



# NHDES Residuals Management Section – History, Rules, and Future

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**Supervisor; Residuals Management Section**

**Wastewater Engineering Bureau; NHDES**

# Outline

- Who is the Residuals Management Section?
- Why do we need Clean Water?
- History of sludge compliance in New Hampshire
- Education Outreach
- How is sludge and septage managed in New Hampshire?
- Sludge Quality Certificate PFAS Investigation data
- The future for sludge and septage management in NH

# NHDES Residuals Management Section

- Water Division ↻
  - Wastewater Engineering Bureau ↻
    - Residuals Management Section

Anthony  
Drouin  
**Supervisor**  
*Sludge Quality  
Certification  
Permitting*

**VACANT**  
**Permitting &  
Enforcement  
Engineer**  
*Site and Facility  
Permitting*

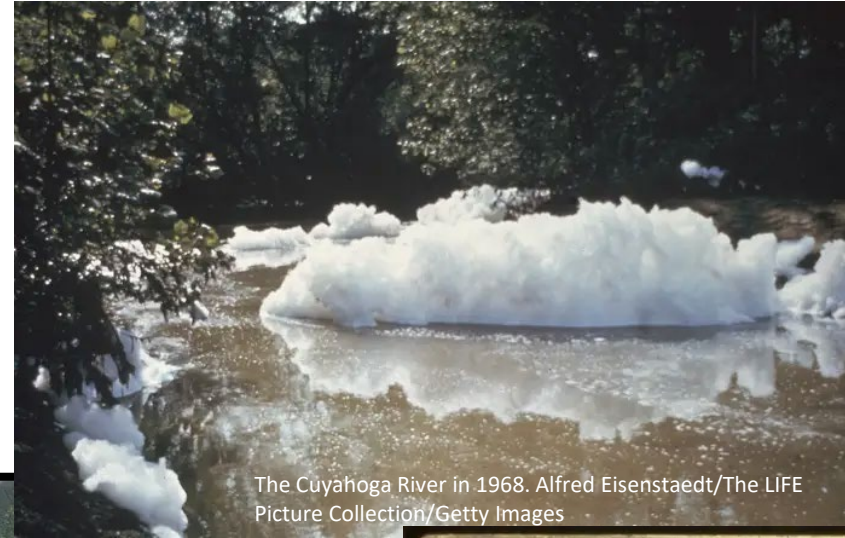
Wade Pelham  
**Sludge & Septage  
Coordinator**  
*Training and  
Outreach*

Jim Talvy  
**Inspector**  
*Sludge & Septage  
Hauler Permitting*

# Our Rivers prior to the Clean Water Act



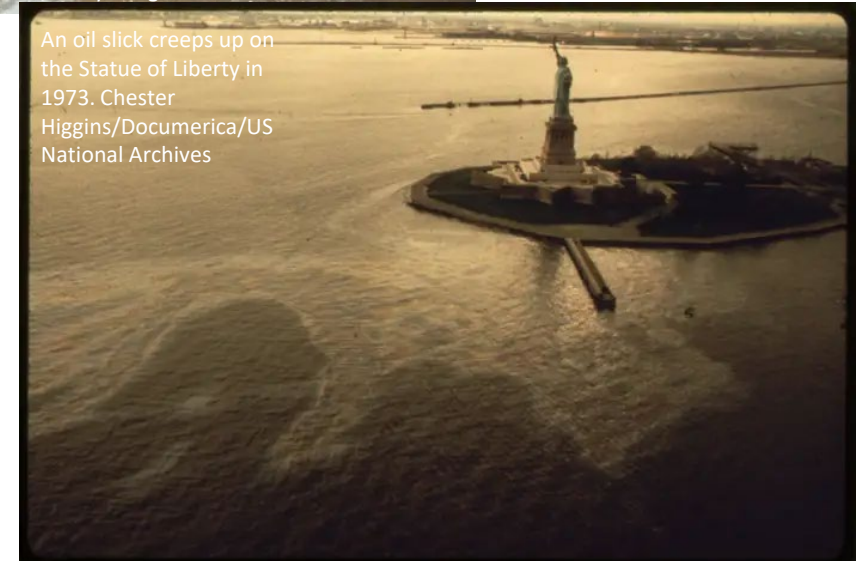
A Cuyahoga River fire in 1952. Courtesy of Cleveland State University, Michael Schwartz Library, Special Collections.



The Cuyahoga River in 1968. Alfred Eisenstaedt/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

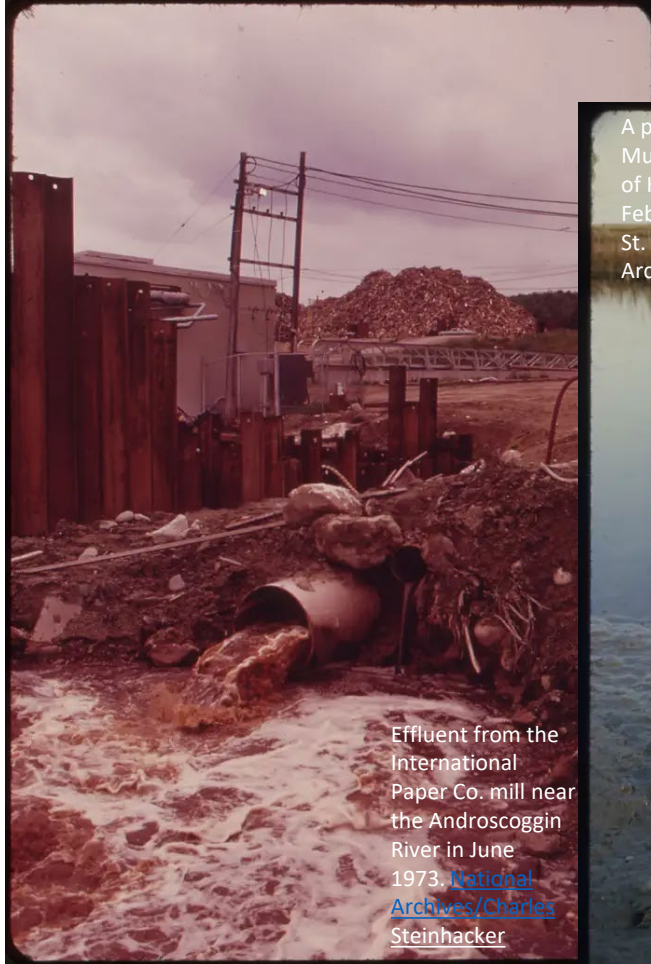


Automobile wreckage near Jaite, Ohio, in 1968. Alfred Eisenstaedt/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images



An oil slick creeps up on the Statue of Liberty in 1973. Chester Higgins/Documerica/US National Archives

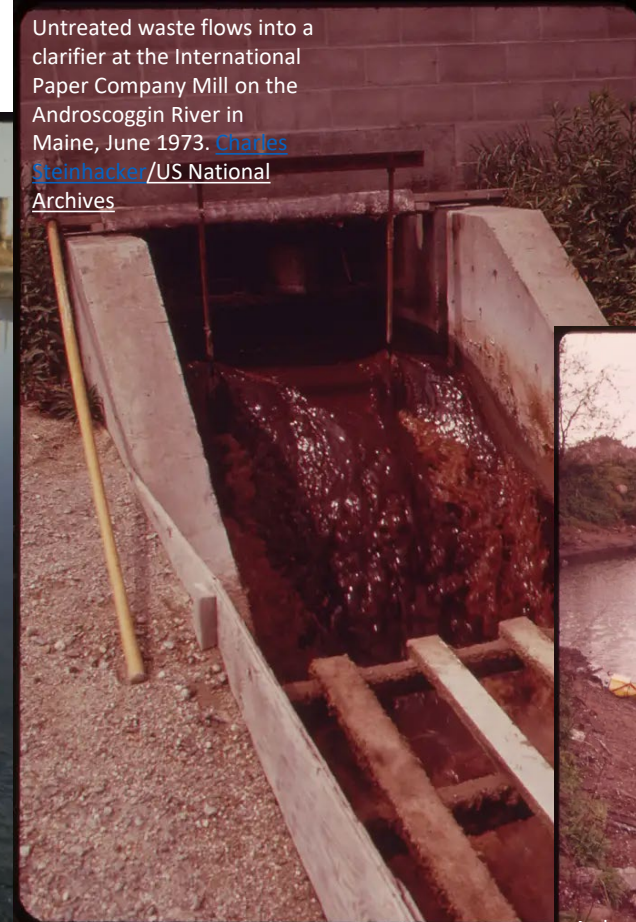
# Our Rivers prior to Clean Water



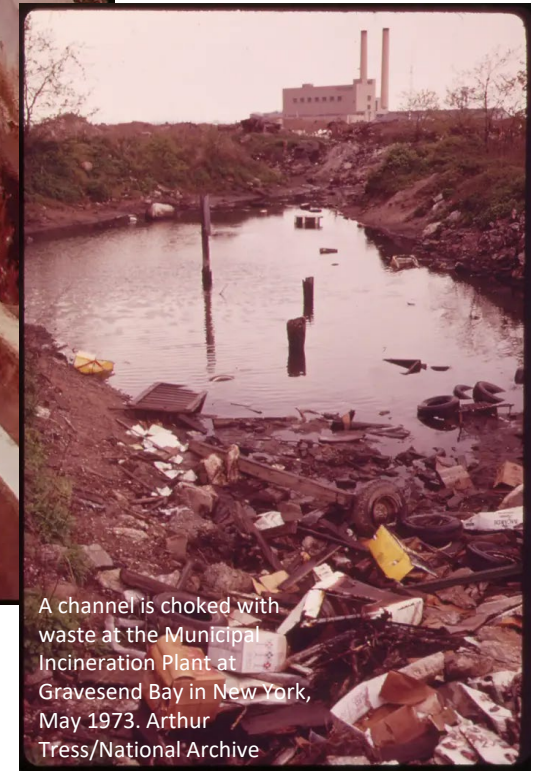
Effluent from the International Paper Co. mill near the Androscoggin River in June 1973. [National Archives/Charles Steinhacker](#)



A polluted area on Mustang Island, south of Houston, Texas, in February 1972. Marc St. Gil/National Archives

