



# **Region 8 Pretreatment Association 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

**Spearfish Holiday Inn Conference Center,  
Spearfish, SD**

**May 5, 2025 – May 8, 2025**



# Conference Agenda



## Monday May 05

LS Pretreatment Consulting Pretreatment 101

**8am – 8:45am** Breakfast - provided

**8:30am – 8:45am** Introductions, Housekeeping, and Questions

**8:45am – 9:50am** Legal Authority

**9:50am – 10am** Break

**10am – 11:30am** IU Classification and Initial Inspections

**11:30am – 12:30pm** Lunch - provided

**12:30pm – 1:45pm** Permitting and Implementation

**1:45pm – 2pm** Break

**2pm – 3:30pm** Enforcement

**3:30pm – 4pm** Final Questions/Discussion

**4pm – 5:30pm** Early Registration

**6pm – 12am** Networking

## Tuesday May 06

**6:45am – 7:45am** Breakfast – provided

**7am – 7:45am** Registration

**8am – 8:10am** Logistics and General Information

**8:10am – 9:10am** Carlos Martinez, April Gregory, Jake Vielleux DVM  
DC Booth Fish Hatchery

The Inner workings of the DC Booth Fish Hatchery

**9:10am – 9:40am** EPA Updates

**9:40am – 10:00am** State Updates

**10am – 10:15am** Break

**10:15am – 11:15am** Mitch Ryan Aquatic Informatics and Hach

**Digital Water Essentials: Data Management and Emerging Technologies**

The shift to advanced treatments and digital water management hinges on robust data systems, transforming how utilities operate. This presentation explores the essentials of databases in water infrastructure, integrating diverse data sources—SCADA/process metrics, lab results, and field observations—into a cohesive framework for real-time insights. We'll highlight how these foundations enable cutting-edge simulation technologies, poised to revolutionize water treatment by boosting efficiency and enhancing water quality. Discover how these innovations are being used to empower utilities to optimize operations, reduce waste, and meet rising demands with precision and foresight.



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**11:15am -12pm Gonzalo Lagos, Todd Uhlenhake Schier**

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century FOG Management**

Walk through a modern FOG program from choosing the right materials to location, sizing, and cleaning. Set yourself up for success by understanding grease interceptor features to get a leg up on the battle against Fats, Oils, and Greases in the collection system.

**12:00pm – 13:30pm Lunch – provided**

**13:30pm – 13:45pm Vendor Introductions**

**13:45pm – 14:45pm Reilly Kirk Swift Comply**

## **We Deserve Better: Software and the Future of Industrial Pretreatment Program Administration**

In an era of tightening water quality standards and increased water conservation, industrial pretreatment programs play a critical role in protecting infrastructure, public health and maintaining POTW compliance. Despite this, pretreatment programs often lack resources and continue to utilize dated software and non-purpose-built solutions to piece together a makeshift attempt at a technology-forward approach. Industrial pretreatment data management solution innovation creeps along at a dysfunctionally slow pace. Many software companies don't understand the specific needs of industrial pretreatment, nor do they choose to invest in building a high-quality product when they can deliver minimal functionality and still yield profits. Why do we all have access to free/low-cost, secure, web-based services to assist in nearly every corner of our personal lives, yet regulatory programs that protect our water, public health and environment are utilizing paper copy reports, spreadsheets and 10+ year old database tools? We all deserve better.

In this presentation, current industrial pretreatment data management solutions will be reviewed and examined for strengths and challenges. A description of what an effective software tool should look like will also be provided. Lastly, the implications of a modern pretreatment software product for an entire utility organization are discussed to show how a multi-application regulatory platform has the potential to transform operational and regulatory activities of a water/wastewater utility.

**14:45pm – 15:00pm Break**

**15:00pm – 16:00pm Dave Louch LS Pretreatment Consulting**

## **TENORM- From a Pollutant of Concern to Permit Limits**

How does a pollutant go from a concern to a full-fledged permitted parameter? Where does it start to end up implemented? Join us in looking at the story of TENORM and how it became a parameter that is permitted in every NPDES permit in the state of Colorado. We will cover the phone call to pretreatment that started it all, the investigation of the pollutant and the work with the State to implement the final regulation.



