

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# DNR PFAS UPDATE

Nate Willis, PE

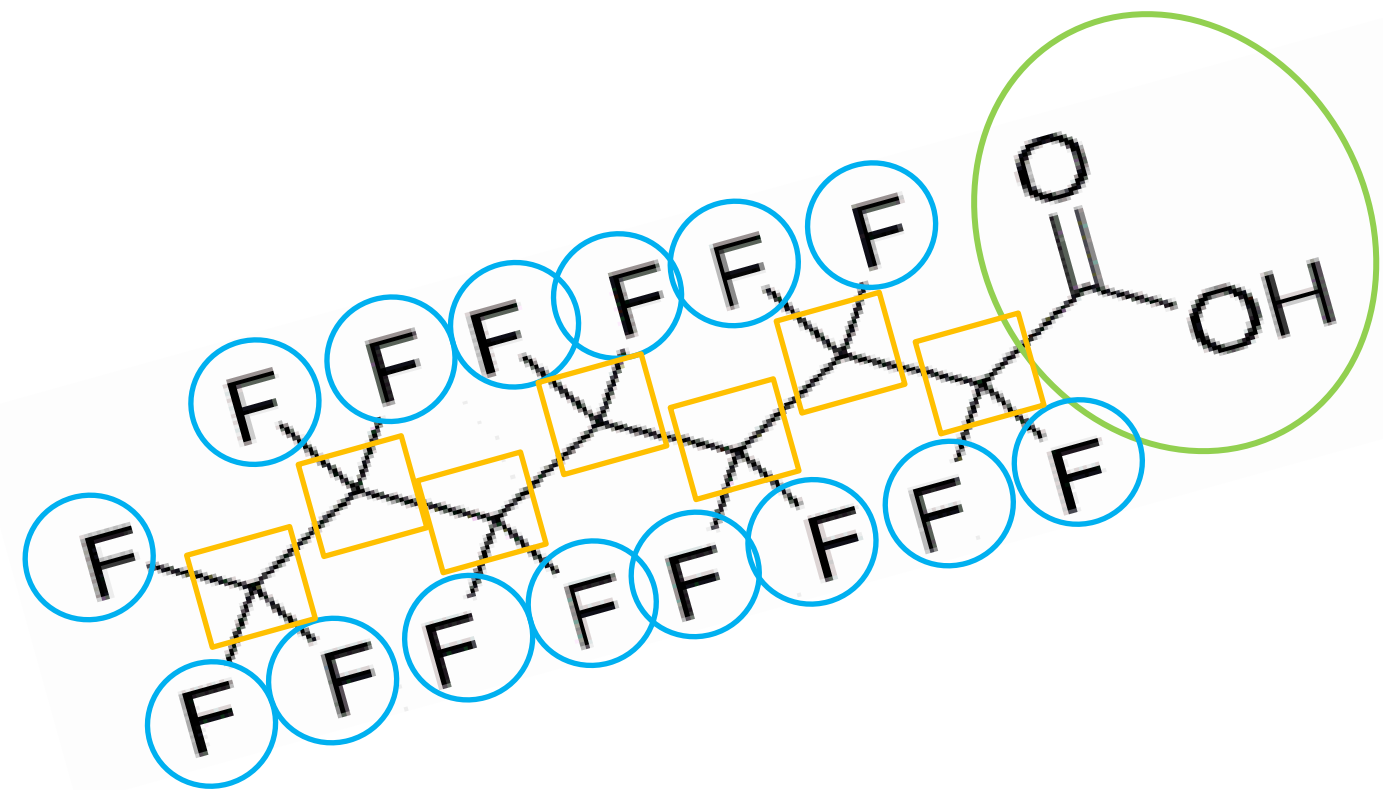
Spring Biosolids Symposium

March 17, 2026



# AGENDA

- PFAS Legislation Update (AB 131 / SB 128)
- PFOA/PFOA Effluent Data
- Land Application PFAS Update
  - PFAS Sludge/Biosolids Data



# PFAS LEGISLATION UPDATE



# 2025 AB 131 / SB 128

- Creates:
  - PFAS Community Grant Program
    - \$79.5 Million
  - Airport and Industrial Processor PFAS Grant Program
    - \$5.2 Million
  - Expanded Well Compensation Grant Program
    - \$35 Million



