

PFAS and the West Plains

Bri Brinkman | Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP)
Spokane River Forum | 22 January 2024

Ecology Programs

- Air Quality
- Climate Pollution Reduction
- Environmental Assessment
- Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction
- Nuclear Waste
- Shorelands and Environmental Assistance
- Solid Waste Management
- Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response
- Toxics Cleanup
- Water Quality
- Water Resources



Our mission: To protect, preserve, and enhance Washington's environment for current and future generations.

PFAS Regulation

- PFAS releases are required to be reported
- [Cleanup Levels and Risk Calculation \(CLARC\) resource](#)
 - Updated as new information for screening and cleanup levels becomes available
- Updated 2025 [Sediment Cleanup User's Manual \(SCUM\)](#) will include PFAS

PFAS	WDOH SAL (ppt)	EPA Maximum Contaminant Levels (ppt)
PFOA	10	4
PFOS	15	4
PFNA	9	10
PFHxS	65	10
PFBS	345	Hazard Index
PFBA	None	None
PFHxA	None	None
HFPO-DA (GenX)*	None	10

TCP PFAS Guidance – Table 3

* GenX chemicals have not been found in Washington state.

West Plains Overview

2017

PFAS discovered in West Plains GW

2019

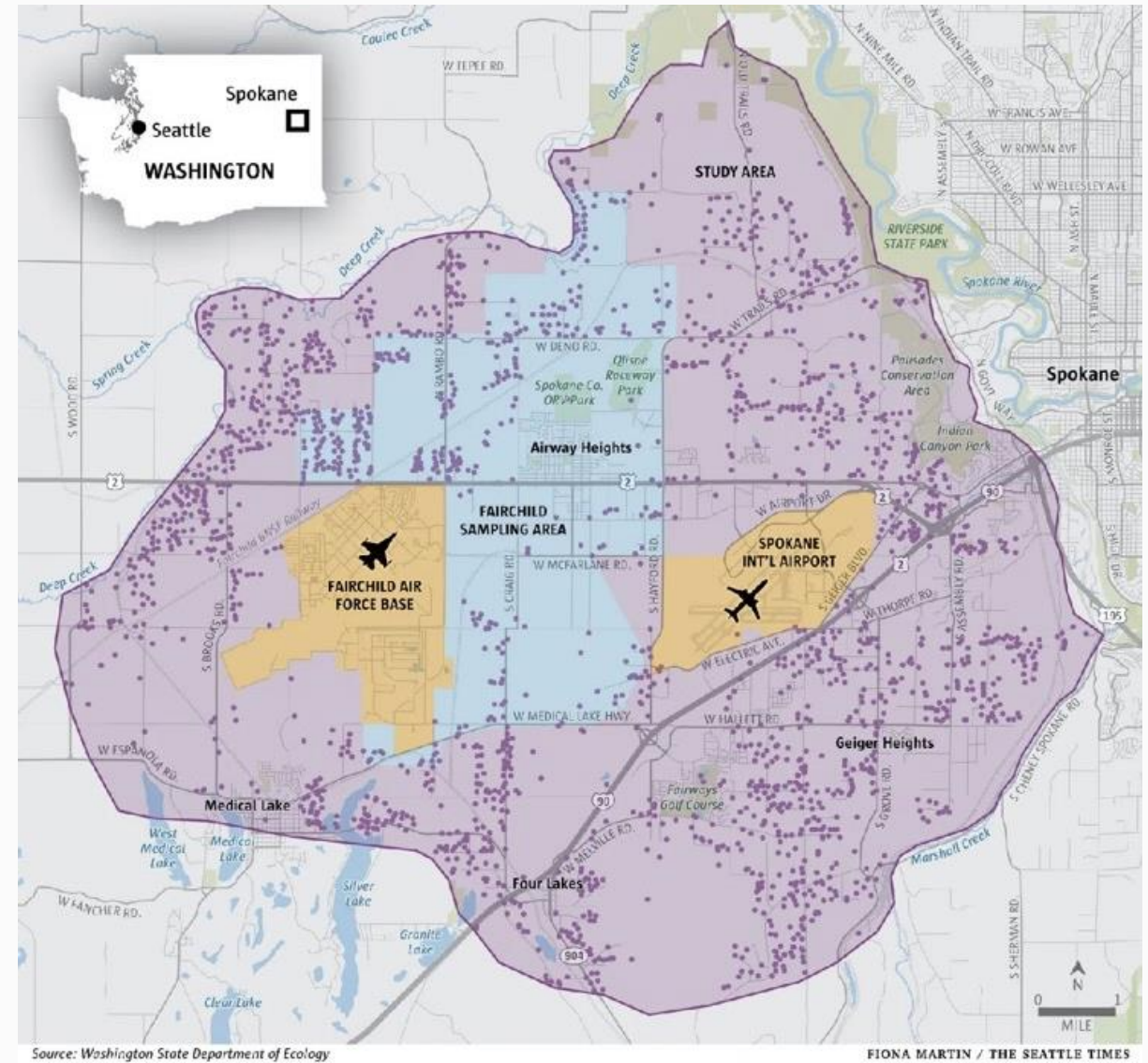
ATSDR Exposure Assessment

2023

SIA Listed and determined as PLP
Area Wide Groundwater Grant
Public Participation Grant

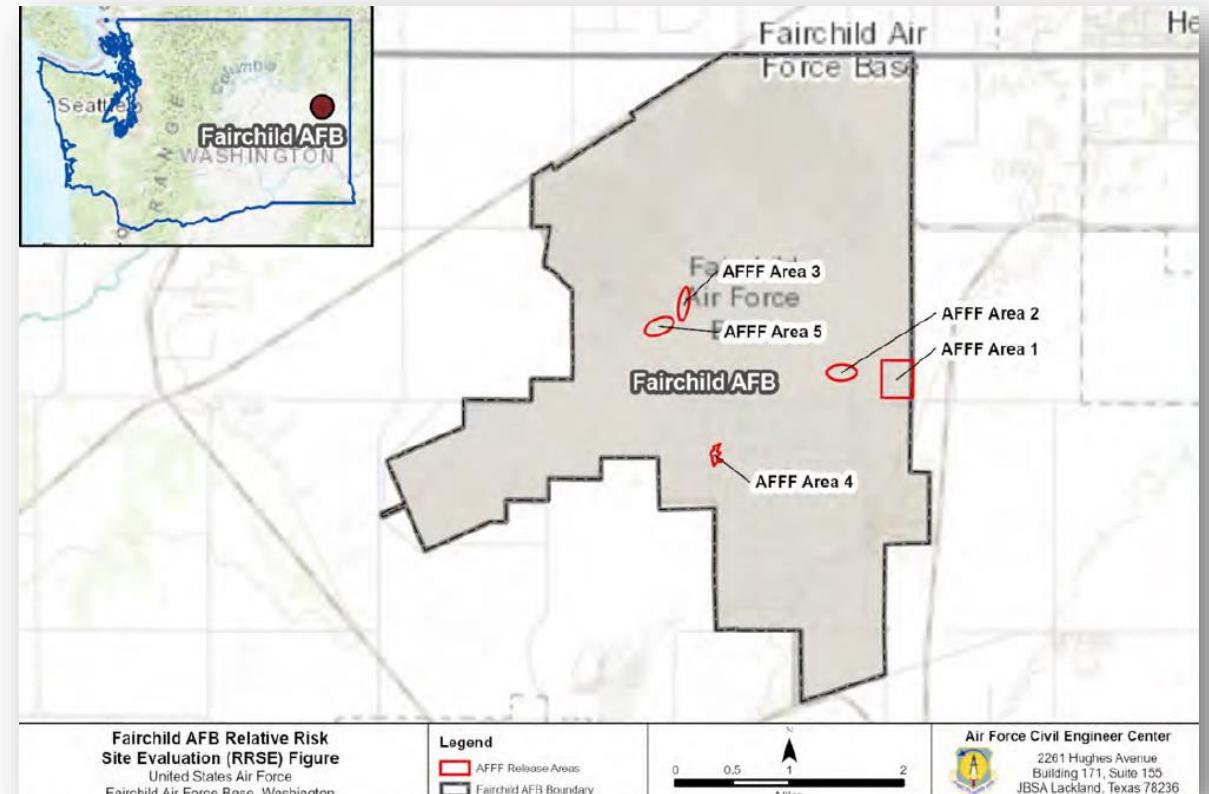
2024

EPA sampling event DOH Filter Program



Fairchild Air Force Base (FAFB)

