

# 2017 National NPDES Program Managers Meeting



**October 31, 2017 – November 2, 2017**  
**Silver Spring, Maryland**

## **Purpose:**

This meeting is intended to help support states and EPA to further identify challenges & barriers to NPDES program implementation, highlight opportunities for permitting authority program improvement & enhancement, showcase innovations, assist with analysis of training, guidance, tools, and other support material needs, improve administrative efficiencies, clarify roles and responsibilities, promote program streamlining, build stronger linkages to WQS & TMDLs, modernize permit terms and data management, revise program performance measures, identify program areas where targeted technical assistance would be most beneficial, and attempt to solve some of the most intractable NPDES Program issues. The target audience for this meeting is state and federal NPDES program staff.

## **Attendees:**

The NPDES Program Managers meeting is a national event specifically organized by state and federal regulators for EPA and state program staff representatives. Attendees include:

- State program staff involved in managing the NPDES programs
- EPA Headquarter and Regional staff involved in NPDES program management
- Partnering state and federal agency staff that provide technical and/or regulatory assistance to the NPDES programs
- Invited guests

## **Special thanks to:**

United States Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the 2017 National NPDES Program Managers Meeting Planning Committee – Janita Aguirre (EPA HQ), Allan Brockenbrough (VA), Melanie Davenport (VA), Joseph Haberek (RI), Sarah Holcomb (NM), Sarah Hoyt (EPA HQ), Kathryn Huddle (LA), Scott Ireland (EPA R5), Amelia Letnes (EPA HQ), John Rebar (DE), Erin Sherer (OH), Ben Smith (NEIWPPCC), and Ashley Ward (OH).



# Tuesday, October 31, 2017

This meeting is only open to State and EPA co-regulators and invited guests.

7:30 AM Breakfast on Your Own

8:30 AM Registration & Sign-In

9:00 - 9:30 AM Welcome & Opening Remarks

*Association of Clean Water Administrators*

Executive Director & General Counsel

Julia Anastasio

*United States Environmental Protection Agency*

Office of Wastewater Management

Acting Director, Permits Division

Marcus Zobrist

9:30 - 10:15 AM Keynote Speaker - Lee Forsgren

*United States Environmental Protection Agency*

Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water

10:15 AM Break

10:30 - 12:00 PM National EPA Rule Updates

**Small MS4 Remand Rule**

This presentation will provide a short recap of the significant elements of the MS4 General Permit Remand Rule, and will provide some tips on things to look for as states develop their next Phase II permits to be consistent with the rule.

*United States Environmental Protection Agency*

Attorney Advisor, Office of Wastewater Management

Greg Schaner

**NPDES eReporting Rule Implementation**

This presentation will give an overview of implementation of the 2015 NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule. This includes a quick overview of Phase 1 implementation (DMRs, biosolids annual report) and plans for Phase 2 implementation (general permits, program reports).

*United States Environmental Protection Agency*

Team Leader, Office of Compliance & Assurance

Carey Johnston

**Waters of the U.S.**

This presentation will provide an overview and status of the current “Waters of the US” jurisdictional rule, the two-step rule withdrawal process outlined in Executive Order, and next steps.

*United States Environmental Protection Agency*

Jurisdictional Team Leader, Associate Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds

Donna Downing



12:00 - 1:15 PM

**Lunch on Your Own**

1:15 - 2:15 PM

**National EPA Rule Updates**

EPA proposed the NPDES Updates Rule in May 2016 to update specific elements of the existing NPDES regulations in order to eliminate inconsistencies between regulations and application forms, improve permit documentation and transparency and provide clarifications to the existing regulations. This session will give an overview of the rule, a summary of state engagement since the end of the public comment period, and give an opportunity for states to ask additional questions.