# 2025 AB 131 / SB 128

- PFAS Community Grant Program:
  - For Municipalities that undertake the following:
    - Sample private water wells
    - Install public drinking water treatment systems
    - Create a new public water system (if PFAS detected in private wells)
    - Remedial action to treat/dispose/remove PFAS contamination
  - PFAS sampling:
    - In public/private/tribal schools and childcare facilities not served by a public water system
    - High cap irrigation wells/soil on ag property
    - Wastewater/biosolids intended for landspreading or to identify the source of PFAS
    - Leachate, groundwater, or private wells part of monitoring plan at municipally-owned or operated solid waste landfills

# 2025 AB 131 / SB 128

- Spill Law Exemption, does not apply to:
  - A person, business owner, or entity that generated wastewater or industrial waste or owns or owned the property on which industrial waste was spread
  - If the person caused a discharge of PFAS because of an activity or use of the property that was not agricultural or residential.



# PFOA/PFOS EFFLUENT DATA



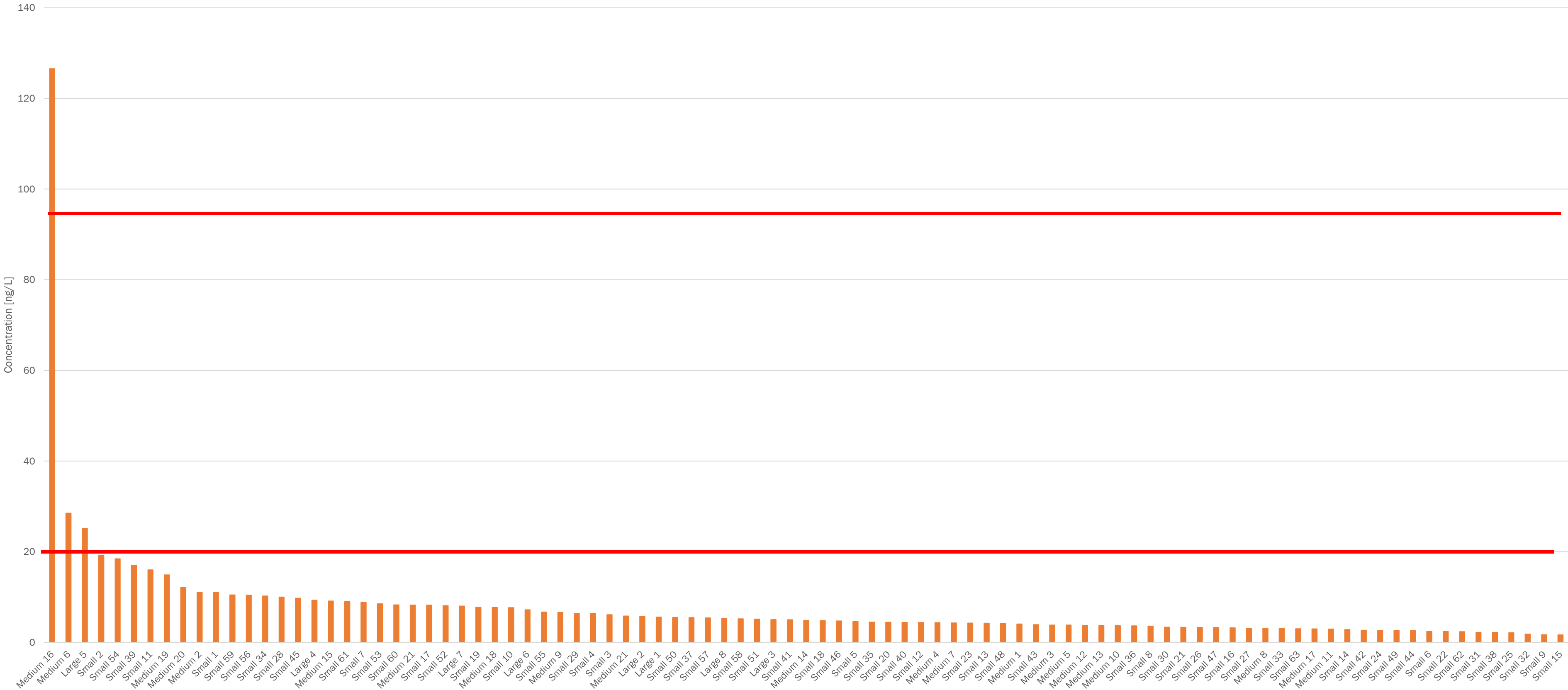
# Facilities in Wisconsin with PFOA/PFOS Effluent Monitoring (As of 02/01/2026)

