

Navigating Uncharted Waters In The Utility Sector



S&P Global
Ratings

Sponsored By:
 **BLACK & VEATCH**



Agenda | Thursday, November 17

S&P Global Offices - 55 Water Street
New York, NY

8:30 a.m. **Breakfast & Registration**

9:00 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Jenny Poree, Sector Leader – Water & Sewer, U.S. Public Finance, S&P Global Ratings

9:15 a.m. **Cyber Security: How Will Utilities Continue to Respond?**

Cyber security attacks are pervasive throughout the sector due to utilities' operation of key infrastructure and provision of essential services. How are utilities addressing this risk? Will recent federal efforts facilitate improved cyber risk mitigation?

Moderator: Tiffany Tribbitt, Senior Director & Lead for Global Cyber Security Research, S&P Global Ratings

Kevin Morley, Manager of Federal Relations, AWWA

Bob Schwarm, Director of Information Systems, The Metropolitan District

10:00 a.m. **Spotlight Session: Physical Risks and Climate Data**

Disruption and uncertainty associated with unexpected costs related to physical risks, such as hurricanes, wildfires, and droughts has contributed to rising operational risk. This trend will likely escalate as global temperatures continue to rise, leading to erratic weather patterns affecting infrastructure. What are the ranges of scenarios that utility managers may want to consider? How is climate data and modeling leveraged in sustainable finance analysis?

Erin Boeke Burke, Director & Lead Analyst - Sustainable Finance, S&P Global Ratings

10:30 a.m. **Networking Break**

Navigating Uncharted Waters In The Utility Sector



S&P Global
Ratings

Sponsored By:
 **BLACK & VEATCH**



10:45 a.m. **ESG: Through the Lens 3.0**

ESG risks are nothing new for water and sewer utility managers. These risks have always been critical considerations in operations and long-term planning. Physical risk, rate affordability, and adaptation to changing governance and regulatory demands are key credit considerations as well. Will the urgency to harden infrastructure to meet the rising pressures associated with climate change and other emerging risks pressure rate affordability? How are utilities positioned to balance these objectives to maintain financial performance?

Moderator: Nora Wittstruck, Sector Leader – ESG, U.S. Public Finance, S&P Global Ratings

Dave Johnson, Deputy General Manager of Operations, Las Vegas Valley Water District

Deepa Poduval, Senior Vice President and Global Advisory Practice Leader, Black & Veatch

Matthew Ries, PhD, PE, Director - Strategic Leadership and Sustainability, DC Water

11:45 a.m. **Spotlight Session: Senior Leadership Forum**

Senior leaders from the three hosting companies come together to discuss accomplishments of 2022 and the strategic focus for 2023 and beyond.

Moderator: Robin Prunty, Chief Analytical Officer, U.S. Public Finance, S&P Global Ratings

Martina Cheung, President, S&P Global Ratings

Donnie Ginn, Senior Vice President, Government & Water Utilities Managing Director, Black & Veatch

David LaFrance, Chief Executive Officer, AWWA

12:15 p.m. **Networking Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **Spotlight Session: Economic Outlook**

S&P Global Ratings' lead economist discusses the U.S. economic outlook, focusing on economic indicators most influential to utility managers – income gains, energy costs, supply chain disruption, and expectations for labor and construction costs.

Beth Ann Bovino, U.S. Chief Economist, S&P Global Ratings

Navigating Uncharted Waters In The Utility Sector



S&P Global
Ratings

Sponsored By:
 BLACK &
VEATCH

1:30 p.m. **Regulatory Landscape**

The federal government's roadmap to address emerging contaminants in drinking water foreshadows expected regulatory tightening. In addition, implementation of the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule is well underway. These changes will benefit health and safety within affected communities, but will they pressure financial margins? How are utilities addressing current and future regulations and what can managers expect on the horizon?

Moderator: Chloe Weil, Director & Lead Analyst - Water & Sewer, U.S. Public Finance, S&P Global Ratings

Eric Burneson, Director of Standards and Risk Management - Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Jason Dadakis, Executive Director of Water Quality & Technical Resources, Orange County Water District

Lynda DiMenna, Vice President, Chief Environmental & Safety Officer, American Water

2:15 p.m. **Networking Break**

2:30 p.m. **Infrastructure and SRF's Role**

Underinvestment in water and sewer infrastructure is a continued challenge for the sector. With a substantial percentage of existing system assets nearing the end or already past their useful life, there is risk of vulnerability or failure. How much support will utilities receive from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act? What role will SRFs play in allocating these funds? How will community partnerships influence outcomes?

Moderator: Tracy Mehan, Executive Director of Government Affairs, AWWA

Deirdre Finn, Executive Director, CIFA

David E. Zimmer, Executive Director, State of New Jersey Infrastructure Bank

3:15 p.m. **Closing Remarks**