

# NACWA Webinar – EPA's Survey on Nutrient Removal and Secondary Technologies

October 30, 2019

# Today's Speakers and Logistics

- Chris Hornback, Deputy CEO, NACWA
- Jim Pletl, Director, Water Quality, Hampton Roads Sanitation District; NACWA Water Quality Committee Chair
- Logistics:
  - All participants are muted; use the Q&A box to ask questions

# NACWA: A Clear Commitment to Our Nation's Waters

- National trade association for public wastewater & stormwater utilities
- Represents over 320 public utilities of all sizes from around the nation
- Leader in legislative, regulatory, legal & communications advocacy on the full spectrum of clean water issues



# NACWA Engagement

- U.S. EPA Survey – NACWA has been engaged for several years
  - Was mandatory, now **voluntary**
  - Some problematic content removed
  - Shorter, less time to complete
- EPA remains focused on point source contributions of nutrients
- Survey raises broader policy questions

# The Survey

- Screener Survey is first part of a planned, multi-year study
- Screener Survey went live online – October 22
- Responses are due by November 26
- EPA's Study Objectives
- NACWA Board decided not to object to the survey if key changes were made

# NACWA's Concerns with the Survey

- NACWA did not support a mandatory survey – EPA made the decision to use a voluntary approach instead
- How will the data be used by EPA? Will it be safe?
- What is the burden for utilities who choose to complete the survey?
- Some problematic content removed from the survey, but some remains

# NACWA's Concerns - Background

- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) – Petitioned EPA in 2007 to modify secondary treatment to include nutrients
  - EPA denied the petition in 2012, but the screener survey and broader study EPA has planned would provide a roadmap for moving in this direction
- Optimization – A stated goal of the Survey is to help utilities identify opportunities for 'low cost' optimization to remove nutrients
  - Pros and cons
  - Another EPA pressure point on utilities

## Next Steps

- Screener Survey went live online – October 22
- Responses are due by November 26
- NACWA is recommending that each utility discuss internally the pros and cons of responding to the survey before deciding how to proceed.



# WHY JOIN NACWA?

NACWA is the nation's recognized leader in clean water advocacy, made possible through the collective voice of our members.

Join NACWA and elevate clean water as a national priority.

Visit [nacwa.org/membership](https://nacwa.org/membership) to learn more!

## Advocacy

Legislative, regulatory, legal, and communications information and analysis

## Unity

Peer-to-peer resource exchange and support

## Value

Resources, conferences, and recognition



# Questions?

- Use the Q&A feature of the webinar platform to submit your questions.

# Registration Now Open!

NACWA's 2019

## National Clean Water Law and Enforcement Seminar

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November 20 - 22, 2019 | Austin, TX



NACWA's 2020

## Winter Conference

*Chasing Zero: How Today's  
Policies are Shaping the  
Future of Clean Water*

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February 4 – 7, 2020 | Atlanta, GA

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# **2020 Utility Leadership Conference and 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting & 50th Anniversary Gala**

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Thank you!