



2025 National Pretreatment Workshop + Training

May 13-16 | The Westin San Diego Bayview | San Diego, CA

All meeting rooms are located on the 2nd floor unless otherwise noted.

As of April 22, 2025

Tuesday, May 13

7:30 – 4:00

*Emerald Ballroom
Foyer*

Training Registration

8:00 – 5:00

Diamond I

TRAINING COURSE: Pretreatment 101 – Introduction to the Pretreatment Program for Wastewater Utilities

This optional, full-day training course is geared toward pretreatment professionals in the first few years of their pretreatment careers. The [Agenda](#) has more information about this course. **Separate registration is required.**

8:00 – 5:00

Diamond II

TRAINING COURSE: Advanced Local Limits

This optional, full-day training course will provide an in-depth focus on local limits, answering all the “who, what, when, where, why, and how” questions about local limits. The [Agenda](#) has more information about this course. **Separate registration is required.**

8:00 – 4:30

Topaz

TRAINING COURSE: Permitting and Other Control Mechanisms for Nondomestic Dischargers

This optional, full-day training course will provide a detailed look at the permitting process, starting with the nondomestic survey and continuing through categorical determinations and different types of control mechanisms. The [Agenda](#) has more information about this course. **Separate registration is required.**

Wednesday, May 14

6:30

Hotel Lobby

Morning Run/Walk through San Diego

Join fellow *Workshop* participants for an hour of exercise to begin your day. Runners and walkers of all levels are invited – we will divide into groups of different paces. Rain or shine, please meet us in the lobby!

7:30 – 12:00

*Emerald Ballroom
Foyer*

Registration

9:00 – 9:25

Emerald Ballroom

Opening Remarks

Frank Dick, *Co-Chair, Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention Committee*
Sewer and Wastewater Engineering Supervisor
City of Vancouver | Vancouver, WA

Adam Krantz, Chief Executive Officer
NACWA | Washington, DC

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

Juan Guerreiro, Public Utilities Director
City of San Diego | San Diego, CA

9:25 – 10:20

Emerald Ballroom

EPA, Congress, Courts, and More: Implications of Federal Water Policy on Pretreatment

With a new Administration and new Congress fully underway, a clearer picture is developing for the direction of federal water policy, although many uncertainties remain. This panel of NACWA staff will provide updates on the current regulatory, legislative, and regulatory landscape, focusing on federal actions that may have implications for local pretreatment programs. In addition, the panel will answer questions that have arisen related to executive orders and the pretreatment implications of the recent Supreme Court decision in favor of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission in its challenge of vague permit requirements.

Nathan Gardner-Andrews, Chief Advocacy & Policy Officer
NACWA | Washington, DC

Amanda Aspatore, Chief Legal Officer
NACWA | Washington, DC

Cynthia Finley, Director, Regulatory Affairs
NACWA | Washington, DC

10:20 – 10:40

Networking Break

10:40 – 12:00

Emerald Ballroom

Tackling PFAS at Its Industrial Sources – Practical Steps for Utilities

In the absence of federal controls on PFAS, utilities have been urged by environmental organizations – and even EPA in recent publications – to use their pretreatment programs to control PFAS. Although federal pretreatment standards are needed before utilities can effectively impose PFAS limits on their industrial users, there are some steps utilities can take to begin looking at discharges of PFAS. This panel will explore the potential sources of PFAS, how utilities can work with these industries to reduce PFAS use and discharge.

Beth Toot-Levy, Project Scientist
Geosyntec Consultants | Cleveland, OH

Joseph Jenkins, Project Manager
EEC Environmental | Orange, CA

John Christiansen, Water Quality Specialist
HDR Inc. | Columbia, MO

12:00 – 2:00

Lunch (on your own or optional networking lunch)

Whether you are attending the *Workshop* for the first time or are a repeat attendee, the optional networking lunch will be a chance to get to know some new people and share conversations over lunch. After registering for the *Workshop*, you will receive a confirmation email that will include a link to a form that will ask for a few pieces of information from you if you would like to be included in a networking group. We will assign you to a small group and provide a list of nearby restaurants. Each participant will be responsible for paying for their own lunch.

