



## 2024 PFAS Virtual Workshop

*Unmasking PFAS ... Ensuring Informed Clean Water Decisions*

September 17 – 18 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET | Virtual Event

*Current as of September 12, 2024*

### Tuesday, September 17

#### **1:00 – 1:10 Welcoming & Opening Remarks**

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

*Moderator*

**Emily Rimmel**, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies | Washington, DC

#### **1:10 – 1:45 Keynote Address**

##### **A Decade of Reducing Harm from PFAS: Research, Policy, & Persistence**

This keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Arlene Blum, the Founder and Executive Director of the Green Science Policy Institute – who's advocacy on eradicating unnecessary uses of PFAS from commercial sources – is resonating with some of the largest corporations across the world. Their efforts to limit production and use of PFAS is catalyzing awareness from scientists to businesses as well as governments and has successfully led to changes in flammability standards and the reduction of PFAS in building materials, furniture, and electronics. Dr. Blum's dedication and extensive experience will enlighten participants that grassroots efforts and broader collaboration can lead to substantive change in PFAS uses.

**Arlene Blum**, Executive Director  
Green Science Policy Institute | Berkeley, CA

#### **1:45 – 2:30 From Research to Reality: gaining a Better Understanding of the Science to Help Inform Practical Decisions**

The academic interest in PFAS has skyrocketed over the last five to seven years and has led to a greater understanding of the possible health and environmental impacts of these chemicals. Even with the heightened focus and increase in understanding PFAS, the thousands of different chemical varieties and precursors are keeping everyone on their toes. How can clean water utilities stay up to date on ever-evolving PFAS research and data to make informed and practical operational decisions?

**Charles Schaefer**, Associate, Discipline Leader, Environmental Research & Development and Treatability Studies  
CDM Smith | Bellevue, WA

**Linda Lee**, Distinguished Professor, Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture; Environmental & Ecological Engineering, College of Engineering  
Purdue University | West Lafayette, IN

**2:30 – 3:15    On-the-Ground Details: An Analysis of What the Data is Telling Us**

The realities of a half-century of systemic use of PFAS across commerce is becoming clearer – that PFAS is ubiquitous in trace concentrations and found nearly everywhere one looks. While the presence of PFAS does correlate to public risks per se, as more data is collected, this information can provide us with a more complete picture of the widespread nature and cycle of how chemicals end up in our environment. This session will highlight several clean water utility case studies and what they are finding through their on-the-ground sampling efforts.

**Tamzen Macbeth**, Senior Vice President, Remediation Practice Leader  
CDM Smith | Pocatello, ID

**John Norton**, Director of Energy, Research, & Innovation  
Great Lakes Water Authority | Detroit, MI

**Charles Larson**, Manager of Strategic Projects  
Town of Nantucket | Nantucket, MA

**3:15-3:55    Chasing Utopia: How We Really Can't Regulate Our Way Out of the PFAS Problem**

With all we now know about PFAS and its legacy persistence and continued use, it is difficult to see a path to implementation of standards that would seek to eliminate it from the environment. The limitations of relying solely on regulatory measures to address the persistent issue of these chemicals will not be enough to solve the serious challenges posed by PFAS. This session will feature perspectives on what the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Science and Technology is doing to address PFAS in clean water and biosolids as well as perspectives from regional associations on the alternatives needed beyond regulations for water and wastewater utilities.