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**16:00pm – 17:00pm Leah Braun**

**City of Rapid City HR**

## **Crucial Conversations**

A crucial conversation is a discussion between two or more people where the stakes are high, opinions vary and emotions are strong. These discussions - when handled poorly or ignored - lead to strained relationships and poor results. We can do better! Crucial conversations can be challenging but with the right approach, they can lead to positive outcomes. Join Leah for this one-hour session where you'll learn about dialogue; the impact of a crucial conversation; starting with yourself; making it safe to engage in a crucial conversation; and moving to action.

**18:00pm – 00:00am Networking**

**Wednesday May 07**

**6:45am – 7:45am Breakfast – provided**

**Breakout Room 1  
Soft Skills**

**8am – 9am Spencer Parkinson**

**South Valley Water**

## **How to Speak: In Order to Get the Results You Need**

Are you required to speak in front of your governing body on occasion? Do you feel overwhelmed and under prepared to speak to those elected or appointed officials? Speaking to the people who create policy and codify ordinances and regulations for your service area can be a little daunting. Learn some tricks of public speaking that will assist you in conveying your message to those in charge and helping to ensure that they understand your request so that they may prioritize your needs over other potential projects.

**9am – 10am Spencer Parkinson**

**South Valley Water**

## **How to Read Codified Federal Laws: Where do They Come From?**

Do you know how new laws are born? Well when two bills love each other... It is a long and arduous process that not everyone is aware of. Nor is it easy to read and understand how the Federal Regulations are put together. Come and learn how to read the Code of Federal Regulations and discover how laws are developed and put into place. You will also discover where your pretreatment authority originates from and how to implement it effectively.

**10am – 10:15am Break**

**10:15am – 10:45am Shawn Gaddie**

**AE<sub>2</sub>S**

## **Industrial Wastewater Cost of Service – What is the True Value of an SIU Industrial Pretreatment Permit?**

A Cost of Service Analysis (COSA) is an evaluation to determine whether costs are allocated amongst the various user classes served, corresponding to the level of service provided. Said more simply, a COSA is performed to



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ensure those that are causing the costs are paying for the costs. When it comes to industry, they are usually unique in their capacity and discharge requirements, with disproportionate flow, strength, and peaking considerations relative to other customer classes served.

This presentation will focus on how to evaluate an industry's true cost of service in consideration of their permit values relative to the headworks capacity of your publicly owned treatment works (POTW). Specific concepts for how discharge parameters are evaluated relative to system capacities will be explored, including a review of appropriate rate design methodologies associated with fixed, volumetric, and strength surcharges.

**10:45am – 11:30am Shawn Gaddie**

**AE<sub>2</sub>S**

## **Industry Development Agreements to Manage Utility Risks**

When significant industry with large water and wastewater demands look to site new projects or expand existing facilities, they are often in early-stage conversations with local water and wastewater utilities to determine permit and infrastructure capacities available. With wet industry demands frequently similar in scale to a community's current total demands, more often than not utilities do not have standby capacity readily available to serve the expanded needs of industry. For this reason, the conversations often lead to water and wastewater facility capacity improvements necessary to facilitate industry growth and expansion. These improvements are often high risk and high dollar values that need to be appropriately weighed and negotiated with industry.

One key consideration in managing risk is the negotiation of a development agreement to appropriately assign and balance risk between both parties. This presentation will discuss key development agreement provisions and concepts that help utilities to financially protect themselves through the industry development process. Concepts to be discussed will include the establishment of escrow accounts and letter of credit requirements, including how to appropriately establish the values required to create appropriate protections for water and wastewater utilities.

**11:30am – 12pm Leah Hall**

**City of Rapid City**

## **Communicating Professionally**

Communication is one of the largest hurdles any person will encounter within their professional (and personal) life. Then you add those lovely people who have an edge, seem to lack listening skills etc. Let's take some time to understand how speaking is interpreted by others and how we can make the best of a less than optimal situation.

