PORTLAND WATER BUREAU
FROM FOREST TO FAUCET

Director Ting Lu, Ph.D., P.E.

1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 405
Portland, Oregon 97204-1926
Information: 503-823-7770
Portland.gov/water

March 25, 2026

OESAC CEU Committee
PO Box 577
Canby, OR 97013-0577

Dear members of the CEU Committee:

Please consider this request for your approval of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Winter 2026 Webcasts for 0.7 CEU's.

| DATE | AWWA Winter 2026 Webcasts | CEU's: 0.7 |
|---|---|---|
| 12/3/25 | Virtual Roundtable: Data Management and Maintenance in the Age of AI | 0.1 |
| 12/10/25 | Essential Policy Updates from AWWA's DC Office: Fourth Quarter | 0.1 |
| 1/28/26 | Measuring What Matters: Building Stronger Utilities Through TMF Metrics | 0.1 |
| 2/10/26 | PFAS Treatment with GAC and IX | 0.1 |
| 3/4/26 | Microplastics 2026: State Regulatory Perspectives and Progress | 0.1 |
| 3/10/26 | Digital Transformation at Columbia - FREE Sponsored Webinar, Presented by Hansen Technologies | 0.1 |
| 3/11/26 | Essential Policy Updates from AWWA's DC Office | 0.1 |

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Averi Tegethoff

Averi Tegethoff
Portland Water Bureau
averi.tegethoff@portlandoregon.gov

Enclosures:
1. Letter of request to review
2. AWWA Webcast Summaries and Speaker Bios

**Winter 2026 AWWA Webinars**

**Virtual Roundtable: Data Management and Maintenance in the Age of AI**

**December 3, 2025**

Overview:

This is a panel discussion focused on water utility and sector leaders on the importance and best practices of managing and maintaining data in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI). As AI has been rocketing through the world, data's value is at an all-time high. Unsecured data is easily taken by large language models to learn. How do you keep your data from falling into someone else's hands? Having good data security is only the start, how is your data hygiene or in other terms your data quality?

In this roundtable we will discuss how best to secure your data, and ways to ensure it is up to date and accurate. As leaders in the sector, it is critical to keep your company safe and running as efficiently as possible. Improper or a lack of data management and security will create undue risk of data theft. If considering implementing an AI within the company, without quality data your team will spend the time an AI might have saved fixing mistakes.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop best practices to secure their data.
- Implement data quality control program.
- Promote healthy data management throughout their company.

Panel Biographies:

- **Moderated by Jim Cooper, Global Director, Arcadis**

  Mr. Cooper serves as the global director for water optimization at Arcadis with 19 years experience as a certified operator, professional engineer, and utility manager. Jim brings a passion for people enabled by technology, with an education and research background in Civil Engineering and Artificial Intelligence. He brings deep industry relationships as Chair of the AWWA Engineering & Construction Division, Inaugural Chair of the AWWA Digital Twins Committee, Advisory Board Member of BAYWORK, past co-chair of the Digital Twin Lifecycle Subgroup for SWAN, and Chair of the Intelligent Water Infrastructure Committee for the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Center at Virginia Tech University.

- **Johnathan Cruz, Director of Financial Planning & Innovation, Moulton Nigel Water District (MNWD)**

  Jonathan is the Director of Financial Planning & Innovation at Moulton Niguel Water District. Jonathan started his career at Moulton Niguel almost 10 years ago as a Water Resource Analyst He has both a BA and M.A in Economics.

- **Esteban Azagra, Senior Vice President, Arcadis**

  Mr. Azagra currently serves as Senior Vice President and Business Advisory Lead for Arcadis' Water Division.?With over 20 years of experience, Mr. Azagra has provided extensive management consulting services to water and wastewater utilities and communities focused on organizational improvement and optimization. He is responsible for the development and implementation of strategic business plans, performance management programs, operational optimization studies, business process workflow modeling and mapping engagements, and business optimization efforts supported by technology solutions for major municipal utilities within the United States. Esteban is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.

- **John Nolte, Director of Enterprise IT, Denver Water**

  John Nolte is the Director of Enterprise IT for Denver Water. He helps lead innovation and technology and has been involved in bringing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Denver Water through various opportunities and programs. He has been involved in GIS and IT for the past 30 years and with the water industry the past 10.

