



# Regenerable IX Resin for PFAS Treatment - *4+ Years Later ... What We've Learned...*



Montrose Environmental Group

RemTech 2023  
October 11, 2023

**Paul Newman, M.Sc.**  
*Market Sector Lead - Defence*

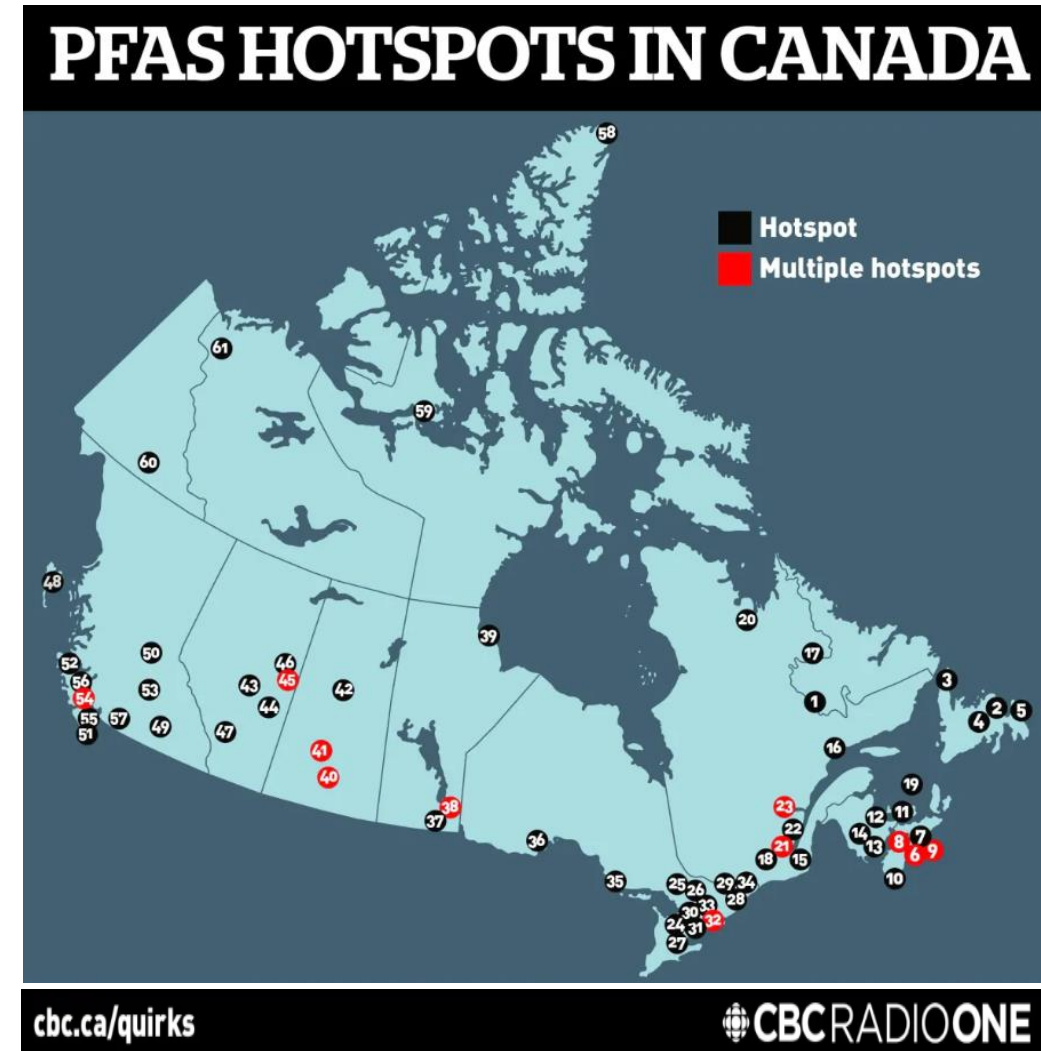
**David Kempisty, Ph.D., P.E.**  
*Director, Emerging Contaminants*

# The PFAS Challenge

- PFAS substances are everywhere
- Few treatment case studies available

## A Proven Solution: Regenerable IX

- Effective and sustainable
- Minimizes waste
- Scalable
- Compounding cost savings over time
- Future-proof

