

Association of Clean Water Administrators

2026 National NPDES Program Efficiency Workshop

Virtual Meeting
November 3 – 5, 2026

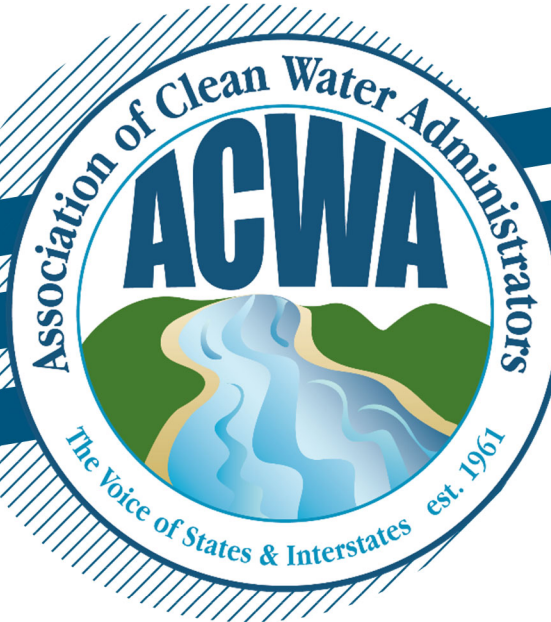
PURPOSE

The 2026 National NPDES Program Efficiency Workshop supports implementation of EPA and state NPDES permitting programs nationwide by highlighting administrative efficiencies, sharing best management practices, showcasing innovative state approaches, improving data quality, highlighting technologies, facilitating coregulator discussions, and identifying challenges and barriers. Program areas considered for the workshop include jurisdictional determination, permit application, public comment process, permit development, monitoring and reporting, data management, inspections, and violation/response.

ATTENDEES

The 2026 National NPDES Program Efficiency Workshop is a virtual meeting intended to provide for comprehensive and diverse participation. Attendees should include:

- State, interstate, territory, and EPA program managers, permit writers, data stewards, inspectors, compliance staff, and any other staff involved in NPDES program implementation
- Partnering state and federal agency staff that provide technical and/or regulatory assistance to the NPDES program
- Invited guests



SPECIAL THANKS TO INDIVIDUALS THAT COMPLETED THE PREMEETING SURVEY AND VOLUNTEERED TO PRESENT!!

**This meeting is only open to States, EPA co-regulators,
and invited guests. All meeting times are Eastern time zone.**

12:00 PM – 12:10 PM

Plenary

Welcome & Opening Remarks

*Sean Rolland, Deputy Director, Association of Clean Water Administrators
Kevin Weiss, Environmental Protection Agency*

12:10 PM – 12:30 PM

Plenary

Session 1: ACWA Survey – Is an NPDES Permit Needed?

Sean Rolland, Deputy Director, Association of Clean Water Administrators

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Regional Breakouts

Regional Break Outs – Is an NPDES Permit Needed?

Please join your regional breakout room for a discussion on the following.
An AI tool will be taking notes to develop a summary of recommendations.

Q1. What resources do you most depend on for determining whether an NPDES permit is required?

Q2. How many facilities in your state might be impacted by an updated definition for WOTUS?

Q3. Does your state currently have (or will your state consider) a separate state permitting program for current NPDES facilities that leave the program due to WOTUS changes?

Q4. Are there resources you think the Administration could provide that would assist with a faster response on whether a facility needs an NPDES permit or not?

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Plenary

Session 2: NPDES Permit Applications and Notices of Intent

States will demo their systems.

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Break

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Plenary

Session 3: NPDES Tools and Templates to Help Permit Writers

States will share policies/tools.

4:15 PM – 5:00 PM

Regional Breakouts

Regional Break Outs – Application and Communication

Please join your regional breakout room for a discussion on the following.
An AI tool will be taking notes to develop a summary of recommendations.

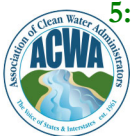
Q1. What are the biggest challenges in your state's current approach to getting to application completion?

Q2. If resources were not an obstacle, how would you use technology to further streamline application/NOI completion and review?

Q3. In what ways would you improve communication with the permittee and the public **PRIOR** to completion of the draft/proposed permit?

5:00 PM

Adjourn



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12:00 PM – 12:45 PM

Plenary

Session 4: Public Comment Collection and Review

States will demo their systems.

12:45 PM – 1:15 PM

Plenary

Session 5: Monitoring and Reporting Policy and Tools

States will share their policies/tools.

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Regional Breakouts

Regional Break Outs – Monitoring, Reporting, and Analysis

Please join your regional breakout room for a discussion on the following.
An AI tool will be taking notes to develop a summary of recommendations.

Q1. What have you found to be the strongest, most compelling, argument for increased monitoring and reporting requirements in a renewed NPDES permit?

Q2. Has your state considered dynamic mid-permit monitoring/reporting requirements in your permits that are dependent on what was found in a previous reporting cycle?

Q3. Does your state have an automated process for communicating with the permittee that a monitoring/reporting deadline is approaching or has passed?

Q4. Are there monitoring/reporting program improvements you would recommend (policy, technology, etc.) to help improve the program?

2:15 PM – 3:00 PM

Plenary

Session 6: Inspection Policies and Tools

States will share policies/tools.

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Break

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Plenary

Session 7: Violation, Communication, & Response

States will share policies/tools.

4:15 PM – 5:00 PM

Regional Breakouts

Regional Break Outs – Violation, Communication, & Response

Please join your regional breakout room for a discussion on the following.
An AI tool will be taking notes to develop a summary of recommendations.

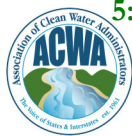
Q1. Once a violation has been discovered, in your state what types of response yield the fastest return to compliance?

Q2. Where compliance history has been an issue, what types of permit modifications and/or future permit terms have been most successful?

Q3. What policy/technology changes would you recommend to ensure the limited compliance assurance resources have the greatest positive environmental impact?

5:00 PM

Adjourn



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12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Plenary

Session 8: Finding NPDES Program Efficiencies

States will share strategic changes to their programs.

1:00 PM – 1:45 PM

Reginal Breakouts

Regional Break Outs – Legal and Scientific Certainty

Please join your regional breakout room for a discussion on the following.
An AI tool will be taking notes to develop a summary of recommendations.

Q1. Are there areas within the NPDES program where you think more prescriptive program elements (or maybe more flexibility) would help reduce/mitigate permit challenges and litigation?

Q2. Are there areas related to the NPDES program where you think more research/data would help reduce/mitigate permit challenges and litigation?

1:45 PM – 2:45 PM

Plenary

Session 9: How can AI help permitting authorities?

Vendor demonstration of examples.

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

Break

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Plenary

Session 10: How can AI help permittees?

Vendor demonstration of examples.

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

Reginal Breakouts

Regional Break Outs – Final Takeaway Discussions

Please join your regional breakout room for a discussion on the following.
An AI tool will be taking notes to develop a summary of recommendations.

Q1. Is your state considering any programmatic updates that you think will help make the program more efficient?

Q2. What is one thing you learned from this meeting you think will be helpful to share with your colleagues back in your home state?

Q3. What topics would you like to see covered in a future ACWA meeting/webinars/call?

4:45 PM - 5:00 PM

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