- 107\* POTWs:
  - 34 Majors (>1 MGD)
  - 73 Minors (<1 MGD)
- 33\* Industries:
  - 12 Pulp/Paper Manufacturers
  - 7 Power Generators
  - 2 Food Processors
  - 2 Metal Finishers
  - 2 Research Facilities
  - 1 Airport
  - 1 Chemical Manufacturer
  - 2 Metal Fabricator
  - 1 Fire Products Manufacturer
  - 1 Industrial Landfill
  - 1 Superfund Site
  - 1 Refinery

**\*NOTE: This does not mean there is collected PFOA/PFOS effluent data for all these facilities, some facilities haven't discharged under the reissued permit, and some facilities' permits haven't been effective long enough for a sampling result to be submitted.**

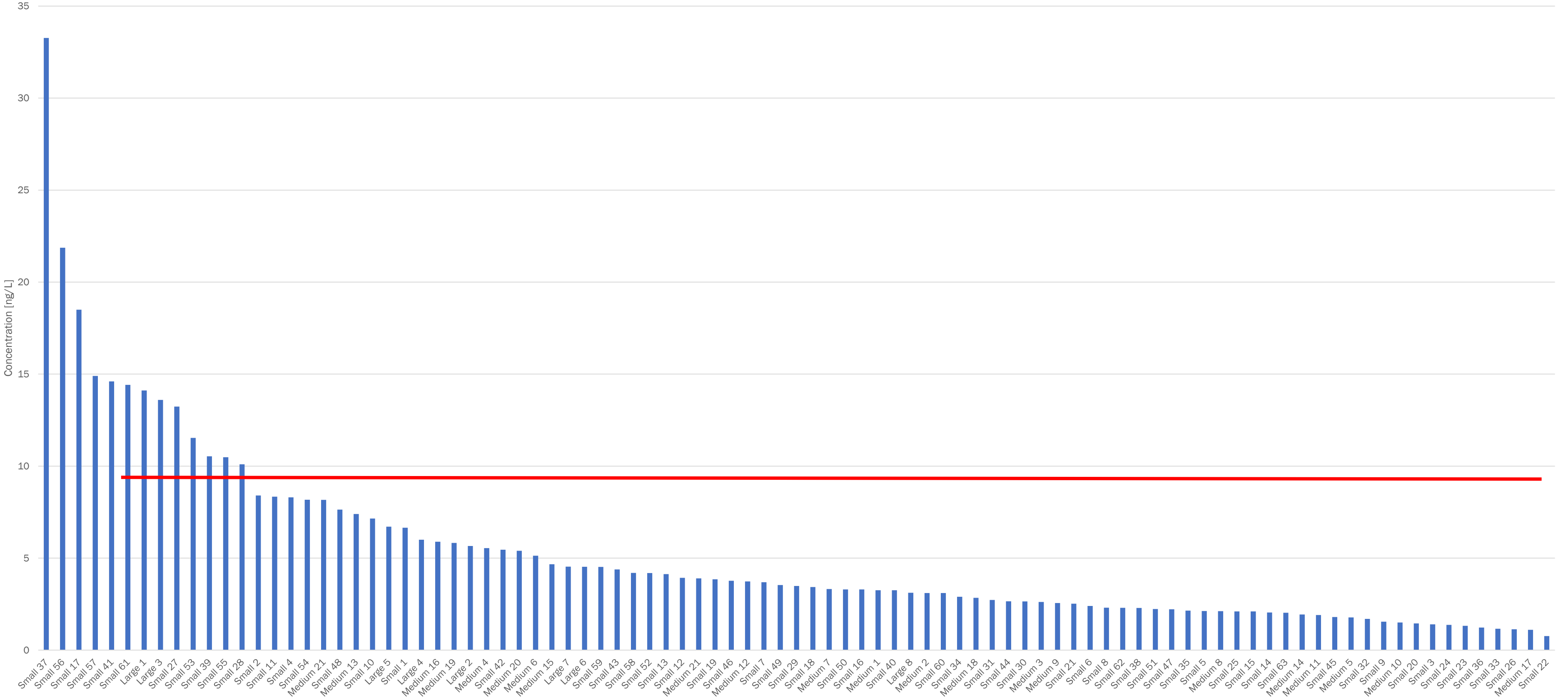
# PFOA/PFOS Statewide Effluent Data (as of 02/01/2026)

