



DWR Update: 2023 PFAS Sampling of NC Public Water Systems

October 4, 2023

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2023 PWS Section Sampling Effort

*Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Water Resources*



2023 PWS Sampling Effort

- 655 systems included in this round of sampling
 - Privately owned community water systems (excludes those owned by Aqua NC and Carolina Water)
 - Privately owned school and daycare non-transient non-community water systems
 - 3 systems previously sampled by the PFAST Network as requested by SSAB

2023 PWS Sampling Effort

- 1 round of sampling
- 1 sample from 1 entry point for each system
- Analyze for same 57 PFAS as our 2022 sampling
 - Using modified Method 537.1

Hazard Index = (GenX conc/10ppt) + (PFBS conc/2000ppt) + (PFNA conc/10ppt) + (PFHxS conc/9.0ppt)

2023 PWS Sampling Effort

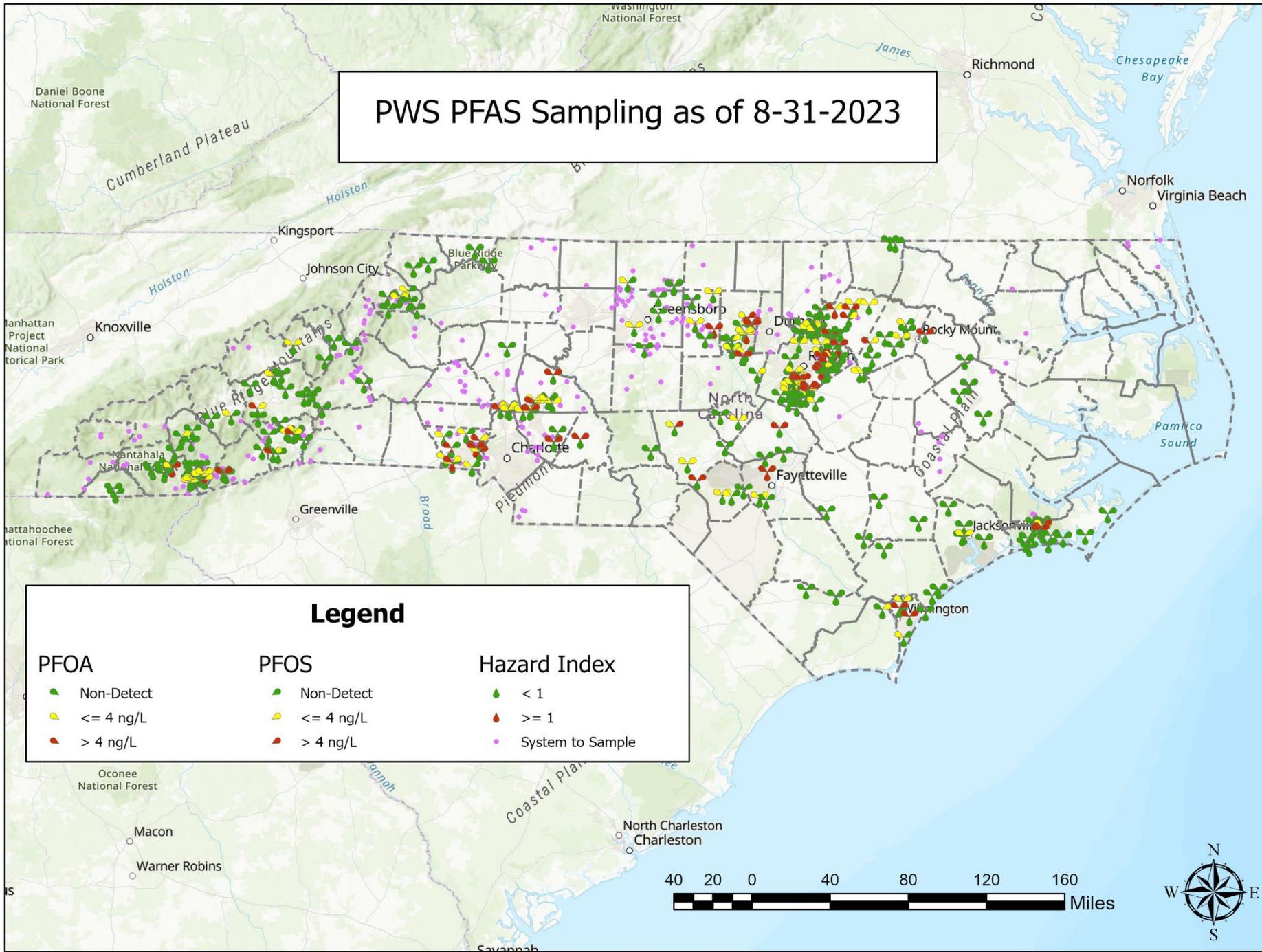
- **433** Systems sampled through 10/03/2023
 - Have data for 286 systems sampled through 8/31/2023
 - 55 systems are scheduled to be sampled
 - 65 systems have declined sampling
- **61** Systems (21%) had PFOA, PFOS, and/or HI above proposed MCL
 - 52 Systems (18%) had PFOA > 4ppt
 - 39 Systems (14%) had PFOS > 4ppt
 - 15 Systems (5%) had HI > 1
 - Driven by PFHxS (14 systems)
- **80** Systems (28%) have all Non-Detect measurements for PFAS