**Essential Policy Updates from AWWA's DC Office: Year-End 2025**

**December 10, 2025**

Overview:

The recent federal government shutdown has slowed progress on Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory development. This webinar will provide an update on current initiatives and their status. It will also cover compliance strategies for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements, including corrosion control requirements, and outline steps water systems can take to prepare for the forthcoming Microbial/Disinfection Byproduct rulemaking.

Objectives:

- Share the latest updates on federal laws and regulations that affect the water sector.

- Demonstrate the value of the **"Corrosion Control Implementation Framework"** and guide attendees on how to apply it to meet the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) lead action level requirements.
- Explore the benefits of "**Maintaining a Numeric Minimum Disinfectant Residual in the Distribution System: A Framework for Strategy Selection and Evaluation"** to prepare for the upcoming Microbial/Disinfection Byproduct (M/DBP) rule.

Panel Biographies:

- **Steve Via, Director of Federal Relations, AWWA**
  Steve Via is Director of Federal Relations for the American Water Works Association (AWWA) working in AWWA's Washington, D.C., office. Steve's primary responsibility is working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies on the development of regulations that affect the water sector. Steve's professional experience has focused on regulatory compliance related to federal and Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, and solid / hazardous waste regulations. He is also involved in water policy related to reducing risks to drinking water, sustainable water infrastructure, adequate water supply, and management of water quality in the built environment.
- **Catherine Pallotta, National Drinking Water Planning Practice Lead, Arcadis**
  Catherine Pallotta is the National Drinking Water Planning Practice Lead at Arcadis, bringing 27 years' experience of partnering with water systems through projects from treatability studies, to master planning, through design and construction. Her work has covered a broad range of project elements including water quality, source of supply, chemical systems, hydraulics, treatment process optimization, distribution systems, and funding.
- **Caroline Russell**, **Chief Technologist / Vice President, Carollo Engineers, Inc.**
  Manages and provides technical leadership on water supply, treatment, and distribution system projects for water utilities across the U.S. Leads Water Research Foundation projects on disinfection by-products (DBPs), cyanotoxins, and lead and copper corrosion control. Serves as Water Innovation Manager for Carollo, identifying and pursuing opportunities to integrate the best available science and technology solutions for water utility clients.
- **David Cornwell, President, Cornwell Engineering Group**
  Dr. David A. Cornwell is President of Cornwell Engineering Group. After a successful career as a Professor at Michigan State University. Dr. Cornwell has managed or served as Project Officer on water treatment studies, designs and construction

projects throughout the U.S. and the world. Evaluations of water supplies, appropriate treatment technologies, filtration methods, various filtration media, and disinfection techniques have been included in these projects. He has over 50 publications.

**Measuring What Matters: Building Stronger Utilities Through TMF Metrics**

**January 28, 2026**

Overview:

This webinar will provide an overview and case studies of how utility performance metrics and targets tied to key performance outcomes can enhance utility technical, managerial, and financial capabilities (TMF), which aligns with Water 2050's One Governance strategic priority.

Improving TMF capabilities helps ensure that utilities are financially viable, well-managed, and technically sound, consistently providing safe, reliable, and affordable services to the public. Presentations will demonstrate how these utilities integrated utility benchmarking into their strategic business process to build a foundation for better planning, budgeting, and resource allocation and to strengthen accountability to stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Understand the benefits of performance metrics, targets, and outcomes.
- Learn through case study presentations on how utilities improved their TMF capabilities.
- Apply the knowledge gained to develop or sustain a continuous performance improvement program.

Panel Biographies:

- **Frank Roth, Program Manager – Benchmarking, AWWA**
  Frank manages AWWA's Utility Benchmarking Program. He is responsible for administering the annual Survey and developing the annual report. He also conducts or coordinates workshops, special topics sessions, and webinars on utility management topics. In addition, he administers and reports on AWWA's State of the Water Industry Survey.
- **Brett Anderson, Business Operations Manager, City of Minneapolis' Water Treatment and Distribution Services Division**
  Brett Anderson is the Business Operations Manager for the City of Minneapolis' Water Treatment and Distribution Services Division. In his role Brett oversees the

Water division's financial operations and budget process. He also manages a number of asset management related programs and areas of data analysis. Brett contributes to a variety of water organizations in the areas of rates, non-revenue water, and asset management.