POTWs Average Effluent PFOA



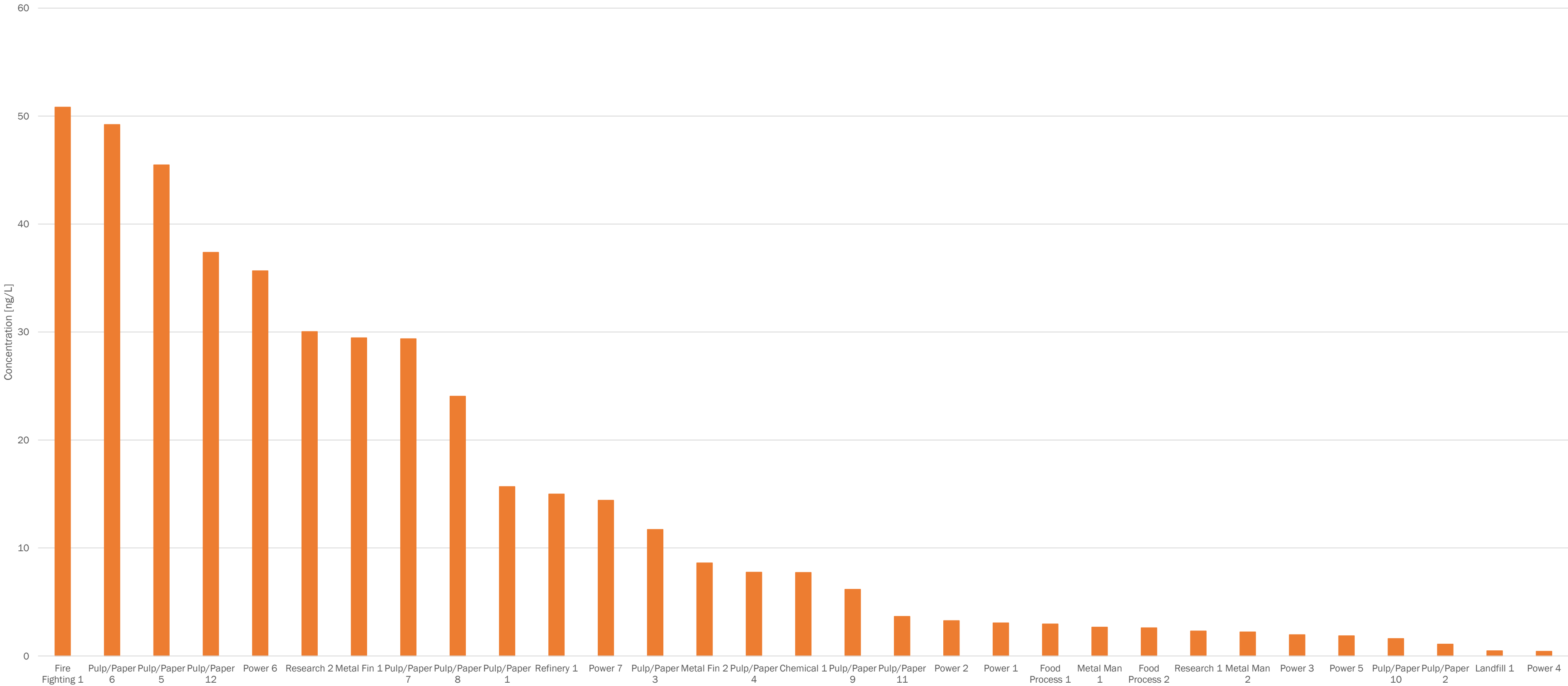
# PFOA/PFOS Statewide Effluent Data (as of 02/01/2026)