**Proposed NPDES Updates Rule**

***United States Environmental Protection Agency***

Attorney Advisor, Office of Wastewater Management  
Erin Flannery-Keith

***United States Environmental Protection Agency***

Office of Wastewater Management  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Sharmin Syed

***Association of Clean Water Administrators***

Deputy Director  
Sean Rolland

2:15 - 3:15 PM

**Electronic Tools: NPDES Application Forms, Permit Development, Tracking & Reporting**

This presentation will be a discussion of Florida's efforts to upgrade electronic resources. Includes a multimedia E-permitting system and new Compliance and Enforcement database.

***Florida Department of Environmental Protection***

Director, Division of Water Resources  
Justin Green

Washington State maintains several different electronic tools used by permit writers in all regions to help facilitate both permit development and permit management. This presentation showcases these different tools which include the Permitting and Reporting Information System (PARIS) and the Permit Calc Excel workbook.

***Washington Department of Ecology***

Water Quality Program  
WA State Technical Permit and Policy Lead  
Eleanor Key

Our DMR Online program allows NPDES Individual permittees the ability to enter their facility's DMR data through an electronic DMR system. This program also conforms to the DMR requirements of Phase I of EPA's Electronic Reporting Rule promulgated in December 2015. Presentation will include information on the program and a live demonstration of the processing of an eDMR from the State's portal.

***Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control***

Surface Water Discharges Section, Water Division  
Program Manager I  
Nicole Smith

3:15 PM

**Break**



3:30 - 5:00 PM

**Regional Breakout Discussions**

Tables will be set up by Region to allow participants from the same geographic area to discuss issues and challenges they face on a daily basis. Each table will report out the next day with a summary of the issues discussed.

1. Identify a speaker from your table to report out on the discussions.
2. Each participant at the table should identify and/or confirm their top **1** or **2** NPDES program challenges.
3. The group should discuss ways EPA HQ & Regions might be helpful in addressing some of these issues.

5:00 PM

**Meeting Adjourn**

## Wednesday, November 1, 2017

This meeting is only open to State and EPA co-regulators and invited guests.

7:30 AM

**Breakfast on Your Own**

8:30 - 9:30 AM

**Regional Breakout Session – Report Out & Discussion**

Representatives from each of the Regional Breakout Tables will share with the audience some of the challenges identified and discussed.

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

**NPDES Program Funding: Sharing the Costs**

This talk will provide an overview of the CWA Section 106 grant program including: the statutory and regulatory basis, the allocation formula, funding projections for FY18, and how states, interstates and tribes use grant funds to support their pollution prevention programs.

***United States Environmental Protection Agency***

Office of Wastewater Management  
Section 106 Coordinator  
Robyn Delehanty

Virginia first introduced permit fees for the VPDES program in 1992. Virginia will share its experiences with implementing permit fees and provide best practices for successful implementation of fees.

***Virginia Department of Environmental Quality***

Director of Administration  
Valerie Thompson

10:30 AM

**Break**

10:45 - 12:00 PM

**State Capacity Building: How Can States and EPA Best Partner Together?**

Share NEIWPCC's training approach along with the ACWA State capacity building survey results and discuss how to leverage training opportunities at a state, regional and national level.

***United States Environmental Protection Agency***

Office of Wastewater Management  
Sarah Hoyt



***New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission***

Environmental Analyst

Ben Smith

**12:00 - 1:15 PM**

**Lunch on Your Own**

**1:15 - 2:15 PM**

**Water Quality Considerations: Building Stronger Linkages to WQS and TMDLs**

This presentation will discuss Washington State's unique approach to ensuring compliance with WQS and TMDLs in municipal stormwater permits, including recent use of this approach to address the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund.

***Washington Department of Ecology***

Municipal Unit Supervisor

Vince McGowan

While TMDLs and WQS are predicated by science, NPDES permitting has to provide practical implementation, blending science with policy and management to balance the goals of the CWA.

