



Utility Management Conference

March 9 & 10, 2021

(Attendance each day for the entire day required in order to receive credit)

3/9 – 4.5 w; 5ww tchs / 2 NJ PE

3/10 – 1.5 w/ww tch

CEUs pending

PE Credit disclaimer - The New Jersey State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors has designated AEA an approved provider (#24GP00003600) of courses offering continuing professional competency credits (CPC). Our Review Committee has approved offerings for NJ CPC credits, following the Board's regulations, as it understands them, and keeping records as required. Please be aware, however, that credits are subject to State Board audit and could, at a future date, be disallowed.

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

9:00 a.m. Conference Kick-Off and AEA at 50 video

Welcome

Justin Flancbaum, AEA President

Peggy Gallos, AEA Executive Director

AEA 50th Anniversary – PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

9:15 a.m.

Licensing and Exam Update

Kristin Tedesco, NJDEP

Tyler Rowe, NJDEP

COVID-19 has disrupted everything this year, including the administration of the State's licensing system for water and wastewater. Exam postponement, changes at the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the need for adjusting review processes to respond to social distancing -- each of these have been factors affecting the process of qualifying licensed operators in New Jersey. A representative of the NJDEP will be on hand to provide a status report.

.5 w/ww tch

10:00 a.m.

Panel to Discuss AEA Recommendations On PFAS Chemicals

Pam Carolan, Mt Laurel Township MUA

Margie Gray, Mott Mac

Amanda Waters, AquaLaw

Contamination of water from PFAS chemicals is of great concern locally and nationally. The NJDEP has begun requiring New Jersey drinking water purveyors to monitor for these

chemicals, has placed discharge limits for ground water dischargers, and is considering proposing PFAS-related requirements on surface water dischargers. For this panel, speakers will review AEA recommendations given to the Clean Water Council at a January public hearing. An overview of PFAS chemistry, engineering solutions that have been used in drinking water along with the technical challenges for wastewater treatment will be provided. Because PFAS regulation has significant implications across the board, this is a panel that will be of interest to drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste service providers.

1 w/ww tch; 1 PE

11:15 a.m.

Biosolids Project Updates and Panel Discussion

John Buonocore, Rahway Valley SA

Lindsay D’Anna, Waste Management

In late 2019 the RVSA issued a Request for Proposal for the Beneficial Hauling and Reuse of the Authority’s Biosolids. RVSA ultimately partnered with Waste Management of New Jersey and is one year into a five year term. This joint presentation will focus on the Authority’s decision to issue the RFP and key aspects of Agreement, the Authority’s experience producing dried Class A Biosolids, and Waste Management’s experience managing the beneficial reuse and recycling, including land application, of the Authority’s Biosolids. Based on lessons learned during the implementation of this Agreement, this presentation will also review key design features that should be considered when designing for future projects.

.5 ww tch, .5 PE

12:00 p.m.

Wave Award Recipient Video

12:15 p.m.

Managing Through a Crisis

Bob Fischer, PS&S

Rick Howlett, NJ Water Association

Rich Calbi, Ridgewood Water

Kareem Adeem, Newark Water and Sewer Department

If you have been in the water/wastewater industry long enough you have seen your fair share of emergencies. If you are just starting out in the industry you will, no doubt, one day find yourself in an emergency situation. Understanding how to manage through an emergency will be paramount at that moment. For some though, the stakes will be higher, when emergency turns to “CRISIS,” The focus then turns to “leadership.” This presentation will focus on handling some of the most difficult challenges you can face as an industry leader. Rick Howlett, Rich Calbi and Bob Fischer, and Kareem Adeem will discuss their experiences in the water and wastewater field handling a crisis, everything from the recent pandemic, to PFAS, to destructive storms and community engagement. The takeaway will hopefully provide the attendees with a few key principals to deploy if they ever find themselves in a similar situation.

