Vermont:
PFAS Into and Out Of Landfills

Kasey Kathan
Solid Waste Management Program,
Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation

VERMONT
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Thanks:

- Vermont Landfill and Wastewater Treatment Facility Owners and Operators
- Consultants
- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Staff

PFAS in Waste Streams - Reports

dec.vermont.gov/pfas

- Evaluation of PFAS within the waste streams disposed of at the New England Waste Services of Vermont (NEWSVT) landfill
  - -Sanborn Head: PFAS Waste Source Testing Report, dated October 2019

- Statewide evaluation of PFAS within landfill leachate, wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) influent, effluent, biosolids and sludges
  - -Weston and Sampson: Wastewater Facility and Landfill PFAS Sampling Summary report, dated January 2020

- Assessment of treatment options that would reduce or eliminate PFAS within landfill leachate
  - -Brown and Caldwell: Conceptual Leachate Treatment Scoping Study for New England Waste Services of Vermont Landfill, dated October 2019

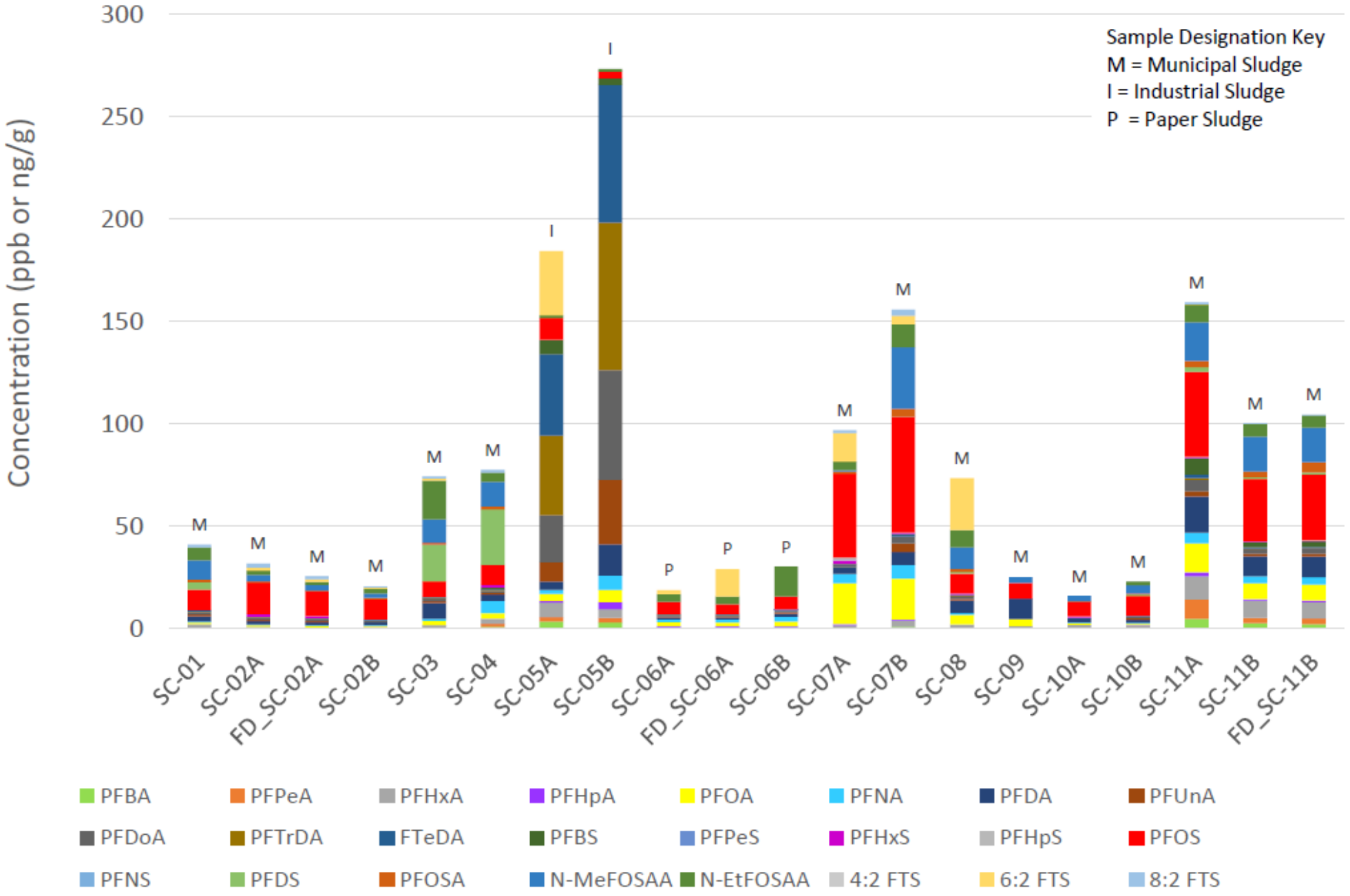
PFAS Going into the Landfill

Bulk analysis of materials being disposed

Sanborn Head: PFAS Waste Source Testing Report, October 2019

