

Association of Clean Water Administrators

2026 National Industrial Permitting Workshop

EPA Headquarters
April 7 – 9, 2026
Washington, D.C.

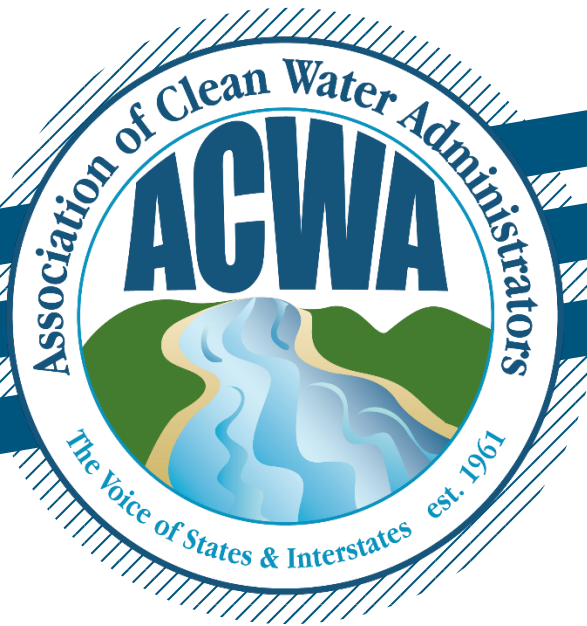
PURPOSE

The 2026 National Industrial Permitting Workshop supports implementation of federal and state industrial permitting programs nationwide by sharing best management practices, showcasing innovative federal and state programs, highlighting new approaches and technologies, facilitating discussion on national program enhancements and improvements, identifying state resource needs including tools, training and guidance, and proposing solutions to challenges and barriers faced by the regulators and other stakeholders.

ATTENDEES

The 2026 National Industrial Permitting Workshop is a national face-to-face meeting specifically organized by state and federal regulators for EPA and state program staff representatives. Attendees include:

- State managers, permit writers, inspectors, and compliance staff involved in regulating industrial discharges
- EPA Headquarter and Regional staff involved in industrial regulation
- Partnering state and federal agency staff that provide technical and/or regulatory assistance to the industrial program
- Invited guests



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Walter Ariss (OH), Matthew Butner (OK), Brian Clagg (OK), Marissa Halperin (EPA), Wendy Hieb (IA), Paul Hlavinka (MD), Leasue Meyers (MO), Lauren Mosesso (EPA), Sean Ramach (EPA), Scott Ramsey (AL), Jonathan Rice (MD), Heidi Travers (RI), Nathaniel Willis (WI)

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

- 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM Breakfast on Your Own
- 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Security Clearance and Registration
- 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Oceans Auditorium Welcome & Opening Remarks
Sean Rolland, Deputy Director, Association of Clean Water Administrators
Andrew Sanjers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, US Environmental Protection Agency
- 9:30 AM – 10:15 AM Permit Renewal - Challenges and Options
Preexisting enforcement case, likelihood of immediate noncompliance, new impairment decisions, listed waters or new TMDL, updated WQS.
Theresa Haugen, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Heidi Travers, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM Break
- 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM NPDES Permit Writers' Clearinghouse
What is it, how do you populate it, why important for this meeting?
Justin Leary, US Environmental Protection Agency
- 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM Drafting Complex Permits
Building a Record and Maintaining Public Trust
Ariel Wessel-Fuss, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Josie Castaldo, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Paul Hlavinka, Maryland Department of Environment
- 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch on Your Own
- 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM Successful Implementation of Mixing Zones
EPA will introduce mixing zones as designated areas where water quality standards may be exceeded as effluent undergoes initial dilution, provided that acutely toxic conditions are prevented and beneficial uses are protected. Wisconsin and Oregon will present a case study on how mixing zones have been implemented with specific facilities/outfalls.
Abigail Golder, US Environmental Protection Agency
Sean Ramach, US Environmental Protection Agency
Aliana Britson, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Emma Lorenzen, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM WQS: Reasonable Potential Analysis – Qualitative Approach
Procedure that uses information about the similarly situated facilities, water type and conditions, to assess the need for WQBELs.
Sean Ramach, US Environmental Protection Agency
- 3:00 PM – 3:15 PM Break



3:15 PM – 4:00 PM

WQS: Reasonable Potential Analysis – Quantitative Approach

Procedure that uses effluent discharge information, receiving water data, and numeric criteria to assess the need for WQBELs.

