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## ASPE NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

PO BOX 293, GRAND CENTRAL STATION, NY, NY 10163

<http://www.aspenyc.org>

# APRIL MEETING INFORMATION

Topic: NFPA 99 - 2024 Code Updates

Speaker: Nikita Patel

Sponser: Sherman Engineering

\*\*\*PDH CREDITS PROVIDED\*\*\*

Date: April 1st, 2026

Location: The Tailor Public House & Kitchen - 505 8th Avenue

Time: Dinner Served: 5:30pm

Technical: 5:30-6:30pm

Social: 6:30-8:00pm



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# A Message

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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My fellow ASPE NYC Members,

Thank you to those of you that joined us for our AYP night at UBS Arena on March 13th! The back-of-house tour was incredibly informative, and the happy hour / hockey game were great ways to network with fellow ASPE Young Professionals. A couple of the photos from the night are below; to stay updated in real time, be sure to follow our Instagram: @ASPE.NYC. Thank you to Dempsey and David for organizing such a wonderful event!

Congratulations to those that attended ASPE's ASSE 6060 MedGas Workshop from March 23rd to 26th! The 32 hours of instruction are a lot of commitment but are worth learning the content for this certification. We hope to see a long list of new ASSE 6060 Certified NYC Members! For those that were unable to attend this event, you can get a glimpse into the topic at our next meeting; the presentation will be on NFPA 99 2024 Code Updates.

In addition to our NFPA 99 and other upcoming meeting topics, later in the year ASPE will be heading to Oklahoma City for our bi-annual Convention and Expo! Mark your calendars for October 9th to 14th, as this event is a great way for members to learn about products in the industry, network with peers, and earn CEUs. Visit <https://expo.aspe.org/> for more information!

As our chapter continues to host appealing events and AI becomes more advanced, it's important to stay vigilant of phishing scams and remember the contact information for our board. **Board members will only reach out to you via the emails/phones listed on the cover sheet**, and official chapter communications will only come from [ny.aspe@gmail.com](mailto:ny.aspe@gmail.com), [nycaspenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:nycaspenewsletter@gmail.com), or [postmaster@mg.aspenyc.org](mailto:postmaster@mg.aspenyc.org). We are thankful to have such an engaged chapter, and we appreciate your diligence to keep it safe!

We look forward to seeing you all our next Chapter Meeting on April 1st (no fooling)! Same great time, same great place.

Yours in ASPE,  
Sean Mooney, CPD



The Statue of Liberty is depicted in a grayscale, slightly desaturated style. She is holding a large, black industrial pipe in her right hand. The pipe has white text on it: "USA CH" and "PIPE". The background is a faded, high-angle view of the New York City skyline, with various skyscrapers visible. The overall aesthetic is gritty and industrial.

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**FRANK  
SMITH**

Business Development Manager,  
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Frank began working in his family's plumbing business at age 10, which sparked a lifelong career in piping systems and mechanical infrastructure.

Since 2016, he has partnered with engineers and design professionals to support pipe, valve, and fitting specifications—guiding product selection decisions, solving technical challenges, and moving designs from concept through construction.

Since joining Victaulic in December 2025, Frank continues to collaborate with engineers, developers, and building owners to deliver innovative piping solutions backed by technical expertise.



Have a question or need specification support? Get in touch.

