

PFAS – The Next Wastewater Utility Challenge

Webinar, November 18, 2020, 11am-12pm



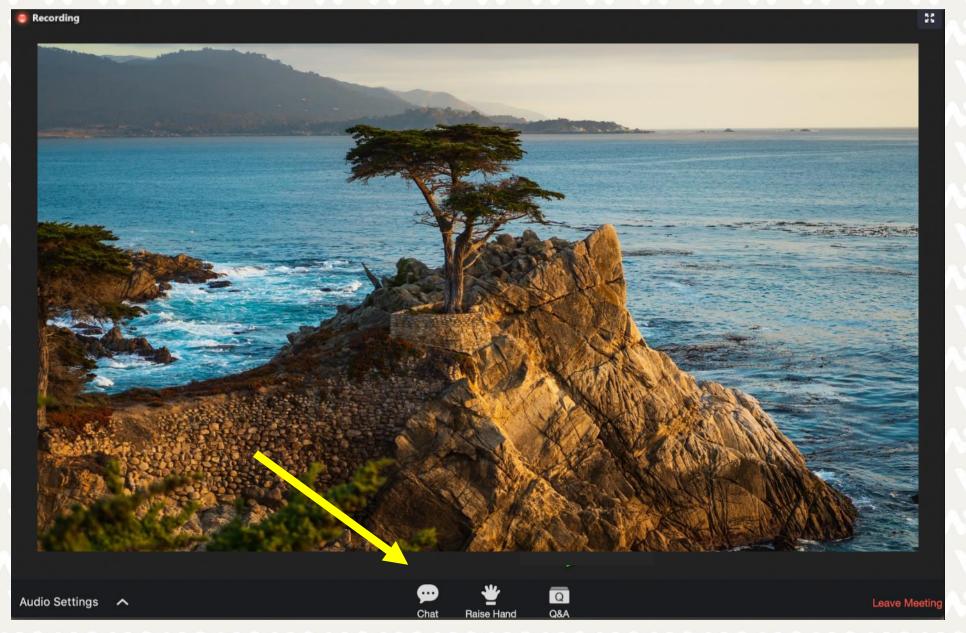


PROJECT MANAGER - CAROLLO ENGINEERS, INC.

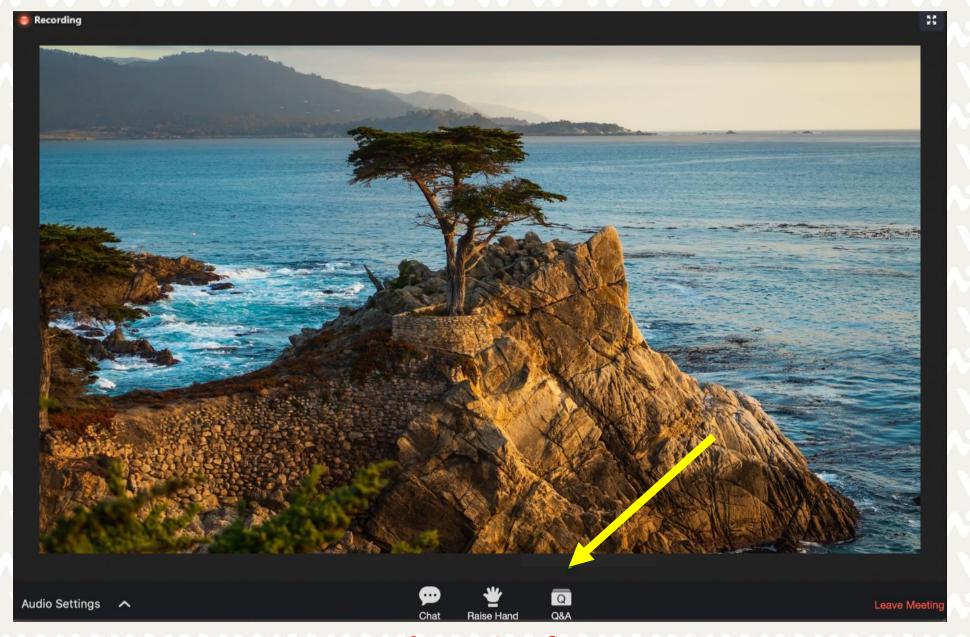


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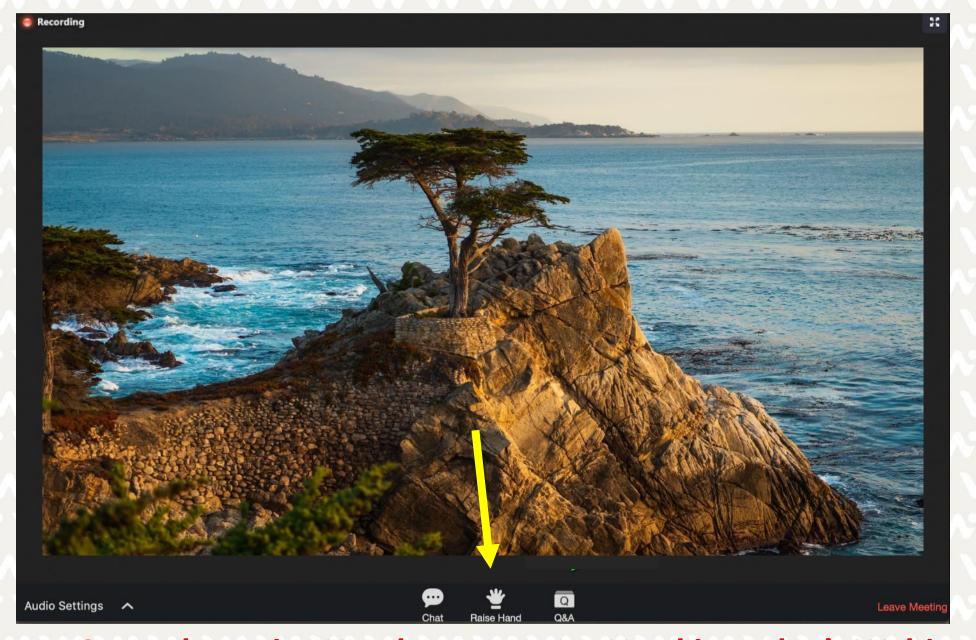




Zoom Controls: Chat for Comments



Zoom Controls: Q&A for Questions

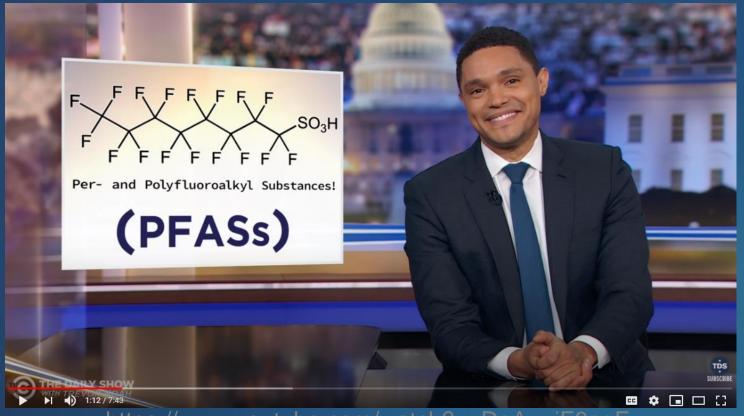


Zoom Controls: Raise Hand Feature Not Used in Today's Webinar





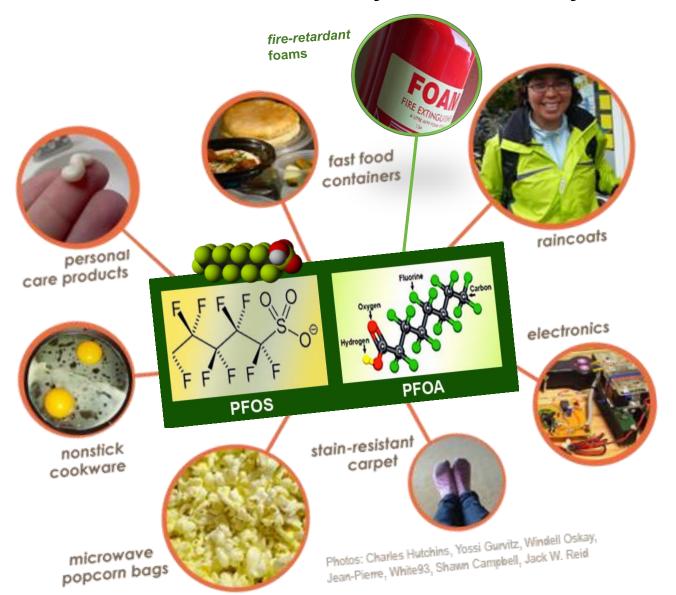




https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeAu_iF6egE

What are PFAS?

