



Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies (ACWA) Application for Wastewater CEUs for a three-session webinar workshop entitled:

**Renewing Your NPDES Wastewater Discharge Permit: Ready...Set...Go! Everything You Need to Know to Get Started**

CEUs requested: each webinar workshop session has 2 hours of eligible content, equating to .2 CEUs per session. A total of 6 hours of instruction—.6 CEUs—is requested for the series.

This document includes the information required to demonstrate eligibility for Wastewater CEUs, including: 1) the educational need for the program provided; 2) the learning outcome for attendees; 3) an outline of the course content; 4) the qualifications of the instructors; 5) the time schedule; and 6) the method of tracking on-line attendance for the duration of the workshops.

**Educational Need and Learning Goals:**

Most domestic wastewater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit holders have been operating publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) under expired, administratively extended NPDES permits for 10-20 years. During that time, many industry professionals who were at the forefront of understanding the important elements of NPDES wastewater permitting have retired, and POTWs have not replaced the staff expertise needed to prepare for, review, and work with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to successfully renew their permits. Additionally, there are numerous water quality issues and requirements that are being addressed in the permits DEQ is now issuing that were not part of previous permits and are brand new to most permittees.

This three-session webinar workshop series will help wastewater NPDES permit holders gear up for the planning, analysis, and careful review that need to be conducted to successfully navigate the NPDES permit renewal process. It will familiarize attendees with permitting issues that are new since their last renewal and strategies for approaching them. It will also familiarize attendees with the process, the forms, the available tools and resources, and information where to go for assistance when needed. The goal of these workshops is to empower members to successfully plan for and negotiate permits that protect water quality, are defensible and implementable, and that will maximize cost-effectiveness, environmental benefits and equity/affordability. The workshop series will be divided into three sessions as described below.

**Course Outline, Instructor Information and Time Schedule:**

**Workshop Session #1: The Road Ahead for Permittees**

**Thursday, March 4, 2021; 10:00 am to 12:00 pm; there are no scheduled breaks.**

- Background and status of NPDES permits and DEQ's water quality permitting program
- DEQ's Permit Issuance Plan
- DEQ's permitting approach and what you can expect

- Applying for NPDES permit renewal (DEQ forms and guidance)
- Permit renewal process and timelines

Instructors:

*Geoff Rabinowitz*, Water Quality Permitting and Program Development Manager  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; Portland, Oregon

Mr. Rabinowitz oversees the wastewater permitting program in DEQ's Water Quality Division. While his emphasis is on NPDES permitting, he also has managerial duties regarding both WPCF permitting and compliance. His primary duties include program oversight, workload analysis, policy development and implementation, and associated human resource duties. He also leads the centralized portion of the program to create greater efficiency and accountability, which is accomplished through internal and external customer communication and leveraging resources to improve the overall program performance. Finally, he supports the DEQ regional wastewater programs as needed.

Mr. Rabinowitz brings to this position over 25 years of experience in the public and private sector in biological sciences and environmental management. Prior to taking on this position at DEQ, Mr. Rabinowitz served as the Environmental Inspection Coordinator for the City of Aurora, Colorado, a position he held from mid-2012 until early 2018. He served in a variety of professional positions for several private environmental management consulting firms between 2005 and 2012. Prior to his private sector work, he worked for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as an Environmental Specialist and Administrator.

Mr. Rabinowitz holds B.S. degrees in Marine Biology and Ecology from Florida Institute of Technology, and a M.S. in Executive Management from Florida State University. He is also a Doctoral Candidate in Public Administration from Valdosta State University. He is certified in Professional Erosion and Sediment Control and formerly maintained wastewater and OSHA HAZWOPER certifications.

*Jeff Navarro*, Senior Water Quality Program Analyst  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; Portland, Oregon

Mr. Navarro's primary focus is on NPDES individual permit development and issuance in accordance with annual and 5-year plans. Mr. Navarro coordinates with permit writers and other DEQ staff, other state agencies, and permittees and other stakeholders in the permitting process to achieve effective, efficient, and timely permits. He also makes recommendations, decisions and commitments that impact other activities in the Water Quality Division. Mr. Navarro also provides advice and leadership on water quality program content, methods of starting new or experimental programs or getting results through cooperative efforts.

