# **PFAS Technical Group**

April 22, 2022

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES | DNR.WI.GOV

# Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Drinking water system treatment technologies for PFAS Dung (Zoom) Nguyen, CDM Smith
- Groundwater & wastewater remediation technologies for PFAS -Dillon Gilbowkj & Geoff Pellechia, Evoqua
- Conclusions & next steps

#### PFAS Treatment Using Commercial Technologies Bench Testing and Design Considerations

Zoom Nguyen Charles Schaefer

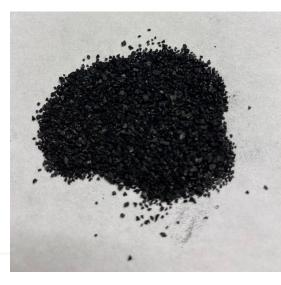
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### **PFAS Treatment in Water**

- Focus on drinking water for full-scale treatment
- Granular activate carbon (GAC) and anion exchange resin (AER) most common approaches
  - NF/RO
  - Emerging technologies (novel sorbents, foam fractionation)
- Treatment effectiveness using GAC/AER often not well understood
  - Longevity among various GAC/AER products
  - Impacts of water geochemistry or pre-treatment
  - Various classes of PFAS
- Need for scalable bench-scale testing in relatively short timeframes





### Rapid Small Scale Column Tests (RSSCTs) for Evaluating PFAS Removal Using GAC/AER

- By reducing the particle size, column testing can be performed using a much shorter residence time than required for a full-scale system, thus obtaining rapid results
- Smaller particle sizes allow for smaller column diameters, and ultimately less water needed for the study
- Our approach: GAC/AER particle size reduction of 3 to 4X
  - limit any potential laboratory artifacts
  - proper evaluation of possible permeability losses
- Scaling requirements

to neglect dispersion: 200 < ReSc < 200,000</p>

constant diffusivity: 
$$\frac{\text{EBCT}_{G}}{\text{EBCT}_{U}} = \left(\frac{\text{d}_{G}}{\text{d}_{U}}\right)^{2}$$

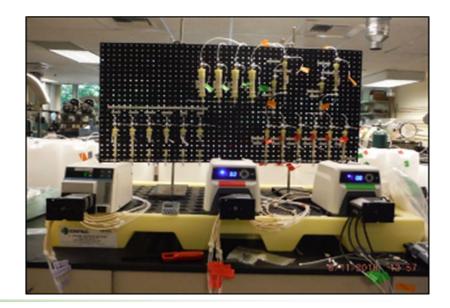
Is this appropriate for PFAS?

#### **RSSCT Testing to Assess Scaling**

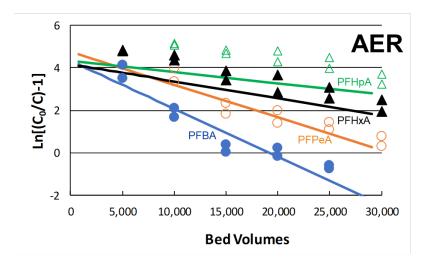


1 cm diam. columns for GROUND (2.5 cm for UNGROUND)

- 1 GAC & 2 AERs
- Low (<1 mg/L) and high (2.5 mg/L) TOC natural waters</li>
- Comparison of GROUND to UNGROUND particles
- GROUND particle size ~0.2 mm
- Evaluate PFAS elution (perfluoroalkyl acids)



#### **RSSCT Scaling Results**



- Constant diffusivity model confirmed for both GAC and AER, and for high and low TOC waters
- Need to scale  $q_0$  as  $(r_U/r_G)^{0.5}$

