



Nor'wester newsletter

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Thank you Annual Convention sponsors

Thank you to our newest [PNWA 2021 Annual Convention](#) sponsors for your generous support:

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Additional sponsorships are available. Increase your organization's visibility to our members, partners and friends while supporting PNWA's advocacy efforts. [Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels](#) are available. Sign up online when you [register for the conference](#) or [contact Randi Besser](#).

EPA hosts Columbia Snake TMDL temperature webinar

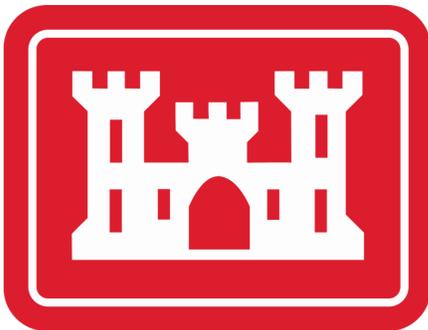
On Aug. 13, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reissued the [TMDL for Temperature in the Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers](#). This TMDL was originally issued in May 2020, with a public comment period extending to August 2020.

EPA will hold a public informational webinar on **Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PT** to share information on the reissued TMDL, including a summary of the major changes EPA made to the TMDL in response to



To register for the webinar, or for additional information, please contact Mary Lou Soscia at soscia.marylou@epa.gov or 503-381-3840

Corps announces upcoming lock closures



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Portland District announced the following closures at the recent PNWA Lower Columbia River Infrastructure Needs Meeting:

The Dalles Lock & Dam will close from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 14 and 15, 2021.

The Dalles Lock and Dam will also close for a 5-week spring maintenance outage from 6 a.m. on Feb. 13, 2022 to 11:59 p.m. on March 19, 2022.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Seattle District announced maintenance on the Chittenden Locks' pump plant discharge valve will require the closure of the large lock from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 28, 2021 to accommodate divers in the water and crane work on the west side of the chamber.

WOTUS reverts to pre-2015 regulations

On Jan. 20, President Biden issued [Executive Order 13990](#) on "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis," which ordered the heads of federal agencies to review policies that may conflict with the promotion and protection of public health and the environment.

On June 9, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concluded that the NWPR was impacting clean water protection and announced their intention to review the Trump Administration's Navigable Waters Protection Rule and revise the definition of Waters of the U.S.

On Aug. 30, the U.S. District Court of Arizona ruled in the [Pasqua Yaqui Tribe, et al., v. U.S. EPA](#) case, essentially overruling the Trump Administration's rule and restoring the pre-2015 WOTUS rule established under the Obama Administration.

On Sept. 3, [the EPA and Corps announced](#) they would discontinue implementation of the NWPR and will continue to use the pre-2015 WOTUS rule until further notice. According to the announcement, the agencies are "working expeditiously to move forward with [the rulemakings announced on June 9, 2021](#), in order to better protect our nation's vital water resources that support public health, environmental protection, agricultural activity, and economic growth. The agencies remain committed to crafting a durable definition of 'waters of the United States' that is informed by diverse perspectives and based on an inclusive foundation."

PNWA staff will continue to monitor the issue as more information is released.

Redevelopment organization offers brownfields info event



Economic recovery from the pandemic has been difficult for communities throughout EPA Region 10 in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Each community has properties that are blighted, vacant, and potentially contaminated. These neglected sites, known as brownfields, can lead to greater disinvestment and negatively impact the local economy. However, if cities and towns learn how to address them and take action, communities can revitalize and strengthen their economies.

On Sept. 22, the Center for Creative Land Recycling, a national brownfields redevelopment organization based in Berkeley, CA, will host a no-cost meet-and-greet virtually for all communities in Region 10. This webinar is funded in part by the U.S. EPA.

The purpose of this workshop is to explore opportunities that various state and federal brownfields programs offer, including grant funding, technical assistance, and other resources. This is an excellent introductory event for those new to brownfields, especially those involved in land use planning, economic development, affordable housing, sustainable growth, community organizing, and other related topics. Sufficient time will be provided for participants to ask questions, discuss their challenges, and interact with the presenters.

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

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