



## Summer Dinner Meeting

*The Carolinas Chapter of the  
Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists  
Presents Guest Speaker:*



**Brendan Stepek, PE**  
**Senior Engineer at Schnabel Engineering**

### **PRESENTATION:**

**DAM PERFORMANCE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING  
HURRICANE HELENE: A CASE STUDY OF THREE HIGH-HAZARD  
DAMS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA**

### **MEETING DETAILS:**

- Place:** Hi-Wire Brewing - Biltmore Village, 2A Huntsman Place in Asheville
- Date:** Thursday, September 11, 2025
- Time:** 5:30 PM socializing begins, 7:00 buffet dinner, 8:00 Brendan's presentation
- Cost:** AEG and ASCE members \$40, non-members \$50, educators and public-sector employees \$20, students **free** with college ID. *Cost will be \$5 more at the door (i.e., please pre-register).*
- Reservations:** Please make reservations with Jen Thomas by 6:00 PM on Monday, September 8. Pre-pay on the News & Events page of our chapter website -- [www.aegcarolinas.org](http://www.aegcarolinas.org). Students can register for the meeting by an email to Jen Thomas at [jen@jentecllc.com](mailto:jen@jentecllc.com), or register online for \$1.
- CE's:** The NCBLG has pre-approved our chapter meetings for 1 hour of CE.

## **BRENDAN'S ABSTRACT**

In September 2024, Hurricane Helene brought intense rainfall and widespread flooding to western North Carolina, creating significant challenges for dam owners, emergency responders, and community leaders. Nearly a year after the storm, we take a closer look at how three high-hazard dams — North Fork, Bee Tree, and Lake Lure — were affected and what their performance reveals about infrastructure resilience. Based on direct involvement in dam-safety operations during the storm, Brendan will outline the approach taken before, during, and after the event. The session will conclude with lessons learned and recommendations for enhancing dam resilience in the face of future, extreme, weather events.

## **BRENDAN'S BIO**

Brendan is a Senior Engineer at Schnabel Engineering South, Inc. in Greensboro, North Carolina. He is a registered professional engineer with 10 years of experience in geotechnical, geostructural, and dam engineering. His dam-engineering experience includes the assessment, design, and rehabilitation of both concrete and earthen dams. Brendan received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland and is licensed in North Carolina.