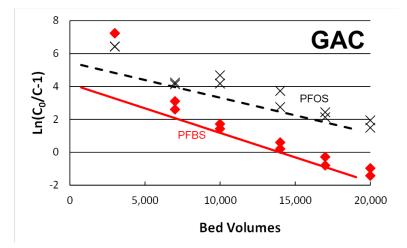


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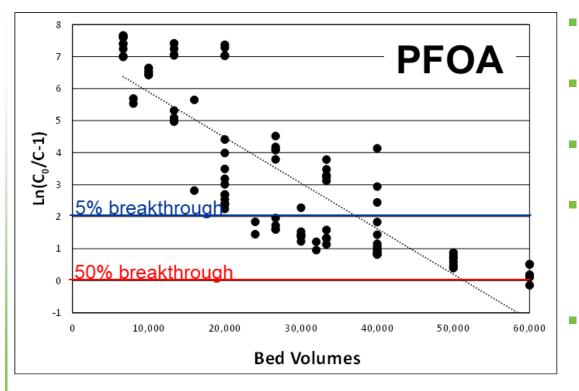
#### Application of Rapid Small-Scale Column Tests for Treatment of Perfluoroalkyl Acids Using Anion-Exchange Resins and Granular Activated Carbon in Groundwater with Elevated Organic Carbon

Article

Charles E. Schaefer,\* Dung Nguyen, Veronika M. Culina, Jennifer Guelfo, and Naveen Kumar



#### Summary of RSSCT Results - GAC



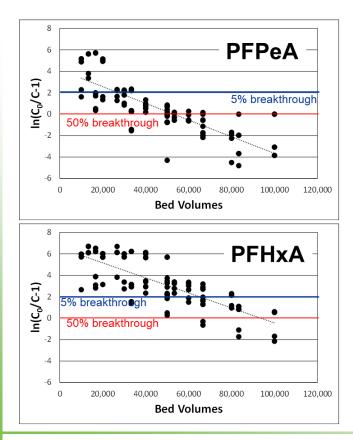
20 studies

- Low-TOC waters
- Coal-based GACs
  - Results consistent with the Thomas model

 $ln\left[\frac{C_0}{C} - 1\right] = \left(\frac{kmq_0}{Q}\right) - [EBCT]kC_0BV$ 

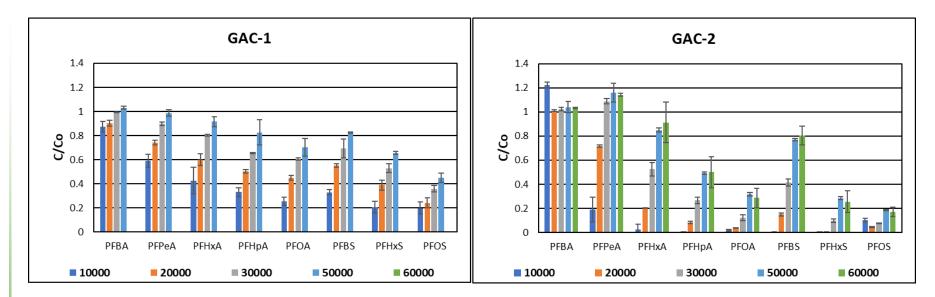
Bench results consistent with pilot-/full-scale findings

### Summary of RSSCT Results - AER



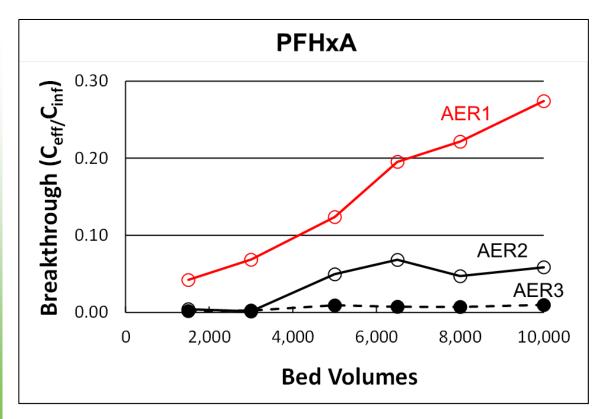
- 20 studies
- Low-TOC waters
- PFAS-selective AERs
- Results consistent with the Thomas model  $ln\left[\frac{C_0}{c}-1\right] = \left(\frac{kmq_0}{Q}\right) - [EBCT]kC_0BV$
- Bench results consistent with pilot-/fullscale findings
- Tighter range compared to GAC

