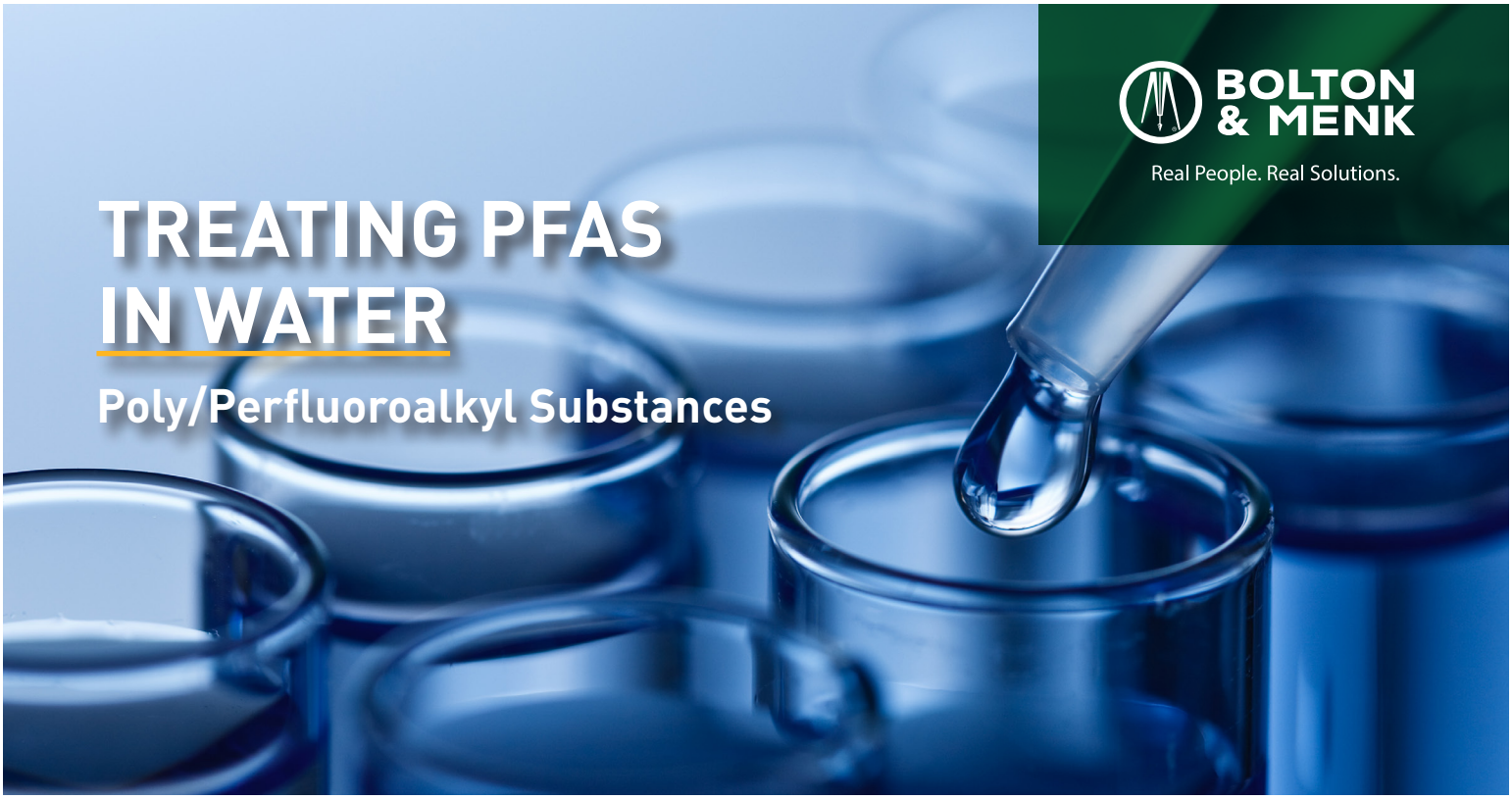

BOLTON & MENK

Real People. Real Solutions.

TREATING PFAS IN WATER

Poly/Perfluoroalkyl Substances

What is it?

PFAS are a group of chemicals that have been linked to cancer and other health concerns. There are more than 10,000 known individual PFAS compounds with similar chemical and physical properties. Rather than refer to each chemical individually, the public often refer to them as PFAS. PFAS compounds are entirely synthetic and can be found in everything from non-stick pans to rain jackets to firefighting foam. While many companies voluntarily phased out PFAS, the compounds are extremely difficult to degrade. The only way to destroy PFAS is incineration at temperatures above 1,830 °F. Because of this, PFAS can be detected in areas where they have not been used in many years, or possibly ever, labeling them the "forever chemical."

Why You Should Care

There are no national regulations in place for PFAS contamination in water systems; however, the EPA released proposals to regulate PFAS in drinking water by spring 2024. These rules include a MCL (maximum contaminant level) of 4.0 for PFOS and PFOA (two PFAS compounds linked to cancer), as well as limits for 4 other PFAS compounds—PFHxS, GenX, PFNA, and PFBS. Once these rules are published, public water systems will need to take action to lower PFAS levels that are over drinking water limits. Current water treatment methods cannot remove PFAS; unless a system targets PFAS, it most likely will not be removed.

Why Bolton & Menk

- Help clients understand PFAS testing status and results
- Help determine if clients are at risk for PFAS contamination
- Help clients respond if PFAS are found in their community
- Design and implement PFAS treatment
- Develop and lead community education campaigns around PFAS
- Support with funding as it becomes available

Clients should:

- Know their PFAS testing status
- Know whether their system is over any current or proposed limits
- Determine if major PFAS sources are in or near their systems (The big four are military sites, airports, landfills, and industrial sites)

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