

NC Water Quality Compliance Workshop Speaker Bio's

William E. (Toby) Vinson, Jr., P.E., CPM is a Biological & Agricultural Engineering graduate from North Carolina State University in the College of Engineering and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He is also a Professional Engineer and Certified Public Manager in North Carolina. Toby started his career with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and its Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources (DEMLR) in 1994 where he worked and trained in the specialized areas of Dam Safety, Mining, Erosion & Sedimentation Control and Stormwater Control & Management. Ten of those years were spent from 2001 through 2011 in private industry providing contracting and consulting in the same specialized areas. He is currently the Director of DEMLR.

He has over the last few years been very involved with DEQ's and the State's resilience efforts as related to EO80 and the State Flood Blueprint working with internal and external agencies & organizations and has assisted with developing several resilience reports published by DEQ and DPS also serving on the Inter-Departmental Resilience Team.

His work with DEQ also includes representing the Department and State as Liaison to NCORR and NCEM, Co-Chair of the Recovery Support Function – Environmental Preservation Group (NCORR), Commissioner on the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, a member of the Department of Homeland Security's Government Coordinating Council – Dams Sector, Commissioner on the State Emergency Response Commission, and Board Member of the Association of State Dam Safety Officials.

Richard Rogers, Director Division of Water Resources, joined the Department of Environmental Quality in March 2022 as the Director of Water Resources. Prior to his current role Richard was the executive director for the North Carolina Retired Governmental Employees' Association; a nonprofit association with 65,000 members supporting local and state government retirees through advocacy and outreach. He last worked with the state as the executive director for the Clean Water Management Trust Fund now known as the North Carolina Land and Water Fund. Richard also served the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from 1997 to 2007 in various roles as the Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources, Director of Conservation and Community Affairs, and Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

David Lambert joined DEQ in May 2022 and serves as the department's Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Economic Development. David works closely with the Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina. He provides a single point of contact for large projects to ensure a whole-of-department approach as companies navigate the permitting process.

David previously served as Solid Waste Director for Moore County, as the Town Manager for the Town of Robbins, and as the Judicial Case Manager for the NC Family Court-19B. David has a Master of Public Administration from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Juris Doctorate from Elon University School of Law as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology from UNC-Greensboro.

Rebecca Sadosky Ph.D has over 18 years of experience working with the NC Public Water Supply Section. She currently serves as the Section Chief which oversees the state's implementation of the Federal and NC Safe Drinking Water Acts. Rebecca has participated on national workgroups related to lead and copper, PFAS, harmful algal blooms, source water protection, and climate change

preparedness. Rebecca has a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Keyes McGee, is in his 26th year with the state's environmental agency, currently serving as Pretreatment Coordinator. Formerly employed by Exide – Powerware (10-years) for testing / repairs / certification of critical strategic uninterruptible power supply systems, and Carolina Power & Light Company (6-years) in fossil and nuclear steam electric facilities for electronics / instrumentation. Varied studies completed while employed were an Environmental Engineering bachelor's degree from NC State University (1999), an Industrial Management bachelor's degree from NC Wesleyan College (1988) and an Electronics Technology associate degree (1982) from Cape Fear Technical Institute. Certifications are NCSU's Energy Management Diploma; ISO 14001 Environmental Management System Auditor; and NC Wastewater Operator for Grade 1 Biological, Spray Irrigation, and Sub-Surface Systems.

Natalie Gorenssek is an Engineer II in the Division of Water Resources Municipal Permitting Branch. She serves as a Pretreatment Coordinator, assisting the regional offices and municipalities to achieve the objectives of the Pretreatment Program. Natalie previously worked as an Environmental Health and Safety professional and a Continuous Improvement engineer in the electrical protection, commodity chemical, and food manufacturing industries in Moore, Richmond, and Robeson counties. She is a graduate of NC State University with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering.

Jeffrey Talbott (Supervisor, NC Operator Certification Program, DWR) has been working with DEQ since 2018 and has served in a supervisory role with the Operator Certification Program since 2022. The OpCert team oversees the professional certifications of over 16,000 technical professionals in critical areas such as drinking water, wastewater, and animal waste management. Their expertise includes managing program priorities, training staff, coordinating with regulatory boards, and ensuring the program operates efficiently while meeting state and federal requirements.

Bridget Shelton is the Groundwater Quality Standards Coordinator in the Classifications and Standards Branch of DWR. She is responsible for developing the groundwater standards of the state which are the maximum allowable concentrations allowed in groundwater resulting from any discharge of contaminants. She is also responsible for the triennial review of existing groundwater standards, making recommendations to the Environmental Management Commission, and developing interim maximum allowable concentrations, or IMACs. She has been with DWR since 2018 and has bachelor's degrees in chemistry and environmental sciences from North Carolina State University and a master's degree in Ecotoxicology and Environmental Health from Duke University.

