

The agency has previously announced that it planned to set drinking water limits for PFOA and PFOS, but an official told reporters on Tuesday that the administration was also considering regulating them in bigger groups.

As the EPA weighs its anticipated regulation, it is also looking at its options for setting limits on more types of PFAS in groups, the person said, noting that GenX and PFBS could be part of these groups.

Health advocates have called for regulating more than just the two types of PFAS, instead saying they should be regulated as a class of chemicals. This is because, in the past, industry has swapped out one type of PFAS for another. The chemicals also often occur together in mixtures instead of one single type appearing by itself.

The advisories issued on Wednesday are expected to inform the agency's future regulation.

"People on the front-lines of PFAS contamination have suffered for far too long. That's why EPA is taking aggressive action as part of a whole-of-government approach to prevent these chemicals from entering the environment and to help protect concerned families from this pervasive challenge," EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a statement on the new advisory levels.

The moves come as part of a broader strategy by the administration aimed at addressing PFAS, as it previously released a "strategic roadmap" for tackling the toxic chemicals.

PFAS have leached into waterways over the years after they were discharged by industry and the military.

They have also been found in a variety of household products including nonstick pans, rain coats and other water-resistant clothing, cosmetics and more.

They are sometimes called "forever chemicals" because they linger and build up over the years in human bodies and the environment instead of breaking down.

Previously, the EPA had set its health advisory for PFOA and PFOS at 70 parts per trillion, but the new limits are much lower, at 0.004 parts per trillion for PFOA

and 0.02 parts per trillion for PFOS.

Meanwhile, the new advisory levels for GenX and PFBS are 10 parts per trillion and 2,000 parts per trillion, respectively.

These values describe the levels at which it is safe for a person to drink these substances in the water over the course of their lifetime.

They come after the EPA last year found PFOA and PFOS to be much more toxic than previously believed in draft assessments.

The chemical industry pushed back on the EPA's action, raising procedural concerns.

"The Agency's revised LHAs for PFOA and PFOS are based on toxicity assessments that are currently being reviewed by EPA's Science Advisory Board. Rather than wait for the outcome of this peer review, EPA has announced new Advisories that are 3,000 to 17,000 times lower than those released by the Obama Administration in 2016," American Chemistry Council said in a statement.

"These new levels cannot be achieved with existing treatment technology and, in fact, are below levels that can be reliably detected using existing EPA methods," the group added.

Rep. Bobby Rush asks DOJ to investigate Idaho white supremacists
More than 60 percent of CEOs globally say they expect a recession:
survey

Meanwhile, environmental advocates say the new, lowered safety advisories show that the government needs to work faster to regulate PFAS because of how dangerous they are.

"Today's announcement should set off alarm bells for consumers and regulators," said Melanie Benesh a legislative attorney at the Environmental Working Group in a statement. "These proposed advisory levels demonstrate that we must move much faster to dramatically reduce exposures to these toxic chemicals."

NEWS

EPA finds no safe level for two toxic 'forever chemicals,' found in many U.S. water systems

linked these 'forever chemicals' to different types of cancer, low birthweights and other health problems. 'This will set off alarm bells,' one expert said.

**Kyle Bagenstose**

USA TODAY

Published 1:04 p.m. ET June 15, 2022 | Updated 11:37 a.m. ET June 17, 2022

The Environmental Protection Agency stunned scientists and local officials across the country on Wednesday by releasing new health advisories for toxic "forever chemicals" known to be in thousands of U.S. drinking water systems, impacting potentially millions of people.

The new advisories cut the safe level of chemical PFOA by more than 17,000 times what the agency had previously said was protective of public health, to now just four "parts per quadrillion." The safe level of a sister chemical, PFOS, was reduced by a factor of 3,500. The chemicals are part of a class of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as forever chemicals due to their extreme resistance to disintegration. They have been linked to different types of cancer, low birthweights, thyroid disease and other health ailments.