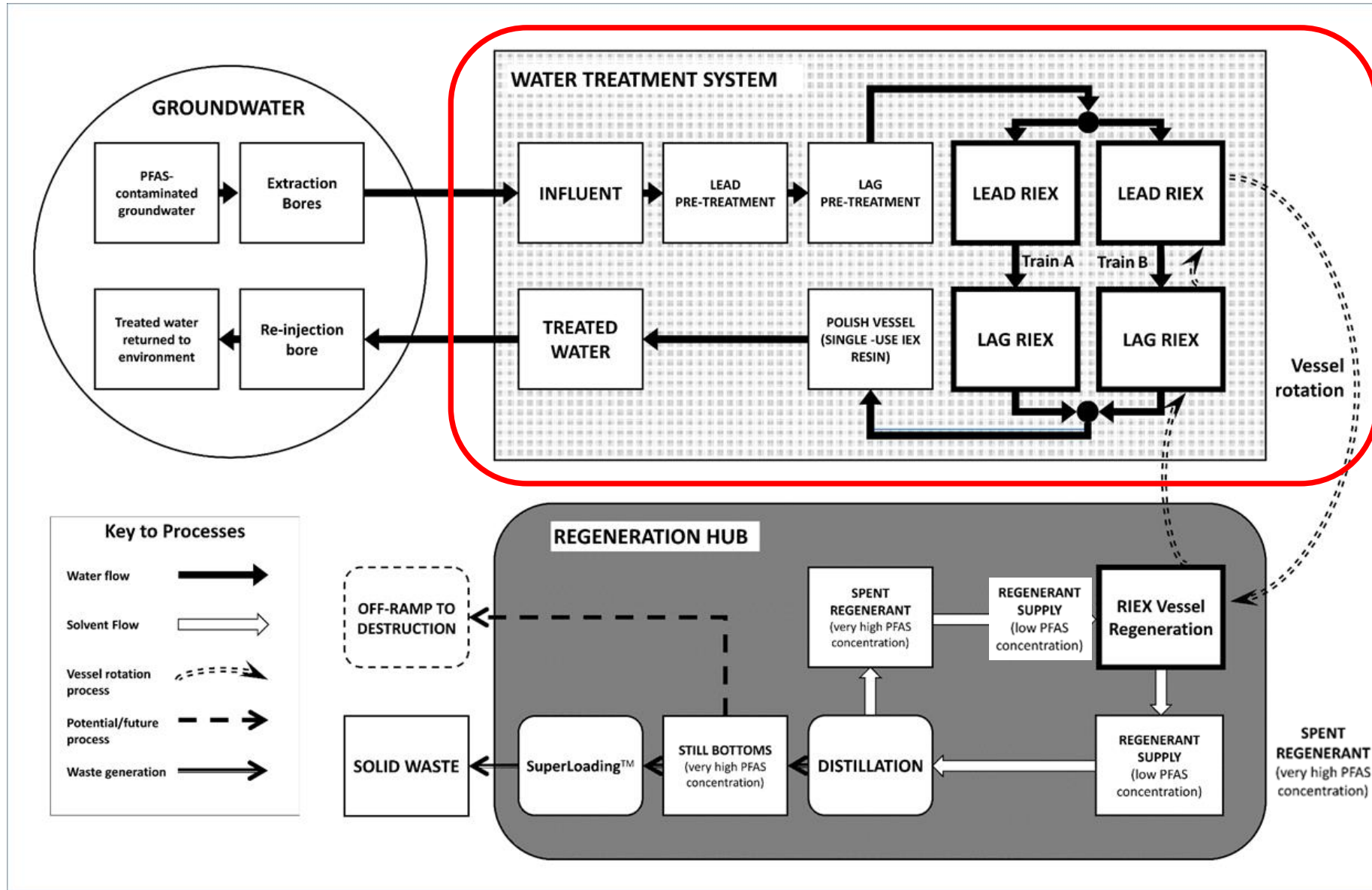


# Agenda

- Regenerable IX process overview
- Case study – RAAF Base
  - Treatment effectiveness
  - Resin capacity trends
  - Waste generated
  - Leveraging data to optimize performance
- What we've learned – is Regenerable IX a silver bullet?