1:30 – 4:00

*Emerald Ballroom
Foyer*

Registration

2:00 – 2:05

Emerald Ballroom

Opening Remarks

2:05 – 2:45

Emerald Ballroom

When Disaster Strikes and Your Sewer Explodes: A Case Study

No one expects an explosion in their sewer line, but that's exactly what happened in 2022 in the City of Minneapolis, resulting in emergency evacuations and road closures. Metropolitan Council Environmental Services worked with the City and other agencies to determine that the volatile substance was a petroleum product and then track down its source. This presentation will describe what happened, how the investigation was conducted, and how the source of the problem cooperated to resolve the issue.

Tina Nelson, Industrial Waste & Pollution Prevention Manager
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services | St. Paul, MN

2:45 – 3:30

Emerald Ballroom

The Inherited Challenge: Taking Ownership and Breathing New Life into Your Industrial Pretreatment Program

There are more new pretreatment coordinators now than ever before as first- and second-generation pretreatment professional retire. Whether you are an existing employee or a new hire to a wastewater treatment utility taking on the Pretreatment Coordinator role, you are essentially inheriting the pretreatment program no matter the shape it is in – good, bad, or ugly. Often, pretreatment program components can become outdated, rationale for implementation may be “we’ve always done it this way,” or in worst cases your predecessor did not instruct you on any part of the program. We will share our strategies for taking ownership of your program, how to prioritize your program assessment, taking a firsthand review and understanding of program components, the right questions to ask, and the key resources to support your role transition and realigning your program implementation with 40 CFR 403.

Joy Hall, Director of Laboratory Services
Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District | Bloomington, IL

Nichole Schaeffer, Environmental Department Manager
Baxter & Woodman, Inc. | Mokena, IL

3:30 – 3:45

Networking Break

3:45 – 5:15

Emerald Ballroom

EPA Regional Roundtable Discussions

The Regional Roundtable session provides an opportunity for EPA, state, and municipal *Workshop* participants to discuss priority issues in each EPA Region. Regional EPA officials and experts will be on hand to take your questions.

5:30 – 6:30

*Pool Deck,
3rd Floor*

Welcoming Reception

This complimentary reception is open to all *Workshop* participants and their guests.

Thursday, May 15

6:30

Hotel Lobby

Morning Run/Walk through San Diego

Join fellow *Workshop* participants for another hour of running or walking through San Diego. Rain or shine, please meet us in the lobby!

8:00 – 12:00

*Emerald Ballroom
Foyer*

Registration

8:30 – 9:30

Emerald Ballroom

Pretreatment Issues Roundtable Discussions – Round 1

This session will provide an opportunity for *Workshop* participants to network with other pretreatment professionals and discuss issues affecting their programs. Tables will be labeled with a topic of discussion, and *Workshop* participants should sit at the table of their choice. Pretreatment issues for discussion will include the following:

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

9:30 – 9:50

Networking Break

9:50 – 9:55
Emerald Ballroom

Opening Remarks

9:55 – 11:15
Emerald Ballroom

Law & Order: Illegal Discharge Unit

Despite the best efforts of pretreatment professionals to ensure cooperation with regulations, some dischargers simply refuse to follow the rules. Two case studies – for an industrial laundry and a barrel cleaner – will demonstrate how documentation and surveillance were vital to building a case against the rogue industries. Following the collection of the necessary evidence, the communication and collaboration with state and federal agencies, including the US EPA Criminal Investigative Division, resulted in successful enforcement and a criminal conviction.

