



**43rd Annual Technical Conference**  
**February 18-20, 2025**

**LOOKING  
FORWARD**

**Attendee Information**  
**Keller Convention Center - Effingham, IL**





**HOST HOTEL**

Holiday Inn  
1301 Ave. of Mid-America  
Effingham, IL  
Phone: 217-540-7777  
\$130.00 + tax per night

**Auxiliary Hotel**

LaQuinta  
1103 Ave of Mid America  
Phone: 217-540-1111

**Auxiliary Hotel**

Country Inn & Suites  
1200 N. Raney St.  
Phone: 217-540-5555

**Auxiliary Hotel**

Holiday Inn Express  
1604 Fayette Ave  
217-994-9949

**Auxiliary Hotel**

Best Western-Delta Inn  
1509 Hampton Drive  
217-342-4499

**Auxiliary Hotel**

Hampton Inn & Suites  
1305 N Keller Dr  
217-540-5050

**CONFERENCE LOCATION**

The conference will be held at the Thelma Keller Convention Center located at 1202 N. Keller Dr. The convention center is attached to the host hotel.

**REGISTRATION**

Registration & badges are required for all conference attendees. Please register each attendee using the registration form included.

**Pre-Registration:**

To pre-register complete the registration form and mail with payment to:

*IRWA, PO Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568*

To pay on-line with your credit card, go to [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org) and click on the conference link on the home page.

**CONFIRMATIONS OF REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE SENT!**

Pre-registration must be postmarked by February 7, 2025.

**On-Site Registration:**

All conference attendees must obtain a name badge and conference material at the registration desk. If you do not pre-register, please make sure that you register as soon as possible after you arrive at the Keller Convention Center. **\*\*Please note that on-site registration is \$25.00 higher than pre-registration.\*\***

An event membership of one-cent per person is included in your registration fee(s) allowing participants in NRW fundraising activities. This is required by Federal Election Commission laws. If you wish to opt-out, please go to the registration booth at the conference for your refund of this one-cent fee.

**CANCELLATION & REFUNDS**

Refunds only in the event of emergencies. We must have a written notice of cancellation to issue a refund. You may e-mail Heather—[ilrwahm@ilrwa.org](mailto:ilrwahm@ilrwa.org).

**REGISTRATION HOURS**

**Pre-Registration Pickup ONLY**

Monday, February 17 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Regular Registration Hours**

Tuesday, February 18 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, February 19 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**EXHIBIT HALL**

Over 100 companies from all areas of the water and wastewater industry will be on hand to help solve your problems and provide you with the information you need to make those crucial decisions.

The exhibit hall will be open during the following hours:

Tuesday, February 18 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, February 19 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**Exhibitors Hospitality Night**

Tuesday, February 18 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
All food and beverages for the evening is provided by our exhibitors.

**Pub Crawl**

Tuesday, February 18 7:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.  
Thank you to the City of Effingham for their continued support of the pub crawl! The buses will begin picking up at the Holiday Inn at the conclusion of Hospitality Night.

**Casino Night**

Wednesday, February 19 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**CERTIFICATION OVERVIEWS & EXAMS**

Certification overview courses and state certification exams for drinking water and wastewater will be held at the conference. The reviews will be given courtesy of E.R.T.C. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025. The review is included with your conference registration.

The exams will be given on Thursday, February 20, 2025 beginning at 8:30 a.m. It will be available for attendees and non-attendees alike. You must have a valid **Letter of Admission** issued by the IEPA. You **must** bring the Letter of Admission and a photo ID. There are no conference fees associated with the exam. **However, you must return a registration form with the exam you will be taking circled.**





# 43rd Annual Technical Conference

## February 18-20, 2025

### ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete one form for each attendee

Make check payable to: Illinois Rural Water Association  
P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568  
You may also pay on-line at [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org) with a credit card

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SYSTEM: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_