[Frank.Smith@Victaulic.com](mailto:Frank.Smith@Victaulic.com) | 732-267-8210

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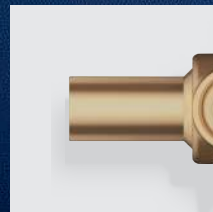
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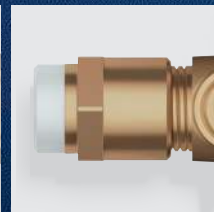
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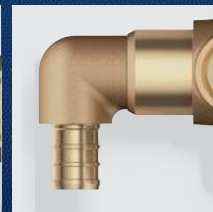
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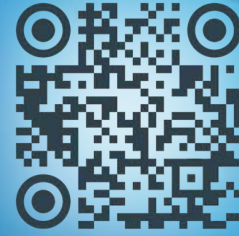
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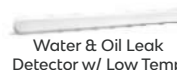
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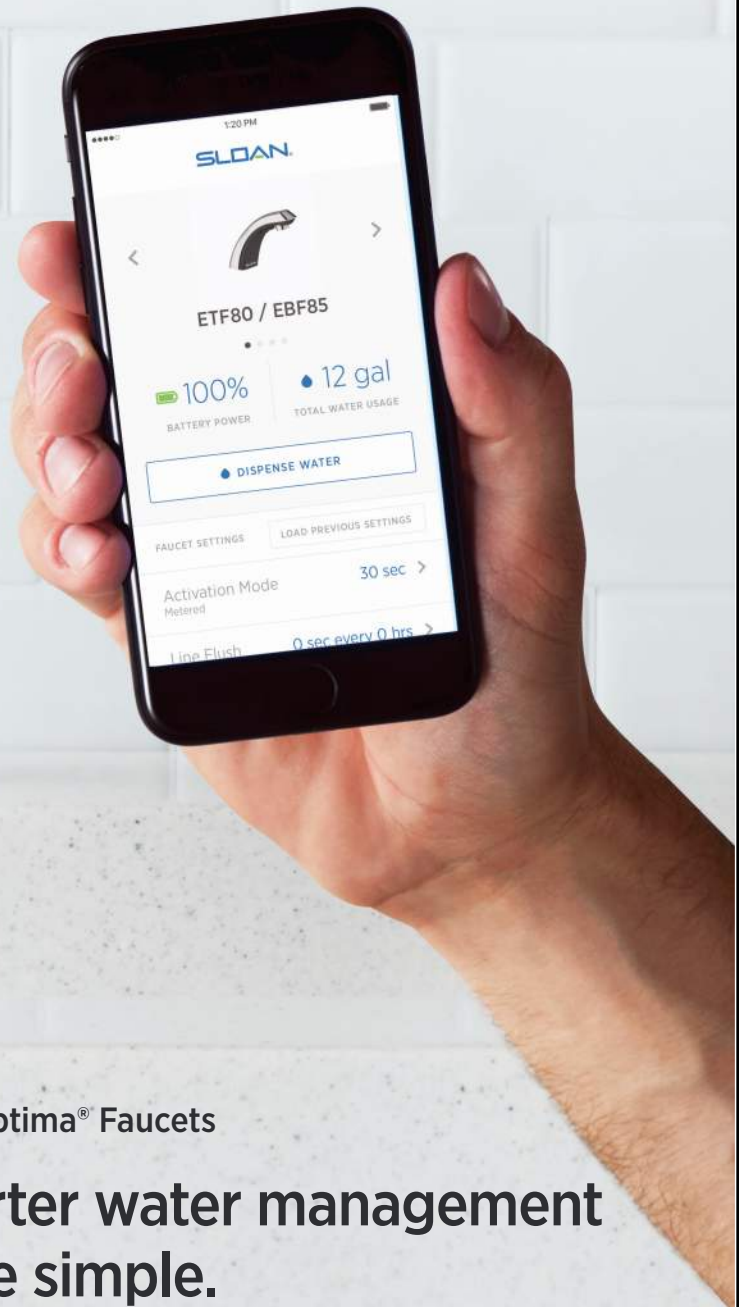
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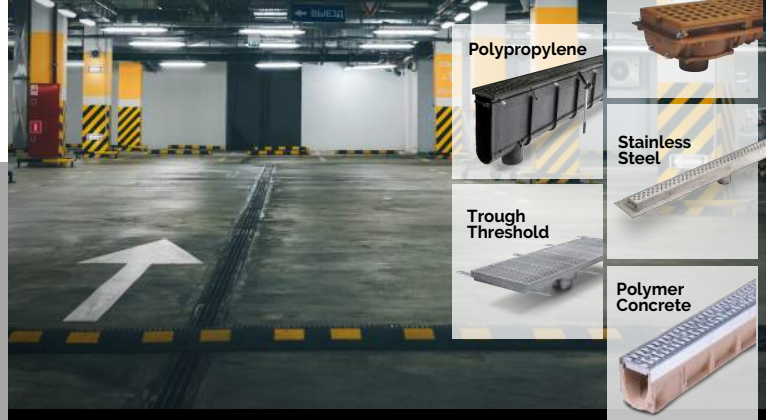
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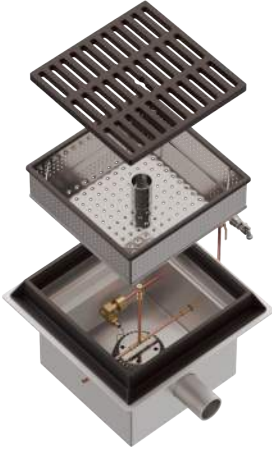
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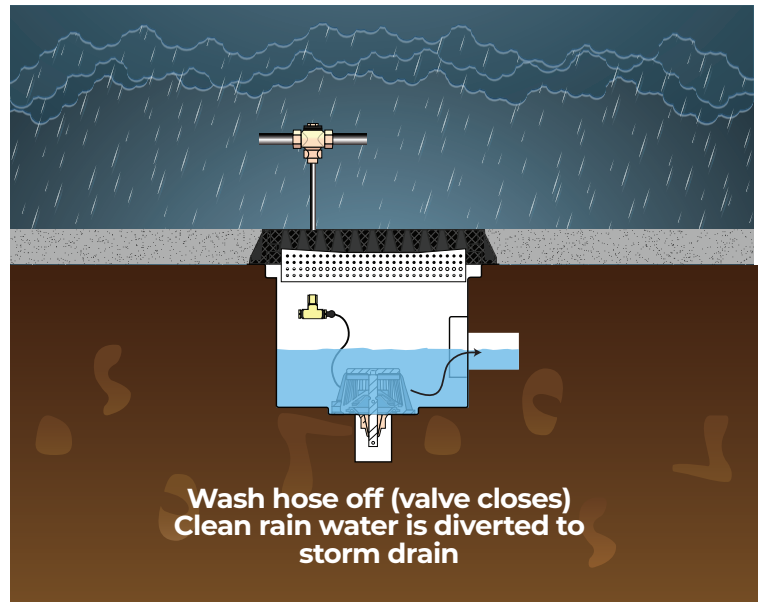
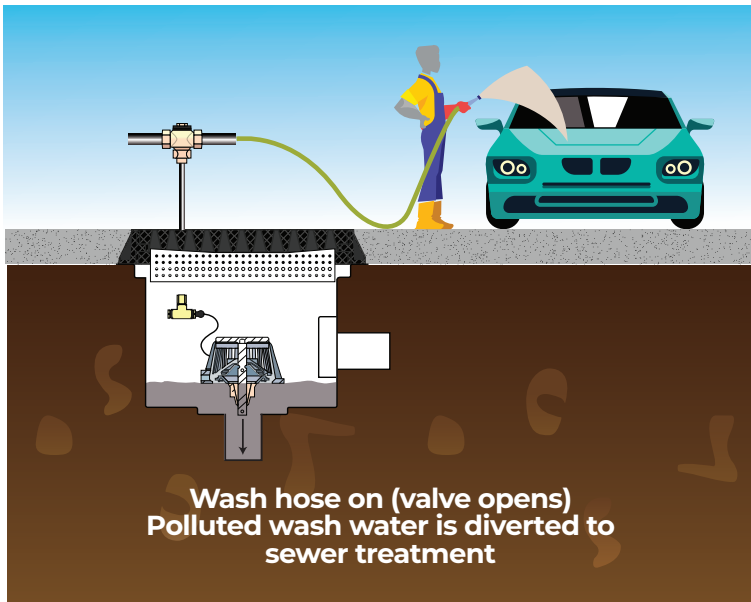
Simultaneously, it diverts rainwater to the storm drain, preventing any cross-contamination.



