



NALCO Water
An Ecolab Company

Steel Conference 2025

February 24-26, 2025

Clearwater Beach, Florida

When

February 24-26, 2025

Where

Hyatt Regency Clearwater
Resort and Spa
301 S Gulfview Blvd. Clearwater Beach,
FL 33767 USA

Contact

PMI@ecolab.com



ABOUT EVENT

Nalco Water is excited to announce our annual Steel Conference, hosted by the Global Primary Metals Team. This essential event for steel industry professionals will cover key topics including wastewater treatment, water digitalization and water circularity, emphasizing industry trends such as sustainability and cost efficiency. Attendees will deepen their knowledge on water treatments and technologies as well as learn how to enhance plant performance while connecting with fellow experts. Join us to stay ahead in the industry and drive your business forward.



DAY 1

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

3:00 – 5:00 pm	Check in & Registration
5:30 pm	Welcome Reception
6:30 pm	Dinner

DAY 2

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am	Welcome & Introductions
8:10 am	Steel Market Update: 2025 and Beyond <i>Philip Bell</i>
9:10 am	Nalco Water and Steel Industry Key Business Drivers <i>Daniel Verdejo</i>
9:25 am	Break
9:40 am	Fundamentals of Water and Water Treatment <i>Ed Grodecki and Justin Gould</i>
11:10 am	Addressing Cooling Water Challenges in the Steel Industry <i>Ed Grodecki and Dominic Beaulieu</i>
12:10 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Wastewater Treatment <i>Ed Grodecki and Angela Zagala</i>
2:00 pm	Optimizing Water Treatment for Caster Operations <i>Steve Civanich and Ruben Fernandez</i>
3:00 pm	Break
3:30 pm	Water Quality Best Practices in Hot Rolling Mills <i>Justin Gould and Philippe Pellegrin</i>
4:45 pm	Wrap Up
6:30 pm	Dinner

DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:00 am	Breakfast
7:45 am	Kick Off
8:00 am	Water Digitalization: What Comes Next with Digital Twins and AI <i>Anne Emberson and Ruben Fernandez</i>
9:00 am	Water Circularity: Driving Sustainability and Cost Efficiency <i>Fernando Garcia and Janet Kirkman</i>
10:00 am	Break
10:30 am	Breakout Session Choose: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Oil Removal and Scale Recycling <i>Philippe Pellegrin and Justin Gould</i>▪ Sustainable Strategies: Low P, Non-P & Low Zn Programs <i>Ruben Fernandez</i>
11:50 am	Wrap Up & Close
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	External Activity <i>Golf or fishing</i>

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SPEAKERS



DAN VERDEJO

Vice President & General Manager

Dan Verdejo has been with Nalco Water for over 30 years and has 20 years of experience in the industry. He leads the global team serving the steel, aluminum, and copper industries, focusing on cooling water.

Dverdejo@ecolab.com



FERNANDO GARCIA

VP Corporate Accounts

Fernando Garcia has been with Nalco Water for 21 years and has 22 years of experience in the industry. His functional areas of expertise include industrial water treatment, project management, enterprise programs and customer service. His work spans globally, allowing him to apply his expertise and knowledge to diverse markets and industries.

Fgarcia@ecolab.com



STEVE CIVANICH

AVP Corporate Accounts

Steve Civanich has been with Nalco Water for 32 years and has a total of 35 years of experience in the industry. Working on a global scale, his expertise spans coke plants and flushing liquor treatment, blast furnace scrubber and cooling water, caster water treatment and BOF scrubber chemistry.

Scivanich@ecolab.com



CHRIS TOOLEY

AVP Industrial Sales

Chris Tooley has been with Nalco Water for 16 years and has 8 years of experience in the industry. His functional areas of expertise include extensive technical training in industrial wastewater and a deep understanding of mini-mill water systems within North America.

Cjtooley@ecolab.com

SPEAKERS



DOMINIC BEAULIEU

District Manager

Dominic Beaulieu has been with Nalco Water for nine years with six years of experience in the North American steel industry. He specializes in water treatment, focusing on continuous improvement initiatives and optimizing chemical treatment programs to reduce water usage and extend asset life in cooling and boiler systems.

Dominic.Beaulieu@ecolab.com



ANNE EMBERSON

AVP Corporate Accounts

Anne Emberson has been with Nalco Water for three years, bringing 25 years of industry experience. She excels in leading the commercial delivery enabled, integrated operational solutions to global customers, significantly enhancing sustainability and overall efficiency.

Anne.emberson@ecolab.com



RUBEN FERNANDEZ

Marketing Manager

Ruben Fernandez has been with Nalco Water for 14 years and has 16 years of experience in the steel industry. He specializes in cooling and wastewater, water treatment, process optimization and project management. Ruben has consistently demonstrated the ability to develop innovative solutions that enhance operational efficiency and sustainability in water treatment processes.

Rfernandezbu@ecolab.com



JUSTIN GOULD

Industry Technical Consultant

Justin Gould has been with Nalco Water for 12 years, all of which have been dedicated to the steel industry. His expertise spans from aluminum and paper water treatment, as well as industrial water treatment, particularly in North American steel mills, where he helps optimize water treatment processes and improve efficiency.

Justin.Gould@ecolab.com

SPEAKERS



ED GRODECKI

Senior Industry Technical Consultant Lead

Edward Grodecki has 37 years of experience in the industry, including 20 years at Nalco Water. His expertise spans from casting to hot rolling mill operations, and wastewater treatment, with a deep understanding of utility water treatment in heavy industrial facilities within North America.

Edward.Grodecki@ecolab.com



JANET KIRKMAN

Marketing Director, Sustainable Growth Solutions

Janet Kirkman has been with Nalco Water for 11 years. She currently leads the marketing efforts for Ecolab Water for Climate™, a program to help customers achieve their water and climate goals to advance sustainable growth.

Janet.Kirkman@ecolab.com



PHILIPPE PELLEGRIN

Senior Industry Technical Consultant

Philippe Pellegrin has over 26 years of experience with Nalco Water and has 30 years of experience in the industry. His expertise encompasses conducting process and water audits in steel and power plants, benchmarking process performance, and providing actionable recommendations for improvement, executing them with a clear and effective action plan.

Ppellegrin@ecolab.com



ANGELA ZAGALA

Consultant

Angela Zagala worked with Nalco Water for 13 years. She has 30 years of overall water treatment experience. Her areas of expertise include steel caster, rolling mill, oily wastewater, emulsion breaking, gas cleaning, sludge dewatering, raw water clarification, primary wastewater, secondary wastewater and acid wastewater treatment applications.

Apzagala@yahoo.com

SPEAKERS



PHILIP K. BELL

Steel Manufacturers Association – President

Philip Bell is President of the Washington, DC-based Steel Manufacturers Association. He is a 30-year industry veteran, who developed an interest in the steel industry and manufacturing in the late 1980s while working in maintenance and operations at Elementis Chromium in Corpus Christi, TX. He has held executive-level positions in operations, human resources and public affairs with Gerdau, the SGL Carbon Group, and Qualitech Steel Corporation.

He currently serves on the U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Advisory Committee on Steel, advising the Secretary of Commerce and United States Trade Representative on trade policy, trade agreements, and other trade related matters that benefit U.S. businesses, workers, and the economy. He is also a member of the United States delegation to the OECD steel committee.

Phil is on the board of directors of the National Association of Manufacturers and the American Society of Association Executives. He is also a member of the Association of Iron & Steel Technology and serves on the board of trustees at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN.

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