- **Christina Gee, Management Analyst, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San)**
  Christina Gee is a Management Analyst at Central San, a wastewater utility serving about 500,000 residents and over 5,000 businesses in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has been a part of Central San's benchmarking efforts since the beginning and serves on the AWWA Benchmarking Advisory Committee. In addition to managing the benchmarking program at Central San, she manages the agency's strategic planning and organizational development programs, including its workforce development and employee appreciation and recognition efforts.
- **Sheree Collins, Administrative Services Manager, Fort Worth Water**
  Sheree Collins is the Administrative Services Manager at the City of Fort Worth. She has worked in various roles in the City Manager's Office, the Water Laboratory and Management Services Section. She currently oversees the Water Utility's Organizational Development Section that handles business performance plans, staffing analyses, strategic plans, process maps and improvements, records management and public information requests. Her office manages the continuous performance improvement program to help make informed decisions, establish operational priorities and implement process improvements based upon KPI analytics and reporting.

**PFAS Treatment with GAC and IX**

**February 10, 2026**

Overview:

Utilities that are now faced with their first PFAS MCLs must come up to speed fast on PFAS treatment with GAC and IX. This webinar will review key considerations for pressure vessel design and operation, including lessons learned from full-scale treatment experiences.

This webinar will educate water utilities on comprehensive aspects of designing and operating PFAS treatment facilities using the two most commonly used technologies, GAC and IX, based on real-world experience from design to full-scale operation. These standard PFAS treatment technologies are often operated in pressurized vessel configurations, which may be uncommon to many groundwater and surface water utilities. To meet strict

compliance deadlines, the design and construction of such facilities will also likely have to be executed on a fast-paced schedule. Therefore, a detailed presentation on the pressure vessel design considerations that can have long-term impacts on start-up and operation will be reviewed.

Objectives:

- Understand the critical aspects of pressure vessel design with adsorptive media for PFAS removal, such as GAC and IX, that can have long-term impacts on start-up and operation.
- Hear lessons learned from years of utility operational experience treating PFAS in GAC and mx facilities.

Panel Biographies:

- **Moderator: Samantha J. Smith, Ph.D., Drinking Water National Technology & Innovation Leader, Brown and Caldwell**
  As Brown and Caldwell's National Technology and Innovation leader for Drinking Water, Samantha is driving the development of innovative, forward-thinking solutions for the nation's drinking water challenges. Before joining BC, Samantha spent her career as a researcher at USEPA's Office of Research and Development. For more than a decade, Samantha's research focused on drinking water quality and treatment technology evaluation, including PFAS treatment by ion exchange and granular activated carbon. Samantha earned her MS and PhD in Environmental Science from the University of Cincinnati's College of Engineering and Applied Science. She also currently serves as the chair of the AWWA PFAS subcommittee within the Organic Contaminants Committee.
- **Jihyon Im, P.E., Principal Environmental Engineer, CDM Smith**
  Ji Im is a Principal Environmental Engineer at COM Smith with over ten years of experience in drinking water quality and treatment tackling both conventional and emerging water quality challenges. She specializes in PFAS treatment, having led many alternative analysis, treatability studies, bench-scale and pilot testing, regulatory review, design and construction projects throughout the country. She's an active volunteer for AWWA, currently serving as a member PFAS Technical Advisory Workgroup, a Member-At-Large for Technical & Education Council and a Young Professional Advisor on the Executive Committee of the Board of the Directors. Ji is a member of the New England Section based in Manchester, New Hampshire and received her Bachelor and Master of Science in Environmental Engineering at the University of New Hampshire.
- **Mark Theiler, P.E., Director of Production, Middlesex Water Company**

Mark Theiler is the Director of Production at Middlesex Water Company, and investor-owned water utility in New Jersey. Mark graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Chemical Engineering and worked for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection prior to joining Middlesex Water Company in 2016. He also currently serves as a Trustee of the new Jersy Section of AWWA.

- **Jake Hester, P.E., Water Engineering Manager, Anaheim Public Utilities**
  Jake has over 20 years of engineering experience in both the public and private sectors, with a strong emphasis on water, wastewater, recycled water, and stormwater. At Anaheim, he is responsible for leading the repair and replacement of critical infrastructure, including groundwater wells, a surface water treatment plant, and the City's water transmission and distribution systems. In 2025, Jake completed the design and construction of nine new ion exchange groundwater treatment plants, a transformative $150 million program with a combined design capacity of approximately 70 million gallons per day (MGD). His leadership continues to guide the city's efforts to provide resilient and sustainable water solutions to the community.

