

OAWU's Annual End of Year Operator's Conference



Best Western Hood River Inn, Hood River, Oregon • December 7–10, 2026
Earn up to 2.6 Water CEUs or 2.3 Wastewater CEUs if attending Pre-Conference.

**Attention Water and
Wastewater Departments**
When finished reading, please
route to manager(s), operators,
city recorder and/or board members.

Oregon Association of Water Utilities
935 N. Main St.
Independence, OR 97351
503-837-1212 Fax 503-837-1213
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December 7–10, 2026 • Best Western Hood River Inn
1108 E. Marina Way, Hood River, Oregon 97031

ACCOMMODATIONS: (800) 780-7234

Guest room block available until November 20, 2026. When calling to reserve, identify yourself as an attendee of the OAWU Operator's Conference. Rates are dual occupancy; additional person \$15.

Please use one form for each person attending (photocopy additional forms as needed).

Full Name _____

Water Certification # _____ Wastewater Certification # _____ ☐ Working toward certification

System Name _____

System Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

System Phone _____ System Email _____

Pre-Conference (Monday, 0.6 W CEUs, 0.3 WW CEUs)

For Classes we have the following (check box for course attending)	Fee	Subtotal
☐ Contaminants of Concern (8:45 am – 12:00 pm) (0.3 Water/Wastewater CEUs)	FREE	FREE
☐ Small Water System Training Course (9:00 am – 4:00 pm) (0.6 Water CEUs)	FREE	FREE
PRE-CONFERENCE TOTAL		

Full Conference (Tuesday – Thursday, 2.0 CEUs) ESAC #TBA

Conference Registration <i>Includes training sessions, coffee and donuts, and lunch each day</i>	Early Bird (postmarked before Nov. 9)	Standard (postmarked after Nov. 9)	Subtotal
OAWU Member	\$380	\$430	
Non-Member <i>(non-members receive one-year individual membership with conference registration)</i>	\$480	\$530	
TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES			

TOTAL CONFERENCE FEES

☐ Payment Enclosed ☐ Purchase Order: PO # _____ ☐ Please Invoice

If paying by credit card, please call the OAWU office after submitting your registration form.

☐ Email receipt to: _____ ☐ Fax receipt to: _____

Cancellation

No refunds will be issued and a regular registration fee will be billed for those who fail to attend and do not give the OAWU office notice seven days prior to the start of the conference.

SEND REGISTRATION FORM AND FEES TO:

Email to: office@oawu.net | Mail: OAWU, 935 N. Main Street, Independence, OR, 97351 | Fax: 503-837-1213

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2026		0.3 W/WW CEUs TOTAL - 0.6 W CEUs TOTAL	
8:45 AM–12:00 PM	0.3	Contaminants of Concern The class will supply an overview of sources, treatment options and current regulation trends. This will include PFAS and other contaminants, organic and inorganic discharged from wastewater treatment and into the drinking water supply. • 08:45 – 10:15 Sources and types of contaminants, levels of concern. • 10:15 – 10:30 Break • 10:30 – 12:00 Treatment options that may be best suited for your utility. <i>Keith Bedell, OAWU</i>	w/ww
9:00 AM–4:00 PM	0.6	Small Water Operator Certification Course This one-day course will cover the basics of water system operation including waterborne pathogens, water treatment, water sampling, and maintenance. In addition, a review of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments, the State Revolving Loan Fund, as well as water system security issues. Review of technical, managerial and financial needs of a small system. <i>Tim Tice, Scott Berry, OAWU</i>	w

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2026		0.725 W/WW CEUs TOTAL	
7:15–8:00 AM	REGISTRATION & INTRODUCTION		
8:00–10:00 AM	0.2	Control Valves Basic hydraulics, valve function, pilot system function, valve components, pressure reducing and relief valves, troubleshooting of common valves. <i>Mike Osborn, Cimco-GC Systems</i>	w/ww
10:00–10:15 AM	BREAK		
10:15–12:00 PM	0.175	Water and Wastewater Chemical Feed Pumps Water and wastewater chemical feed pump application, operations, maintenance and installation. Principles, concepts and pump/system dynamics and challenges with multiphase chemicals. <i>Sean Moriarty, Furrow Pump</i>	w/ww
12:00–1:00 PM	LUNCH PROVIDED		
1:00–3:00 PM	0.2	Utility Rate Evaluation Fueling Water-Wastewater Budgets. Why is it important to review utility rates? Conducting a utility rate study, ensuring budgets meet both current and future revenue requirements. <i>Tim Tice, OAWU</i>	w/ww
3:00–3:15 PM	BREAK		
3:15–4:00 PM	0.075	Cyber Threats to Operational Technology A threat brief regarding previous attacks and current trends against OT technology. The top ten takeaways from assessments. Basic OT protections, including the Purdue model and general best practices for OT cybersecurity. <i>Zac Dalton, Idaho National Laboratory</i>	w/ww
4:00–4:15 PM	BREAK		
4:15–5:00 PM	0.075	Cyber Threats to Operational Technology (Continued) <i>Zac Dalton, Idaho National Laboratory</i>	w/ww