### **GAC** Comparison

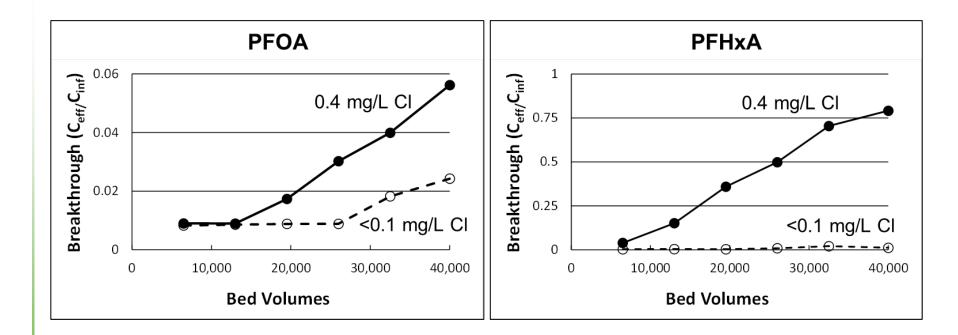


- Long-chained PFAAs are removed more effectively than short-chained counterparts
- PFCAs generally break through faster than PFSAs of the same C:F chain length
- Varying performance among commercially-available GAC products

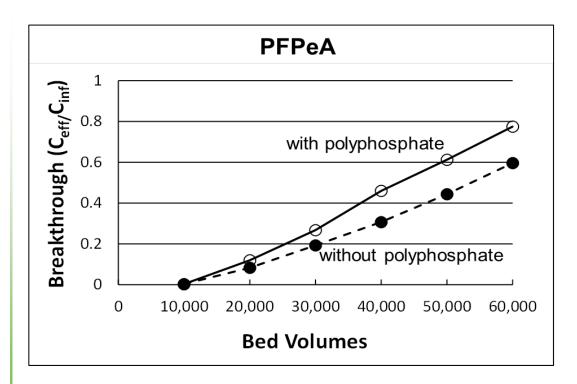
### **AER Comparison**



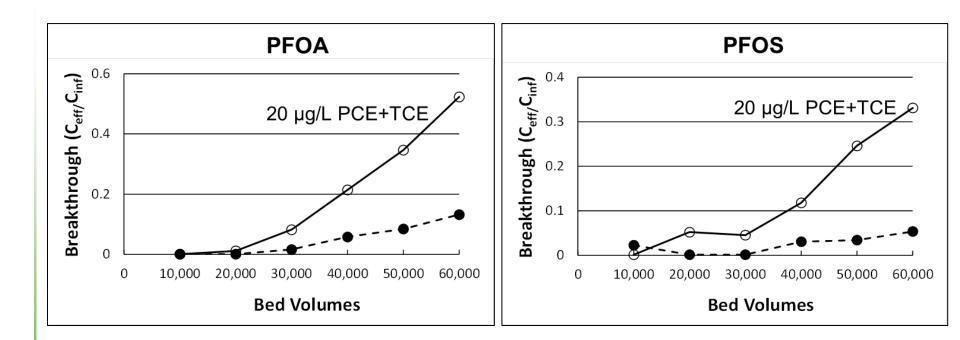
### Impacts of Residual Chlorine on AER



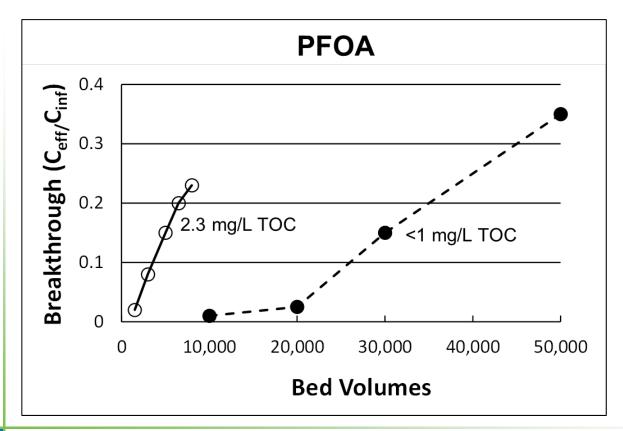
### Impacts of Corrosion Inhibitors on AER



