

## 2024 Pretreatment Virtual Workshop

### Speaker Profiles



**Scott Bessler**

Interim Superintendent and  
Chief of the Compliance Services Division  
Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati  
Cincinnati, OH

**Scott Bessler** serves as Interim Superintendent and Chief of the Compliance Services Division of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati. He holds degrees in Biological Sciences from Northern Kentucky University (BS, 2006) and The University of Alabama (MS, 2010). He also oversees strategic research initiatives for the District with focuses in emerging contaminants and pathogens, beneficial reuse of waste streams and general water quality.

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**Kerry Britt**

*Co-Chair, Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention Committee*  
Pretreatment Manager  
Narragansett Bay Commission  
Providence, RI

**Kerry Britt** is the Pretreatment Manager for the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC). She has been in this position since 2004. She is responsible for the overall operation of the Pretreatment Program which includes permitting and inspecting commercial and industrial users, emergency response and ensuring federal and state pretreatment mandates are met. The NBC Pretreatment Program is responsible for the protection of Rhode Island's two largest wastewater treatment plants which receive wastewater from ten cities and towns and overseeing the regulation of over 1,600 permitted users.

Ms. Britt joined the NBC's Pretreatment Program in 1992 and Industrial Wastewater Control Engineer and was promoted to Pretreatment Manager in 2003. Ms. Britt earned her BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Rhode Island in 1986. She currently serves as the Co-Chair of NACWA's Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention Committee.

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**Manny Cabral**

Environmental Compliance Manager  
Johnson County Wastewater  
Olathe, KS

**Manny Cabral** is an environmental health professional with over 20 years of experience with county and local government; specializing in areas such as program management in code compliance, enforcement, emergency management and Fats, Oils and grease.

Mr. Cabral is also a graduate of Saint Leo University and a retired United States Army First Sergeant with over 25 years of Service.

He holds many certifications including: housing and property maintenance inspector, Zoning inspector, KS Supreme Court certified Mediator, Serve Safe Manager, and National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

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**Danielle Cloutier**

Director, Legislative Affairs  
NACWA  
Washington, DC

**Danielle Cloutier** joined the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in November of 2021, as the Director of Legislative Affairs. Ms. Cloutier lends her policy experience to NACWA's well-rounded government affairs team which covers regulatory, legislative, and legal issues impacting the nation's public clean water agencies. Previously, Ms. Cloutier was Policy Director at the American Sportfishing Association and environmental policy advisor for US Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI) in Washington, DC.

A native of Racine, WI, Ms. Cloutier has a deep passion for water resource management and environmental science. Before pursuing a career in policy, she earned a PhD from the School of Freshwater Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she focused her research on public and environmental health.

Ms. Cloutier supplements her work at NACWA with both a deep understanding of the underlying science and strategies to synthesize this information to help inform policymaking decisions.

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**Carla Davidson**

Regional IPP PFAS Specialist  
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy  
Lansing, MI

**Carla Davidson** has worked for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) on surface water quality issues for 28 years, primarily in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program and the Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP). Ms. Davidson has focused on PFAS issues associated with IPP and WWTPs on a regional basis for over 6 years. Ms. Davidson holds an MS and undergraduate degrees from the University of Michigan. Go Blue!

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**Sean Dempsey**

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/in/sdemps](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sdemps)

Environmental Engineer  
Engineering & Analytical Support Branch  
Office of Water | Office of Science and Technology  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

**Sean Dempsey** is an Environmental Engineer with the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC where he works on technology-based industrial wastewater regulations. He has experience with PFAS regulations, the cement and metal finishing industries, the Effluent Guidelines Program Plan, and in humanitarian response related to water and sanitation. He holds an MS degree in Civil Engineering with a focus on water and wastewater management from the University of Southern California, a BS degree in Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and is a registered Professional Engineer in Washington DC.

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**Cynthia Finley**

Director, Regulatory Affairs  
NACWA  
Washington, DC

**Cynthia Finley** is Director of Regulatory Affairs at the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), which represents the interests of 350 publicly owned wastewater utilities. She joined NACWA in 2006 and works on regulatory issues related to pretreatment and pollution prevention, wet weather management, collection systems, energy, and security and emergency preparedness. Before joining NACWA, Cynthia was an assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Cynthia earned her PhD in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, a MS in civil

engineering from the University of Washington, and a BS in civil engineering from Texas A&M University. Outside of NACWA, Cynthia is kept busy with her family, which consists of her husband, four kids, three cats, two dogs, a turtle, and a crested gecko.

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**Nathan Gardner-Andrews**

Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer  
NACWA  
Washington, DC

**Nathan Gardner-Andrews** serves as the Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in Washington, DC, where he has worked since 2006. In his role, he is responsible for coordinating all NACWA's advocacy initiatives and integrating the Association's legislative, regulatory, and legal advocacy work. He has written articles and spoken nationally on a wide range of clean water issues.