**12pm – 1pm Lunch – On your own**

**1pm – 12am Networking**



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**Breakout Room 2  
Program Tips, Tricks, and Insight**

**8am – 9am Tony Cole**

**BMP Compliance Group**

## **Examples of High Performing Pretreatment Programs**

This presentation will focus on examining high performing municipal pretreatment programs throughout the USA and understanding the factors that make these programs successful. We will be reviewing methods and strategies used by the municipalities to regulate SIUs/CIUs, industrial permitted/monitored facilities, FOG generating facilities, and specific cases such as breweries, lift stations, sewer overflows, and enforcement.

**9am – 10am Jayme Klecker**

## **What to Do When Industry Comes Knock-Knock-Knockin' on my Sewer's Door**

Things that upset the plant at night? Strange smells coming from strange places? One-time shock-loads that pop up at odd intervals? These are events many of us have experienced operating Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). All these events warrant discussions with your local industries as part of the problem-solving process. Engaging existing industrial customers and potential new industries moving to town can make your life easier and provide a systematic approach to dealing with industry wastewater.

**10am – 10:15am Break**

**10:15am – 11:15am Kyle Sorenson Innovative Water Treatment and CJ Sojka Ovivo**

## **Innovative Approaches to Wastewater Pretreatment in Surface Finishing**

**Chemical Pretreatment:** This involves using chemicals to neutralize and precipitate heavy metals and other pollutants. Common methods include pH adjustment, coagulation, and flocculation.

**Physical Solids Removal:** Techniques like sedimentation, vacuum filtration, and centrifugation are used to separate solids from wastewater.

**Advanced Treatment:** Methods such as reverse osmosis, ion exchange, and activated carbon adsorption are used for further purification.

The goal of pretreatment is to reduce the pollutant load before the wastewater is discharged or further treated, ensuring it meets regulatory standards and minimizes environmental impact.

**11:15am – 12pm TBD**

**12pm – 1pm Lunch – On your own**

**1pm – 12am Networking**

**Thursday May 08**

**6:45am – 7:45am Breakfast – provided**

**8am – 9am Members Only Session**



# Conference Agenda



**9am – 10am Dean Aurand**

**Mid Continent Testing Labs**

## Laboratory Techniques

This presentation describes the process of water sampling and laboratory testing, covering best practices for sample collection, preservation, and transportation to ensure accurate results. We will discuss key analytical techniques used in water testing, including physical, chemical, and microbiological analyses. By understanding these methods, participants will gain insights into regulatory standards, quality control measures, and the importance of data interpretation in water monitoring programs.

**10am – 10:15am Break**

**10:15am – 11:00 Jesse Neyens**

**City of Sioux Falls**

## Navigating the Challenges of Integrating New Industrial Discharges into you POTW

This presentation explores the complexities and challenges faced by Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) when integrating and preparing for new industrial dischargers. It covers key considerations such as regulatory compliance, infrastructure, pretreatment requirements, and communication strategies between all parties involved.

**11am – 12pm Al Garcia**

**Region 8 EPA**

## NeTPPR Reporting

NeTPPR is the new platform to complete and submit your annual report. If you haven't already gotten a taste of this system you will in the next year or two. And if you've used it and ridden the struggle bus here's an overview to help in the future.

**12pm – 1:30pm Lunch - provided**

**1:30pm – 2:00pm Leah Hall**

**City of Rapid City**

## NetPPR You know What Grinds my Gears

Here's your platform to help us brainstorm updates and upgrades to the NeTPPR system. Also, if you have an axe to grind for this system in its infancy please speak up! It won't go away until we talk about it.

**2pm – 3pm Michael Bender**

**Energy Labs**

## Advanced Testing and Sampling

I know we've always wondered how a GCMS works, maybe even an AA. Take this hour to learn about what you've always been too nervous to ask.

**3pm – 3:15pm Break**

**3:15pm – 4:30pm Breakout Tables – 5 Topics**

**4:30pm – 5pm Summary**



# Conference Agenda



6pm - 12am Networking





# Biographies

**Carlos Martinez**, a native of Leadville, Colorado, is a fisheries biologist and scientific diver. He serves as the Director of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and is the Mountain-Prairie Region's Dive Officer.

