What are PFAS?

“Forever Chemicals”, otherwise known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), are a category of thousands of man-made chemicals (including PFOS, PFOA and GenX). Since these chemicals don’t break down and they can accumulate over time, their presence is extremely persistent in the environment and in our bodies.

PFAS chemicals have been manufactured since the 1940s and highly utilized worldwide in various industries because of their ability to repel oil and water. Some of these everyday items include: paints, nonstick products, food packaging, cleaning products, waterproof clothing, firefighting foams and more. PFAS can directly affect soil, groundwater and surface water when these widely used, everyday items are taken to landfills where they breakdown and leach into the soil, water and air. According to the United States Environmental Protections Agency, there is evidence that “continued exposure above specific levels to certain PFAS may lead to adverse health effects”.

A Scientific Solution

WaterTectonics has been brought in to investigate and perform testing, to provide on-site treatment, and service for industrial wastewater and runoff water contaminated with PFAS. A solution to address each one of these applications began, like all WaterTectonics projects do, with a scientific evaluation and assessment starting with our environmental staff and water solutions laboratory.

The first step is standardized treatability testing to determine the best water treatment approach, equipment needed and level of servicing the client could expect. This step is essential given complex water chemistry and varying water streams, especially when contaminants other than PFAS are also in the sample.

Solutions to scientifically meet our client’s specific PFAS water quality goals can be found and aren’t as cost prohibitive as you might think. If you’re currently facing a PFAS/PFOS/PFOA or GenX water contamination issue WaterTectonics can lend a helping hand to assess and navigate a specific solution for your water stream. Rental equipment for pilots is available as well as service team members to operate equipment both in the field and remotely using our EagleEye software platform. This platform allows our engineering team to view real-time water quality data, error messages, and HMI screens to help with troubleshooting systems remotely.

If you’d like more information on our PFAS solutions, treatability testing, pilot equipment or remote monitoring capabilities, reach out to contactme@watertectonics.com.