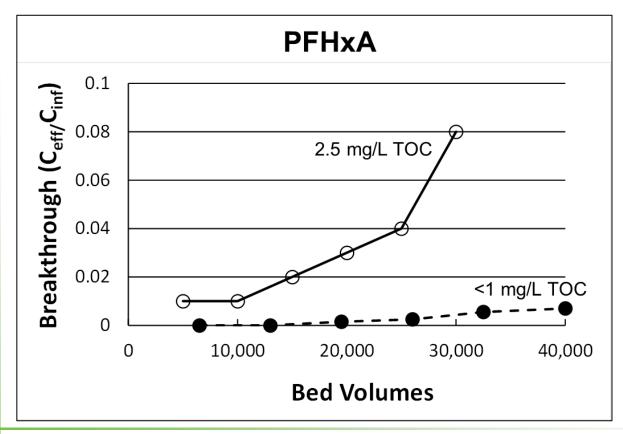
### Impacts of cVOCs on GAC



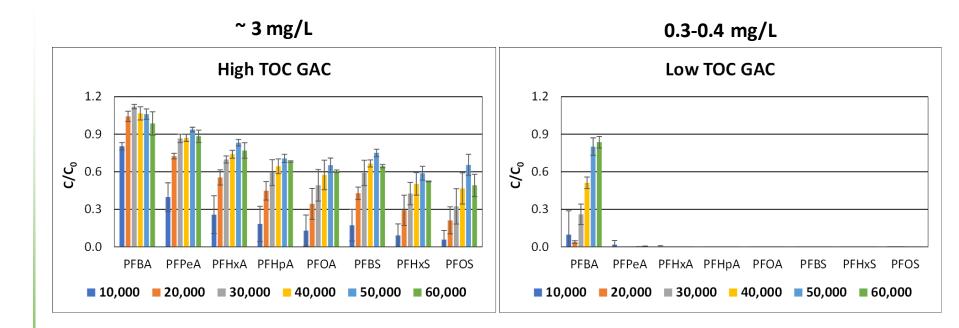
### Impacts of TOC on GAC (Site 1)



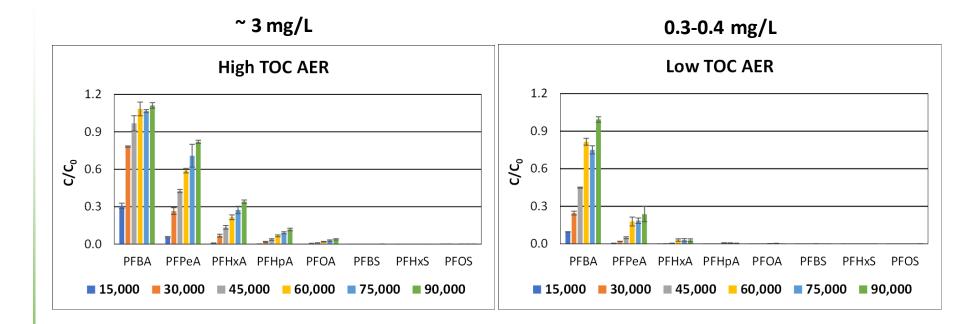
### Impacts of TOC on AER (Site 1)



### Impacts of TOC on GAC (Site 2)



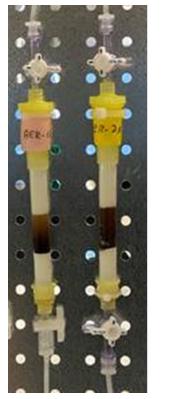
### Impacts of TOC on AER (Site 2)



