

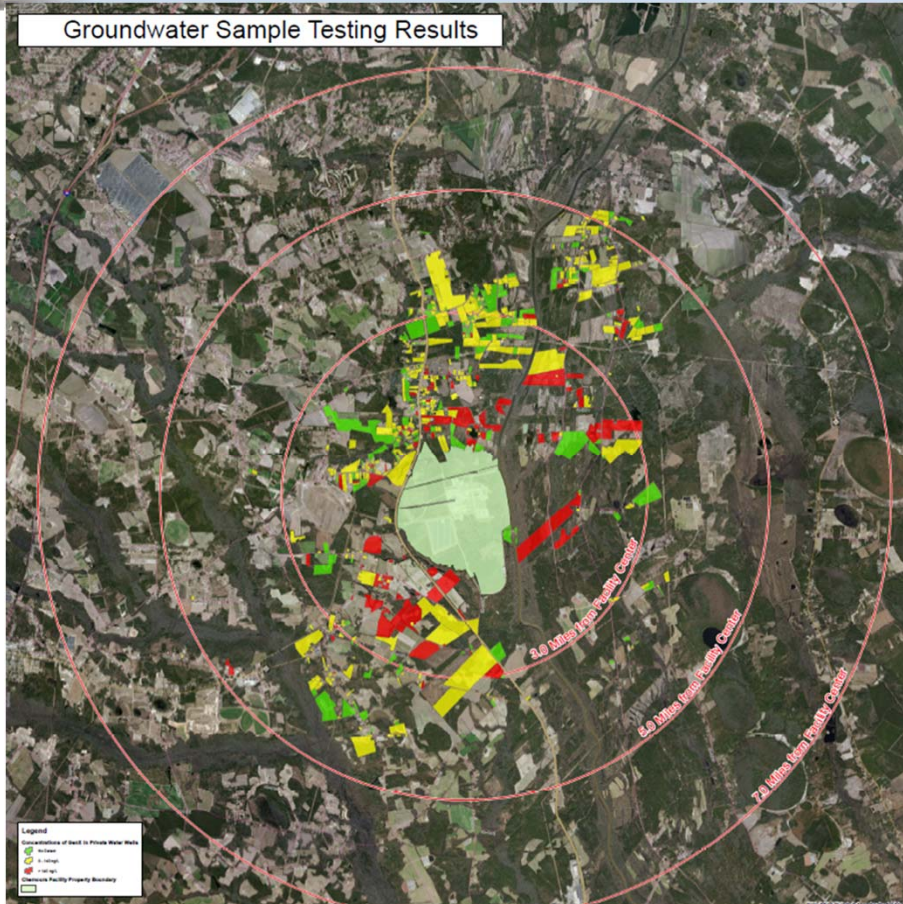


**Division of Waste Management**  
**Michael E. Scott, Director**  
**August 30, 2018**

*Department of Environmental Quality*



# Division of Waste Management GenX Private Well Sampling



Well Sampling Results in the Chemours area,

Approximate distances from facility boundary:

Northeast – 5.5 miles

West – 1.8 miles

Southwest – 3.9 miles

East – 2.6 miles

GenX: NC health goal = 140 ng/l

Red = > 140 ng/l

Yellow = 0-140 ng/l

Green = Non detect



# GenX Private Well Summary Data

Combined Phase I, II, III , IV (partial) Private Well PFAS Data,  
also Includes Robeson Co. and DEQ-collected Data

| Private Well Water GenX Summary                                  | Combined Well Data |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Distance from Chemours' border                                   | Up to 5.5 miles    |
| Well Collection Dates                                            | 9/6/2017 – 6/13/18 |
| Number of Wells tested                                           | 823                |
| Number of Exceedances of the GenX Provisional Health Goal        | 164                |
| Number of Not-Detected (“ND”) GenX Analyses                      | 220                |
| Number of GenX Detections Less than the Health Goal <sup>a</sup> | 439                |
| Maximum Detected GenX Concentration                              | 4000 ng/L          |

a. The NC DHHS Provisional Drinking Water Health Goal for GenX is 140 ng/L (July 2017)





# Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Point-of-Use Filtration Systems

- Chemours submitted a proposal to DEQ to install GAC filtration systems for residences with GenX in wells at or above 140 ng/L.
- Pilot study will determine system effectiveness, system maintenance schedule and compound breakthrough.
- All GAC systems were installed by April 20, 2018.
- Both DEQ and Chemours' third-party consultants are sampling the filter units.
- DEQ results to date are provided in this presentation and are posted on the DEQ website.