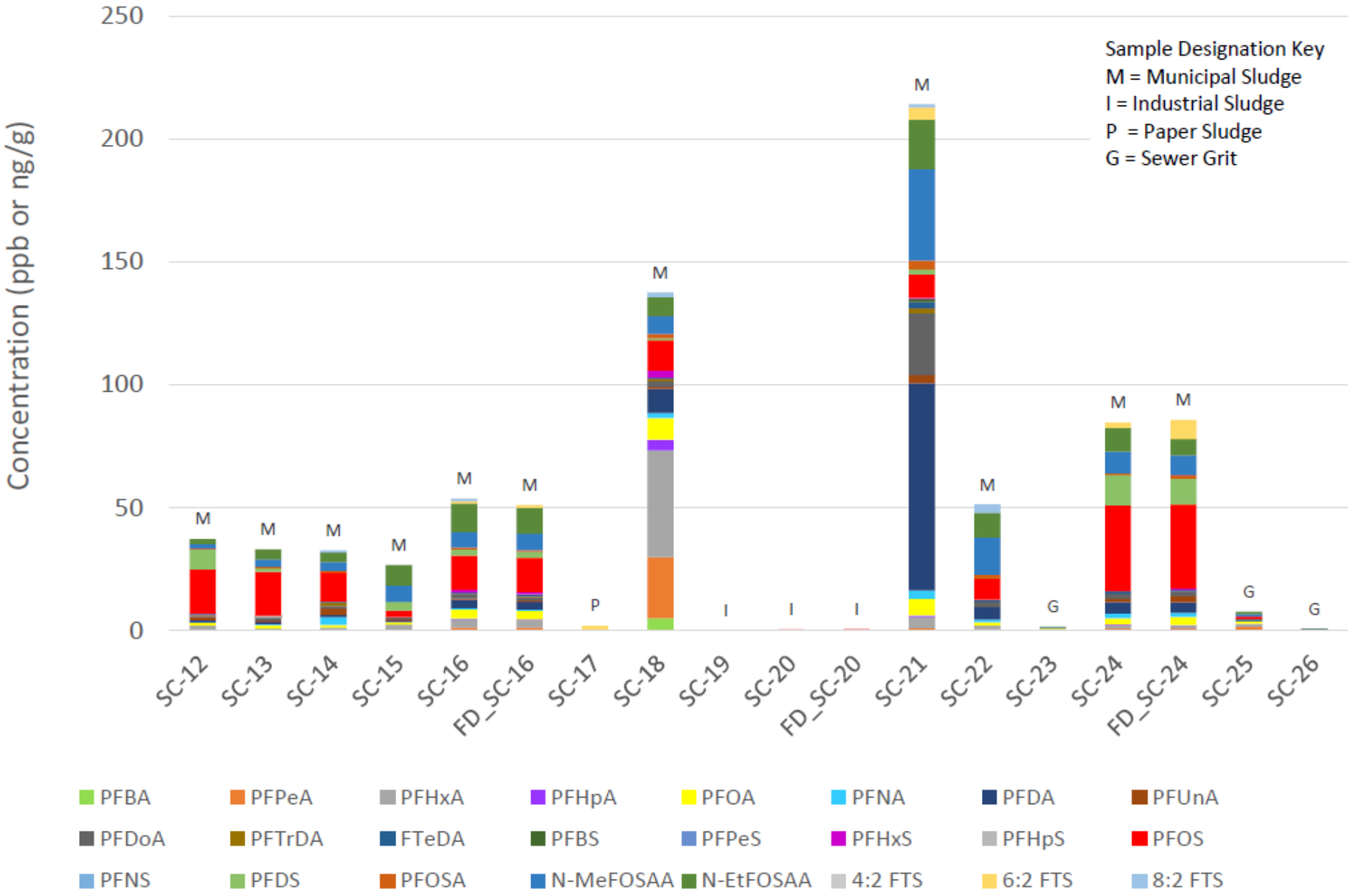
Sludges: Industrial and Municipal

Fig. 1 of 2

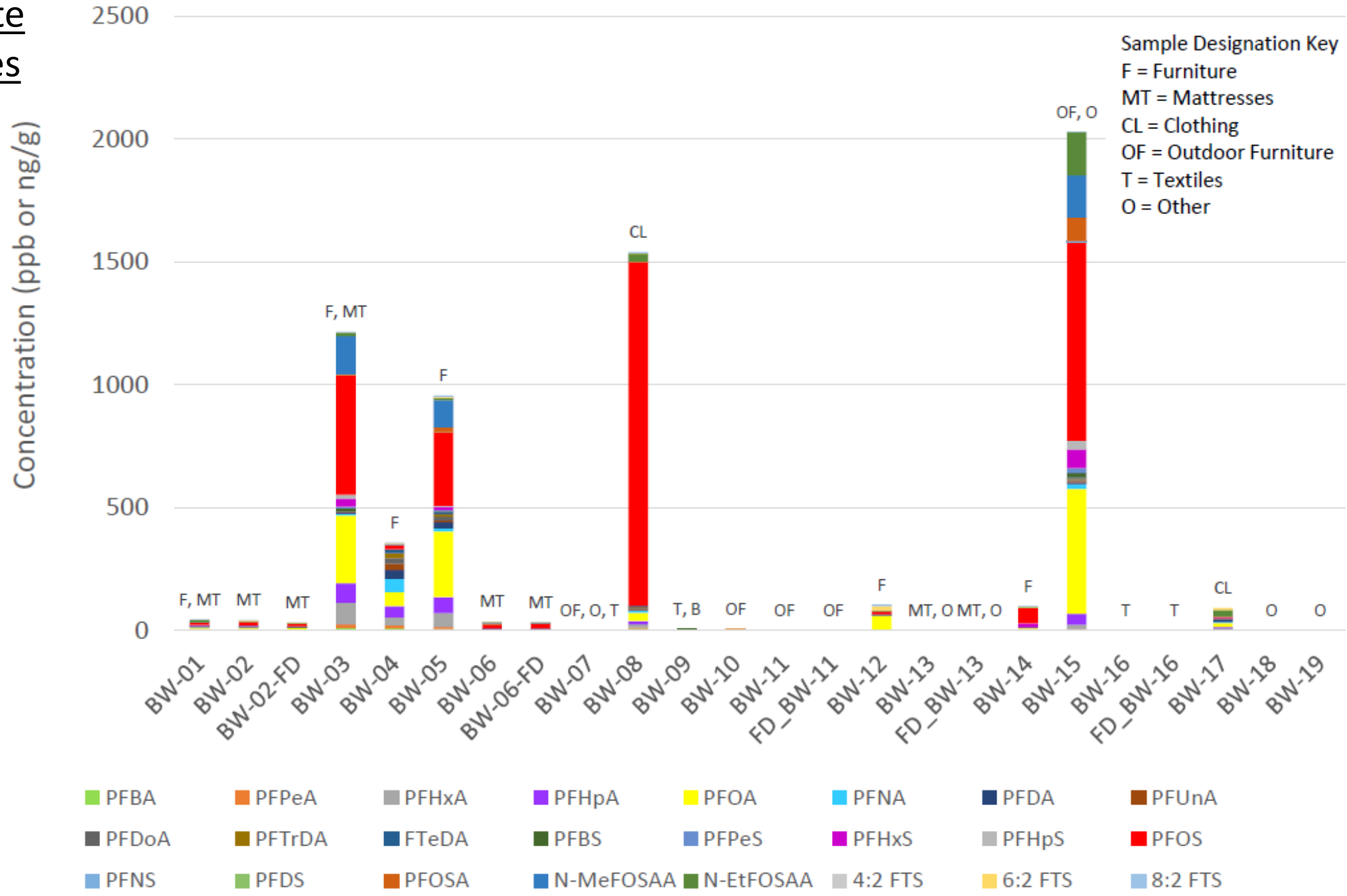


Sludges: Industrial and Municipal

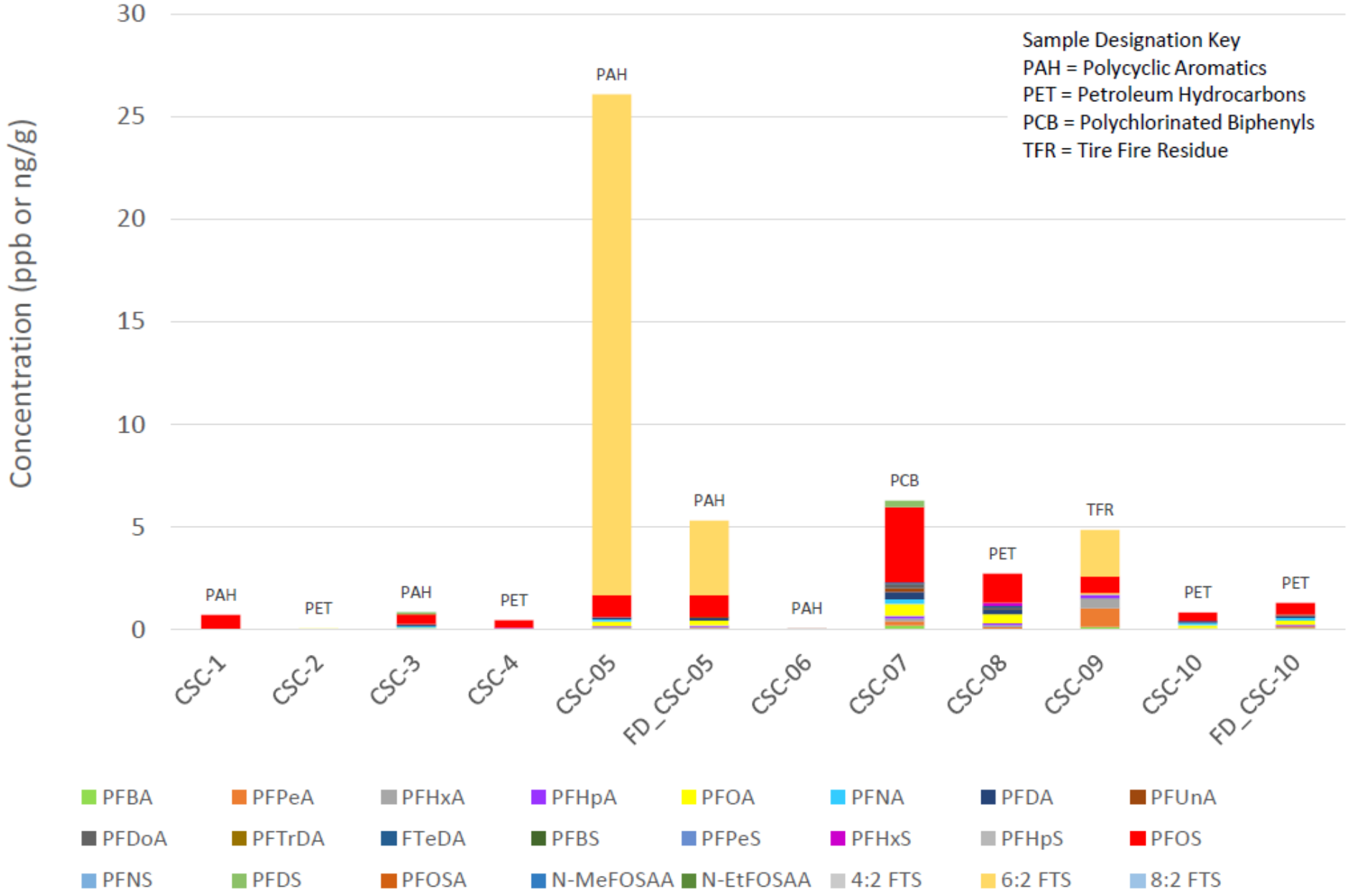
Fig. 2 of 2



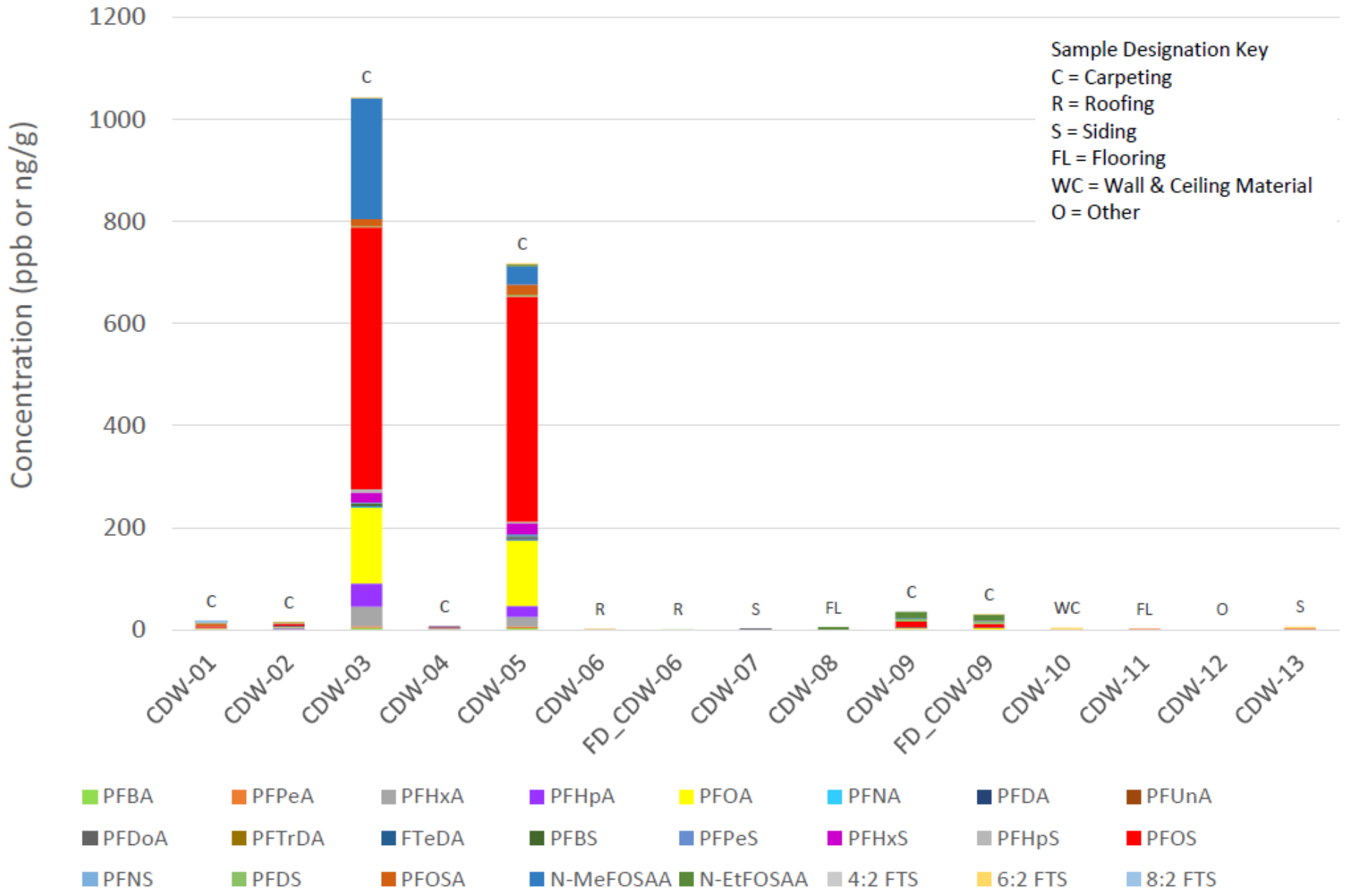
Bulky Waste and Textiles



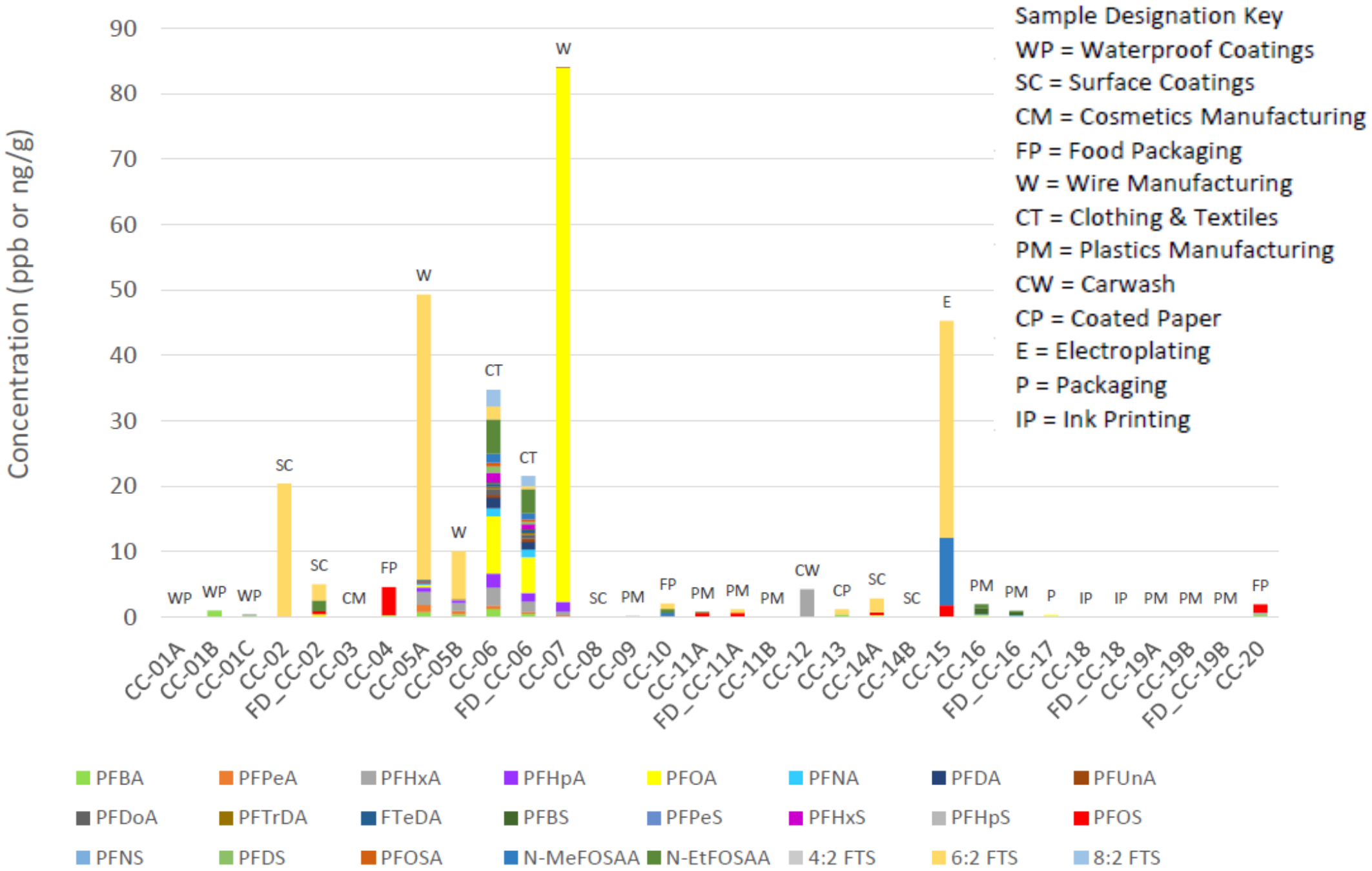
Contaminated Soils



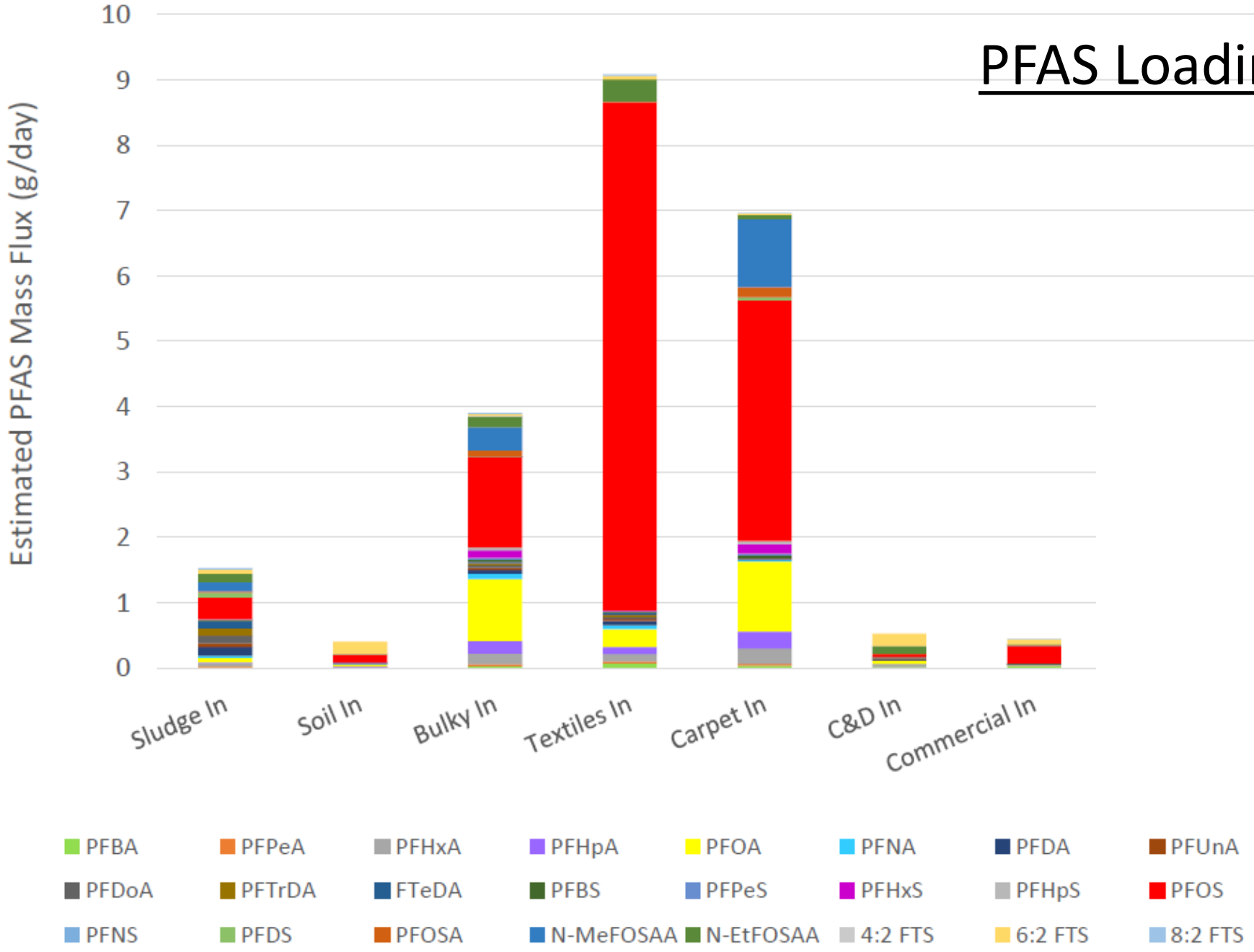
Construction and Demolition (includes carpeting)

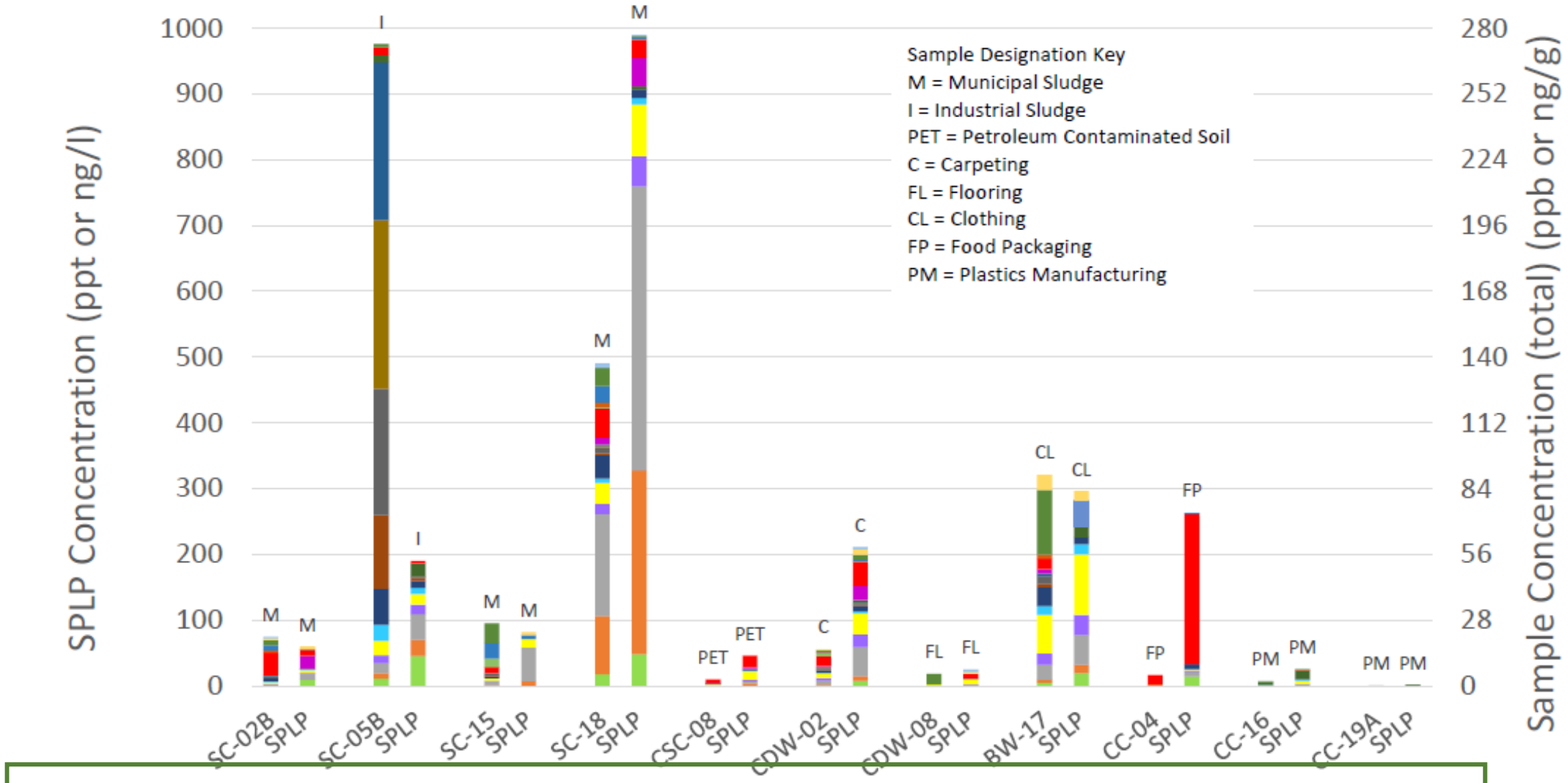


Commercial Wastes



PFAS Loading into the Landfill





Leached %	6%	1%	6%	14%	34%	27%	10%	7%	114%	26%	53%

Leached % = SPLP Concentration × 20 ÷ (Sample Concentration × 1,000)