2023 PWS Sampling Effort

Analyte	# PWS w. detections	% PWS w. detections	Proposed Regulation	Range (ppt)	
				Min	Max
PFOA	123	43%	Yes	0.75	33.9
PFBS	119	42%	Yes	0.57	31.3
PFOS	108	38%	Yes	0.83	46.7
PFBA	87	30%	No	0.73	17.8
PFHpA	87	30%	No	0.55	15.3
PFPeA	73	26%	No	0.63	26.3
PFHxA	68	24%	No	0.706	21.9
PFPrA	66	23%	No	7.1	31.8
PMPA	53	19%	No	0.177	7.48
PFPeS	36	13%	No	0.56	23.1
NVHOS	29	10%	No	0.18	2.44
PFO2HxA	24	8%	No	0.17	13.1
PFMOAA	22	8%	No	0.19	44.7
GenX	18	6%	Yes	0.181	1.58
PFNA	15	5%	Yes	0.64	9.55
PFHxS	14	5%	Yes	9.11	62.9
PFHpS	6	2%	No	0.63	1.38
PFDA	6	2%	No	0.7	1.99
PEPA	4	1%	No	0.19	0.65
PFO3OA	2	1%	No	0.786	3.36
PFO5DA	1	0%	No	0.234	0.234
PFO4DA	1	0%	No	0.315	0.799
PFMOPrA	1	0%	No	0.239	0.239