10

August 4, 2022

Tom and Susan Dimond
2119 Skyway Dr
St. Paul, MN 55119

RE: Granular Activated Carbon Filter for Your Water Supply
MPCA Site: East Metro PFAS Site

Dear Tom and Susan Dimond:

Your well has been sampled by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and/or the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) one or more times over the past several years. This sampling is part of a co-operative effort by the MPCA and the MDH to evaluate per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in the groundwater in your area. The sample results from your well have shown concentrations of PFAS in your well water that equate to a Health Index (HI) value between 0.5 and 1.0.

The MDH evaluates PFAS concentrations in a well individually and considers the combined effect of the PFAS mixture if more than one PFAS was detected. If the HI value exceeds 1.0, a well advisory is issued for the well and the MPCA will install a whole-house carbon filter at no cost to the homeowner.

Your well was not issued a well advisory by the MDH because its HI is <1.0. However, in an effort to be more protective, the recently released East Metro Conceptual Drinking Water Supply Plan has specified that wells with a HI between 0.5 and 1.0 using the HI calculation at the time of the release of the Final Plan also qualify for a whole-house carbon filter installation. More specifically, East Metro wells with PFAS concentrations exceeding this HI of 0.5 can receive a whole-house granular activated carbon (GAC) filter installation by the MPCA, and annual filter maintenance, both at no cost to the homeowner. More information about the East Metro Drinking Water Supply Plan can be found at www.3msettlement.state.mn.us. Please note, as outlined in the Drinking Water Supply Plan, the MPCA will install and maintain the GAC filter for *up to 30 years* after installation. After 30 years, maintenance of the GAC filter will be the homeowner's responsibility. The MPCA will remove the GAC filter at the request of the homeowner. *If, however in the future, the MDH does issue a well advisory for your private well based on revised PFAS drinking water criteria, the MPCA would provide maintenance of the GAC filter for as long as a well advisory is in place, or if an alternate drinking water supply is available.*

As the HI for your well exceeds 0.5, it is now eligible for the installation of a GAC filter system, as outlined in the recently released Conceptual Drinking Water Supply Plan for the East Metro area. As outlined in the enclosed fact sheet, GAC filters are very effective in removing PFAS contaminants from well water.

Tom and Susan Dimond
Page 2
August 4, 2022

West Central Environmental Consultants (WCEC), under contract with the MPCA, will oversee the installation, maintenance, and monitoring of the GAC filter. This is the same consulting firm that collects samples of your well water. A Culligan Water dealer (either Ultrapure Services or Culligan-Stillwater), also under contract with the MPCA, will be contacting you in the near future to make arrangements with you for the installation of the GAC filter and will be responsible for the actual maintenance and filter change-outs. Filter change-outs are usually done once per year.

Prior to installation of the GAC filter, we ask that you sign an Access Agreement which grants permission for the MPCA, WCEC, and/or Culligan/Ultrapure staff to enter your property for the purpose of installing and monitoring the performance of the GAC system. The MPCA or an MPCA contractor will always contact you before entering your property.

Please complete and return the enclosed Access Agreement. Please complete the **Property Owner Contact Information** in Section 13 and **sign** the bottom of page 3. Once the Access Agreement has been completed, please mail it back in the enclosed self-addressed envelope or scan it and email it to Tim Lockrem at the email address below. If you have any questions about the GAC filters, the installation of the GAC filter, the Access Agreement, or if you choose to decline the MPCA's offer to install a GAC filter on your water supply, please contact Tim Lockrem at 651-757-2686 or by email at timothy.lockrem@state.mn.us, or Marina Steiner at 651-757-2512 or by email at marina.steiner@state.mn.us. A final signed copy will be sent to you by the MPCA for your records.

Sincerely,



This document has been electronically signed.