Mr. Gardner-Andrews previously served as NACWA's General Counsel, advising the Association and its municipal clean water utility members on a variety of legal matters and managing NACWA's litigation portfolio.

Prior to joining NACWA, Mr. Gardner-Andrews served as a law clerk for the Hon. Michael E. Loney of the Maryland Circuit Court.

Mr. Gardner-Andrews is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia bars. He received his BA from Columbia University in 2001 and his JD from the University of Maryland School of Law in 2005.

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**Sonya Harrison**

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sonya-harrison-1b366126/>

Senior Environmental Specialist  
Goldie Associates  
Seneca, SC

**Sonya Harrison** works as a Senior Environmental/Pretreatment Specialist with Goldie Associates in Seneca, SC. With 25 years at Goldie and a total of 35 years in Wastewater and Pretreatment, Ms. Harrison brings a wealth of experience to the table in her work with municipalities and industries. Her main areas of focus are Pretreatment Program Management and Development, Preparation of Sewer Use Ordinances and Pretreatment Regulations, Industrial Pretreatment Enforcement, Auditing Municipal Pretreatment Programs, Local Limits Calculations, and Permit and Permit Limit Development. One of Ms. Harrison's strong suits is working with industries and municipalities to protect the municipal Wastewater



Treatment Plants (WWTPs), while optimizing the capabilities of the treatment plants to enhance the economic attractiveness of the community for industries.

Ms. Harrison completed her BS in chemistry from Presbyterian College and some master's work at Clemson University. She is married to Ned and has 3 children. She enjoys training pretreatment professionals and serves as the Chair of the SC Pretreatment Coordinator's Consortium. Her work as an industrial consultant, as a municipal regulator, and as an environmental and pretreatment specialist provides her with a well-rounded knowledge with which to serve her clients.

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**Stephanie Hughes**

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/steifehughes/>

Teaching Professor/Consulting Engineer  
Department of Environmental Studies & Sciences  
Santa Clara University  
Santa Clara, CA

**Stephanie Hughes** is a registered Chemical Engineer with more than 25 years of experience in water quality. Ms. Hughes provides technical support to CA wastewater and stormwater agencies implementing programs to reduce discharges of heavy metals, pesticides, pharmaceuticals and other pollutants to sewers and storm drains. She has been communicating with veterinarians and other pet care professionals about the water quality / aquatic toxicity impacts of flea and tick control since 2017. Ms. Hughes is a Teaching Professor in Environmental Science at Santa Clara University. She holds a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota and MS degrees in both Chemical Engineering and Civil/Environmental Engineering from Stanford University.

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**Stephen Kuplicki**

Operations Manager – Industrial Waste Control &  
Analytical Laboratory  
Great Lakes Water Authority  
Detroit, MI

**Stephen Kuplicki** is the Operations Manager for the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) – Industrial Waste Control Group. He has 46 years of professional experience, of which the last 42 years have been with the Great Lakes Water Authority (and with the former Detroit Water & Sewerage Department).

In this position, he is responsible for local regulatory oversight of the discharge of wastewater from the homes and businesses within the GLWA Service Area, an 840 square mile area of Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties, and the implementation and enforcement of Environmental Regulations within the Detroit Service Area.

Mr. Kuplicki has a BS from Wayne State University, and a MEng from the University of Detroit, and was awarded a JD from the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law.

Mr. Kuplicki has extensive knowledge of the Industrial Pretreatment Program and participated in the development and definition of the Detroit program and GLWA Program. He has co-drafted local Ordinances and Rules affecting wastewater discharge in 1986, 1996, 2005, 2019, and 2024 which were eventually adopted by the City of Detroit, and the 78 suburban communities that comprise the Detroit Service Area. Mr. Kuplicki holds a professional engineering license from the State of Michigan and is a member of the MI State Bar.

He is active in several professional organizations: a Senior Member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the membership status of "Fellow" with the Engineering Society of Detroit.



**Jan Pickrel**

National Pretreatment Team Coordinator  
Water Permits Division, Office of Wastewater Management  
Office of Water  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

**Jan Pickrel** is the National Pretreatment Program Coordinator at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and coordinates a diverse set of activities involving industrial wastewater programs, including technology-based effluent guidelines and categorical standards, water reuse, biosolids, water security and emergency response planning, and emerging contaminants of concern. She has taught many courses on the pretreatment program across the nation, both in person and via webinar.