PFAS Coming Out of Landfills

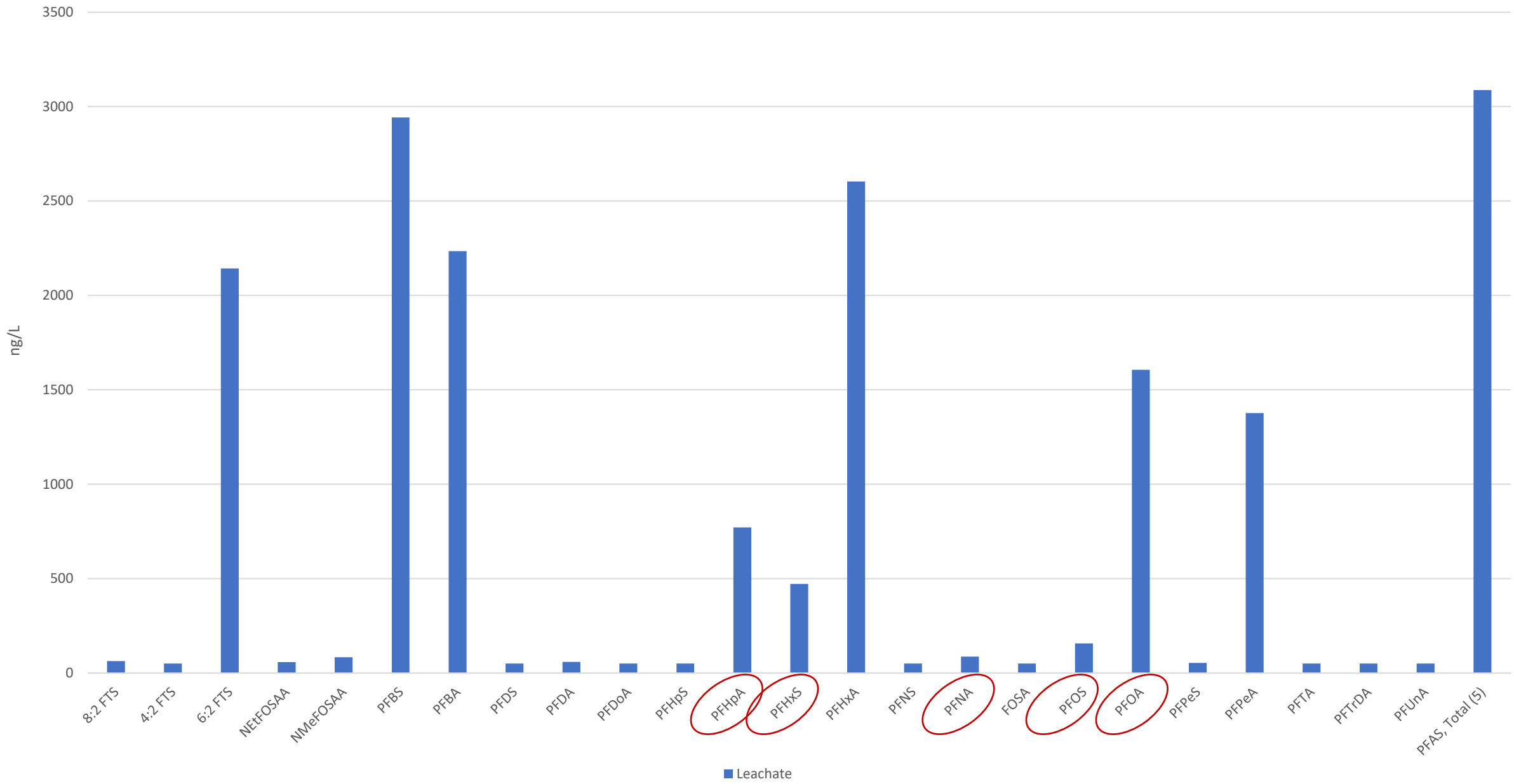
Analysis of Leachate

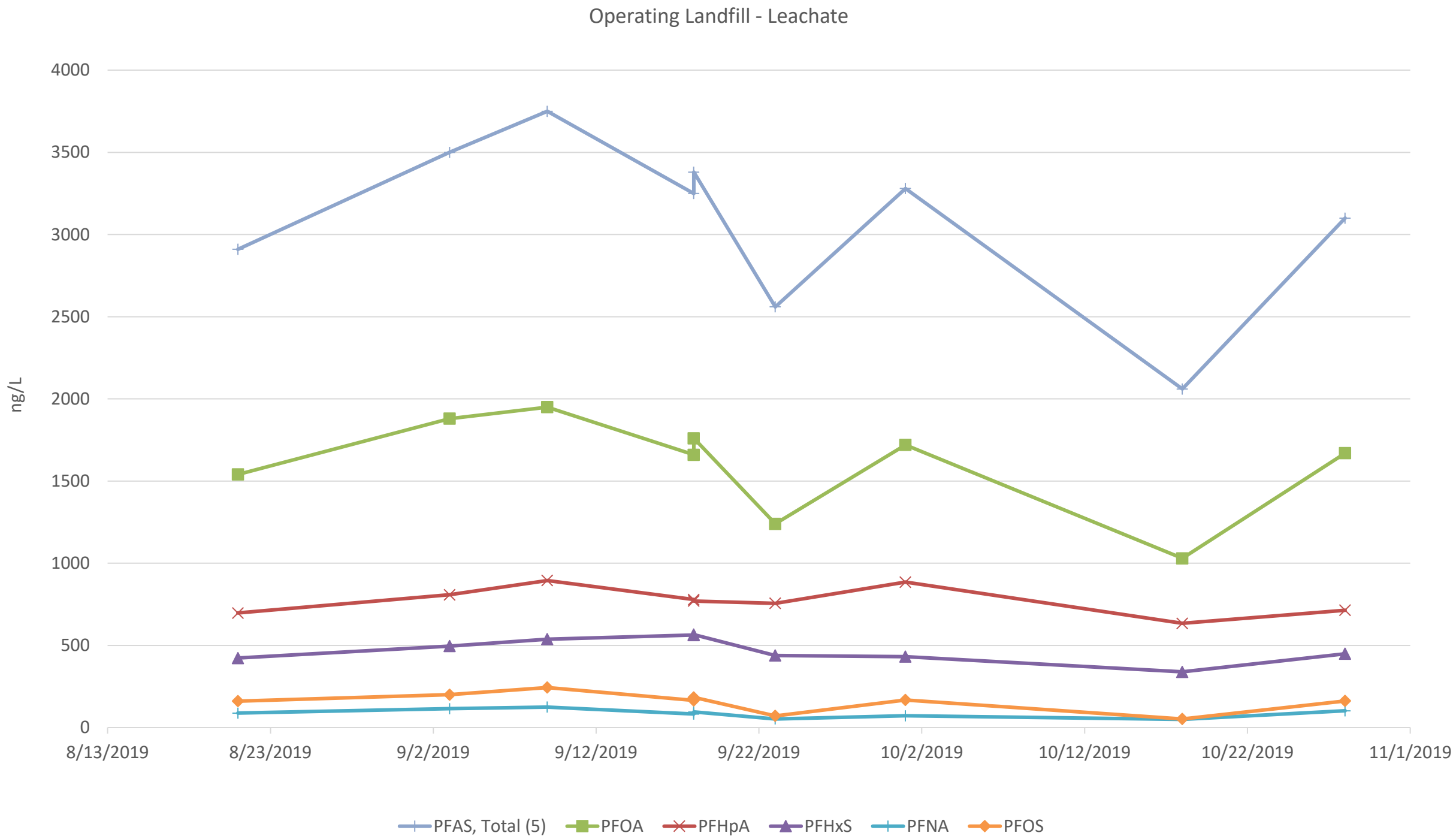
Preliminary Lined Landfill Leachate Evaluation (2017-2018)

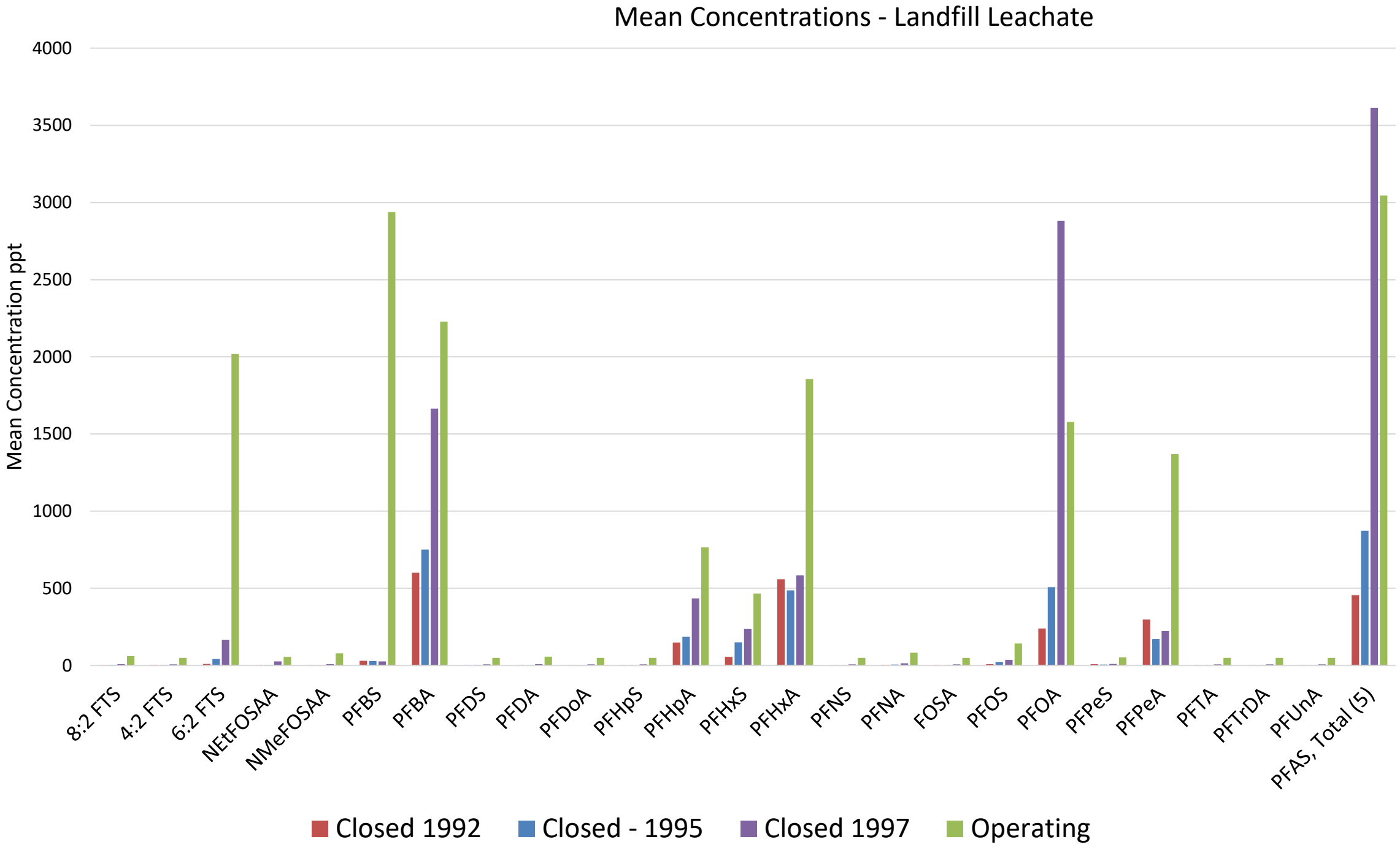
Leachate Concentration Guidelines: October 2017

PFAS analyte:	Landfill Leachate concentration requiring no restrictions	Landfill Leachate concentration which may require restrictions	Landfill Leachate concentration requiring pretreatment
PFOA	0.120 mg/L	0.120 mg/L to 1.2 mg/L	>1.2 mg/L
PFOS	0.001 mg/L	0.001 mg/L to 0.010 mg/L	>0.010 mg/L