POTW Average Effluent PFOS



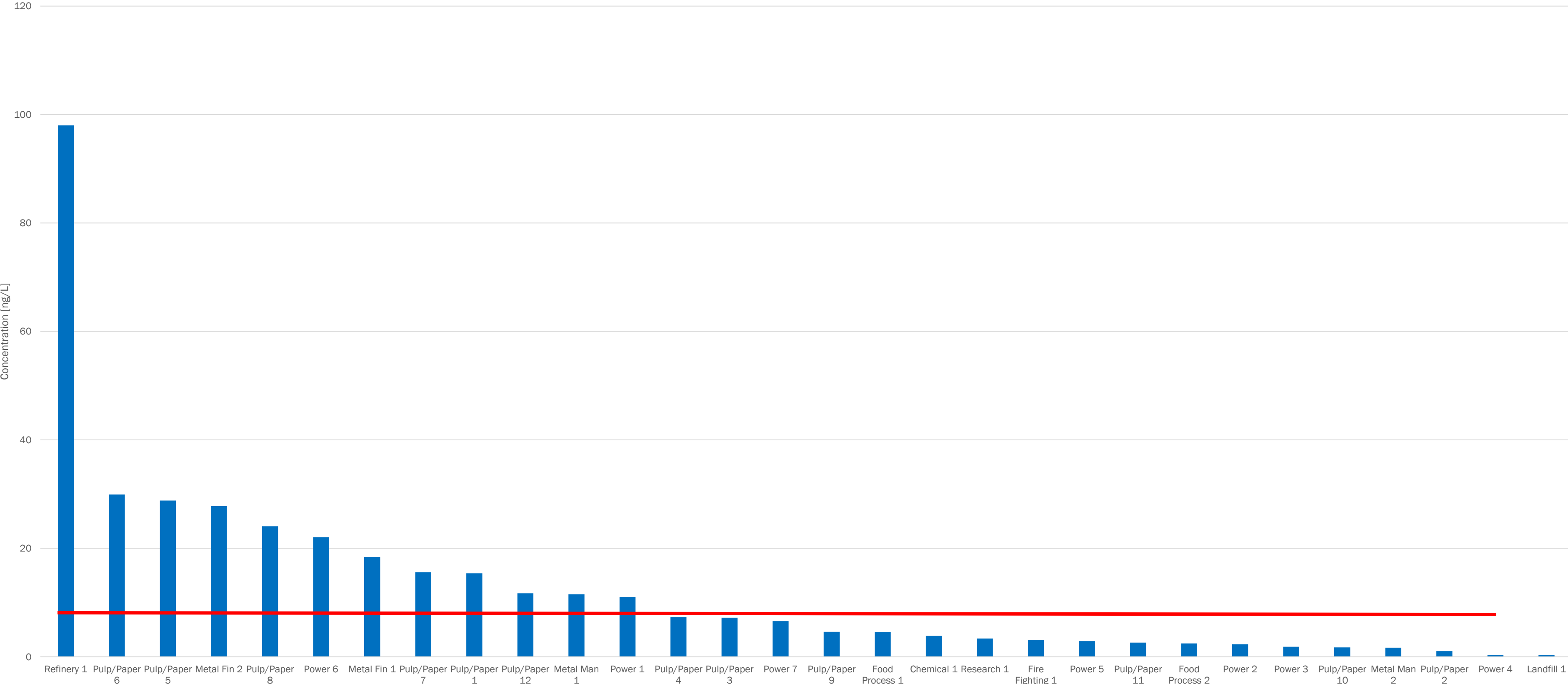
# PFOA/PFOS Statewide Effluent Data (as of 02/01/2026)

Industrial Effluent Average PFOA Results



# PFOA/PFOS Statewide Effluent Data (as of 02/01/2026)

Industrial Effluent Average PFOS Results



# PFOA/PFOS WI Effluent Data Snapshot

- Based on average reported values:
  - PFOA:
    - 3 POTWs discharging > applicable criteria
    - Zero industries discharging > applicable criteria
  - PFOS:
    - 38% of POTWs **w/ monitoring in WPDES permit** discharging > 8 ng/L
    - 42% of industries **w/ monitoring in WPDES permit** discharging > 8 ng/L
      - 50% of pulp/paper manufacturers discharging > 8 ng/L (6/12)
      - 29% of power generators discharging > 8 ng/L (2/7)