Prior to coming to EPA in 1997, Ms. Pickrel worked for 13 years in Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (VDEQ) Northern Virginia Regional Office, where she served as the Pretreatment Coordinator and Industrial National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Coordinator in the region's Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program. During her tenure at VDEQ, she had also served as the Chief Regional Geologist and has extensive experience in land application of biosolids, ground water and surface water investigations, and oil spill remediation efforts.

Ms. Pickrel has a BS degree in Geology from the College of William and Mary, and an MEA degree (dual concentration in Construction Management and Environmental & Energy Management) from George Washington University.

Ms. Pickrel is also a VA Cooperative Extension Master Gardener (Sustainable Landscape Management).



**Ori Reshef**

Chief Solutions Officer  
Kando  
Tel Aviv, Israel

**Ori Reshef** brings 20 years of experience and deep expertise in the data space, specializing in speech, text, IoT and big data analytics, creating business solutions from cutting edge technologies.

As a data products expert, Mr. Reshef helped shape various solutions that focus on improving customer lifetime value (LTV) by mining three primary types of data: Customer-generated data (to reveal the intent of the customer), Brand-generated data (to improve sales and retention), and Operational and Internet of Things data (to increase efficiency).

Prior to joining Kando, Mr. Reshef held several executive positions at SAP, Varada, Vice President Data Products and Head of Data Science for Clicktale (acquired by Contentsquare), led the Analytics & Intelligence product for LivePerson (NASDAQ: LPSN), as well as several other senior product positions.

Mr. Reshef transitioned to executive product roles after serving as a Solution Delivery Manager and Senior Sales Consultant for Nice Systems (NASDAQ:NICE) and several other technology consulting positions.

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**Doruntinë Rexhepi**

Environmental Engineer  
Engineering & Analysis Division,  
Office of Science and Technology | Office of Water  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

**Doruntinë Rexhepi** is an Environmental Engineer with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC.

She works on technology-based industrial wastewater regulations known as effluent guidelines and pretreatment standards. She is the lead for effluent guidelines planning process in which EPA screens discharge and wastewater treatment technology data to prioritize industrial categories for further review. She has experience working across different industries to collect information and data on the use, discharge, and treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in wastewater. She holds an MS in environmental science and a BS in environmental engineering from the City University of NY.



**Nichole Schaeffer**

Environmental Department Manager  
Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
Mokena, IL

**Nichie Schaeffer** is a 24-year seasoned environmental engineer with a passion for Pretreatment. She holds both BS and MS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Iowa, is a licensed PE in IL, and is a Board-Certified Environmental Engineer. As the Environmental Department Manager at Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers, she leads a dynamic team that has worked with 30 federally approved Pretreatment Programs across IL, WI, and FL. Her commitment to pretreatment over the last 14 years led her to Chair the IL Water Environment Association Pretreatment Committee in 2022, and bring pretreatment professionals together to learn, network, and grow in their roles. Outside of work, she loves to go on road and gravel bike adventures with her husband, visit National Parks, and cook food from around the world.

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**John Shaffer**

Chief Executive Officer/Principal  
EEC Environmental  
Orange, CA

**John Shaffer** is the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Chemist for EEC Environmental (EEC). He has been providing pretreatment consulting services to POTWs and industries for over 30 years, with a particular emphasis on emerging pollutants. He specializes in all things related to industrial wastewater such as permitting, pretreatment system design, and local limits development. EEC is working on multiple PFAS wastewater and drinking water projects including extensive sampling studies at POTWs and industries. John served on an EPA PFAS drinking water regulation panel and has presented on PFAS for multiple water and wastewater agencies and associations.

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**Kristina Surfus**

Managing Director, Government Affairs  
NACWA  
Washington, DC

**Kristina Surfus** joined the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in 2015 and now serves as Managing Director, Government Affairs. In this role, Mrs. Surfus leads NACWA's federal legislative and regulatory teams to support



the work of public clean water agencies. Prior to joining NACWA, Mrs. Surfus worked on Capitol Hill and as a municipal environmental and economic consultant. Mrs. Surfus earned a Masters of Freshwater Science and Policy from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee and BS in Environmental Analysis & Policy and International Relations from Boston University.

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**Lisa Weber**

Physical Scientist  
Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

**Lisa Weber** is a Physical Scientist at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the Office of Water's Office of Science and Technology's Health and Ecological Criteria Division. At the EPA, her work focuses on addressing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the environment to protect human and ecological health. She supports several scientific projects, including planning the next National Sewage Sludge Survey in collaboration with the Effluent Guidelines Program's Publicly Owned Treatment Works Influent PFAS Study. She received her PhD from Yale University, studying aquatic biogeochemistry.

Additionally, she earned a Master of Environmental Science degree from the Yale School of the Environment and a BS from Columbia University, majoring in environmental science with a special concentration in environmental biology. She has over 15 years of research experience in the water resource science and management field.