

Thursday, October 8, 2026

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER	SUMMARY
7:30a	Registration Opens		
8:30a - 8:40a	Welcome + Member Meeting		
8:40a - 9:20a	Opening Keynote: Industry Infrastructure	Clint O'Neal , AEDC	Why infrastructure, AI, industry growth, and environmental leadership matter now.
9:20a - 10:00a	Big Room Panel: Building What's Next: Infrastructure, Growth, and Arkansas Industry	Roby Brock , Randy Zook , AR Chamber Laura Landreaux , Energy Chris Colclasure , ARNC	How growth, infrastructure, AI, and energy demand are showing up in the real world.
10:00a - 10:45a	Break in Trade Show: Power Hour No. 1		Dedicated trade show time with structured exhibitor traffic, sponsor visibility, and optional short activations.
10:45a - 11:45a	Choose Your Experience Block: A: Moderated DEQ Associate Directors Updates with Q&A	Demetria Kimbrough , AE&E Bryan Leamons , AE&E Stacie Wassell , AE&E	A moderated Q&A session with Arkansas E&E / DEQ leadership or program staff. This would replace or modernize the traditional "director update" format by focusing less on formal presentations and more on what facilities need clarified.

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10:45a -11:45a	Choose Your Experience Block: B Building Compliance Systems That Hold Up: Documentation, Communication, and Inspection Readiness	Cindy Lewis, UAMS	A practical "what goes wrong and how to avoid it" session. The focus is on recurring mistakes and preventable problems.
10:45a -11:45a	Choose Your Experience Block: C Audits	Mike Miller, SCS Engineers	This session will cover practical environmental and safety audit considerations for industrial facilities, including when audits are useful, what legal and internal communication issues to consider, and how to turn findings into meaningful corrective action.
11:45a - 12:30p	Breakout 1: Air Arkansas Bat Mitigation	Buck Ray, Olsson	Bat Mitigation Initiative
11:45a - 12:30p	Breakout 1: Land Rapid Fire Session: Rules Status, SEEK components update, Rare Earth Elements, and EPA push for SPCC site inspections	Mike Reynolds, Clean Harbors	CCR developments, DEQ updates and SEEK implementation, Rule 23, Act 1009, case law, solid waste planning, and other developing regulatory issues affecting facilities. Goal is to focus on what is changing, what is coming, and what it means operationally. Rare Earth Elements (nathan siria)

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11:45a - 12:30p	Breakout 1: Safety and Health Fit For Duty, Panel	Carrie Keeler, Onterris Sean McCarron, Onterris Donna Hendricks, Remington	
11:45a - 12:30p	Breakout 1: Water Federal Updates	Ray Weida Olsson	SPCC Initiatives from EPA
12:30p - 1:45p	Lunch		
1:45p - 2:45p	General Session: AI and environmental compliance	Walter Wright, Mitchell Williams	This session looks at current and near-term developments affecting industrial facilities, including AI and environmental compliance, infrastructure demands, data center growth, energy and utility pressure, permitting capacity, and major regulatory or litigation trends. The goal is to help attendees see the larger operating environment before they go back into more specific committee or facility-level conversations.

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2:45p -3:30p	Break in Trade Show: Power Hour No. 2		Dedicated trade show time with structured exhibitor traffic, sponsor visibility, and optional short activations.
3:30p - 4:30p	Facilitated Industry Working Groups Industry Intensive: Sprint Sessions	Trinity Consultants Meredith Lowry , WLJ Cindy Lewis , UAMS Terracon	Attendees will participate in assigned, facilitated discussions focused on current issues affecting Arkansas industry, including infrastructure readiness, AI and compliance systems, permitting and inspection bottlenecks, and energy, utilities, and large-load impacts. These working groups are designed for practical peer exchange and will help AEF identify topics to continue tracking through committees, seminars, newsletters, and member resources.
4:30p - 6:30p	Reception		

Friday, October 9, 2026

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER	SUMMARY
8:30a - 9:15a	Before the Announcement: What Large-Load Projects Look For in Arkansas	Shannon Lynn, Trinity Consultants	Data centers and other large-load projects evaluate power, permitting, infrastructure, water, land, timing, and execution long before public announcements are made. This breakfast session will give attendees a practical look at how these projects assess Arkansas, what site readiness really means, and why early coordination with utilities, consultants, agencies, and economic development partners matters.
9:15a - 10:00a	AI in Practice: Permitting, Compliance, and Operational Decision-Making	Eric Beightel, ESA	Artificial intelligence is beginning to affect environmental review, permitting, document preparation, public comment review, compliance systems, and project timelines. This session will focus on practical uses, clear limits, oversight, and what facilities should understand before relying on AI tools in environmental and permitting work.

Friday, October 9, 2026

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER	SUMMARY
10:00a - 10:20a	Break in Trade Show: Power Hour No. 1		Dedicated trade show time with structured exhibitor traffic, sponsor visibility, and optional short activations.
10:20a - 11:05a	Breakout 2: Air: Rapid Fire Session: PM2.5 DC Circuit update, NSR start up construction, Streaming Title V renewal, Title V defense rule, and SEC rules	Mark Allison, Wright, Lindsey, Jennings	This fast-moving session will cover several air issues facilities should continue watching, including PM2.5, DC Circuit updates, NSR start of construction, Title V renewal streamlining, the Title V affirmative defense rule, and SEC-related developments. The goal is to give attendees a concise, practical update on what matters now and what may require follow-up after convention.

Friday, October 9, 2026

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER	SUMMARY
10:20a - 11:05a	Breakout 2: Land Digital Compliance: e-manifest, recordkeeping, role of AI and digital systems in compliance operations.	Britt Scheer , Veolia	Digital tools are becoming part of day-to-day compliance operations, from e-manifest and recordkeeping to internal tracking, document control, and emerging uses of AI. This session will focus on how digital systems can support compliance, where human review still matters, and how facilities can avoid letting technology create a new place for mistakes to hide.
10:20a - 11:05a	Breakout 2: Safety and Health Health and Safety Issues in Natural Disasters	Laura H Weems , AIHA Arkansas Local Section	Severe weather, flooding, power outages, and other natural disasters can quickly create safety, health, and operational challenges for industrial facilities. This session will focus on practical planning, worker protection, emergency response, contractor coordination, and continuity considerations when normal operating assumptions fail.

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10:20a - 11:05a	Breakout 2: Water Permitting Streamlining: What is Actually Changing and How to Ask For It	Brandon Gilbert, Micro-Bac International	
11:05a - 11:45a	Closing Keynote: Technology in Motion: The Future of Arkansas Industry	Phil Baker, Onterris	Close the 2026 AEF Convention with a fast-moving showcase of the technologies shaping the future of Arkansas industry. AEF members will bring emerging tools and equipment to the stage and show how robotics, artificial intelligence, real-time data, and advanced infrastructure are changing environmental operations, safety, emergency response, and utility systems. This is not a traditional panel or sales presentation. It is a practical look at technology in action and what it means for industry.
11:45a - 12:15p	Awards + Drawings		Diamond Award presentation, awards presentations, drawings