Gary L. Krueger
Supervisor
East Metro Unit
Remediation Division

GLK/TL/MS:df

Attachment/Enclosure: MPCA Access Agreement Form
Granular Activated Carbon Filters Information Sheet

cc: Tom Pedersen, WCEC (w/attachment) (electronic)



Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency

Granular Activated Carbon Filters

Cleanup/Superfund #1.05 • January 2009

Uncontaminated well water is usually considered to be a safe source of drinking water. When a well becomes contaminated, a water treatment system (a filter with granular activated carbon, or GAC) is a proven method for removing organic chemicals like trichloroethylene and perfluorochemicals from the water. When contaminant levels in a well exceed health-based limits, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) may install a whole-house GAC filter. This filter traps the contaminants so that your drinking water meets health-based limits. This fact sheet is intended to provide you with information about the filter and steps you can take to ensure it operates properly.

What is GAC?

Granular activated carbon is made from raw organic materials, such as coconut shells or coal, which are high in carbon. Heat is used to activate the surface area of the carbon. The activated carbon removes certain chemicals from the water passing through a GAC filter by trapping the chemical in the GAC. However, other chemicals, like iron and nitrate, are not attracted to the carbon and therefore are not effectively removed.

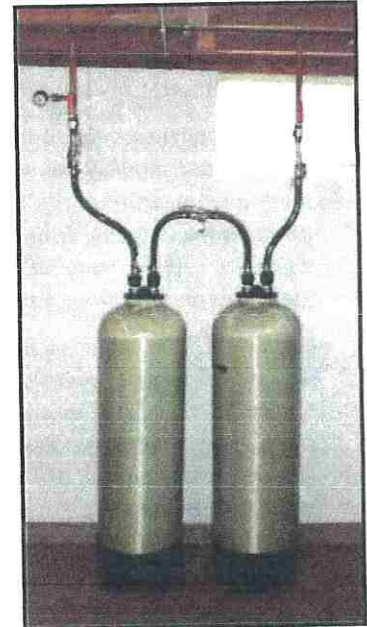
It is important to know the level of contaminants and the volume of water used in order to determine the correct size and components of the filtration system. All treatment systems require proper installation, periodic monitoring, and maintenance. Eventually, the GAC loses its ability to trap and remove chemicals and it needs to be changed. The MPCA determines when MPCA-installed filters need to be changed. In some cases, the GAC can last several years depending on contaminant levels and water use.

About your GAC filter system

A whole-house filter is installed at a point on the home's water supply plumbing which will result in treatment of all water that travels to any faucet or fixture in the home. Typically, the MPCA will exclude outside faucets and sprinkler systems. It removes the chemicals before they are ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin during washing or bathing. This is important for some chemicals that readily evaporate from water or easily pass through the skin.

The filters are usually cylindrical in shape and about four feet tall and 15 inches in diameter. These filters are usually installed as a pair, although more may be required in some situations. Two filters arranged in sequence

ensure that any organic chemical that might get past the first filter is trapped by the second. When the MPCA recommends a filter be changed out, the second filter is moved to the first position and a new filter is



placed in the second position. Often MPCA contractors will perform the change-outs. Sample ports located before, between and after the filters allow for testing of the water at each location (see diagram).

Systematic monitoring and a maintenance schedule based on contaminant levels and water use are essential to ensure that the GAC filters function properly and that a change-out occurs before the system loses its ability to trap chemicals.

Typically, a simple water meter is installed with the GAC filter to monitor water use. The MPCA will contact you periodically for a meter reading. This is critical to properly monitor the performance of the GAC filter system.

What can I do to ensure that my drinking water remains safe?

The GAC filter system is designed to remove the contaminants detected in your well water. However, there are some important steps you need to take to ensure that the filter continues to operate properly:

- Consider testing your unfiltered well water once a year for nitrate and coliform bacteria. These are common contaminants in private wells, often resulting from septic systems or fertilizer use. Your county public health department may be able to provide you with a simple test kit. Please provide a copy of the results to your MPCA staff contact.
- If a test detects coliform bacteria and you need to chlorinate (“shock”) the well to kill the bacteria, you may need to temporarily bypass the filter system to prevent the chlorine from quickly using up filter capacity. Talk to your MPCA staff contact for guidance before doing this.
- Allow the MPCA or its contractor to collect a sample or conduct maintenance on the system when the MPCA deems it necessary, and provide the MPCA with meter readings when asked. This is very important to monitor and ensure continued filter system performance.
- If you are away from home for a week or more, thoroughly flush the system by completely opening a filtered tap or faucet for at least 30 minutes before using any water for drinking or cooking purposes. This will help remove any bacteria or other contaminants that may have built up while the GAC filter system was not in use. Although rare, bacteria

in the system can convert nitrate to nitrite, which can be especially toxic for infants and young children.

