



CONNECTICUT SECTION

American Water Works Association

12th Annual Water Quality & Treatment Symposium

Connecticut's Best Drinking Water Taste Test



Tuesday, November 17, 2026
8:30 am- 4:00 pm

*The Spa at
Norwich Inn*

607 West Thames Street, Norwich, CT 06360



SECTION • AWWA

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Registration & Welcome

Accelerating Change: A Slow Sand Filtration Plant Steers to Rapid Rate Filtration through Pilot Testing

Jacob Ducharme, PE Wright-Pierce & Lindsay Strole, PE, The Metropolitan District

Abstract: Aging infrastructure and evolving regulations are driving utilities to rethink traditional treatment approaches. This presentation highlights the West Hartford Filters Pilot Study, a comprehensive evaluation of advanced treatment processes supporting the design of a new surface water treatment facility. Pilot testing examined Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF), Inclined Plate Settlers (IPS), granular activated carbon (GAC), biofiltration, optimized coagulants, and ozonation to assess treatment performance, water quality improvements, and implementation considerations. Attendees will learn how pilot-scale results are guiding planning, water quality improvement, lifecycle value, and financial decisions, providing a practical roadmap for major treatment plant upgrades.

Design-Build Installation of a Biologically Active Filtration (BAF) Pilot in Connecticut

Brandon Giardino, PE Snyder Civil & Carmine Urciuoli, Aquarion Water Authority

Abstract: Aquarion's Trap Falls WTP utilizes dual-media filtration paired with pre-filter sodium hypochlorite to continuously regenerate oxide-coated media for manganese removal. Seeking to optimize this process, Aquarion was interested in piloting biologically active filtration for simultaneous removal of manganese and DBP precursors while lowering DBP formation. Through a long-standing partnership with UMass Amherst, a BAF pilot system was designed and subsequently installed by Snyder Civil using a design-build approach. Commissioned in January 2026 as a manually operated system, the pilot is currently receiving upgrades to achieve full automation. This presentation will explore the drivers and goals for the BAF pilot, the advantages of a design-build approach, and preliminary results from the pilot.

Remote Water Quality Monitoring: Utilizing Real-Time Monitoring to Enhance daily Operations

Stephen Moynihan, Badger Meter Inc.

Abstract: During this presentation, we will explore how various internal and external factors within the distribution system influence water quality. We will touch on different strategies to help mitigate poor water quality, along with reviewing the limitations of traditional water quality sampling methods, which often provide limited, discrete data points. We will review the transformative potential of utilizing a remote water quality monitoring system, and how enabling continuous real-time monitoring methods can help equip water providers with transformative data. We will take a look at how a more proactive approach can help reduce operational costs, improve asset life, increase customer service.

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Saltonstall WTP Elevated Turbidity Event and Recovery

James Hill, RWA; Jesse Culbertson, RWA; & William Henley, RWA

Abstract: During this presentation, we will explore how various internal and external factors within the distribution system influence water quality. We will touch on different strategies to help mitigate poor water quality, along with reviewing the limitations of traditional water quality sampling methods, which often provide limited, discrete data points. We will review the transformative potential of utilizing a remote water quality monitoring system, and how enabling continuous real-time monitoring methods can help equip water providers with transformative data. We will take a look at how a more proactive approach can help reduce operational costs, improve asset life, increase customer service.

Leveraging GIS to Modernize and Streamline Water Operations Workflows

Sarah Yommer, GISP, Tighe & Bond & Travis Forcier, Tighe & Bond

Abstract: South Norwalk Electric and Water (SNEW) is modernizing water operations through Esri's ArcGIS platform. With Tighe & Bond, SNEW configured field and office applications for valve exercising, hydrant flushing, water main breaks, watershed inspections, lead service line inventory, and tap card updates. These tools improve data collection; support distribution operations, storage, and management; document water quality programs and discolored water complaints; replace legacy document management for as-builts and reports; carry source water protection into the field; and produce a verified service line material inventory for Lead and Copper Rule compliance. This case study shares lessons from a small municipal utility.

Reducing Energy Costs and Building Resilience: Practical Energy Strategies for Connecticut Water Utilities

Jen Muir, PE., JKMuir

Abstract: Electricity is one of the largest operating costs for water utilities, with peak demand charges and rate structures driving avoidable expenses. This presentation shows how utilities can identify and reduce these costs through operational, equipment, and energy management strategies, including an overview of Connecticut rate tariffs. Case studies of Connecticut treatment plants and pump stations show how reviewing interval data, demand ratchets, and rate optimization uncovered savings exceeding six figures. The session covers Connecticut funding programs offsetting capital costs for efficiency and resilience projects and examines how battery storage reduces demand charges by discharging during peak demand to maximize ROI.

Emerging Technologies for PFAS Destruction

Orren Schneider, PhD, GHD

Abstract: Poly- and Perfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals characterized by strong carbon-fluorine bonds, providing chemical, thermal, and biological stability, leading to their widespread use and pervasive presence in the environment. New regulatory limits challenge conventional removal methods as they only shift PFAS compounds from one matrix to another. Recent research has focused on efficient methods of destruction by breaking the carbon-fluorine bonds. This presentation outlines emerging destructive technologies such as electrochemical oxidation, non-thermal plasma, photocatalysis, supercritical water oxidation, and mechanochemical destruction, and discusses matching these methods to PFAS types, concentrations, and matrices, including results from pilot and full-scale applications.

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DPH Update

Steve Harkey, CTDPH

Abstract: CT DPH Data Management Unit will share exciting initiatives that the Department has been working on to assist with rule compliance. The discussion will begin with the current organizational structure, followed by updates about CT's partnership with 120Water to assist in compliance with the lead and copper rule improvements (LCRI) baseline lead service line inventory requirements, and CT's preparation to transition to EPA's new drinking water software platform, DW-SFTIES, and lab environmental sampling portal, ESP.

Breakout Session – Water System Challenges and Solutions

Moderator-Mandy Smith, CT DPH

Connecticut's Best Drinking Water Taste Test Challenge- Jude's and People's Choice

5 TCU's-Pending DPH Approval

CTAWWA Member Pricing \$195.00, Non-Member \$275.00, Sponsorship \$375.00

Registration Information

Online Registration: ctawwa.org

Name: _____ Company: _____

Email: _____

Payment Options:



Credit Card: Secured payment link will be sent for credit card payments



Check: Please make checks payable to CTAWWA and mail along with this form to;

CTAWWA, P.O. Box 330472, West Hartford CT 06133

☐ Check here if you have a disability and require accommodations to fully participate. You will be contacted by CTAWWA.

Attendee Cancellation Policy: Written notification is required and must be received by Nov 13th. A 7% service fee will be retained on all credit card cancellations. No refunds will be given after Nov 13, 2026.

Email registrations or questions to longoctawwa@gmail.com



WQ&T Symposium