

Wet Weather Partnership

Quarterly Webinar



Wed., Aug. 10, 2022

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Agenda

- **Introduction & Welcome**

- **What Your Utility Should Know and Do About PFAS Following EPA's Interim Health Advisory Levels for PFOA/PFOS (30 mins)**

EPA's shockingly low June 2022 Interim Health Advisory Levels for PFOA (0.004 ppt) and PFOS (0.02 ppt) are a game changer for every public water, sewer, and stormwater utility in the country. This discussion will address the potential implications to public utilities from these Interim HALs as well as other PFAS and emerging contaminants. The Interim HALs in particular will require a management response at water and wastewater utilities. Wastewater utilities will need to characterize and minimize PFAS sources through pretreatment and other programs both in relation to effluent and biosolids disposal/reuse. Water systems will need to optimize raw water sources for PFAS reduction, work with upstream sources, and grease the skids if not proceed directly to install PFAS barrier technologies. Stormwater utilities may see an uptick in PFAS removal/diversion away for water supply waters. All utilities will need to revisit master plans to ensure flexibility and redundancy to address potential/likely PFAS-related disruptions to current operations and plans.

Speaker: Paul Calamita, AquaLaw

- **Consultant Corner: The State of Green Infrastructure, Black & Veatch (60 mins)**

Over the past decades, there has been an increasing attention to improve and optimize green stormwater infrastructure (GSI). Aside from being an approach to maximize existing infrastructure, GSI has been found to reduce runoff volume, improve water quality, and enhance communities – creating an opportunity for infrastructure investment to advance climate resilience and social equity. The momentum behind improving this practice has created innovations in several areas: planning that integrates lifecycle costs, performance, and benefits; refinement of design; alternate delivery approaches to improve implementation; and new strategies to effectively establish and maintain. Last year, EPA re-launched the *Federal Green Infrastructure Collaborative* to empower communities with technical assistance and funding. In parallel, the Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange developed and recently published an *Equity Guide for Green Stormwater Infrastructure Practitioners*.

This presentation will focus on the state of GSI in sewer overflow and MS4 compliance programs. We will introduce innovative approaches to scaling up the implementation of GSI for cost efficiency, to support workforce development, and to achieve multiple community benefits. Given our global climate emergency and today's supply chain challenges, historic inflation and a worker shortage for conventional infrastructure - could this be an optimal window for utilities to scale up implementation of GSI solutions?

Speakers: Andrew Smith & Karen Sands, Black & Veatch

- **Maintaining Plant Operations During These Unprecedented Times. (15 mins)**

Public utilities face extraordinary challenges in maintaining normal system operation. Current worker shortage threatens reliable operations, especially in terms of the retirements of key utility managers and an unavailability of entry level operators to perform system maintenance and operational duties.

The supply chain crisis is deferring the availability of critical parts need to keep key public infrastructure operational. When systems fail, more operational effort (maintenance and operations staff) is required because an increased amount of work may need to be performed manually. This can cause facilities to spiral out of compliance and take months to restore normal operations.

This presentation will provide strategies to help maintain normal operations despite these unrivaled obstacles.

Speaker: Clyde Wilber, Clyde Wilber LLC

- **Roundtable Discussion (15 mins)**

The session will provide an opportunity for webinar attendees to ask questions or offer insights on the topics addressed or other relevant topics of interest.

Moderator: Meghan Morel, AquaLaw