## Basic study information

- 6 Locations
- GenX in untreated water = 159 - 1,910 ng/L
- Water usage = 450 to 2,500 gallons/week
- Analyzing for GenX and 32 other PFAS compounds





# GAC System for Pilot Study

- Specific type of GAC system installed
  - Other types may not perform the same.
    - Iron and sediment filters
    - Two GAC filters
- Samples are taken at 4 places:
  - Raw, Pre, Mid and Post
- Research questions:
  - Are they effective?
  - What maintenance and monitoring is required?

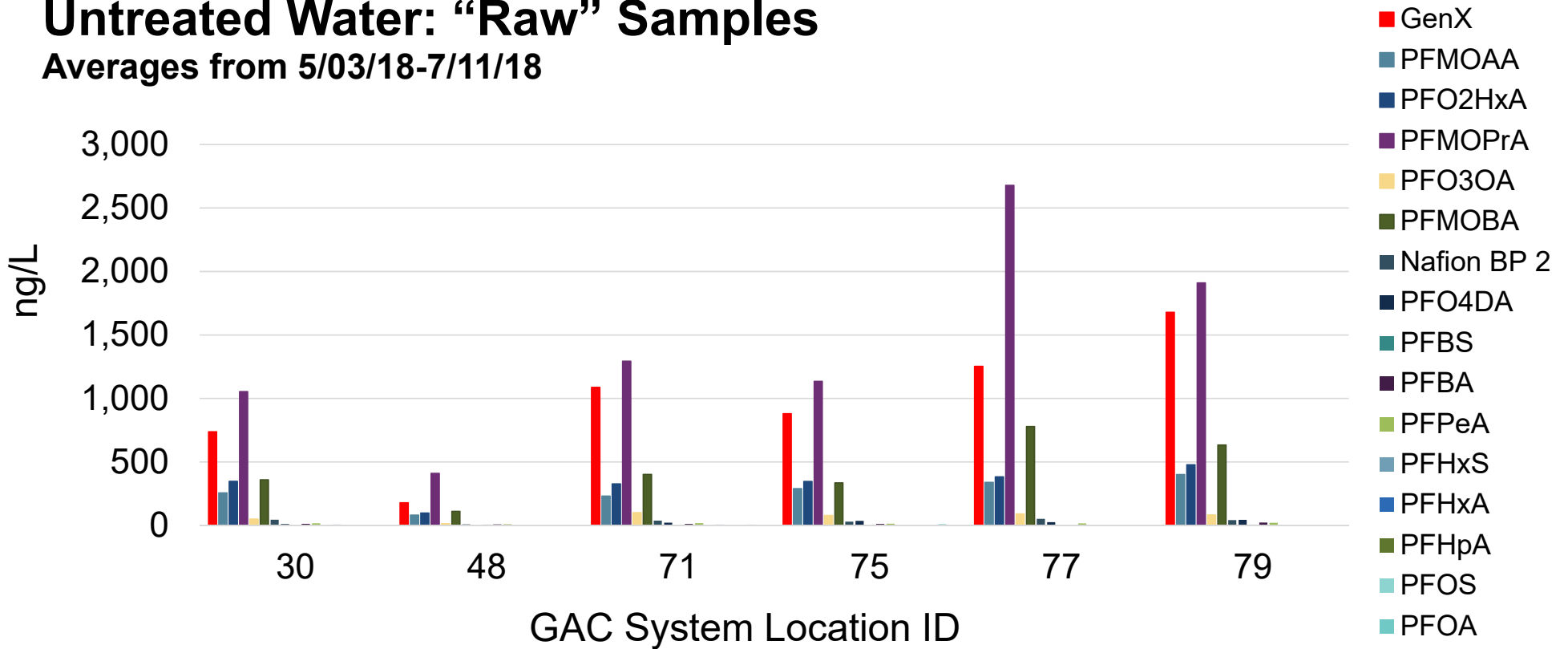


# Untreated Water: “Raw” Samples



# Untreated Water: "Raw" Samples

Averages from 5/03/18-7/11/18



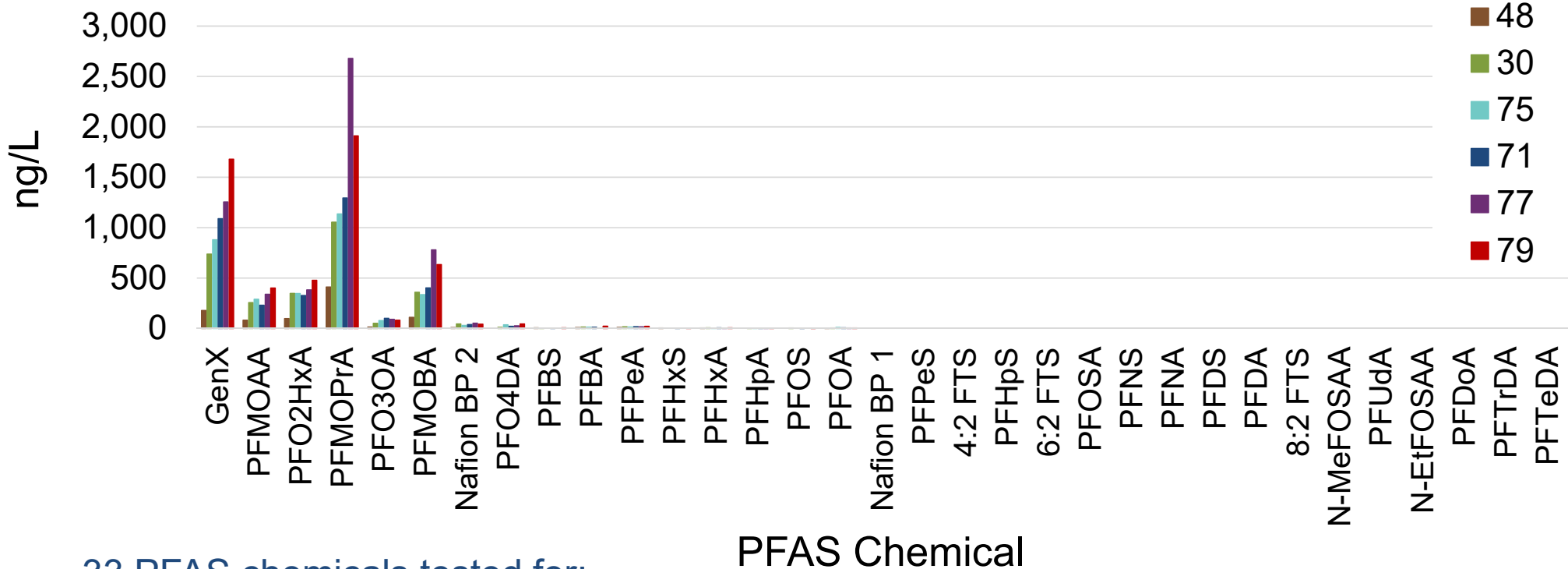
Each site has a similar pattern of PFAS chemicals.



