

# 2025 National Clean Water Law & Enforcement Seminar

November 19 - 21 | W Nashville | Nashville, TN

*Draft agenda currently as of October 2, 2025*

*All meeting spaces are on the Second Level unless otherwise noted.*

## Wednesday, November 19

### Morning

**8:00 – 12:00**

**Registration**

*Gathering Space*

**9:00 – 12:00**

**Plenary Session I**

*Great Room*

*2025 Seminar Overview*

**9:20 – 10:45**

**Clean Water Act Primer**

Prepare yourself for the next three days of legal discussions with this perennial favorite back-to-basics course on all things Clean Water Act. Whether you're new to the sector or you've dealt with more NPDES permits than you can shake a stick at, you'll be glad you sat in to hear one of the best in the business provide a rundown of the statutory and regulatory underpinnings of the law and enforcement trends facing the sector today. If you need a refresher on water quality standards development, the skinny on what "waters of the United States" means this month, or your yearly reminder that the Clean Water Act has a Section 401 (and it's complicated!), this is your chance to get suited up before you get thrown into the deep end.

**10:45 – 11:00**

**Networking Break**

**11:00 – 12:00**

**Finding Regional Solutions to National Challenges: How Utilities are Turning to Regionalization to Alleviate Growing Legal and Financial Pressures**

From PFAS and biosolids management to federal funding cuts accompanied by increased permitting requirements, utility leaders today are having to think creatively about how best to affordably meet the legal and regulatory demands of tomorrow. This panel will explore how utilities are turning to regional solutions to address the seemingly endless list of legal liabilities being placed on them in a way that doesn't break the backs of their communities.

### Afternoon

**12:15 – 2:00**

**Networking Luncheon**

*Living Room,  
First Level*

Connect and collaborate at the special Networking Luncheon, featuring small-group discussions tailored for the clean water legal community. Join peers in exploring emerging legal issues, exchanging practical insights, and building meaningful professional relationships. Strengthen your network while enjoying a provided lunch in a discussion-driven setting.

**2:00 – 4:30**

**Registration**

*Gathering Space*

**2:15 – 5:00**

*Great Room*

## **Plenary Session II**

**2:15 – 3:30**

## **Keynote Address**

**3:30 – 3:45**

## **Networking Break**

**3:45 – 5:00**

## **PFAS Liability: Where Is This All Going & What Can Utility Leaders Do About It?**

From class action litigation and billion-dollar legal settlements with PFAS manufacturers to state biosolids legislation, EPA risk assessments, and CERCLA hazardous substance designations, there is a lot being thrown at clean water utilities concerning potential PFAS liabilities on a daily basis. This roundtable discussion among utility leaders and legal experts will explore the most pressing PFAS issues facing the sector and how utilities can be preparing for them.

**5:00**

## **Closing Remarks**

*Evening*

**6:00 – 7:00**

*Living Room,  
First Level*

## **Welcoming Reception**

## **Thursday, November 20**

*Morning*

**8:30 – 12:00**

*Gathering Space*

## **Registration**

**9:00 – 12:00**

*Great Room*

## **Plenary Session III**

**9:05 – 10:30**

## **Water We Doin' on Combined Sewer Overflows?**

As utilities continue to put combined sewer overflow (CSO) controls in place and communities begin to reach the end of their long-term control plans (LTCPs), many questions remain about what post-LTCP NPDES permits will look like. This expert panel of utility and agency leaders and attorneys will discuss what efforts are currently underway on issues impacting CSO communities, including EPA's national affordability guidance, water quality standards applicable to CSO-receiving waterbodies, and imposition of end-of-pipe limits on CSO discharges.

**10:30 – 10:45**

## **Networking Break**

**10:45 – 12:00**

## **So the Supreme Court Ruled, Now What? Real-World Implications of Supreme Court Decisions on Clean Water Utilities**

The Supreme Court has been busy making headlines with landmark decisions on agency deference, APA reviewability, NPDES permitting, NEPA implementation, and diversity requirements, just to name a few topics. But what has actually changed in the day-to-day world of a clean water utility as a result? This panel of legal experts will break down the impacts the Supreme Court's decisions over its last few terms are having on the sector and how utilities can respond.

**12:00**

**Closing Remarks**

*Afternoon*

**12:15 – 2:00**

**Lunch on Your Own**

**2:00 – 4:00**

**Registration**

*Gathering Space*

**2:00 – 5:00**

**Plenary Session IV**

*Great Room*

**2:00 – 3:15**

**Renegotiating Consent Decrees: Is Now the Time?**

With every new administration comes a new approach to federal enforcement and the age-old question: is now the time to try to renegotiate the terms of my utility's consent decree? This panel of experts will explore the new opportunities and challenges presented by the shifting enforcement landscape, including those related to affordability, compliance schedules, and switching from federal to state enforcement.

**3:15 – 3:30**

**Networking Break**

**3:30 – 5:00**

**Top Clean Water Legal Developments of the Year  
(Closed to Press and Regulators)**

To say the courts have been busy this year would be an understatement. Federal funding impoundments, DE&I requirements, and the authority to issue nationwide injunctions have all been front and center. Oh yea, and some environmental law decisions, too, including one out of the Supreme Court involving San Francisco...Come and hear this group of top clean water lawyers review the most important court decisions and legal developments of the past year and analyze the impacts they could have on your utility's operations.

*Evening*

**6:00 – 7:00**

**Reception**

*Great Room*

*Terrace*

## **Friday, November 21**

*Morning*

**8:30 – 10:30**

**Registration**

*Gathering Space*

**9:00 – 12:00**

**Plenary Session V**

*Great Room*

**9:00 – 10:15**

**Nutrients – Can't Live Without 'Em (Literally), But How Do Utilities Live With 'Em?**

Nutrient discharges continue to pose challenges for clean water utilities across the country. Along the Delaware River, federal takeover of the standards process and a focus on endangered species have led to the adoption of stringent criteria that will

definitely cost ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars while only possibly aiding fish propagation. Meanwhile, across the country in the Puget Sound, an ambitious nutrient reduction plan is being considered that would place a lot of that ambition on the backs of utilities and their ratepayers. Join this panel of experts as they discuss various challenges – and potential solutions – to solving seemingly intractable nutrient dilemmas from coast to coast.

**10:15 – 10:30**

**Networking Break**

**10:30 – 12:00**

**Ethical Issues in the Representation of Public Water Utilities**

This session will provide an analysis of ethical issues in connection with the representation of public water utilities. Topics will include identifying conflicts of interest, communication with represented and unrepresented parties, and protecting confidential information.

**12:00**

**Closing Remarks**