



2026 Pretreatment Virtual Workshop

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

Current as of October 19

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 – 2:05 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 (ELG) program will be featured and the ongoing studies related to the PFAS discharges from other categories, such as Landfills.

2:05 – 2:10 Break

2:10 – 2:50 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 Rimmel, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs
NACWA | Washington, DC

2:50 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 4:00 PFAS in Wastewater: What If Industrial Users Are Not 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 presentation explores the evolving understanding of PFAS sources in municipal wastewater, highlighting how diffuse and



nontraditional contributors can influence overall PFAS loading and challenge conventional source control strategies. 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.

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 Correcting IU Discharges When Sensors Show the Flow

For some industrial users, it's not just the quality of the discharge that matters, it's the quantity. The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati's combined sewer system is now equipped with a vast sensor network that has revealed issues, including dry weather overflows, that were likely simply not noticed before due to lack of visibility. Now, with the increased visibility into the collection system, the utility has identified the types of industrial and municipal discharges that overwhelm the sewer system. This presentation will look at how the problems were found and how the utility took action with the industrial users to correct the excessive flow volumes.

Scott Bessler, Interim Superintendent and Chief of the Compliance Services Division
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.