# Untreated Water: “Raw” Samples

Averages from 5/03/18-7/11/18

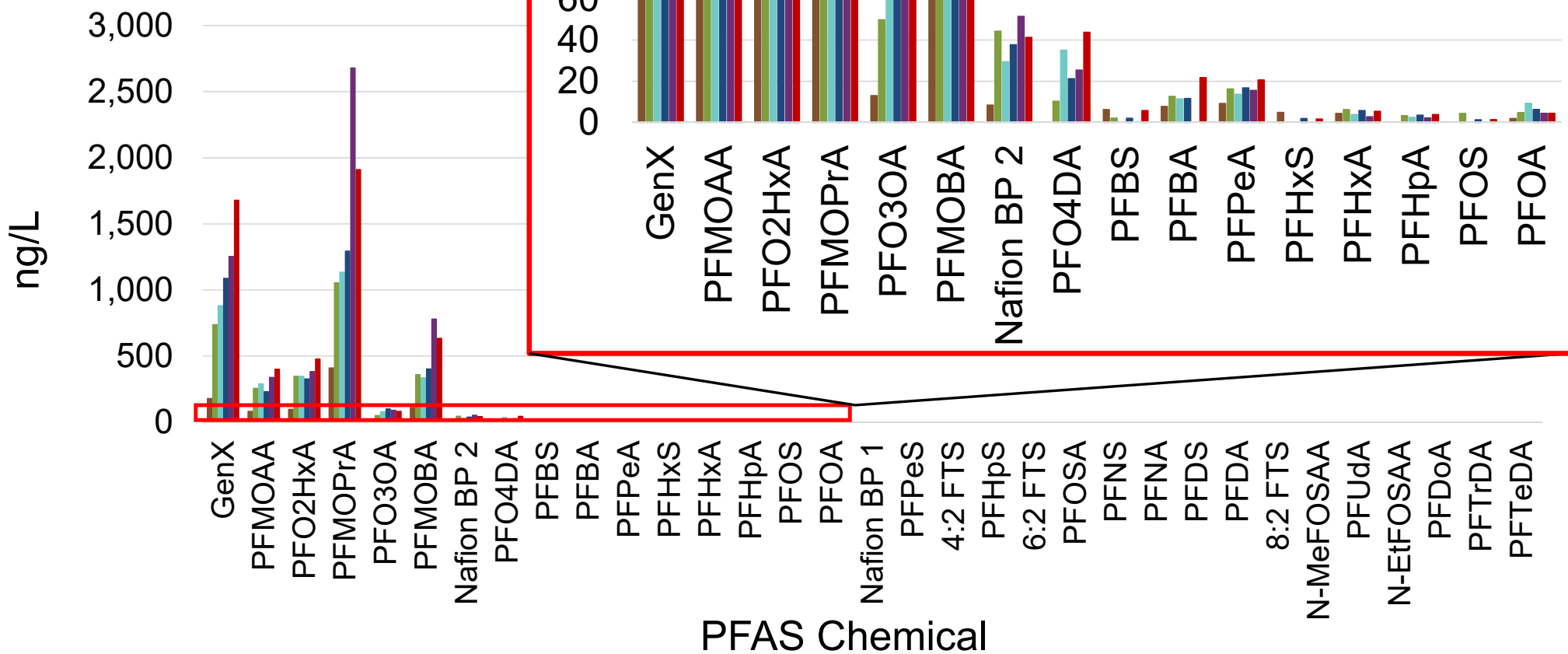
*Same data but viewed by chemical*



33 PFAS chemicals tested for:

- 17 detected in at least one well.
- 6 of these found at higher levels and in all wells.