Mary Thompson, Pretreatment Program Coordinator
City of Santa Barbara, Public Works | Santa Barbara, CA

Gorman Lau, Associate
Larry Walker Associates | Davis, CA

Todd Gowing, Compliance Investigator
King County Wastewater Treatment Division | Seattle, WA

11:15 – 12:00
Emerald Ballroom

The Dormant Commerce Clause is Only One Reason Your Pretreatment Programs Needs to be Updated

Do you think your pretreatment program and local ordinance will protect your utility and allow you to control what is discharged into your sewer system or brought to your treatment works? While it may be working right now, your limits on the wastewater you accept may be challenged by EPA or an industry. This session will explore how utilities can update their programs to protect themselves, their treatment processes, and their public images, and how new and developing issues such as PFAS, microplastics, climate change, aging infrastructure, nutrients, and other TMDLs may also be addressed with appropriate program updates.

Patrick Bradley, Clean Water Act Specialist
Michael Baker International | Virginia Beach, VA

Robert Griffin, Professional Engineer
Wilmington, NC

12:00 – 2:00

Lunch (on your own or optional networking lunch)

Similar to Wednesday, *Workshop* participants will have the option of being assigned to a small group for a networking lunch.

1:30 – 4:00
Emerald Ballroom
Foyer

Registration

2:00 – 2:05
Emerald Ballroom

Opening Remarks

2:05 – 3:30

Emerald Ballroom

Data Management for Improved Decision-Making

As data collection technologies continue to develop and proliferate, some utilities may find that managing new data sets along with the traditional data collected for pretreatment programs can be daunting. Other utilities may find that they need to collect additional data to meet the needs of their programs. Panelists will explore how data can be collected and managed so that it can be accessed easily, and more importantly, how the data can be analyzed so it can be useful in making decisions.

3:30 – 3:45

Networking Break

3:45 – 5:15

Crystal Ballroom

NACWA Pretreatment Committee Meeting

All *Workshop* participants are invited to attend this meeting, whether or not they are members of the Committee.

5:30 – 6:30

Broadway Terrace

Reception

This complimentary reception is open to all *Workshop* participants and their guests.

Friday, May 16

6:30

Hotel Lobby

Morning Run through San Diego

Join fellow *Workshop* participants for a final hour of running or walking through San Diego. Rain or shine, please meet us in the lobby!

8:15 – 10:30

Emerald Ballroom

Foyer

Registration

8:30 – 9:30

Emerald Ballroom

Pretreatment Issues Roundtable Discussions – Round 2

Using the same format as the roundtable session on Thursday morning, this second roundtable will provide an additional opportunity for *Workshop* participants to choose a pretreatment issue to discuss with other pretreatment professionals. Pretreatment issues for discussion will include the following:

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

9:30 – 9:50

Networking Break

9:50 – 9:55
Emerald Ballroom

Opening Remarks

9:55 – 10:55
Emerald Ballroom

Focus on FOG: New Methods for Dealing with an Old Problem

Minimizing the problems caused by fats, oils, and greases (FOG) discharged into the sewer system is a constant battle. Education and enforcement continue to be important for food service establishments and other potential FOG dischargers, but new methods can also help with the problem. This panel will present case studies for how utilities can combine their tried-and-true FOG program components with new ideas for outreach and the use of technology.

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

Forrest Lindsey
Brown and Caldwell | Memphis, TN

10:55 – 11:25
Emerald Ballroom

Source Control for Water Reuse

Municipal sewer systems are tasked with conveying and treating a wide variety of residential, commercial, and industrial wastewater, often encountering unexpected peak loads and high-strength sewage. Traditionally, operations and maintenance have focused on maximizing hydraulic flow to treatment plants, but what if sewers themselves could play an active role in treatment? This session will explore an innovative approach to transforming collection systems into advanced pre-treatment networks, tackling the challenges posed by BOD, FOG, H₂S, and high-strength wastewater. By adopting distributed treatment strategies, utilities can improve system performance, enhance plant capacity, and reduce the need for expensive infrastructure upgrades—offering a more resilient and cost-effective solution for clean water communities, while increasing valuable resource recovery opportunities.

Tim Braun, Founder
BluTerra, LLC | Cassopolis, MI

11:25 – 11:30
Emerald Ballroom

Closing Remarks