



# **THE 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL SEMINAR**

**OCTOBER 18, 2023**

**LYNNWOOD CONVENTION CENTER  
3711 196<sup>TH</sup> ST SW  
LYNNWOOD WA**

# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar Agenda 2023

## 7:00 Opening & Introduction of Vendors

Group Chair Jeff Kobylk, City of Edmonds (30 minutes)

## 7:30 Session 1

Department of Health Cross-Connection Control Update - Bill Bernier (30 min.)

### BIO & ABSTRACT

Speaker: William (Bill) Bernier  
Employer: Washington State Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water  
Title: Operator Certification and Training Section Manager  
Address: PO Box 47822  
City/State: Olympia, WA 98504-7822  
Phone: (360) 236-3562/FAX: (360) 236-2253 / Email:  
[William.bernier@doh.wa.gov](mailto:William.bernier@doh.wa.gov)

### Biography of Speaker

Primary responsibilities:

Manage and oversee the Department of Health's Waterworks Operator Certification Program, Cross Connection Control Program, Water Treatment Program, Water Use Efficiency Program, and Waterworks Operator Training Program.

Education:

B.A. in History from The Ohio State University

Naval Nuclear Power School, Chemistry and Radiological Controls

Professional Certifications: CCS, WDMII, Certified Water System Designer, (Formerly a BAT)

- Provide an overview of the cross-connection control rules and recent changes.
- Discuss recent backflow incidents.
- Describe common technical assistance questions.
- Identify resources available to help everyone comply with CCC rules.

### How program will influence CCC Programs

This session will provide an overview of the relationship between regulator, water purveyor, and consumer as it pertains to cross connection control. The new rules and CCC data will provide the basis for discussion. The presentation topic will provide system managers, certified operators, and decision makers with an understanding the importance of CCC and how each can help the other comply with cross connection control regulations.

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### 8:00 Session 2

Washington Certification Services Update – Megan Brech (30 min.)

#### ABSTRACT

Megan Brech

Assistant Director, Washington Certification Services

Megan was first introduced to backflow assemblies while working summers at a landscaping company in Ridgefield during her college years at Central Washington University. Irrigation installs were always a great break from hauling gravel and bark, and a welcome progression from high school yardwork and plant nursery jobs. After getting her Health and Fitness K-12 Teaching Certification she taught middle and high school Health and PE classes for 7 years, usually along with a coaching, scorekeeping, or warehouse side-gig. She left teaching in 2019 and started working night shifts at the Green River College satellite campus in Enumclaw. Then Covid hit and she joined her favorite people at Washington Certification Services. She has:

- Developed policies, procedures, & presentations tailored to legislation & mandates.
- Begun her journey to becoming BAT certified through ABPA & WA.
- Reopened Yakima & Vancouver BAT exam sites, relocating Vancouver.
- Been Lead, now Supervisor at Auburn BAT Exams.
- Maintained Professional Growth processing for BAT & WWO programs.

Assisted with restructuring the WCS office staff & workflow.

Presentation Overview:

We'll review the basics of navigating the WCS website and services, and new information released earlier this year that impacts every Washington state BAT and Water Operator. Let's continue a dialogue that has led to positive changes.

### 8:30 Break (0.5)

### 9:00 Session 3

Exam & Testing Insights – Washington Certification Services: Tiffany Miller & Dominic McLaughlin (1hr.)

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#### **BIO & ABSTRACT**

Tiffany Miller

Assistant Program Specialist, Washington Certification Services

Tiffany Miller was born and raised in Iowa, but she has been living in the beautiful state of Washington for nearly 3 years. In 2020, Tiffany earned her bachelor's degree at Augustana University in South Dakota. Since then, she has worked all over the country in customer service roles and in the outdoors with Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Forest Service in both maintenance and management positions. Tiffany joined Washington Certification Services in November 2022 as the Assistant Program Specialist. She works closely with the BAT Certification program by scheduling exams, processing exam applications and renewal payments, helping BATs with any questions or concerns via phone and email, and much more.

Dominic McLaughlin

Proctor, Washington Certification Services

Senior Inspector, Seattle Public Utilities

Dominic was first introduced to backflow testing when he was on downtime from working on tugboats in Alaska. He was informed he could make his fortune and get to sleep in his own bed at night. He took his class and passed his exams to become a BAT in 2003. He became a Proctor in 2008. He later became a Lead Exam Administrator and helped to train, coach and supervise proctors for state exams. In 2016 He worked for Washington State DOH as a Cross Connection Special Advisor where he organized and led a group of CCS's, plumbers, engineers, building inspectors, and water distribution managers, to create an online manual for the protection of drinking water from water using equipment. In 2019 He was hire by Seattle Public Utilities as a Senior Inspector (CCS) where he helps to oversee the testing compliance of over 37,000 assemblies.

#### **Presentation Overview:**

Get tips, tools, and reminders to set you up for a better exam experience at Washington Certification Services. From navigating registration and WCS office services to being in the exam room, this insight is for every BAT taking an exam in the future.

#### **10:00 Session 4 – (1hr)**

Exploring the New Generation of Backflow Testing – Rian Simpson (1hr.)