Prior to joining DEQ in this position in 2017, Mr. Navarro worked for ATI Specialty Alloys and Components as a Safety Specialist from 2006 to 2015, and then ATI Cast Products as Environmental Health and Safety Manager, from 2006 through 2016.

Mr. Navarro has a B.S. degree in Biology from Western Oregon University. He also has an Executive Degree from Ohio State University in Lean Management. He was formerly certified as a hazardous materials manager.

**Workshop Session #2: What You Need to Do to Get a Feasible, Implementable Permit that's Right for Your Community**

**Thursday, March 11, 2021; 10:00 am to 12:00 pm; there are no scheduled breaks.**

- Brief recap of Workshop 1 and follow-up questions, answers and discussion
- Preparedness:
  - Getting familiar with forms, analytical tools, and new regulatory framework
  - Identifying new water quality criteria, standards and TMDLs for your discharge location
  - Determining evaluations needed to assess your situation
  - Consider hiring consultants to advise
  - Assessing your potential compliance issues and available compliance strategies
  - Conducting additional monitoring
  - Reviewing your facilities plan and finances for compliance
  - Communicating with ACWA and DEQ about questions/issues
- Overview of key issues in permits

**Instructor:**

*Amanda Haney*, Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit Compliance Program Manager, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Ms. Haney manages the Environmental Permit Compliance program for the City of Portland's wastewater treatment plants, which oversees implementation of the City's two NPDES Wastewater Discharge Permits, NPDES 1200-Z industrial Stormwater Permit, Air Contaminant Discharge Permits, and Solid Waste Disposal Permits. She is regulatory lead for permit applications and permit negotiations with DEQ and EPA, and interprets and applies state and federal policies and regulations to ensure the City meets requirements.

Ms. Haney previously served as the Environmental Program Manager for the Oregon Military Department/Army National Guard and provided oversight and guidance for statewide environmental compliance and cleanup programs, including NPDES permitting for state facilities. Prior to that, she worked as a program manager and project geologist for the U.S. Army and Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Superfund Program, and has worked for environmental consulting companies supporting federal, state and private clients in environmental compliance and remedial actions.

Ms. Haney holds a B.S. degree in Geology from the University at Albany, and has completed graduate level courses Environmental Geology at Boston College.

### **Workshop Session #3: Forging Your Path to Compliance: Strategies to Manage Complex Permit Issues**

**Thursday, March 18, 2021; 10:00 am to 12:00 pm; there are no scheduled breaks.**

- Brief recap of Workshop 2 and follow-up questions, answers and discussion
- Hot topics in recently issued permits—what to look for in your Applicant Review Draft
- Compliance approaches and strategies—a detailed look
  - Options
  - Feasibility assessment
  - Permitting approach
  - Facilities/masterplan updates
- Case examples and discussion

#### Instructors:

*Amanda Haney*, Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit Compliance Program Manager, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (see professional and educational background above)

*Todd Miller*, Environmental Services Supervisor, City of Springfield/Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC)

Mr. Miller oversees MWMC's NPDES permit renewal planning and coordination efforts. He provides policy support and tracks regulatory issues for the regional wastewater consortium. He is responsible for community engagement and development of partnerships to achieve community water quality objectives. Mr. Miller has substantial professional experience and expertise in the areas of temperature compliance strategies, water quality trading, recycled water program development, sustainability and life cycle assessments.

Prior to his tenure at the City of Springfield, Mr. Miller served as the Executive Director of the Siuslaw Watershed Council where he oversaw watershed restoration, community outreach and education, and multi-agency environmental solutions collaboration. He also has worked as a project hydrogeologist for Levine-Fricke-Recon, where he worked on contaminated site investigations, permitting, characterization, and cleanup; regulatory compliance reporting; wetland site characterization and restoration planning.

Mr. Miller holds B.S. degrees in Biology and Geology from the University of Rochester, and a M.S. degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Oregon. He is a Registered Geologist in Oregon.

#### **Method of Tracking Attendance for CEU Certification:**

ACWA is conducting the workshop series on the Zoom webinar platform. All attendees will be required to register, and the registration information will include their name, agency, address,

and certification number. Each attendee will enter the workshop by clicking on a link sent via email following registration. The host (ACWA) will manually let each attendee into the Zoom on-line sessions and record their attendance. The duration of attendance (in minutes) will be tracked and recorded for each participant and reported by ACWA with the roster.