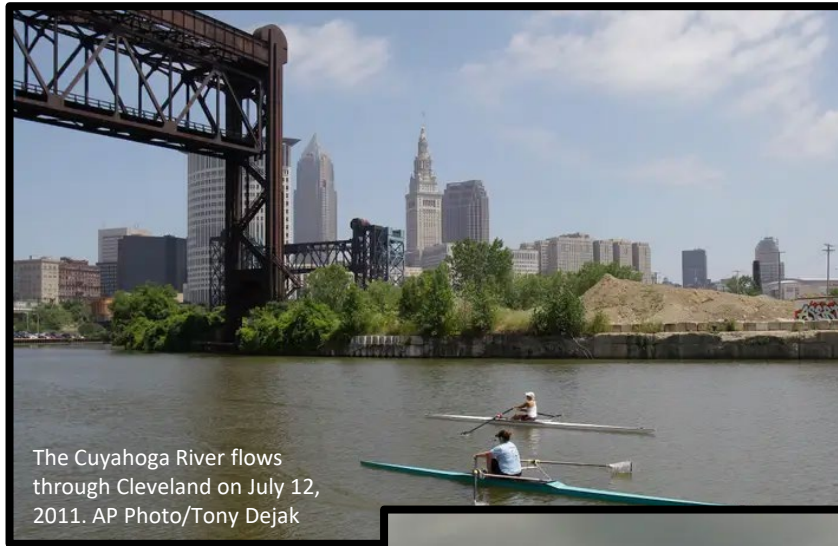


Untreated waste flows into a clarifier at the International Paper Company Mill on the Androscoggin River in Maine, June 1973. [Charles Steinhacker/US National Archives](#)



A channel is choked with waste at the Municipal Incineration Plant at Gravesend Bay in New York, May 1973. Arthur Tress/National Archive

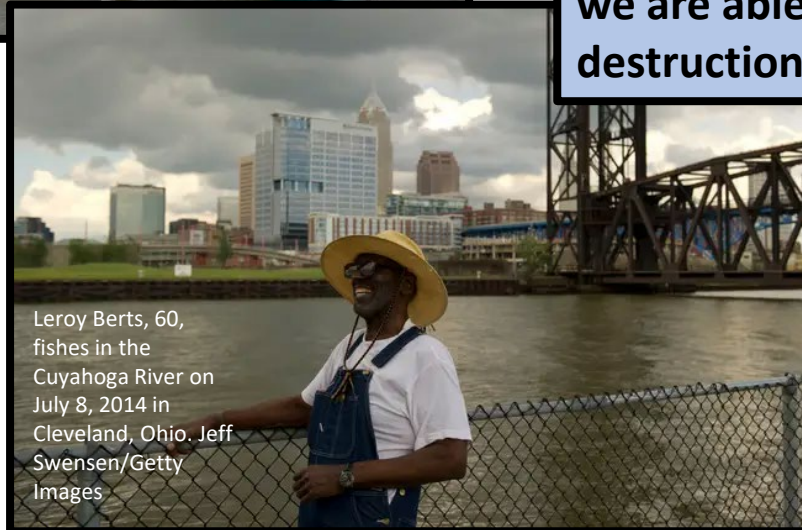
# Today is a different story – but we are not finished



The Cuyahoga River flows through Cleveland on July 12, 2011. AP Photo/Tony Dejak

**As President Ronald Reagan put it in his 1984 State of the Union address: "Preservation of our environment is not a liberal or conservative challenge, it's common sense."**

**Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972 to protect all "waters of the United States." Fifty years later, the law is still the main way we are able to safeguard our nation's waters from pollution and destruction, protecting public health and wildlife habitat. - NWF**



Leroy Berts, 60, fishes in the Cuyahoga River on July 8, 2014 in Cleveland, Ohio. Jeff Swensen/Getty Images



<https://umlconnector.com/2022/01/diving-into-the-threats-to-the-merrimack-river/>

# Applicable Laws and Rules for Residuals Management Options

Federal Law : Clean Water Act

State Law: RSA 485-a : Water Pollution and Waste Disposal Act

❖ Federal Regulation on Sludge Management : 40 CFR part 503

❖ Land Application:

❖ Env-Wq 800 – sludge management rules

❖ Env-Wq 1600 – septage management rules – septic systems are a different bureau & rules

# Brief History of Regulations

- **1972** – Adoption of federal Clean Water Act
  - *Creation of wastewater sludge from treatment plants begins*
  - *Sludge disposal to surface water addressed and remediated*
  - *Section 405 (d) of CWA states the department (EPA) will promulgate rules to manage sludge*
- **Before 1990** – Sludge regulated as solid waste
  - *Sludge disposed in unlined town dumps, lined landfills, or stockpiled*
  - *Risk assessment begins with EPA on understanding the risk for land applying sludge*
- **1990** – Statute shifts regulatory responsibility to Water Division/DES
  - *Aligned with the Clean Water Act – section 405(d)*
  - *RSA 485a is adopted January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1990*



# Brief History of Regulations

- **1991** – Rules promulgated as Env-Ws 800 for both septage and sludge
- **Before 1993** – DES considers more comprehensive regulation of both
- **Feb. 1993** – After adoption of 40 CFR Part 503 (federal EPA rules), DES drops rulemaking and regulation of biosolids

# Brief History of Regulations

- **Aug. 1993** – DES amended Env-Ws 800, leaving a permit system only for septage and industrial sludge
- **1994 & 1995** – Sludge land application complaints increased, mostly associated with odor
- **Nov. 1995** – Adopted “Emergency Rules” to address key public concerns (odor, lack of DES oversight, out-of-state sludge)

# Brief History of Regulations

- **March 1996** – Adopted permit regulations
- **March 1999** – Readopted Env-Wq 800 as the Sludge Management Rules
- **May 1999** – Adopted Env-Ws 1600 as the Septage Management Rules
- **Oct. 2005** – Re-adopt Septage Management Rules as Env-Wq 1600

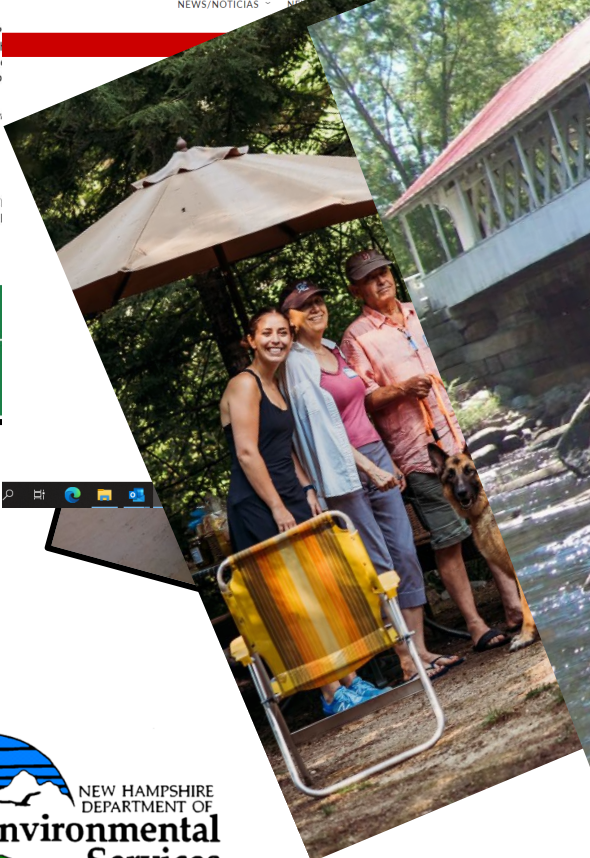
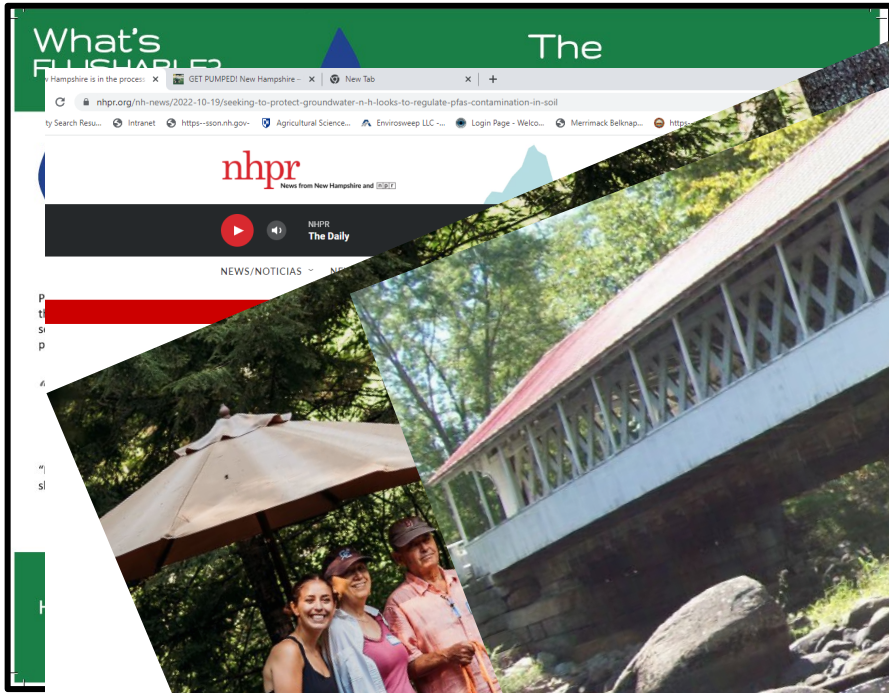
# Brief History of Regulations

- **May 2007** – Readopt Sludge Management Rules as Env-Wq 800
- **2013** – Re-adoption of Env-Wq 1600
- **2014 to 2015** – Stakeholder input on re-adoption of Env-Wq 800
- **January 1, 2016** – Readopted Env-Wq 800 with amendments
- **June 2017** – Sludge Quality Certificate PFAS investigation begins (still ongoing, investigating sludge, septage, and collection systems wastewater)

# Brief History of Regulations

- **May 2019** – Addition of PFAS monitoring and annual reporting for source pollution prevention tactics to reduce PFAS concentrations in sludge
  - *Full training for PFAS sampling analysis plan to permittees*
  - *NHDES PFAS sampling conducted to keep it to one sampling and one lab*
  - *Individual generator training with each inspection to ensure two operators are trained on sampling SOPs*
- **Dec. 2019** – Formation of Northeast Biosolids Improvement Program to create education outreach on impacts of PFAS on wastewater systems
- **Feb 2021** – USGS Soil and Sludge PFAS Leaching Study commences & wastewater collection system PFAS investigations begin
- **2022** – ongoing PFAS sampling training begins for all NH certified wastewater operators & address septage lagoon management
- **Goal by end of Nov 2023** – Adoption of amended Env-Wq 1600 rules per schedule
- **Goal by End of 2023** – Adoption of PFAS Soil Remediation Standards as sludge screening standards
  - Revision of Sludge Quality Certificate to state the approved test method once validated and monitored quarterly
  - Sludge Quality Certificate will state the PFAS screening standards

# Education Outreach



## Wastewater Operator and Septage Hauler PFAS\* Guidance

\*PFAS stands for "Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances" and is a group of manmade chemicals considered 'contaminants of emerging concern (CECs)'

Drafted by:  
The Northeast Biosolids Improvement Program

- Including...
- The importance of keeping PFAS out of biosolids
  - What is and isn't Domestic Septage?
  - How WWTF professionals do
  - Contaminants?