# Untreated Water



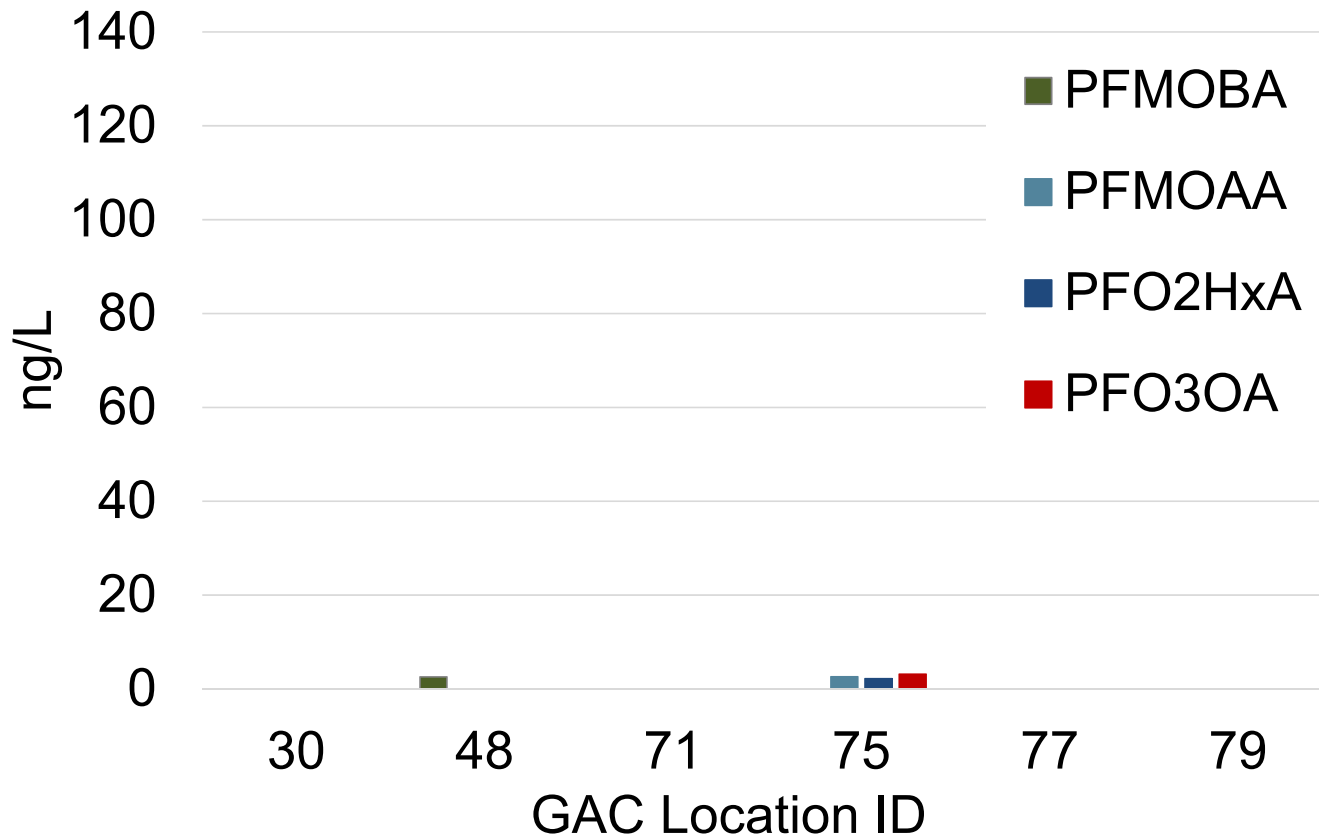
## Treated Water: “Post” Samples





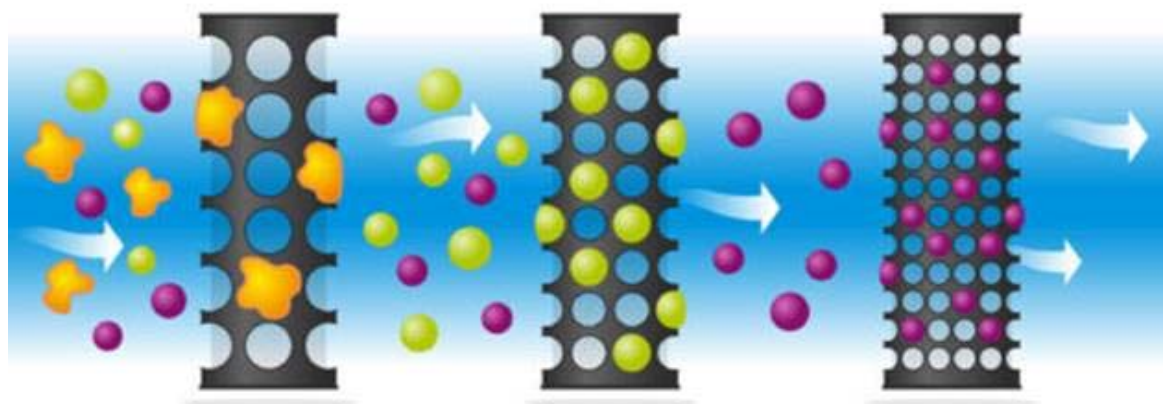
## Treated Water: “Post” Samples

Averages from 5/03/18-7/11/18



- 4 chemicals detected in “Post” samples:
  - Low concentrations near the reporting level (<10 ng/L).
- All detections of PFAS are far below the state’s provisional health goal of 140 ng/L for GenX.