# Land Application PFAS Update



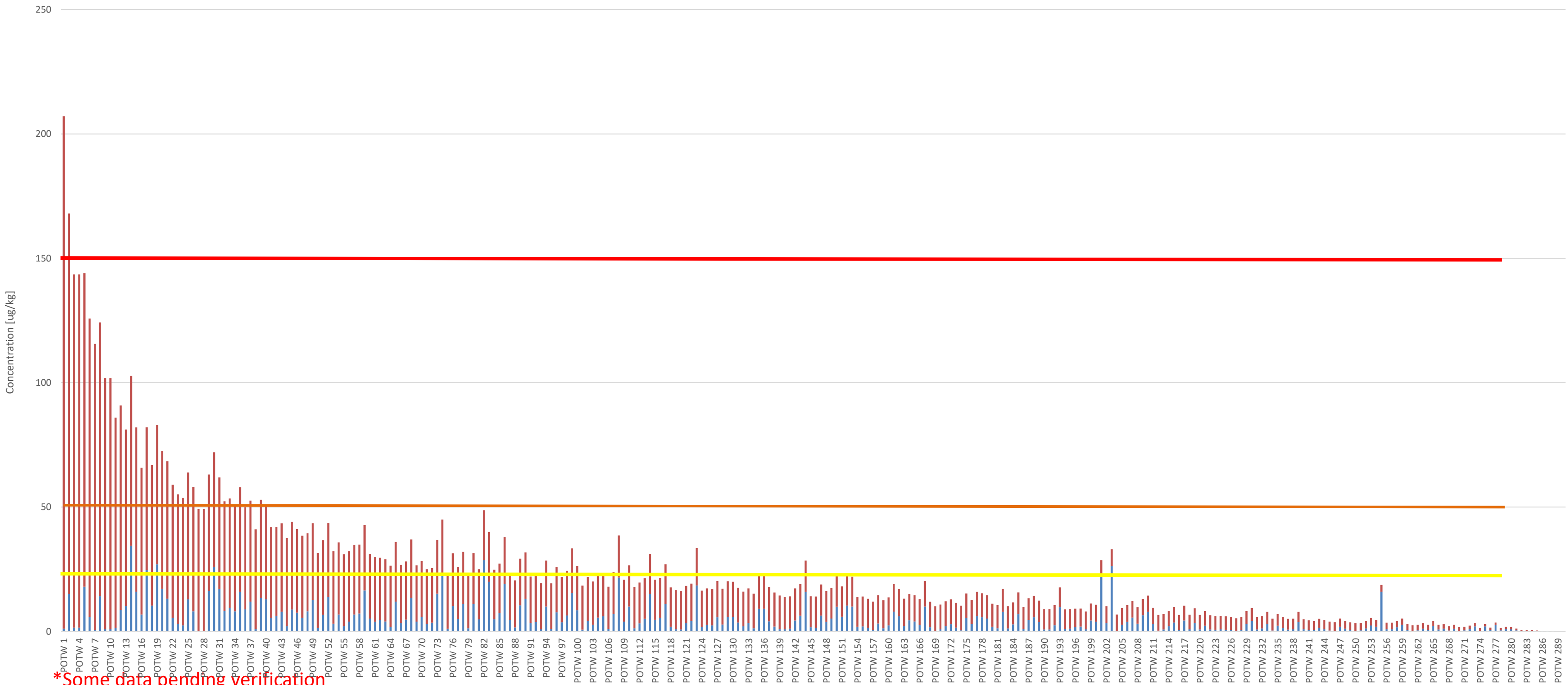
# Current WI Interim Strategy (Sewage Sludges and Industrial Sludges)

- Sets following thresholds/actions (combined PFOA + PFOS concentrations):
  - **<20 ug/kg (ppb)**: Land apply per normal permitted approach.
  - **$20 \leq x < 50$  ug/kg (ppb)**: Implement source reduction measures, no reduction in application rate recommended.
  - **$50 \leq x < 150$  ug/kg (ppb)**: Implement source reduction measures. Reduce application rate to 1.5 dry tons per acre or submit an alternative risk mitigation strategy in an updated sludge management plan prior to land application. Seek alternative disposal options.
  - **$\geq 150$  ug/kg (ppb)**: Find alternative means of disposal of biosolids; DNR will no longer approve new or transfer land application sites. Future permit reissuances may explicitly include land application prohibition based on PFOA/PFOS concentrations.