#### FULL REGISTRATION: (Includes technical sessions, exhibit hall, meals & activities for all 3 days)

- Member—\$190.00
- Spouse—\$190.00
- Non-Member—\$240.00
- Non-Member Individual Joining as a Member + Conference—\$219.00

#### ONE DAY REGISTRATION: (Includes technical sessions, exhibit hall, meals & activities for 1 day only)

- Member—\$165.00
- Spouse—\$165.00
- Non-Member—\$215.00
- Non-Member Individual Joining as a Member + Conference—\$194.00

#### PLEASE CIRCLE WHICH DAY YOU WILL BE ATTENDING (for one day registration only)

TUESDAY                      WEDNESDAY                      THURSDAY



#### WATER CERTIFICATION EXAM—PLEASE CIRCLE WHICH EXAM YOU ARE TAKING (if applicable)

CLASS A      CLASS B      CLASS C      CLASS D

#### WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION EXAM—PLEASE CIRCLE WHICH EXAM YOU ARE TAKING (if applicable)

CLASS I      CLASS II      CLASS III      CLASS IV

**Registrations must be postmarked by February 7, 2025 to receive pre-registration pricing**

**\*\*All fees must be paid when registering—no purchase orders or special billings\*\*** ?



**NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 7, 2025**

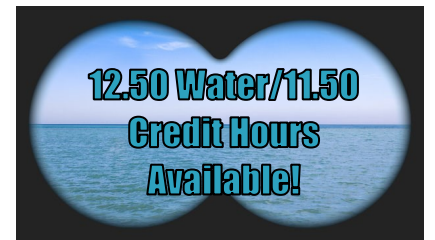
**CONFIRMATIONS OF REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE SENT!**

**Have a Question?  
Call 1-800-762-3547**



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Follow us!



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LOOKING FORWARD

Attendee Information





# Conference At A Glance

**Tuesday, February 18 - Registration Open: 8:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m. 4.0 Water Credit/3.0 WW Credit Hours**

9:00 a.m.	Opening Session/Awards Ceremony		
10:00 a.m.	Break/Exhibit Hall Opens		
	<b>WATER</b>	<b>WASTEWATER</b>	<b>BREAKOUT</b>
11:00 a.m.	IEPA Update		
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet—Ticket Required		
1:00 p.m.	PFAS Litigation—Water/Wastewater/ Surface Water Microplastics*	Rural Communities Benefit from Low Energy Algae Wastewater Treatment to Meet New Ammonia Limits	Billing Software/Water Loss Analysis
1:45 p.m.	CBRNE Awareness*	DMR Guidance	Advantages of Low Flow and Identifying Leaks
2:30 p.m.	Break/Exhibitor Drawings		
3:00 p.m.	Funding Your Next Project*	Simplifying Filtration for Smaller WWTP's	Asset Management
3:45 p.m.		EPA PFAS Test Methods and Regulatory Update for Wastewater Professionals	The Magic Box— Gravity Filtration
4:30 p.m.	Water Taste Test		Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, February 19 - Registration Open: 8:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m. 5.5 Water or WW Credit Hours**

8:00 a.m.	Exhibit Hall Opens		
9:00 a.m.	Maintenance on Water Treatment Equipment	Ultraviolet Disinfection for Municipal Applications*	Water Math Review (9:00—11:00)
9:45 a.m.	Generator Operation and Maintenance*	Recirculating Expandable Granular Bioclarifier, Single Step Wastewater Treatment	
10:30 a.m.	Break/Exhibitor Drawings		
11:00 a.m.	J.U.L.I.E. Law—New Legislation*	Sludge Management for Lagoons	
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet		
1:00 p.m.	Digitization and AI for Small and Mid-Sized Water & Wastewater Utilities*	Wastewater Interferences	Disinfection and Softening Review
1:45 p.m.	Simplifying Utilities: Harnessing User-Friendly Technology for Everyday Convenience*	Submersible Pump Maintenance and Bar Screening	
2:30 p.m.	Break/Exhibitor Drawings		
3:00 p.m.	Lead & Copper Updates	Maintenance for Lift Stations	Basic Wastewater Math (2:45—4:00)
3:45 p.m.	Reservoir Destratification	The Truth About Beneficial Reuse	