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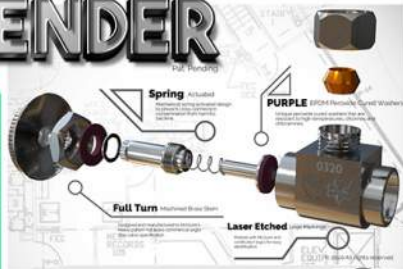
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FROM THE EDUCATION CHAIR



Manhattan is known for its high-rise buildings, which leave tourists in awe and provide amazing views of the city, but they also presents a unique challenge for our brave fire fighters in case of a fire event on the upper floors. So, how do we make water available where it's needed in those situations? Standpipes systems.

These systems are a network of piping, valves, and hose connections built into a structure to provide a pre-piped water supply for firefighting and there are 5 different types:

- Automatic Wet is always filled with water and can supply the system demand automatically via a fire pump, allowing immediate use by occupants or firefighters. NYC requires 2 sources of water with exceptions for R2 residential buildings which can just be 1.
- Automatic Dry is connected to a water supply, but the piping is filled with pressurized air or nitrogen and utilizes a dry pipe valve to admit water into the system when a hose valve is opened and depressurizes the system.
- Semiautomatic Dry is also connected to a water supply but requires a remote activation device to fill the pipe with water via deluge valve. The remote devices need to be provided at each hose connection.
- Manual Wet is connected to a water supply for the purpose of maintaining water within the system but requires a Fire Department pumper to pump into the system and supply the system demand
- Manual Dry is not connected to a water supply nor filled with any pressurized air. It is designed for fire department use only, relying entirely on fire engines to pump into the system through the Fire Department connection to meet the system demand

Essentially an extension of the fire hydrant system into a building, these systems allow firefighters or trained occupants to access high-pressure water at strategic locations on multiple floors without the need to drag heavy, long hoses from the street up through stairwells. The hose connections that are installed on the systems are split into 3 classes depending on the occupancy, height and type of building. These requirements are outlined in NYC Building Code Chapter 9.

**Class I** systems provide a 2 1/2 inch hose connection for use primarily by trained personnel or by the fire department during initial response. This class has no hose attached so the fire department will usually carry hose packs and connect to the standpipe system where needed to start their operations.

**Class II** systems provide 1 1/2-inch hose stations to supply water for use primarily by the building occupants or by the Fire Department during initial response. These are typically found in cabinets with 100' of hose.

**Class III** systems are a combination of the two providing both 2 1/2-inch 1 1/2-inch hose stations. Many times, these connections will provide a 2-1/2 inch reducer to a 1-1/2 hose connection.

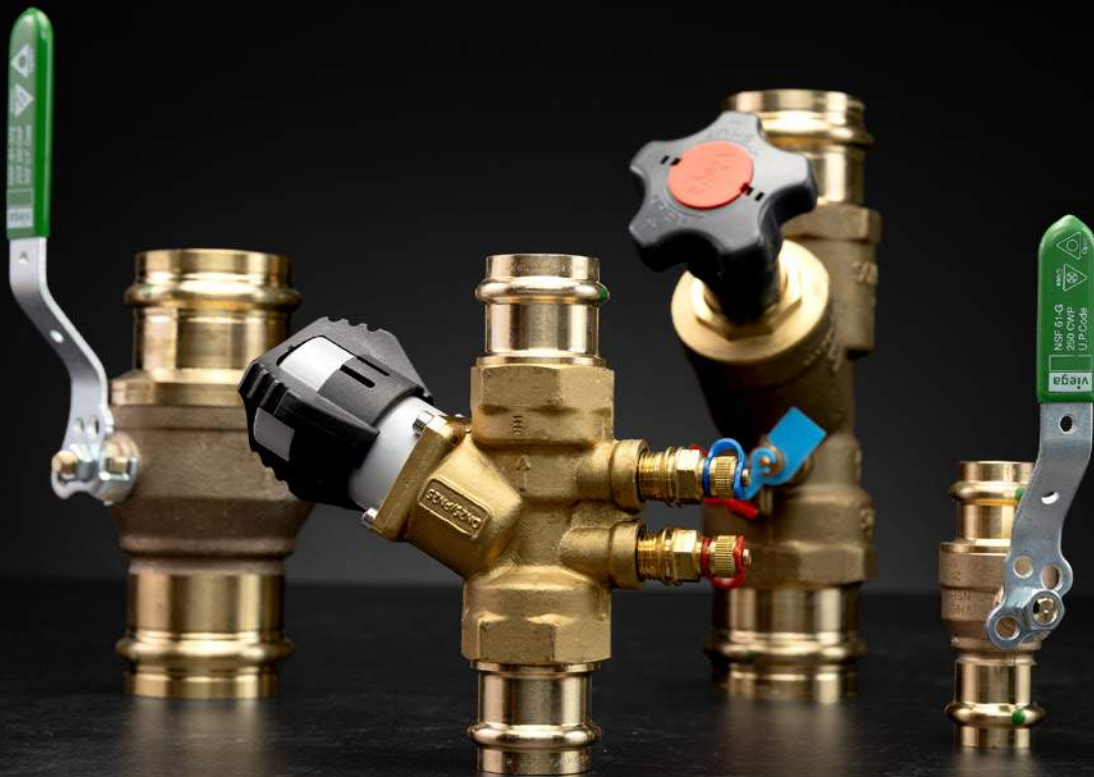
Each egress stair within a building requires a standpipe riser and each floor a hose valve connection, with some exceptions. Standpipe risers are normally 4" in size and 6" if they also serve sprinklers. Automatic systems need to provide 500 GPM with minimum 65PSI at the topmost floor with each additional standpipe riser adding 250 GPM to the source supply, maxing out at 1000 GPM. This outlines your pump selection.

