

WEF Current Trends and News

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FORMAT

20 minute presentation

ABSTRACT

This presentation will cover trends in the wastewater sector which impact the automation field. As we continue to see a “Resource Recovery” terminology replacing the term “Wastewater Treatment” there are important considerations to examine regarding automation’s role in this vision of the wastewater utility of the future. Sustainability, resiliency, reuse, and innovation, are words being stressed in the actions needed to address aging infrastructure, a changing workforce, and moving management into real-time, proactive modes. The “blueprints” being created by the leaders of environmental organizations are looking to automation to play a growing and increasingly important role in achieving their described visions. We must understand these trends, to focus our efforts and best provide our talents and services to support the desired enhancements that will make our utility environments sustainable into the future.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Thomas DeLaura, P.E. is the Vice President of Eramosa International, and the Executive Director of the Instrument Testing Association. Tom has 40 years of experience with automation, and has seen firsthand how it can support and enhance all facets of the wastewater business. Tom’s career has focused on influencing and comprehending industry best practices to enhance performance, enable well-informed decision making, and utilize human and automation resources to produce optimum results. His active roles at the local and national levels of ISA, WEF and AWWA are examples of his dedication to the industry, and give him a true appreciation for the need to keep automation relevant during the many challenges and changes the wastewater industry is facing. Tom is a member of a number of committees in AWWA and WEF, including the AWWA I&C Committee, and he is WEF’s Chair of the Automation & Information Technology Committee. He has worked in all facets of automation associated with water/wastewater systems, from down in sewers, to out in the plant, and all the way up to the boardroom. He has written and presented on numerous topics of interest to the water and wastewater industry, and has received awards from the industry for his dedication and service.