



# Navigating Partnerships with Data Centers: Strategies Every Utility Leader Needs

September 23 | 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM ET | Virtual Event

*Current as of August 25, 2026*

## Wednesday, September 23

### 1:00 – 1:05 Welcoming Remarks

**Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells**, NACWA President  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District | Cleveland, OH

### 1:05 – 2:15 Stakeholder Perspectives

The opening session will feature four speakers who will set the stage for the Virtual Event with remarks to frame the “navigating partnerships” theme from their unique vantage points. The speakers will outline how public utilities can work closely with key stakeholders and the data centers themselves to ensure maximum efficiency, safety, legal and regulatory security and ultimately benefit to the community and customer. Each perspective will cover a different angle of the data center expansion phenomenon – the public utility that must service the data centers’ water and wastewater needs and growing power demand; the engineering perspective which has to directly navigate the crossroads between data center and public utility clients; the data center community; and the legal perspective seeking to keep both the utility and the data center out of potential legal trouble while also ensuring service agreements are sustainable and viable.

#### *Keynote Address*

**Lauren Barbir**, Business Development Director, Data Centers, and  
Associate Vice President  
HDR, Inc. | Southampton, PA

#### *Data Center Perspective Speaker*

**Usman Khan**, Principal - Water Strategy  
Amazon Web Services | Alexandria, VA

#### *Legal Perspective Speaker*

**Chris Pomeroy**, President  
AquaLaw PLC | Richmond, VA

### 2:15 – 3:15 Finding the Sweet Spot: Balancing the Necessity of Data Centers and Ensuring Public Utility and Community Benefits

This panel will provide a candid discussion on how the variety of interests involved in data center expansion perceive their role and responsibility to the community in which data centers operate. What efforts are being made to ensure the community is considered and that the sustainability of the utilities on which data centers rely is protected both on the short and long-term?

#### *Moderator*

**Brian Bakke**, Global Wastewater Market Sector Director and Senior Vice President  
HDR, Inc. | Des Moines, IA

#### *Speakers*

**Angela Yuan**, Senior Manager, Environmental Policy  
Data Center Coalition | Leesburg, VA

**Calvin Farr, Jr.**, *NACWA Treasurer*  
General Manager/Chief Executive Officer  
Prince William Water | Woodbridge, VA

**3:15 – 4:15    Data Centers Driving Water Reuse and Technological Innovation**

This panel will feature speakers looking at how serving data centers and other industrial water users is driving the clean water sector toward more reliance on water reuse, recycling, monitoring technology and pretreatment innovations, among others. As data centers expand and additional industries relocate to the US, how can we harness this shift to bring about a new generation of reuse and other water technologies?

*Moderator*

**Trent Stober**, Advisory Program Director and Senior Vice President  
HDR, Inc. | Columbia, MO

*Speakers*

**Bruno Pigott**, Executive Director  
WaterReuse Association | Alexandria, VA

**Gilbert Trejo**, Vice President of Operations and Technical Services  
El Paso Water | El Paso, TX

**Kristen Atha**, *NACWA Board Member*  
Executive Director  
Columbus Water & Power | Columbus, OH

**4:15 – 4:30    Closing Thoughts, Summary of Discussion, and Next Steps**

**Brian Bakke**, HDR, Inc.

**Adam Krantz**, Chief Executive Officer  
NACWA | Washington, DC