



*Division of Water Resources
Update
October 10, 2025*



Overview

- Hurricane Helene
- PFAS Rule Making
 - MCLs
 - Monitoring Minimization Rules
 - 02L Groundwater Rule
- DWR Operations

Hurricane Helene Overview

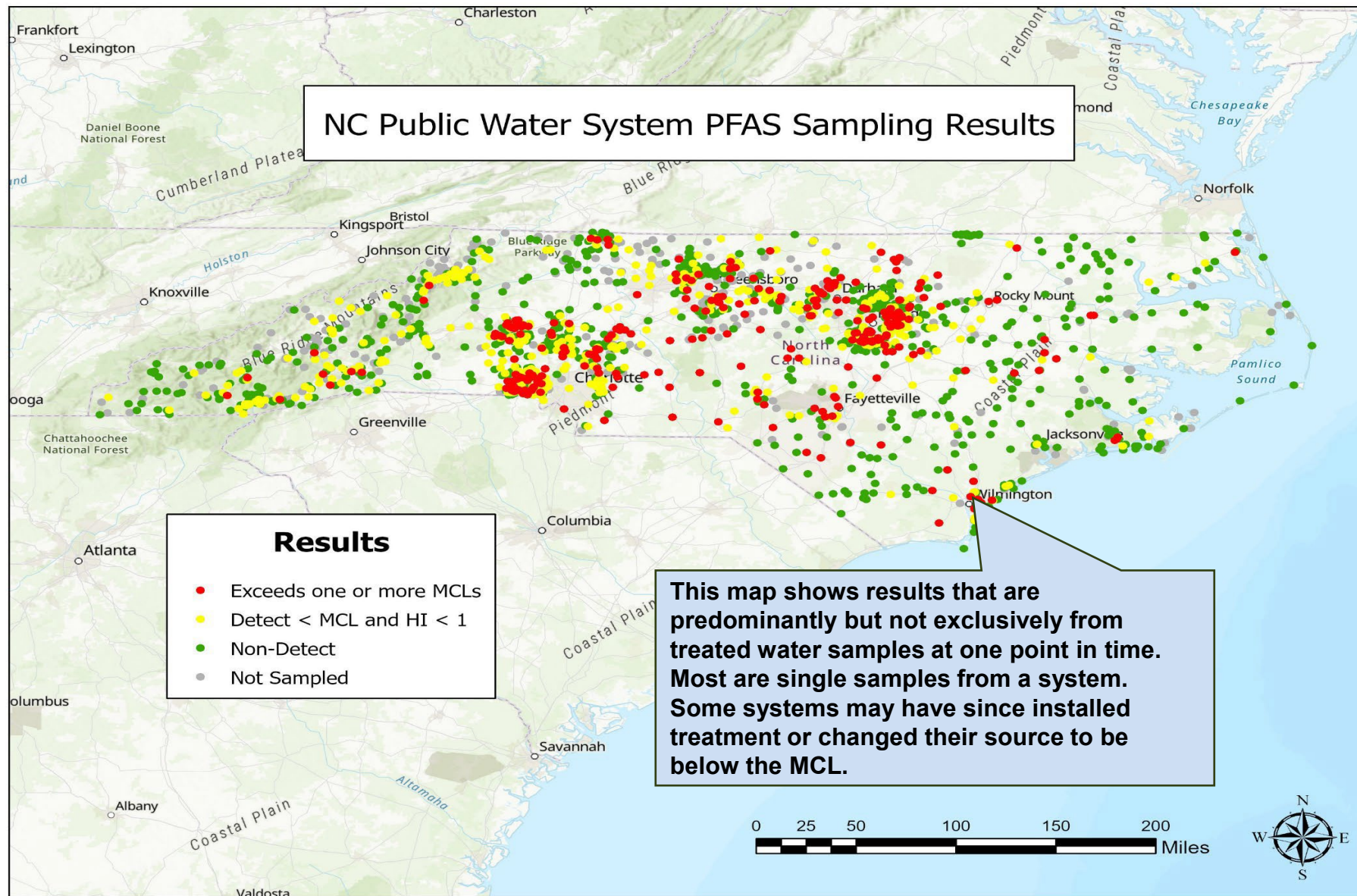
- October 2025
 - 180 public water systems that were impacted by Hurricane Helene, some closed, some still without power. Another 40 systems were on a boil water advisory
 - More than 250 wastewater treatment plants were impacted. Approximately 100 wastewater treatment plants were closed with significant damage, without power, or partially operational.
- October 2026
 - Currently, 3 water systems are in various stages of replacing surface water intakes.
 - Currently, 7 WWTPs continue to reconnect customers and repair collections systems while 1 WWTP is awaiting installation of a package treatment plant.