***Kansas Department of Health and Environment***

Assistant Director, Bureau of Water

Tom Stiles

**2:15 - 3:15 PM**

**Fact Sheets: Current Requirements & Proposed Options**

NPDES permit fact sheets provide permittees and members of the public with the rationale for permit limits and conditions. State program reviews have revealed some areas for improvement in fact sheet development and areas for EPA to provide technical support to states. This workshop will review fact sheet requirements, provide examples of state fact sheets, and allow for discussion of how EPA can help states enhance fact sheet quality and transparency.

***United States Environmental Protection Agency***

Office of Wastewater Management

Environmental Protection Specialist

Sharmin Syed

***Virginia Department of Environmental Quality***

Water Permitting Division

Allan Brockenbrough

**3:15 PM**

**Break**

**3:30 - 5:00 PM**

**NPDES Program - Hot Topics Roundtable**

Facilitators:

***United States Environmental Protection Agency***

Marcus Zobrist

***Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control***

John Rebar

1. *How can we streamline the permitting process without compromising on quality?*
2. *If you were given absolute authority to change any aspect of the NPDES program, what would you change?*
3. *How are states incorporating asset management into their permits?*
4. *What are some of the more difficult challenges we are seeing with nutrients permitting?*

**5:00 PM**

**Meeting Adjourn**



# Thursday, November 2, 2017

This meeting is only open to State and EPA co-regulators and invited guests.

7:30 AM

**Breakfast on Your Own**

8:30 - 9:45 AM

**WQS Variances: What Are They and How Do They Work?**

During this session you will be provided an overview on the basics of water quality standards variances, to increase the understanding of the utility of variances as a tool instrumental in allowing states to adopt scientifically based standards to protect designated uses while still allowing dischargers a reasonable amount of time to achieve permit limits derived from those requirements where they are not achievable immediately. The presentation will also cover how to determine if WQS variances are the right tool, and how variance requirements strike a balance between providing states/authorized tribes and dischargers the time and flexibility to make incremental water quality improvements reflecting the best that can be achieved in a given period, with accountability measures that will satisfy the public and environmental entities' desire for certainty that improvements will occur.

*United States Environmental Protection Agency*

Office of Science and Technology  
National Water Quality Standards Branch  
Melissa Dreyfus

*United States Environmental Protection Agency*

Office of Science and Technology  
National Water Quality Standards Branch  
Gary Russo

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

Division of Water  
Wastewater Section Chief  
Jason Knutson

9:45 AM

**Break**

10:00 - 11:30 AM

**Program Oversight Updates**

**Permit Quality Review**

An NPDES PQR is an evaluation of a select set of NPDES permits issued by a permitting authority to determine whether permits are developed in a manner consistent with applicable requirements established in the Clean Water Act (CWA) and NPDES regulations. PQRs serve to promote NPDES program and permit quality and ensure a reasonable degree of national consistency with regard to current NPDES program requirements. This session will give an overview of the PQR process and provide state managers with an opportunity to ask questions about PQRs, including the new FY18-22 cycle.

*United States Environmental Protection Agency*

Attorney Advisor, Office of Wastewater Management  
Erin Flannery-Keith

*United States Environmental Protection Agency*

Information Management Specialist, Office of Wastewater Management  
Elizabeth Ragnauth



**State Review Framework**

The State Review Framework (SRF) is EPA's national program for periodic retrospective reviews of state compliance and enforcement programs. This presentation will provide an overview of SRF goals and implementation, including state roles, will discuss how recent changes will affect future reviews.

***United States Environmental Protection Agency***

Director, Planning, Measuring, and Oversight Division, Office of Compliance  
Chris Knopes

**11:30 - 12:00 PM**

**Reducing Your Permit Backlog – Tactics and Strategies**

The tactics and strategies that Rhode Island has used to reduce its RIPDES permit backlog and what Rhode Island's experience has been.

**Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management**

Supervising Sanitary Engineer, Office of Water Resources  
Joseph Haberek

**12:00 PM**

**Program Wrap Up**

***Association of Clean Water Administrators***

Deputy Director  
Sean Rolland