# PFOA/PFOS Statewide POTW Sludge Data\* (as of 02/01/2026)

PFOA + PFOS POTW Sludge Concentrations

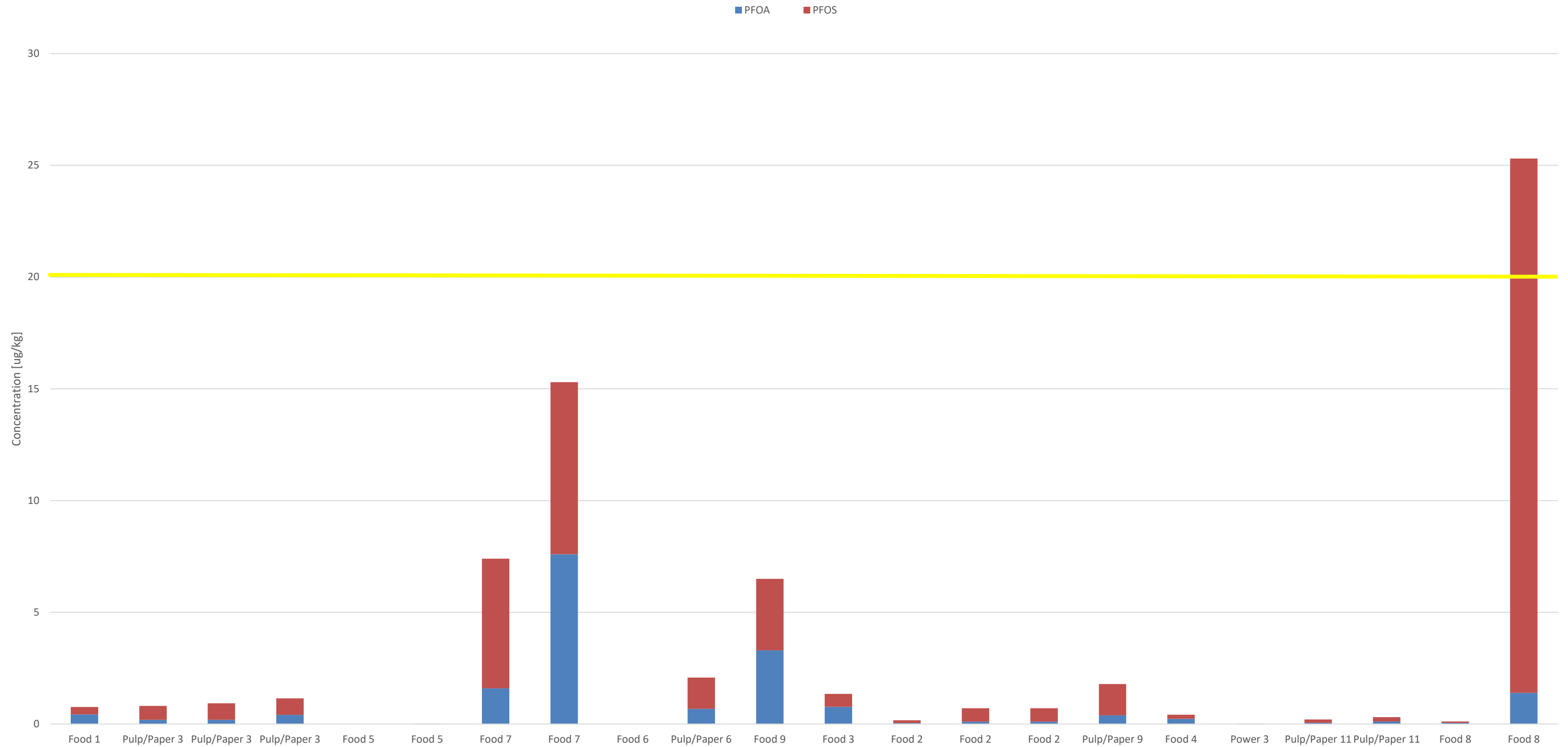
■ PFOA ■ PFOS



\*Some data pending verification

# PFOA/PFOS Statewide Industrial Sludge Data (as of 02/01/2026)

PFOA + PFOS Industrial Sludge Concentration



# CONNECT WITH US

Sampling Techniques/Compliance/Analytical Methods

[Amy Garbe](#), [Amy.Garbe@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Amy.Garbe@wisconsin.gov)

Permit Implementation/Plan Review

[Nate Willis](#), [Nathaniel.Willis@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Nathaniel.Willis@wisconsin.gov)

Biosolids & Industrial Sludge

[Fred Hegeman](#), [Frederick.Hegeman@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Frederick.Hegeman@wisconsin.gov)



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"WILD WISCONSIN:  
OFF THE RECORD"