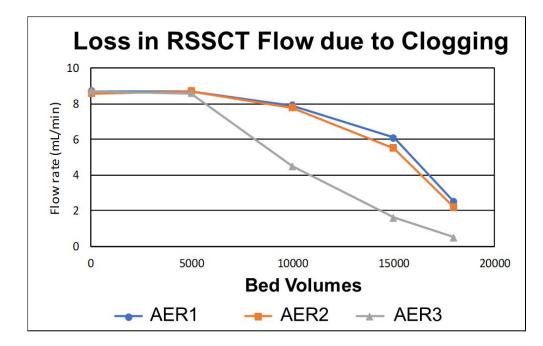
### Impacts on Secondary Water Quality

GAC type	Bed volumes	pH (SU)	Total arsenic (μg/L)
GAC-1	50	8.6	4
	500	7.7	<1
GAC-2	50	7.9	<1
	500	7.8	<1

### Permeability Loss in AERs







#### Conclusions

- Long-chained PFAAs are generally removed effectively using GAC or AER
- AERs are generally more effective than GAC in removing short-chained PFAAs
- Wide range of treatment performance among commercially-available products
- Factors impacting treatment performance:
  - Water chemistries
  - Residual treatment chemicals
  - Co-contaminants

Can individually/collectively impact performance different GAC/AER products & from site to site

Impacts on secondary water quality must be taken into consideration

### Conclusions (cont'd)

- When appropriately applied, RSSCT can be a useful tool to:
  - Compare technologies, products, residence time
  - Evaluate pre-treatment requirements
  - Provide parameters for pilot-/full-scale design/implementation
  - Assess OPEX & CAPEX

#### Other considerations:

- Product cost, type (novel sorbent?) & availability
- Pre-treatment requirements
- Residence time/vessel size/footprint
- Permeability loss/pressure drop
- Treatment targets
- Regulatory approval/perception/risk communication
- Spent media handling & disposal
- Analytical method/laboratory



## Questions? NguyenDD@cdmsmith.com



A SINGLE-SOURCE SOLUTION PROVIDER FOR COMPLEX CHALLENGES

#### DILLON GILBOW & GEOFF PELLECHIA

### Agenda

- Evoqua Who we are, what we do, where we are.
- Environmental Solutions Division
- PFAS Solutions
- Design Considerations
- Best Practices
- Case Studies
- Q&A



### Who We Are \e-vok-wä\

Water is a critical yet finite resource. We believe there is power and purpose in combining expertise, innovation and a commitment to maintaining this resource, now and in the future.

Evoqua Water Technologies is a leading provider of water and wastewater treatment solutions, offering a broad portfolio of products, services and expertise to support industrial, municipal and recreational customers.



Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Evoqua and our brands have over a 100-year heritage of innovation. We help more than 38,000 customers solve water challenges at over 200,000 installations worldwide and operate in more than 150 locations across ten countries. Every day, millions of people and thousands of companies rely on us as their trusted advisor to help them meet their water needs.



PRODUCTS









### We Hold Top Positions Across a Variety of Markets

#### OUR TWO SEGMENT APPROACH

We are organized into a **two-segment structure** designed to serve the needs of our customers worldwide.

Our structure has created a customerfacing project and service organization called **Integrated Solutions and Services** ("ISS") and a product technology group, **Applied Product Technologies** ("APT"), focused primarily on sales through indirect product channels.