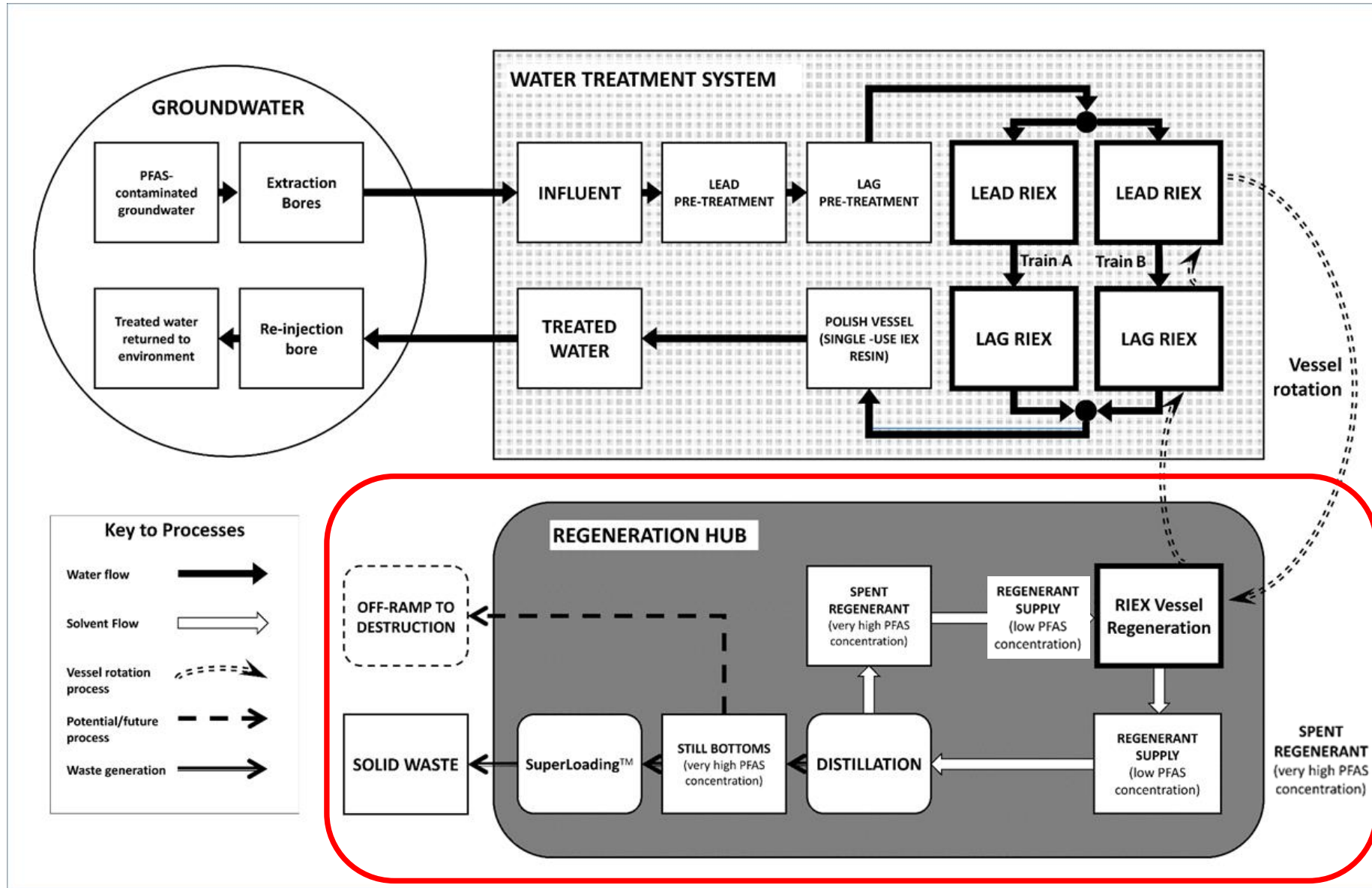


# Regenerable IX Process

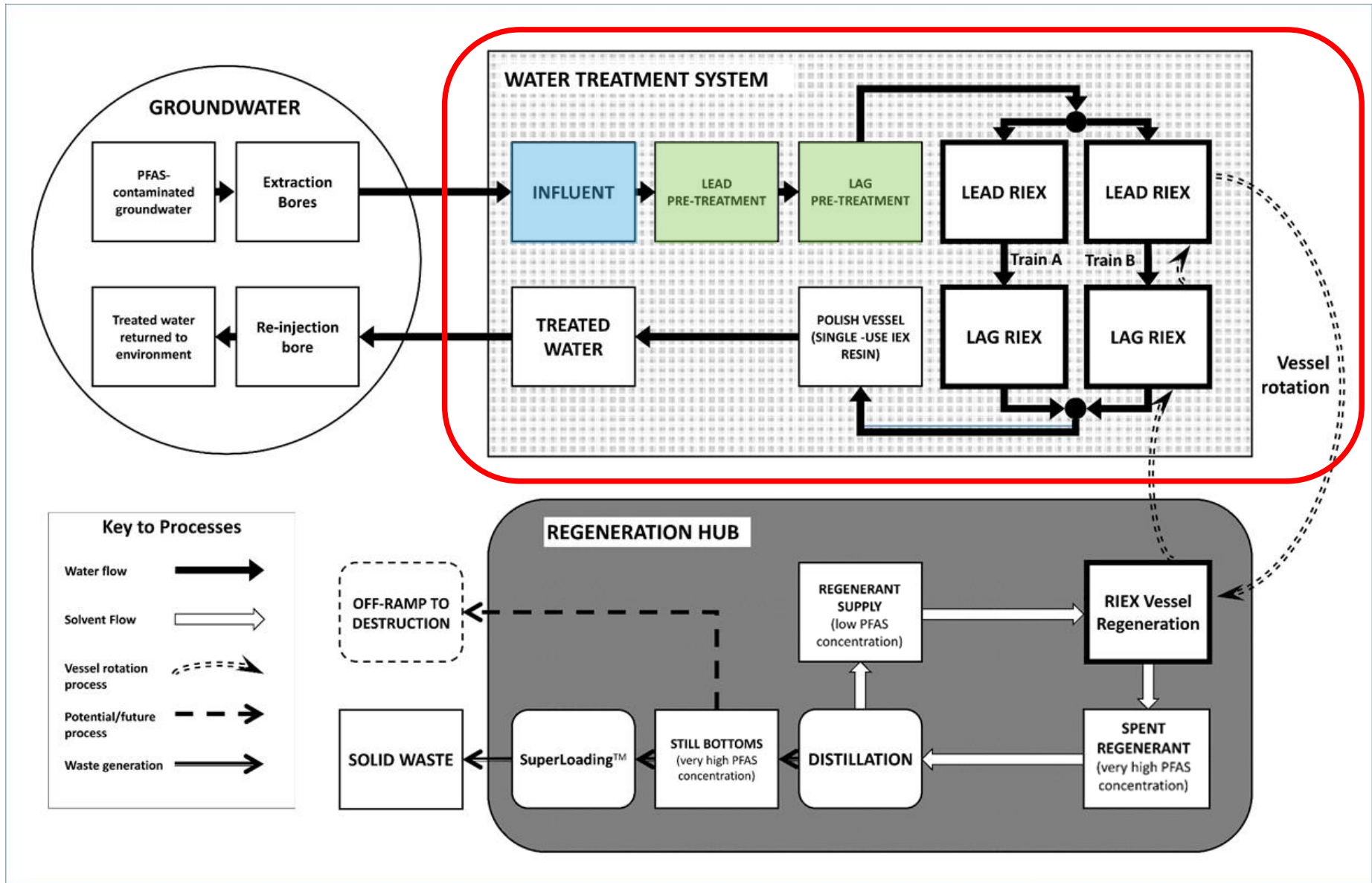


Water Treatment

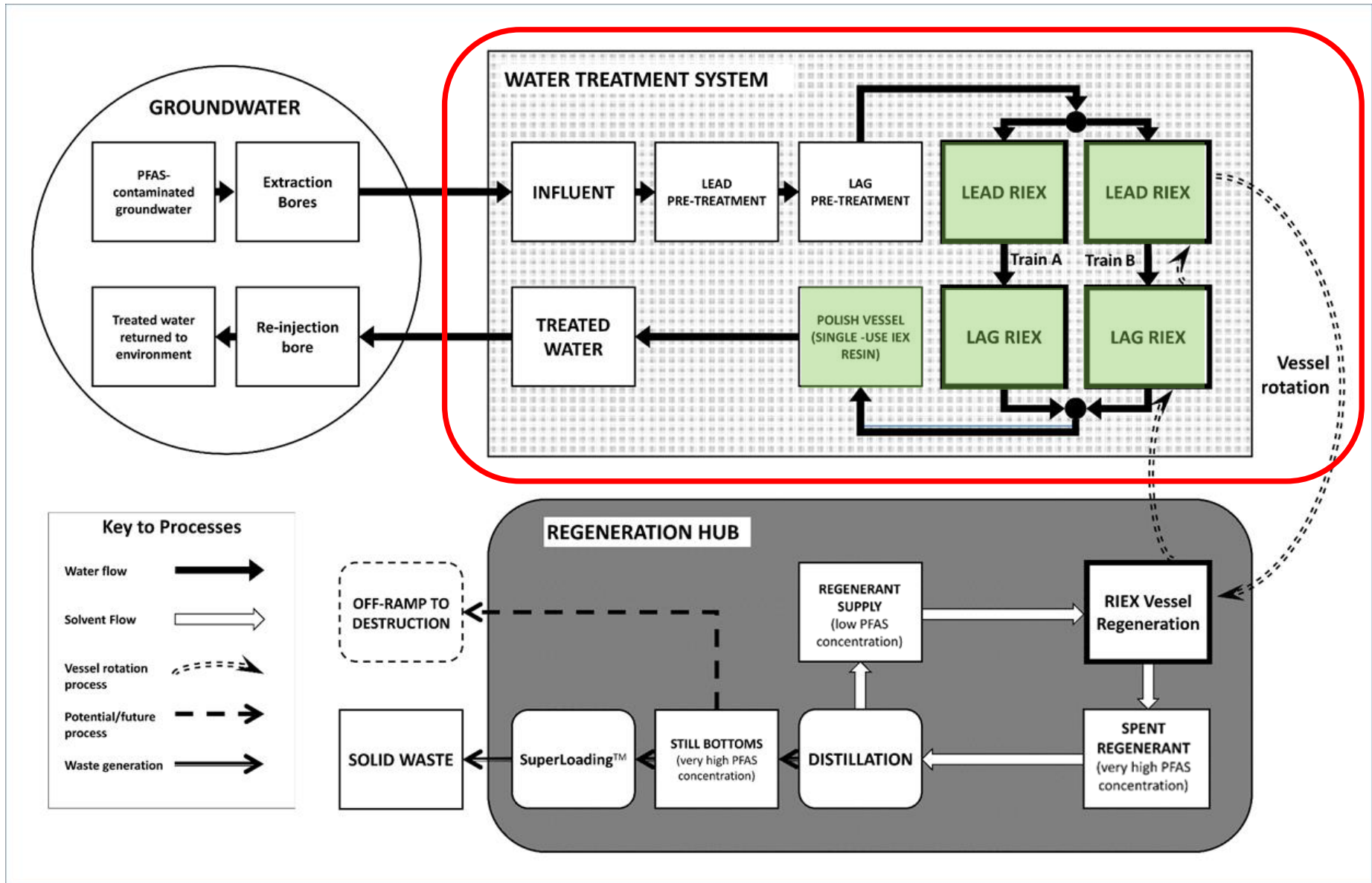
# Regenerable IX Process



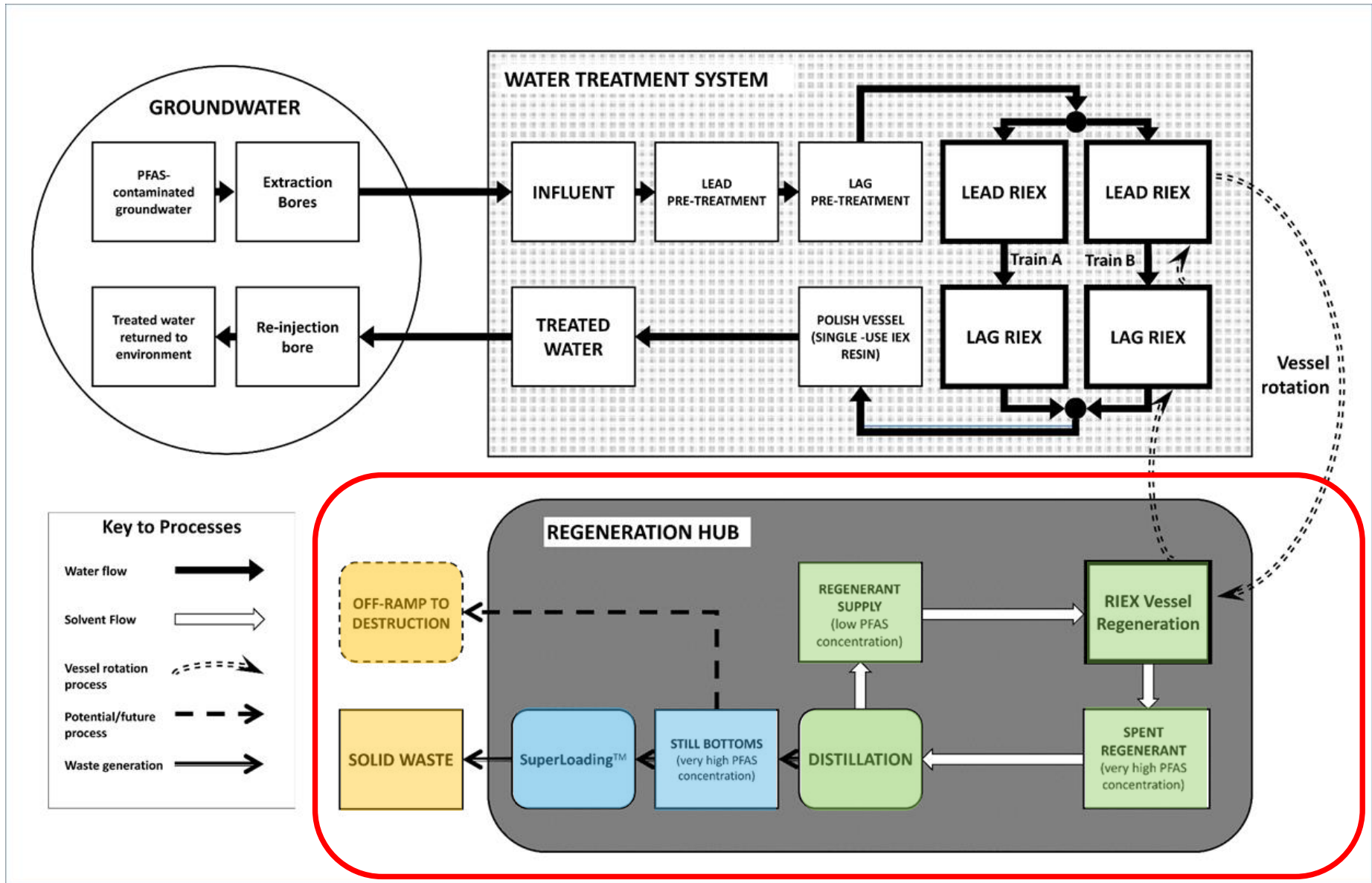
# Stage 1: Pre-treatment



# Stage 2: REIX Treatment

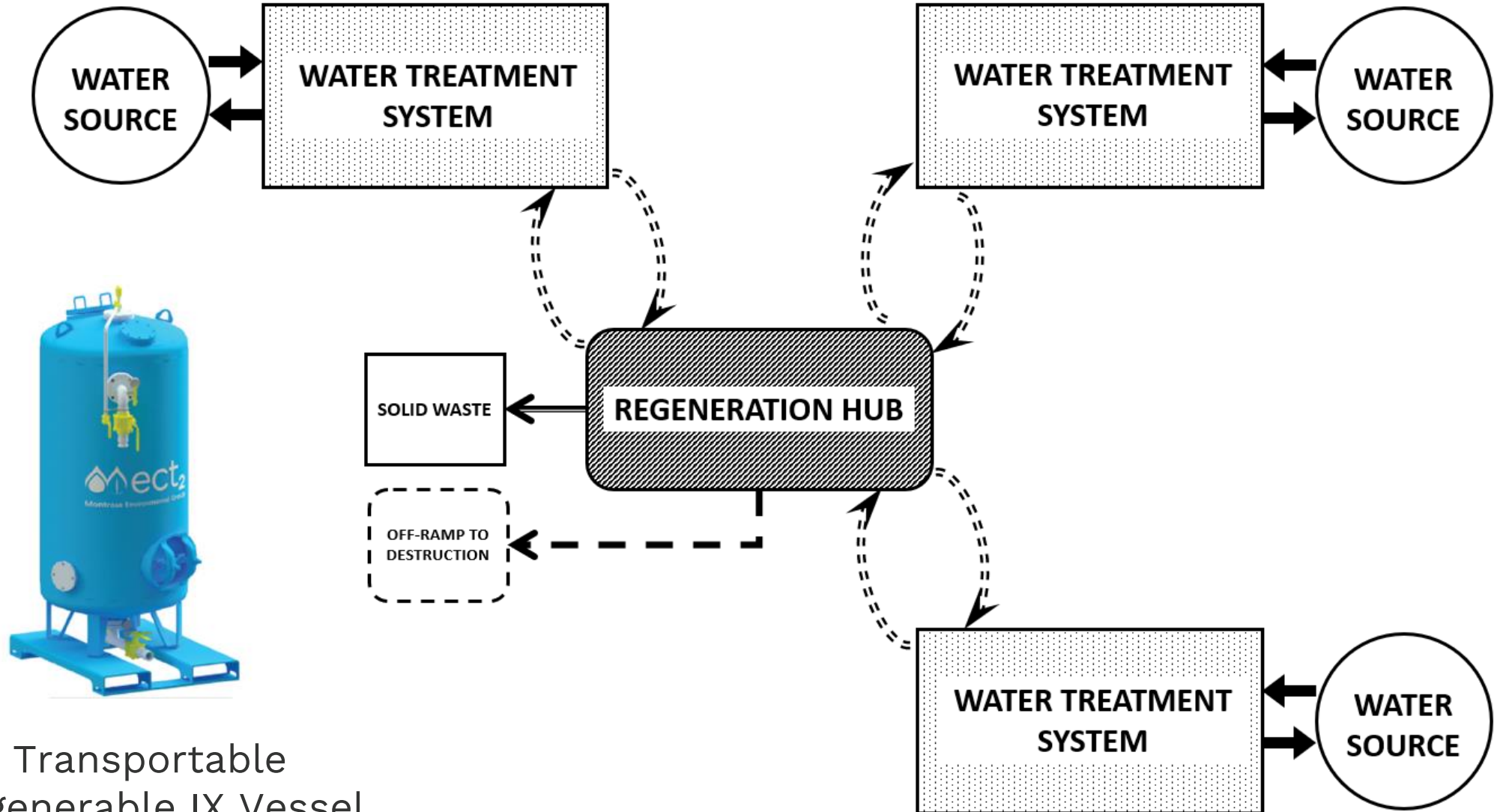