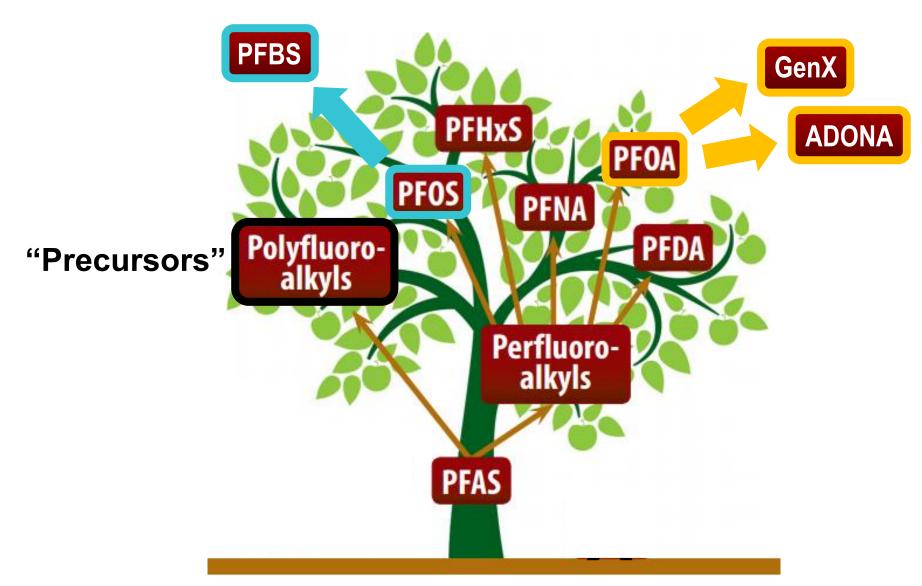
// PFAS = Per- and Polyfluoro Alkyl Substances are Everywhere!



Unique Properties

- Stain repellant
- Flame resistant
- Non-stick
- Water resistant
- Good for coatings

// "PFAS" is an umbrella term for a lot of different compounds!



// Wide Range of Health Effects associated with PFAS Exposure











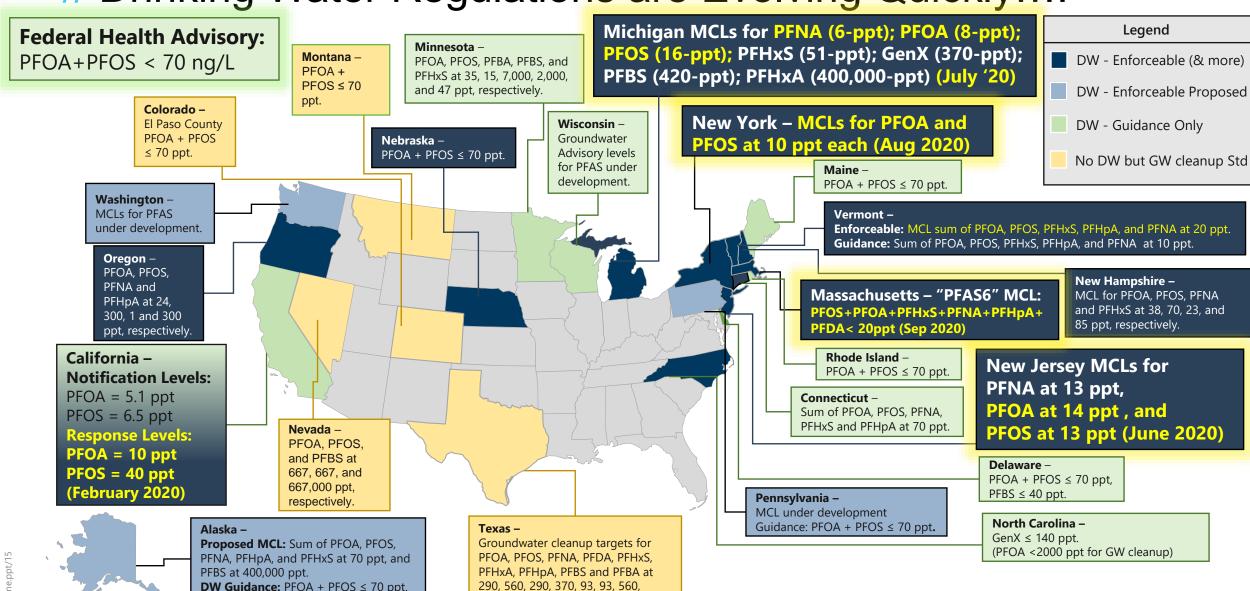


PFOA classified by US EPA as "possibly carcinogenic to humans"



A Brief Note on PFAS in Drinking Water

// Drinking Water Regulations are Evolving Quickly...!

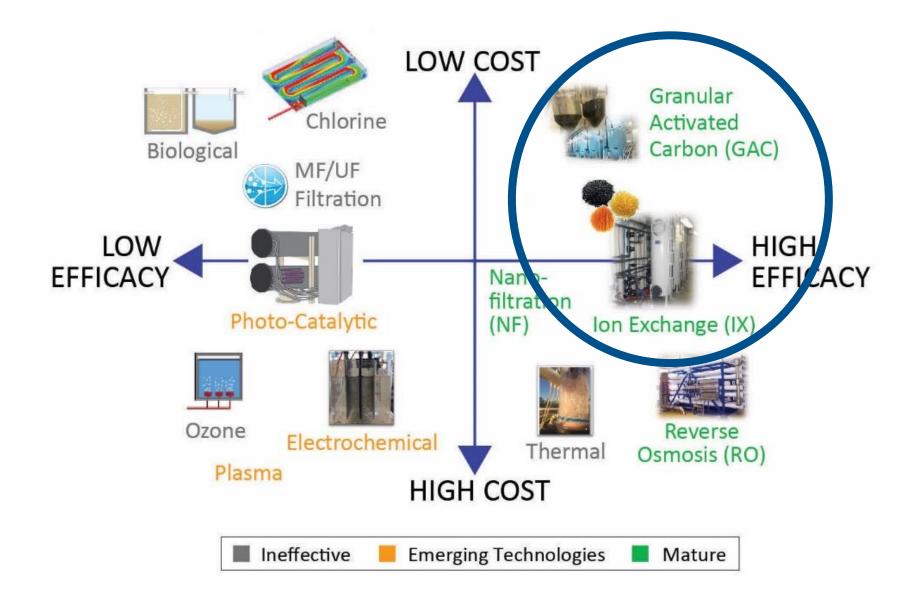


34,000 and 71,000 ppt, respectively.

GW Cleanup Target: PFOA + PFOS

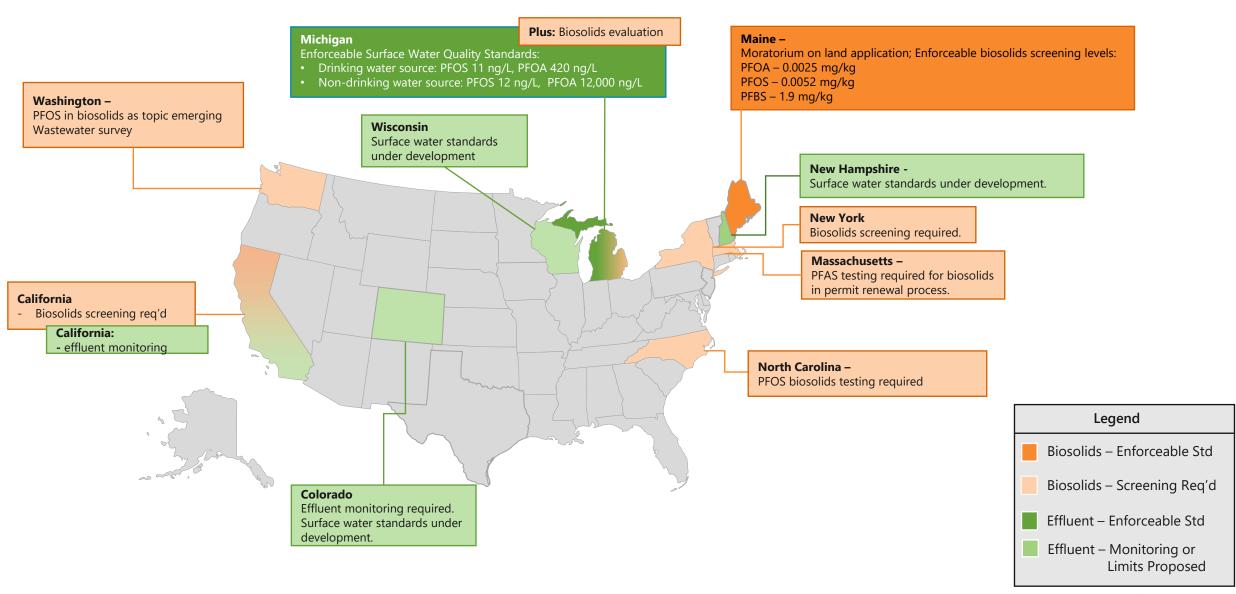
=400 ppt

// Effective treatment options are limited



What about PFAS in Wastewater?

