



2021 National Clean Water Law & Enforcement Hybrid Event

November 17 – 19, 2021 | Charleston, SC/ Virtual

Current as of November 18, 2021

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

8:00 – 11:45 Registration

Registration Desk

9:00 – 12:00 Plenary Session I

Carolina

Welcoming Remarks

Ballroom

Adam Krantz, Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies | Washington, DC

Opening Remarks

Kishia Powell, *NACWA President*
Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President
DC Water | Washington, DC

2021 Seminar Overview

Hilary Meltzer, *Co-Chair, NACWA Legal Affairs Committee*
Chief, Environment Law Division
New York City Law Department | New York, NY

Clean Water Law Primer

This session will provide the legal and regulatory background information necessary for Seminar attendees to fully participate in the panel discussions over the next three days. Need a quick refresher on Integrated Planning? Want to get up to speed on the basics of pretreatment? Just miss the thrill of learning after having to wing it as a stand-in teacher for your kids throughout the pandemic? This Primer is for you!

Erika Powers, Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP | Chicago, IL

10:30 – 10:45 Networking Break

Roundtable Discussion

It's Raining Permits! Latest Developments in Stormwater Permitting and Regulations

From EPA flexing its residual designation muscles to the ongoing implementation of the Phase II permitting program, a lot is happening in the world of stormwater management. Hear a panel of experts discuss recent legal and regulatory initiatives and permitting challenges impacting clean water utilities and ways you can address them. Speakers will also address legal developments of note for municipal stormwater utilities.

Gerald Linder, General Counsel
Clean Water Services | Hillsboro, OR

Sean Rolland, Deputy Director
Association of Clean Water Administrators | Washington, DC

Shawn Hagerty, Partner
Best Best & Krieger LLP | San Diego, CA

12:00 – 2:00 Lunch on Your Own

1:45 – 4:30 Registration
Registration Desk

2:00 – 5:00 Plenary Session II
Carolina *Roundtable Discussion*
Ballroom

Utilities or Ironman Champions? Updates on the Latest Clean Water Resiliency and Sustainability Initiatives

Utility leaders continue to lead the way not just on clean water protection, but also creative thinking. This session will explore municipal sustainability and resiliency efforts in the face of increasing challenges such as climate change, extreme weather events, and supply chain disruptions. Of particular focus will be how current laws and regulations, and the potential of additional legal requirements in the future, could impact clean water utilities.

Anthony Cotter, General Counsel
Toho Water Authority | Kissimmee, FL

Robert Griffin, President and Chief Executive Officer
Shield Engineering | Charlotte, NC

Traci Minamide, Chief Operating Officer
LA Sanitation and Environment | Los Angeles, CA

3:15 – 3:30 Networking Break

Panel Discussion

Top CWA Enforcement and Permitting Developments of the Year (Closed to Press and Regulators)

This roundtable discussion among a group of legal and utility experts will evaluate the latest trends in permitting and enforcement activities, including consent decrees and the environmental enforcement priorities of the new administration.

Panelists

Kerry McGrath, Partner
Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP | Washington, DC

Paul Calamita, Chairman
AquaLaw PLC | Richmond, VA

Phillip Goodwin, Regulatory Compliance Director
Houston Public Works | Houston, TX

Debra Baker, Managing Partner
Baker Wotring LLP | Houston, TX

Closing Remarks

Hilary Meltzer, *Co-Chair, NACWA Legal Affairs Committee*

6:00 – 7:00 Reception

Gold Ballroom,
2nd floor

Thursday, November 18, 2021

8:30 – 12:00 Registration

Registration Desk

9:00 – 12:00 Plenary Session III *(Included in Virtual Event Registration)*

Carolina
Ballroom

Opening Remarks

Emily Jackson, *Co-Chair, NACWA Legal Affairs Committee*
General Counsel
Metro Water Recovery | Denver, CO

Keynote Speakers

Current EPA Clean Water Priorities

The Keynote Address of the conference will look at EPA's current clean water priorities and what the legal and regulatory impacts of those initiatives could be on clean water utilities.

Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management
US Environmental Protection Agency | Washington, DC

Joseph Theis, Associate Director, Water Enforcement Division
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
US Environmental Protection Agency | Washington, DC

10:00 – 10:15 Networking Break

Roundtable Discussion

PFAS: What Could be Coming Down the Federal Pike and What Can Utilities Be Doing to Prepare?

PFAS is on the minds of utilities nationwide. While states continue down their own paths to address these "forever chemicals," three big looming questions are – what is the Federal government going to do about PFAS, when, and what will it mean for my utility? This panel will explore the various statutory authorities the Federal government might employ to regulate PFAS chemicals and the potential legal and regulatory impacts those initiatives could have on the clean water community.