# Stage 3: Resin Regeneration





# Regenerable IX Hub-and-Spoke Model



Transportable  
Regenerable IX Vessel



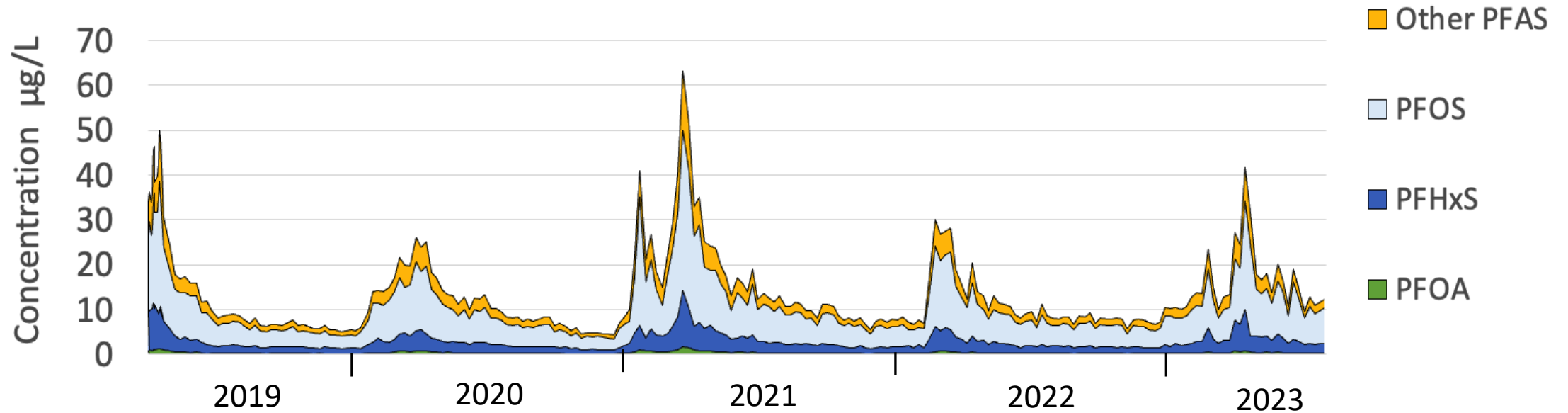
# Regenerable IX Case Study

## RAAF Base, AU

- Legacy AFFF-impacted groundwater
- 12.6 L/s (200 gpm) treatment since 2019
- Influent:  $\Sigma$ PFAS up to 60  $\mu\text{g/L}$ ; mean: 14  $\mu\text{g/L}$
- Treatment criteria: Australian HBGVs