PFAS can be...  
potentially...  
emitted into the air...  
into the ground wa...  
crops are watered

er and gets into our...  
PFAS usage at home

# Sludge & Septage Management:

- Hauling
- Residuals Quality
- Sites/Land – Application
- Facilities
- Recordkeeping
- Reporting to NHDES



# Sludge REGULATION

## Env – Wq 800

- DRINKING WATER TREATMENT
- SHORT PAPER FIBER
- WASTEWATER TREATMENT
  - SLUDGE
  - BIOSOLIDS

# Septage REGULATION

## Env-Wq 1600

- SEPTIC TANK
- GREASE INTERCEPTOR
- PORTABLE TOILETS
- MARINE SANITATION DEVICE





## Sludge

vs.

## Biosolids

- NOT treated
- NO significant testing required
- NO CERTIFICATION
- ONLY for Landfill or incineration

- Treated
- Tested for 170+Analytes
- Beneficial Use
- NHDES CERTIFIED
- NHDES Annual Reports

# Sludge Quality Certification

- Basic information
- Industrial pretreatment information
- Quantity
- Pathogen & vector attraction reduction options
  - Class A & Class B biosolids
    - Process to Significantly Reduce Pathogens: Class B
    - Process to Further Reduce Pathogens: Class A
  - Short Paper Fiber
  - Drinking Water Residuals
- Historical & current quality data



# Sludge Quality Certification

- Annual Testing (frequency of testing based on volume generated)
- Recordkeeping
- Annual Report to NHDES by last business day in **January**, each year
- Renew certificate every 5 years



# Sludge Quality Certification

**Beneficial Use is the utilization of the nutrients and organic matter from the biosolids for the agronomic need as long as it does not pose a significant threat to human health or environment. Beneficial use applies to agricultural, forest, and land reclamation management practices**

- Bulk biosolids must obtain an SQC to be distributed in NH
- Annual soil test determine crops nutrient demand supplied from biosolids (UNH BMP)
- Class B land application must obtain a site permit through RMS – many items covered in application process
- Concentration limits and screening standards set for VOC, SVOC, PCB's, Dioxin, & Metals – **168 analytes + PFAS**



# Average Annual NH Sludge, Septage, and Leachate

- NH Biosolids Recycled to Land Application : **>40,000 wet tons**
- NH Sludge that was disposed at a landfill : **>50,000 wet tons**
- NH Sludge that was incinerated : **>17,500 wet tons**
- Over **>100,000,000 gallons** of septage is managed in NH annually
- 6 Operating lined landfills in NH : **~100,000,000 gallons** of leachate
  - ~80,000,000 gallons** managed at WWTFs within state
  - ~20,000,000 gallons** managed at WWTFs out of state

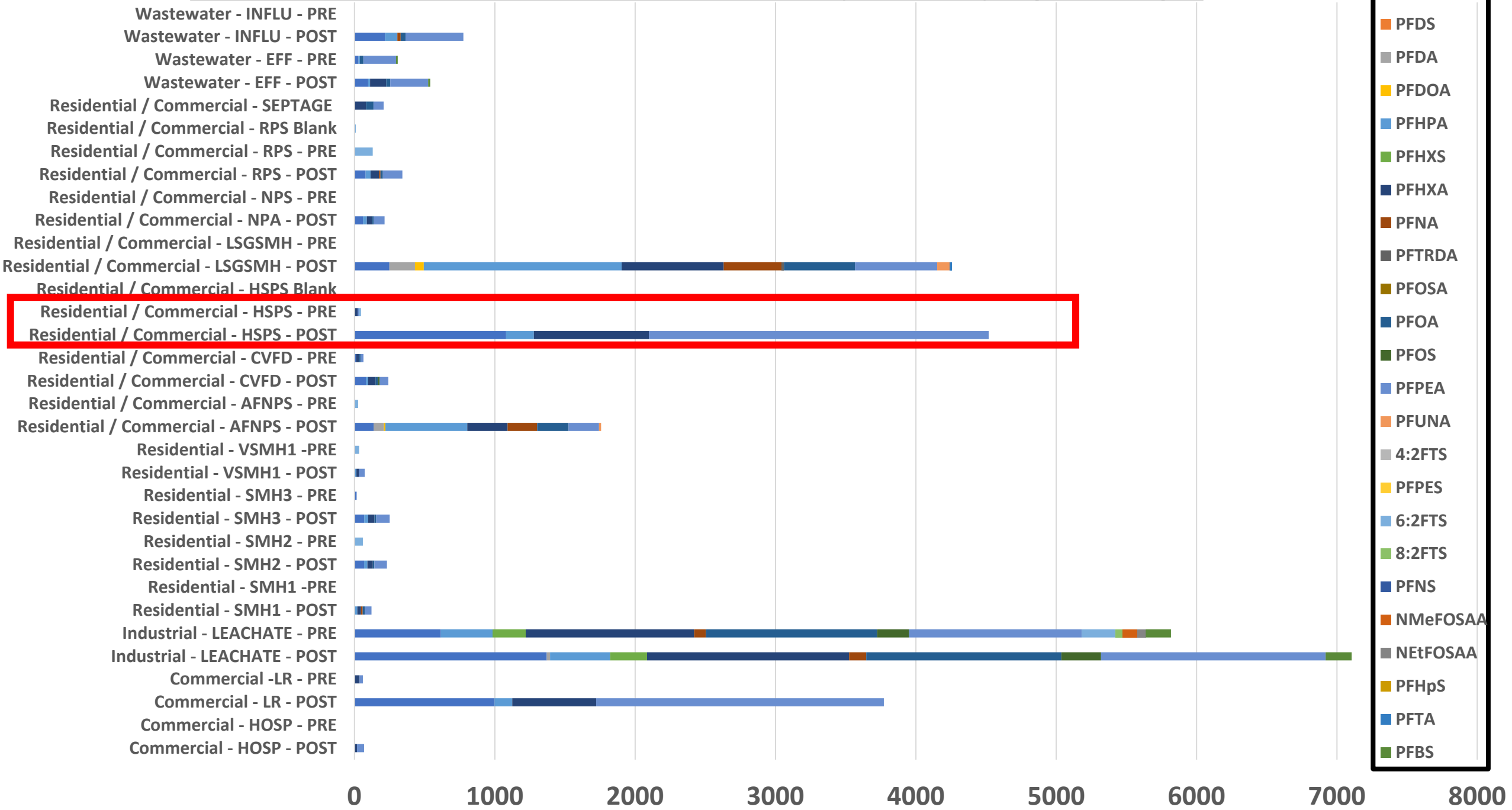


*\*2018 reporting values \*Sludge managed to lagoon systems not accounted for \*\*NH WWTF ONLY, no paper mill or drinking water treatment sludge accounted for*