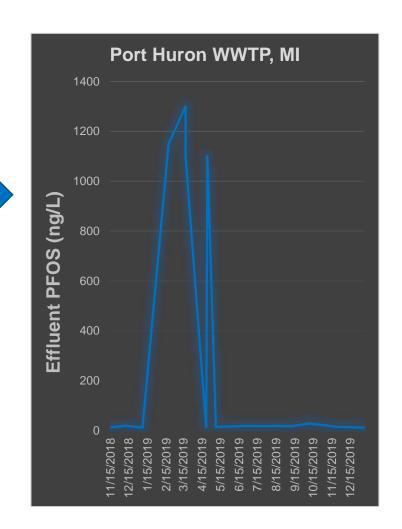
// Regulations for Effluent & Biosolids are coming, too...



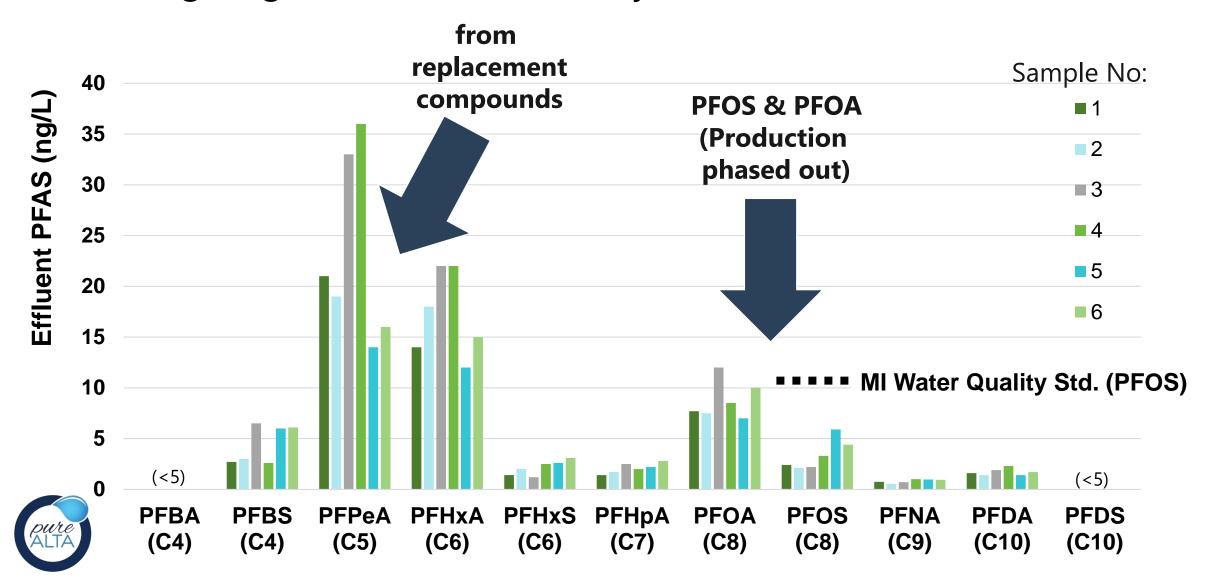
// Effluent Standards: Lessons from Michigan (PFOS Water Quality Standard ≤12 ng/L)

- 1. "Background" PFOS in effluent: 3-7 ng/L
- 2. Industrial contributions can be erratic.

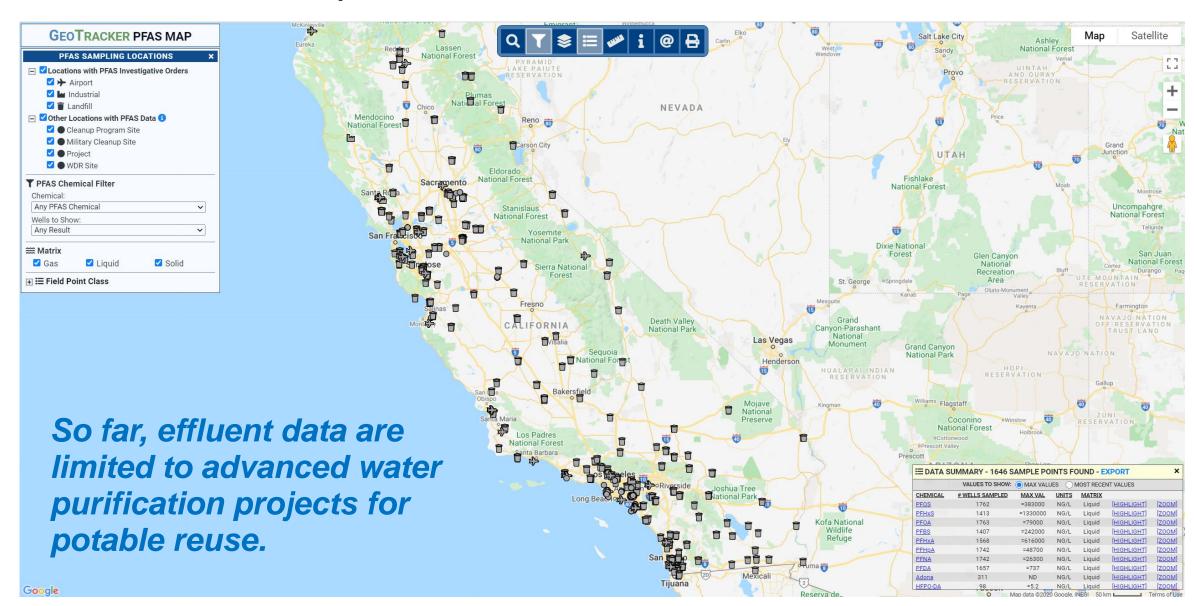
 Source control is most effective method to control effluent PFOS.



