

Federal Environmental Symposium

Energy and Water Efficiency Webinar Speaker Biographies

February 17, 2021 and March 3, 2021

NIH Speakers

Joe Nieves has over 30 years of experience in the operation, maintenance, and management of Central Utility and Cogeneration Power Facilities. As Chief of the Utilities Generation Branch (UGB), Mr. Nieves oversees the operation of the 60,000-ton NIH Chiller Plant, the 800,000 pound per hour NIH Boiler Plant, and the 23-MW NIH gas turbine cogeneration facility. Mr. Nieves manages the day-to-day operation, maintenance, environmental, and contractual requirements of these facilities.

Dr. Don Guan is the Utilities Engineering Branch (UEB) Chief. He is a Professional Engineer and has 25 years of experience in academic research, engineering design, construction management, energy services, system integration, commissioning, and central plant optimization. UEB works closely with the Utilities Generation and Distribution Branches and supports Central Utility Plant (CUP) engineering projects, oversees multi-disciplinary data platform development, and performs advanced data analysis to optimize industrial process and data workflows.

Dr. Ye Tao is a Mechanical Engineer under Utilities System Design and Technical Services Branch. He has seven years of experience in academic research on advanced HVAC systems, chemical engineering unit operation and water treatment. Dr. Ye serves as a subject matter expert for the analysis, development and implementation of the CUP water treatment program and environmental projects.

Kayvan Torkashvan is a Sr. Data Engineer with the Utilities Engineering Branch, Division of Technical Resources. Kayvan's professional background is in the field of applied physics, data science, and engineering. Kayvan is currently leading the NIH CUP Data Quality assurance program.

Stephen Klim, CDC Portfolio Manager/Architect

Steve is currently the portfolio manager for Chamblee and Lawrenceville campuses at CDC, as well as the Sustainable Buildings goal manager. He has also been CDC's Sustainable Buildings Coordinator dating back to 2013. Steve has been with CDC for over 12 years starting in the Projects and Construction Management Services Office (PCMSO) and contributed to the design and construction of Roybal Building 23, and Chamblee Building 107. He was the project manager on CDC's flagship cafeteria renovation and on Pittsburgh's Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC). He has managed an "array" of solar projects on the Atlanta campuses bringing Agency attention and recognition to CDC's sustainability efforts. He has also been on the selection committee, and authored solicitation documents for CDC's new High Containment Lab Project. Steve is a graduate of the New Jersey Institute of Technology-Newark, NJ, with a bachelor's degree in Architecture. He is a Registered Architect in Georgia and holds a LEED Green Associate certification. He also has held NCARB certification and Architect registration in New Jersey.

Christopher Payne, Research Scientist/Department Head/Division Deputy, Operations

DOE Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory

Over his career in energy efficiency and sustainability policy research, Christopher Payne has focused on understanding how decisions related to energy consumption are made, how public policy shapes those decisions, and how energy policy can be made more efficient, effective, and persistent. Dr. Payne is a recognized expert in organizational decision-making related to energy and sustainability, with a research specialty in institutional acquisition processes and their role in clean energy technology adoption.

Jerrilyn Goldberg, Research Associate

Jerrilyn Goldberg is a Research Associate at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, where she studies organizational adoption of continuous improvement for energy management and resilience. She focuses on how to best lower barriers to energy efficiency in the public sector. As a 50001 Ready expert, she develops training programs for federal partners and manages the federal technical support offering.

Robert J. (R.J.) Dyrdek, Fort Knox Energy Manager, DOD Army

R.J. joined Fort Knox Directorate of Public Works in March 2009 as the Energy Program Manager as required by the Energy Act of 1992 and became a Certified Energy Manager (CEM) in 2009. He has established and managed the Fort Knox energy program which has received the Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award for nine consecutive years. The Fort Knox energy program has met all Presidential mandates several years in advance with a 30% energy reduction before 2015 from a 2003 baseline. Fort Knox earned #1 energy performing Army Installation in the US in 2014. In early 2015, it was the first Army installation to be “Net Zero Energy” enabling operation without outside energy for several weeks with no impact on mission. With a diesel supply, Fort Knox could operate indefinitely. No more “Ice Storm issue” for Fort Knox.

Mitchell Otey, FAA Environmental Protection Specialist

Mitchell is an Environmental Protection Specialist with the FAA. He joined the agency in 2012, working at the Central Service Center in Fort Worth, TX. Mitchell was a project manager for Environmental Cleanup sites as well as Energy and Water efficiency projects. Now, he works at FAA Headquarters in the Office of Environment and Energy, where he is responsible for policy and reporting for the agency’s energy, sustainability and resilience programs.