Sean Ramach, US Environmental Protection Agency

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

316(b) Cooling Water Intake Structures

Section 316(b) requires that cooling water intake structures at existing power plants and factories use the Best Technology Available to minimize adverse environmental impacts, specifically reducing fish and shellfish mortality from impingement and entrainment.

Marissa Matsler, US Environmental Protection Agency

Sean Ramach, US Environmental Protection Agency

5:00 PM

Adjourn

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

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

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

Breakfast on Your Own

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM

Security Clearance and Registration

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM

Welcome and Networking

Oceans Auditorium

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Best Practicable Control Technology vs Best Available Technology Economically Achievable

When is case by case appropriate and how does this compare to EPA's approach for developing ELGs? How can states ensure they are meeting the appropriate legal and scientific rigor?

Sean Ramach, US Environmental Protection Agency

Marcus Zobrist, US Environmental Protection Agency

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM

Battery Plants: Manufacture, Storage, Recycling, and Waste

The growth of the battery industry and the different types of technologies utilized adds a layer of complexity to NPDES permit considerations.

Missouri will share a case study

Leasue Meyers, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (Remote)

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Break



10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

Data Centers

Data Centers are popping up all over the country and may be a new industry for some states. Ohio and Tennessee will share some of the work they have been doing and the challenges they have experienced.

Walter Ariss, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Sarah Terpstra, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Antibacksliding Provisions

In the simplest of terms, anti-backsliding refers to statutory/regulatory provisions that prohibit the renewal, reissuance, or modification of an existing NPDES permit that contains effluent limitations, permit conditions, or standards less stringent than those established in the previous permit. There are, however, a few exceptions.

Nizanna Bathersfield, US Environmental Protection Agency

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Lunch on Your Own

1:30 PM – 2:15 PM

PFAS Permitting and Monitoring

Wisconsin and Alabama will share their current approaches for addressing PFAS in their programs.

Nathaniel Willis, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Scott Ramsey, Alabama Department of Environmental Management

2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Technology Based Effluent Limits for PFAS

New York will lead a discussion on approaches to develop of TBELs for PFAS.

Evan Walters, New York Department of Environmental Conservation

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Implementing Human Health Criteria – Fish Consumption

Permit writers use fish consumption data help establish effluent limits that protect human health, specifically targeting pollutants that bioaccumulate in fish tissue. Oregon and EPA Region 1 share their approach and case studies.

Shauna Little, US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1

Aliana Britson, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Break

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Oceans Auditorium

316(a) Thermal Pollution Industries

Section 316(a) allows the NPDES permitting authority to impose alternative effluent limitations for the control of the thermal discharges in lieu of the effluent limits that would otherwise be required, where the permittee can demonstrate that a less stringent, alternative limit still protects the fish, shellfish, and wildlife in the receiving water body.

Marissa Halperin, US Environmental Protection Agency

Sean Ramach, US Environmental Protection Agency



4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Colorado/Mississippi

WET Testing & Compliance

At its basic level, WET testing measures the toxic impact of wastewater on aquatic organisms to ensure regulatory compliance. EPA will provide a short overview, and Alabama will provide a state example for how they are implementing.

Jackie Clark, US Environmental Protection Agency

Abigail Golder, US Environmental Protection Agency

Scott Ramsey, Alabama Department of Environmental Management

5:00 PM

Adjourn

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

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

7:00 AM – 7:30 AM

Breakfast on Your Own

7:30 AM – 8:45 AM

Security Clearance and Registration

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM
Colorado/Mississippi

Welcome and Networking

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Organize and Travel to Meeting Rooms

These are the in-person meeting locations. Virtual attendees will join the rooms using appropriate details found in the virtual agenda. See note below regarding Regions 9 and 10.

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Regions 1 and 2

Boston Harbor

Region 3

Cuyaboga

Region 4

Colorado/Mississippi

Regions 5/6

Great Lakes

Regions 7, 8, 9, and 10*

***Special note – Regions 9 and 10 virtual participants will meet separately on a call later in the day and report out to this group in writing. Report outs will be added to the ACWA meeting webpage.**



9:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Regional Breakouts

Smaller groups based on geographic distribution to be determined after registration has been finalized. Regional breakout questions include:

1. Which part of the Industrial NPDES permitting process are you finding the biggest challenge?
2. Which industries are new to your state and that you would like to hear more about from permit writers with experience?
3. Which pollutants are you finding the most difficult to address in NPDES permits?
4. Are there tools, training guidance, or other resources you think would help address barriers and challenges faced by the permit writers and/or permittees?
5. Open Roundtable Discussion

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Break

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Regional Breakouts Report Out

12:15 PM – 12:30 PM

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

12:30 PM

Adjourn