// We're going to have to look beyond PFOS & PFOA

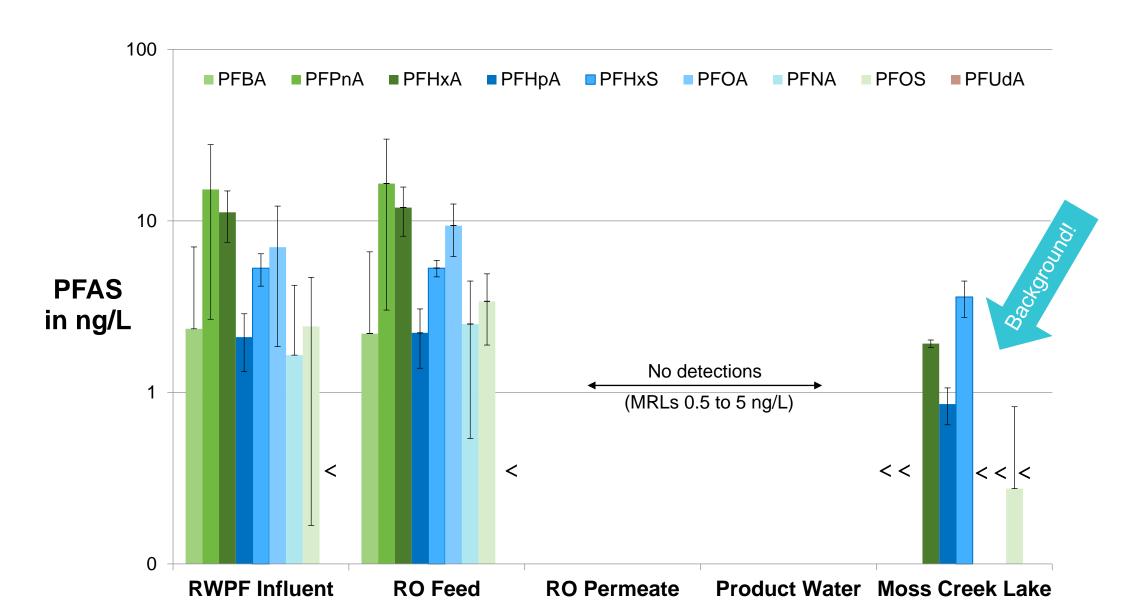


// California has put PFAS data online with GeoTracker



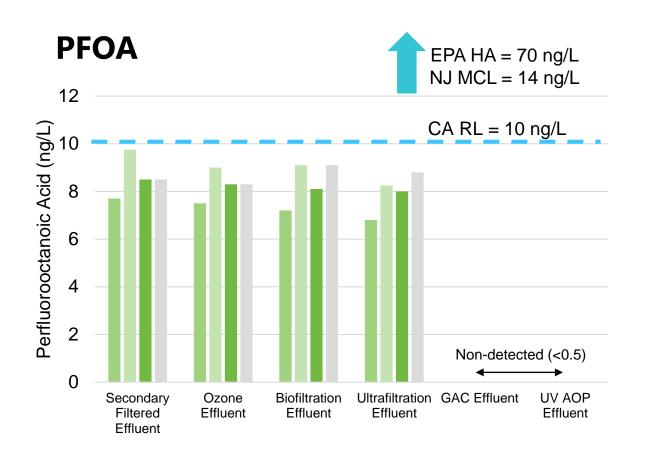
How does advanced treatment stack up?

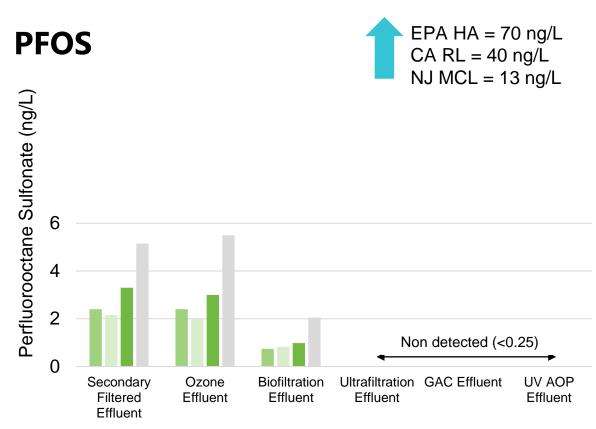
// RO used in potable reuse addresses PFAS compounds



// Ozone/BAF/GAC based advanced treatment also addresses regulated PFAS (PFOS + PFOA)



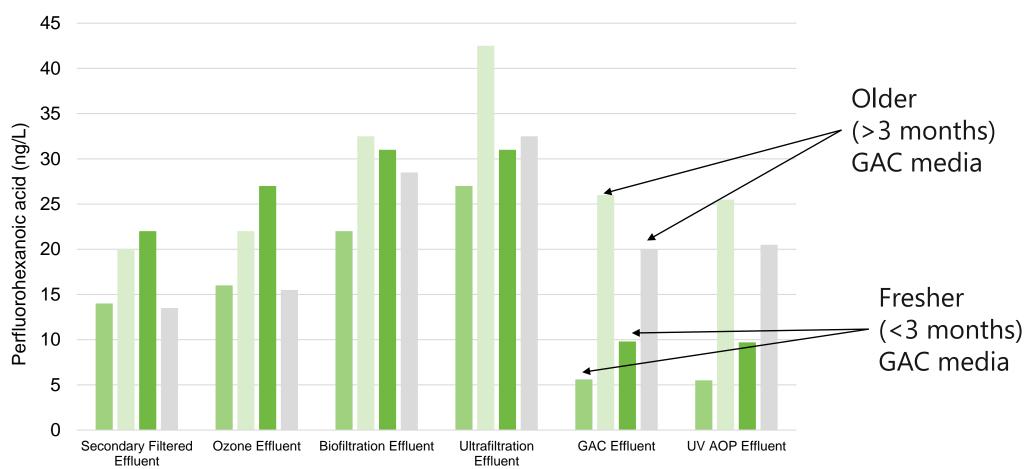




// Concentrations of some smaller PFAAs *increase* through O₃/BAF but GAC is capable of removal







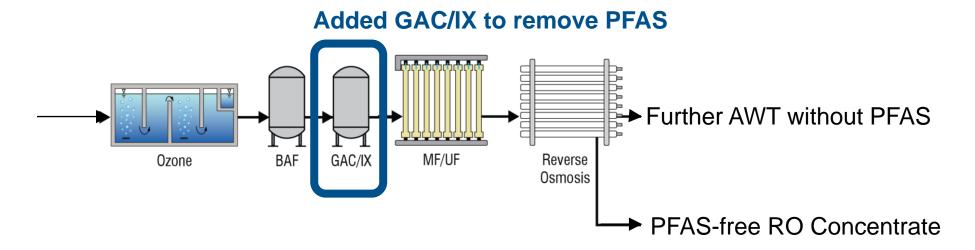
The tail that wags the dog: What about PFAS in RO Concentrate?

// There are only three (practical) alternatives to addressing PFAS in RO Concentrate

1. Remove PFAS before RO

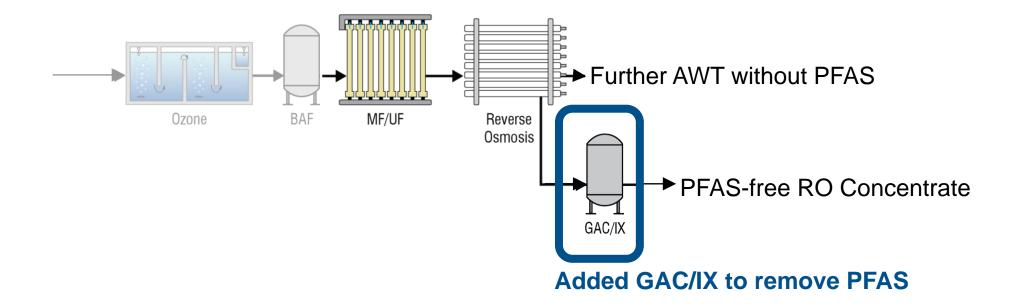
// There are only three (practical) alternatives to addressing PFAS in RO Concentrate

1. Remove PFAS before RO



// There are only three (practical) alternatives to addressing PFAS in RO Concentrate

- Remove PFAS before RO
- 2. Remove PFAS from the concentrate



// There are only three (practical) alternatives to addressing PFAS in RO Concentrate

- Remove PFAS before RO
- Remove PFAS from the concentrate
- 3. Ignore PFAS in the concentrate



How can you prepare for PFAS?

Communication Guidance from the Water Research Foundation





Be First:

Crises are time-sensitive. Communicating information quickly is crucial. For members of the public, the first source of information often becomes the preferred source.



Be Right:

Accuracy establishes credibility. Information can include what is known, what is not known, and what is being done to fill in the gaps.



Be Credible:

Honesty and truthfulness should not be compromised during crises.

Express Empathy:
Crises create harm, and the suffering should be acknowledged in words. Addressing what people are feeling, and the challenges they face, builds trust and rapport.

Promote Action:

Giving people meaningful things to do calms anxiety, helps restore order, and promotes some sense of control.



Show Respect:
Respectful communication is particularly important when people feel vulnerable. Respectful communication promotes cooperation

THANK YOU!

Eva Steinle-Darling, PhD, P.E. esd@carollo.com



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PFAS in Biosolids: Current State of Knowledge

Webinar, November 18, 2020, 11am-12pm

Why do we care about PFAS in biosolids?