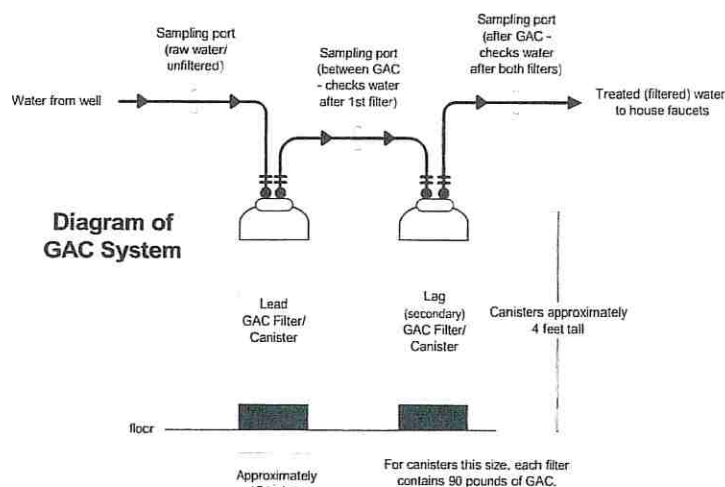
- Check your system on a monthly basis to ensure that there are no leaks, or that the system has not been accidentally bypassed (allowing untreated water to reach the taps). Report any problems, changes in water pressure, or unusual taste, odor or appearance to your MPCA staff contact.
- If you are installing other types of water treatment units, such as a water softener or reverse osmosis unit, please work with the MPCA to ensure that the additional systems do not compromise the operation of the GAC filter system.

Properly maintained, the GAC filter system will provide drinking water for you and your family that meets health-based limits for the contaminants found in your well.

Contact information


If you have questions or concerns regarding the installation or operation of the GAC filter system, contact the MPCA staff person who is assigned to your project. The MPCA general telephone number is 651-296-6300 or 800-657-3864.

If you have questions regarding health concerns associated with contaminants in drinking water, please contact the Minnesota Department of Health’s Site Assessment and Consultation Unit at 651-201-4897 or health.hazard@state.mn.us.



Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Minnesota Administrative Rules

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6115.0190 FILLING INTO PUBLIC WATERS.

Subpart 1. **Goals.** It is the goal of the department to limit the placement of any fill material into public waters in order to:

- A. minimize encroachment, change, or damage to the environment;
- B. regulate the quantity and quality of fill and the purposes for which filling may be allowed based upon the capabilities of the waters to assimilate the material; and
- C. maintain consistency with floodplain, shoreland, and wild and scenic rivers management standards and ordinances.

Subp. 2. **Scope.** Filling as used in this part involves placement of unconfined or loosely confined materials in public waters.

Subp. 3. **Prohibited placement.** Placement is prohibited in the following cases:

- A. to achieve vegetation control;
- B. to create upland areas, except where expressly provided herein;
- C. to stabilize beds of public waters which cannot support fill materials because of excessive depths of muck, steep bank, bed slope, or other conditions;
- D. to stabilize or impound the site of active springs;
- E. to dispose of rock, sand, gravel, or any other solid material resulting from activities carried out above the ordinary high water level;

F. to construct a roadway or pathway, or create or improve land accesses from peripheral shorelands to islands, or to facilitate land transportation across the waters; however, when a project is proposed by a federal, state, or local government agency and this provision would prevent or restrict the project, or create a major conflict with other public purposes or interests, the commissioner may waive this provision if:

- (1) there is no other feasible and practical alternative to the project that would have less environmental impact; and
- (2) the public need for the project rules out the no-build alternative; or