PWS PFAS Sampling as of 8-31-2023



Legend

PFOA

- Non-Detect
- ≤ 4 ng/L
- > 4 ng/L

PFOS

- Non-Detect
- ≤ 4 ng/L
- > 4 ng/L

Hazard Index

- < 1
- ≥ 1
- System to Sample

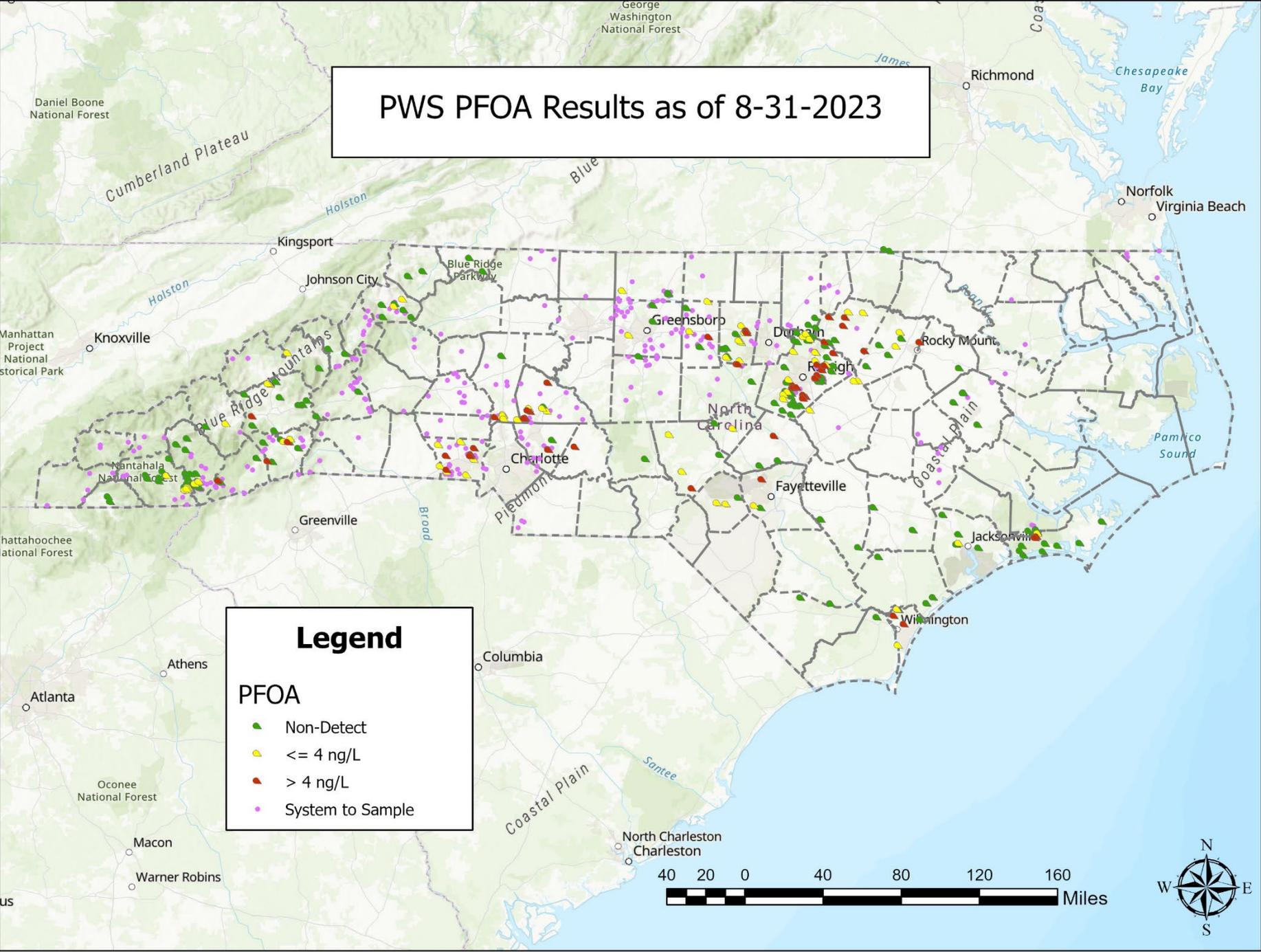


PWS PFOA Results as of 8-31-2023

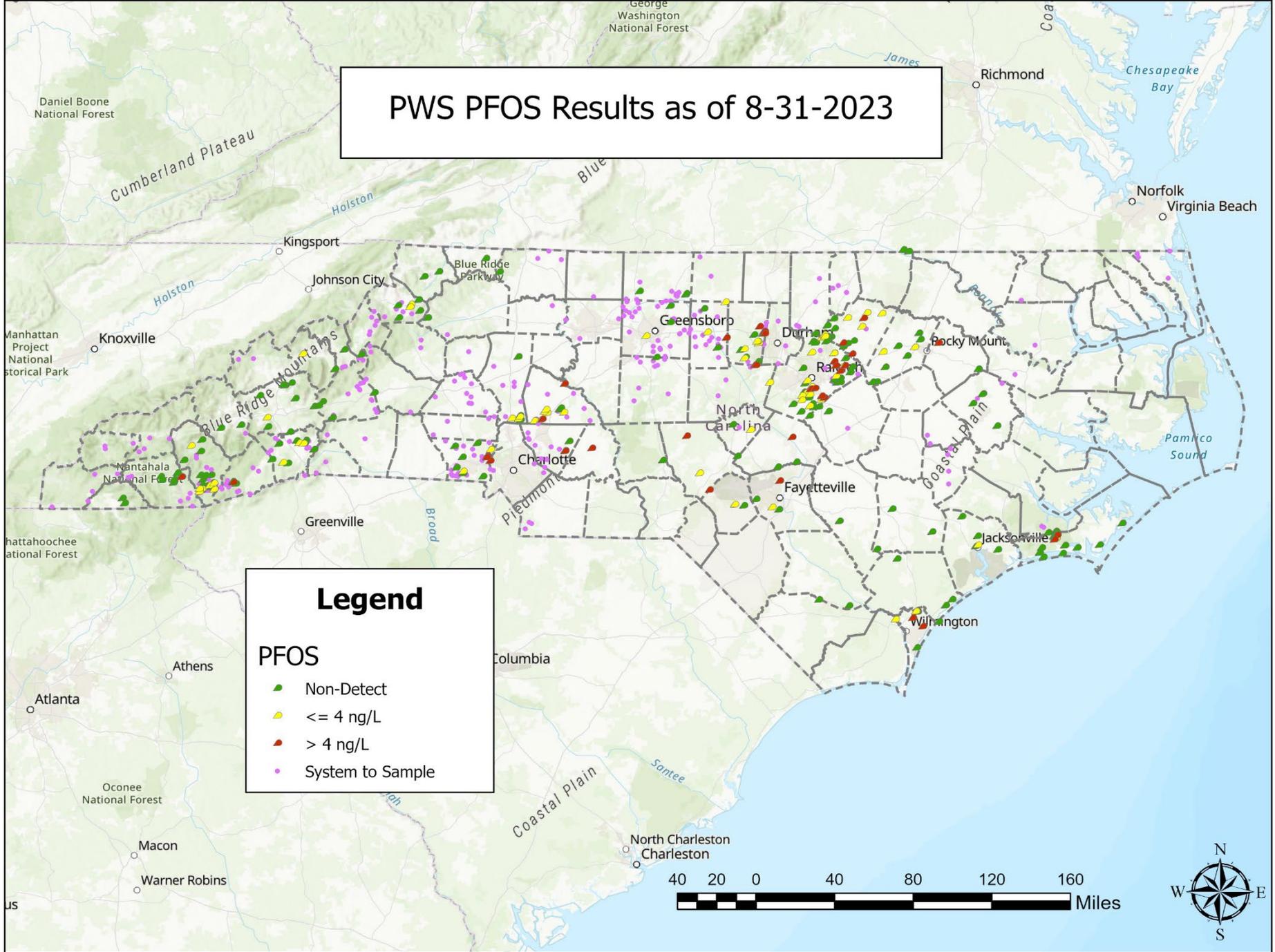
Legend

PFOA

- Non-Detect
- <= 4 ng/L
- > 4 ng/L
- System to Sample



PWS PFOS Results as of 8-31-2023

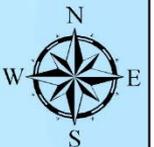


Legend

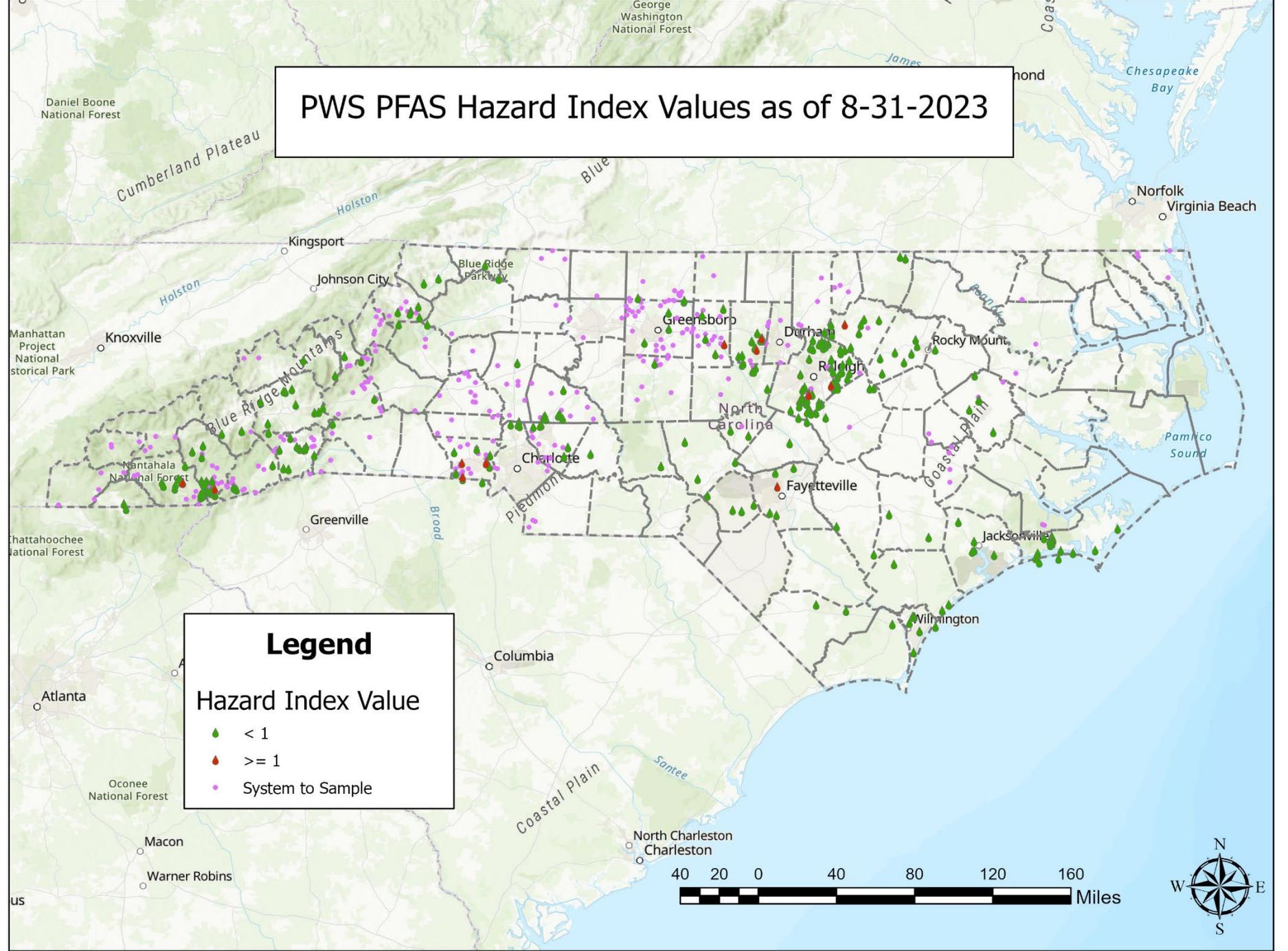
PFOS

- Non-Detect
- ≤ 4 ng/L
- > 4 ng/L
- System to Sample

40 20 0 40 80 120 160 Miles



PWS PFAS Hazard Index Values as of 8-31-2023



Legend

Hazard Index Value

- < 1
- >= 1
- System to Sample

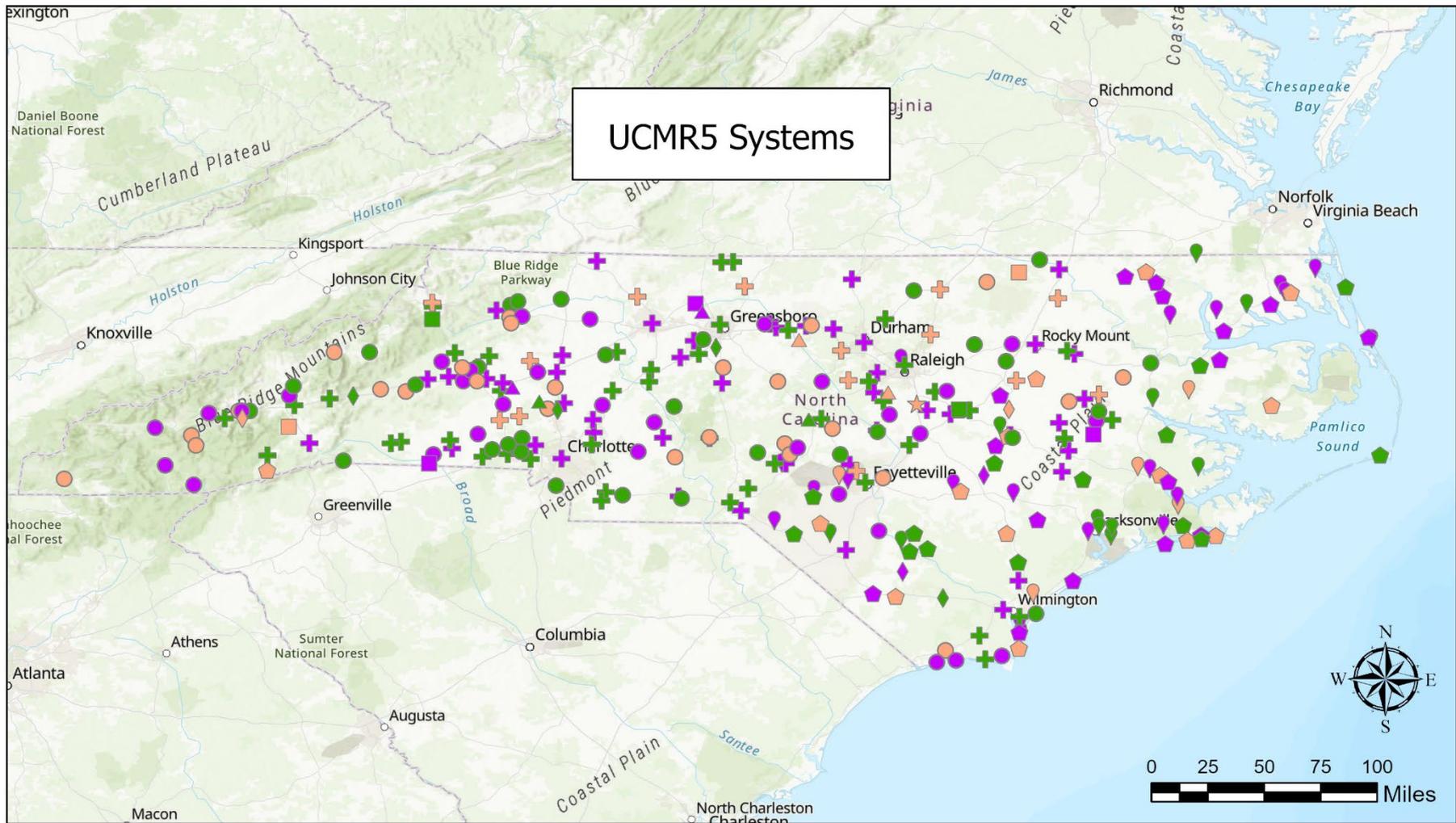




NC UCMR5

*Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Water Resources*





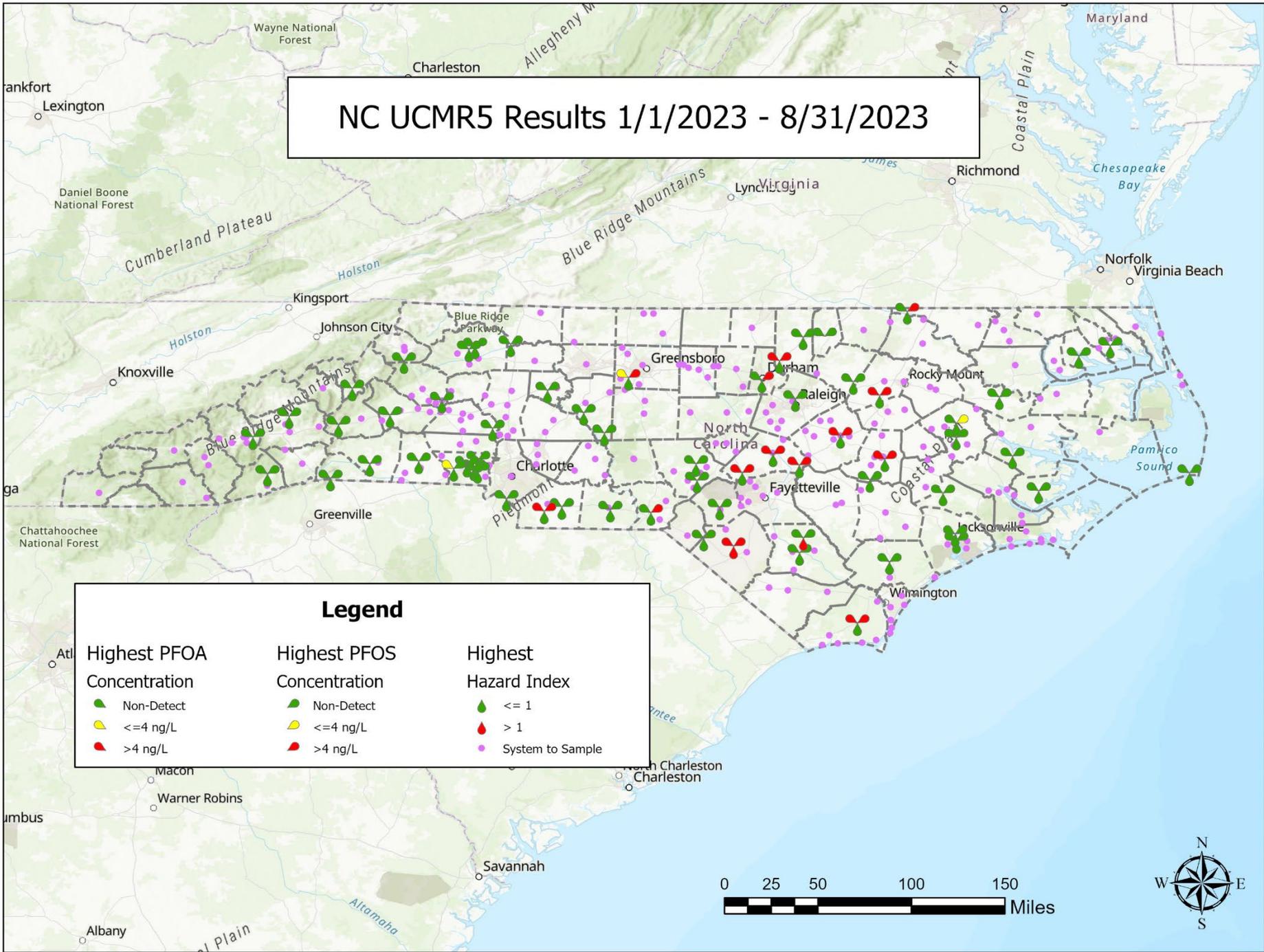
Legend

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>NC UCMR5 Information</p> <p>Size Group and Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Very Small Groundwater (1 to 500 population) 2023 ▲ Very Small Groundwater (1 to 500 population) 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Very Small Groundwater (1 to 500 population) 2025 ◆ Small Groundwater (501 - 3299 population) 2023 ◆ Small Groundwater (501 - 3299 population) 2024 ◆ Small Groundwater (501 - 3299 population) 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Medium Groundwater (3,300 to 10,000 population) 2023 ◆ Medium Groundwater (3,300 to 10,000 population) 2024 ◆ Medium Groundwater (3,300 to 10,000 population) 2025 ▼ Large Groundwater (Over 10,000 population) 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Large Groundwater (Over 10,000 population) 2024 ▼ Large Groundwater (Over 10,000 population) 2025 ★ Very Small Surface Water (1 to 500 population) 2025 ■ Small Surface Water (501 - 3299 population) 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Small Surface Water (501 - 3299 population) 2024 ■ Small Surface Water (501 - 3299 population) 2025 ● Medium Surface Water (3,300 to 10,000 population) 2023 ● Medium Surface Water (3,300 to 10,000 population) 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Medium Surface Water (3,300 to 10,000 population) 2025 + Large Surface Water (Over 10,000 population) 2023 + Large Surface Water (Over 10,000 population) 2024 + Large Surface Water (Over 10,000 population) 2025 |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|

- 298 NC systems to sample between 2023 and 2025
- Results for 79 systems (as of 9/30/23)
- PFAS
 - 24 Systems (30%) have a result exceeding a proposed MCL or Hazard Index
 - 51 Systems (65%) have all Non-Detect measurements for PFAS
 - 17 of the 29 PFAS have not yet been detected in any samples
- Lithium
 - 15 Systems (19%) have a lithium detection
 - 12 Systems (15%) have a lithium result greater than 10ppb
 - Max lithium result 60.3ppb

Analyte	# PWS w. detections	% PWS w. detections	Proposed Regulation	Range (ppt)	
				Min	Max
PFOS	20	25%	Yes	4	31.3
PFBA	20	25%	No	5.1	11.3
PFPeA	18	23%	No	3.3	29
PFHxA	17	22%	No	3	25
PFOA	16	20%	Yes	4	30
PFBS	15	19%	Yes	3	8.8
Lithium (ppb)	15	19%	No	9	60.3
PFHxS	9	11%	Yes	3	14.2
PFHpA	7	9%	No	3.2	16
GenX	2	3%	Yes	13.6	34
6:2 FTS	2	3%	No	5	7.2
PFPeS	1	1%	No	4.4	4.7