**Thursday, February 20 3 Dual Credit Hours**

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet—Convention Center C & D		
8:30 a.m.	Solar Considerations for Water & Wastewater Facilities*	<b>WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION EXAM Roosevelt Room (until 11:30)</b>	<b>WATER CERTIFICATION EXAM Convention Center A &amp; B (until 1:30)</b>
9:15 a.m.	Utility Line Strike Prevention Methods Past & Present*		
10:00 a.m.	<b>Break</b>		
10:15 a.m.	Readiness Against the Rising Tide of Industrial Cyber Attacks*		
11:00 a.m.	Confined Space Safety*		
11:45 a.m.	<b>Closing Ceremony/ Grand Prize Drawing</b>		

# Sessions At A Glance

## WATER SESSIONS

**IEPA Update - Tatum DeMay; IEPA** - Come to this popular session and hear about new regulations and changes to older ones.

**PFAS Litigation—Water/Wastewater/Surface Water Microplastics - Hank Naughton & Sam Wade; Napoli Shkolnik Law** - Learn how your utility, **at no cost**, can lessen the financial burden on your rate payers with these Polluter Pays legal efforts and hear an update on the \$15.3 billion that is available for drinking water systems with PFAS Contaminant detections and pending litigation for PFAS impacted Wastewater systems.

**CBRNE Awareness - James Pratt; National Rural Water Assoc.** - Introducing chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive hazards, as well as the need to identify potential attacks and the harm they pose to people and critical infrastructure. We will also discuss Cyberterrorism/Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, and Unmanned Aircraft Systems as emerging threats.

**Funding Your Next Project—Will Glass; Raymond James/Nidhan Singh; IEPA/Julie Hatfield; USDA Rural Development** - This session will offer insight of the best funding option for your systems next water or wastewater project.

**Maintenance on Water Treatment Equipment—Jim Groose; Watersurplus** - How to keep your treatment system operating at tip top efficiency. This will include routine maintenance issues to monitor, how to rehab a filter and how to operate with one vessel out of service. The option of utilizing a port a tower or rental filter equipment will also be described.

**Generator Operation and Maintenance—Keith Findley; EVAPAR** - Overview of Emergency Power Generators, Maintenance & Operation.

**J.U.L.I.E. Law New Legislation—Roger Watwood; J.U.L.I.E., Inc.** - Upcoming changes to the J.U.L.I.E. law concerning safe excavation practices and the requirements of facility locators and excavators.

**Digitization and AI for Small and Mid-Sized Water & Wastewater Utilities\* - Nina Kshetry; Ensaras, Inc.** - We will focus on how digital tools and advances in Artificial Intelligence are delivering value to the sector. We will also review the growing threats in cyber security and how to prevent these threats.

**Simplifying Utilities: Harnessing User-Friendly Technology for Everyday Convenience - Josh Hawley; Ziptility** - Discover how to put all your most important operations data and information at your fingertips with user friendly applications.

**Lead and Copper Updates—Adam Nutt; IEPA** - Hear about updates happening in 2025 with this hot button regulation.

**Reservoir Destratification—Tom C. Hausenbauer; Limnetics Corp.** - Floating destratifiers have been successfully used in Illinois reservoirs since the 1980's. They reduce potassium permanganate use in treatment and may also help reduce cyanobacteria, geosmin and MIB.

**Solar Considerations for Water & Wastewater Facilities—Craig Pals; Tick Tock Energy, Inc.** - This presentation will highlight options, energy savings, utility interconnection, policy issues and incentives.

**Line Strike Prevention Past & Current Technology—Andy LeJune; Jim Jolly Sales** - This presentation will discuss a new to the world new technology for locating non-metallic facilities using passive resonant markers.

