

Subject	Yandicoogina Gorge PFAS Summary		
Client	BHP Western Australia Iron Ore	Project No.	PTG/01139
Date	31/03/2025	Revision	A
Prepared by	Riccardo Divita	Office	Perth

1 INTRODUCTION

Monitoring has been undertaken to develop an understanding of ground and surface water conditions in the vicinity of Yandicoogina Gorge during the implementation of the re-injection program.

As part of this, sampling for Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at various times and locations from January/February has been undertaken pre and post injection.

This memorandum provides a snapshot of PFAS water quality results to date relating to PFAS compounds only. Detailed methodology and results will be provided in subsequent water quality reporting.

2 GROUNDWATER QUALITY RESULTS

The Ministers North area has been broken up into five areas as shown on Figure 1. Groundwater bores have been group based on geological location (i.e. ore bodies, lithological units) and proximity to the re-injection bore, HMN0045P.

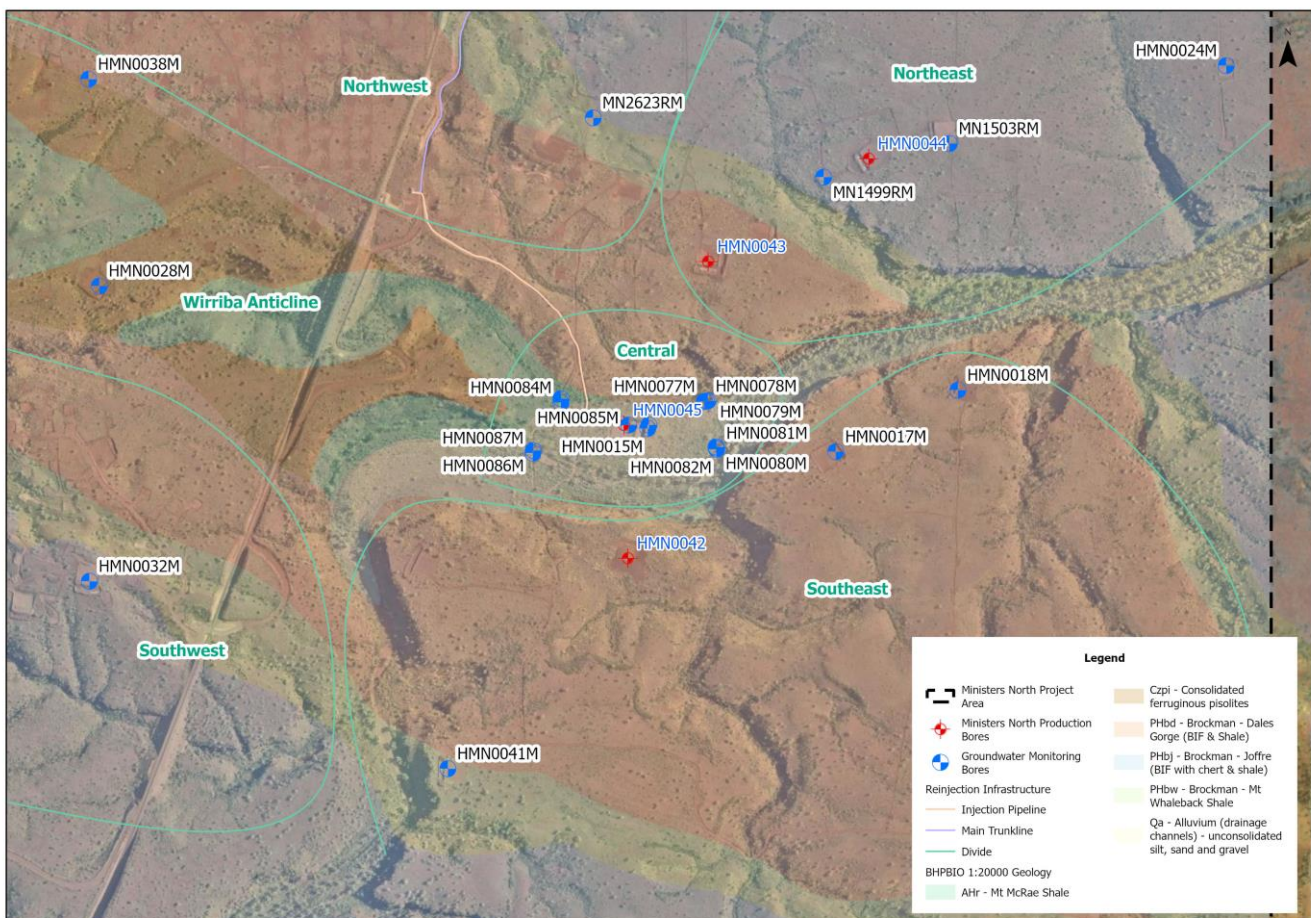


Figure 1: Groundwater Monitoring Locations

For assessment purposes, values were compared to human health and environmental guidelines frequently used in contaminated site investigations to protect the most sensitive land uses and receptors and the BHP Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) trigger value. Further information on guidelines selected is available in the water quality monitoring report.

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A summary of results is presented in Table 1 with detection of PFAS (regulated or unregulated) shown on Figure 1, Attachment A and tabulated results provided in Attachment B.

Table 1: Summary of PFAS Occurrence in Groundwater Bores

Location	Number of bores	Number of samples (number of analytes)	Number of detects (% based on 30 analytes)	Number of exceedances (% based on 4 regulated analytes)
Southwest	1	3 (90)	2 (2.2%)	2 (16.6%)
Southeast	5	44 (1,320)	2 (0.2%)	2 (1.1%)
Northwest	2	12 (360)	3 (0.8%)	3 (6.3%)
Northeast	5	28 (840)	6 (0.7%)	2 (1.8%)
Wirriba Anticline	2	12 (360)	2 (0.6%)	0 (0%)
Central	14	83 (2,490)	65 (2.6%)	29 (8.7%)
Total	29	194 (5,460)	80 (1.4%)	38 (4.9%)

PFAS across all bores did not show significant diversity (i.e. limited individual analytes detected) and were generally within an order of magnitude or below the limit of detection (LOD). With the exception of the central location (refer below), when detected, PFAS either occurred as Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) or as Perfluoroalkane Carboxylic Acids (PFCAs) which are terminal products (i.e. no further transformation products will form from them under environmental conditions).