NC UCMR5 Results 1/1/2023 - 8/31/2023

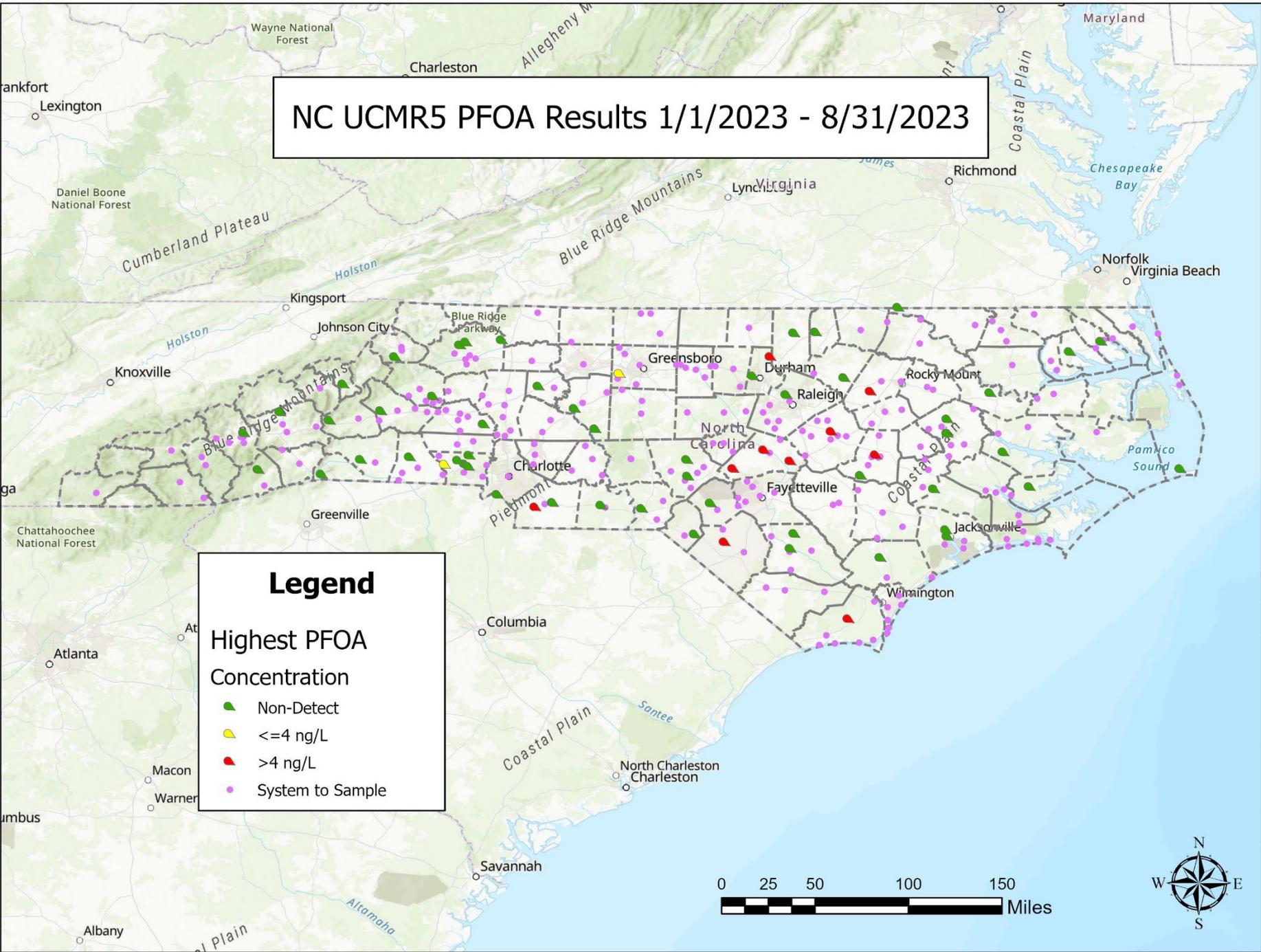


NC UCMR5 PFOA Results 1/1/2023 - 8/31/2023

Legend

Highest PFOA Concentration

- Green triangle: Non-Detect
- Yellow triangle: ≤ 4 ng/L
- Red triangle: > 4 ng/L
- Purple circle: System to Sample