**Readiness Against the Rising Tide of Industrial Cyber Attacks — TBD; Fortinet** - Find out how to protect your evolving critical infrastructure systems from the latest wave of cyber threats. A review of findings from the 2024 research concerning the state of cybersecurity across Water & Wastewater Utilities.

**Confined Space Safety - Jim Closson & Brad Hoffman; Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association** - IL OSHA requirements and procedures for entry into permit required confined spaces, such as sewers, vaults, tanks, etc., that may have hazardous atmospheres or other dangerous conditions present in them.

## WASTEWATER SESSIONS

**Rural Communities Benefit from Low Energy Algae Wastewater Treatment to Meet New Ammonia Limits - Dr. Dan Johnson; Algaewheel, Inc.** - Hear how the Algaewheel fixed film system has been permitted to bridge the gap for meeting new ammonia phosphorus, and total nitrogen limits that are not attainable using lagoons.

**DMR Guidance - Scott Tozier; IRWA** - Guidance on filling out DMR reports. Learn about many common mistakes made by wastewater operators.

**Simplifying Filtration for Smaller WWTP's - Ali Giti; AquaPyr** - Recent innovations in the field of Pile Cloth Media Filtration address the challenges associated with existing technologies by eliminating the need for backwashing filters with water, eliminating the need for backwash water management while lowering CAPEX and OPEX.

**EPA PFAS Test Methods and Regulatory Update for Wastewater Professionals - Paul Jackson; Pace Analytical Services** - In April 2024, EPA issued a new Information Collection Request (ICR) proposal. We will discuss how this will impact POTWs and industrial dischargers, and what analytical testing EPA plans to require.

**Ultraviolet Disinfection for Municipal Applications - Patrick Bollman; Xylem** - Discussion will be geared towards the basics of UV, properly sizing UV systems, maintenance requirements, application specific for both WW or DW, installation possibilities with photos.

**Recirculating Expandable Granular Bioclarifier, Single Step Wastewater Treatment - Cole Green; MMG** - A method of single step wastewater treatment via the use of airlifts to reoxygenate wastewaters for multiple passes through a static floating granular plastic bead bed.

**Sludge Management for Lagoons - Robert Risley; Water Treat Technologies** - Techniques and tools for managing lagoon sludge build up.

**Wastewater Interferences—Kimberly Cole; KimHEC & DROP** - Review WWTP operations and how to identify and respond to interferences.

**Submersible Pump Maintenance and Bar Screening - Joe Ranieri; Tsurumi America, Inc.** - Learn how to maintain your submersible pumps for optimal performance. Get a better understanding of pumps on the market and the different impeller options. Learn about bar screens and how they can be used both during treatment & collections.

**Maintenance for Lift Stations - Mike Rynd; Vandevanter Engineering** - This requested session will teach you about regular maintenance you should be doing on your lift stations.

**The Truth About Beneficial ReUse- Doctor John Norton; Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA)** - Hear about GLWA's PFAS research and science, as well as applications to GLWA, based in southeast MI. GLWA treats more than 40% of the water for the state, and roughly 30% of the wastewater for the state at the world's 3rd largest WWTP.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

**Billing Software/Water Loss Analysis—Frank Zima; LOCIS** - Choosing the right software for you and utilizing all that it offers.

**Advantages of Low Flow and Identifying Leaks—Devin Peterson & Laura Wainwright; E.J. Prescott** - Benefits of having a low flow smart water meter and being able to detect leaks which will result in increased revenue and cost savings for water departments.

**Asset Management—Steve Olson; Waterrun** - Find out the importance of having an asset management system. Where the EPA is guiding on moving into the future of infrastructure.

**The Magic Box—Gravity Filtration—Jessica Borries; Burns & McDonnell** - This presentation will focus on filter evaluations to diagnose filter problems & filter inefficiencies.

**Water and Wastewater Certification Math Overviews—Matt Maas; ERTC** - The water & wastewater math reviews are back again this year!

**Disinfection and Softening Certification Overview—Drew Hoelscher; ERTC** - An overview on disinfection and softening to assist you in passing your certification exam.