The only criteria to be exceeded is the current Freshwater 99% Australian and New Zealand Guidelines (ANZG) Toxicant Default Guideline Value (DGV) (38 out of 127 samples). It should be noted that the PFOS concentrations would be below the proposed draft Freshwater 99% value (0.0091 µg/L), and on most occasions, by an order of magnitude. The BHP TARP trigger value was not exceeded on any occasion.

The Concentrations detected in groundwater bores do not show any temporal patterns, and more importantly, show no change pre and post injection.

Results across each divide shown in Figure 1 are summarised below:

- **Southwest**- one bore has been sampled for PFAS on 3 occasions. On two occasions, PFAS was detected above the LOR, and on two occasions, above the Freshwater 99% ANZG Toxicant DGV.
- **Southeast**- five bores have been sampled for PFAS on a total of 44 occasions. On two occasions, PFAS was detected above the LOR, and on two occasions, above the Freshwater 99% ANZG Toxicant DGV.
- **Northwest**- two bores have been sampled for PFAS on a total of 12 occasions. On three occasions, PFAS was detected above the LOR, and on three occasions, above the Freshwater 99% ANZG Toxicant DGV.
- **Northeast**- five bores have been sampled for PFAS on a total of 28 occasions. On six occasions, PFAS was detected above the LOR, and on two occasions, above the Freshwater 99% ANZG Toxicant DGV.
- **Wirriba Anticline**- two bores have been sampled for PFAS on a total of 12 occasions. On two occasions, PFAS was detected above the LOR, with no exceedances of the Freshwater 99% ANZG Toxicant DGV.
- **Central**- 14 bores have been sampled for PFAS on a total of 83 occasions. On 65 occasions, PFAS was detected above the LOR, and on 29 occasions, above the Freshwater 99% ANZG Toxicant DGV.

Newly installed bores within the central area all exhibited a higher diversity of PFAS compounds with Fluorotelomersulfonic Acids detected. Under natural conditions these may ultimately transform, primarily into PFCAs (currently detected in bores throughout Ministers North), and under normal environmental conditions, the transformation will stop. It is likely the concentrations in these bores are reflective of PFAS compounds been present in drilling muds and/or water utilised in drilling or development.