Fire Department connection (FDC's) are installed on the building façade and provide the fire pumper connection point. NYC requires 3-inch connections with quantity based on system demand of 1 per 250GPM.

For additional info on the design, installation, testing and maintenance of standpipe systems, you can refer to the latest New York City/State Building Codes Chapter 9 and NFPA 14 with NYC amendments outlined in the Appendix Q of the building code. Thank you and Stay Educated.

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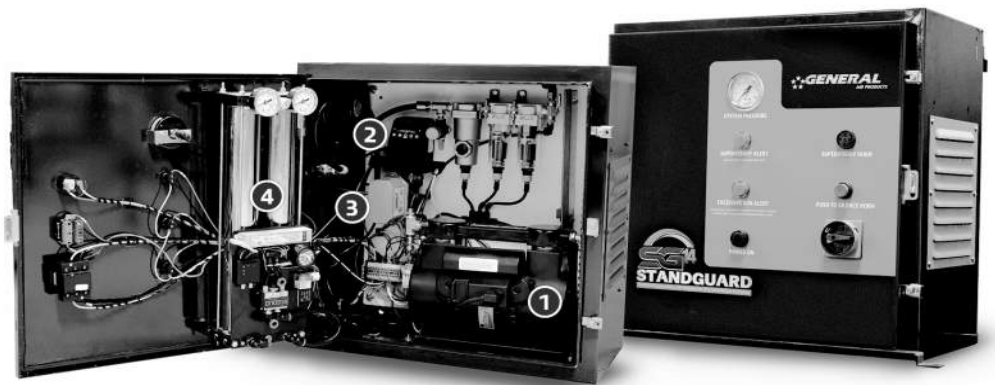
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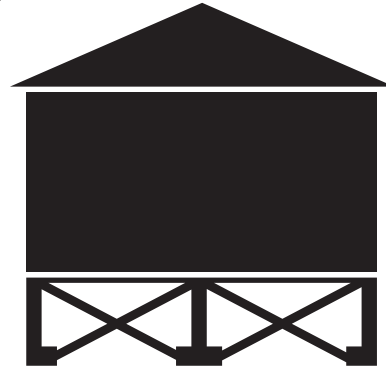
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# MARCH MEETING MINUTES

The March meeting was initiated by Steve and began with the Pledge of Allegiance, after which, several announcements were made. The next AYP event is on Friday, March 13 th at UBS Arena for a New York Islanders game. There is an ASSE 6060 Medical Gas Workshop March 23rd -26th at the Viega Experience Center. Link to register can be found on the website. Sean Dabroski announced an upcoming tour of the New Croton Reservoir in the spring. Details on the date of the tour and how to register will be announced in the future. There will be a New York Aquarium family day in the summer. Details on the date will be announced in the future. The ASPE summer golf outing will be on Monday, August 10 th . The Fishing Trip will be on Saturday, September 26th .