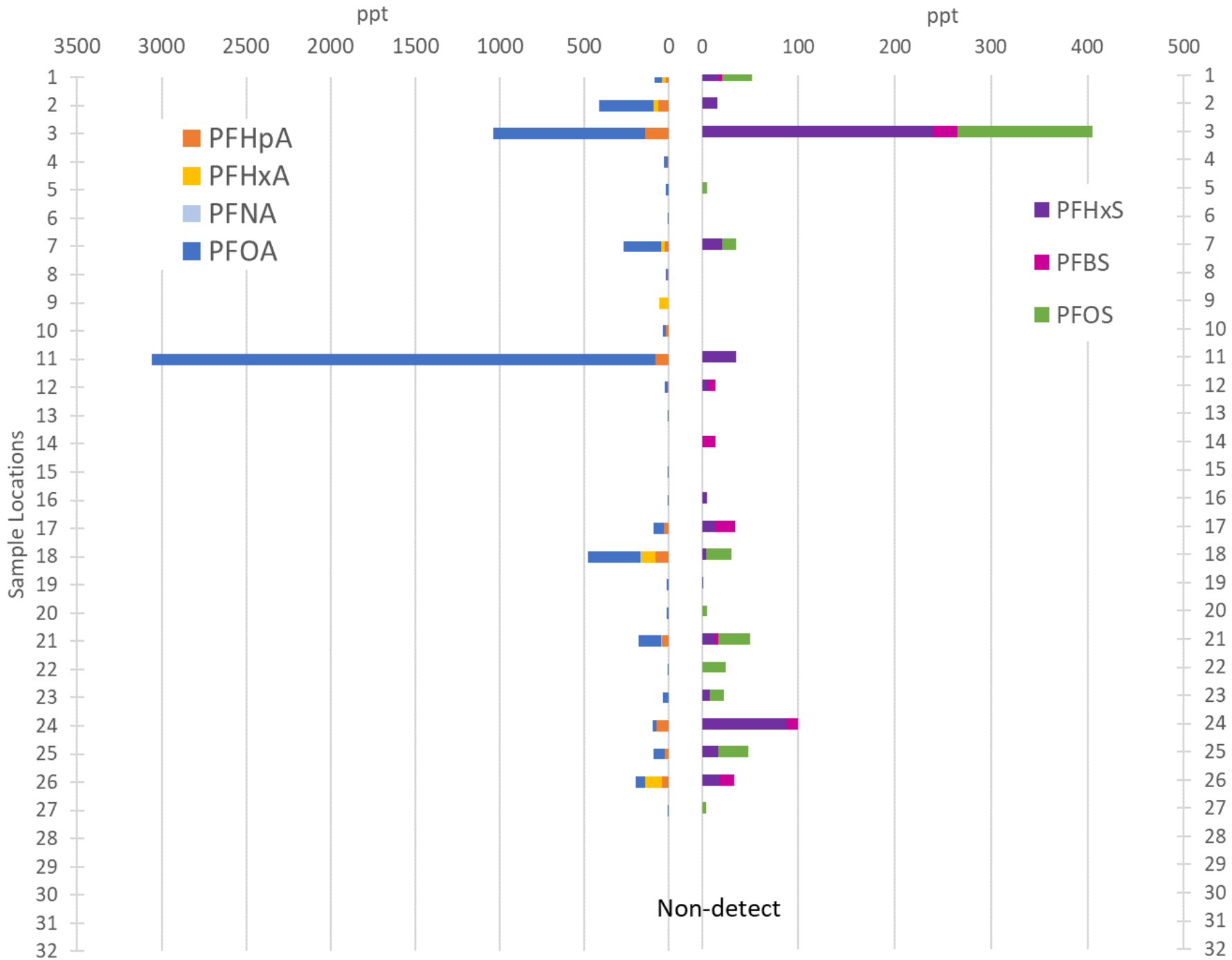
Discharge of leachate through a wastewater treatment facility (with no reduction in concentration) was calculated to achieve Vermont drinking water standards and surface water standards established by other states within the receiving body of water


NEWSVT Landfill Averages
3500
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
ng/L
8:2 FTS
4:2 FTS
6:2 FTS
NEtFOSAA
NMeFOSAA
PFBS
PFBA
PFDS
PFDA
PFDoA
PFHpS
PFHpA
PFHxS
PFHxA
PFNS
PFNA
FOSA
PFOS
PFOA
PFPeS
PFPeA
PFTA
PFTrDA
PFUnA
PFAS, Total (5)
Leachate


Operating Landfill - Leachate
4000
3500
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
ng/L
8/13/2019
8/23/2019
9/2/2019
9/12/2019
9/22/2019
10/2/2019
10/12/2019
10/22/2019
11/1/2019
PFAS, Total (5)
PFOA
PFHpA
PFHxS
PFNA
PFOS


Mean Concentrations - Landfill Leachate
Mean Concentration ppt
4000
3500
3000
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
8:2 FTS
4:2 FTS
6:2 FTS
NEtFOSAA
NMeFOSAA
PFBS
PFBA
PFDS
PFDA
PFDoA
PFHpS
PFHpA
PFHxS
PFHxA
PFNS
PFNA
FOSA
PFOS
PFOA
PFPeS
PFPeA
PFTA
PFTrDA
PFUnA
PFAS, Total (5)
Closed 1992
Closed - 1995
Closed 1997
Operating

