2026 Pretreatment Virtual Workshop

December 8 - 9 | 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET | Virtual Event

Current as of November 17

Tuesday, December 8

1:00 – 1:10 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

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

Kerry Britt, *Co-Chair, Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention Committee*
Pretreatment Manager
Narragansett Bay Commission | Providence, RI

1:10 – 4:00 **Plenary Session I**

1:10 – 1:50 **National Pretreatment Program and Effluent Guidelines Update**

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Headquarters staff are invited to provide updates on national issues affecting pretreatment programs at utilities. The latest developments from the Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELGs) program will be featured, including the forecast for any new pretreatment standards related to PFAS.

Jan Pickrel, National Pretreatment Team Coordinator *(invited)*
Water Permits Division, Office of Wastewater Management
Office of Water
US Environmental Protection Agency | Washington, DC

Brian D'Amico, Director *(invited)*
Engineering and Science Division, Office of Wastewater Management
Office of Water
US Environmental Protection Agency | Washington, DC

1:50 – 2:30 **Policy and Pretreatment – Update on Legislative, Regulatory, & Judicial Actions**

Halfway through the second Trump Administration, actions by Congress, federal agencies, and the courts are shaping how environmental policy will affect utilities and their pretreatment programs. During this session, association staff will discuss the federal actions to date, and those that are under consideration, that may help or hinder utilities in their pursuit to protect human health and the environment in a cost-effective manner. The advocacy that NACWA is providing on behalf of utilities will be described, as well as how all utilities, regardless of size or location, can be involved with advocacy at the state and federal levels.

Speakers

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

Kristina Surfus, Managing Director, Government Affairs
NACWA | Washington, DC

Emily Remmel, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs
NACWA | Washington, DC

2:30 – 2:40 **Break**

2:40 – 4:00 **PFAS in Wastewater: Are Industrial or Domestic Users the Problem?**

Industrial users are often the primary focus of PFAS source identification efforts, yet emerging investigations suggest that significant contributions may also originate from residential and commercial activities throughout the collection system. This session will explore the evolving understanding of PFAS sources in municipal wastewater, beginning with the City of Fort Worth's industrial user sampling program and how their pretreatment program responds to identified sources. How diffuse and nontraditional contributors can influence overall PFAS loading and challenge conventional source control strategies will then be highlighted. Attendees will gain insights into current approaches for PFAS source characterization and learn why comprehensive, data-driven evaluations are essential for developing effective and defensible PFAS management programs.

Casey Nettles, Environmental Supervisor
Fort Worth Water Department | Fort Worth, TX

Robert Robbins, Environmental Program Manager
Fort Worth Water Department | Fort Worth, TX

Joshua Balentine, Senior Manager, Client Services
Brown and Caldwell | Memphis, TN

4:00 – 5:00 **Pretreatment Issues Roundtable Discussions**

This session will provide an opportunity for *Pretreatment Virtual Workshop* participants to break out into smaller groups and discuss an issue affecting their programs. Individual, topic specific, webinar rooms will be used for these discussions. Pretreatment issues for discussion will be:

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

Wednesday, December 9

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

Cynthia Finley, NACWA

Kerry Britt, *Co-Chair, Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention Committee*

1:05 – 1:45 **Why the Permitted Industries Should Pay for Your Pretreatment Program and How to Make That Happen**

Have you considered exactly how your pretreatment program is funded, and who should actually be paying? This presentation will make the case for why your permitted industries should be paying for your program, and how you can structure your rates to make that happen, with examples provided of how this has worked in different utilities.

Sonya Harrison, Senior Environmental Specialist
Goldie & Associates | Seneca, SC

1:45 – 2:25 **Special Conditions for Complex Sites**

Complex sites and uncommon discharge scenarios can require permit conditions beyond a program's standard requirements. Growth in industries such as data centers has brought more attention to these challenges. This presentation will explore permit conditions Kansas City's Industrial Pretreatment Program has considered and the reasoning behind its decisions. The discussion will cover both adopted approaches and options that were not selected. It will examine how treatment plant needs and facility operations shape requirements and what makes those requirements practical to monitor and enforce. An approach that did not fit one program or facility may offer a useful solution elsewhere.

Sophia Smith, Senior Environmental Officer & Pretreatment Coordinator
KC Water | Kansas City, MO

2:25 – 2:35 **Break**

2:35 – 3:15 **When Sensors Show the Flow: Investigating and Addressing Dry-Weather Overflows**

The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati's extensive sensor network has significantly improved visibility into collection system conditions, revealing dry-weather overflows and unusual flow patterns that may have previously gone unnoticed. While monitoring provides the initial indication of a problem, determining its cause often requires a combination of sensor and hydraulic data analysis, system records, field investigations, and coordination among operational groups and utilities. This presentation will explore the tools and investigative processes used to identify, evaluate, and address dry-weather overflows and other unexpected flow conditions. Real-world case studies involving industrial and municipal sources will demonstrate how these investigations have uncovered previously unidentified infrastructure problems, challenged initial assumptions, and supported corrective actions and operational decisions. These examples highlight how increased visibility into the collection system can lead to a better understanding of system behavior, more effective responses, and opportunities to prevent future overflows.

Aaron Fletcher, Discharge Assessment Lead, Environmental Safety Specialist
Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati | Cincinnati, OH

3:15 – 4:00 **Down the Car Wash Rabbit Hole: An Unexpected Utility Investigation**

While developing Polk County Utilities' (PCU) Industrial Pretreatment Program, staff began reviewing commercial water-use data to identify potential Significant Industrial Users. A review of car washes quickly raised unexpected questions about water consumption. What began as a pretreatment screening exercise ultimately exposed overlapping issues involving wastewater regulation, drinking-water protection, building permitting, water conservation, utility billing, and public health. This presentation follows the currently ongoing investigation "down the rabbit hole," explores the regulatory and jurisdictional challenges encountered, and shares practical lessons

for utilities evaluating commercial customers whose actual water sources, plumbing, and wastewater flows may differ substantially from approved plans and utility records.

Kelly Small, Environmental Specialist, Industrial Pretreatment
Polk County Utilities | Lakeland, FL

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Thursday, December 10

1:00 – 2:15 **NACWA Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention Committee Meeting**

Pretreatment Virtual Workshop participants are invited to attend this meeting of the NACWA Pretreatment & Pollution Prevention Committee to discuss current issues related to pretreatment.