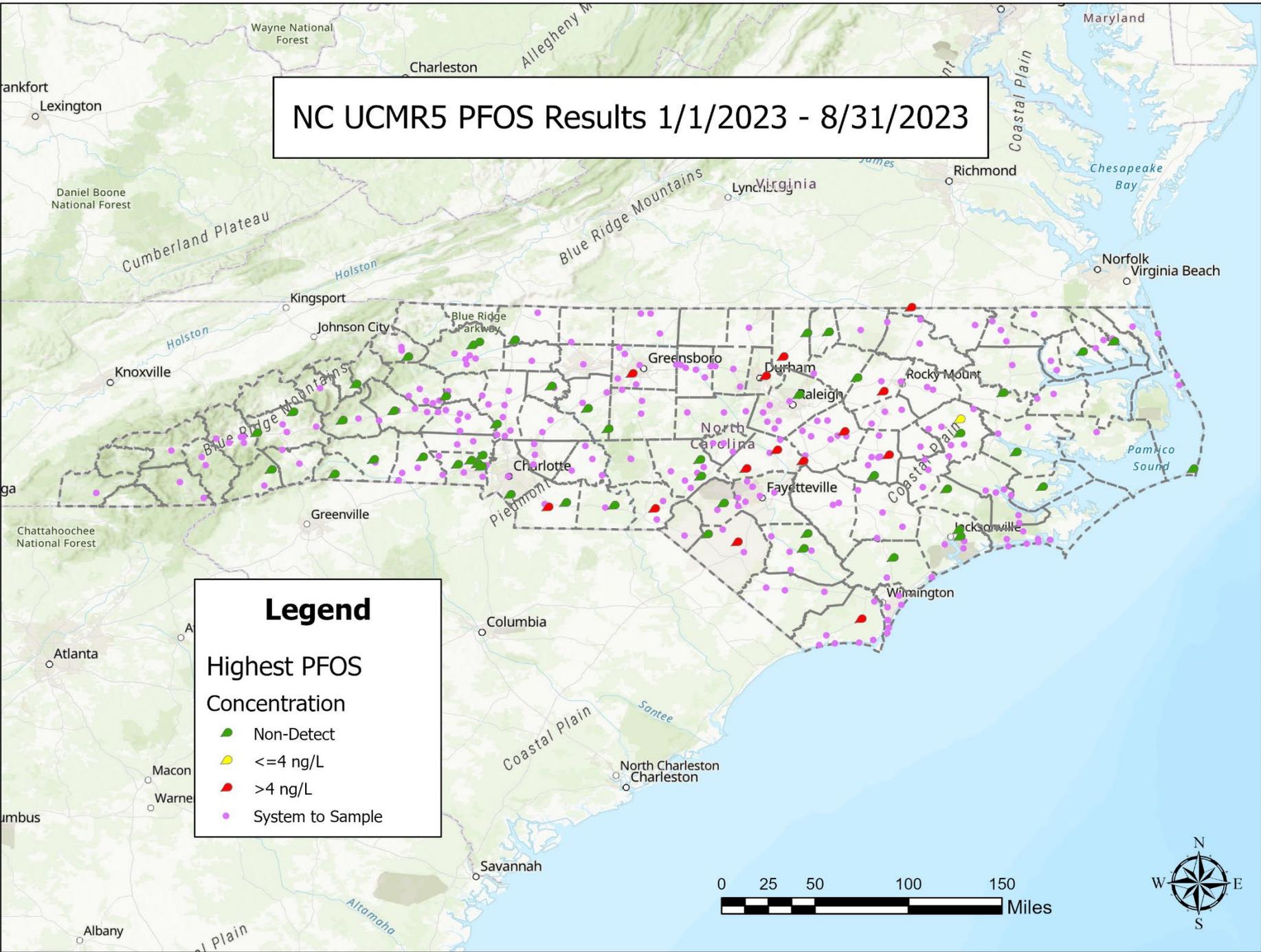


NC UCMR5 PFOS Results 1/1/2023 - 8/31/2023

Legend

Highest PFOS Concentration

- Green triangle: Non-Detect
- Yellow triangle: ≤ 4 ng/L
- Red triangle: > 4 ng/L
- Purple circle: System to Sample