**11:00** – The Group Overview (Door Prizes) – Jeff and Wednesday (30 min.)

**11:30 to 12:30 - Lunch**

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### 12:30 Session 5

The Cost of Failure – Written by Terry Pickles and Performed by Bill Bernier – DOH  
(1 hr. )

#### ABSTRACT

Speaker: William (Bill) Bernier

#### Overview of Presentation

- Provide an overview of the cross-connection control rules.
- Discuss recent backflow incidents.
- Describe consequences of a backflow incident.
- Identify resources available to help comply with CCC rules.

### 1:30 Session 6

“The Perfect Storm”– Katherine McGlaughlin, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Water Supply Division ( 1hr )

#### ABSTRACT

Katherine McGlaughlin is a Natural Resources Specialist with the Teas Optimization Program and Response Team in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Section. She has a B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Texas at Austin through the Jackson School of Geosciences. Katherine started with the TCEQ since 2016 as a Waste Environmental Investigator in the Beaumont Regional Office. She joined the Office of Water in 2018 and works with the Cross-Connection Control Program, FMT program, and Texas Optimization Program.

512/239-1374

katherine.mcgloughlin@tceq.texas.gov

### 2:30 Break ( 0.5)

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### 3:00 Session 7

How to improve your Cross-Connection Control Program - Jessica Shaw, City of Wenatchee - PNWA AWWA ( 1hr )

#### ABSTRACT

Implementing a cross connection control program can be challenging and programs over time need to be evaluated for efficiency and effectiveness. The City of Wenatchee has been actively implementing a combination, premise isolation and in-premise protection, cross connection control program since 2002. This presentation covers surveying new and existing services, education and outreach, and backflow incident response. Cross connection control survey results and backflow incidents from the City of Wenatchee will be presented along with practical tips for conducting surveys, educating customers and training staff.

#### Presenter Bio:

Jessica Shaw, Deputy Public Works Director-Utilities  
City of Wenatchee  
1350 McKittrick,  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Phone: (509) 888-3225  
Email: [jshaw@wenatcheewa.gov](mailto:jshaw@wenatcheewa.gov)

Jessica has worked for the City of Wenatchee since 2002 in the water, sewer, and stormwater utilities. As the Deputy Public Works Director-Utilities, Jessica is responsible for planning, operation, and maintenance of the utilities. She is currently a Washington State certified Group 4 Water Distribution Manger, Group 3 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, and a Cross Connection Control Specialist. She holds a B.S. in chemistry with a minor in mathematics from Pacific Lutheran University.

### 4:00 Closing

Note - to receive 0.6 CEU's, attendees *must*:

- Attend the entire seminar.
- Need to have their CEU cards stamped at the end of each session and left at end of Seminar.

## Register for the 28th Annual Western Washington Cross Connection Group Seminar

When: October 18th, 2023  
Where: Lynnwood Convention Center  
Time: 7 AM - 4 PM  
CEUs: .6 CEUs (requires all day attendance)

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Confirming Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

CCS Certification Number \_\_\_\_\_ BAT # \_\_\_\_\_

\*Cert numbers required if requesting CEUs for Professional Growth Requirements

\*\*Attendance for the entire seminar is mandatory to earn CEUs

### Registration Pricing

Members Seminar Registration	\$145.00
Non-Member Seminar Registration	\$155.00
Membership dues for 2024	\$10.00
Credit Card Transaction Fee	\$5.00

Please Mail check payments to:  
WWCCPPG THE GROUP  
P.O. Box 75223  
Seattle, WA 98175

For Credit Card payments or questions:  
Contact Dennis McLaughlin at 206-364-9643  
or [d.p.mclaughlin@outlook.com](mailto:d.p.mclaughlin@outlook.com)

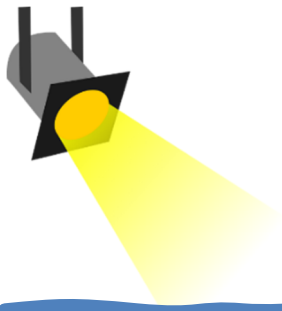
Please have registrations postmarked no later than October 16th. Check or credit card payments must accompany registrations. There will be a \$5.00 transaction fee for credit card payments. Purchase orders are not accepted. One registration form per person is required. Cancellation policy or personal substitutions is 100% refundable (Except the transaction fee) before October 13th.

For anyone wanting to stay over-night, there are some rooms reserved for a discounted price of \$105.00 plus tax for single King Room and \$110.00 plus tax for Two Queen Rooms at the Best Western Alderwood. The discounted nights are available the 17th, 18th & 19th of October. To reserve your room, call 425 775 7600 and mention the Backflow Group.

The address is 19332 36th Avenue W-Lynnwood, WA 98036.

**Reservations must be made by September 20th.**





# **Vender Spotlight**



**AMERICAN BACKFLOW PRODUCTS**

**ARBITER TECHNOLOGY**

**BACKFLOW PARTS USA**

**BAVCO**

**BRANOM INSTRUMENT CO.**

**BIG DOG SALES**

**ECOS CONNECT**

**HOLLABAUGH BROTHER**

**KING SALES**

**PACWEST SALES GROUP - (WAS MECHANICAL AGENTS)**

**SAFE-T-COVER**

**SWIFT COMPLY**

**SYNCTA**

**THE PART WORKS (PRACTICE LAB)**

**VEPO CROSS-CONNEX**

**XC2 SOFTWARE**



# **Western Washington Cross- Connection Prevention Professionals**

## **"The Group"**

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