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2026			0.65 W OR WW CEUs TOTAL	
CEUS		WATER	WASTEWATER	
08:00–9:30 AM	0.15	Membrane Treatment Applications and Operations This will be a 2-part presentation focusing on membrane treatment applications followed by basic membrane operations with each part consisting of a 45-minute presentation. <i>Dr. Dan Dye, WesTech</i> w/ww		
9:30–9:45 AM	BREAK			
9:45–10:45 AM	0.1	Tank Mixing Proper tank mixing applications for the treatment of drinking water quality issues. Positive impacts on disinfection by-products, taste and odor issues. <i>Kevin Chapa, TMG Services</i> w	On-site Chlorine Generation Cutting costs by utilizing on-site chlorine generation for your systems disinfection requirements. <i>Bryce O'Neill, Xylem</i> w/ww	
10:45–11:00 AM	BREAK			

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2026 <i>continued</i>			0.65 W OR WW CEUs TOTAL
11:00–12:00 PM	0.1	Program Update The latest updates from the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services. <i>Josh Seerup, OHA-DWS</i> w	Operator Certification Basics The process in certifying as a Wastewater Operator in Oregon. <i>Kimi Grzyb, DEQ</i> ww
12:00–1:00 PM	LUNCH PROVIDED		
01:00–2:00 PM	0.1	Cybersecurity for Water & Wastewater Utilities: Protecting Critical Operations in an Evolving Threat Landscape Cybersecurity from the perspective of drinking water and wastewater operations and examines how everyday technology risks can affect SCADA, operational technology (OT), and essential utility services. <i>Ken Ezeh, Carezian, Inc.</i> w/ww	
2:00–2:15 PM	BREAK		
2:15–3:15 PM	0.1	Introduction to UV Disinfection The history of ultraviolet light disinfection, what UV is, its context in other forms of radiation, and will also go over the different configurations of UV light systems. Advantages, limitations, basic design parameters, and troubleshooting. <i>Bob Smith, Coombs Hopkins Water</i> w/ww	
3:15–3:30 PM	BREAK		
3:30–4:30 PM	0.1	Funding Your Next Project How to get started and where to look for monies for your system's next project. <i>Valerie Egon, Kristen Larson, Business Oregon</i> w/ww	

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2026			0.625 W OR WW CEUs TOTAL		
08:00–09:00 AM	0.1	Using Artificial Intelligence in the Water and Wastewater Industry The basics in utilizing AI in the water and wastewater industry. From record keeping, work order tracking, developing schedules and preventive maintenance. <i>Samuel Novac, Novac Industries</i>		w/ww	
09:00–9:30 AM		BREAK			
9:30–10:30 AM	0.1	Amperometric Chlorine Measurement and Control Examine the development of online chlorine measurement technologies, with an emphasis on amperometric sensing and its application in municipal and industrial water treatment. Differences between amperometric and colorimetric measurement methods. Important limitations and application considerations. <i>Chris LaCour, ProMinent Fluid Controls</i>		w/ww	
10:30–10:45 AM		BREAK			
10:45–12:00 PM	0.125	Training 101 How to implement a training program for your water or wastewater utility. <i>Jason Brooks, OAWU</i>		w/ww	
12:00–1:00 PM		LUNCH PROVIDED			
		WATER		WASTEWATER	
01:00–3:00 PM	0.2	Working with Your Regulator How to partner with your regulatory agency and contract laboratory to ensure successful operations of your drinking water utility. <i>Michelle Angland, Deschutes County Health</i>	w	Wastewater Process & Benefits The benefits of a working model in regard to inflow & infiltration rehab, planning and development studies and future flow predictions for design storms and urban growth boundary expansions. <i>Samuel Novac, Novac Industries</i>	ww
3:00–3:15 PM		BREAK			
3:15–4:15 PM	0.1	Successfully Manage Your Water or Wastewater Utility Team Defining leadership methods to successfully manage water and wastewater utility employees. Applying practical ways and methods to utility team management. Real life scenarios and examples. <i>Bill Palmayesa, OAWU</i>		w/ww	