# Residential / Commercial / Industrial Collection System Sampling TOPA (ng/l)

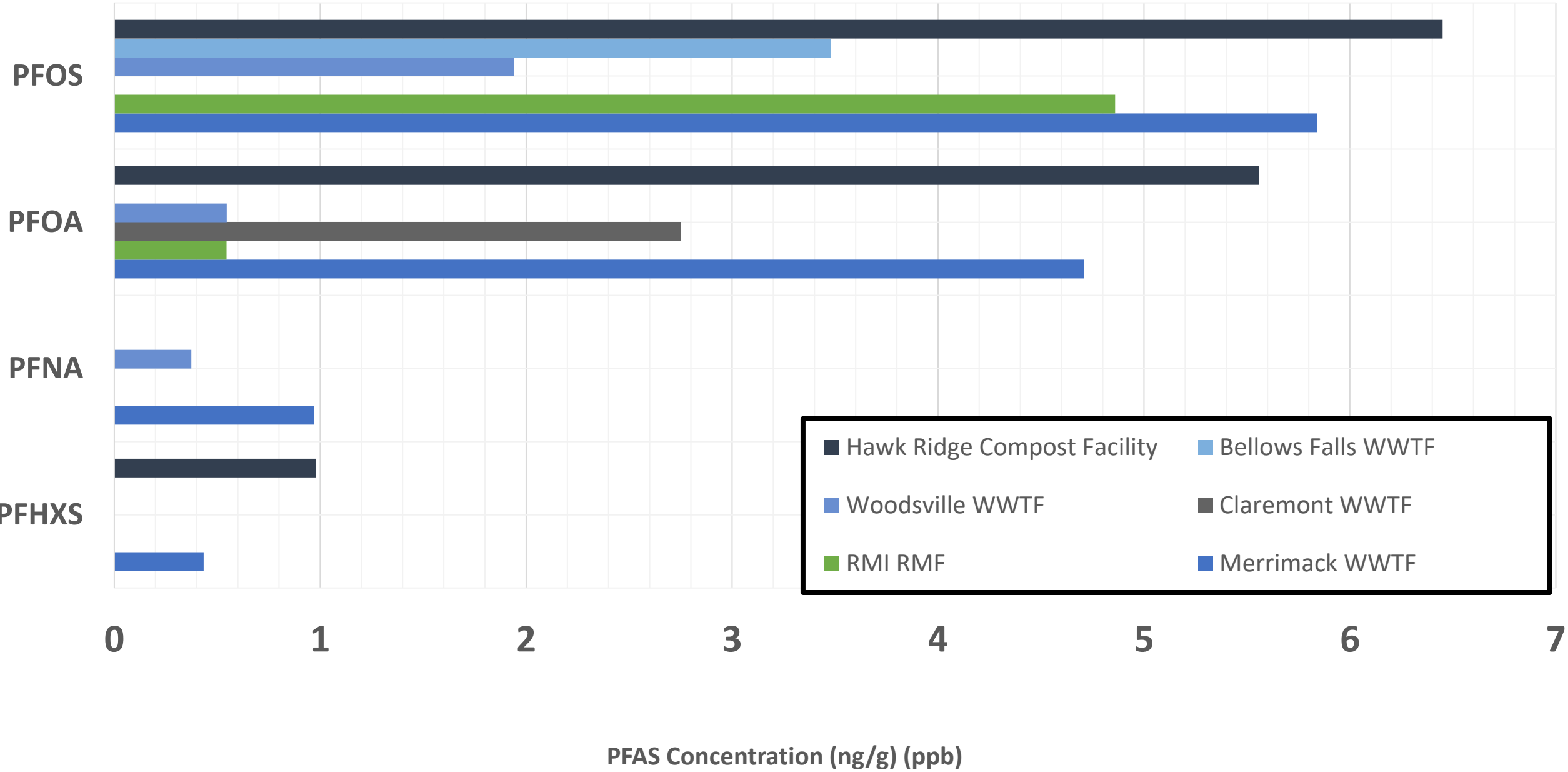




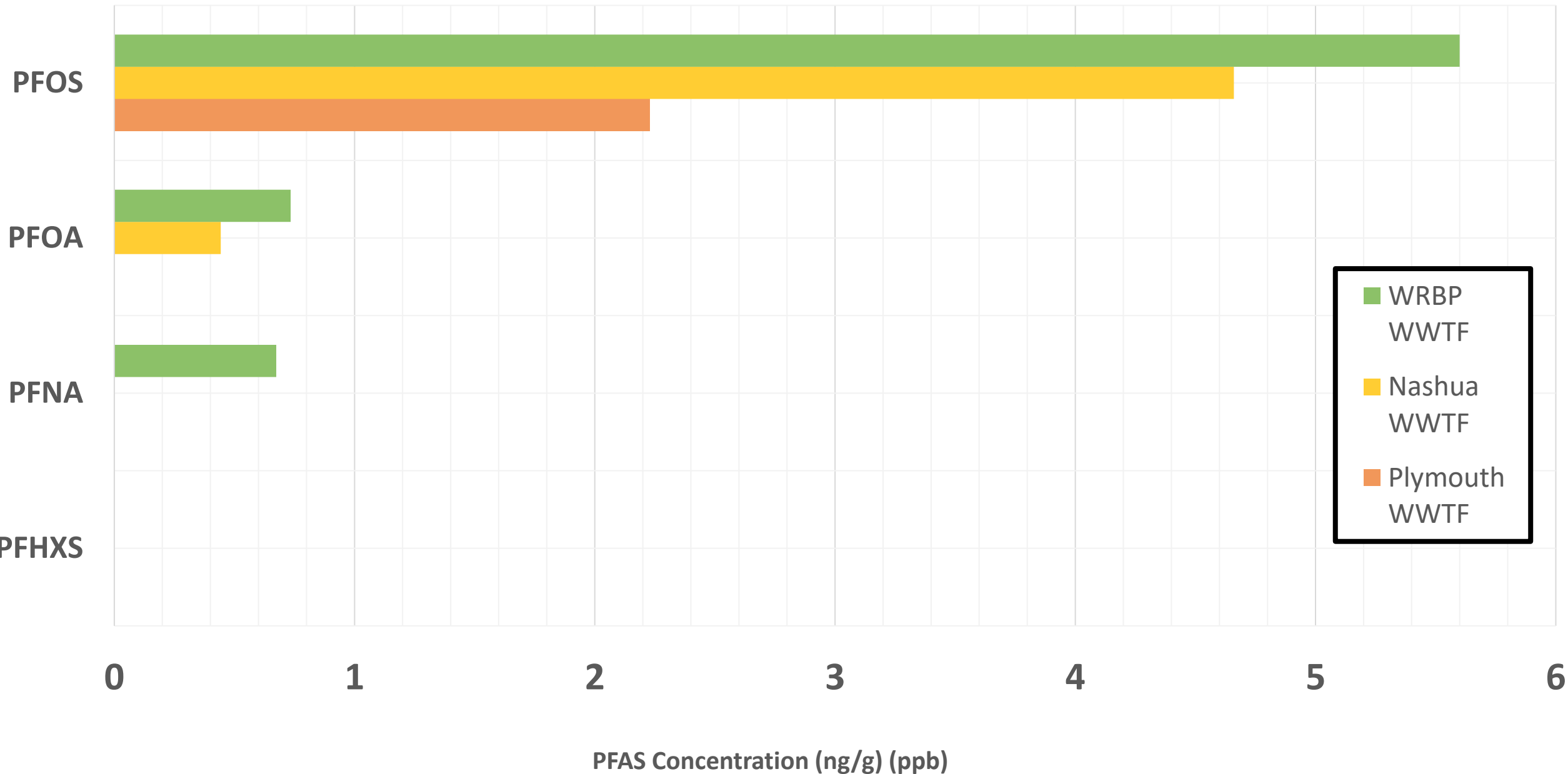




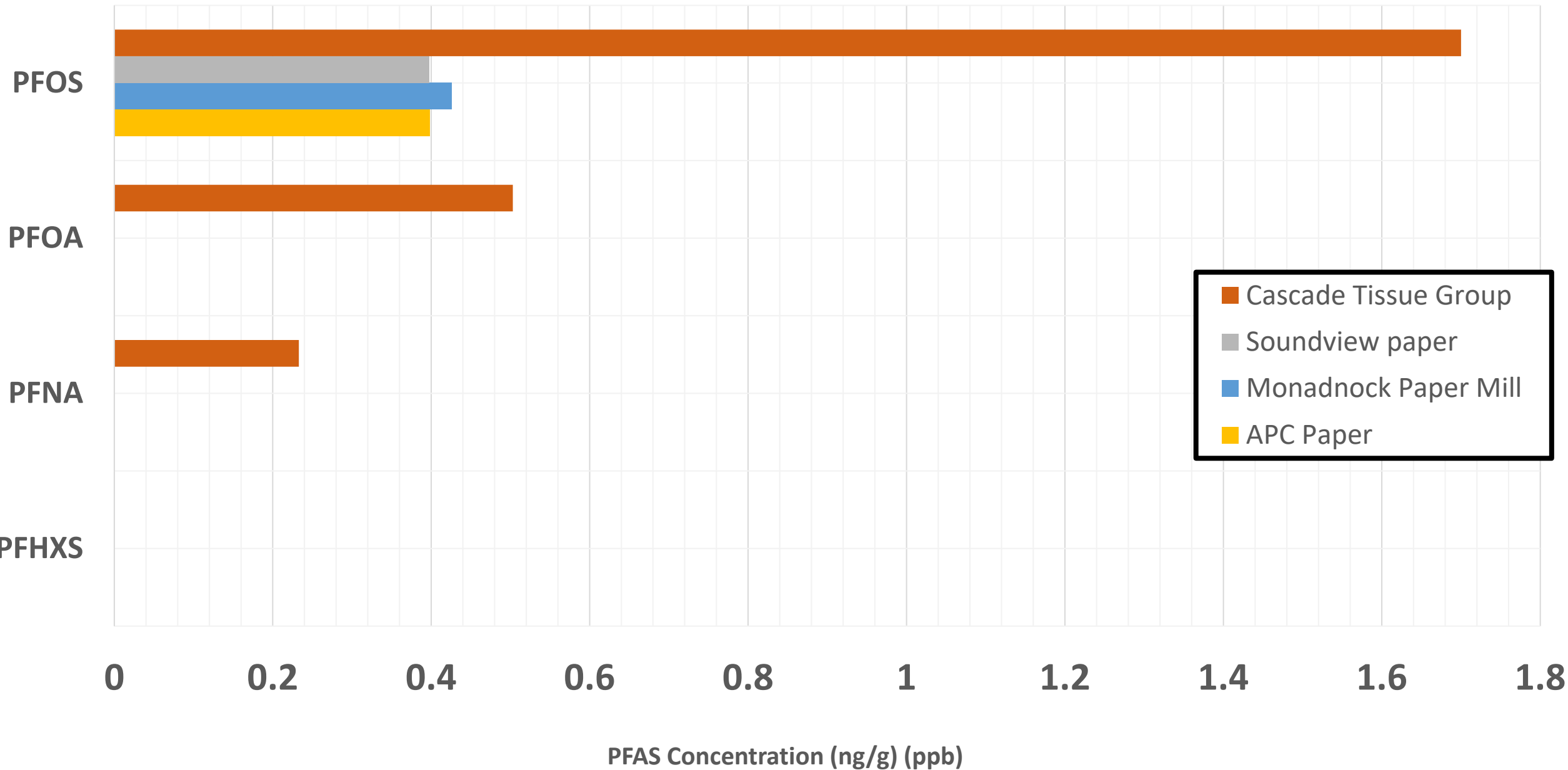
# 2022 NHDES RMS SQC Class A Biosolids PFAS Investigation Data



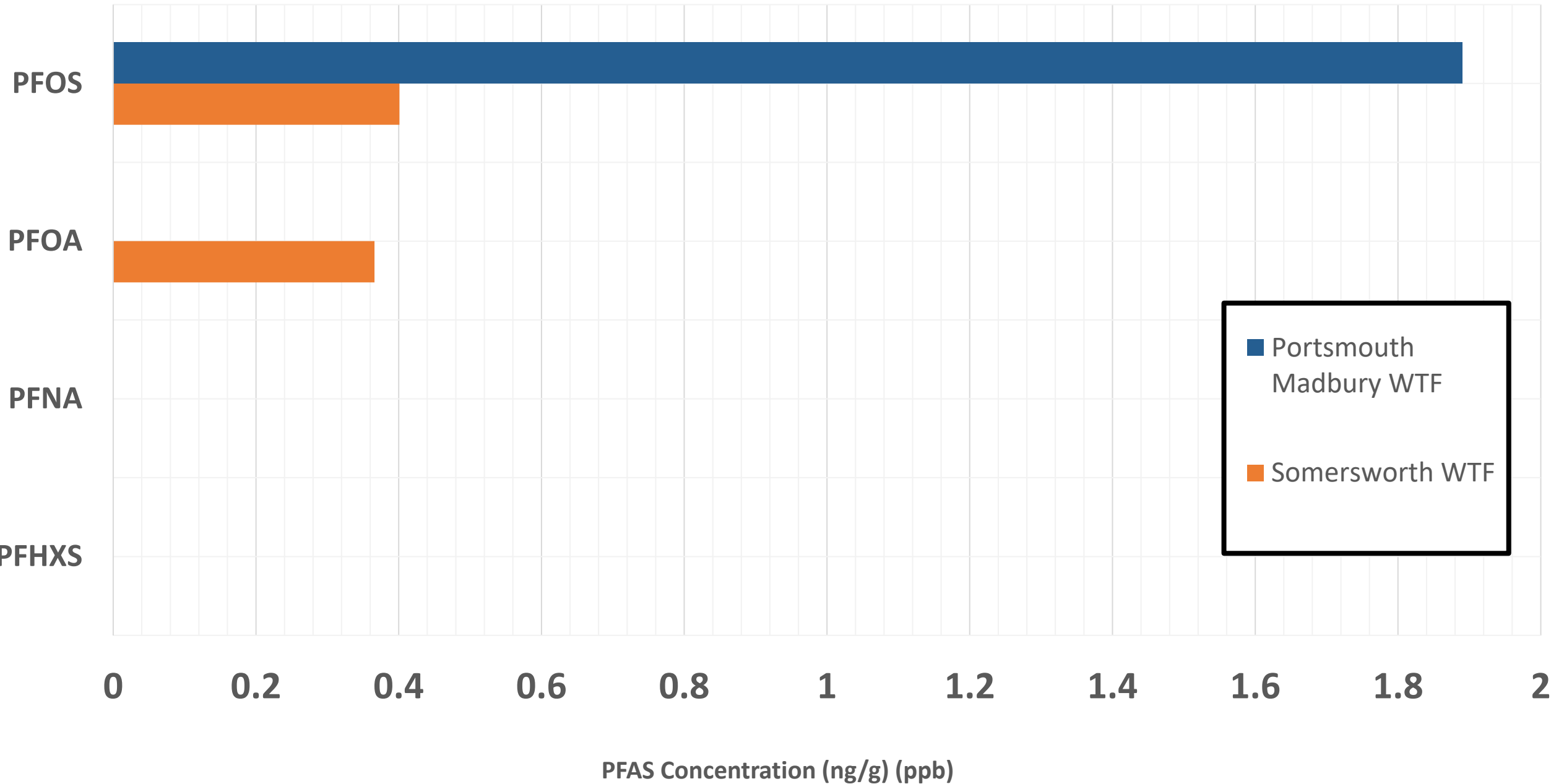
# 2022 NHDES RMS SQC Class B Biosolids PFAS Investigation Data