1.5 w/ww tch

1:45 p.m.

Wave Award Recipient Video

2:00 p.m.

Managing the Impacts of Climate Change on WW Collection Systems

John Marciszewski, SmartCover

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) and Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) pose a substantial health and environmental challenge, and are confirmed vectors for the novel coronavirus. Numerous wastewater utilities across the USA have integrated collection system monitoring technology that predicts, detects, and helps eliminate sewer spills. The presentation will review engineering principles (e.g., open channel hydraulic flow formula) which the technology utilizes for its applications. The presentation will include successful case studies with demonstrated benefits for wastewater and water utilities, including: collection system cleaning optimization, automated CSO reporting, H₂S odor control monitoring, and other special applications related to source water for drinking water utilities.

1 w/ww tch

3:00 p.m.

Near Miss? Implications of the Florida Water Utility Cyberattack

David Brearley, HDR

James Schultz, HDR

Just days before the Super Bowl, a hacker "entered" a local drinking water utility's web-connected operations system and attempted to poison the supply with sodium hydroxide. The good news is that the quick response of a well-trained operator prevented tragedy. Take-aways, lessons, and cautionary tales from this event will be discussed by a cyber security expert so that attendees can button up the vulnerabilities and weaknesses of their SCADA and other water and wastewater systems. A review of common industry recognized standards, best practices, and engineering principles recommended for all water utilities will provide baseline recommendations to decrease risks and improve resilience.

.5 w/ww tch, .5 PE

3:45 p.m.

Recap of ACUA Force Main Break

Joe Pantalone, ACUA

4:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Day Two Welcome Remarks and AEA at 50 video

9:15 a.m.

Environmental Justice Issue: Wastewater Infrastructure in Rural Settings

Catherine Coleman Flowers, Center for Rural Enterprise and Environmental Justice

Achieving environmental justice is not only a challenge in urban settings – rural communities

are disproportionately impacted by climate change, poverty, and access to clean water. Speaker Catherine Coleman Flowers will discuss her work to address the root causes of poverty in Alabama and to create solutions that could be replicated in rural communities across the United States. Throughout her early work, she encountered one central issue that continued to surface —lack of functioning infrastructure, particularly wastewater infrastructure, which is necessary for sustainable economic development. In recognition of her work, Ms. Flowers' was awarded the prestigious MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant. Her new book, *Waste: One Woman's Fight Against America's Dirty Secret*, is available for purchase now. Conference attendees will learn about the under-reported yet serious wastewater issue that Ms. Flowers has spent her career working to alleviate.

.5 w/ww tch

10:00 a.m.

Human Resources During a Pandemic

Leslie London, McManimon, Scotland & Baumann

John Napolitano, Cleary Giacobbe Alieri Jacobs LLC

This presentation gives an overview of the role and impact of collective bargaining agreements during a pandemic and the employer's ability to unilaterally change certain terms in addressing emergency situations that arise in a pandemic. The presentation will look at the positions of both the union and the employer in the matter, as well as the support that each party asserts to substantiate its position. HR issues that arise during a pandemic will also be addressed. The presentation will conclude with a summary of "takeaways" that each attendee should glean from the presentation.

1 w/ww tch

11:00 a.m.

Wave Award Recipient Videos

11:15 a.m.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow for AEA

Peggy Gallos, AEA Executive Director

Ellen Gulbinsky, Bordentown SA, Retired AEA Executive Director

Tom Horn, Lambertville SA, AEA Past President

Rick Dovey, Atlantic County UA, AEA Past President

For fifty years, AEA has been working on behalf of its members. Veterans of AEA--retired executive director Ellen Gulbinsky and two past presidents--will discuss the leaders, issues, and events that got the association to today. Then the focus of this segment of the conference will turn to the next 50 years: what the association can learn from other associations and how it is preparing strategically to meet the needs of its members.

12:15 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Peggy Gallos, AEA Executive Director

###