

**ACEC Water, Energy and Environment Committee
2020 Winter Meeting
ACEC Headquarters
1015 15th Street, N.W., Washington, DC
February 24th & 25th, 2020
p. 202-347-7474
www.acec.org**

Agenda

Context

This Water, Energy and Environment Committee (WEE) Winter meeting will consider the potential for Administration and Congressional actions in the aftermath of impeachment proceedings in the midst of an election year. Congress needs to reauthorize a highway bill. And WRDA is always a second session action item that can bring other water infrastructure items along with it. Finally, for the WEE committee, there remains the potential for energy and environmental legislation with bipartisan support first finding its way through the Senate and then meeting up with House legislation. Depending upon the reach of expected House legislation, in the wake of the Green New Deal, we may see some room for House-Senate compromise but there may be considerable posturing for the election with House roll-out of aggressive climate policy goals.

The PFAS Action Plan is in execution (see [announcement to regulate PFOA and PFAS](#)) even as it is deemed inadequate through new Congressional actions, first in the Nation Defense Authorization Act, and second with subsequent House passage of H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act. The Superfund program is expected to finally and fully implement the new Remedial Action Framework. But concerns about delay may result in work stoppage and raise the need for advocacy through the appropriations process.

The proposed NEPA rule was released on Thursday January 9 and the 60 day comment period ends March 10. The final WOTUS rule was released in January. The Army Corps just announced development of an Engineer Circular (EC) that will outline policies and procedures for its [Levee Safety Program](#) . A 60-day public comment period on the draft EC will be announced in the Federal Register and USACE will hold virtual and in-person public and stakeholder information sessions in March and April. Cybersecurity remains among the highest priority issues generally cited in business and government as evidenced by FERC and DOE reorganization to make it so, and with implementation of DoD procurement cybersecurity maturity model certification requirements (CMMC).

To meet these multiple challenges, the WEE committee has formed six Work Groups: water resources, cybersecurity, energy markets, remediation, contaminants, and permitting.

What are the key legislative/regulatory initiatives for the ACEC WEE to monitor or engage? How should the ACEC WEE engage across Work Groups? The WEE 2020 Winter meeting is aiming to cover the road ahead on these important topics.

<i>Monday, February 24, 2020</i>

- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**
- 8:15 a.m. **Opening Remarks, Introductions & Announcements**
- [Lauren Evans](#), Chair ACEC Water, Environment & Energy Committee, Pinyon Environmental
[Lynn Schloesser](#), Director, ACEC Water, Environmental & Energy Programs, [Schloesser](#) presentation.
- 8:30 a.m. **Governmental Affairs - Federal Overview: Executive, Legislative, Regulatory, Judicial** - Lynn Schloesser, ACEC Director of Water, Energy and Environment Programs
- 9:00 a.m. **Water Infrastructure** – implementation of AWIA risk assessment provisions – water reuse, integrated planning, [water infrastructure resilience planning](#), WOTUS, PFAS Action Plan: EPA Assistant Administrator, [David Ross](#) .
- 10:15 a.m. **Break**
- 10:30 a.m. **Energy Infrastructure** – Prospects for energy legislation and advocacy collaboration with ACEC:
- [Dan Byers](#) , V. P. Policy, US Chamber, [Global Energy Institute](#),
[Chris Tomassi](#) , Dir. of Government Affairs, [ClearPath](#),
[Robin Millican](#) , Dir. of Advocacy and Government Relations, Gates Ventures
- 12:00 Noon **Lunch**
- 12:30 p.m. **Emerging Contaminants** – EPA **PFAS Action Plan implementation** – Recent legislative activities e.g., National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 535 PFAS Action Act:
- [Michael Walls](#), VP Reg. and Tech. Affairs American Chemistry Council
[Emily Rimmel](#), Director of Regulatory Affairs, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, [Rimmel](#) presentation.
- 1:20 p.m. **Resilience** – Flood Risks and Resilience – developments in modelling with the federal government, programs with states, insurance industry tools – a dialogue on the changing nature of data gathering, modeling and applications with review of [watershed risk assessment strawman proposal](#):

[Dr. Chris Altendorf](#) , Chief of Engineering and Construction, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – present practice of interagency collaboration, programs with states, [Altendorf](#) presentation.

[Lloyd Treinish](#), IBM Distinguished Engineer; Chief Scientist -- Climate, Weather and Deep Thunder – data sources, modeling, [Treinish](#) presentation.

