



2024 Pretreatment Virtual Workshop

December 3 – 4 | 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET | Virtual Event

Current as of November 20

Tuesday, December 3

1:00 – 1:10 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Cynthia Finley, Director, Regulatory Affairs
National Association of Clean Water Agencies | Washington, DC

Diane Taniguchi-Dennis, NACWA President
Chief Executive Officer
Clean Water Services | Hillsboro, OR

1:10 – 3:50 **Plenary Session I**

1:10 – 1:50 **National Pretreatment Program and Effluent Guidelines Update**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Headquarters staff will provide updates on national issues affecting pretreatment programs at utilities. The latest developments from the Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELGs) program will be featured, including the rulemakings for the Meat & Poultry Products category and the ongoing studies related to the PFAS discharges from other categories, such as Landfills. Plans for the POTW Influent PFAS Study and National Sewage Sludge Survey, which will require sampling and PFAS analyses from 200-300 utilities, will also be discussed.

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

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

Lisa Weber, Biosolids Program
Health & Ecological Criteria Division, Office of Science and Technology
Office of Water, US Environmental Protection Agency | Washington, DC

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

1:50 – 2:00 **Break**

2:00 – 2:40 **Policy and Pretreatment – How Federal Actions May Affect Utilities**

As Congress and EPA take action on PFAS, wipes, and other environmental issues, the implications on utilities and their pretreatment programs may be substantial. During this session, association staff will discuss the federal actions that have been taken, and the

actions that are currently under consideration, that may either benefit utilities or make operations more difficult. The advocacy that the associations are providing on behalf of utilities will be described, as well as how all utilities, regardless of size or location, can be involved with advocacy at the state and federal levels.

Nathan Gardner-Andrews, Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies | Washington, DC

Kristina Surfus, Managing Director, Government Affairs
National Association of Clean Water Agencies | Washington, DC

Danielle Cloutier, Director, Legislative Affairs
National Association of Clean Water Agencies | Washington, DC

2:40 – 2:50 Break

2:50 – 3:50 PFAS: Where Do We Go From Here?

While there are no pretreatment standards related to PFAS yet, the concerns about human health and environmental impacts of PFAS are continuing to grow. Since PFOA and PFOS are now designated as hazardous substances under Superfund and Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) in drinking water have been set for six PFAS compounds, pressure will continue to grow for utilities to control PFAS in their influent and effluent. This session will focus on the actions that pretreatment programs should consider related to PFAS now, and how utilities can prepare for regulations that may potentially be put in place in the future.

Carla Davidson, Regional Pretreatment Program Specialist
Emerging Pollutants Section-Water Resources Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy | Lansing, MI

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

John Shaffer, Chief Executive Officer/Principal
EEC Environmental | Orange, CA

3:50 – 4:00 Break

4:00 – 5:00 Pretreatment Issues Roundtable Discussions

This session will provide an opportunity for *Pretreatment Virtual Workshop* participants to break out into smaller groups and discuss an issue affecting their programs. Individual, topic specific, webinar rooms will be used for these discussions. Pretreatment issues for discussion may include:

- Best Management Practices & Site-Specific Limits
- Microbreweries, Craft Distilleries, & Wineries
- Centralized Waste Treatment Facilities
- Electronic Data Management & Mobile Apps
- PFAS, PFOA, PFOS, etc.
- Hauled Waste
- Zero Discharge & Non-Significant Categorical Industrial Users
- Fats, Oils & Greases (FOG)
- Pollution Prevention & Source Control
- Local Limits Development & Enforcement
- Mercury Minimization & Dental Amalgam Programs
- Extra Strength Surcharges
- Marijuana Product Producers

Wednesday, December 4

1:00 – 1:10 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Kerry Britt, Co-Chair, Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention Committee
Pretreatment Manager
Narragansett Bay Commission | Providence, RI

1:05 – 1:35 **Lifting the FOG: Achieving Results with Multiple Methods**

When you realize you have a problem with fats, oils, and greases (FOG), what are the best methods to tackle the problem? This case study will show how one utility recognized their FOG problem and took a multi-pronged approach to solving it, including updating policies, educating food service establishments, and ensuring compliance.

Manny Cabral, Environmental Compliance Manager
Johnson County Wastewater | Olathe, KS

1:35 – 2:35 **Industry Permits: Unusual Reasons for Permitting and Special Conditions**

Not all industry permits are created equal. This presentation will go over unusual reasons that require an industry to be permitted. Special Conditions in industry permits will also be discussed and these allow the pretreatment regulator to require industries to take steps to control their discharge other than numerical limits.

Sonya Harrison, Senior Environmental Specialist
Goldie Associates | Seneca, SC

Joshua Balentine, Senior Manager, National Pretreatment Technical Lead
Brown and Caldwell | Memphis, TN

2:35 – 2:45 **Break**

2:45 – 3:15 **Can AI Transform the Pretreatment Profession?**

Artificial intelligence (AI) continues to evolve and become more of a part of our lives, with new uses developing at a rapid pace. Although it may be difficult to imagine how AI can transform pretreatment, it is already making its way into some programs. This presentation will describe how AI is being used at one utility, and how AI may benefit pretreatment programs in the future.

Scott Bessler, Compliance Services Division
Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati | Cincinnati, OH

Ori Reshef, Chief Solutions Officer
Kando | Tel Aviv, Israel

3:15 – 3:45 **Pesticides and Pets: A Practical Approach to Protecting POTWs and the Environment**

Concerns about pesticides are usually centered around agriculture and food production, but a significant amount of pesticides are also used in urban and suburban settings. These pesticides can be washed or drained into the sewer system, with the potential to pass through or interfere with wastewater treatment processes and impact aquatic life and WET test results. The presentation will explain the latest research on urban pesticide use, including pesticides used for flea and tick control on pets, and how safer alternatives can protect POTWs and the environment.

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

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Thursday, December 5

1:00 – 2:15 NACWA Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention Committee Meeting

Pretreatment Virtual Workshop participants are invited to attend this meeting of the NACWA Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention Committee to discuss current issues related to pretreatment.