## What is Breakthrough?

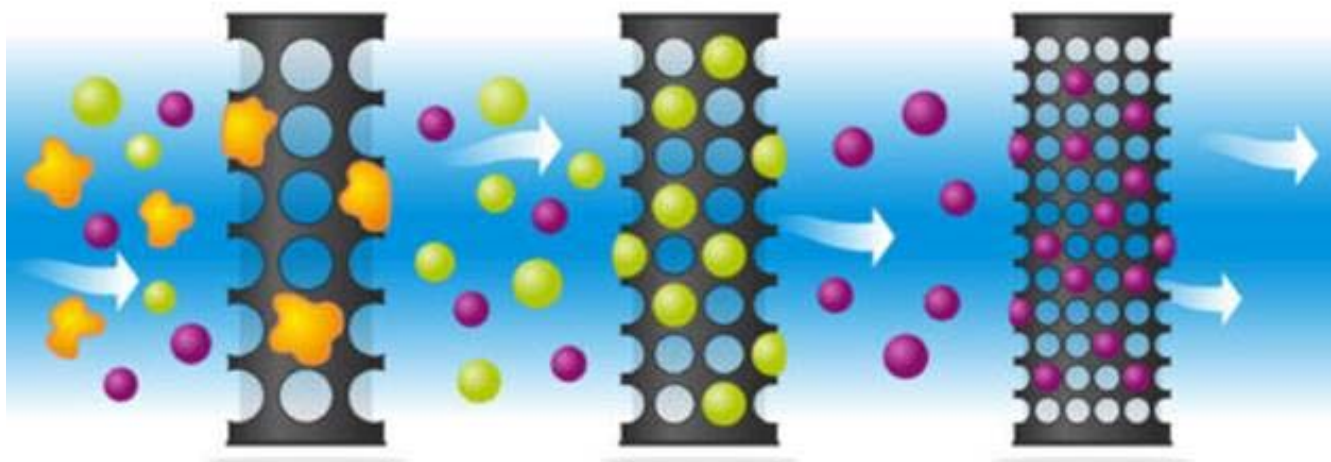


*Research predicts that smaller chemicals will breakthrough first.*

- Breakthrough is when GAC filters begin to reach capacity and they are no longer able to capture the PFAS.
- Identified by measuring PFAS in the “Mid” sample - the sample we collect after the 1<sup>st</sup> GAC filter but before the 2<sup>nd</sup> GAC filter.
- Steadily increasing concentrations in the Mid sample would indicate breakthrough is occurring.



## More about Breakthrough



- The 2nd GAC filter will continue to treat the water after the 1<sup>st</sup> GAC filter's capacity is exhausted.
- Information about the timing of breakthrough will help determine filter replacement and monitoring schedules.