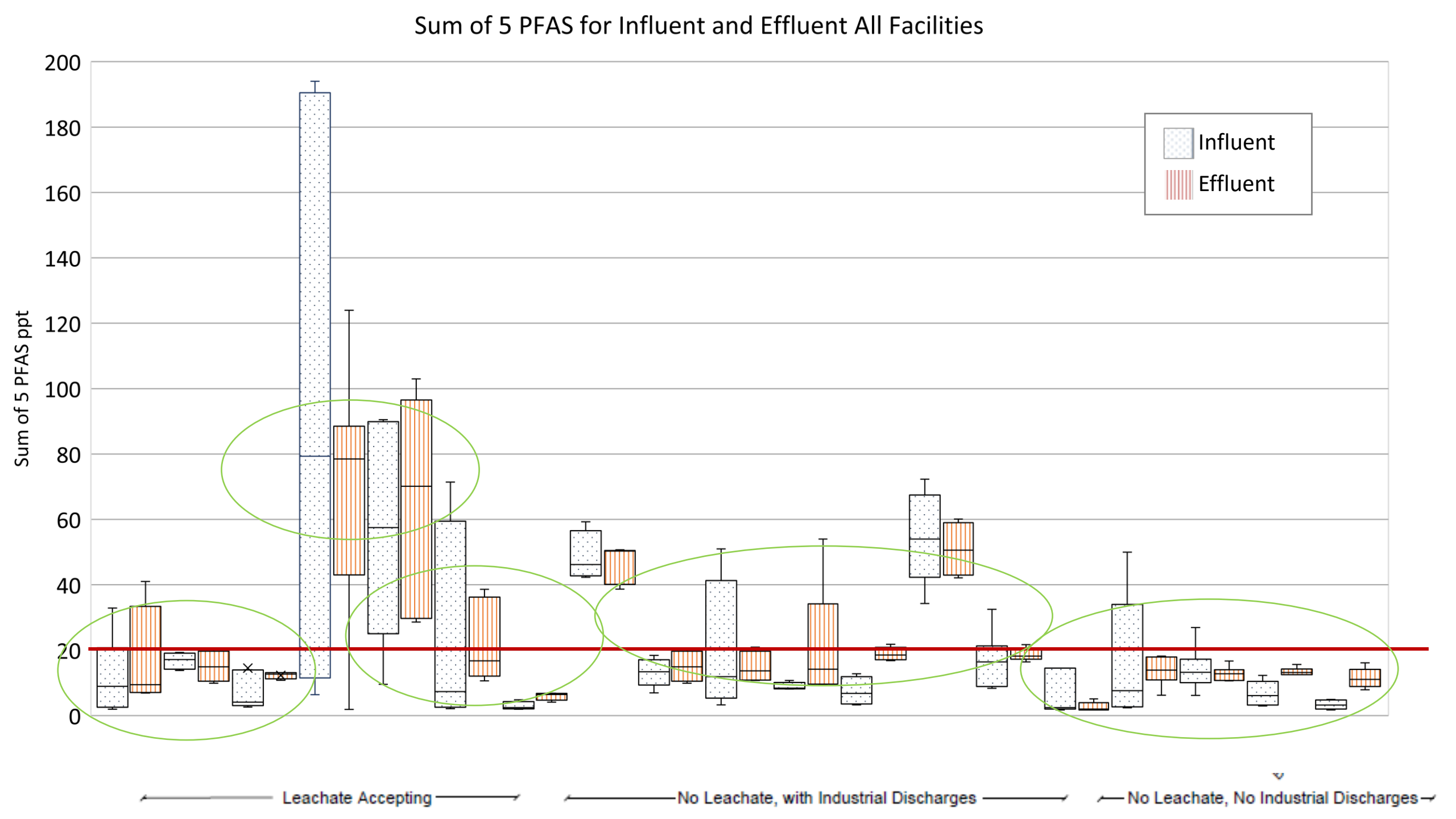
Sidebar:
Unlined Landfills

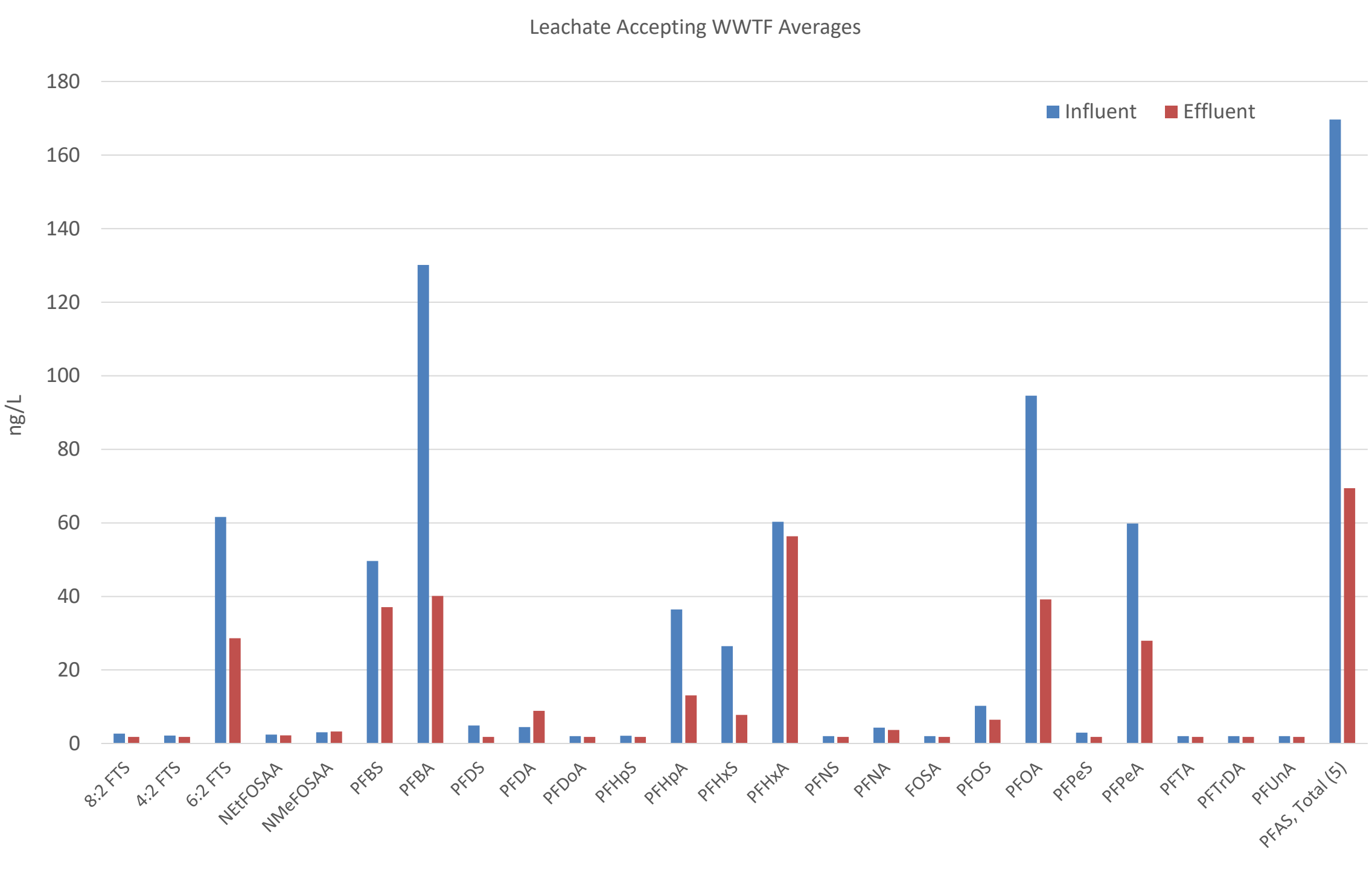


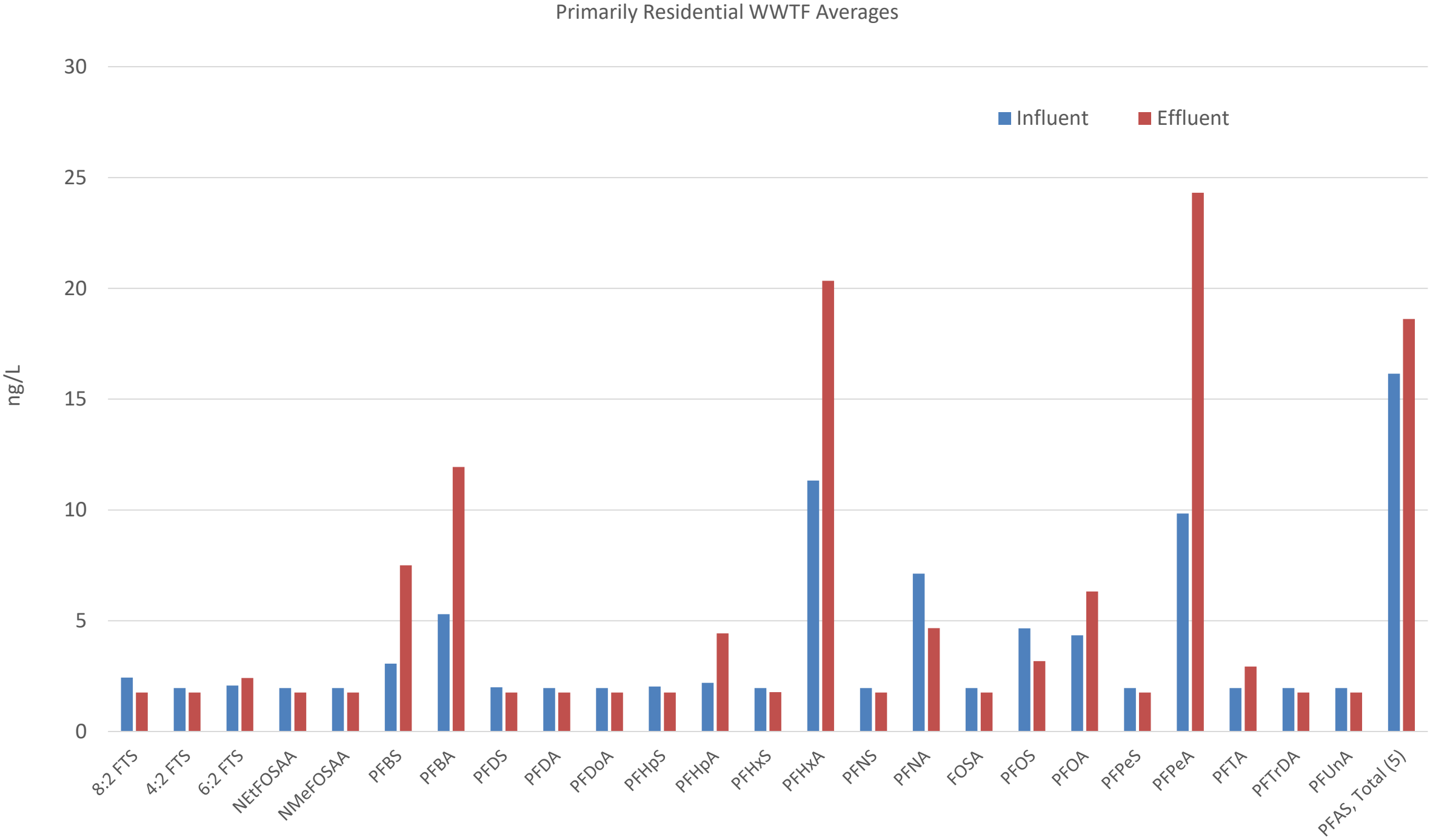
PFAS in Wastewater

Analysis of Influent and Effluent at Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTF)

Weston and Sampson: Wastewater Facility and Landfill PFAS Sampling Summary, January 2020


Sum of 5 PFAS for Influent and Effluent All Facilities
Sum of 5 PFAS ppt
200
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Influent
Effluent
Leachate Accepting
No Leachate, with Industrial Discharges
No Leachate, No Industrial Discharges


Leachate Accepting WWTF Averages
ng/L
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Influent
Effluent
8:2 FTS
4:2 FTS
6:2 FTS
NEtFOSAA
NMeFOSAA
PFBS
PFBA
PFDS
PFDA
PFDoA
PFHpS
PFHpA
PFHxS
PFHxA
PFNS
PFNA
FOSA
PFOS
PFOA
PFPeS
PFPeA
PFTA
PFTrDA
PFUnA
PFAS, Total (5)


Primarily Residential WWTF Averages
Influent
Effluent
ng/L
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
8:2 FTS
4:2 FTS
6:2 FTS
NEtFOSAA
NMeFOSAA
PFBS
PFBA
PFDS
PFDA
PFDoA
PFHpS
PFHpA
PFHxS
PFHxA
PFNS
PFNA
FOSA
PFOS
PFOA
PFPeS
PFPeA
PFTA
PFTrDA
PFUnA
PFAS, Total (5)

PFAS Sampling in two VT Sewers

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

1. More PFAS were measured in wastewater originating from residential communities than from commercial/industrial discharges sampled in these municipalities

2. Industrial facility discharges contained unique PFAS but were not a significant source (< 1% total mass) entering WWTFs

3. Sampling approach may be a suitable model for other municipalities to identify/understand sources of PFAS in wastewater generated by their communities.

Grant Funded

Full Report Available at: https://dec.vermont.gov/pfas

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Evaluation of Leachate Treatment Options

Request: Evaluate available leachate treatment options for PFAS and recommend two on-site and two off-site options

Challenges and Assumptions:

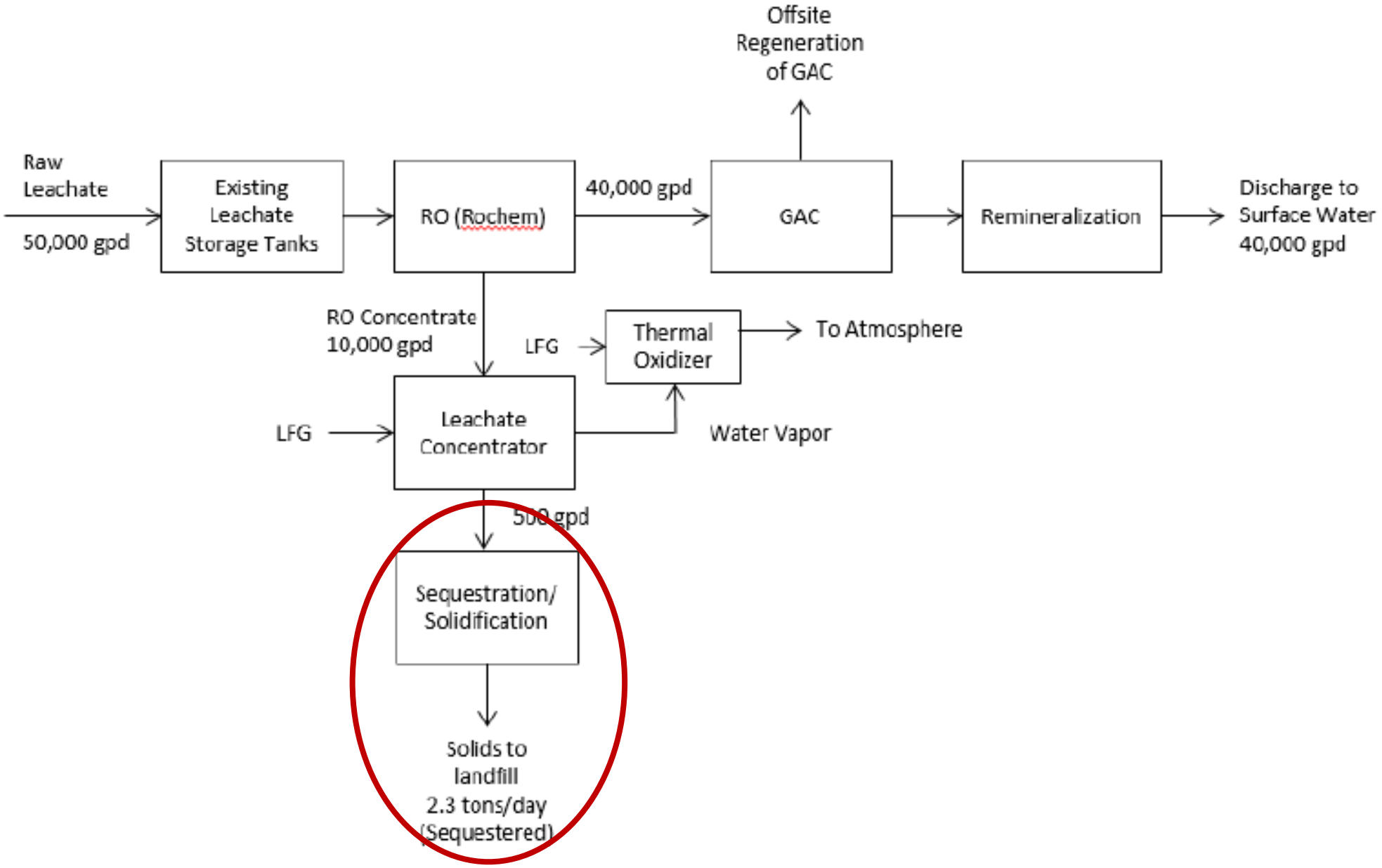
1. No promulgated treatment or discharge standard

