

News Release

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Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference April 17 at Civic Center in Rapid City

The 6th annual Western South Dakota Hydrology Conference will be held on Thursday, April 17, at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City. The conference is open to the public and features topics dealing with water in western South Dakota.

Three keynote speakers and four technical sessions will allow hydrologists, geologists, engineers, students, and other interested individuals to meet and exchange ideas, discuss mutual problems, and present the results of studies. The annual conference typically draws more than 200 attendees.

The conference will kick off at 7:50 a.m. with keynote speaker Dr. John H. Marburger, III, the President's Science Advisor at the White House, presenting "Reflections on the Science and Policy of Energy and Climate Change." Following Dr. Marburger's address, keynote speaker Dr. Jose Alonso from Sanford Laboratory will present "Plans and Progress at the Sanford Underground Lab at Homestake." The keynote luncheon speaker will be Dr. Scott Kenner from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Dr. Kenner will present on stormwater quality management in Rapid City. The four technical sessions include presentations about science management, water quality, flooding, surface water, ground water, uranium mining, and a variety of other water-related topics. Additional details regarding the preliminary program are available from the conference Web site at http://sd.water.usgs.gov/WSDconf/.

Professional registration fees are \$75 and professional development hours will be coordinated through the South Dakota Engineering Society for technical sessions attended. Students and the general public can attend the sessions for free; optional luncheon for students and general public is \$20. All attendees, including students and the general public, are asked to register before April 14 by visiting the above conference Web site or by contacting Janet Carter at 605-394-3215 or <u>imcarter@usgs.gov</u> for more information.

The conference is sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Dakota Engineering Society, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, and West Dakota Water Development District.

Additional information about the USGS water-resources studies in South Dakota can be obtained by visiting the USGS South Dakota Water Science Center home page at <u>http://sd.water.usgs.gov/</u>.

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