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3 SURFACE WATER QUALITY RESULTS

3.1 Re-injection water

PFAS concentrations in the Transfer Tank (November and December 2024) has not exceeded any human health or ecological (current or in draft). Typically, two to four compounds are detected, predominantly comprising PFCAs.

The Discharge Point, which has been sampled since August 2024 to represent the source of re-injection water, is similar in concentration and composition with the exception of PFOS which has been detected (4 out of 6 samples) above the current Freshwater 99% ANZG Toxicant DGV. It should be noted that the PFOS concentrations would be below the proposed draft Freshwater 99% value (0.0091 µg/L) by an order of magnitude.

3.2 Delaney Pool

PFAS concentrations in Delaney Pool (April to November 2024) are below detection limits and do not exceed any human health or ecological (current or in draft) with the exception of PFOS. PFOS exceeded the Freshwater 99% ANZG Toxicant DGV on 4 out of 9 occasions. PFOS concentrations would be below the proposed draft Freshwater 99% value (0.0091 µg/L) by an order of magnitude.

Similar to groundwater, Delaney Pool had limited diversity of PFAS compounds detected with only PFOS and one occurrence of PFPeA (a PFCA) detected.

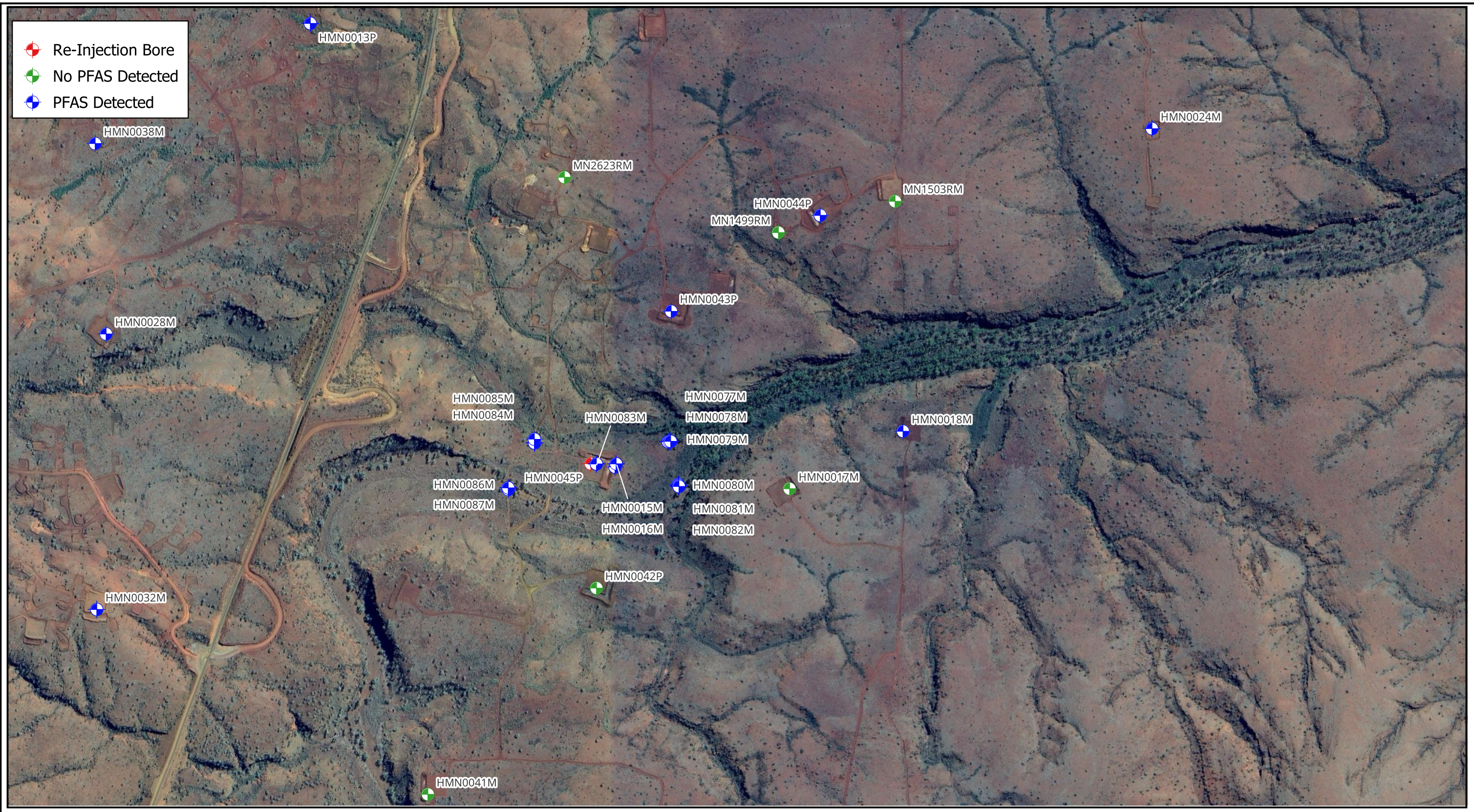
4 CONCLUSION




The information gathered since groundwater monitoring commenced in 2024 provides baseline data on the occurrence of PFAS at Ministers North and Yandicoogina Gorge.

Overall, the concentrations and diversity of PFAS compounds is low/limited. While there are exceedances of the current Freshwater 99% ANZG Toxicant DGV, concentrations would be below the proposed draft Freshwater 99% Toxicant DGV (0.0091 µg/L), and on most occasions, an order of magnitude lower.

It is likely that the concentrations of PFAS are ambient, typically within an order of magnitude or below the LOD. The ambient concentrations of PFAS detected is not unexpected and is likely from exploration drilling practices at the time which would have included fire suppression systems change outs on drill pads and potentially contaminated source water for drilling and drill muds which may have contained PFAS compounds. Given there are sources of PFAS within Ministers North, concentrations are not expected to change.