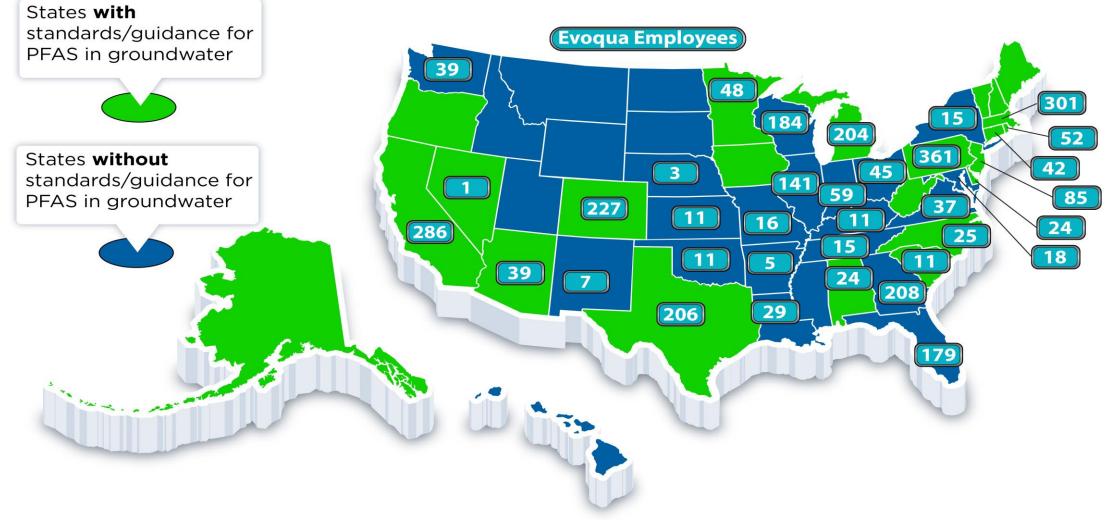


### **Evoqua Locations North American Map**





### Evoqua Employee with PFAS Groundwater Regulations





### **Environmental Solutions Division**

Equipment, media and services group, keeping customers safe, sustainable, and in compliance, by removing organic and inorganic contaminants from water and vapor streams.



**Key Contaminants:** 

- PFAS

- Arsenic
- Iron / Manganese

- TCE/PCE Perchlorate MTBE Nitrate 1,4-Dioxane Chrome VI ...And Many More



**Key Evoqua Products:** 

- Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) and **Reactivation Services**
- Ion Exchange and Regeneration Service
- Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP)
- Emergency, mobile, and permanent solutions
- Adsorptive Media



### SOLUTIONS

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### PFAS Removal Solutions – Media

Adsorption and Separation



#### **Granular Activated Carbon**

- Named Best Available Technology by EPA for organic contaminant removal
- Removes other organic contaminants
- Minimal maintenance



#### Single Pass Ion Exchange

- Lower EBCT / Higher flowrate
- Small footprint
- No chemicals or liquid waste
- Spent resin can be incinerated
- Minimal maintenance



#### Membranes

- Highly effective
- Removes dissolved solids
- Concentrates Waste



### Rapid Small-Scale Column Test (ASTM D6586) RSSCT

- Prediction of contaminant adsorption on GAC
- Test method outlined and approved by ASTM D28 Activated Carbon Test Methods Committee
- Can simulate months to years of full-scale operation within days to weeks of lab-scale time
- Good comparative method with some predictive ability





### **Pilot Scale Performance Testing**

- Pilot scale can be used to test the effectiveness of the technology for contaminant removal before a full-scale system is installed for community's drinking water.
- Uses small diameter (3" to 6") columns to simulate operating conditions of full scale adsorber.
- Matching hydraulic loading rate and shortening bed depth (e.g. 0.5 full scale) can decrease time to reaching conclusions.
- Requires more time and labor, however pilot studies provide more accurate predictions of bed life in full-scale applications





### PV-Series High Pressure Liquid Phase Adsorption Systems

Models

PV-500, PV-1000, PV-2000, PV-5000, PV-10000, PV-30-SYS, PV-48-SYS

- Durable, lined carbon steel vessels
- 500-10,000 lb. GAC media per adsorber
- Suitable for higher pressure (<75 psig) applications
- Flow rates from 25-500 GPM per adsorber
- Applications: groundwater remediation, wastewater treatment, pilot testing, UST cleanup, drinking water and spill cleanup





### HP® Series Liquid Phase Adsorption Systems (ASME code)

#### Models

HP-810, HP-1020, HP-1220, HP1230, HP1240, HP1560, HP-2000, HP2000SS, IX-48

- Durable, lined carbon steel vessels, ASME Code
- Dual stage system with interconnecting piping
- 10,000 60,000 lb. GAC media per adsorber
- 8', 10', 12'and 15' diameter vessels
- Rated to 125 psig (IX-48 rated 100 psig)
- Flow rates from 500 1500 GPM per adsorber
- Applications: drinking water, groundwater remediation, food and beverage





