



09/03/2026

Department of Ecology

Wastewater Operator Certification

PO Box 47696

Olympia, WA 98504-7696

Dear CEU Committee:

As has been the case for the past 32 years, the Western States Alliance, PNPW has brought together municipal, state, and federal wastewater and pretreatment staff from cities in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Alaska. The attendees (approximately 120) are mostly municipal employees responsible for administering Industrial Pretreatment Programs under 40 CFR 403. Under this program, pretreatment staff administer and enforce industrial discharge permits, monitor industrial discharges, develop local limits and implement other programs as needed to protect the publicly owned treatment plants, collection system, and workers.

This year, the pretreatment workshop is applying for 1.5 Wastewater and Collection System CEU's with the Oregon Environmental Services Advisory Council (OESAC). The 2026 Pacific Northwest Pretreatment Workshop will be held in-person in Bend, OR. The following is a brief outline of the presentations for the 32nd Annual Pacific Northwest Pretreatment Workshop and course timelines

An overview of Data Center Process and Discharges

Olivia Tahti, Carollo Engineers Inc, staff professional

This presentation provides an overview of the data center cooling processes, the kinds of pollutants one can expect from the cooling and treatment processes, and applicable regulations or standards for this industry. A review of major data center efforts at water stewardship are also

reviewed. This presentation will provide “pretreatment tools” (implementation of local limits, flow-specific permit language, and frequent industrial inspections) to manage the balancing act of protecting both the plant and meeting the needs of the industry.

(0.75 Hour)

FOG Reduction in an Industrial Grease Interceptor with Coagulants

John Mercer, Owner, Light Industrial Wastewater Design

A large and relatively new food production facility has a 100 mg/L FOG limit. They made it through permitting a single 15,000 gal gravity grease interceptor. Process wastewater flow is 135,000 gals/day and they have generally been out of compliance for FOG since day 1. They found me and the first thing they told me is we do not want a DAF. FOG is emulsified in the wastewater, and we try adding coagulant to break the emulsion and get into compliance. This talk is a boot on the ground discussion about how it worked out.

(0.75 Hour)

When Pretreatment Fails, Operations Pays: What Utilities Miss Before the Plant Feels It

Angela G Walker, Founder: Water & Wastewater Leadership Exchange

Rather than focusing solely on regulatory compliance, this session reframes pretreatment as operational protection. Participants will leave with practical strategies to strengthen collaboration between pretreatment and operations staff, recognize early warning indicators, improve accountability, and better understand the operational consequences of untreated or poorly managed industrial impacts. Because in wastewater, when pretreatment fails, operations pay. Learning Objectives: Identify early indicators of pretreatment-related operational instability before permit compliance is affected • Understand how industrial loading changes and communication gaps impact plant performance • Strengthen collaboration between pretreatment and operations teams • Apply practical approaches to use pretreatment as a plant protection strategy

(0.75 Hour)

What is Aquamation and How Does It Affect Pretreatment

Deon Strommer, Sales Consultant

Deon Strommer will discuss the growth of Aquamation (Alkaline Hydrolysis) for human and pet aftercare as an eco-friendly alternative to flame cremation. And why the public is choosing this as a form of deposition for their loved ones and pets. We will discuss that during the Aquamation process organic materials are reduced to their most basic building blocks. There is no DNA or RNA remaining and the solution is pathogen and drug-free; chemotherapy agents are broken down. The ending solution consists of 96% water and 4% amino acids, sugars, nutrients salts and

soap. Our biologist Maddie Cornell will discuss pretreatment of the effluent the use of alkali during the process and answer any questions about the process and the recycling of the effluent. Maddie will discuss the permitting process in most states and how she assists our client working with local sanitation and wastewater management. This will be highly educational as the public moves toward eco-friendly forms of deposition.

(0.75 Hour)

Oregon's P3 Project

Nicole Morris, Oregon DEQ Pretreatment Coordinator

Oregon DEQ's P3 Project - PFAS, Pretreatment, and Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) presentation will help you and your staff: • Understand what interest the State and EPA have in the control of PFAS • Understand Oregon's anticipated approach towards PFAS and pretreatment • Keep up to date on recent PFAS happenings at the Federal, State and Local level • And more!

(0.75 Hour)

Hydrogen Sulfide Local Limits

Terry Alber, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Municipal CWA Programs Supervisor

The regulation 40 CFR 403.5(b) prohibits the introduction of certain pollutants into a POTW. Paragraph (2) prohibits "Pollutants which will cause corrosive structural damage to the POTW," and paragraph (7) prohibits "Pollutants which result in the presence of toxic gases, vapors, or fumes within the POTW in a quantity that may cause acute worker health and safety problems." Hydrogen sulfide fits both these prohibitions. Even though H₂S can be a complex and pervasive problem in POTW's collection system it is often addressed reactively, and EPA has produced surprisingly little guidance on developing H₂S local limits except for a couple paragraphs in the 2004 Local Limits Guidance. That's why I developed the IPDES Guide to Developing Hydrogen Sulfide Local Limits. This document provides guidance to POTWs wishing to develop and implement regulatorily defensible local limits for H₂S in their collection systems. This presentation will summarize the information found in the Guide.