  - PFOS + PFHxS 0.07  $\mu\text{g/L}$
  - PFOA 0.56  $\mu\text{g/L}$
- 26 regenerations
- 19+ kg of PFAS removed



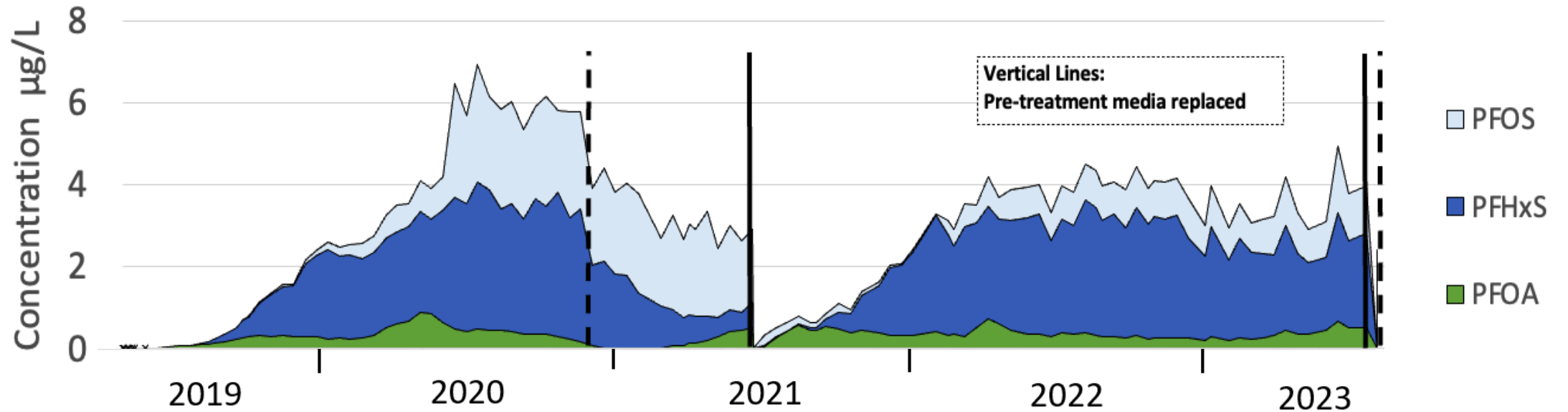
# Influent Concentrations to Water Treatment System



High influent concentrations → Consider regenerable resin



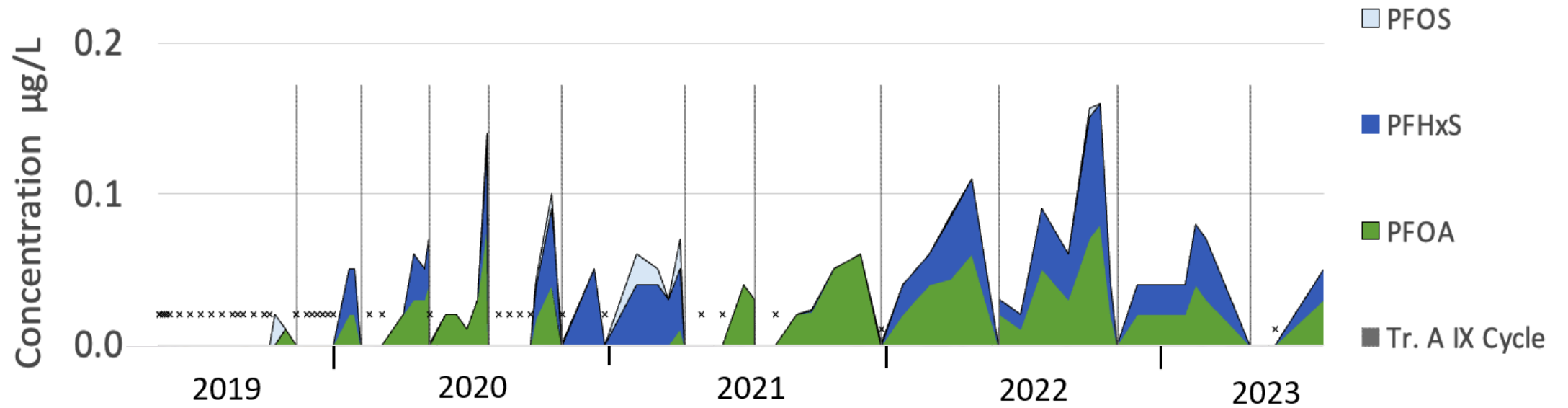
# Influent Concentrations to REIX System