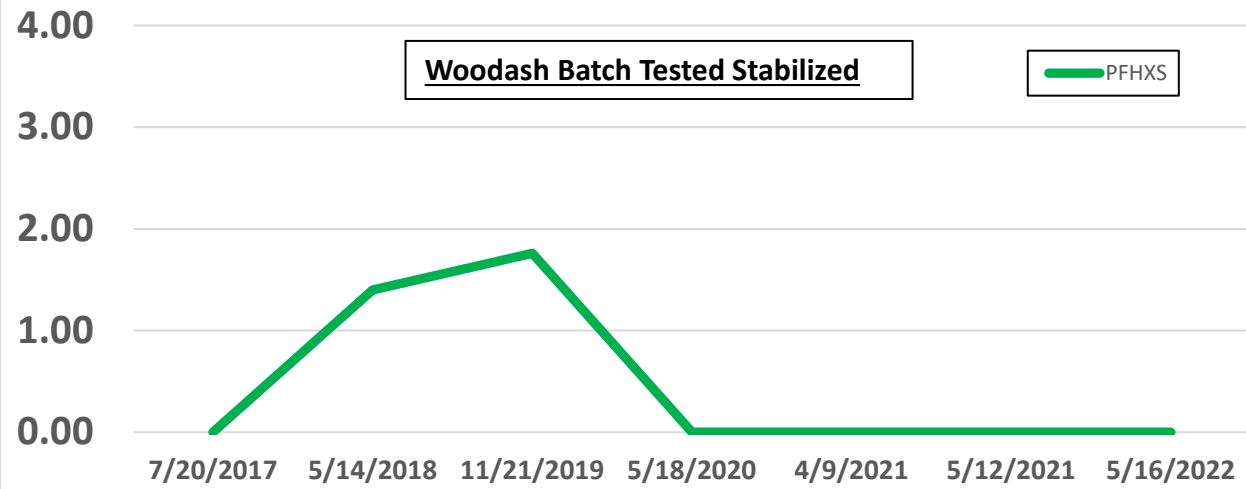
# 2022 NHDES RMS SQC Short Paper Fiber PFAS Investigation Data



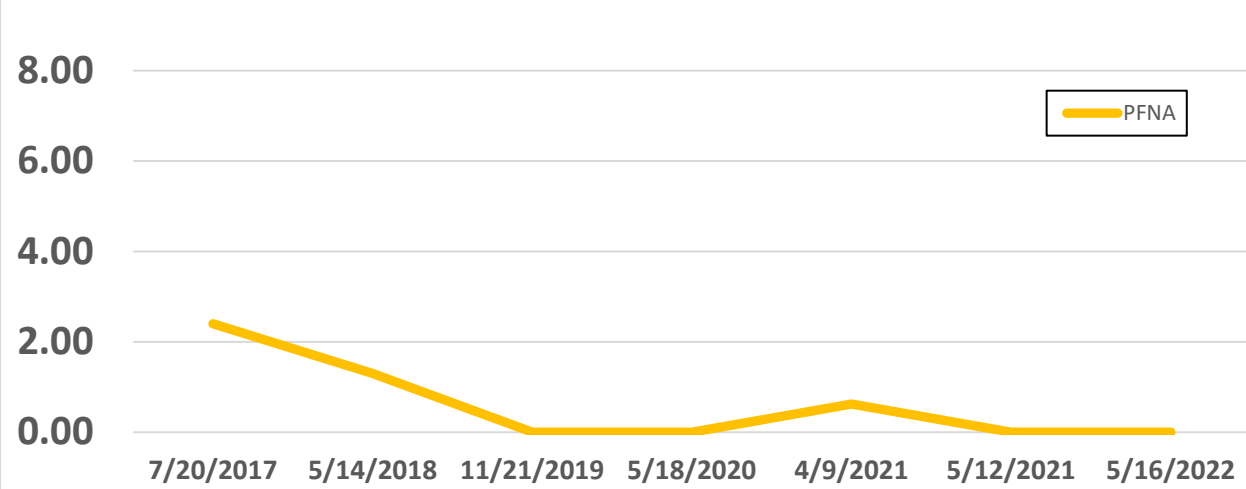
# 2022 NHDES RMS SQC Drinking Water Treatment Residuals PFAS Investigation Data



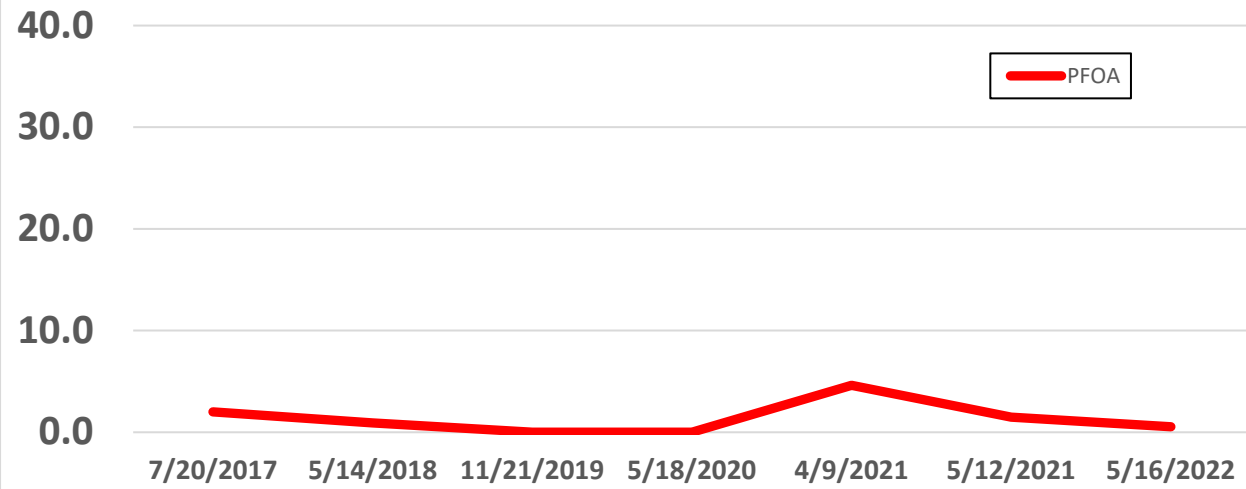
RMI - RMF (SQC13002) PFAS Concentrations (NH4)  
(ng/g) 2017 - present



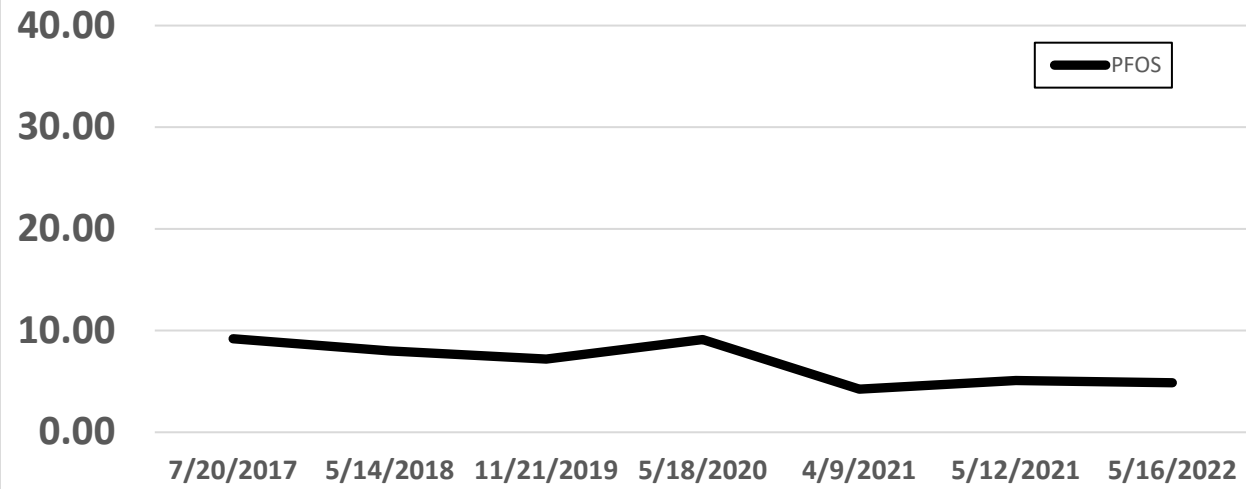
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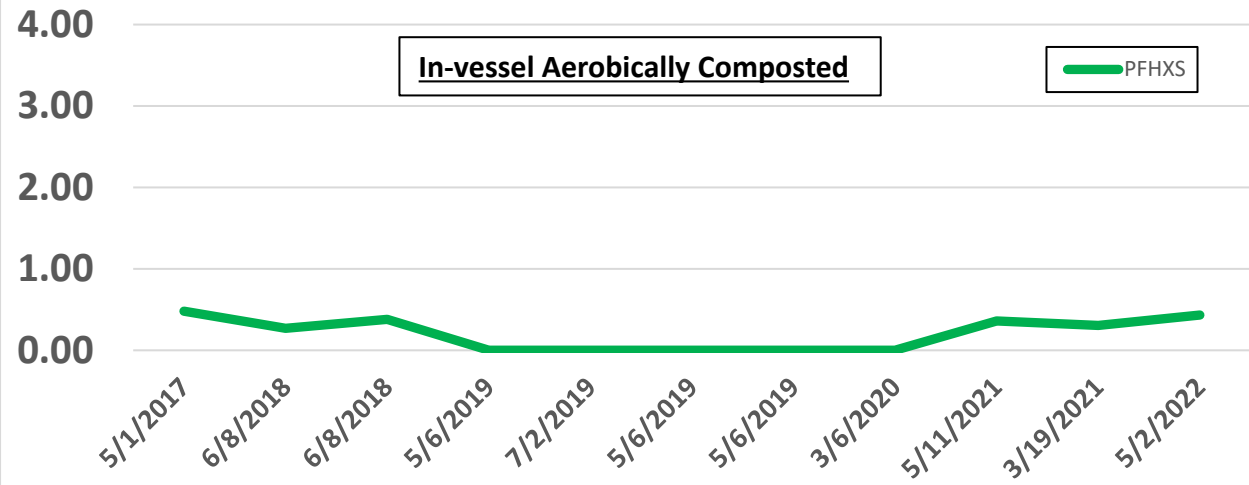
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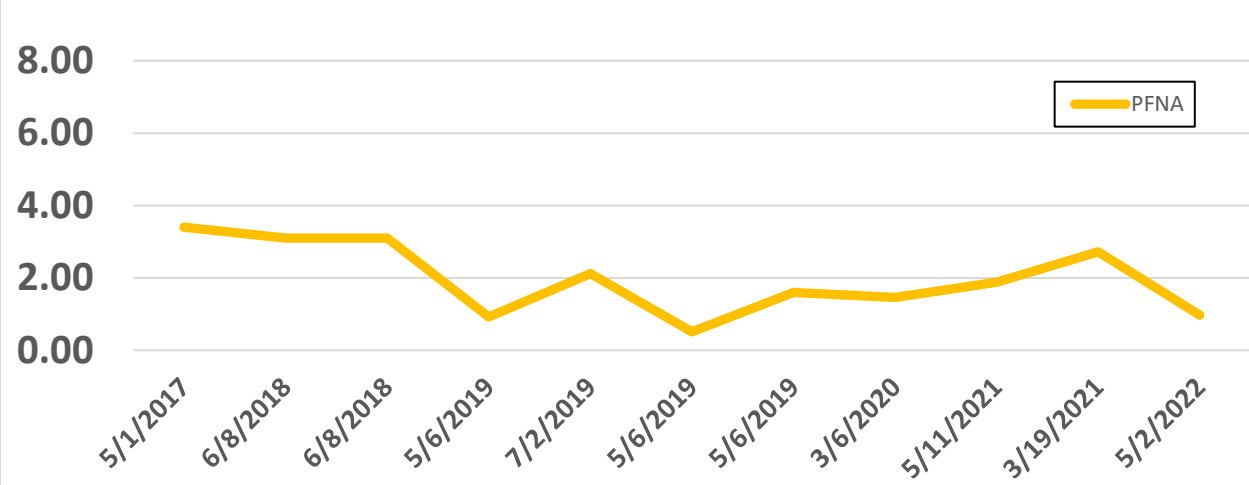
RMI - RMF (SQC13002) PFAS Concentrations (NH4)  
(ng/g) 2017 - present