**Al Garcia, US EPA Region 8:** Al Garcia is the EPA Region 8 Pretreatment Coordinator. Region 8 directly implements and enforces the Pretreatment program in Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. North Dakota, South Dakota, and Utah are authorized for the Pretreatment program. Prior to being hired at EPA in 2008, Al “served in the trenches” and has significant local experience providing regulatory control to industrial and commercial facilities, including; sampling, inspections, permit writing, and enforcement. Al has a BS degree in Biology and Chemistry from the University of Northern Colorado.

**Leah Hall, City of Rapid City:** Leah Hall is the Environmental Process Supervisor for the City of Rapid City, South Dakota. Leah entered the wastewater field with a Bachelors of Science in Biology and a Bachelors of Science in Chemistry. This positioned her to advance into the Environmental Process Specialist position and eventually to Environmental Process Supervisor during her 12-year wastewater career. Leah administers the City of Rapid City Pretreatment Program as required by the EPA and manages a laboratory that performs more than 25,000 tests each year. Leah has earned her class 2 wastewater Operators certificate, graduated from the Water Environment Federation’s WLI program on scholarship in 2021, and has received the Water Environment Federation Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award (2021). In 2022 Leah also became the Region 8 Pretreatment Association Chairwoman.

**Kyle Sorenson, Innovative Water Treatment:** With over 25 years of experience in industrial water and wastewater treatment, Kyle Sorenson is dedicated to helping businesses tackle their water challenges with confidence. As the founder of **Innovative Water Treatment**, Kyle leads a team that specializes in integrating comprehensive, turnkey solutions tailored to the unique needs of commercial and industrial clients. His expertise spans the entire treatment process—from data collection and system sizing to implementation, startup, and ongoing support—ensuring that customers achieve operational efficiency and environmental compliance. Kyle prides himself on being a trusted industry resource, working closely with clients so they can focus on running their business while he and his team focus on their water. Passionate about problem-solving, Kyle approaches each project with enthusiasm, delivering customized solutions that keep businesses running smoothly and sustainably.

**CJ Sojka, Ovivo:** C.J. Sojka is the West Regional Sales Manager at OVIVO/ALAR Water, a company specializing in industrial wastewater treatment equipment. Based in Chicago, IL, CJ has been with ALAR since 2021. C.J. is dedicated to helping clients find effective solutions for their wastewater treatment needs, ensuring regulatory compliance and environmental sustainability.

**Jesse Neyens, City of Sioux Falls:** Jesse currently works for the City of Sioux Falls Water Reclamation department as their Regulatory Compliance Manager and has managed the Industrial Pretreatment Program for the City of Sioux Falls and regional customers for the past 18 years. He has a bachelor’s degree in environmental science and chemistry from Minnesota State University.

**Spencer Parkinson, South Valley Water:** With almost 30 years treating wastewater Spencer Parkinson has almost done it all and has been splashed by the rest. Spencer started out as an entry level Operator at the Hyrum City Wastewater Treatment Plant in northern Utah and soon after moved to South Valley Water Reclamation Facility in West Jordan. During his 27 years with South Valley, Spencer worked up from an entry level Operator to become an Operations Department Shift Supervisor, then the Pretreatment Coordinator and has been the Pretreatment Director for the last 16 years.

While working for South Valley Spencer went back to college and received his Associate’s Degree in Environmental Technology from Salt Lake Community College. He continued on and earned his Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration from Franklin University, and his Masters of Public Administration from Brigham Young University. Spencer maintains both a Wastewater Operator Grade IV certificate and a Wastewater Collections Operator Grade IV certificate and has a Utility Management certificate.

Spencer has been engaged in teaching wastewater classes at South Valley Water for more than ten years, he has presented at the annual Water Environment Association of Utah (WEAU) conference, R8PA conferences, other regional conferences, and local trainings. Most recently Spencer has also been employed as a contract employee for the Rural Water Association of Utah (RWAU) as a wastewater trainer and technical advisor for the last 18 months and has been performing Wastewater Operator training for facilities around Utah and EPA Region 8 for the last two years.