(0.75 Hour)

Molybdenum: A Silver(ish) Lining Or: Inhibiting Regulatory Corrosion

Zach Foster, City of Eugene, Environmental Compliance Specialist

This case study follows a molybdenum discharge originating from a large cooling system at the University of Oregon. The current and former regulatory framework for the university will be outlined, as well as the investigation into the molybdenum discharge, enforcement actions, and

required follow up. The presentation will be co-presented by the Industrial Pretreatment Permit Manager for City of Eugene, and the Environmental Compliance Program Manager for the University of Oregon.

(0.75 Hour)

A Practical Framework for Launching Local Household Outreach

Justin Holley, FryAway COO

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are a leading cause of sewer blockages and fatbergs — and while restaurants are regulated, households are not, making education the only lever to change their behavior. The challenge is not only awareness but driving behavioral change - ~80% of consumers know oil shouldn't go down the drain, yet 44–65% still pour it. Closing that knowing-doing gap means debunking persistent myths, making the personal impact concrete (backups, higher bills), and offering an easy alternative. Drawing on FryAway's nationwide experience, the presentation shares transferable tactics attendees can use — social media, partnerships with trusted voices like plumbers, and physical sample cards that engage households and lower the barrier to proper disposal. Attendees will leave with a practical framework and concrete next steps for launching local household outreach — reducing FOG at its source, before it ever enters the system.

(0.75 Hour)

Workshop: Developing a Tool for Knowledge Sharing

Greg Geyer, Terrachord

Interactive AI / Tools Training with Jude

(1.5 Hour)

50 Years Looking Back, 50 Years Looking Forward

Frank Dick, City of Vancouver - Wastewater Treatment Manager

Looking back 50 years and looking forward to 50 years how our wastewater profession has matured and developed, our industry transformation to resource recovery and what might be ahead for us in 50 years and the next generations

(0.75 Hour)

Emerging Contaminants Source Control Strategies for Direct Potable Reuse Water

Becky Lewis, PPRC Program Manager

Direct potable reuse (DPR) systems, which directly introduced wastewater into drinking water supplies, necessitate robust source control programs to mitigate risks from emerging

contaminants (ECs) which includes pharmaceuticals, PFAS, and industrial chemicals that may be present at trace levels in wastewater and pose challenges for conventional treatment methods. Effective source control involves identifying and prioritizing ECs of concern, implementing strategies to reduce their entry into the influent, and employing advanced treatment technologies to remove contaminants. Enhanced source control programs, exceeding traditional wastewater treatment goals, are crucial for DPR to ensure public health and safety. These programs often focus on industrial pretreatment, community outreach and regulatory collaboration.

(0.75 Hour)

Insights from a FOG Outreach & The CLOGS Framework

Mary Gerardo, Seattle Public Utilities, Wastewater Engagement Program Manager

This presentation will highlight the value of the CLOGS framework, the outreach methods that supported its adoption, and how these components improved alignment between communication, public understanding, and system performance.

(0.75 Hour)

How Green Business Programs Can Support Pretreatment

Frances Gilliland, Associate Director, PPRC

Green Business programs address pretreatment issues in a variety of ways, working with a wide range of business types. Restaurants, hotels, breweries, and many others benefit from the technical assistance provided by green business certification programs. This presentation will discuss the benefits to pretreatment programs of coordinating with local GBPs. Examples from the Colorado Department of Public Health's Green Business Program and PPRC's EcoBiz program will be included. Session will be interactive, asking attendees to provide ideas and ask questions to develop new ways to work together.

(0.75 Hour)

A Case for Regionalization

Dessa Wells, RCAC, Regional Field Manager

Regionalization can take many forms, ranging from informal partnerships such as mutual aid agreements, shared equipment, and bulk purchasing to more formal arrangements such as contract operations, shared ownership, and full managerial or physical consolidation. This session will provide an overview of the regionalization spectrum and explore the different ways drinking water and wastewater systems can collaborate to share resources, strengthen capacity, and improve sustainability. Participants will learn that regionalization does not require full consolidation and that many communities are already participating in regional partnerships without identifying them as regionalization.

(0.75 Hour)

Updates from EPA and A Community Engagement Deep Dive

Al Garcia, Region 8 EPA Pretreatment Coordinator

(2 Hours)

Al Garcia, based in Denver, CO, US, is currently a Region 8 Pretreatment Coordinator at USEPA. With a robust skill set that includes Wastewater Treatment, Stormwater Management, Environmental Awareness, Environmental Science, Water and more.