[Lou Gritz](#), Vice President Research, FM Global – insurance company perspectives on tools of data collection and analysis.

2:50 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. **Energy Technology Commercialization** – the story of innovative energy storage technology solutions and services to meet diverse needs and challenges of customers undergoing rapid energy transformations around the world. [Taylor Sloane](#), Manager, Market Applications with [Fluence](#) the joint venture of Siemens and AES to pioneer energy storage and services, [Sloane](#) presentation.

4:00 p.m. **Cyber Security: The plethora of platforms and the effect on competition.** Engineering firms are finding new and differing requirements to do business with the federal government and regulated private sectors. The cyber security practices developed by NIST, ISO, power sector (C2M2) and defense department ([CMMC](#)) are not considered equal. New defense procurement requirements are expected to specify CMMC to the exclusion of others. [Chris Walcutt](#), Vice President Strategy and Andre Parker, Practice Lead for IT Risk & Compliance, [DirectDefense](#) , [Walcutt](#) presentation.

5:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

6:00 p.m. **Committee dinner for registered attendees:** Lincoln Restaurant, 1110 Vermont Ave NW, Washington, DC (202) 386-9200

<i>Tuesday, February 25, 2020</i>

8:15 a.m. **Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. **Finance-** WIFIA implementation Army Corps: Laura Witherow, Economist, Institute for Water Resources, Revolutionize Civil Works Corps, Water Infrastructure Financing Program ([CWIFP](#)). [Litherow](#) presentation.

9:15 a.m. **Superfund Program** – [Remedial Acquisition Framework implementation](#): EPA Assistant Administrator [Peter Wright](#) .

10:00 a.m. **Discussion of the function of Working Groups-** Focus on [draft Energy Strategy 02.22.20](#) and [NEPA proposed rule](#)

Water:

1. Dam and Levee Safety: WRDA, contracting out, [Levee Safety Program](#) risk assessment guidance, liability, [watershed risk assessment strawman proposal](#)
CWA and SDWA: SRF funding; QBS; AWIA risk assessment
Technology: plastic pipe, sensing and controls, integrated planning, resilience

Energy:

2. Cybersecurity:
Platforms: [NIST best practices](#), [C2M2](#), [CMMC](#), [ISO 27001](#)
Safe Harbor: states
Other: [drinking water cyber security risk assessments](#)
3. Technology and market regulation: [draft Energy Strategy 02.22.20](#), storage, DER, renewables, transmission, pipelines
Nominations: DOE/FERC
Policy: PTCs, ITCs, MLPs, eminent domain, pipeline safety; resilience

Environment:

4. Remediation: CERCLA funding, OSRTI [Remedial Acquisition Framework implementation](#); other
5. Air and Water Contaminants: [PFOA and PFAS proposed rule](#); NAAQS; Air Toxics
6. Permitting: [NEPA proposed rule](#), WOTUS, CWA Section 401

11:00 a.m. **Lunch - Discussion**

Suggested Advocacy/Awareness/Education Action Items:

- Regional developments; e.g., NE energy issues, Western wildfires
- ACEC Foundation
- 2020 Annual Convention 4/25-29 Washington DC – Monday April 27/ 11-12 pm session: “Non-Engineers Adaptation to Future Engineering - How the Government, Science and Financial Sectors are Converging to Drive Infrastructure Design to Meet Sustainability and Resilience Objectives.”
- 2020 Fall Conference 10/28-31, San Diego, CA. M/T October 26-27
session ideas:
 - Energy delivery response to wildfire threats
 - Water reuse
 - PFAS

Dates, locations, topics for 2020 WEE Summer meeting:

- Suggested date/location: M/T August 31- September 1, 2020 host firm Volkert, Collinsville, IL
- Topics: lead organizers

1:00 p.m. **Adjourn** – next meeting ACEC annual convention Tuesday April 28, 10:45 a.m.

3:00 p.m. **Townhouse** – 326 4th St SE, Washington, DC - WEE leaders with House Energy and Commerce member Congressman [David P. McKinley](#): discussion of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation policy strategies; bipartisan efforts.