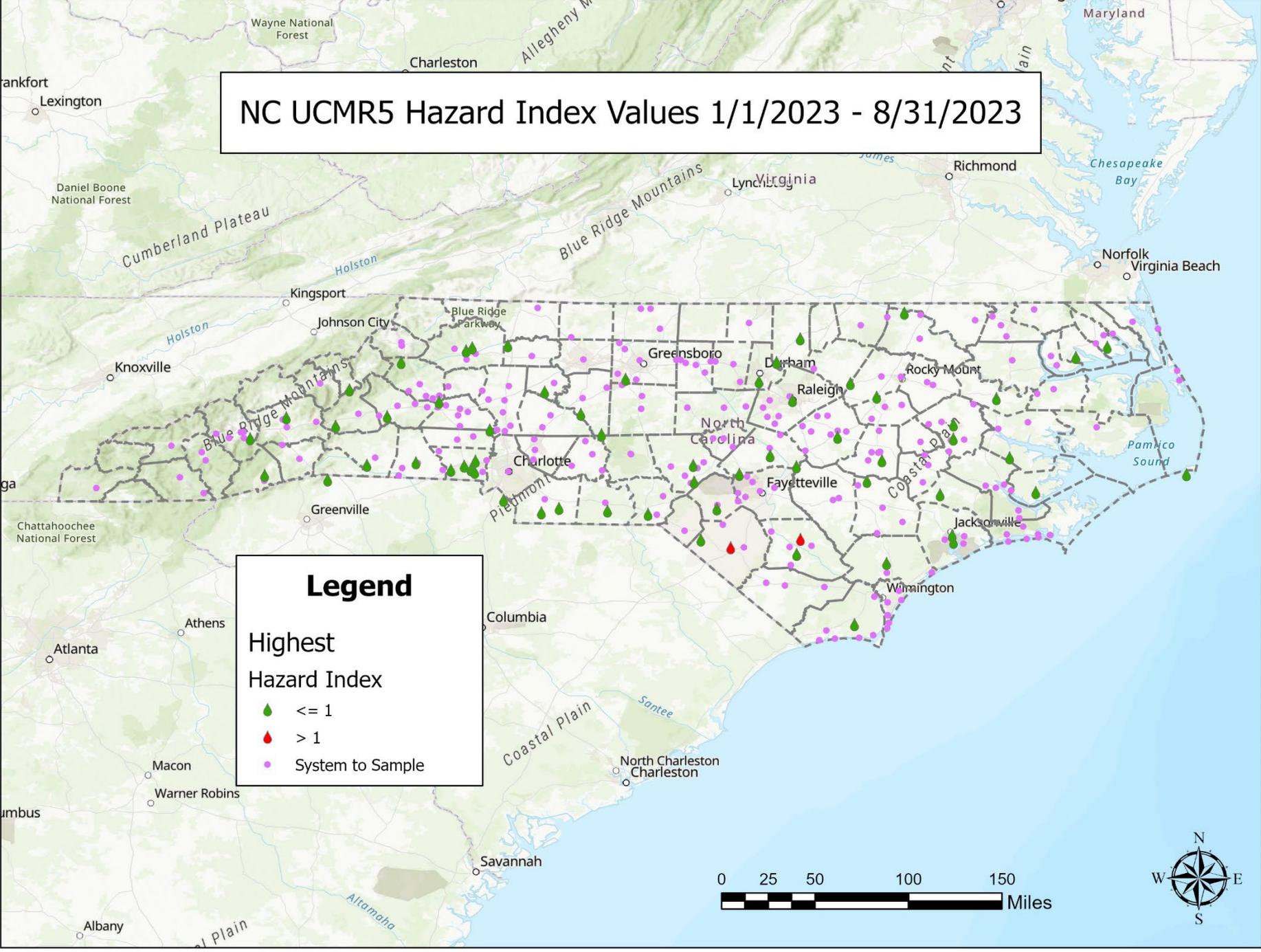


NC UCMR5 Hazard Index Values 1/1/2023 - 8/31/2023

Legend

Highest Hazard Index

-  ≤ 1
-  > 1
-  System to Sample

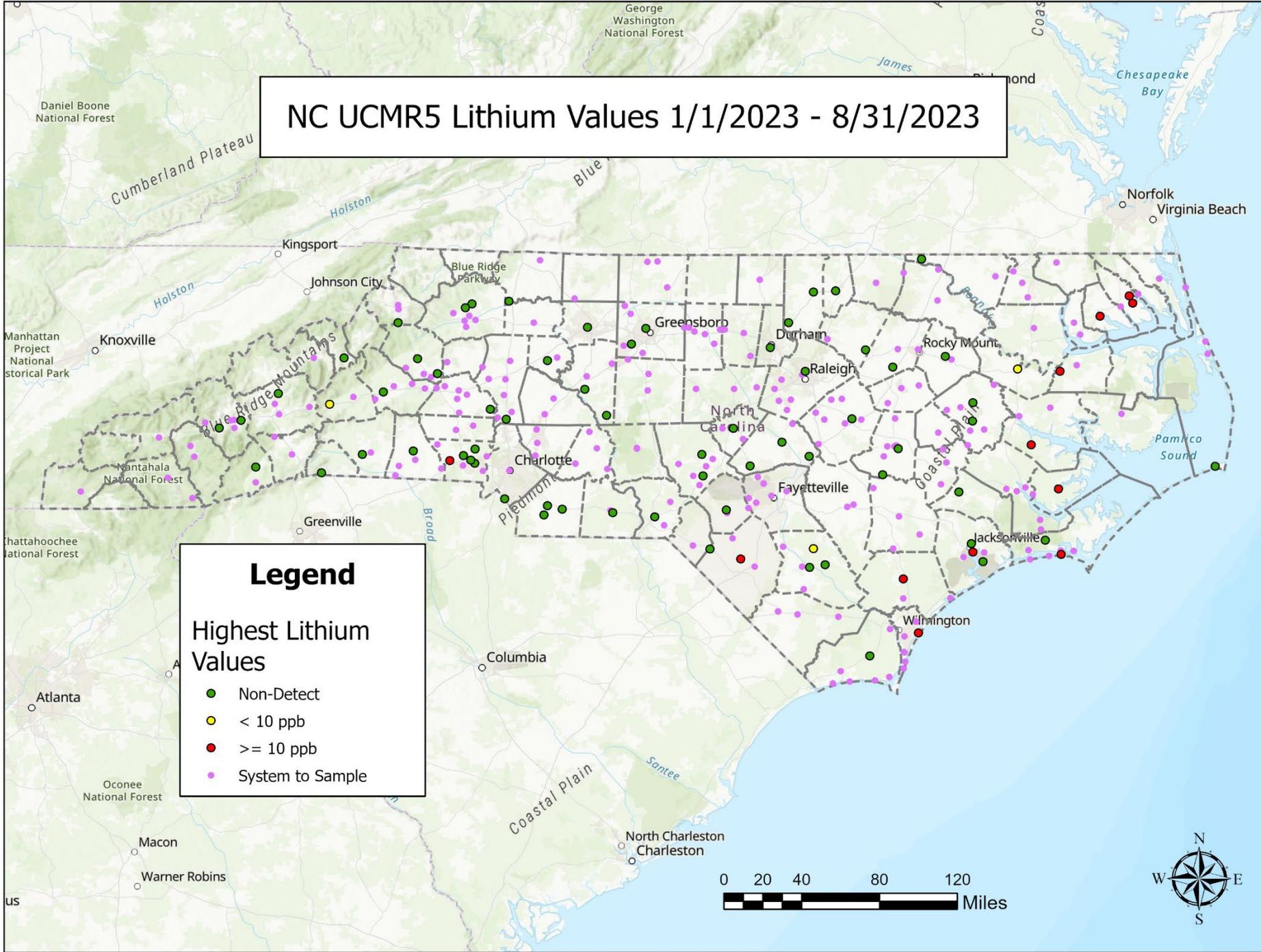


NC UCMR5 Lithium Values 1/1/2023 - 8/31/2023

Legend

Highest Lithium Values

- Non-Detect
- < 10 ppb
- ≥ 10 ppb
- System to Sample



General Summary of all NC Data

- ~20% of the privately owned systems have results greater than a proposed MCL or HI
- ~30% of the systems sampled in UCMR5 have results greater than a proposed MCL or HI
- We are seeing some exceedances of the HI
- We are finding PFAS other than the 6 contaminants in the proposed regulation



Thank You!

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Division of Water Resources*



March 2023: Proposed Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)
Expected to be finalized in late 2023, in effect in 2026.

Compound	Proposed MCLG	Proposed MCL (enforceable levels)
PFOA	Zero	4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	Zero	4.0 ppt
PFNA	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index
PFHxS		
PFBS		
HFPO-DA (commonly referred to as GenX Chemicals)		

The proposed rule would also require public water systems to:

- Monitor for these PFAS
 - Community and Non-Transient Non-Community
 - Entry Points (similar to SOCs, VOCs)
- Notify the public of the levels of these PFAS
 - CCR
 - Tier 2 PN
- Reduce the levels of these PFAS in drinking water if they exceed the proposed standards.
 - Running Annual Average

Hazard Index formula:

Hazard Index = (GenX conc/10ppt) + (PFBS conc/2000ppt) + (PFNA conc/10ppt) + (PFHxS conc/9.0ppt)