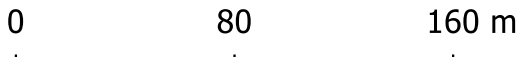
**ATTACHMENT A –
FIGURE**



-  Re-Injection Bore
-  No PFAS Detected
-  PFAS Detected

Minister North - PFAS Detection 2024
 Hydrogeological Investigation
 Project: Yandicoogina Gorge Re-Injection Trial

Client: - BHP
 Project Code: - PTG 01139
 Drawn By: AW, Checked By: RD
 Date: (2025-03-31)
 Figure No: 1.1

			
			
<p>Projection : GDA94 / MGA zone 50 Scale at A3: 1:10000</p>			

**ATTACHMENT B –
LABORATORY DATA**

Conc	(m-2) Fluorotelomer Sulfonic Acids				Perfluoroalkane Carboxylic Acids										Perfluoroalkane Sulfonic Acids						Perfluoroalkyl Sulfonamides						PFAS							
	4:1 Fluorotelomer sulfonic acid (4:1 PFS)	6:2 Fluorotelomer sulfonic acid (6:2 PFS)	8:1 Fluorotelomer sulfonic acid (8:1 PFS)	10:2 Fluorotelomer sulfonic acid (10:2 PFS)	Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)	Perfluoropentanoic acid (PFPA)	Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA)	Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	Perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDDA)	Perfluorotridecanoic acid (PFTrDA)	Perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTeDA)	Perfluoropentadecanoic acid (PFPeDA)	Perfluorohexadecanoic acid (PFHxDA)	Perfluoroheptadecanoic acid (PFHpDA)	Perfluorooctadecanoic acid (PFODDA)	Perfluorononadecanoic acid (PFNDDA)	Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA)	Perfluoroundecanoic acid (PFUnA)	Perfluorododecanoic acid (PFDDA)	Perfluorotridecanoic acid (PFTrDA)	Perfluorotetradecanoic acid (PFTeDA)	Perfluoroheptadecanoic acid (PFHpDA)	Perfluorooctadecanoic acid (PFODDA)	Perfluorononadecanoic acid (PFNDDA)	Sum of PFBA and PFDA	Sum of PFAS	Sum of PFAS (NA, DR, LHM)			
PFAS NEMP 2018 Table 5 Freshwater 95%	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005	0.0005			
PFAS NEMP 2018 Table 5 Freshwater 99%																																		
PFAS NEMP 2020 Drinking Water																																		
PFAS NEMP 2020 Recreational Water																																		
Proposed PFAS Freshwater 95% - ANZO in DRAFT																																		
Proposed PFAS Freshwater 99% - ANZO in DRAFT																																		
Proposed PFAS Recreational Water - ANZO in DRAFT																																		
Proposed PFAS Drinking Water - ANZO in DRAFT																																		
PFAS NEMP Trigger Values																																		