## **Technical Presentation: Wastewater Heat Recovery (WWHR) by Sean Dabroski**

Sean began the presentation by explaining the physical and thermal characteristics of wastewater and why it represents a viable energy source within buildings. Wastewater generated from plumbing fixtures is a mixture of liquids, suspended solids, fibrous materials, and greasy waste. There is a wide temperature range for waste water depending on what is discharged to the sanitary system (i.e. steam condensate). Typical wastewater temperatures vary depending on the point within the collection and treatment system. From building sanitary systems to municipal sewer systems, wastewater temperatures typically range between 65°F and 75°F. From municipal sewer systems to pump stations, temperatures are generally slightly lower, typically ranging from 55°F to 60°F. From pump stations to municipal wastewater treatment plants, influent wastewater temperatures often range from 50°F to 57°F, while surface water sources associated with treatment processes may range between 50°F and 53°F. This shows that there is more ideal heat recovery from wastewater systems within the buildings.

Sean highlighted the benefits of WWHR, noting that it aligns with electrification/carbon reduction initiatives, reduces energy usage while increasing overall system efficiency, provides a water-source option for all building types, can be used to supplement overall system energy loops, and that it is eligible for state and federal tax incentives.

Sean emphasized that WWHR systems align closely with current electrification and carbon reduction initiatives, including policies such as New York City Local Law 97, which establishes emissions limits for large buildings. By integrating wastewater heat recovery with heat pump technologies, buildings can reduce fossil fuel consumption while maintaining high system efficiency. Wastewater heat recovery also offers advantages compared to conventional air-source heat pump systems. Sean noted that 80 to 90 percent of hot shower's delivered thermal energy is lost down the drain immediately after use. Extracting this heat before the wastewater goes to the sewer can significantly reduce the amount of energy a building uses for water heating. Because wastewater temperatures are relatively stable year-round, the seasonal coefficient of performance (COP) of water-source systems can often exceed that of air-source systems. Typical water source heat pump COP values may range from approximately 3.6 to 4.0, whereas air source heat pumps can range between 1.9 and 4.0 depending on ambient conditions.

Another advantage discussed during the presentation is the flexibility of WWHR systems in building design. Unlike many renewable energy systems that require roof area or external infrastructure, wastewater heat recovery systems are generally located within the building's mechanical spaces and connect directly to the sanitary drainage system. This allows them to function as a water-source energy option for buildings where roof space or exterior infrastructure may be limited. In addition, WWHR systems can supplement existing energy loops within a building, supporting both domestic hot water production and HVAC heating and cooling systems.

The presentation also addressed financial incentives and policy drivers that support the adoption of wastewater heat recovery technologies. Sean discussed provisions within the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which introduced updated tax incentives for clean energy systems, including the Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit under Section 48E. These incentives can provide credits of approximately 30% or more depending on project eligibility and can significantly reduce the capital cost and payback period associated with implementing energy recovery technologies. Additional incentive opportunities are available through programs such as the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Heat Recovery Program and initiatives such as the Empire Building Challenge, which promote energy efficiency and low-carbon building technologies.

Sean then moved into a detailed technical discussion of the primary system components required for a wastewater heat recovery installation. Large commercial buildings were described as functioning similarly to small municipal wastewater systems, with internal populations that can rival those of small towns. Because of this, wastewater energy recovery systems must utilize robust, municipal-grade equipment capable of handling solids, debris, and variable flow conditions commonly found in building drainage systems.

One of the first critical components is the wastewater screening system. Screeners are used to remove coarse solids and fibrous materials from the wastewater stream before it enters the heat exchanger. These screeners must be constructed from corrosion-resistant materials and designed to withstand harsh wastewater environments. Proper screening is essential not only

for protecting downstream equipment but also for ensuring compliance with municipal wastewater requirements. For example, local authorities such as the New York City DEP discourage the discharge of macerated solids to wastewater treatment plants, making proper screening and solids removal an important design consideration.