Pre-treatment removes some PFAS – goal is to protect the resin



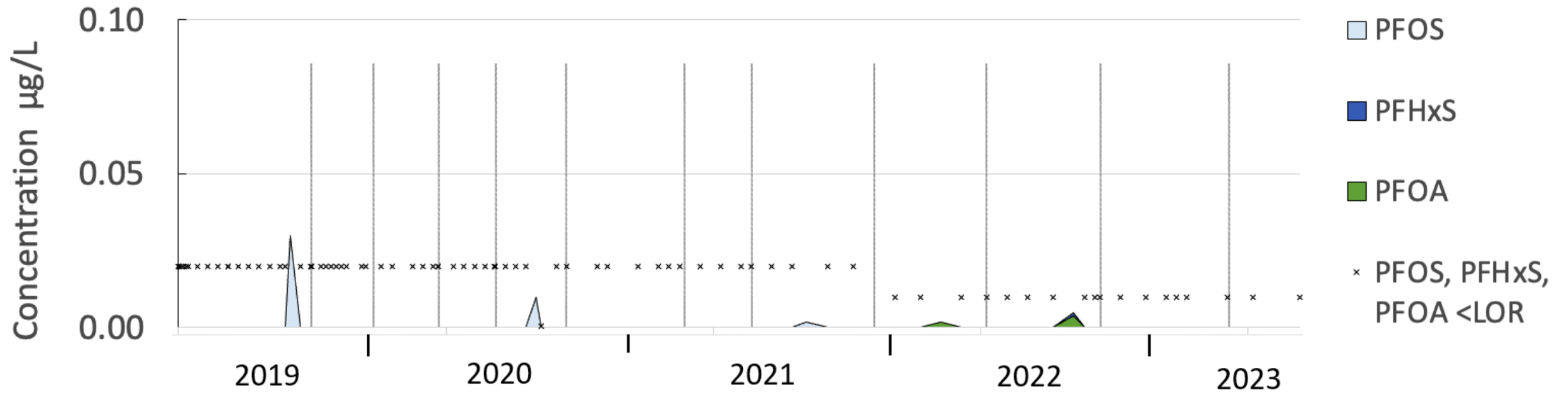
# Effluent from Lead IX Vessel



Concentrations < 200 ppt after first lead RIEG vessel



# Effluent from Lag Vessel

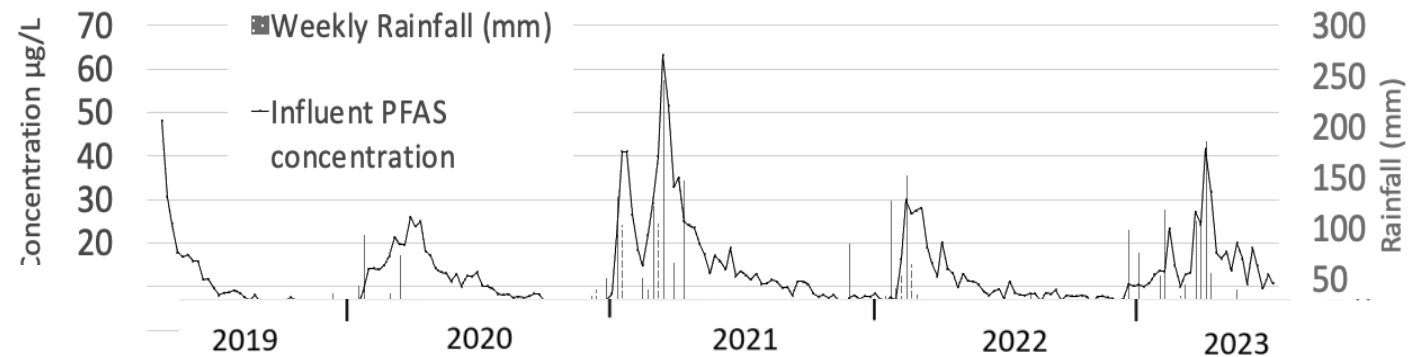
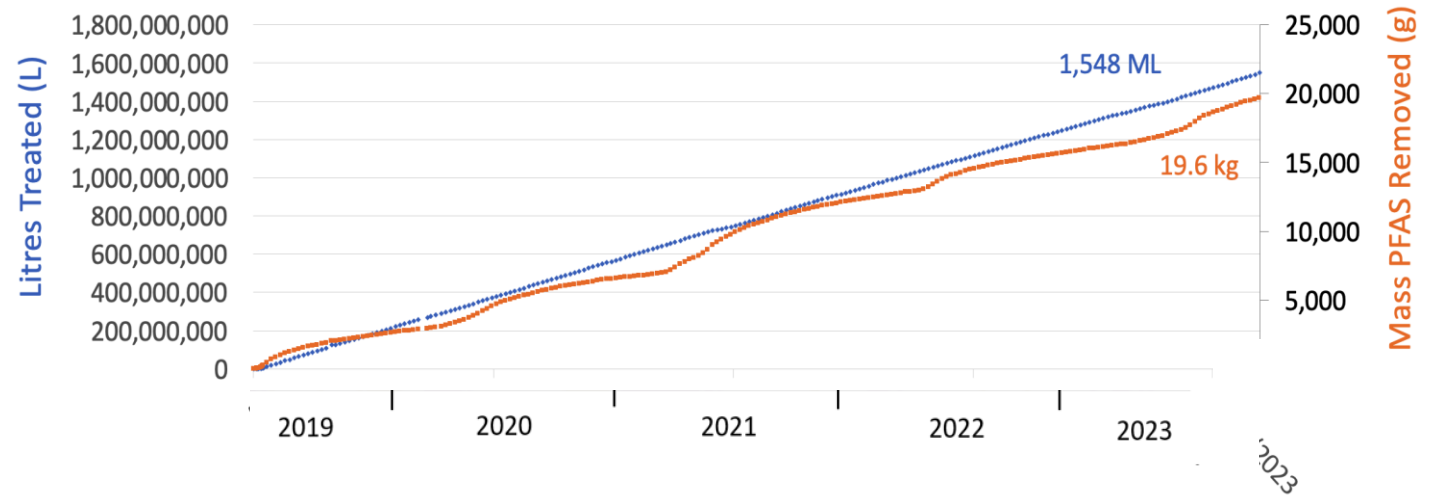