**Microplastics 2026: State Regulatory Perspectives and Progress**

**March 4, 2026**

Overview:

Despite many critical uncertainties about microplastics as a contaminant in drinking water supplies, several states have initiated proactive steps to understand the need for regulatory action. This webinar provides an update on these activities from three key state regulatory agencies.

Objectives:

- Identify key states and associated regulatory activities focused on microplastics in drinking water:
- Explain the numerous unknowns surrounding microplastics.
- Track developments that will inform microplastics regulation.
- Examine the barriers for microplastics regulation (if/when appropriate).

Panel Biographies:

- **Moderator: Brent Alspach, Vice President and Director of Applied Research, Arcadis**
  Brent Alspach holds both BS and MS degrees in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University. Brent joined Arcadis in 1997 and serves as a Vice President

and the company's Director of Applied Research. He currently serves on the AWWA Technical and Education Council (TEC), as well as on the editorial boards for Opflow and AWWA Water Science. He is the Principal Investigator on two Water Research Foundation projects on microplastics in drinking water, a subject on which he recently had the privilege of testifying to the US Congress.

- **Helene Baribeau, PhD, PE, Senior Specialist, California State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water**
  Helene has been in the industry for over 30 years, working for private and public organizations, mainly in California. She is currently a Senior Specialist for the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water. Of relevance to this webinar on microplastics, Helene is the contact person for the Division's microplastic effort in California.
- **Sanjay Shah, PhD, CPM, Research Scientist - Division of Science and Research, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**
  Sanjay Shah holds a PhD in Environmental Geology and Graduate degrees in Earth Science, Geotechnical Engineering, and Environmental Science. He is an expert in environmental geology, geotechnical engineering, and environmental science, with over 21 years of experience at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. As a researcher in the Division of Science and Research, he leads projects focused on microplastics and has significant expertise in contaminant transport and remediation through stabilization/solidification.
- **Ian Smith, Supervisor, Emerging Contaminants Unit, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy**
  Ian joined the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy in 2018, and currently manages the Emerging Contaminants Unit (ECU) in EGLE's Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division. This group is concerned with addressing contaminants and issues of emerging concern related to Michigan's public drinking water and source water and has played a primary role in the administration of sampling and data analysis efforts related to these concerns. In 2024, Ian's team expanded to include a dedicated group of personnel focused on source water assessment and protection in Michigan. Ian is a graduate of Michigan State University and, prior to his time with EGLE, spent a decade working as both an environmental consultant and a research scientist.

**Digital Transformation at Columbia - FREE Sponsored Webinar, Presented by Hansen Technologies**

**March 10, 2026**

Overview:

Join us for an exclusive conversation with Columbia Water as they share their real-world journey from fragmented legacy systems to an integrated, modern utility operation and how they're now exploring modern technology like AI while creating exceptional customer experiences. In this webinar, you'll hear directly from Columbia Water about their strategic approach to digital transformation: updating to meters, replacing siloed legacy infrastructure with integration-ready technology, exploring AI capabilities, and reallocating maintenance costs to initiatives that turn customers into superfans.

Hansen Technologies delivers a unified, enterprise-grade utility platform anchored by a proven Customer Information System (CIS) with over 30 years of industry expertise. Trusted by mid-to-large utilities to handle complex billing, regulatory, and operational requirements at scale, Hansen combines an intuitive user experience with a modular, integration-ready architecture, cloud-native MDM, and AI-powered customer service capabilities—enabling utilities to modernize at their own pace without sacrificing depth, scalability, or control.

Objectives:

- Learn Columbia Water's budget prioritization framework: how they funded new meters and customer experience initiatives by reallocating existing budget dollars.
- See the integration-ready technology foundation that makes modern meters and AI possible — without creating more silos.
- Learn the playbook for turning customers into "superfans" through proactive service.

Panel Biographies:

- **Clint Shealy, Assistant City Manager, Columbia Water**
  Clint Shealy serves as the Assistant City Manager for Columbia Water, where he is responsible for overseeing the city's water utility operations. His role includes ensuring water quality for customers, compliance with regulatory standards, and the pursuit of grant opportunities for infrastructure projects. Shealy is also involved in the Columbia Canal Recovery Project, which aims to repair and restore the historic Columbia Canal to improve the city's water supply and infrastructure. His leadership team includes key personnel from the Department of Utility Operations, Engineering, and Customer Care, collectively contributing to the city's water, utility, engineering, and customer care operations.