**David Tobias**, Biosolids Team Lead, Office of Science and Technology  
US Environmental Protection Agency | Washington, DC

**Janine Burke-Wells**, Executive Director  
North East Biosolids & Residuals Association | Tamworth, NH

**Greg Kester**, Director, Renewable Resource Programs  
California Association of Sanitation Agencies | Sacramento, CA

**3:55 – 4:00    Closing Remarks**

**Diane Taniguchi-Dennis**, NACWA President

**Wednesday, September 18**

**1:00 – 1:05    Welcoming & Opening Remarks**

**Ralph Eberts**, Senior Vice President, PFAS Service Leader  
CDM Smith | Bellevue, WA

*Moderator*

**Emily Rimmel**, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies | Washington, DC

1:05 – 1:45

### **The Price We All Pay: Unveiling the Costs Associated with PFAS Implementation and Continued Manufacturing**

Continued PFAS use in commercial products not only has a direct exposure cost to the public, but it also will have a perpetual cost impact as the water sector is required to remove and treat the unending usage of these chemicals in society. The drinking water community has estimated it will cost utilities and customers billions over the next decade – far outpacing the federal financial investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and all federal investment combined – to remove PFAS and meet new stringent drinking water standards. The clean water side faces a similar but different suite of complex cost challenges from monitoring and treating influent, effluent, and biosolids and possibly addressing stormwater discharges. This session will explore the price we all pay for these chemicals in our products and the existing and upcoming requirements to treat PFAS to extremely low levels.

**Eric Spargimino**, Environmental Engineer  
CDM Smith | Manchester, NH

**Scott Firmin**, Director of Wastewater Services  
Portland Water District | Portland, ME

**Greg Goodwin**, Senior Research Director  
Bluefield Research | Boston, MA

1:45– 2:30

### **Navigating the Unknown: The Impact of Litigation on PFAS Activity**

A plethora of PFAS litigation is creating even more uncertainty for the water sector. These lawsuits run the gamut and include challenges to: EPA's recent National Primary Drinking Water Regulation to regulate 6 PFAS; EPA's designation to list PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Compensation and Liability Act; ENGO petitions to require EPA to regulate PFAS in biosolids under the Clean Water Act. These are just a few and they are alone enough to make everyone's head spin. This brief overview of the legal playing field will help shed some light on how the water sector should navigate the unknown and offers an insightful glimpse into what could be at stake as these cases unfold.

**Devon Goodrich**, *Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee*  
Senior Counsel, Environmental Law  
New York City Department of Law | New York, NY

**Erica Spitzig**, Partner  
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP | Cincinnati, OH

2:30-3:15

### **Shark Tank Exclusive: Pitching Breakthrough Technologies to Eliminate PFAS**

Join the sharks! This fast-paced overview is designed specifically to address the wastewater community's request for more information about the current state of play of PFAS treatment and destruction technology. This session is your ticket to some of the latest information on a variety of emerging companies that can help utilities address future compliance needs and obtain some insight into the capital expenditures that may be needed to adopt some of these solutions.

**Samir Mathur**, Senior Vice President, Water Reclamation Practice Leader  
CDM Smith | Dallas, TX

**Naomi Senehi**, Technical Solutions Lead, Municipal and Global Access  
374Water | Costa Mesa, CA

**Peter Murphy**, Managing Director  
OPEC Systems | Sydney, Australia

**Valentino Villa**, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer  
Bioforcetech Corporation | San Francisco, CA

**Mark Lyons**, Director of Business Development  
Aries Clean Energy Technologies | Portland, ME

**3:15-3:55**

### **Reshaping the PFAS Picture of Tomorrow and the Need for Collaboration**

Debating our societal issues, including how to deal with PFAS, doesn't happen in a vacuum. The multitude of perspectives and opinions on how to best manage and live in a world of PFAS – can and will continue for decades. Having these difficult conversations, even when they may be uncomfortable, can help us as a sector and society gain acceptance, learn new approaches to dealing with these complex challenges, how to message the utility role in PFAS remediation, and potentially find middle-ground through collaboration based on mutual understanding.

**Mickey Conway**, NACWA Vice President  
Chief Executive Officer  
Metro Water Recovery | Denver, CO

**Sarah Grace Hughes**, Senior Project Manager  
Environment Council of the States | Washington, DC

**Kelly Moser**, Senior Attorney and Leader of the Water Program  
Southern Environmental Law Center | Chapel Hill, NC

**3:55 – 4:00**

### **Closing Remarks**

**Mickey Conway**, NACWA Vice President