and the Latin flavor of Little Havana. Make your hotel reservations now via the Conference website.

# CALL FOR PAPERS

**USSD and ICOLD Members** as well as all professionals involved in dams, levees, and water resources engineering are invited to submit abstracts. Abstract submissions must be for proposed papers and/or presentations that are original and have not been published or accepted in a journal or conference proceedings, nor presented at another conference. Submissions must not be concurrently under consideration for publication or presentation elsewhere.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts describing research or experience relating to the Conference Theme, or corresponding to topics addressed by USSD Technical Committees, as shown on the next page.

While not required, all presenters are **strongly encouraged to prepare a paper**, which will be included in the electronic Conference Proceedings. The Planning Committee will favor acceptance of abstracts from authors who indicate that they will prepare a paper. Abstracts will be selected by members of the Conference Planning Committee based on scientific/engineering merit, relevance, and overall quality. Due to time and space constraints, it is possible that not all submissions will be selected for the Conference. Abstracts will be accepted for presentation as follows:

- 15 to 20-minute oral presentation
- 5 to 10-minute oral lightning round presentation

Following acceptance, authors will submit a draft paper for peer review. Following this review, authors will prepare final papers.

All authors and presenters are expected to attend the Conference and pay the discounted registration fee for authors and presenters. Those who do not return the commitment form and register by the deadlines will not be included in the final program.

**Young Professionals** (under age 35) are encouraged to submit abstracts, and will receive a reduced conference registration fee. Planning Committee members and session moderators are prepared to offer advice and support throughout the process, from submitting your abstract, to preparing the draft paper, to finalizing your presentation.

**To submit your abstract:** <https://catalyst.omnipress.com/#collection/145/submission>



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

<b>Abstracts Due:</b>	<b>August 14, 2017</b>
<b>Notify Authors</b>	<b>September 15, 2017</b>
<b>Drafts Due</b>	<b>November 1, 2017</b>
<b>Review Comments</b>	<b>January 15, 2017</b>
<b>Final Papers Due</b>	<b>March 1, 2018</b>
<b>Conference</b>	<b>April 30-May 4, 2018</b>



# CONFERENCE TOPICS

## A BALANCING ACT: **DAMS LEVEES AND ECOSYSTEMS**



### CONFERENCE THEME TOPICS

- Upstream siltation and its impact on the ecosystem
- Dams and levees role with respect to rising sea water levels, water quality, and as sediment traps
- Impact of dams and levees on wetlands
- Lessons learned from tailings dam and coal combustion impoundment failures
- Managing fish migration — are there proven ways that work and are there effective non-structural measures?
- Dam and levee safety inspections and construction with respect to wildlife
- Dam and reservoir water management practices for improved environmental and wildlife conditions
- Shoreline management and recreation at water projects – balancing the social aspects and benefits with costs and safety.
- Using levee stormwater treatment areas (STAs) for improved water quality to ecosystems
- Hurricane effects on dam and levee systems in south Florida
- Lessons learned in levee flood fighting
- Water project infrastructure practices that contribute to increasing economic, social, and environmental sustainability

### OTHER TECHNICAL TOPICS

- Concrete Dams
- Construction and Rehabilitation
- Dam Safety
- Dam Decommissioning
- Earthquakes
- Embankment Dams
- Environment and Sustainability
- Foundations
- Hydraulics of Dams
- Levees
- Monitoring of Dams and their Foundations
- Public Awareness
- Public Safety and Security for Dams
- Tailings Dams

## MORE INFORMATION

*Conference Registration and Exhibitor Reservations open this fall.*

### CONFERENCE WEBSITE AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS

[https://ussdams.wildapricot.org/  
event-2471270](https://ussdams.wildapricot.org/event-2471270)

### CONFERENCE CHAIR

Christina Winckler, AECOM  
[Christina.Winckler@aecom.com](mailto:Christina.Winckler@aecom.com)  
303-694-2770



### U.S. SOCIETY ON DAMS

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