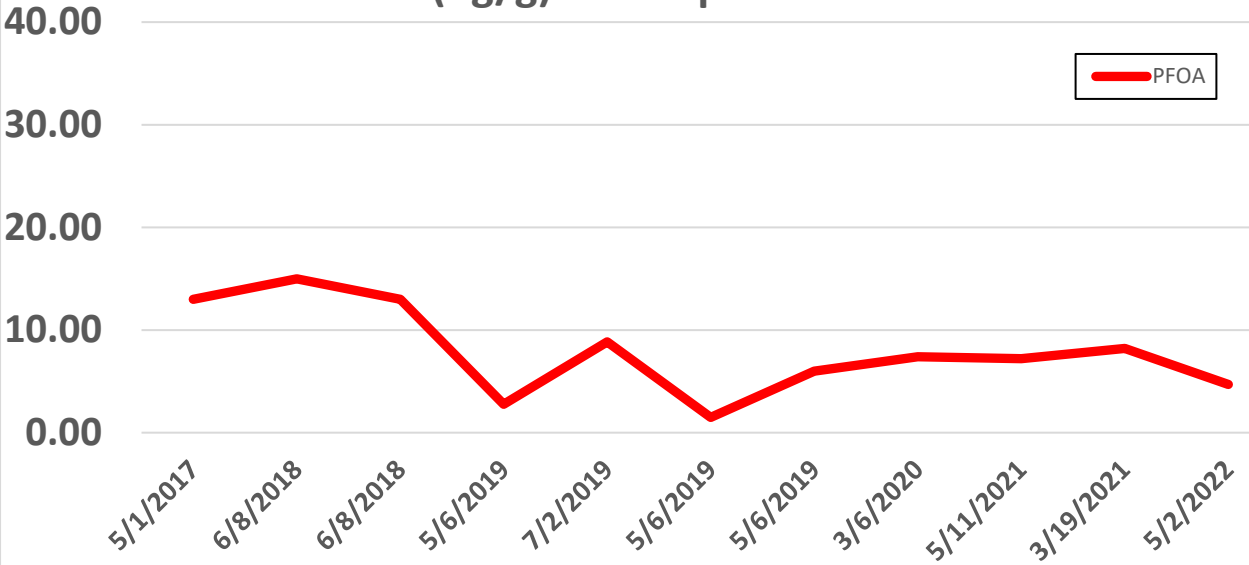
Merrimack WWTF (SQC9901) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2017 - present



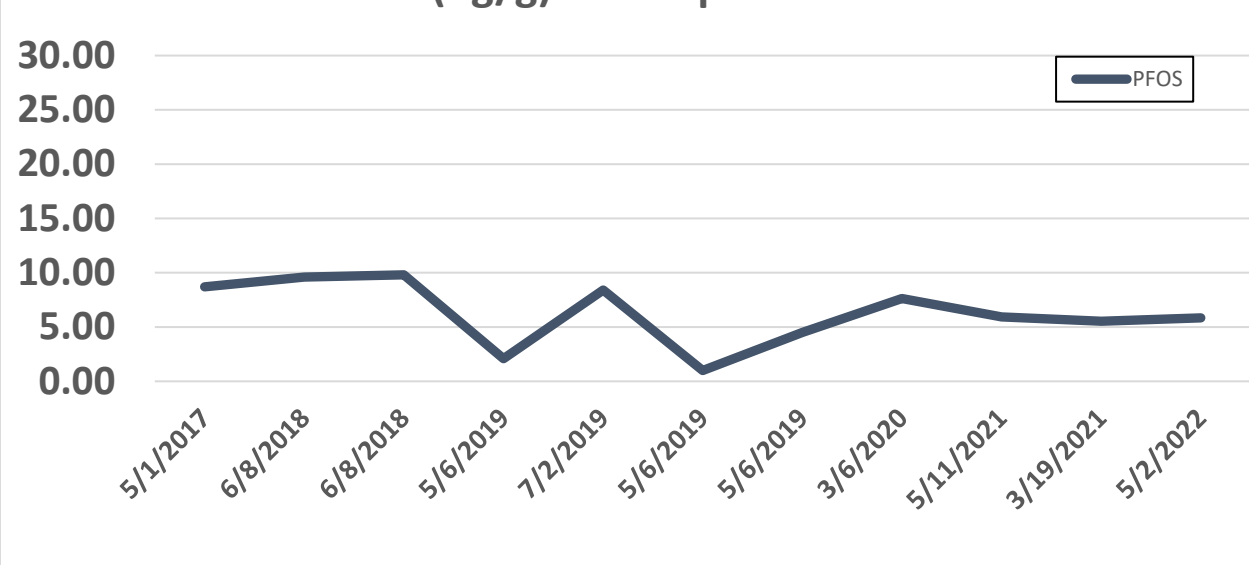
Merrimack WWTF (SQC9901) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2017 - present



Merrimack WWTF (SQC9901) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2017 - present

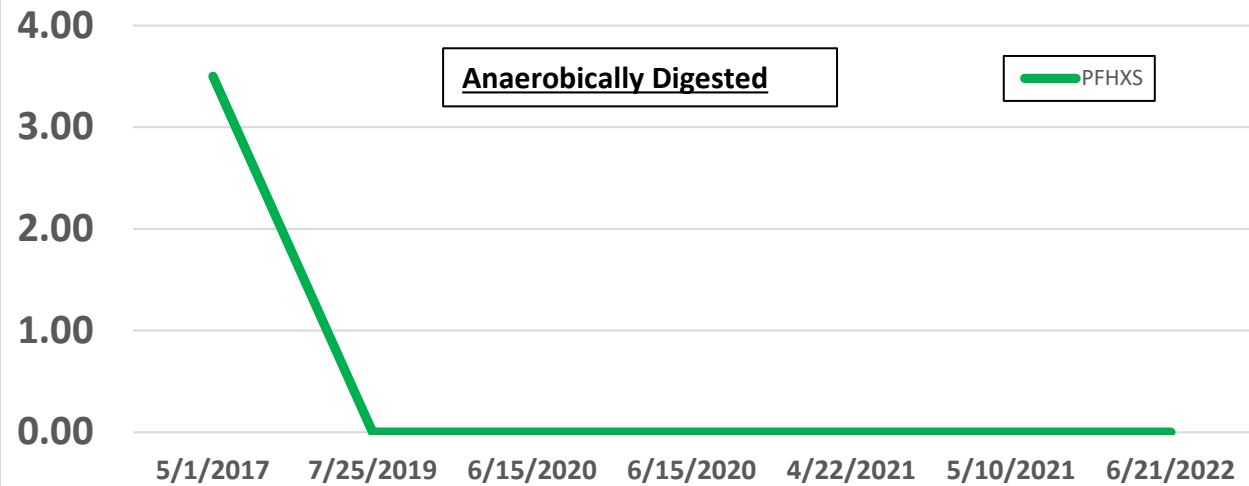


Merrimack WWTF (SQC9901) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2017 - present