2. Research on PFAS treatment predominantly focused on 'clean' liquids and PFOA or PFOS – leachate is a complex matrix, requiring pre-filtrations

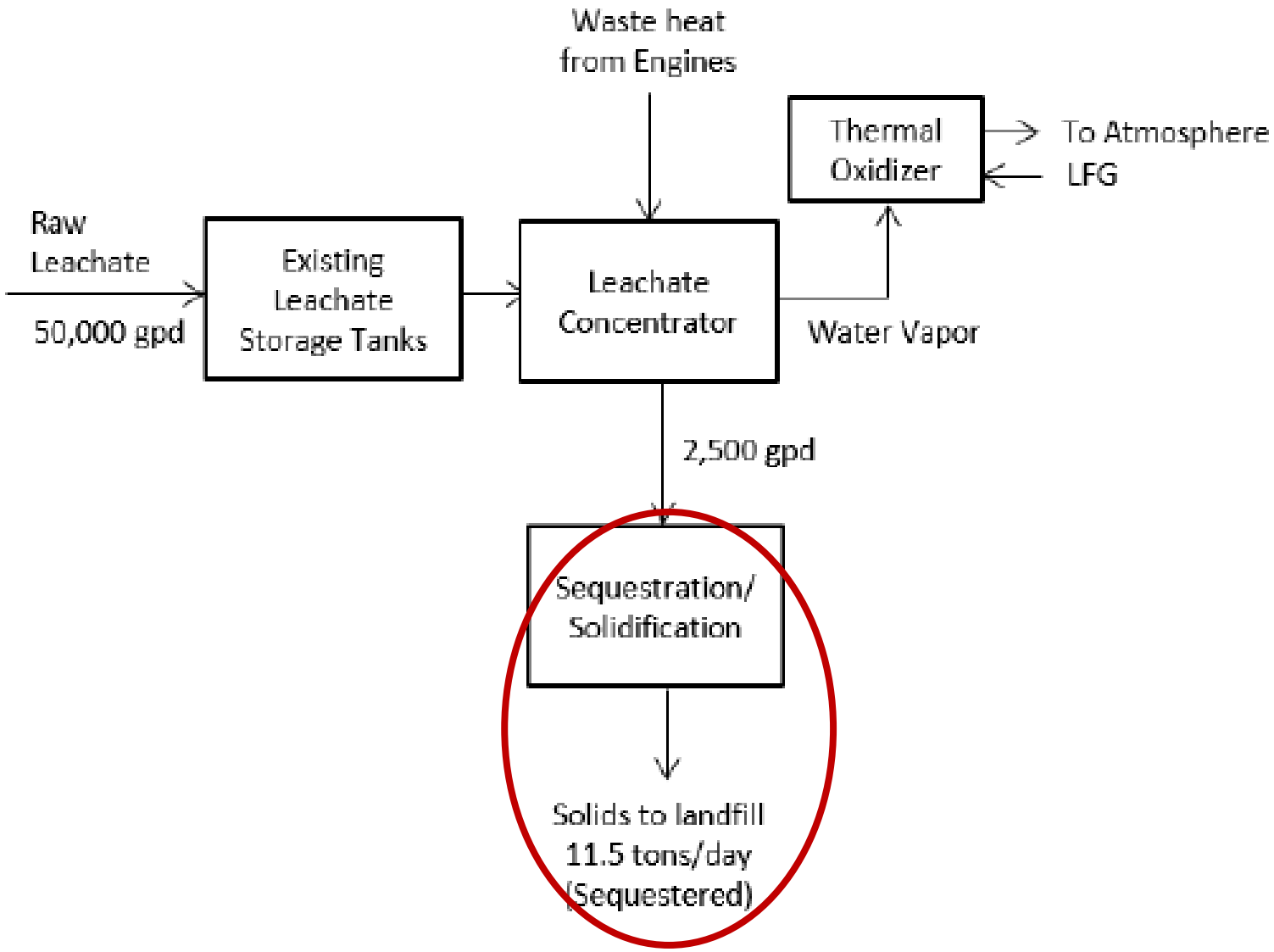
3. All commercially available treatment options for leachate either concentrate or capture PFAS – residuals must be stabilized or destroyed off-site

Brown and Caldwell: Conceptual Leachate Treatment Scoping Study for New England Waste Services of Vermont Landfill, October 2019

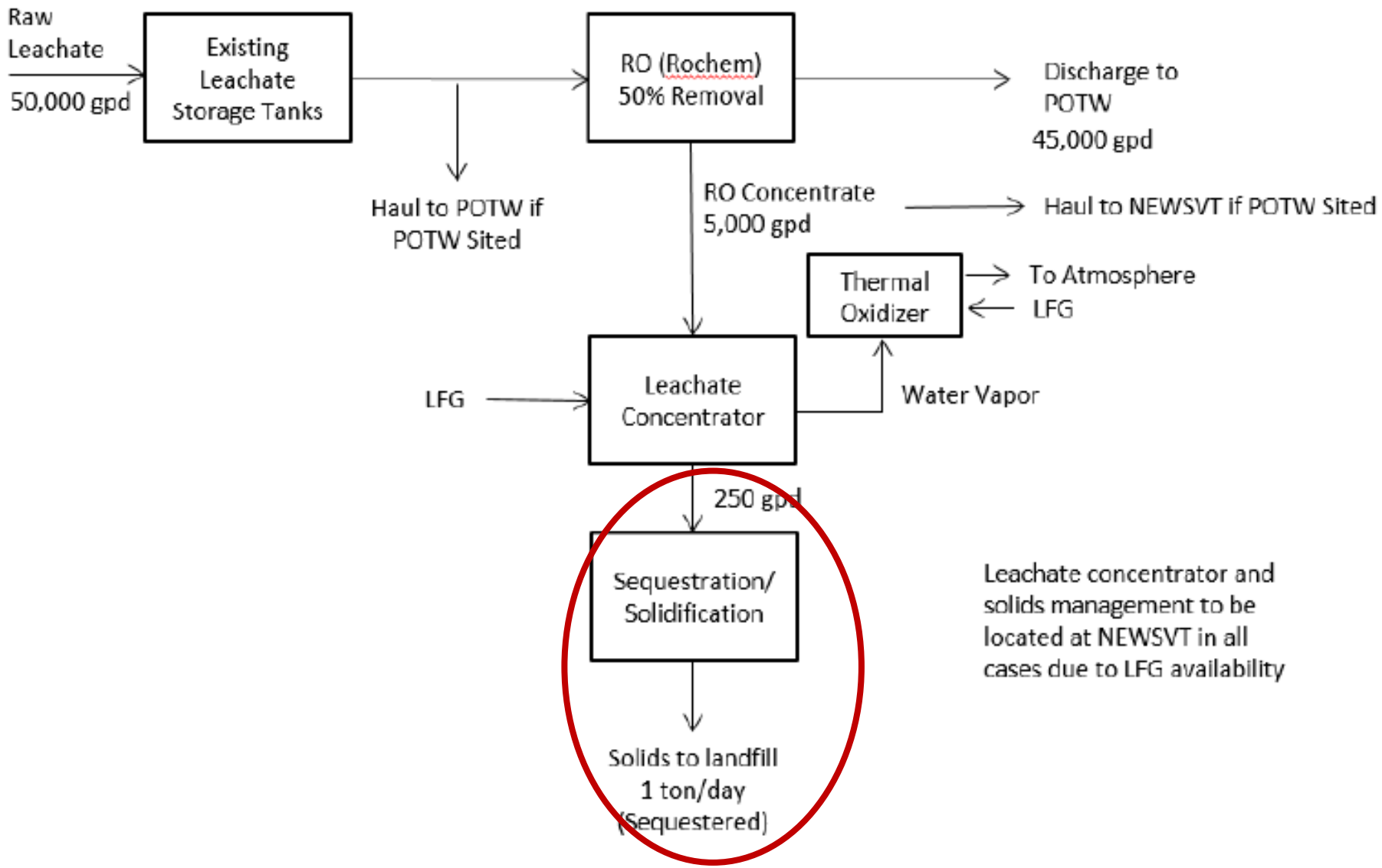
Preferred On-Site Options: Direct Discharge to Surface Water



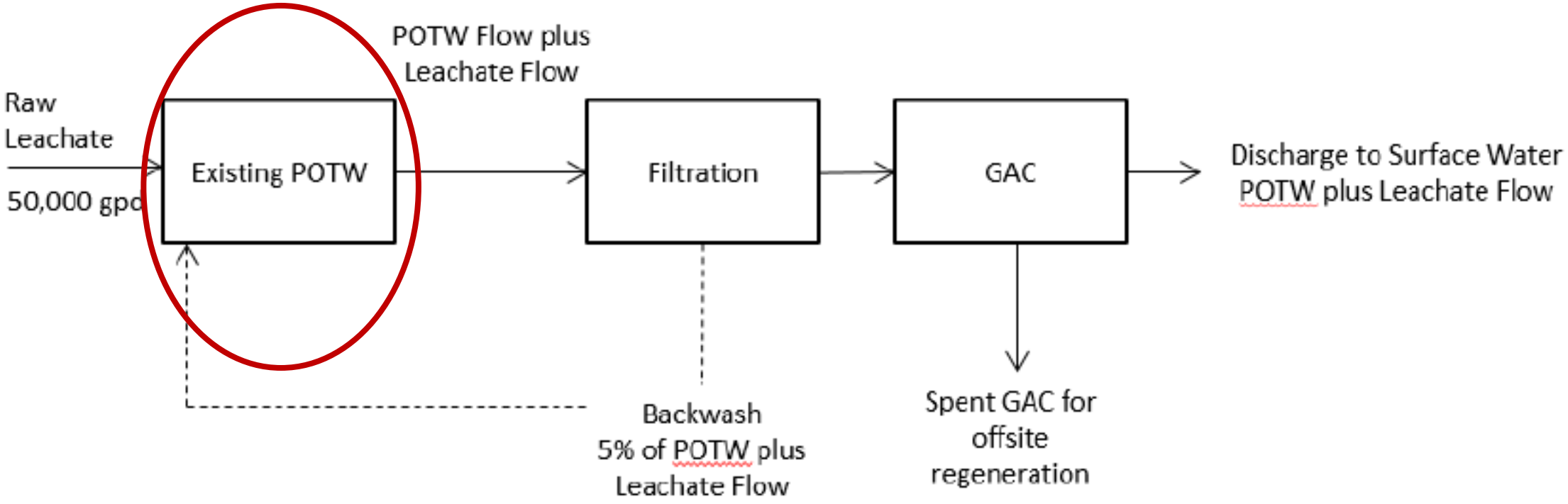
Preferred On-Site Options: Zero Liquid Discharge