Panelist

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, Partner
Baker Botts LLP | Washington, DC

Jeffrey Longsworth, Partner
Barnes & Thornburg LLP | Washington, DC

Roundtable Discussion

PFAS Pugilism: Recent PFAS Battles Waged in the Courts

Whether it's PFAS manufacturers taking state science to court or municipalities trying to recoup treatment costs from upstream dischargers, the PFAS litigation wheel continues to turn. On this panel, a group of legal experts will discuss the latest suits relevant to clean water utilities over how to address PFAS chemicals and who should pay.

Erica Spitzig, Partner
Taft Stettinus & Hollister, LLP | Cincinnati, OH

12:15 – 1:45 Luncheon

Gold Ballroom,
2nd Floor

Opening Remarks

Adam Krantz, Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agencies | Washington, DC

The Unique History of the Charleston Water System's Sewer Treatment and Collection Facilities

Charleston has a long, important role in American history. But what may not be as well known in the history books is the amazing background of its water and wastewater system and how it has helped to support the city's growth over the decades into the vibrant community it is today. Join us for this fascinating presentation from Charleston Water System to learn more about our amazing host city.

Kin Hill, Chief Executive Officer
Charleston Water System | Charleston, SC

1:45 – 4:30 Registration
Registration Desk

2:00 – 5:00 Plenary Session IV *(Included in Virtual Event Registration)*

Carolina
Ballroom

Roundtable Discussion

When Worlds Collide – How to Address Potentially Conflicting Environmental Laws and Regulations

Clean water, clean air, clean soils. Seems so simple, right? Utilities are all striving to foster safe, healthy, resilient communities, but what do you do when meeting an exacting water quality standard means impacting your air emissions or land disposal practices? Or vice versa? In this session, experts will discuss ways clean water utilities can try to address situations where attempts to meet environmental goals – including addressing climate change and resiliency, Superfund cleanups, PFAS contamination, and stringent temperature criteria – may themselves lead to other environmental challenges and conflicts between existing laws and regulations.

Panelists

Devon Goodrich, Senior Counsel
New York City Department of Law | New York, NY

Emily Jackson, Co-Chair, NACWA Legal Affairs Committee

Karen Bennett, Partner/Co-Chair,
Environmental and Administrative Law Practice
Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith LLP | Washington, DC

3:15 – 3:30 Networking Break

Panel Discussion

Top Legal Developments of the Year for Utilities

(Closed to Press and Regulators)

Clean water attorneys must understand the potential impacts court decisions from around the country could have on the operations and legal obligations of their clients. But which court decisions really matter, and what do they mean for your utility? No need to separate the wheat from the chaff yourself – our panel of top clean water lawyers will review the most important court decisions and legal developments of the past year and provide you with critical insights on how utilities could be affected.

Moderator

Hilary Meltzer, *Co-Chair, NACWA Legal Affairs Committee*

Panelists

Jordan Wimpy, Attorney
Mitchell Williams | Little Rock, AR

Andrew Silton, Principal
Beveridge & Diamond, PC | Washington, DC

David Chung, Partner
Crowell & Moring LLP | Washington, DC

Closing Remarks

Emily Jackson, *Co-Chair, NACWA Legal Affairs Committee*

6:00 – 7:00 Low Country Reception

Colonial Ballroom

Friday, November 19, 2021

8:00 – 10:30 Registration

Registration Desk

9:00 – 12:00 Plenary Session V

Carolina

Opening Remarks

Ballroom

Amanda Aspatore, Chief Legal Counsel
National Association of Clean Water Agencies | Washington, DC

Ethics Session

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

As the legal profession continues its overdue efforts to address and remedy individual and institutional barriers to justice, training in diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) has taken on increased importance. This session will look at key principles of DE&I within the legal context, particular how legal practitioners can consistently strive to eliminate bias in their work. This conversation is particularly important given the increased focused on environmental justice around environmental laws and regulations.

Debra Gammons, Director, Office of Diversity Initiatives
Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law
Charleston School of Law | Charleston, SC

10:15 – 10:30 Networking Break

Roundtable Discussion

Navigating the Muddy Waters of Recovery and the “New Normal”: Legal Tools Utilities Can Use to Meet the Dual Challenges of Ever-Increasing Costs and Resource Constraints

If the “new normal” for clean water utilities had to be summed up in one phrase, a major contender would be “do more with less.” Increasing regulatory and permitting obligations, COVID-related resource constraints, and economic drivers are all having major impacts on the municipal community. This panel will explore some of the most pressing challenges facing utilities’ bottom lines and the legal and regulatory tools at your disposal to help ameliorate the impacts they have on your operations.

Panelists

Jay Bernas, *NACWA Board Member*
Chief Financial Officer
Hampton Roads Sanitation District | Virginia Beach, VA

Richard Davis, Principal
Beveridge & Diamond, PC | Washington, DC

Nathan Vassar, Principal
Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend PC | Austin, TX

Closing Remarks

Amanda Aspatore, Chief Legal Counsel