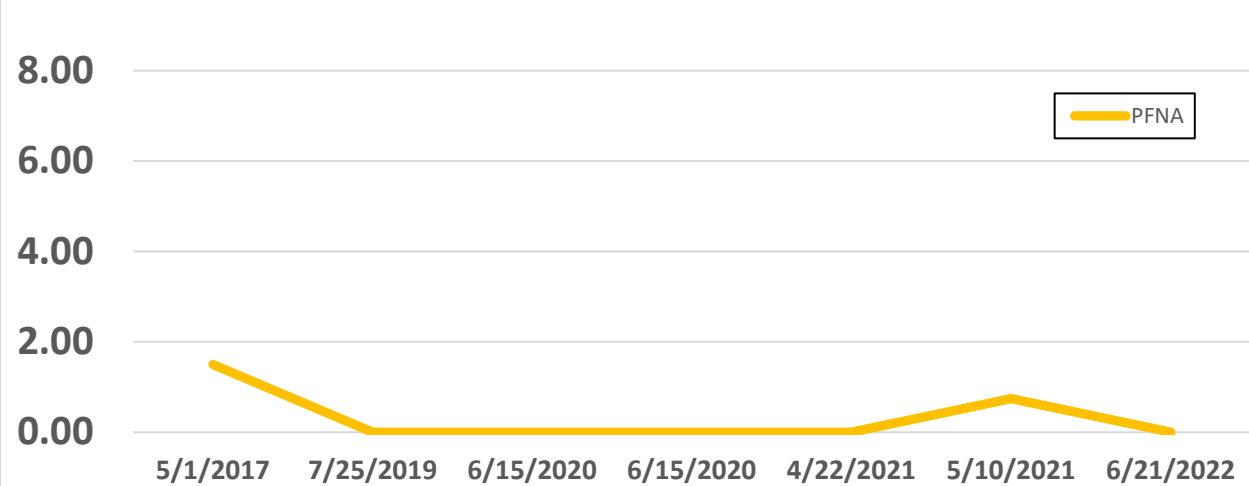




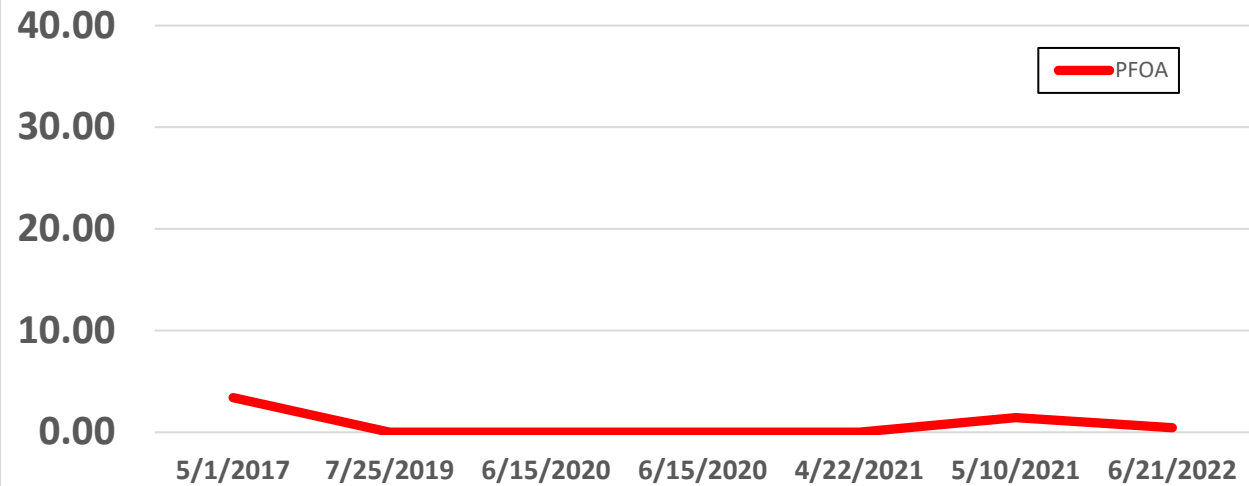
Nashua WWTF (SQC9908) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2017 - present



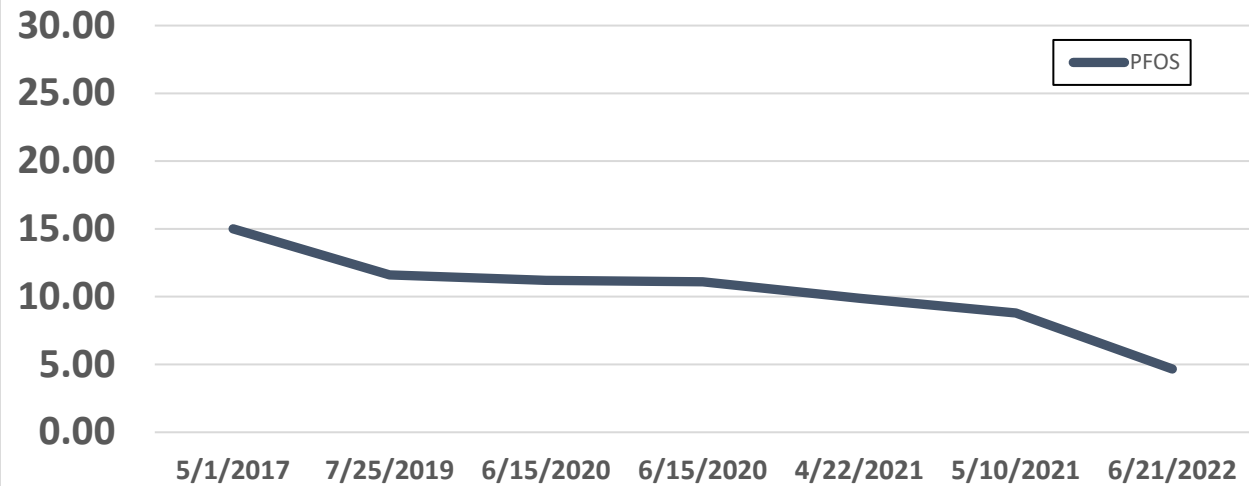
Nashua WWTF (SQC9908) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2017 - present



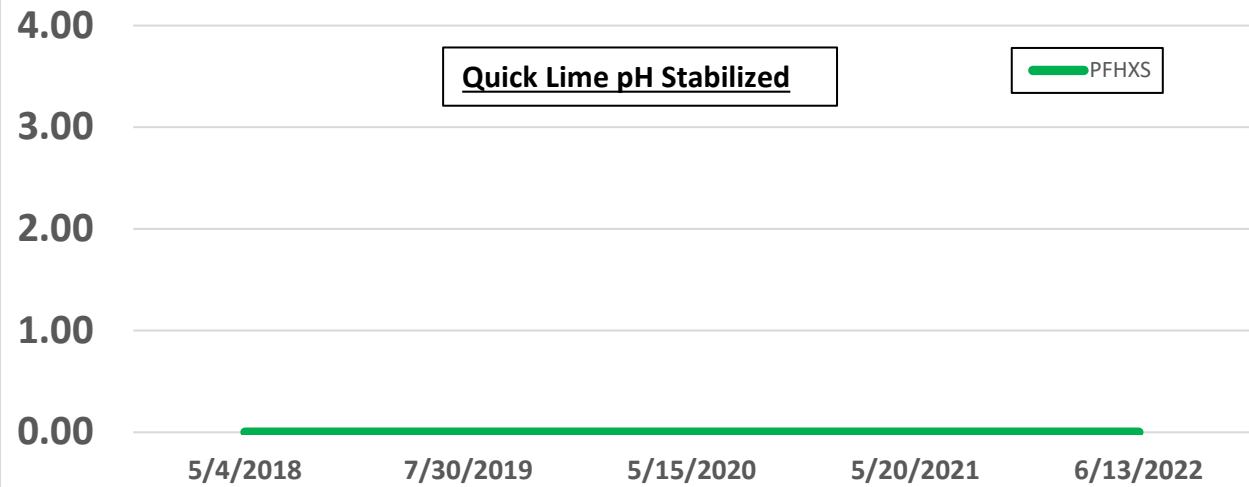
Nashua WWTF (SQC9908) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2017 - present



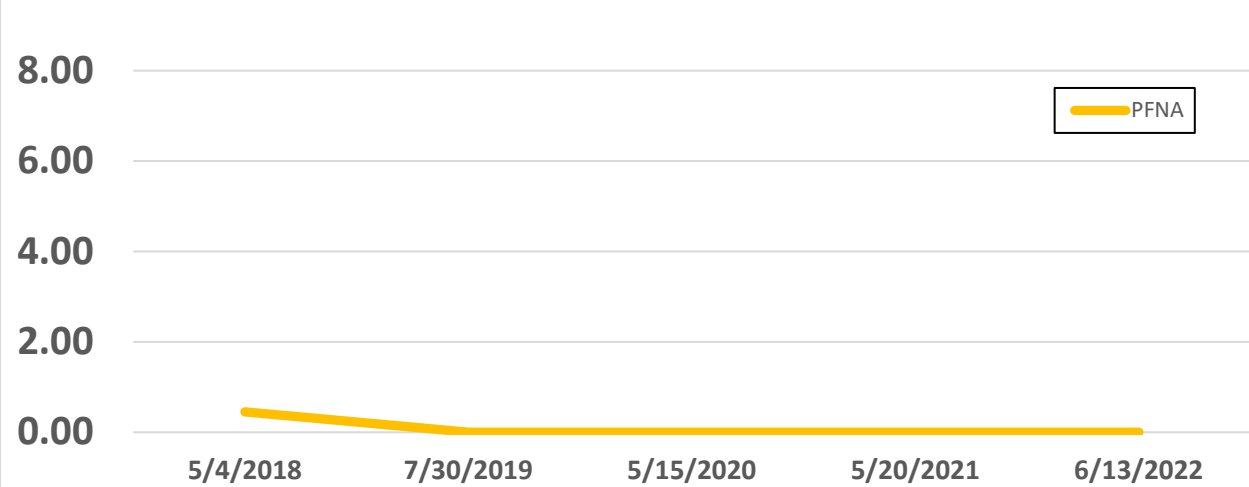
Nashua WWTF (SQC9908) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2017 - present



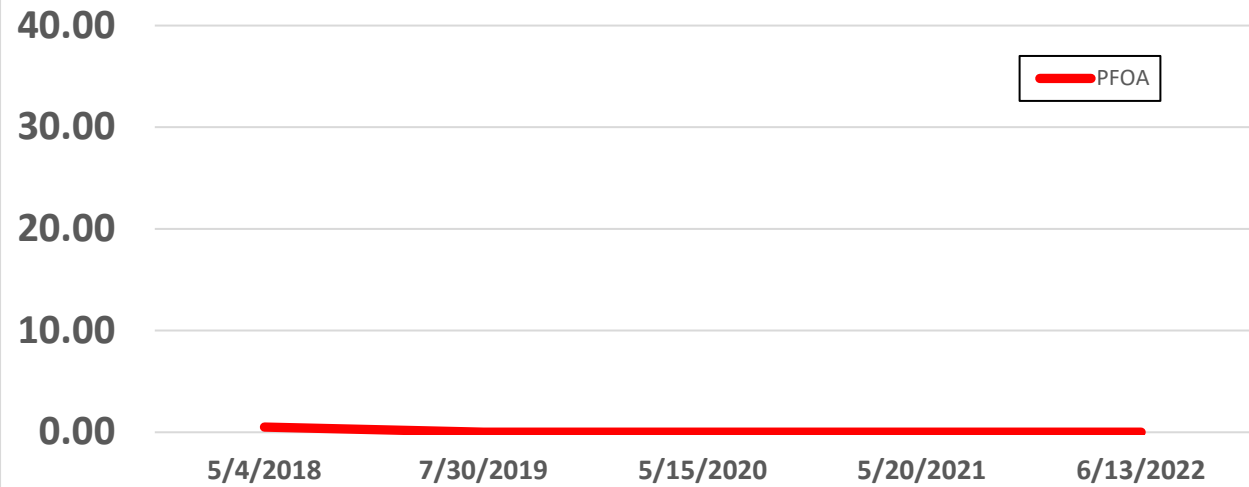
Plymouth WWTF (SQC9906) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2018 - present