Real and Perceived Risk

- Health
- Farming
- Biosolids beneficial use
- Costs

Nationwide, Concerns Grow Over Tainted Sewage Sludge Spread On Croplands

By JOHN FLESHER AND MICHAEL CASEY - THE ASSOCIATED PRESS . SEP 15, 20





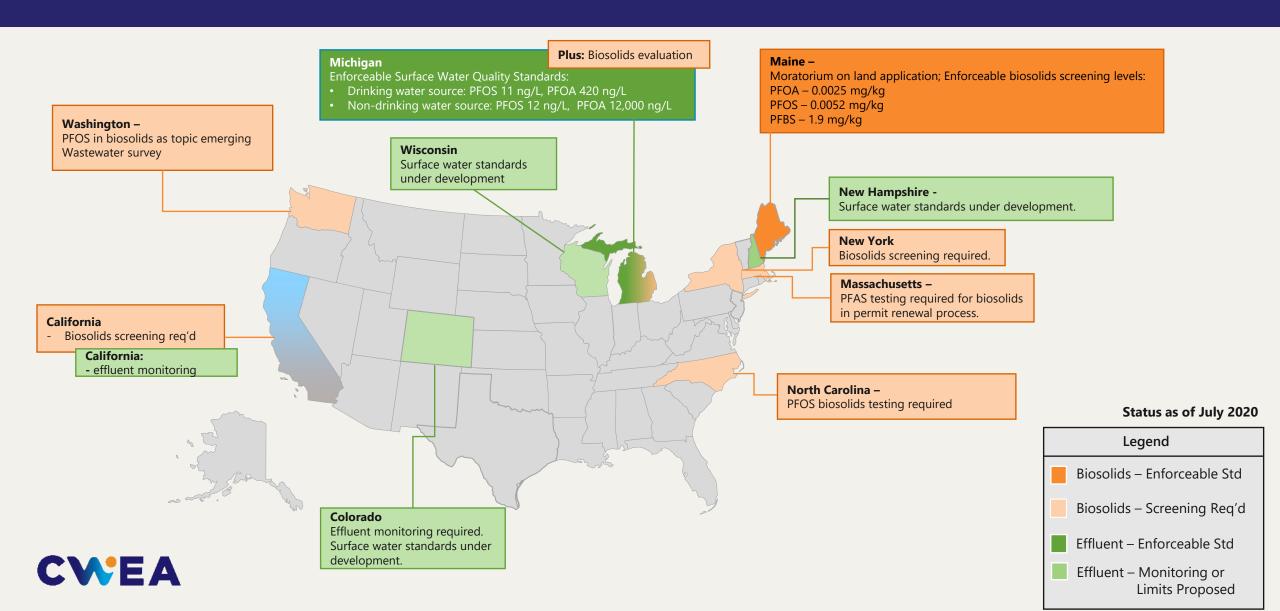
In this Thursday Aug. 15, 2019, photo, dairy farmer Fred Stone pauses while working in the milking room at his farm in Arundel, Maine.

ROBERT F. BUKATY / AP PHOTO

"Studies have documented PFAS absorption by some crops — lettuce, tomatoes and radishes among them — from soils fertilized with sewage byproducts. And the EPA's inspector general reported last year that the agency was falling short in tracking hundreds of pollutants in sludge, including PFAS." Maine Public Radio, Sep 15, 2019

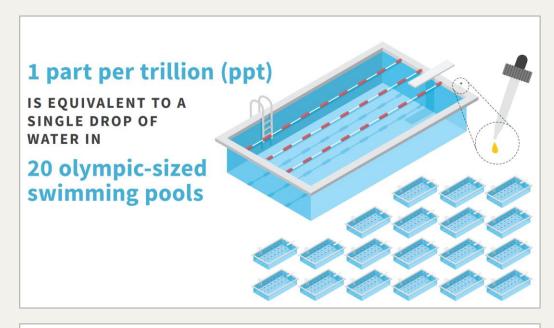


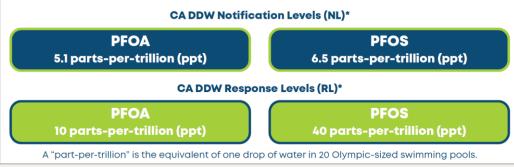
WW/Biosolids PFAS Regulatory Snapshot



What's in a unit?

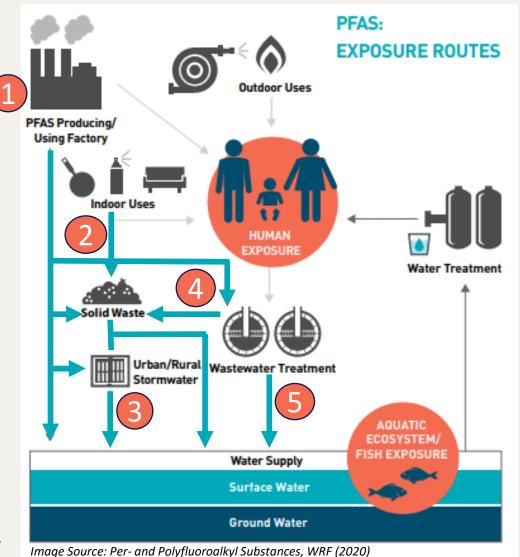
ppm	ppb	ppt
mg/kg	μg/kg	ng/kg
mg/L	μg/L	ng/L
μg/g	ng/g	pg/g

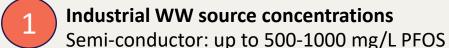






Sources of PFAS in wastewater and biosolids





Fire-fighting: 5 -120 mg/L PFAS
Textile: 106 ng/L PFAS (median)
Paper: 411 ng/L PFAS (median)
(Various international peer reviewed papers)

Landfill leachate PFAS: 20-50 μg/L

Stormwater
PFOA: 2-30 µg/L
PFOS: 3-42 µg/L
(Page et al. 2019)

Biosolids

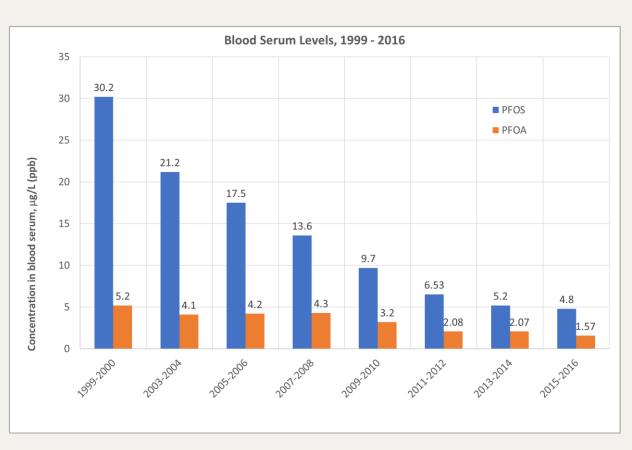
PFOA: 0-25 μg/kg (ppb)

PFOS: 0-2,000 μg/kg (ppb)

(EGLE, 2020)

Domestic Wastewater
PFOA: 0-50 ng/L
PFOS: 0-900 ng/L
(EGLE, 2020)

PFAS/PFOA Levels Have Dropped with Time in Blood Serum and Biosolids Products



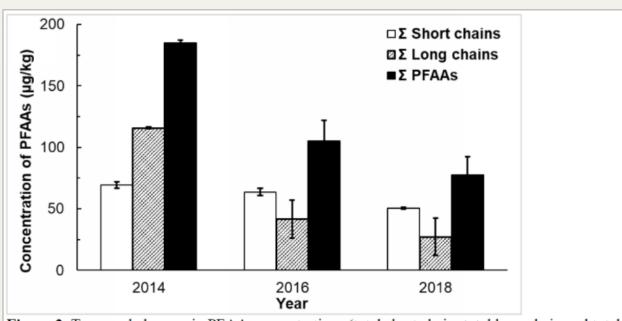


Figure 2. Temporal changes in PFAA concentrations (total short chain, total long chain and total PFAAs) for Milorganite released for consumer use in 2014, 2016 and 2018. The error bars represent the standard error of the mean.



Data Source: CDC. Fourth Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals, Updated Tables, January 2019.

Michigan conducted PFAS assessment for wastewater and biosolids

Background for a lot of current data

- 1st Initiative (Feb 2018): Sampling of 95 WWTPs as part of industrial pretreatment program (IPP) to identify industrial sources of PFOA or PFOS to system
- 2nd Initiative (Fall 2018): Evaluate PFAS in influent, effluent, and biosolids at 42 WWTPs



SUMMARY REPORT:

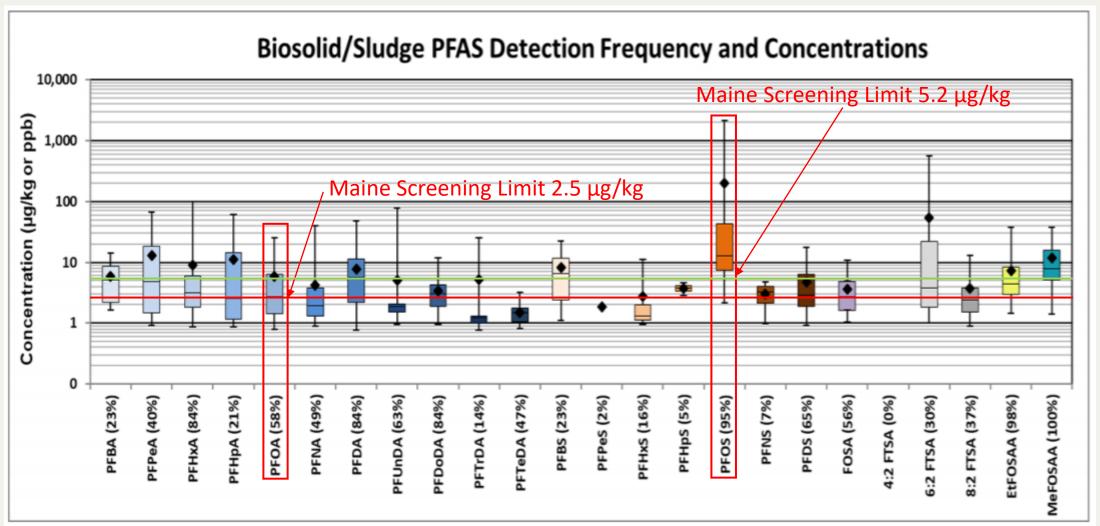
Initiatives to Evaluate the Presence of PFAS in Municipal Wastewater and Associated Residuals (Sludge/Biosolids) in Michigan