- **Bobby Slaton, EVP Americas, Hansen Technologies**
  As a seasoned professional, I possess a breadth and depth of experience leading diverse institutions and personnel across countries, demographics, and products to continuously position organizations as premiere service providers and leaders across respective industries. Through effective business development initiatives, strategic planning, and personnel oversight, I have created and spearheaded the inclusion of comprehensive solutions across operating frameworks, end-user experiences, and within various enterprises to remediate gaps in profits and the execution of short- and long-term capital planning. As a servant leader, I have liaised across international teams and various institutional departments to promote consistency and cohesiveness in workflows and promoted a culture rooted in employees' intrinsic motivation to exceed institutional expectations. Additional professional experience includes various roles at Ventyx, Indus, and SCT related to professional services management across all product lines as well as project development and management.
- **Tiffany Latimer, Director of Customer Services, Columbia Water**
  Tiffany Latimer was promoted to Director of Customer Services which includes the Customer Care Call Center, Field Services, Columbia Water Communications, and the Meter Reading Division. She earned her undergraduate degree in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of South Carolina and has continued her education by earning a Master of Public Administration. "I knew at an early age that I had a passion for serving others. There is nothing more self-fulfilling than being committed to providing great service to our customers while being responsive, caring and compassionate. I absolutely love what I do."

**Essential Policy Updates from AWWA's DC Office**

**March 11, 2026**

Overview:

AWWA's DC Office will host its first legislative update of 2026. The webinar will also summarize recent federal actions with respect to fluoride in drinking water and highlight decisions. that water systems should consider now to prepare for non-lead validation studies in compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements.

With the House and Senate having been in session for most of the year-to-date after an extended hiatus in late 2025, now it's a moment to look at the status of legislation of interest to the water sector, as well as a chance to explore the prospects for legislation, as the number of legislative days before mid-term elections rapidly declines. 2026 is also a

critical year for systems preparation to comply with the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule improvements.

Objectives:

- Convey status of ongoing federal era legislative and regulatory developments impacting the water sector.
- Explain utility of and how to prepare now to ensure successful undertaking of nonlead validation studies or obtaining study waivers.
- Explain the status of current federal efforts to evaluate and potentially change limits on fluoride in drinking water:

Panel Biographies:

- **Moderator: Steve Via, Director of Federal Relations, AWWA**
  Steve Via is Director of Federal Relations for the American Water Works Association (AWWA), working in AWWA's Washington, D.C., office. Steve's primary responsibility is working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies on the development of regulations that affect the water sector. Steve's professional experience has focused on regulatory compliance related to federal and Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, and solid/ hazardous waste regulations. He is also involved in water policy related to reducing risks to drinking water, sustainable water infrastructure, adequate water supply, and management of water quality in the built environment.
- **Sandra Kutzing, Senior Vice President, CDM Smith**
  Sandra Kutzing is a professional engineer and Senior Vice President at CDM Smith in New Jersey with 24 years of experience in drinking water. She has a B.S. from the University of Illinois and an M.S. from the University of Washington. Ms. Kutzing is CDM Smith's Lead and Copper Strategy Leader, assisting utilities with meeting the Lead and Copper Rule and implementing lead service line replacement programs.
- **Nate Norris, Director of Legislative Affairs, AWWA**
  Nate Norris, Director of Legislative Affairs, leads the development and implementation of AWWA's legislative priorities by representing the association in congressional meetings, monitoring legislation, and engaging volunteers and grassroots members. In his seven years with AWWA, Nate has worked on issues ranging from water infrastructure, water affordability, emerging contaminants and PFAS, and cybersecurity. Prior to AWWA, Nate worked at the White House Office of Legislative Affairs and the White House Council on Environmental Quality. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Texas at Austin.

- **Colleen Flaherty, Director, Drinking Water Science and Engineering Division, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
  Colleen Flaherty serves as the Director of the Drinking Water Science and Engineering Division in the Office of Water at the U.S Environmental Protection Agency. The Division provides scientific, technical, and regulatory support for Safe Drinking Water Act activities, including development of human health toxicity assessments and analyses, drinking water treatment technologies, analytical methods, and modeling approaches. Colleen previously led the Ambient Water Quality Criteria and Biosolids Programs under the Clean Water Ad. Colleen started her career at EPA in 2004 as an ecological risk assessor in the Office of Pesticide Programs. She has a Master of Science degree in ZooloZoology toxicology) and Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology and Zoology and from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.