**Consistent: 100% compliance with treatment objective;  
nearly non-detect in all sampling events**



# Consistent Performance

- Volume water treated
- PFAS removal
  - Pre-treatment media
  - Hydrogeological areas of greater concentration
  - Seasonal variation



# Regeneration Efficiency

- No obvious media degradation
- No increased regeneration frequency
- Consistent PFAS mass recovered

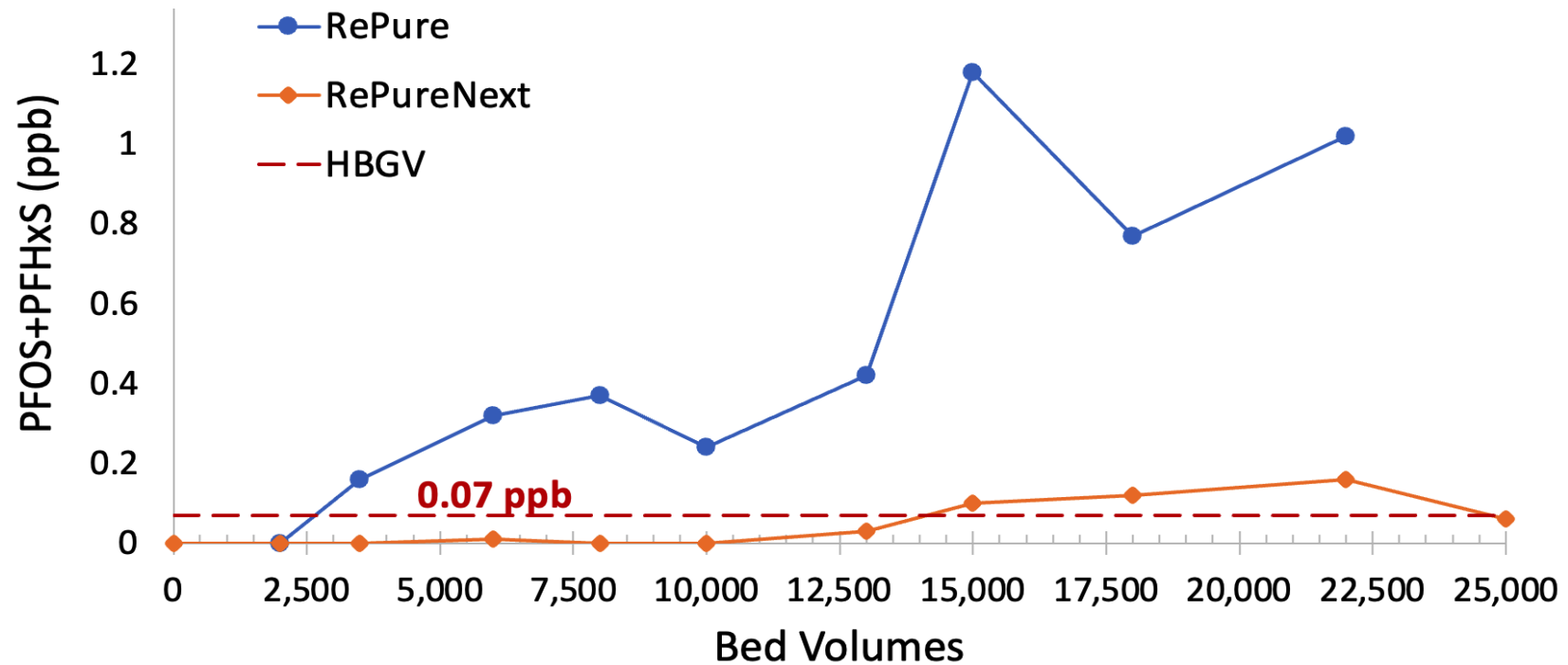
Criteria	5-Cycle Average	5-Cycle Standard Deviation
Treatment Days	245	56
Volume Water Treated (ML)	128	26
PFAS Removed (g)	330	112
PFAS Recovered (g)	369	173
Mass Balance (removed-recovered)	-39	77





# Optimization Efforts Continue

## New media evaluation



2.7x capacity with RePureNext;  
>4x capacity for HBGV PFAS of interest



# Investigation efforts

## Microplastics

*Are we putting microplastics into the environment by with technology involving large vessels of plastic media?*



FIG. 2 Water Sampling Apparatus for Pressurized Systems

ASTM D8332-20  
Standard Practice for Collection of Water Samples with High, Medium, or Low Suspended Solids for Identification and Quantification of Microplastic Particles and Fibers