June 2020





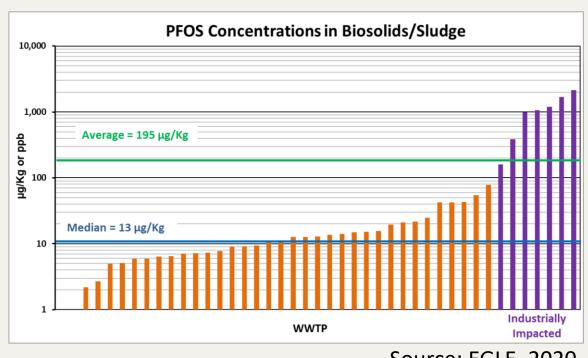
PFAS concentrations in biosolids from Michigan study

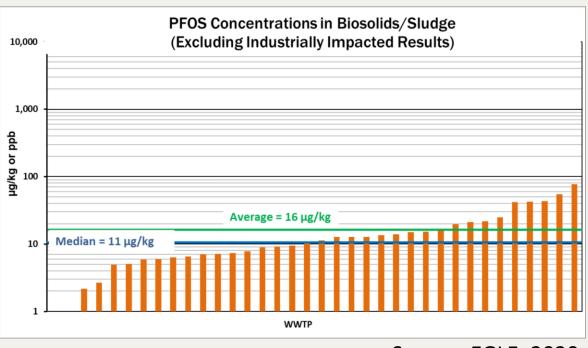




Source: EGLE, 2020

Industrial impacts significantly increased PFAS concentrations in biosolids





Source: EGLE, 2020





Temporarily restricted land app from 6 facilities until source control was implemented by industrial dischargers and PFAS levels decrease.

Higher PFAS levels detected in ag fields with biosolids from highly impacted WWTPs

Environmental Matrix	Total PFAS (Lower Impacted WWTPs)	Total PFAS (Higher Impacted WWTPs)
Effluent, ppt	4-15	300-143,360
Biosolids, ppb	34-124	1,173-2,358
Soil, ppb	ND-15	1-182
Groundwater, ppt	ND-97	ND-541
Surface Water, ppt	ND-52	2.5-2,647
Tile Drain, ppt	ND-58	9-2,495
Ponded Water, ppt	6-346	17-968

Source: EGLE, 2020



Source control and pretreatment in Michigan reduced effluent PFOS significantly

Table 1	Substantial PFOS	Reduction at	WWTPs with	Exceedances	(FGLE 2020)
I able 1.	Substantial FF03	Reduction at	WWWIF5 WILL	Exceedances	(EGLE, 2020)

<7.6 11	99%	Treatment (GAC) at source (1)
11		riedulient (GAO) at Source (1)
	99%	Treatment (GAC) at source (1)
13	99%	Eliminated source PFOS (2)
18	99%	Treatment (GAC) at source (1)
3.7	95%	Treatment (GAC/resin) at source (1)
13	96%	Treatment (GAC) at source (1)
3.1	92%	Treatment (GAC) at source (2), change water supply
27	89%	Eliminated leak PFOS-containing firefighting foam
30	No Value	Treatment (GAC) at sources (8)
7.2	49%	Restricted landfill leachate quantity accepted
	18 3.7 13 3.1 27 30	18 99% 3.7 95% 13 96% 3.1 92% 27 89% 30 No Value 7.2 49%

*Data received as of March 26, 2020

- Six facilities achieved
 >90% reduction in effluent PFOS levels
 - All six: GAC treatment at industrial source(s)
 - Others:
 - Eliminated AFFF leak
 - Restricted acceptance of landfill leachate
 - Reduction not necessarily enough to meet MI stream standards at all facilities

Source: EGLE, 2020



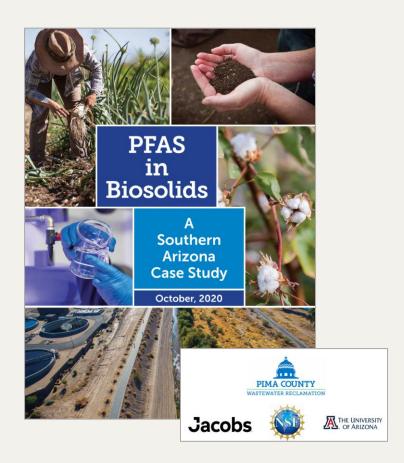
SFPUC found similar PFOA concentrations in biosolids as National Forest soils

- 2018 testing with previous methods
 - PFAS Results <1ppb 15 ppb
 - PFOA: 0.783 1.15 ppb
 - PFOS: 7.99-14.9 ppb
- National Forest soils
 - PFOA: <1ppb 1+ ppb
- Dust samples from homes/offices
 - PFOA: 296 ppb mean; 142 ppb median
 - PFOS: 761 ppb mean; 201 ppb median



Southern Arizona study focused on long-term land application sites

- Considered biosolids, soil and groundwater (GW) at undisturbed sites, ag land, and 3 sites with varying rates/durations of biosolids land app
- GW ~150' below surface
- Substantial irrigation



Southern Arizona study focused on long-term land application sites

PFAS Contaminant	Ag Sites GW, ppt	Land App Sites GW, ppt	Ag Sites Soil, ppb	Land App Sites Soil, ppb
PFOS	ND-80	ND-15	0.08-3	ND-6
PFOA	ND-20	ND-5	0.06-0.4	ND-4

Notes:

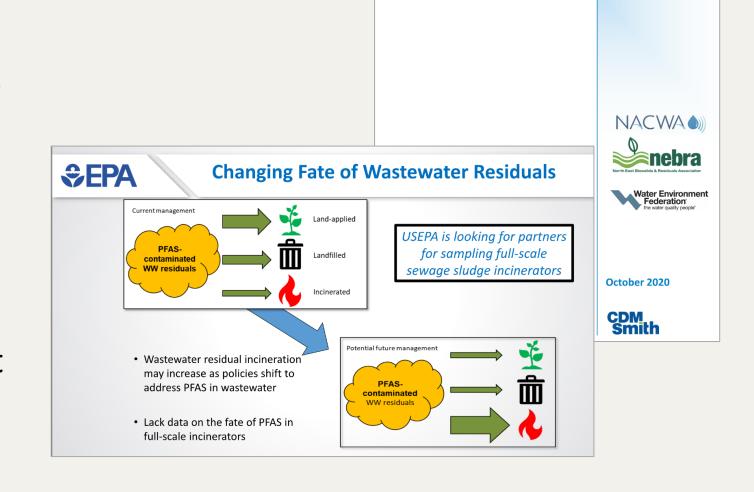
- Only PFOS and PFOA shown here. Analysis included 18 PFAS contaminants.
- Values from report shown with min-max ranges based on reported uncertainties in analytical results.
- Ranges shown combine results from 1', 3', and 6' depth samples. Results indicate 90-97% attenuation, retention in first few feet, and minimal migration below 6'.
- Authors conclude minimal potential for groundwater contamination.
- ND = Not Detected. Below method detection limit.

Recent EPA research provides more data and background

- RARE Project EPA/Chris Higgins at Colorado School of Mines:
 - Found plant uptake into edible portions of certain food crops
 - May have had industrial impacts
- EPA Land Application of Biosolids Field Study 2:
 - PFAS precursors at point of application decrease with time but stable PFAS increase with transformation

Will PFAS change biosolids management?

