WRF Webinar: Evaluating Legionella Detection Rates and Occurrence by Distribution System Characteristics in a Community Water System
October 13th, 2022
Webcast Summary:

Overview:

Legionella is part of the normal ecology of public water systems and frequently detected in regulatory-compliant drinking water. Despite the consensus that preventing the proliferation of Legionella is the responsibility of building owners and operators, water utilities may be implicated in Legionnaires' disease outbreaks. Water utility owners are increasingly expected to have a working knowledge of Legionella within their distribution systems. A WRF Tailored Collaboration Program project, Evaluating Legionella Detection Rates and Occurrence by Distribution System Characteristics in a Community Water System (4983), was conducted with Passaic Valley Water Commission to implement a Legionella monitoring protocol. The project determined the occurrence of Legionella throughout the system and evaluated correlations with Legionella detection by gradient characteristics as well as with a variety of water quality parameters. This webcast discussed findings and lessons learned to provide recommendations for public water utilities interested in monitoring for Legionella.

Presenter Biography Information

Jessie Gleason; Environmental Epidemiologist Environmental and Occupational Health Surveillance Program New Jersey Department of Health's (NJDOH)
Jessie Gleason has been an environmental epidemiologist with the New Jersey Department of Health's (NJDOH) Environmental and Occupational Health Surveillance Program for the past 9 years. She studies areas of emerging concern around drinking water and public health including *Legionella*, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lead. She is the Principal Investigator for CDC's Environmental Health Capacity cooperative agreement with NJDOH which focuses on targeted private well testing outreach, education, risk communication and evaluation. She serves as the Chair of the Health Effects Subcommittee of the New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute, and, in this role, she has contributed to the development of New Jersey drinking water standards for emerging contaminants including 1,2,3-trichloropropane, PFAS, and 1,4-dioxane. Before joining NJDOH, she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi from 2006-2008.

H. Grace Jang, PhD; Research Program Manager, **The Water Research Foundation**
Grace Jang has been a Research Program Manager at WRF since 2009. She manages a variety of research projects focusing on microbial water quality, opportunistic pathogens in premise plumbing, and biological treatment. Dr. Jang is currently the lead on WRF's Waterborne Pathogens in Distribution and Plumbing Systems Research Area to help better understand opportunistic waterborne pathogen issues in distribution systems and premise plumbing. Prior to joining WRF, she worked at various research laboratories focusing on bioleaching, disinfection efficacy, nitrification, and vascular cell dysfunction by hyperglycemia. She received her BS degree in environmental engineering, her MS degrees in environmental engineering and biomedical engineering, and her PhD in environmental engineering from Arizona State University.

WRF Webinar: PFAS in Biosolids -- Trends, Technologies, and Links to the Circular Economy
October 27th, 2022
Webcast Summary:

Overview:

Why do we bother recycling biosolids? It's not always the easiest or cheapest but it is the most sustainable! Proven benefits include: enhancing soil health, recycling nutrients, reducing fertilizer & pesticide use, providing micronutrients like Zn, Fe, Mn and Cu that healthy soils need and that you will not find in other products, and its potential to increase soil's ability to sequester carbon. Please join us as we host the first in a series of webcasts on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) entitled, "PFAS in Biosolids – Trends, Technologies, and Its Link to the Circular Economy."

Presenter Biography Information

Janine Burke-Wells; Executive Director, North East Biosolids & Residuals Association
Janine Burke-Wells is the Executive Director of the North East Biosolids & Residuals Association. Prior to joining NEBRA, Janine worked as a public servant for over three decades – 10 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and over 20 years in local government where she managed the wastewater systems in two different communities in Rhode Island. Ms. Burke-Wells has a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Rhode Island and a Master of Public Administration from Northeastern University. She represents the State of Rhode Island to New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

Lynne Moss; Residuals and Odor Control Practice Leader, Black & Veatch
Lynne Moss is the Residuals and Odor Control Practice Leader for Black & Veatch and has nearly 40 years of experience focusing on biosolids management technologies and trends. An active member of WEF, she chaired the Residuals and Biosolids Committee and has authored WEF biosolids reports and guidance manuals. She is also a member of the USDA W4170 Research Committee.

Maile Lono-Batura; Director of Sustainable Biosolids Programs, Water Environment Federation
Maile Lono-Batura is the Director of Sustainable Biosolids Programs at the Water Environment Federation. Maile joined WEF in 2021 after serving as Executive Director of Northwest Biosolids for 22 years. She serves as a central coordinator and network leader for WEF's biosolids programs, finding synergies across organizations to elevate impactful movements. Maile earned her Bachelor's in Community & Environmental Planning with an Environmental Studies Minor from the University of Washington. She received her Master's in Nonprofit Leadership from Seattle University. Maile is a Board-Certified Env. Scientist with the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists Board (AAEES) and was recently recognized as an AAEES 40 Under 40 Rising Stars Class of 2022.

Dr. Mohammad Abu-Orf; Vice President, Hazen and Sawyer

Dr. Mohammad ("Mo") Abu-Orf is Vice President of Hazen & Sawyer and the Residuals Group Practice Leader. He has more than 30 years of experience in biosolids processing and management. He is a globally acknowledged biosolids processing expert, with more than 150 conferences and peer-review publications and five patents to his credit. Dr. Abu-Orf is one of five main authors of the fifth edition of the textbook "Wastewater Engineering: Treatment and Resource Recovery," published by McGraw Hill, October 2014.