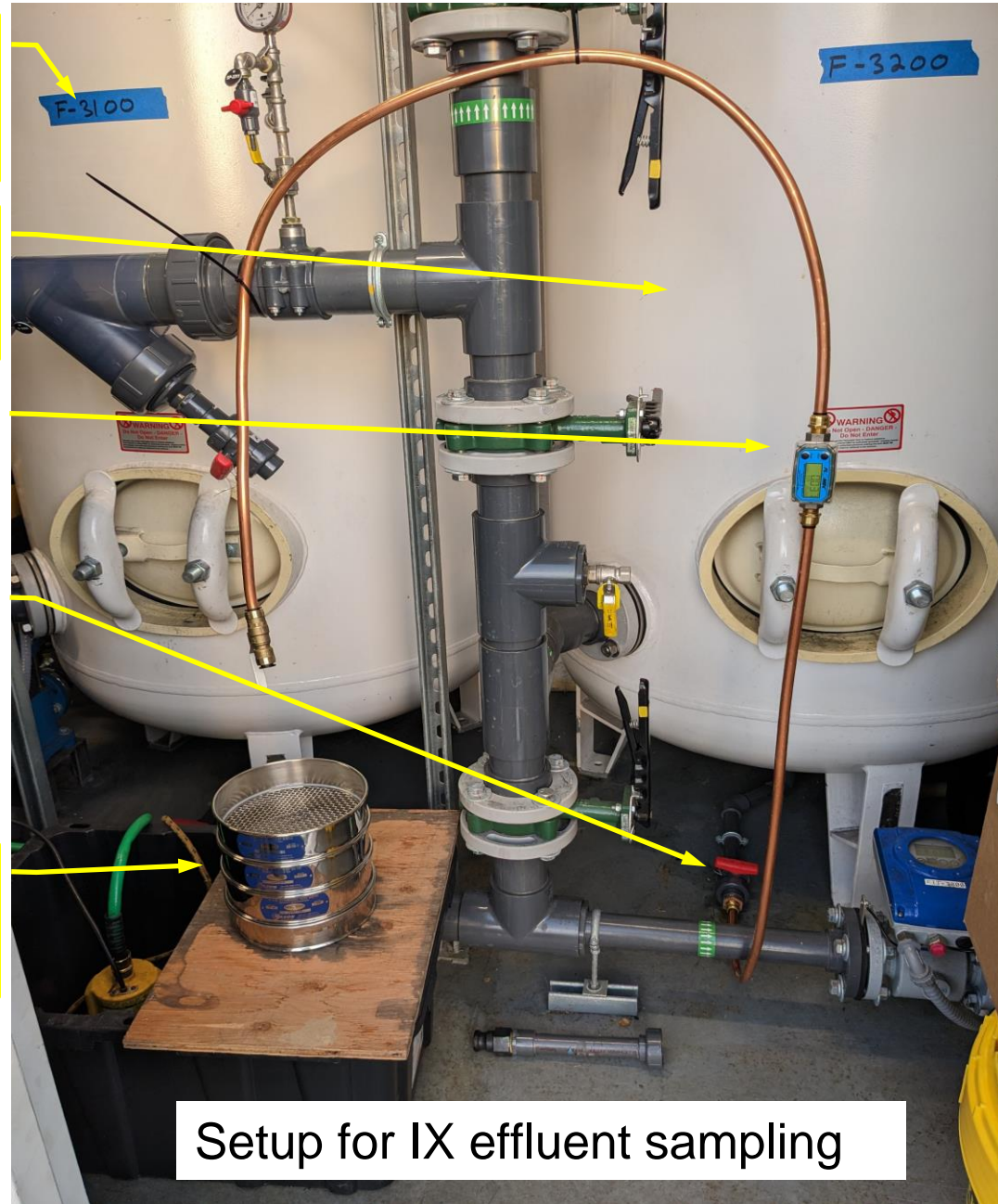
Lead IX Vessel F-3100

Lag IX Vessel F-3200

Flow Meter

Sample from drain

Sieves



Setup for IX effluent sampling



# Investigation efforts

## Microplastics

Criteria	AU (Site #1)	US (Site #2 / Lab #1)	US (Site #2 / Lab #2)
Microplastic count (microplastics/L)	27 / 34	0.6 / 0	1.1 / 1.0
Sample collected	Grab	ASTM 8332-20	
Analysis performed	Microscopy/LDIR	PLM/Raman	Microscopy/LDIR
Plastics identified	No polystyrenic / PMMA		
Resin sample match	No	N/A	No

Findings do not suggest MP contribution to the environment from two IEX treatment locations



# What We've Accomplished

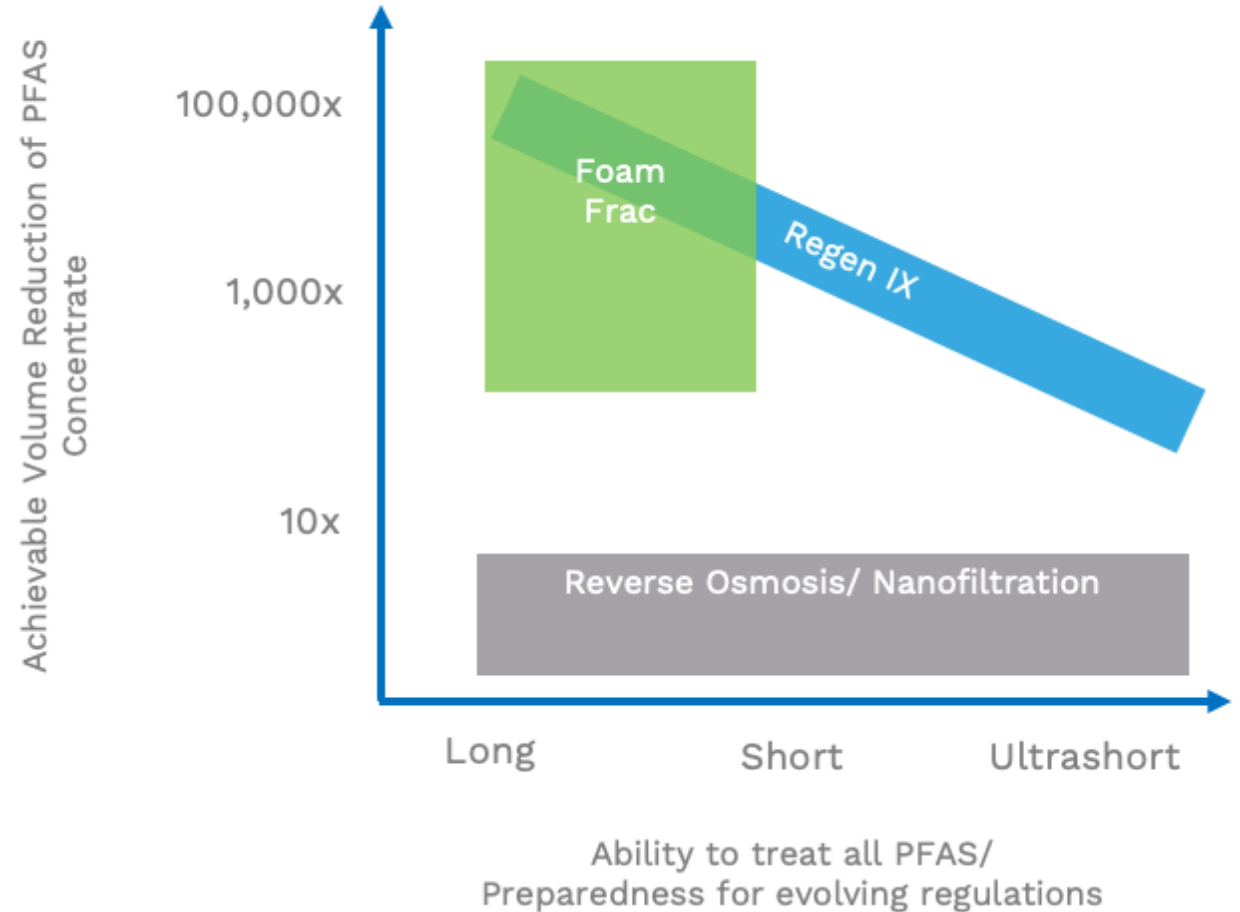


- Higher concentrations; longer treatment times; bundled locations
- Ancillary Benefits
  - ESG metrics, reduced future liability, waste minimization



# What We've Learned

- Consistently works (PFAS removal and resin regeneration)
- Not a silver bullet
- Accurate design parameters
- Optimization continues
- Future-proof
  - Tightening regulations
  - Off-ramp for destruction



# The Future of Environmental Solutions





# Thank you – Questions?

**Paul Newman, M.Sc.**

Market Sector Lead – Defence

407.947.4060

panewman@ect2.com

**David Kempisty, Ph.D., P.E.**

Director, Emerging Contaminants

720.891.0997

dakempisty@ect2.com