- Source control/prevention preferred
- Public/political pressure now
- Uncertainty about national regulatory changes
- Lack of data recognized
- Biosolids-specific risk
 assessment and analytical
 methods still in development



Cost Analysis of the Impacts on Municipal Utilities and Biosolids Management to Address PFAS Contamination



PFAS destruction/fate research in biosolids processing technologies ongoing

Incineration



Hydrothermal Liquefaction



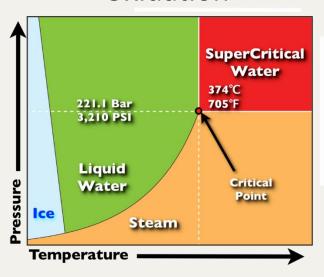
Gasification



Pyrolysis



Supercritical Water Oxidation



Ongoing work related to PFAS in biosolids

- NEBRA, BioCycle, North West Biosolids, and CASA
 - Update to first survey report on PFAS in Biosolids in US
 - 2nd National Biosolids Regulation, Quality, End Use & Disposal Survey
 - Estimated Completion Date: March 2021
- Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA), San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)
 - Sampling 10-15 Bay Area WWTPs for 31 PFAS compounds.
 - · Influent, effluent, ROC, and biosolids.
 - Work will be started in Q4 2020
 - Results expected in May 2021
- Bay Area Biosolids Coalition
 - Finalizing a research study scope to examine plant uptake of 31 PFAS compounds grown in biosolids-amended soil.
 - Work will be done by UC Davis starting in Q4 2020
 - Results are expected in Q4 2021
- EPA
 - Risk assessment and modeling
 - Additional research on fate, transport, plant uptake
 - Analytical methods for non-potable, soil, biosolids matrices
 - Incineration studies
 - Ongoing webinar series





Land Application Field Study II

US EPA Biosolids Webinar October 29, 2020



EPA: Ronald Herrmann, Carolyn Acheson, Larry Zintek, Danielle Kleinmaier PTSI: Andrea Burkes, Josh Kickish, Bob Grosser, Babina Shrestha

fice of Research and Development

So what now? Suggestions...

- Track your own data
- Identify potential industrial contributors in your service area
- Work with regulators on source control
- Stay on top of research and regulatory changes
- Seek out performance data, including fate of PFAS for biosolids processing technologies (3rd party reviewed info or peer-reviewed journals most reliable)
- Don't hedge yourself in relative to biosolids management find options that allow for future changes/add-on processes if necessary
- Educate yourself so you are prepared for public questions/outreach



THANK YOU!

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California Water Board's Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Status of Investigatory Orders

Webinar, November 18, 2020, 11am-12pm

PFAS Investigatory Actions (2013 to 2020)

February 2019

USEPA – PFAS Action Plan

August 2019

Lower notification levels

- PFOA: 5.1 ppt
- PFOS: 6.5 ppt

January 1, 2020

- California Assembly Bill 756 goes into effect
- Requires notification to consumers for PFAS detected above NL

Aug/Sept 2020

Public Water System Sampling Orders (expanded from 2019)

June 2018

- State Water Board Interim Notification Levels (PFOA: 14 ppt, PFOS: 13 ppt)
- PFOA/PFOS
 Response level of 70 ppt

November 18, 2020

March/April 2019

- Water Quality
 Investigative Orders to Landfills and Airports
- Public Water System Sampling Orders adjacent to the Airports and Landfills

October 2019

Water Quality
Investigative
Orders to Chrome
Plating Facilities

February 2020

Lower response levels

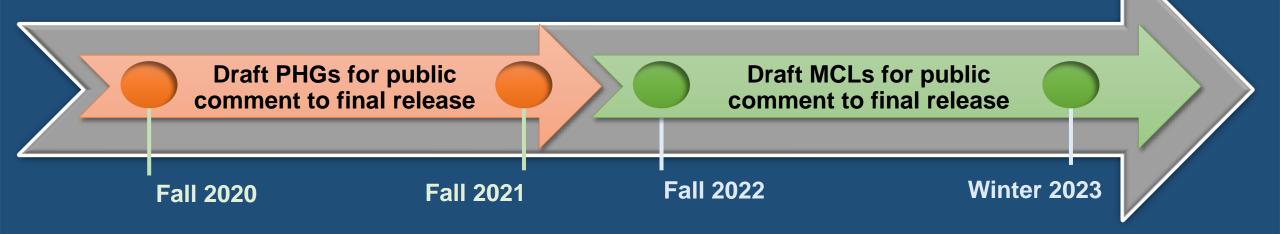
- PFOA: 10 ppt
- PFOS: 40 ppt

July 2020

Water Quality Investigative Orders to Wastewater Treatment Plants

California Water Boards





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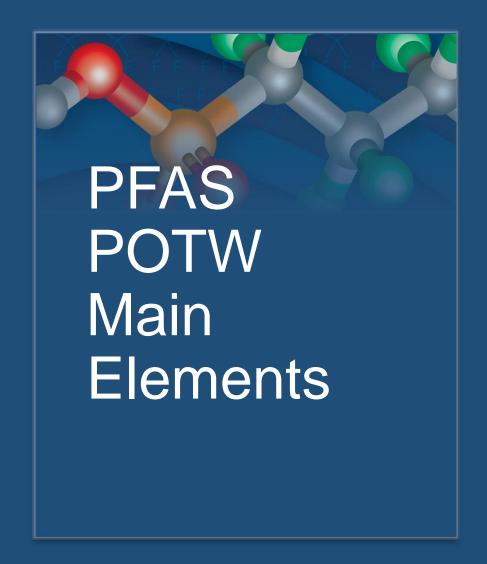
State-wide PFAS Investigative Orders



Municipal Solid Waste Landfills Chrome Plating Facilities Bulk Fuel Terminals/ Refineries (future – late 2020)

Publicly Owned Treatment Works

Public Water Systems (EPA and State Water Board)





TREATMENT
SYSTEM
SAMPLING
AND
REPORTING



GROUND-WATER SAMPLING AND REPORTING



QUESTIONNAIRE

PFAS POTW Order Sampling Summary

	# of POTWs		NT SYSTEM PLING	REVERSE OSMOSIS CONCENTR ATE (ROC)	BIOSOLIDS	GROUNDWATER MONITORING (POTWS with GW MRP)	
Average Dry Weather Design Flow Rate		Locations	Frequency	Frequency	Frequency	Criteria	Frequency
1 to 5 MGD	130			r Quarterly for 1 year	Once	Provide a min. of 3 well locations on a map and data for Regional Board approval	Once
> 5 MGD	119	Influent, Effluent	Quarterly for 1 year		Quarterly for 1 year		

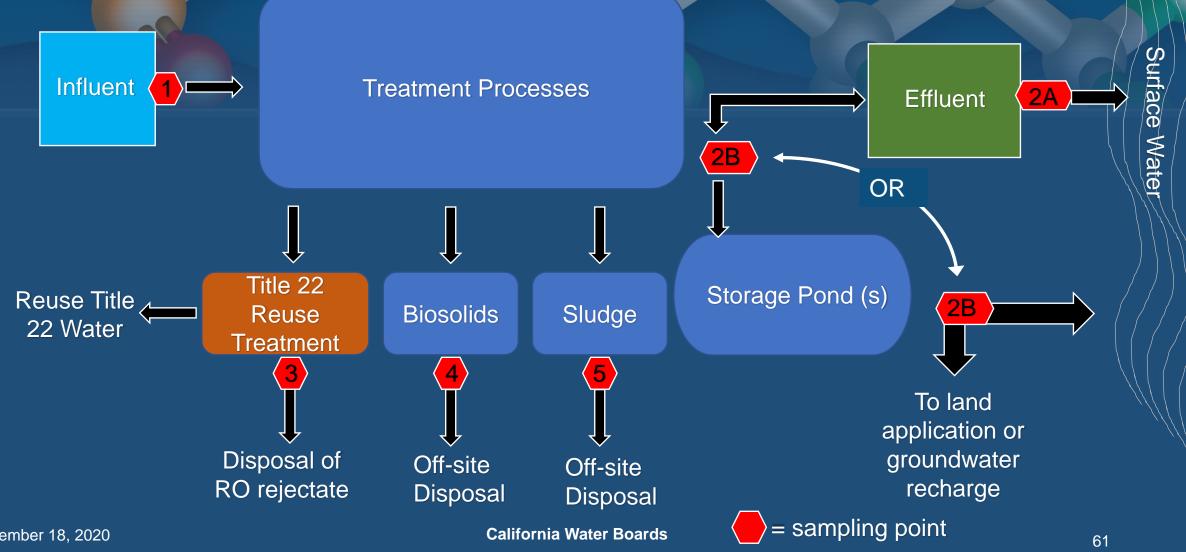
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PFAS POTW Order Reporting Summary

		SYSTEM SAMPLING ent, ROC, biosolids)	GROUNDWATER MONITORING (POTWS with GW MRP)	
Average Dry Weather Design Flow Rate	Sampling Starts	Milestones	Sampling Starts	Milestones
1 to 5 MGD	4 th Q 2020	Data uploaded into GeoTracker within 30 days of receiving analytical report	No sooner than 4 th Q 2020	Data uploaded into GeoTracker within 30 days of receiving analytical report
> 5 MGD				
Report	One monitoring report for the treatment system and groundwater monitoring shall be submitted into GeoTracker's ESI portal no later than 60 days following the receipt of the last analytical laboratory report.			