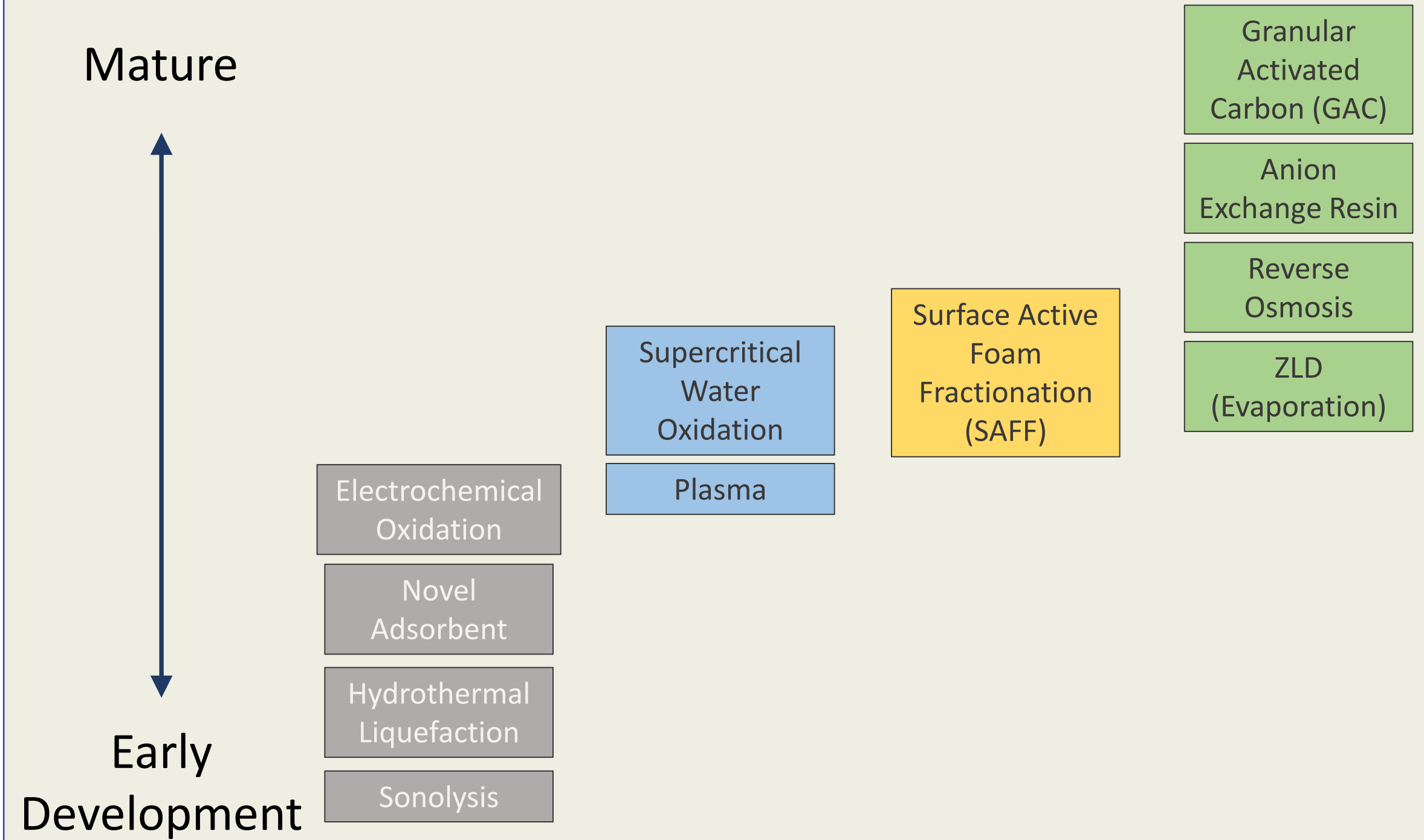


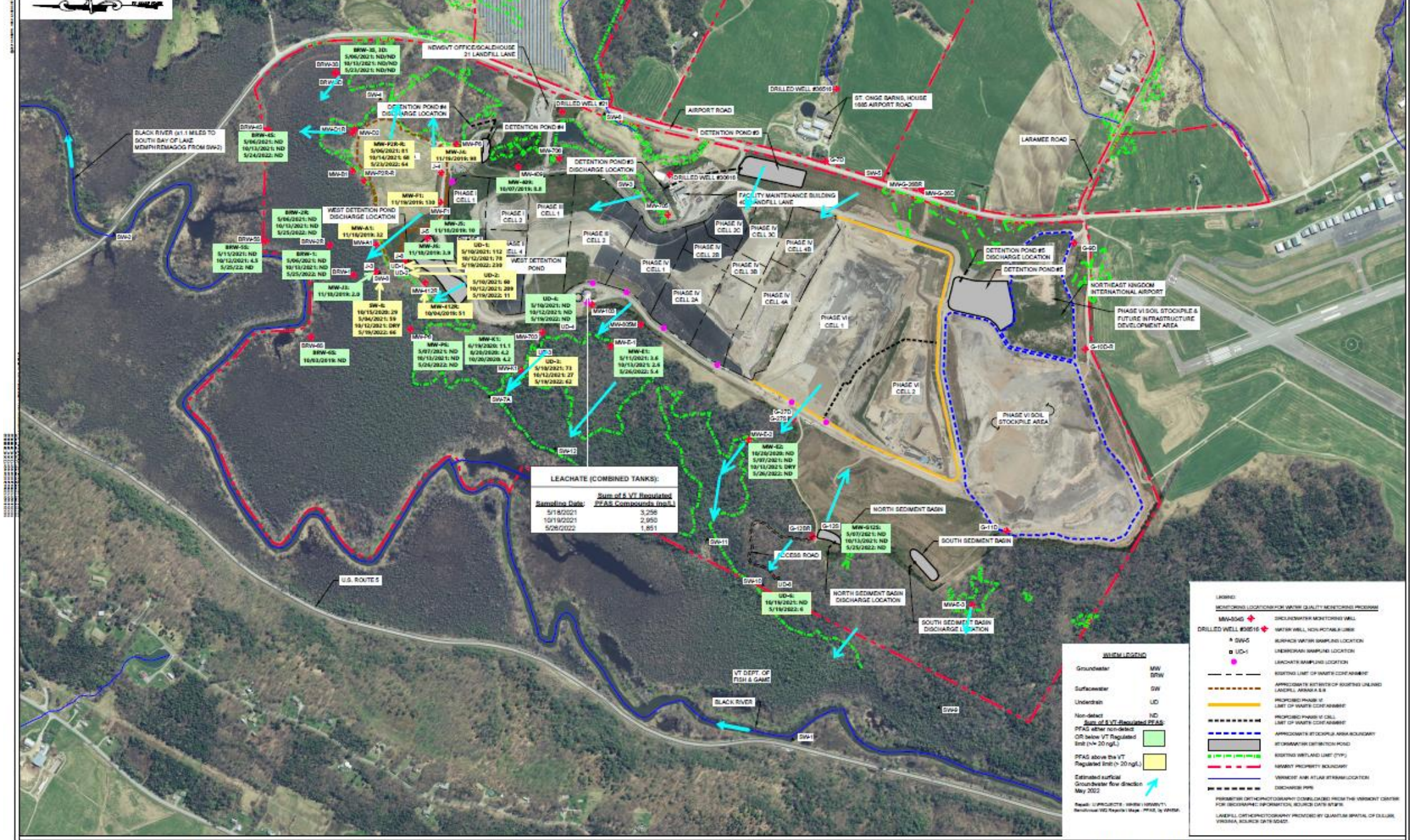
Preferred Off-site Options: 50% reduction Pretreatment at WWTF



Preferred Off-site Options: WWTF Enhancement




Mature
Early Development
Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)
Anion Exchange Resin
Reverse Osmosis
ZLD (Evaporation)
Surface Active Foam Fractionation (SAFF)
Supercritical Water Oxidation
Plasma
Electrochemical Oxidation
Novel Adsorbent
Hydrothermal Liquefaction
Sonolysis



SANBORN HEAD

GRAPHICAL SCALE
350 175 0 350 700'

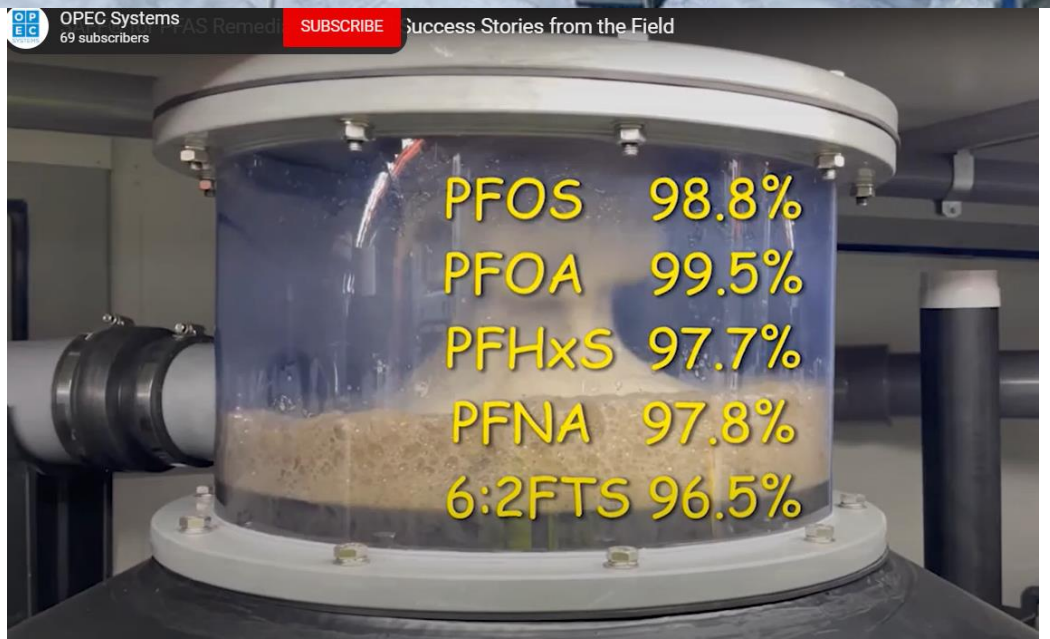
DRAWN BY: J. SHERIDAN
DESIGNED BY: J. GRACE
REVIEWED BY: B. BEAUDOIN
PROJECT MGR: T. PETIT
EDITED BY: WHEM
DATE: 06/15/22

NEW ENGLAND WASTE SERVICES OF VERMONT, INC.
COVENTRY, VERMONT

PROJECT NUMBER: 1166.21

FIGURE NUMBER:

SAFF Sweden Project



Images from: https://epocenviro.com/project/saff-sweden-project/

PFAS in Waste Streams

1. PFAS detected in nearly all wastes sampled, with large loading likely from residentially source materials. There is no 'easy' source of PFAS that can be removed from the waste stream.

2. PFAS detected at all WWTFs, even those not accepting landfill or industrial discharges

but…

PFAS concentrations at WWTFs that accept significant volumes of leachate are elevated.

3. Treatment of leachate for PFAS is feasible using proven technologies

but….

it would come with a cost and still has significant challenges

Kasey Kathan | Environmental Analyst (she/her)
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources | Department of Environmental Conservation
Waste Management and Prevention Division, Solid Waste Management Program
1 National Life Drive, Davis 1 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3520

802-522-0561 (cell) | kasey.kathan@vermont.gov

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