Location Code	Field ID	Date	Lab Report Number	4:1 PFS	6:2 PFS	8:1 PFS	10:2 PFS	PFBA	PFPA	PFHxA	PFHpA	PFOA	PFNA	PFDA	PFUnA	PFDDA	PFTrDA	PFTeDA	PFHpDA	PFODDA	PFNDDA	Sum of PFBA and PFDA	Sum of PFAS	Sum of PFAS (NA, DR, LHM)
Delaney Pool	Delaney Pool	20 Apr 2024	EP2405524																					
	Delaney Pool	19 May 2024	EP2406953																					
	Delaney Pool	23 Jun 2024	EP2409502																					
	Delaney Pool	05 Aug 2024	EP2411158																					
	Delaney Pool	06 Sep 2024	EP2413020																					
	Delaney Pool	04 Oct 2024	EP2414675																					
	Delaney Pool	03 Nov 2024	EP2416348																					
Discharge Point	Discharge Point	06 Aug 2024	EP2411158																					
	Discharge Point	09 Sep 2024	EP2413020																					
	Discharge Point	05 Oct 2024	EP2414675																					
	Discharge Point	18 Nov 2024	EP2417148																					
	Discharge Point	28 Nov 2024	EP2418029																					
	Discharge Point	20 Dec 2024	EP2419357																					
	Discharge Point	28 Nov 2024	EP2418029																					
Transfer Tank	Transfer Tank	03 Nov 2024	EP2416348																					
	Transfer Tank	14 Nov 2024	EP2417148																					
	Transfer Tank	28 Nov 2024	EP2418029																					
	Transfer Tank	21 Dec 2024	EP2419357																					
	HM0013P	21 Apr 2024	EP2405524																					
	HM0013P	20 May 2024	EP2406953																					
	HM0013P	23 Jun 2024	EP2409502		0.010	0.003		0.0294	0.0020		0.0010	0.0014	0.0026	0.0007	0.0011									
HM0015M	HM0015M	05 Aug 2024	EP2411158																					
	HM0015M	09 Sep 2024	EP2413020																					
	HM0015M	05 Oct 2024	EP2414675																					
	HM0015M	11 Oct 2024	EP2416348																					
	HM0015M	15 Nov 2024	EP2417148																					
	HM0015M	27 Nov 2024	EP2418029																					
	HM0015M	02 Dec 2024	EP2419357																					
HM0016M	HM0016M	01 Dec 2024	EP2419357																					
	HM0016M	20 Dec 2024	EP2419357																					
	HM0016M	01 Nov 2024	EP2416348																					
	HM0016M	14 Nov 2024	EP2417148																					
	HM0016M	01 Dec 2024	EP2418029																					
	HM0016M	20 Dec 2024	EP2419357																					
	HM0016M	01 Nov 2024	EP2416348																					
HM0017M	HM0017M	14 Nov 2024	EP2417148																					
	HM0017M	29 Nov 2024	EP2418029																					
	HM0017M	11 Dec 2024	EP2419357																					
	HM0017M	21 Apr 2024	EP2405524																					
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	HM0017M	22 Jun 2024	EP2409502																					
	HM0017M	03 Aug 2024	EP2411158																					
HM0018M	HM0018M	07 Sep 2024	EP2413020																					
	HM0018M	03 Oct 2024	EP2414675																					
	HM0018M	01 Nov 2024	EP2416348																					
	HM0018M	14 Nov 2024	EP2417148																					
	HM0018M	29 Nov 2024	EP2418029																					
	HM0018M	11 Dec 2024	EP2419357																					
	HM0018M	11 Oct 2024	EP2416348																					
HM0024M	HM0024M	11 Oct 2024	EP2416348																					
	HM0024M	17 Nov 2024	EP2417148																					
	HM0024M	27 Nov 2024	EP2418029																					
	HM0024M	21 Apr 2024	EP2405524																					
	HM0024M	20 May 2024	EP2406953																					
	HM0024M	23 Jun 2024	EP2409502																					
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