Following screening, wastewater flows through a heat exchanger where thermal energy is transferred from the wastewater stream to a clean water loop. Sean described several types of heat exchangers commonly used in WWHR systems, including U-Tube heat exchangers and WideGap plate and frame heat exchangers. In U-Tube designs, wastewater typically flows around the outside of stainless steel tubes while the source water flows inside the tubes. These systems typically operate with an approach temperature of approximately 10°F. WideGap plate and frame heat exchangers, by comparison, allow wastewater and source water to flow between stainless steel plates, achieving tighter approach temperatures closer to 5°F and potentially higher thermal transfer efficiency.



A significant operational challenge discussed in the presentation was biofouling. Wastewater contains nutrients, bacteria, suspended solids, and organic material that can accumulate on heat exchanger surfaces over time. This buildup forms a biofilm that reduces heat transfer efficiency, increases pressure drop, and can contribute to microbiologically influenced corrosion. In severe cases, fouling can reduce heat transfer efficiency by as much as 60%. To mitigate these effects, many WWHR systems incorporate automatic cleaning mechanisms and self-cleaning heat exchanger designs that remove sediment and debris using mechanical augers or other automated cleaning processes.

Transfer pumps represent another essential component within WWHR systems. These pumps may be configured as submersible pumps located within wastewater basins or as dry-pit pumps located in adjacent mechanical spaces. Pumps used in wastewater heat recovery applications must be capable of handling solids and operating under challenging conditions, including high start frequencies and elevated fluid temperatures. Recommended pump characteristics include the ability to handle up to 30 starts per hour, high temperature operating capability up to approximately 195°F, dual mechanical seals, and adaptive impeller designs that minimize clogging and maintain reliable operation.

The recovered thermal energy is typically utilized through water source heat pumps. These heat pumps may serve HVAC systems or domestic hot water systems depending on project design. Refrigerants commonly used in HVAC heat pump systems include R513A, R454B, R32, and R290, while domestic hot water heat pumps may utilize refrigerants such as R744 (CO<sub>2</sub>) or R290 (propane). R744 and R290 are particularly advantageous for domestic hot water production because they can generate supply temperatures up to approximately 170°F while maintaining environmentally favorable characteristics such as low global warming potential. R744 also has no compressor HP restrictions. Alternative options such as R513A, R32, and R454 generate domestic hot water temperatures up to 150°F and require roughly 15% more storage compared to R744 and R290 systems. These refrigerants are non-toxic, but mildly flammable. They also require refrigeration licenses. Per the NYC FC Table 606.1.1 compressors must be 15 HP or less. These refrigerants also have high GWP and are subject to future legislation under NYS Part 494.

Plant controls represent another critical aspect of WWHR system operation. Advanced control systems integrate the various system components, including transfer pumps, heat exchangers, heat pumps, and building HVAC systems. A centralized control interface allows operators to monitor system performance, manage energy flows, and optimize heat recovery operation based on building demand conditions.

Sean then reviewed system design and sizing considerations. Key factors influencing WWHR system design include project energy recovery targets, fixture counts, sanitary piping configuration, available wastewater flow and temperature ranges, available mechanical space, and the presence of other heating sources that may supplement the system. Designers must also consider wastewater storage requirements and how recovered energy will integrate with existing building energy infrastructure. In many cases, supplementary heating systems utilizing other available energy sources may be used to support system operation.

Sean highlighted several real world WWHR installation examples, including large scale systems that utilize wastewater energy for both heating and cooling applications. These case studies demonstrated the potential for significant reductions in carbon emissions, energy consumption, and utility costs when wastewater heat recovery is integrated into building mechanical system design. The presentation concluded with a question and answer session with the audience.

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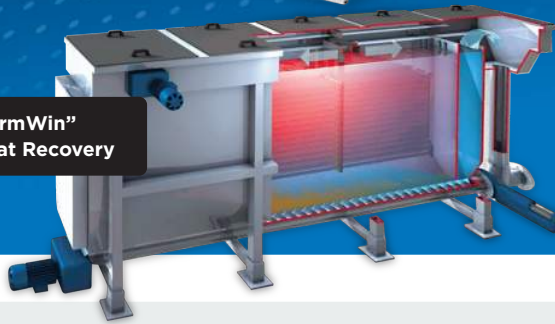
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