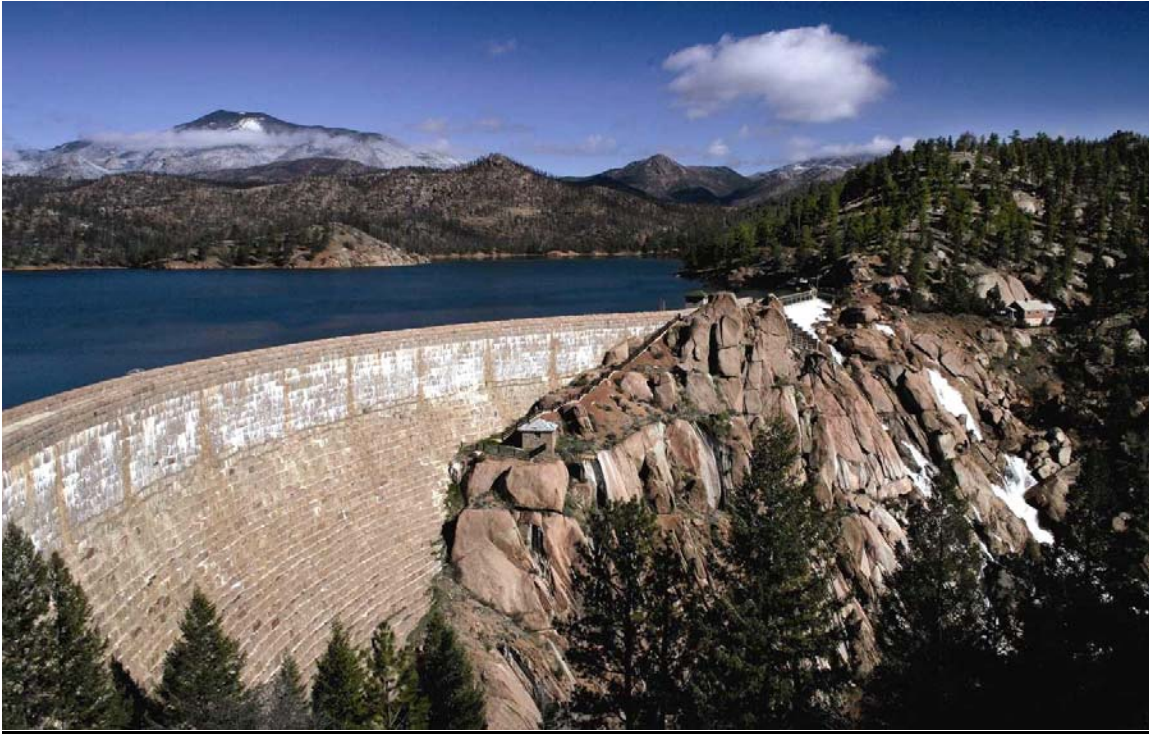


## Article Release – Cheesman Dam Ceremony



October 7, 2005 – Deckers, Colorado – Designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in 1973, the Cheesman Dam turned 100 years old today. To commemorate the centennial, many gathered for a re-dedication ceremony at the top of the Cheesman Dam to honor this civil engineering landmark. Denver Water and the American Society of Civil Engineers hosted the ceremony and day's events. Among those that gathered were officials, representatives, board members, and staff of Denver Water, the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers (AAWRE), and other invitees in the water resources field.

The historic Cheesman Dam sits on the South Platte River, about 6 miles southwest of Deckers, a town 60 miles southwest of Denver. Built in 1905, the Cheesman Dam was the first major gravity-arch masonry dam built in the world. It is made with squared granite blocks and is considered the first of its type in the United States. Its height stands at 221 feet, its crest length at 670 feet, and 1,100 feet including the spillway.

At the time of the construction, the Cheesman was the world's highest dam and was the first reservoir of Denver's mountain water system. The dam was named after Walter S. Cheesman, who was a water pioneer and President of the Denver Union Water Company, the

reservoir and related facilities. The company and reservoir were purchased in November of 1918 by the Denver Water Board.

For those that attended, a tour of the dam and the facilities were given, including a tour inside the tunnel through the rock portion of the dam used to operate the reservoir before a valve house was constructed. The dam crest and spillway areas were also observed by the attendees. To commemorate the occasion, a ceremony was observed at the top of the dam, with brief welcome introductions given by Denver Water representatives, Chair of the Colorado Section ASCE History & Heritage Committee, Dick Wiltshire, P.E., F.ASCE, and AAWRE's Board of Trustee member, Jerry R. Rogers, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, F.ASCE, giving the keynote speech in honor of the centennial re-dedication. Dr. Rogers also introduced AAWRE's Board of Trustees and staff as a group.



(AAWRE Board of Trustees, from left to right: Dr. Albert Clemmens, Treasurer-Dr. William Espey, S.K. Nanda, President-Dr. Jeff Bradley, President-Elect & EWRI President-Michael Ports, P. Kay Whitlock, Darryl Davis, Past-President-Dr. Darell Zimbelman, Dr. Yacov Haimes, Dr. Jerry Rogers)



(From left to right: Chair of the Colorado Section ASCE History & Heritage Committee, Dick Wiltshire and AAWRE Board of Trustee, Dr. Jerry R. Rogers)