Hurricane Helene Overview

Across the NCDEQ Division of Water Resources (DWR), more than 76 staff in the division assisted with response to Helene, working more than 5,547 hours on monitoring, reporting & recovery from September through December 2024.

Hurricane Helene Recovery Continues

- Stream Debris Removal – Federal Response has ended but state and local efforts continue.
- Stream Stabilization and Restoration across the region have yet to begin due to lack of funding.
- Replacement of Private Roads & Bridges – The General Assembly appropriated \$175,000,000 to replace private roads, culverts and bridges impacted by Helene to provide access to homes and business for emergency response. NCDDEM has received more than 6,000 applications.



EPA MCLs

Compound	Final MCLG	Final MCL (enforceable levels) ¹
PFOA	Zero	4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	Zero	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	1 (unitless) Hazard Index	1 (unitless) Hazard Index

North Carolina Compliance Projections

- The EPA has indicated that they plan to pursue rulemaking to reduce the compounds included in the MCL table to just PFOA & PFOS. They also intend to pursue rulemaking to extend the compliance deadline to 2031
- Based on proposed MCLs it is currently projected that approximately 3,719,867 people in North Carolina could have been served water that exceed one or more of the PFAS MCLs or the HI.

PFOS, PFOA, and GenX Monitoring and Minimization Rule Summary

- Two rules have been drafted. Separate rules were needed to address the affected entities that the WQC motion outlined.
 - 15A NCAC 02H .0923
 - Monitoring and minimization for Significant Industrial Users (SIUs) through the Pretreatment Program at the local municipality
 - 15A NCAC 02B .0512
 - Monitoring and minimization for Industrial Direct Dischargers (IDD)
 - Monitoring for Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) with local pretreatment programs - no minimization

PFOS, PFOA, and GenX Monitoring and Minimization Rule Summary

- Baseline sampling: Quarterly samples for one year.
- Ongoing sampling is required if any quarterly sampling result for PFOS, PFOA, or GenX has a concentration above the lowest reporting concentration (i.e., not a non-detect)
- Ongoing sampling will occur semiannually and continue until the concentrations for all PFOA, PFOS, and Gen X are below the lowest reporting concentration (i.e., reported as non-detects) in four consecutive quarterly effluent samples for that effluent station.
- If determined to need ongoing sampling, the POTW/IDD/SIU will be required to develop a minimization plan to reduce or eliminate PFOS, PFOA and GenX loading to the POTW.
- Annual report to the Division is required on monitoring and minimization activities.

PFOS, PFOA, and GenX Monitoring and Minimization Rule Summary

- Draft Rules and Fiscal Note approved by the OSBM September 3, 2025
- WQC scheduled to consider proposed draft rule on November 11, 2025

Proposed Amendments to 15A NCAC 02L .0202 Groundwater Quality Standards

- The adoption of groundwater quality standards for three PFAS:
 - Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA): 0.001 ng/L
 - Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS): 0.7 ng/L
 - Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA; GenX): 10 ng/L



Rulemaking Schedule

Action / Responsibility	Date
Stakeholder Meetings	January and February 2024
GWWMC/EMC Information Item Presentations	May and July 2022; July and November 2023; and January, March, and May 2024
GWWMC – Decision to revise RIA to include only PFOA, PFOS, and GenX and return to GWWMC	July 10, 2024
GWWMC – Decision to Approve Rule Text and RIA to go to EMC	September 12, 2024
EMC – Decision to Approve Rule and RIA for Public Comment	September 13, 2024
Public Comment Period	November 2024 – December 2024
Review public comments, draft Hearing Officers' Report	January 2025 – June 2025
EMC – Decision whether to Approve Hearing Officers' Report and final RIA, Adopt Rule	September 2025
RRC – Approval of Rule	October 2025
Proposed effective date, if approved by RRC	November 1, 2025

Getting the Job Done

- DWR 445 Staff
- Vacancy Rate 7%
- All supervisory positions are filled.

In 2024, DWR's 7 Region's WQRO's staff responded to **2,303 incidents** and conducted over **7300 inspections**.

- FRO doing the most animal operations inspections per year at close to 750.
- RRO performing the most stream calls at over 800 per year.



Questions?

*Richard Rogers, Director
Division Water Resources
richard.rogers@deq.nc.gov*