**Mitch Ryan, Aquatic Informatics:** Mitch Ryan is an Account Executive with Aquatic Informatics supporting Hach’s Water Information Management System (WIMS) Platform. Mitch delivers tailored software and instrumentation solutions to drive operational efficiency and treatment process improvements for water and wastewater systems. He has over 10 years of experience as a wastewater operator at plants large and small and is an A-licensed wastewater operator in Texas. He is a member of The WEF and state chapters of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas Nebraska, and South Dakota.



# Biographies

**Leah Braun, City of Rapid City:** Leah Braun serves as the Chief of Staff for the City of Rapid City. She was appointed as Chief of Staff by Mayor Salamun in April, 2025. Prior to this position, Leah was the Assistant Director of Human Resources at the City. Leah was first hired by the previous Mayor, Steve Allender, in January 2021 to serve as the City Culture Strategist where she assessed the workplace culture; made recommendations for improvement; and began to implement the recommendations. She is very proud to have started leadership training programs; a culture champion committee; a wellness program; and a recognition program in this capacity.

From April 2012 until January 2023, Leah was the Managing Partner with Nsight Partners. Nsight Partners allies with individuals, businesses and organizations to help them solve problems and achieve results. They accomplish that through coaching, training and consulting...all designed to develop and grow the individual and the organization.

Leah retired from the South Dakota National Guard at the rank of Master Sergeant after 22 years of military service, where she began to hone her passion for working with people. Leah has a teaching degree from Black Hills State University and a Master of Science in Administrative Studies with an emphasis in Counseling from University of South Dakota. Leah is a Certified Professional Coach, credentialed through the International Coach Federation.

Leah is very active in the community and in several professional groups including serving as the Chair of the Black Hills Military Advisory Coalition and as an Honorary Commander for the 28th Communications Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

**Sam McLeod, BMP Compliance Group:** Samuel McLeod is a co-founder of BMP Compliance Group Software. He works directly with over 200 municipal pretreatment programs throughout the world by providing expertise and software solutions for fats, oils, & grease programs, industrial pretreatment programs, and backflow compliance programs throughout the USA. His entire career has been dedicated to water quality and he has over 15 years of experience within the field. McLeod holds both a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Science degree concentrated in the fields of engineering and environmental studies. He is currently in the process of completing his Doctorate of Education degree.

**Tony Cole, BMP Compliance Group:**

**Dave Louch, LS Pretreatment Consulting:** With over four decades of dedicated service in environmental investigations and regulatory affairs, Dave boasts extensive expertise in all facets of Industrial Pretreatment program management. His comprehensive skill set encompasses proficiency in pretreatment permit management, FOG/POGS, source control, local limits, enforcement response, ordinance drafting, program administration, and emerging pollutant investigations. He has experience in multiple pretreatment programs throughout Colorado, both approved and unapproved. He has extensive experience in PFAS investigations and sampling, bringing pretreatment enforcement to criminal cases, managing permits from both the pretreatment and private sectors, and overseeing FOG management initiatives from multiple vantage points, including as a waste pumper.

Dave has used his experience to serve the pretreatment and environmental community with stints as the Chair, Co-Chair, and Education Chair of the [Colorado Industrial Pretreatment Coordinators Association \(CIPCA\)](#), the first Chair of the [Region 8 Pretreatment Association](#), and a member of the Colorado Environmental Crimes Taskforce. Widely recognized as a leader in the Pretreatment field in Colorado, Dave is frequently sought after for his guidance and expertise, addressing challenges of all magnitudes

In his spare time, Dave enjoys spending time with his wife and dog, scuba diving, and working on building his retirement home in the mountains.

