

WaterPro online community

A systems operations specialist posted a question about Surface Water Monitoring in the WaterPro Community. In a normal situation, a water professional might get advice from two or three others before making a decision, but with the WaterPro Community, this question generated 13 responses. Another question about Disinfection By-products generated 14 responses while questions about Cross Connection Control Software received nine responses; Frozen Water Lines, 16 responses; and Oxidation Ditch Freezing, 12 responses.

In the past, water professionals, like this system operation specialist, might only have the chance to meet at a national or state conference, if they ever met at all. Today, the WaterPro Community gives these professionals a chance to network on-line, to ask questions and exchange experiences each and every day for the benefit of their utilities.

“Today’s world is an on-line world,” explained NRWA CEO, Sam Wade. “Professional networking is no longer limited by time or geography: the internet allows water professionals from all over the world to share their valuable knowledge and experience.”

WaterPro Community forums provide more than a simple Q and A or a quick networking session. Each discussion is stored, categorized and made searchable so that it can be recalled at a later time by any member of the community. These forums have the power to put the knowledge and experience of life-long water professionals at each member’s fingertips. “The forums are a powerful tool, but they are just one of the WaterPro Community’s many features,” Wade said.

The power of the WaterPro community is that it combines the power of several, common web tools into one single, easy-to-navigate platform, including forums, blogs, file libraries, wikis, and networking tools. The community platform gives members one login to access the full array of tools. Additionally, it adds a layer of search and tag functionality that makes finding information easier than ever. A simple search for ‘Arsenic,’ for example, could yield blog posts on new arsenic regulations and remediation technology, forum discussions about systems’ experiences dealing with arsenic, sample presentations on how to deal with arsenic, and links to webinars on arsenic reduction.

The WaterPro Community blogs will focus on regular updates on industry issues, ranging from technical operations to regulations and compliance. Expert authors share regular news links, insight, and analysis on various industry topics. Various subscription options ensure members are always up-to-date on the latest news in their favorite topic area. WaterPro Conference blogs also have commenting options that allow members to continue the discussion, to ask questions, and to increase learning.

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“Our industry is changing rapidly, and the pace is only going to accelerate,” Wade said. “These community blogs will help keep members abreast of all changes in process, technology, and regulation.”

File libraries are community warehouse of documents, files, videos, and presentations. They can include everything from training presentations to official documents. The file libraries will grow dependent on the interest from the members, but could include utility documents, including sample work orders and job descriptions or a sample boil order notice.

A WaterPro Community membership also includes a free NRWA membership, which provides access to other benefits and discounts. The primary benefit is that NRWA members are helping support national’s efforts to support continued utility funding, sensible regulations, and protection of water resources. NRWA members also receive special discounts on NRWA events, webinar events, and other vendor deals. This membership also includes a free subscription to *Rural Water* magazine, and access to special interviews with decision makers in the water industry.

“The WaterPro Community is a unique opportunity to advance the industry and unlock the collective knowledge and expertise of the water industry,” Wade said. ☺