### Mobile Units

When your operation cannot be interrupted

- Rapid or emergency response
- Temporary or semi-permanent installation
- More than drinking water applications ...
  - Construction site water treatment (50-2000+ gpm)
  - Industrial process water
  - o Industrial wastewater
- Footprint: variable / skid-mounted and tailored to site constraints





### PFAS – Structure

**Removal Mechanisms** 

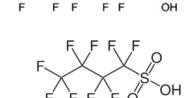
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)

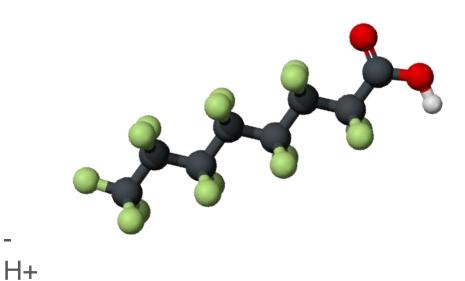
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)

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Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)

Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)







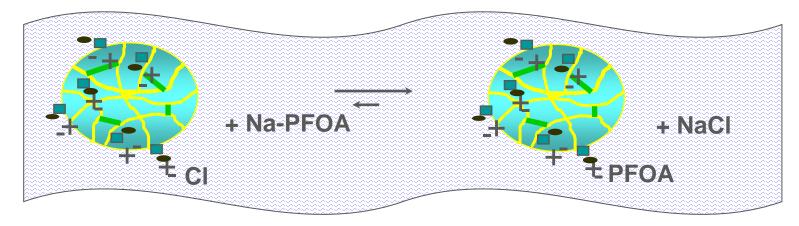


### **Design Considerations**

- 1. Contaminant profile
- 2. Contaminant concentration
- 3. Competitive adsorption
- 4. Pretreatment Requirements
- 5. Water flow rate
- 6. Treatment Targets
- 7. Footprint requirements
- 8. Timing

#### Water Analysis

- Organic contaminants
- PFAS Compounds
- TOC, TDS, Hardness, Alkalinity
- TSS, pH, Nitrates, Sulfates, Chlorides, Iron, Manganese



HCO<sub>3</sub> – Bicarbonate CI – Chloride

SO<sub>4</sub> – Sulfate

NO<sub>3</sub> – Nitrate PFBA

> CIO<sub>4</sub> – Perchlorate PFOA PFOS

> > Most Selective



### Approach To Remediation and Emergency Response

#### Remediation

- Site Investigation
  - Source Determination
  - Plume Size
- Project Team Selection
  - Consultants
  - Contractors
  - Vendors
  - Labs
- Design Considerations?
  - Groundwater/Surface Water
  - Other Contaminants
  - Water Quality
  - Pilot/RSSCT

Emergency Response

- Containment
- Project Team
  - Treatment, Consulting, WDNR
- Testing and QA/QC







### CASE STUDIES

2.00

50

100

50

665

50

100

50 mL

200 mL ±5%

001-

250ml

50

Jm O



### Water Treatment at Construction Sites – Midwest Construction Project

- Water tested positive for PFAS, metals and other inorganics
- Solutions tapped directly at the well head
- Mitigating PFAS, arsenic, mercury, others

 Cleaned effluent discharged into municipal sewer



### **Midwest Automotive Manufacturer**

- After a fire had been extinguished with AFFF the client had to manage 500,000 gallons of impacted fire water
- Evoqua modeled a treatment scheme using GAC We also partnered with Frac Tank & Pump Supplier to manage the storage of treated water
- Water was successfully treated but the local POTW had initial push back due to 1.3 ppt of PFHxA.
- QA/QC review concluded it was lab error.
- Water Recycled for Fire Water Use
- Fire management plan now includes capturing of fire water for treatment.







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## Wrap-Up

### Portfolio – Comprehensive Solutions

Unbiased Technology, Start to Finish

- Temporary mobile assets for rapid deployment providing treatment today
- Treatability studies identifying the optimal technology train for each customer
- Permanent solutions
- Servicing network 85% of the US pop. within 2 hours







### And Now....Time For Your Questions

Reach out to us:

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