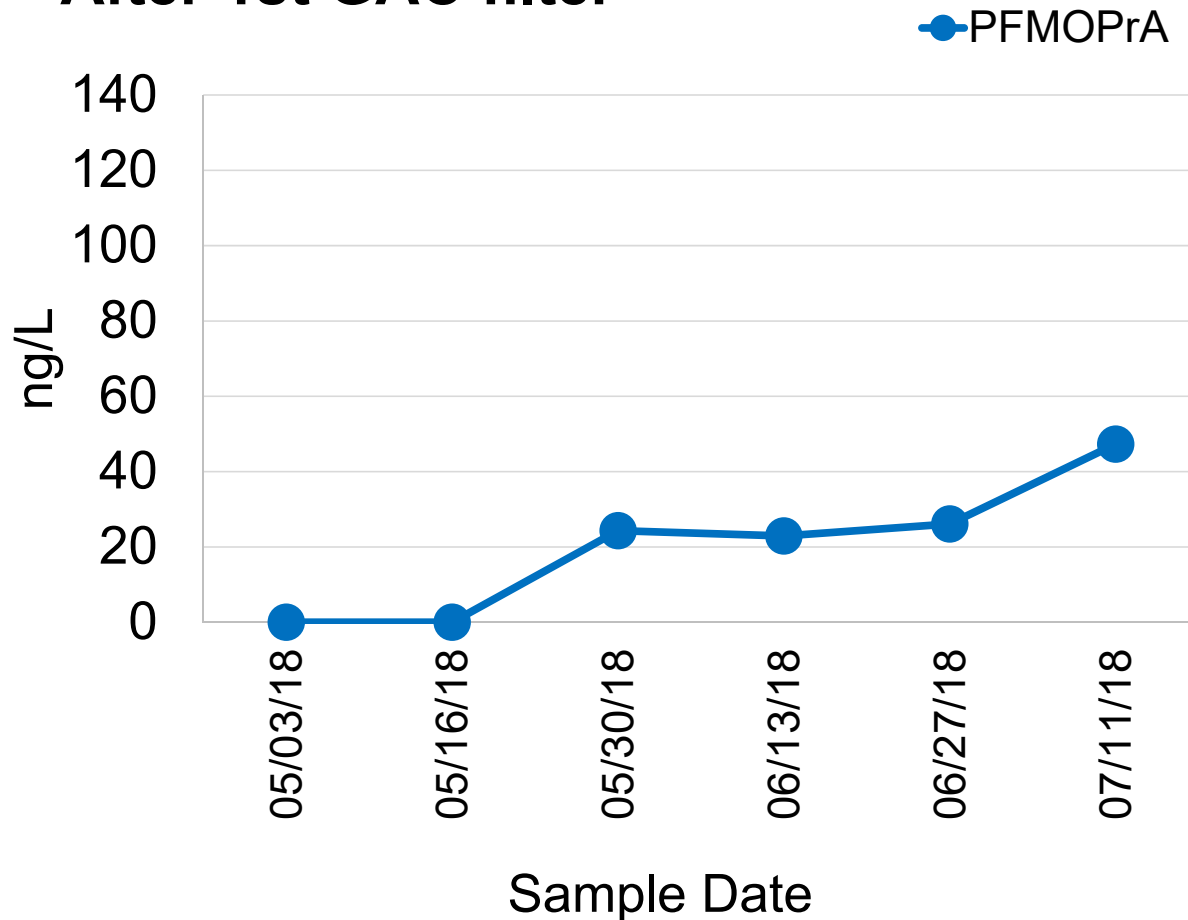




## Partially Treated: “Mid” Samples



## "Mid" Samples After 1st GAC filter



- Location 79.
- Chemical detected is PFMOPrA. It is a smaller molecule (C4).
- PFAS chemicals not yet detected in "Post" or treated water.

| PFAS           | # Carbons | Location 79 Raw Water Avg.(ng/L) |
|----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| PFMOAA         | 3         | 401                              |
| PFO2HxA        | 4         | 478                              |
| <b>PFMOPrA</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>1,910</b>                     |
| PFBS           | 4         | 5.70                             |
| PFBA           | 4         | 21.3                             |
| PFO3OA         | 5         | 80.4                             |
| PFMOBA         | 5         | 633                              |
| PFPeA          | 5         | 19.6                             |
| GenX           | 6         | 1,678                            |
| PFHxS          | 6         | 2.04                             |
| PFHxA          | 6         | 5.38                             |
| Nafion BP2     | 7         | 46.3                             |
| PFHpA          | 7         | 3.79                             |
| PFOS           | 8         | 3.64                             |
| PFOA           | 8         | 4.36                             |
| PFO4DA         | 10        | 46.0                             |

- PFMOPrA is shorter chain 4-carbon PFAS (C4).
- PFMOPrA was at a high concentration in untreated water (1,910 ng/L).



## What comes next for GAC?

- Based on first 2.5 months of data, filters appear to be removing GenX and other PFAS.
  - Maintenance will be needed to ensure continued chemical removal.
  - Maintenance and monitoring requirements will be reviewed.
- Iron is high in some wells. This may impact system performance and maintenance schedules. This needs further evaluation.
- DEQ will continue GAC system testing until we can estimate the timeframe of PFAS breakthrough.
- DEQ will continue to sample the pilot study GAC systems to determine maintenance, monitoring schedules and breakthrough.



## Alternate Water Sources

- Chemours submitted a proposal this summer which is under review by DEQ.
- May use different solutions for different areas:
  - Whole-house filter systems, such as GAC filters.
  - Connection to public water supply lines.
  - Deeper private wells.
- DEQ and local governments are reviewing current capacity and how capacity could be increased.



## On-site Clean-up

- As part of existing permit Chemours is:
  - Pumping 3 wells to address high concentrations in the shallow aquifers.
  - Removing contaminated soil.
- Investigations are ongoing.
- Future clean-up efforts will focus on groundwater and soil.



*Questions?*

Michael E. Scott, Director  
Division of Waste Management  
919-707-8246  
[michael.scott@ncdenr.gov](mailto:michael.scott@ncdenr.gov)

*Department of Environmental Quality*