Purpose of Engineering Reports for Ius and how to Review

Maia Hoffman, WA Dept of Ecology Engineer

Environmental Engineer (municipal facility permit manager (2 years); pretreatment (4 years))

(0.75 Hour)

Pretreatment Automation Technology Case Studies

Jimmy Merkle - Industrial BMP

Jimmy Merkle specializes in working with municipalities and utilities to provide guidance and technology with the goal of streamlining their water compliance programs. He has been involved with over 300 software implementation projects throughout the USA. One of the original designers of the Industrial BMP, FOG BMP, and Backflow BMP applications, he brings significant experience within the water compliance software industry.

(0.75 Hour)

On behalf of the Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC), the Workshop Planning Committee would like to extend our sincere appreciation for taking the time to make our workshop a great success. For more information about our workshop, please visit our website at <https://www.westernstatesalliance.org/events/2026pnpw>.

It is at this time that the Pacific Northwest Pretreatment Workshop Planning Committee would like to ask that you consider the 2025 Pacific Northwest Pretreatment Workshop eligibility for 1.5 CEU's. We are offering 1.5 hours of instruction and have paid online.

If there are any questions about the Pacific Northwest Pretreatment Workshop, please contact Daniela Garcia at 208-546-2444 dgarcia@pprc.org.

Sincerely,

Daniela Garcia, PNPW Planning Committee Chair

Attached:

Course Time Schedule

Course Agenda

Attendance Monitoring Standard Procedure

Speaker Biography Compilation



2026 PACIFIC NORTHWEST PRETREATMENT WORKSHOP



WEDNESDAY OCT 28		THURSDAY OCT 29		FRIDAY OCT 30	
7:00	Breakfast	7:00	Breakfast	7:00	Breakfast
8:00	Welcome and Announcements, Jude Koehler, PPRC	8:00	50 Years Looking Back, 50 Years Looking Forward, Frank Dick, City of Vancouver WA	8:00	Insights from a FOG Outreach Campaign & The CLOGS Framework, Mary Gerardo, Seattle Public Utilities
8:15	Updates from EPA and A Community Engagement Deep Dive, Al Garcia, EPA	8:45	Molybdenum: A Silver(ish) Lining, Or: Inhibiting Regulatory Corrosion, Kim Singleton and Zachary Foster, City of Eugene OR	8:45	How One Mid-Sized District Overhauled Its FOG Program, Trish Kendall, SwiftComply
10:15	Break	9:30	A Case for Regionalization, Dessa Wells, RCAC	9:30	A Practical Framework for Launching Local Household Outreach, Justin Holley, FryAway
10:30	Oregon's P3 Project, Nicole Morris, Oregon DEQ	10:15	Break	10:15	Break
11:15	Hydrogen Sulfide Local Limits, Terry Alber, Idaho DEQ	10:30	Innovations in Industrial Pretreatment Program Management, Jimmy Merkle, Industrial BMP	10:30	Workshop: Developing a Tool for Knowledge Sharing, Greg Geyer and Jude Koehler, PPRC and Consultants
12:00	Lunch	11:15	FOG Reduction in an Industrial Grease Interceptor with Coagulants, John Mercer, Light Industrial Wastewater Design	12:00	Adjourn
1:00	Purpose of Engineering Reports for Industrial Users and How to Review, Maia Hoffman, WA Dept of Ecology	12:00	Lunch		
1:45	An Overview of Data Center Process and Discharges, Olivia Tahti, Carollo Engineers	1:00	When Pretreatment Fails, Operations Pays: What Utilities Miss Before the Plant Feels It, Angela Walker, Water and Wastewater Leadership Exchange		
2:30	Break	1:45	What is Aquamation and How Does it Effect Pretreatment, Deon Strommer & Maddie Cornell, BioResponse Solutions		
2:45	Data Center Discussion Panel, moderated by Jude Koehler	2:30	Break		
3:30	Panel with the States, Agency Representatives from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho	2:45	How Green Business Programs Can Support Pretreatment, Frances Gilliland and Rayna Olier, PPRC and Colorado Dept of Public Health		
4:00	Adjourn	3:30	Emerging Contaminants Source Control Strategies for Direct Potable Reuse Water, Becky Lewis, PPRC		
		4:15	Adjourn		

DRAFT AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Oregon Environmental Services advisory Council (OESAC)

CEU ROSTER SUBMITTAL

OESAC Course No: _____

CEUs Approved: DW _____ WW _____ O2-I _____ O2-SP _____

Course Title*: _____

* Must be exactly the same as submitted to OESAC and on the Certificate.

Course Date: _____

Sponsor: _____ **City/State:** _____

	Name of Organization or Employer	Attendee Full Name (Print or Type)	Signature	<u>Oregon Cert. No. (required)</u>				Not Yet Certified	Total CEUs Earned			
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Proctor Tel. No: _____ **Page** _____ **of** _____