



WOMEN IN WATER

COMMUNITY & CLEAN WATER

Opening Session Speakers

Opening Session will include the following speakers:



Dr. Lilia A. Abron

Founder, President and CEO of PEER Consultants, P.C.

Lilia A. Abron, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, Dist.M.ASCE, NAE is the CEO/President and founder of PEER Consultants, P.C. (PEER). She started PEER Consultants, P.C. with the intent of focusing on pollution control and abatement, environmental quality control and resiliency and sustainability in the air, water, land and subsurface media. A trailblazer for women in engineering, she also founded PEER Africa Western Cape, CC in 1995 to advance sustainability and improve conditions for impoverished communities worldwide.

Dr. Abron earned a B.S. in Chemistry with distinction from LeMoyne College in Memphis, TN (1966), an M.S. in Sanitary Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis (1967), and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Iowa (1972).

In 2021, Dr. Abron was inducted as a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) the highest honor the Society bestows. She is also an elected member of the prestigious National Academy of Engineering (NAE), the American Academy of Arts & Sciences (AAAS), Tau Beta Pi, DC Alpha Chapter as an Eminent Engineer, and she is a History Maker®. In January of 2021, she was elected for a one-year period, President of The American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES). She presently serves on the Academy's Foundation Board (EESF). Dr. Abron is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the International Women's Forum, serves on multiple engineering advisory boards, and recently served a 6-year period on the Board of Trustees at her alma mater, LeMoyne-Owen College.



Dr. Priscila B. R. Alves

Assistant Research Professor and Lab Manager, University of Maryland

Dr. Priscila Alves is an Assistant Research Professor at the Urban Studies & Planning Program and Lab Manager of the Stormwater Infrastructure Resilience and Justice (SIRJ) Lab at the University of Maryland. She holds a PhD in Water Engineering from the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom, and a MSc in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the Federal University of Campina Grande in Brazil. Her research focuses on water and environmental engineering, and urban planning, combining mixed-methods, such as hydrological modeling, GIS and community-based participatory approaches for understanding water in the built environment.



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Faith Oviawe

Engineer, Arcadis

Faith Oviawe is a Wastewater Engineer at Arcadis, supporting public-sector utilities through asset management, condition/risk-informed decision-making, and capital planning. She joined the firm in September 2025, bringing six years of experience from AlexRenew, where she supported initiatives focused on operational and capital priorities. Faith earned her B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Howard University, an experience that shaped her commitment to service-oriented infrastructure.

Faith enjoys the outdoors most when it's cold (bugs stay away), loves spending time with family, traveling and trying great food, working out, and has a long-running interest in African fashion and Disney musicals.



Kishia L. Powell

General Manager, WSSC Water

Kishia is a dynamic force in the global water sector with 27 years of experience in both the public and private sectors across the U.S. and London. She leads a team of 1789 strong and manages the day-to-day operations of the largest water utility in Maryland – the 8th largest in the country – and ensures water and water resource recovery services are safely provided to 1.9 million customers throughout a 1,000-square-mile service area. WSSC Water has a combined operating and capital budget of \$1.8 billion, and a six-year capital program of 4.8 billion.

Kishia served on President Biden's National Infrastructure Advisory Council's Subcommittee for Expanding Workforce Development. She currently serves on the board of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, (formerly as President), representing over 400 clean water agencies across the country; the Water Research Foundation's Board of Directors; and the Baltimore Water Task Force. In May 2023, the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers honored her with the Industry Icon Award.



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Shannon Spence

Director of the Project Management Office, Prince William Water

Shannon Spence, PE, is the Director of the Project Management Office (PMO) at Prince William Water, a large, combined utility located in the Northern Virginia/DC Metro Region. In this position, Ms. Spence oversees a team of project managers and the execution of a \$160 million-per-year Capital Improvement Program. Before being the PMO Director, Ms. Spence served as the Deputy Director and then Acting Director at Prince William Water's 24MGD advanced water reclamation facility.

Ms. Spence also worked as a consulting engineer for 20 years with expertise in construction, controls systems design, and vulnerability assessment for public water and wastewater utilities. Before becoming an engineer, she worked as an electrician for 10 years as a member of Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in New York City.

Ms. Spence received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City and is a licensed Professional Engineer.