G. filling posted fish spawning areas.

Subp. 4. **No permit required.** No permit is required for the following activities unless prohibited under subpart 3:

- A. to install a beach sand blanket if:
 - (1) the sand or gravel layer does not exceed six inches in thickness, 50 feet in width along the shoreline, or one-half the width of the lot, whichever is less, and does not extend more than ten feet waterward of the ordinary high water level;
 - (2) the beach sand blanket does not cover emergent vegetation, unless authorized by an aquatic plant management permit; and
 - (3) local watershed district and local zoning officials are given at least seven days notice by the landowner;
- B. for one additional installation of a sand or gravel layer subsequent to an initial installation at the same location and not exceeding the same amounts and dimensions allowed under item A; or
- C. to place fill in a public watercourse having a total drainage area, at its mouth, of five square miles or less, if the watercourse is not an officially designated trout stream and the placement of fill does not result in:
 - (1) any diversions of water from the drainage area;
 - (2) any impoundment of waters by damming the watercourse; or
 - (3) any actions that would result in erosion and cause sedimentation of downstream waters as determined by the county or local soil and water conservation district.

Subp. 5. **Permits required.** Permits are required for the placement of fill in public waters, except as provided under subparts 3 and 4, and a project must meet all of the following requirements:

- A. the project does not exceed more than a minimum encroachment, change, or damage to the environment, particularly the ecology of the waters;
- B. the fill consists of clean inorganic material that is free of pollutants and nutrients;
- C. the existence of a stable, supporting foundation is established by appropriate means, including soil boring data where deemed necessary by the commissioner;

CLIENT_ID	1	MPCA SRVs August 2016 Revised Residential/ Recreational
TestAmerica LotID		
SampleNumber		
Placement Site	r	
Collected		
UNITS	†)	ug/kg (ppb)
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS)		30000
Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)		63000
Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)		
Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDoA)		
Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)		
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS)		
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)		
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)		
Perfluorooctane Sulfonamide (PFOSA)		
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)		1700
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)		330
Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPeA)		
Perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)		
% Moisture		
13C2 PFDA (% Recovery)		
13C2 PFDoA (% Recovery)		
13C2 PFHxA (% Recovery)		
13C2 PFUnA (% Recovery)		
13C3-PFBS (% Recovery)		
13C4 PFBA (% Recovery)		
13C4 PFOA (% Recovery)		
13C4 PFOS (% Recovery)		
13C4-PFHpA (% Recovery)		
13C5 PFNA (% Recovery)		
13C5 PFPeA (% Recovery)		
13C8 FOSA (% Recovery)		
18O2 PFHxS (% Recovery)		

