

**US EPA/PWB Webinar Program: U.S. EPA Webinar: Harmful Algal Blooms and Algal Toxins
May 30th, 2023**

Webcast Summary:

HAB Technical Assistance in El Salvador

This presentation will provide an overview of technical assistance provided to the Government of El Salvador in 2020 due to a HAB that caused widespread taste and odor complaints. The presentation will demonstrate how lessons-learned from working with U.S. utilities on drinking water treatment optimization for HABs were leveraged to assist international partners.

HAB Dynamics as Determined by Nucleic Acid Based Techniques

This presentation will focus on the detection and quantification of cyanobacterial groups and cyanotoxin genes implicated in HABs. Results of next generation sequence analysis and qPCR/RT-qPCR will be discussed, along with monitoring functional genes to detect cyanobacteria.

Presenter Biography Information

Tom Waters, P.E. Environmental Engineer U.S. EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Technical Support Branch, Cincinnati, OH.

Tom Waters works on EPA's drinking water optimization program, providing technical assistance to primacy agencies and water systems, with a particular focus on water treatment for cyanobacteria and their associated cyanotoxins, membrane treatment, and distribution system optimization. Tom is a licensed professional engineer in Ohio with 15 years of experience in drinking water treatment and distribution.

Jorge Santo Domingo, Research Microbiologist EPA's Office of Research and Development, Cincinnati, OH

For the past 25 years he has worked in molecular microbial ecology projects related to drinking water, wastewater, recreational waters, fecal pollution, antibiotic resistance, biosolids, and cyanobacterial blooms. Jorge was one of 65 fellows elected to the American Academy of Microbiology Class of 2022. Jorge obtained his M.S. in Biology from University of Puerto Rico and Ph.D. in Microbiology from Michigan State University.

US EPA/PWB Webinar Program: U.S. EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar: Wildfire Impacts on Drinking Water
July 25th, 2023

Webcast Summary:

Presentation 1: *Wildfire Implications for Drinking Water Systems*

The rise in wildfire activity in municipal watersheds has created new uncertainties, unprecedented challenges, and substantial costs for drinking water utilities. Source water quality can be highly variable and dramatically altered following fire, which can challenge water treatment process performance. The results of several projects in collaboration with water providers are discussed with particular emphasis on dissolved organic matter character and treatability, as well as disinfection byproduct formation. Lastly, a new transdisciplinary project with the overarching goal of increasing water system resiliency to wildfire is discussed.

Presentation 2: *Wildfires Can Increase Drinking Water Contamination: Nitrate, Arsenic, and Disinfection Byproducts*

Wildfires are a concern for water quality in the United States, particularly in the wildland-urban interface of populous areas. On average, in the contiguous United States, wildfires are associated with an increase in drinking water concentrations and maximum contaminant level violations for nitrate, disinfection byproducts, and arsenic and it can take several years for impacted systems to recover. This presentation discusses these issues and how the impact of wildfires on drinking water is regionally important, with larger impacts in certain locations or no impacts in other locations, which may be attributed to other factors, such as the use of drinking water treatment or the type of land use.

Presenter Biography Information

Amanda Hohner, Ph.D., Montana State University

Amanda is an assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at Montana State University. Her primary area of expertise focuses on the characterization of source water quality and drinking water treatment processes. Within this area, she evaluates the effects of climatic disturbances on watersheds and drinking water system resiliency. Amanda earned her Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in environmental engineering at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

Michael Pennino, Ph.D., EPA Office of Research and Development

Michael is an ecologist with EPA's Office of Research and Development based in Washington, DC. His work focuses on understanding spatial and temporal trends for indicators of environmental quality and human health. He is particularly interested in developing predictive models to assess risk to water quality at regional and national scales. Currently, Michael's work focuses on assessing impacts of wildfires, watershed management, harmful algal blooms, and

other factors influencing nitrate and contaminants in drinking water. Michael holds a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (2014) and a B.A. from Oberlin College.

**US EPA/PWB Webinar Program: Women in Water – EPA Water Workforce Webinar
September 28th, 2023**

Webcast Summary:

Today's water workforce is becoming more diverse, with more and more organizations actively seeking to attract and retain women to a variety of challenging careers. Women are providing much needed energy, skills and innovation to help water sector utilities become truly sustainable and provide 21st century water services to their communities. While women are advancing to executive level positions, this webinar will focus on the journey of three women who are making critical contributions through both operator, engineering, and scientific positions. Speakers will provide a brief overview of their current job and address some of the challenges and opportunities they see for women wishing to make water a truly exceptional career. The remainder of the webinar will focus on a conversation between the speakers and the audience, to answer additional questions, and provide other perspectives on ways to attract women into a career in water.

Presenter Biography Information

Jamie Hughes, Program Manager, Clean Water Services

Maggie Macomber, Engineering Program Manager, Charlotte Water

Maggie Macomber has been a Senior Engineer with the wastewater operations group at Charlotte Water for 11 years leading wastewater facility planning, rehabilitation and upgrade project coordination, stormwater NPDES permit program administration and managing special projects like the PCB remediation at two facilities. Ms. Macomber received a bachelor's degree in civil/environmental engineering from Virginia Tech and began her career as a project engineer on large wastewater treatment plant improvement projects in the Carolinas.

Rochelle Verspui, Assistant Wastewater Shift Supervisor, East Bay Municipal Utility District

US EPA/PWB Webinar Program: Engaging in EPA's Upcoming Proposed LCRI Drinking Water Regulatory Process
October 17th, 2023

Webcast Summary:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting a webinar to prepare communities on how to get involved and to provide information to the public on how to participate in the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) rulemaking process.

Learning objectives:

- EPA's timeline and activities associated with the proposed LCRI
- What happens after the LCRI is proposed and how communities can provide their input to EPA
- Where to go for more information about the LCRI

Presenter Biography Information