4:00 p.m. **Townhouse adjourns**

Bios in order of appearance:

David Ross, Dave has more than 20 years of experience working on water issues in both state government is Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, EPA. and the private sector. Prior to joining EPA in January 2018, Mr. Ross worked as the Director of the Environmental Protection Unit at the Wisconsin Department of Justice. During his tenure, he served as the lead environmental prosecutor for the State of Wisconsin and worked closely with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on environmental and natural resources issues. He has also worked in the Wyoming Attorney General’s Office representing the Water Quality Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and as a partner in the land use and natural resources practice at an international law firm in Washington, D.C. Early in his career, he provided project management and environmental consulting services to the City of San Diego, California with a focus on designing, installing, and testing wastewater reclamation and re-purification technologies. He received his J.D. and Masters in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dan Byers is Vice President, Policy, U.S. Chamber Global Energy Institute. His focus is on environmental and regulatory issues and development and implementation of strategies in support of the Institutes broader education and advocacy efforts. Byers brings nearly two decades of public policy experience to his work directing the Institute in assessing the impact of existing and emerging federal laws and regulations on the U.S. energy industry. Before joining the Chamber, Byers was staff director of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee for the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. During the second term of the George W. Bush administration, Byers served as deputy to the associate director for technology at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). From 2007 to 2009, he also worked for the White House National Economic Council. Previously, Byers held a variety of positions in the House of Representatives, including staff director of the House Science Committee Subcommittee on Research from 2003–2005. He began his career on Capitol Hill in 2000 in the office of Congressman Nick Smith (R-MI). Byers holds an M.S. in soil science from North Carolina State University and a B.S. in crop and soil environmental sciences from Virginia Tech. He lives in Fairfax, Virginia, with his wife and two sons.

Chris Tomassi is Government Affairs Director of ClearPath since August 2018 where his focus is policy development, legislative strategy and appropriations. He came to ClearPath after 15 years in various U.S. Senate staff positions. He served on the Senate Appropriations Committee with focus on the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He was previously Senior Counsel and a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and handled energy, environment, budget, and energy tax issues for Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY). Chris has a B.A. in Political Science and Speech Communication from Gonzaga University, J.D. from George Washington University.

Robin Millican is Director of Advocacy and Government Relations at Gates Ventures, the private office of Bill Gates. Ms. Millican leads the organization's initiatives in clean energy innovation policy. Prior to joining Gates Ventures in 2017, Ms. Millican was a senior public sector consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton, working in the commerce and defense energy sectors. Ms. Millican has also held positions as the Director of Federal Affairs at the Institute for Energy Research, and as a legislative aide to U.S. Senator John Cornyn. She has a B.A. in International Studies from Southern Methodist University, and a Master of Public Policy degree from Duke University.

Michael Walls is Vice President of Regulatory and Technical Affairs of the American Chemistry Council (ACC). He has a role in policy development as he oversees the issue, regulatory process and agency experts whose work provides a foundation for ACC's advocacy efforts. With the ACC for 22 years, he has experience in a wide range of U.S. domestic chemical regulatory issues, including the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), among others. His experience also includes work on international chemical regulatory issues including the Chemical Weapons Convention. He has represented the industry in several international chemical negotiations, and in support of U.S. ratification and implementation of several agreements. Before joining ACC, Mr. Walls was in private law practice in Washington, D.C., where he represented domestic chemical manufacturers. He also served on the staff of U.S. Sen. Jim Sasser (D-Tenn.). Mr. Walls was an adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Maryland's School of Law and American University's Washington College of Law. Mr. Walls received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University, his law degree from Syracuse University College of Law and his master's degree in business administration from the Georgetown University School of Business.

Emily Remmel is Director of Regulatory Affairs of the National Association of Clean Water Administrators (NACWA). She works on a variety of stormwater, water reuse, and water quality issues. Emily received Bachelor's and Master's of Science Degrees in Zoology from the University of Oklahoma. She teaches two online undergraduate courses at the University of Oklahoma in Water Law and Water Resources Advocacy.

Christine Altendorf, USACE Chief of Engineering and Construction, has spent more than 25 years in civil service with assignments at districts, divisions, and Headquarters-level USACE positions. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, a Master of Science degree in Biosystems and Civil Engineering, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Biosystems and Civil Engineering, all from Oklahoma State University.