**Amanda Carlson, Energy Laboratories:** Amanda hit the ground running after attaining a Bachelors of Arts in Chemistry from Carroll College. She started that same year as an Inorganics and Organics Analyst certified in total coliforms and E. Coli for public and private water samples. In 2008 she became the Quality Assurance Manager with Energy Labs Montana; a title she holds today. In 2013 she also became the Assistant Laboratory Manager and further ascended to the Corporate Quality Assurance Manager in 2019. With all of these achievements at her disposal she manages Quality Assurance procedures and monitoring, assists with methods development, and updating procedures, technical training and special projects. She also supervises the daily operations of her laboratory promoting collaboration and communication.

**Gonzalo Lagos, Schier:** Gonzalo Lagos is originally from Chile with 20+ years teaching Spanish, his native language at the High School level. Gonzalo started last year a new chapter in his career as a Regulatory Compliance Manager at Schier.

Gonzalo's role is to educate the Pretreatment community on the continued evolution of grease interceptor technology in the industry. By understanding the requirements of each jurisdiction, He is able to assist with changes to ensure community stakeholders receive up-to-date interceptor solutions for wastewater treatment. The scope of his work carries him through the entire U.S when talking about all things grease interceptor related.

**Todd Uhlenhake, Schier:** As Director of Business Development at BMP Compliance Group, Tony Cole leverages his deep expertise to provide software and consultation for Fats, Oils, & Grease (FOG), industrial pretreatment, and backflow compliance to over 200 programs across the US. His 7+ years of experience leading grease interceptor divisions at Endura/Canplas and MIFAB, coupled with board service at the US FOG Alliance and PDI, position him as a trusted resource for pretreatment and plumbing professionals.



# Biographies



**Reilly Kirk, Account Executive Swift Comply:** Reilly Kirk is a Compliance Software Specialist who has spent his last 6 years at SwiftComply. During his time, Reilly has assisted 100s of cities across the country in achieving their wastewater compliance goals. His main area of focus is with FOG and Industrial Pretreatment programs and helping clients understand the regulatory landscape as well as how to navigate that with customized software solutions.

**Dean Aurand, Mid Continent Testing Labs:** Dean Aurand is president of the chemistry laboratory he founded with his college roommate 40 years ago. They have grown the business with local and nationwide clients by providing quick, quality results. Dean and his wife Susan met in Rapid City in 1985 when they both relocated to Western South Dakota. They now have 3 grown children, 4 grandkids and enjoy being active in their community. Having grown up on a small farm in Nebraska, He first obtained an associate's degree in diesel mechanics before graduating from the University of Nebraska with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He was an engineer with General Motors before moving to the Black Hills. You may contact Dean via email at [Dean@TheChemistryLab.com](mailto:Dean@TheChemistryLab.com)

**Shawn Gaddie, AE<sub>2</sub>S:** Shawn Gaddie has worked with water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities for nearly 20-years helping them set rate and financial management policies. Many of the water and wastewater utilities he has worked with across the Upper Midwest and Rocky Mountain regions provide significant industrial service to the food and beverage industry and the oil and gas industry. Shawn has worn many hats within AE<sub>2</sub>S over the years including project, office and practice area management and has been a company board member for over 8-years. His hobbies including golfing, snowboarding, playing beer league hockey, wakesurfing, and hanging out at the lake whenever possible.

**Jayme Klecker, AE<sub>2</sub>S:** Jayme has worked in the wastewater industry for over 25 years as an operator and as an engineer. He has worked for AE<sub>2</sub>S for 13 years as a senior project manager and has designed multiple WWTF. Jayme recently took on the role as Industrial Practice Leader for the Company, focusing on assisting companies with meeting both environmental and sustainability goals. Prior to joining AE<sub>2</sub>S he was the environmental health and safety manager at a paper mill in Brainerd, MN, in charge of wastewater, water, stormwater, hazardous waste, and dam compliance just to name a few. When Jayme isn't working he enjoys spending time with his family, fishing, boating, and traveling. At some point he plans on watching the Vikings win the Super Bowl, so he plans on being around for a very long time.



# Networking

Outdoor Adventures: Hiking, Biking



Deadwood Historical District  
Deadwood Gambling



Hospitality Suite:  
Open 6pm - 12am Monday through Thursday Nights  
Drinks and Snacks Available Monday - Thursday Nights





# Exhibitors