If ND, MDL (method Detection Limit) is shown





result Detected

ND = Not Detected at the MDL

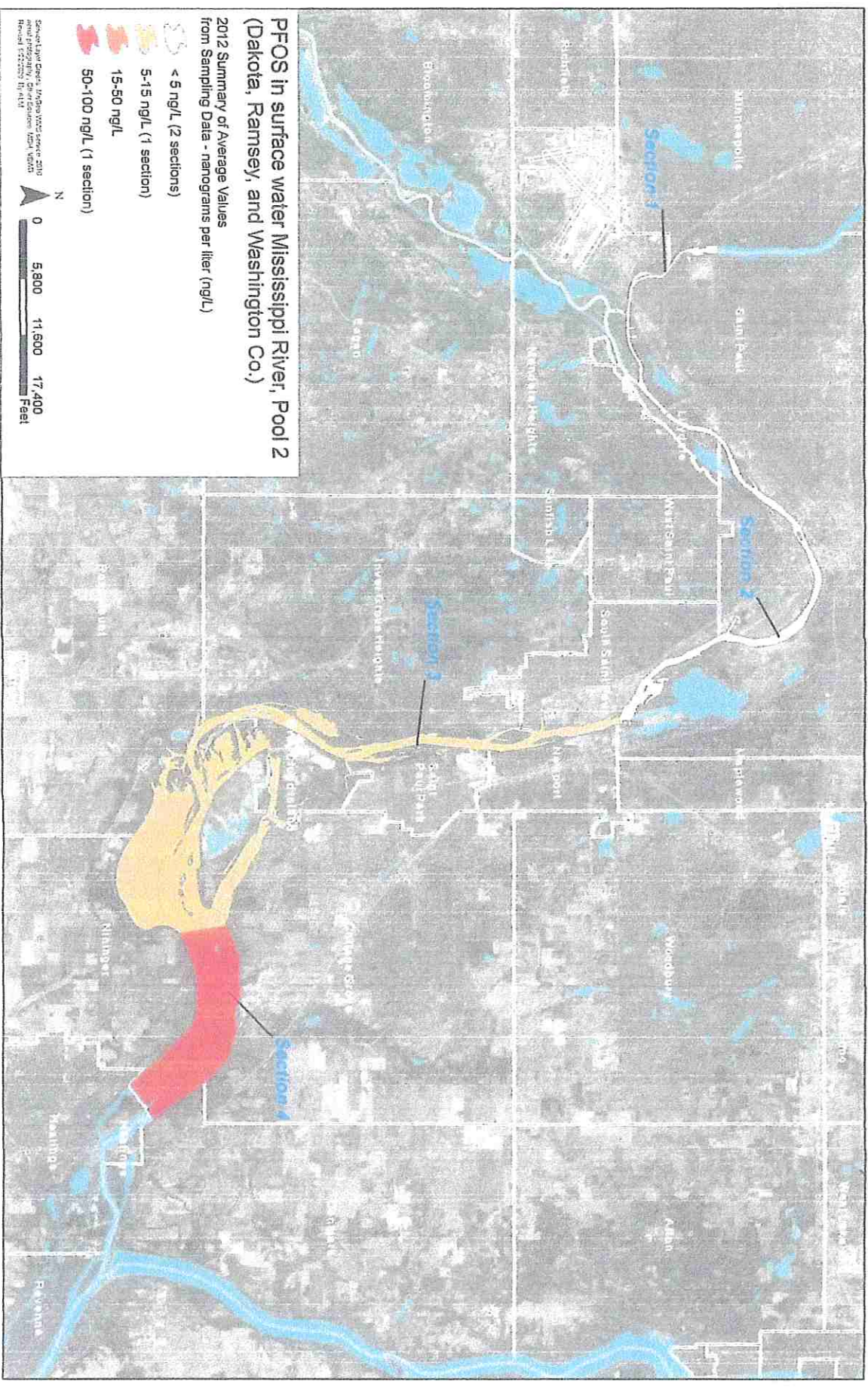
J = Result is less than the RL but greater than or equal to

PFOs in surface water Mississippi River, Pool 2 (Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington Co.)

2012 Summary of Average Values
from Sampling Data - nanograms per liter (ng/L)

-  < 5 ng/L (2 sections)
-  5-15 ng/L (1 section)
-  15-50 ng/L
-  50-100 ng/L (1 section)

Scale: 1 inch = 5,800 feet
 North Arrow
 0 5,800 11,600 17,400 Feet



of the most contaminated areas would probably be a benefit for the lake by capping some of the lesser contaminated underlying sediments. Placement of the sand may cause short-term disturbance and redistribution of the sediment adjacent to the islands during construction, but as long as the possibility of mud waves are managed and the contaminated sediment is not discharged to the Mississippi River, there shouldn't be a long-term concern that the construction of the islands will further contaminate the lake.

- 3) Will the lake's water quality ensure a safe environment for a project that promotes a goal to attract larger and more diverse populations of wildlife?

The answer to this question is still an unknown and obtaining a scientifically defensible conclusion is probably not feasible within the scope and budget of this project. At this point, there is not enough water quality, biological and toxicity data available for the area to clearly demonstrate the risk. But, what is known is that the approximate residence time calculated for July 2015 was a little less than 5 days. This relatively short residence time for the lake suggests that there is probably not enough time for sediment contaminants diffusing into the water column to concentrate up to levels far exceeding what is seen in Pool 2 of the Mississippi River.