Lloyd A. Treinish is IBM Distinguished Engineer; Chief Scientist at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, NY. He heads the atmospheric sciences research group with a focus on weather, water and climate. He is a pioneer of scientifically-based services for environmental issues with over three decades of experience in earth and space sciences, and related computing, and observing and simulation systems at IBM and NASA. He is widely recognized as being the originator of Deep Thunder, IBM's weather prediction model. It initially enabled the practical and proactive use of advanced modelling for decision making in short-term, highly localized weather-sensitive business operations. As IBM's leading expert in the application of supercomputing technology to environmental forecasting and disaster mitigation, he brings a combination of experience in planning, operations (especially for issues related to weather prediction), modelling and applications, including delivery of solutions to end-user clients. He is a leading IBM expert in scientific visualization and data models. Specialties:

- Numerical weather prediction, environmental modeling and data analysis for decision support applications
- Visualization systems, visual design, data fusion
- HPC applied to applications of earth, atmospheric and environmental sciences
- Scientific data management and data models
- Cartography

Louis Gritz is Vice President of Research with FM Global, one of the world's largest commercial property insurers. He oversees FM Global's team of scientists, with expertise in fire, explosions, natural hazards (windstorms, flood, and earthquakes) and risk and reliability, who seek to understand property hazards and identify solutions to prevent loss at client facilities. Gritz also oversees activities at FM Global's US\$125-million, 1,600-acre, Research Campus in West Gloucester, R.I., USA, the world's largest center for property loss prevention research. Prior to joining FM Global in 2006, Gritz was manager of fire science and technology at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, and was a member of its Advanced Concepts Group think tank. He currently serves on the governing board of the Global Earthquake Model, on the board of directors of the Industrial Research Institute, and on advisory committees for several universities. Gritz has served as chair of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Heat Transfer Division Executive Committee and on the Research Advisory Committee for the National Fire Protection Association. In 2015, he served as an invited panelist in two sessions at the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Management in Sendai, Japan. Gritz has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, with a minor in applied mathematics, from Texas Tech University, USA.

Taylor Sloan is Manager, Market Applications with [Fluence](#) the joint venture of Siemens and AES to pioneer energy storage and services. He is a clean energy technology professional, economist, data scientist, traveler, dedicated to enabling the decarbonization of the electricity

sector via energy storage. He has 8 years of professional experience in accounting, finance, data analytics, electricity markets, and business development. He is multilingual and has an MBA, CPA, and Master of Economics.

Chris Walcutt is Vice President Strategy, [DirectDefense](#). He has 20 years of experience in network design, information security, risk analysis & mitigation and compliance in the energy, financial, higher education, and manufacturing sectors. Walcutt is involved with several research initiatives involving the University of Central Florida, Soar Technology, and DARPA as a subject matter expert for energy, smart integrated infrastructure and critical infrastructure security, is the Vice Chair of the NERC CIP Supply Chain Working Group and an AWWA AWIA subject matter expert. He is also a mentor to the CyberPatriot 2016 National Champion Team Netrunners.

Andre Parker is the Practice Lead for IT Risk & Compliance with DirectDefense and currently has 10 years of combined experience in information technology and information security. He provides a broad range of IT risk assessment, auditing, regulatory assessments (FISMA, FedRAMP, CMMC, HIPAA, GDPR, ISO 27001/02, PCI DSS, GLBA, NERC CIP) and consulting expertise from within the Federal Government and private sector. Andre worked for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) as an Information Systems Security Officer (ISSO) where he specialized in IT Security Compliance and conducting security control assessments.

Laura Witherow is an economist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Institute for Water Resources. As a member of the USACE infrastructure funding and financing team, Ms. Witherow assists with the program development and implementation of the Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program (CWIFP) as authorized by Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act and the Public Private Partnership (P3) Program. Ms. Witherow received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Duquesne University and a Master of Arts degree in Economics from American University.

Peter Wright is the Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management. Prior to this position, he served as Special Counsel to the Administrator when he joined the agency in July 2018. Prior to EPA, Peter worked for Dow Chemical Company as managing counsel for environmental, health and safety matters, including responsibility for Superfund sites, other federal and state-led remediation matters, and a broad array of other environmental regulatory matters. He also provided legal counsel on merger and acquisition and significant real estate transactions. Prior to joining Dow, Peter worked for Bryan Cave LLP and Monsanto in St. Louis, Missouri. He started his career as an environmental law associate with Baker & Daniels in Indianapolis, Indiana. Peter has been a leader of the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, the premier forum for environmental, energy and resource lawyers. He earned his J.D. from Indiana University and his A.B. from Wabash College.