Mark Brantley is the Regional Supervisor of the Water Quality Regional Operations Section in the Fayetteville Regional. Mark received a B.S. in Chemistry from Campbell University in 1999. He started his environmental career with Harnett County Public Utilities and after graduation from Campbell he worked with the City of Dunn. Mark has been with the Division of Water Resources since 2004 and has experience with a variety of the division's program.

Michael Cumbus is an auditor with the NC WW/GW Laboratory Certification Branch. He holds a BS in Chemistry from Western Carolina University. After spending 25 years working for commercial laboratories testing wastewater and drinking water, he joined the Certification group in 2018. As an auditor, he provides technical assistance and inspects laboratories in the Mooresville and Winston-Salem regions for compliance with analytical methods and regulations. Outside of work, he enjoys video games, weightlifting, and holds a 3rd degree black belt in Taekwondo.

Beth Swanson, Technical Assistance and Compliance Specialist in DWR's Laboratory Certification Branch, graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in 2004 and started working at the State Chemistry Lab that year. She moved from the lab to Laboratory Certification in 2014 as an auditor. She is currently one of two Technical Assistance and Compliance Specialists and supervises 3 of our auditors.

Michael Montebello is the NPDES Branch chief in the Division of Water Resources. He has been with the State of North Carolina since April 2020. Michael is responsible for the Municipal Unit, the Compliance and Expedited Unit (new Supervisor, Caroline Robinson), Industrial Unit and the ARPA Unit.

Michael was the former Domestic Wastewater Section Manager in the SC Bureau of Water. He retired after forty years of service. He's also learning to cope with his only granddaughter (Renee) that just turned three.

Isaiah Reed is a MS4 Program Coordinator for the Stormwater Permitting Group. He is from Ashe County, NC and graduated from Appalachian State University in 2014. He is an Environmental Engineer and a Geologist. He has worked in NPDES compliance for more than 10 years in NC, SC, and GA.

Andrew M. Jarman has been employed with the North Carolina Public Water Supply Section for just over 12 years and is currently the Branch Head of the Compliance Services Branch. He works with his staff to help North Carolina's approximately 5,200 active public water supply systems maintain compliance with existing state and federal regulations while also helping to provide updates and begin implementation of the new PFAS Rule, revised Consumer Confidence Report Rule, and the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements. Andrew has previously worked as both the Disinfection Byproducts (DBP) and SOC Rule Manager for the Compliance Services Branch, and as both a Capacity Development Program Engineer and Capacity Development Program Coordinator for the Technical Services Branch. He is a graduate of North Carolina State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering.

Michael Pjetraj is the Deputy Director for the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Water Resources. Michael has worked with DEQ since 1995. From 1995 to 2022 he served in many technical & management positions including Deputy Director with the Division of Air Quality. Since then, he has served as the Deputy Director for the Division of Water Resources. Prior to joining DEQ, he worked for Entropy, an air emissions testing/consulting company. Michael earned an engineering degree from North Carolina State University. He is a licensed professional engineer in North Carolina and is also a North Carolina Certified Public Manager. Michael currently serves on the Air & Waste Management Association RTP Chapter Board of Directors. Michael can be reached at Michael.Pjetraj@deq.nc.gov, or 919-820-6603.

Karen Preston joined NCDEQ in 2024 as the Municipal Permitting Unit Supervisor. After graduating from East Carolina University with a degree in Environmental Geology, she gained over 10 years of experience in the water, wastewater and pretreatment industry while working for several local municipalities in North Carolina. Currently, Karen is responsible for Municipal NPDES permitting, Collection System permitting and NCDEQ's Central Office Pretreatment Unit.

Mike Lawyer is the Stormwater Program Supervisor with the Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (DEMLR). Prior to his current position, which he began in March of 2023, Mike was an Environmental Program Consultant with DEMLR in the Fayetteville Regional Office where in addition to administering regional stormwater program efforts and coordinating multi-regional compliance for the stormwater program; he conducting compliance inspections at facilities holding construction, industrial and/or post-construction stormwater permits, erosion and sedimentation control plans, mining permits and jurisdictional dams. He has been with NCDEQ since April of 2004, starting out with the Division of Water Quality then transferring along with the Stormwater Programs to DEMLR in August of 2013. Mike graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies and is a Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ).

Daniel Boss is the Water Quality Regional Operations Assistant Supervisor at the Asheville Regional Office. He has a BS in Natural Resources Management with a minor in Engineering Science. Dan worked for 11 years at an activated sludge WWTP in Michigan and earned his operator certifications while working there. He has worked for the NC DEQ in Water Resources for 8 years, 4 as a supervisor, and currently holds a WW4 license.