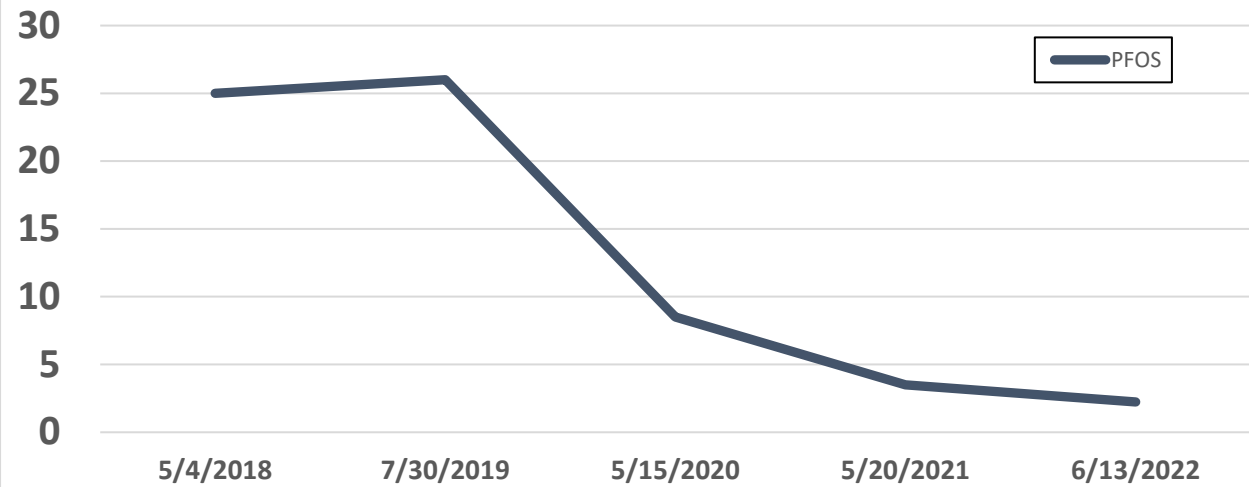
Plymouth WWTF (SQC9906) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2018 - present



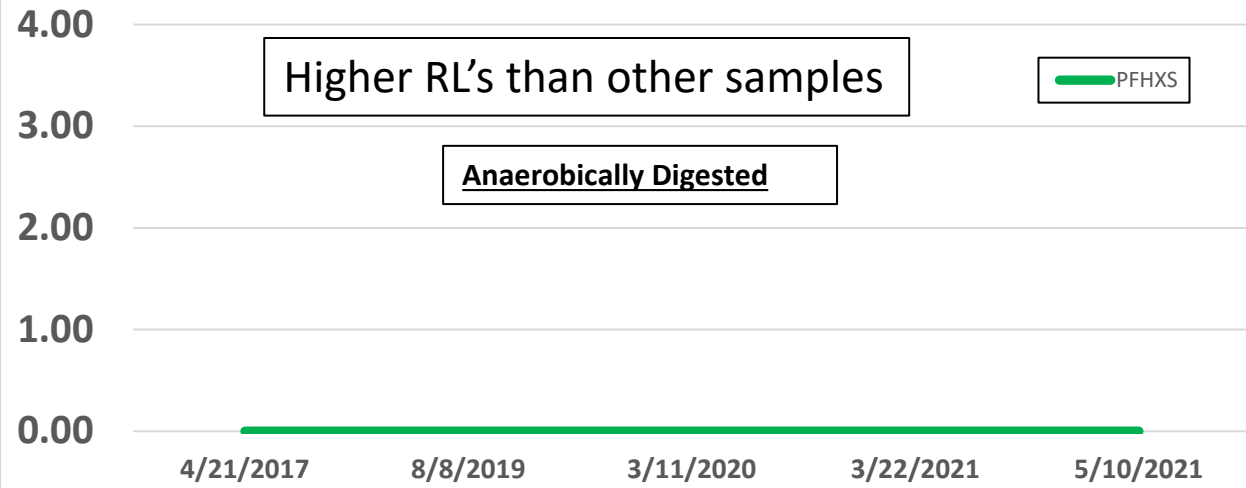
Plymouth WWTF (SQC9906) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2018 - present



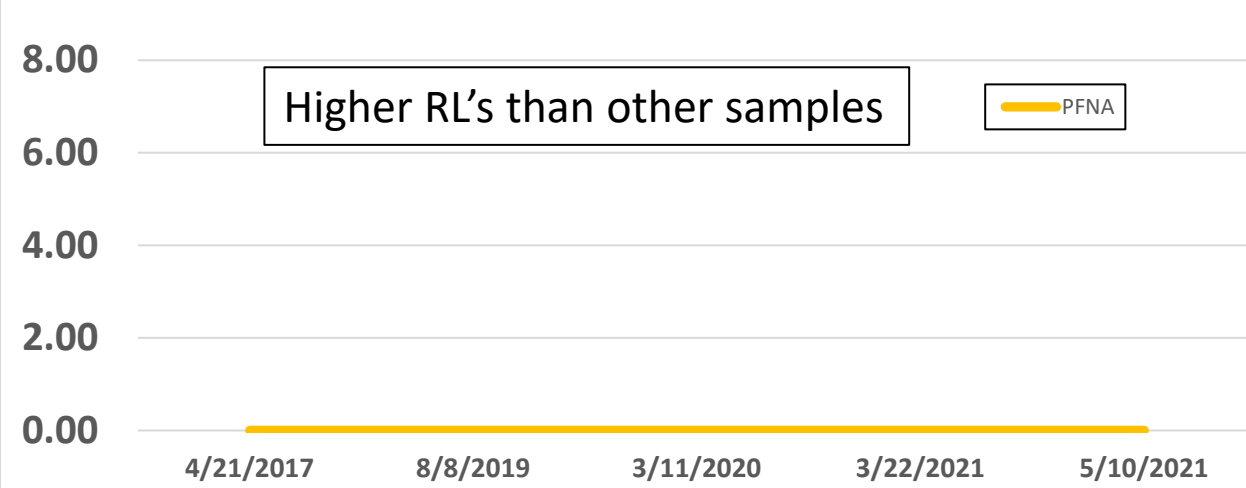
Plymouth WWTF (SQC9906) PFAS Concentrations  
(ng/g) 2018 - present



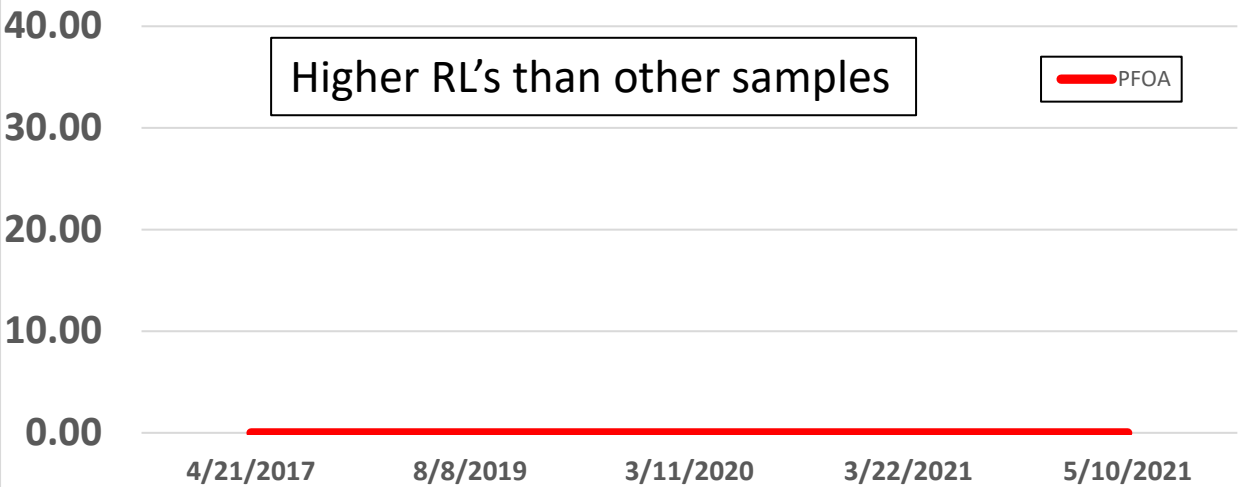
Winnepesaukee River Basin Program WWTF  
(SQC9706) PFAS Concentrations (ng/g)



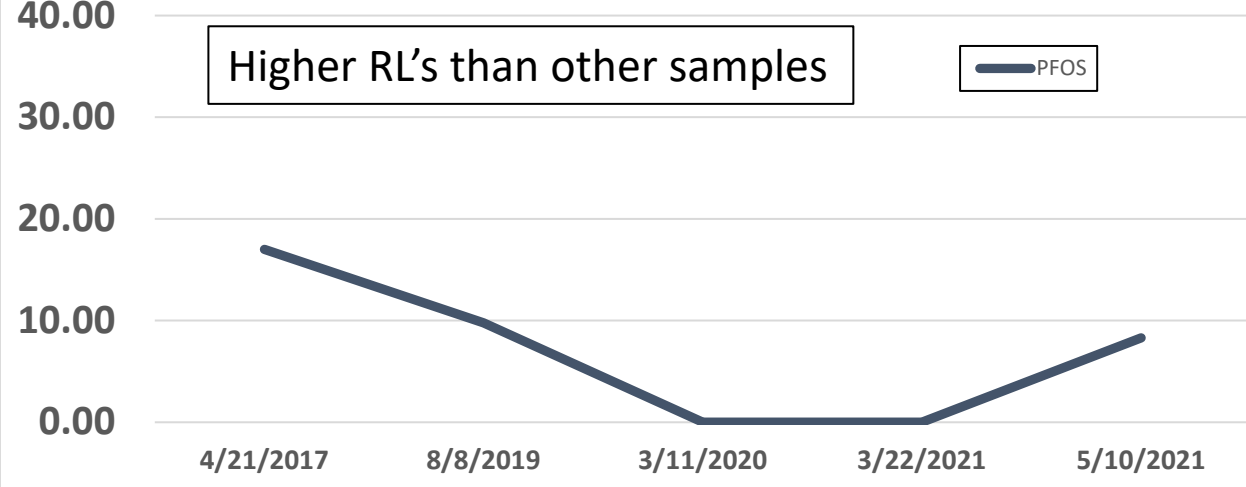
Winnepesaukee River Basin Program WWTF  
(SQC9706) PFAS Concentrations (ng/g)



Winnepesaukee River Basin Program WWTF  
(SQC9706) PFAS Concentrations (ng/g)



Winnepesaukee River Basin Program WWTF  
(SQC9706) PFAS Concentrations (ng/g)



# The Future?



<https://www.renewableenergy.com/biomass/aries-clean-energy-receives-permits-for-worlda-20190716>



<https://rmirecycles.com/shincci-usa/>



<https://www.bioforcetech.com/>



<https://modernpumpingtoday.com/clean-energy-from-landfill-diversion-plus-the-bonus-of-biochar/>

# The Future?



<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ec21.com%2Fproduct-details%2Felectrocoagulation-Water-Treatment-System--4324338.html&psig=AOvVaw13ecRf3aV4hqgGGOzuKemW&ust=1684603362541000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CA8QjhxqFwoTCOjj-93ygf8CFQAAAAAdAAAAABAA>

Thank You !



Any  
Questions?