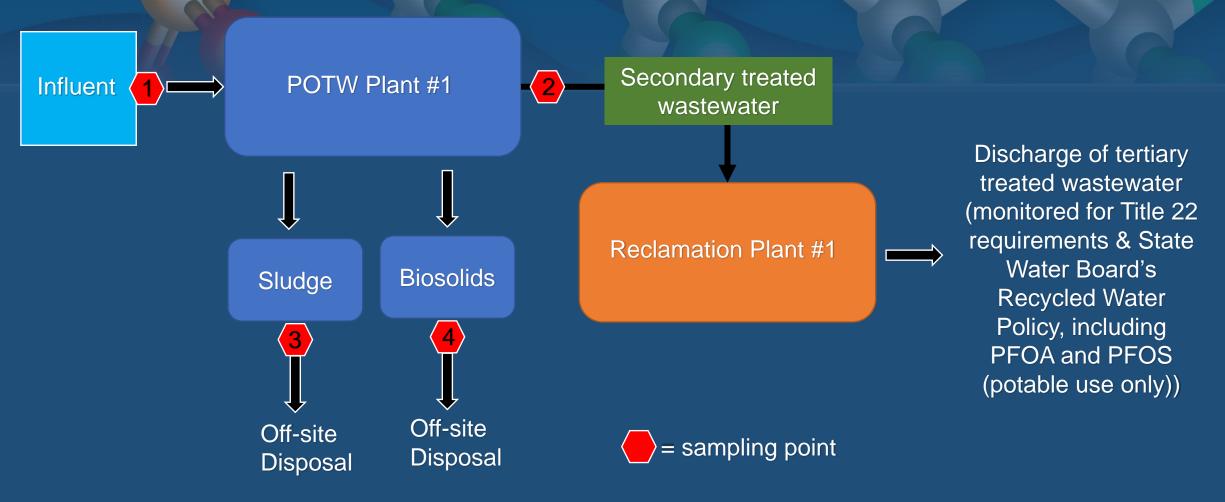
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Sample Locations for POTW PFAS Order



November 18, 2020

Sample Locations for POTWs w/secondary treated effluent sent to a Reclamation Plant for further treatment



November 18, 2020 California Water Boards 62

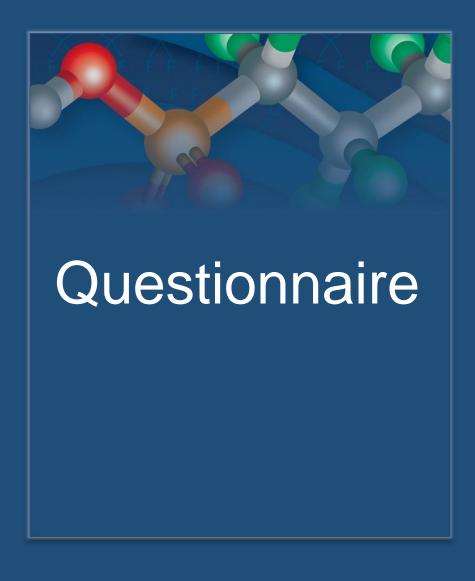
Treatment System Sampling

- Composite vs grab sampling
- Influent samples shall be taken from locations prior to primary settling
- Effluent samples shall be taken following treatment processes and prior to mixing with the receiving waters (before it leaves the facility)
- QAPP is not required in the Order

GW Monitoring Sampling

- Proposal sent w/in 60-days prior to conducting the first groundwater monitoring event:
 - A figure of the groundwater monitoring well network, groundwater flow direction, and monitoring wells proposed to be sampled
 - Rationale for the selection of the groundwater monitoring wells to be used
 - After approval from the Regional Board, monitoring shall commence no sooner than the Fourth Quarter 2020 sampling period (October-December 2020)
- Collection of samples shall comply with SOP for sample collection established in existing MRP

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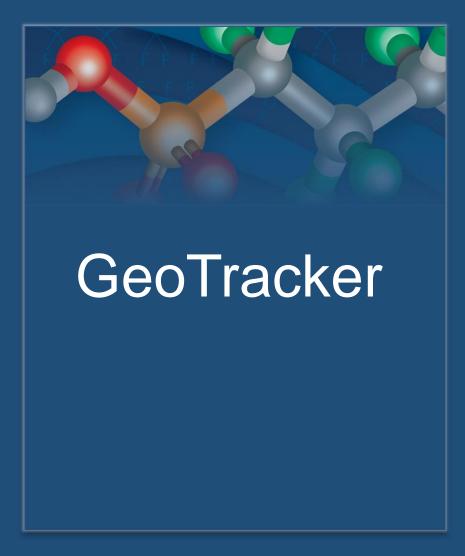


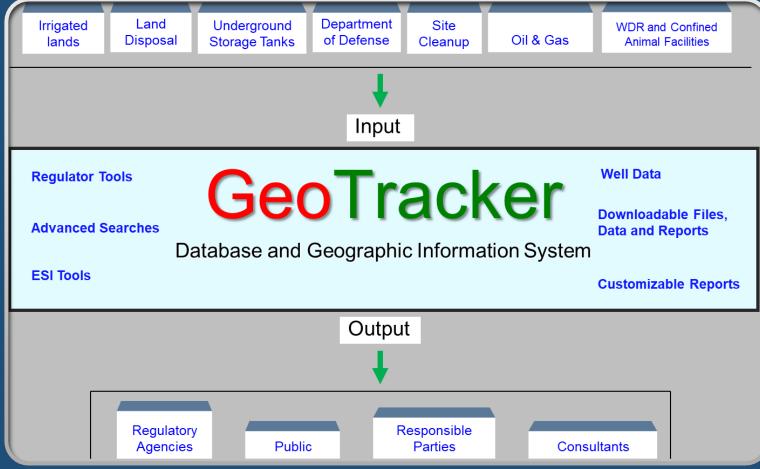
PER- AND POLY-FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) – GENERAL INFORMATION
POTW-specific State Water Board ID #s
Waste Discharger Identification (WDID) Number:
GeoTracker Global ID:
Responsible Agency Information
Name of Responsible Agency:
Address of Responsible Agency:
City:
County:
State: California
Zip:
POTW Information
Name of POTW:
Address of POTW:
City:
County:
State: California
Zip:
POTW Mailing Address:
POTW Point of Contact Name:
POTW POC Title:
POTW POC Phone Number:
POTW POC Email Address:

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Analytical and Data Management

- ELAP accredits labs for analyses compliant with the DoD QSM
 - Labs are being accredited for the additional analytes that are included in the POTW Order that were not included in previous Orders
 - List of labs are provided on PFAS Water Board's website in What's New!
- GeoTracker
 - Order, cover letter, and questionnaire are located each of the POTW's accounts
 - Data repository for analytical data and regulatory correspondence





GeoTracker ESI Webpage

GeoTracker ESI Informational Page: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/electronic_submittal/index.html

- How do I upload guide (Getting Started Section)
- Frequently Asked Questions (Getting Started Section)
- EDF Guides (Technical Information on Uploading Data Section)
- GEO XY, Z, and Well Guides and Template (Technical Information on Uploading Data Section)
- Current Valid Value Lists for all electronic uploads (Technical Information on Uploading Data Section)



California Coordinating Agencies



California Air Resources Control Board



California
Department of
Pesticides
Regulation



California
Department of
Public Health



CalRecycle



Department of
Toxic
Substances
Control – Safer
Consumer
Products



Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment



California Water Boards

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More information available at...



Water Board's PFAS website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/



Water Board's Division of Drinking Water PFOA/PFOS website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/PFOA_PFOS.html



GeoTracker Help Desk GeoTracker@waterboards.ca.gov 1-866-480-1028



Email: PFAS@waterboards.ca.gov



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https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.htm

THANK YOU!

Wendy Linck Wendy.linck@waterboards.ca.gov



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https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PFAS111820