- PFAS discovered in 2017
- FAFB (DOD) lead on site
 - EPA and Ecology provide technical support
- Currently in Remedial Investigation phase
- Historic results
 - On base: 12,000-187,000 ppt
 - Off-base: ND to 5,700 ppt



Source: Relative Risk Site Evaluation Fairchild AFB Spokane County, WA

Spokane International Airport (SIA)

- Wells sampled in 2017, 2018 & 2019
- Listed August 2023.
- Work ongoing for Initial PFAS Investigation
- Historic results
 - Max PFHxS = 16,000 ppt



Interagency Cooperation



Washington State Department of
HEALTH

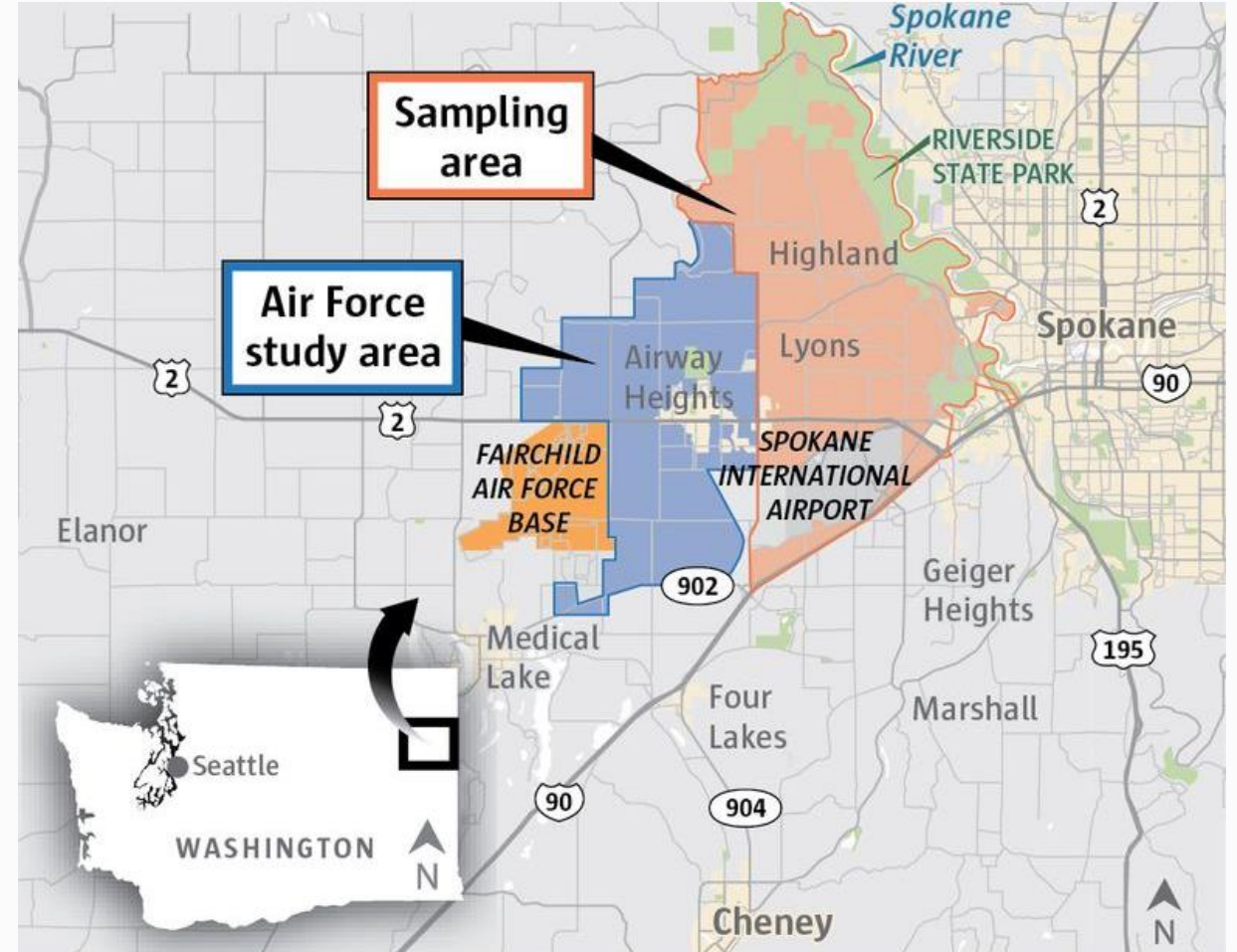




West Plains Sampling

March and June 2024

- 411 wells sampled
- No-cost to well owners
- 268 results submitted to Ecology → 65%

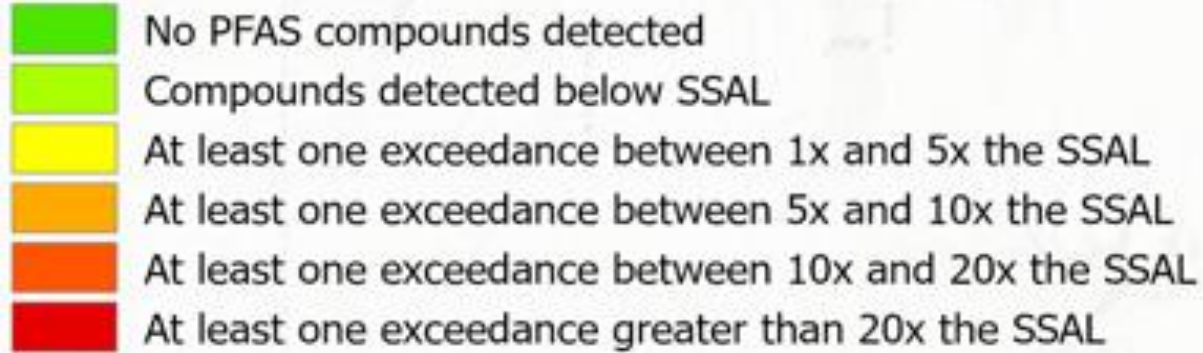


Sources: Esri, Washington State Department of Ecology

MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES



2024 NE West Plains Results



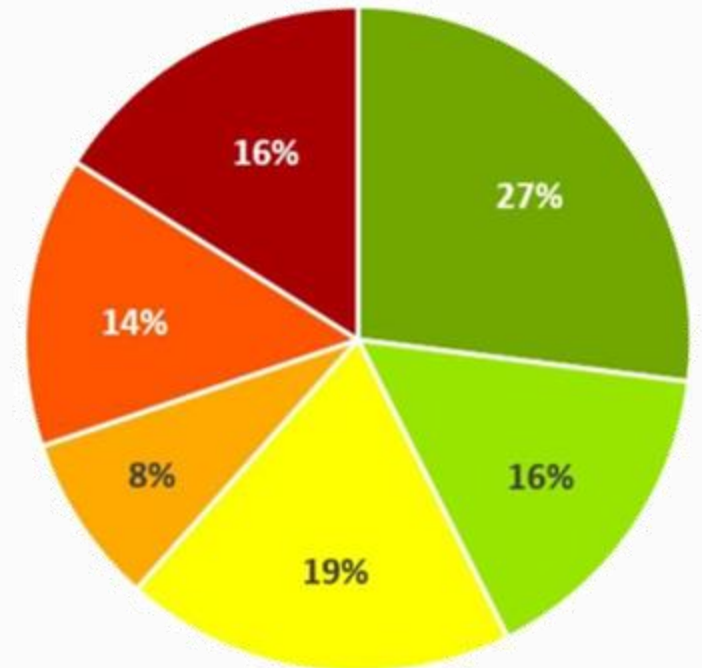
Non-Detect	111
Below	64
Above	236

Max: PFOS = 530 ppt, PFOA = 120 ppt, PFHxS = 530 ppt

Long-chained PFAS were predominant

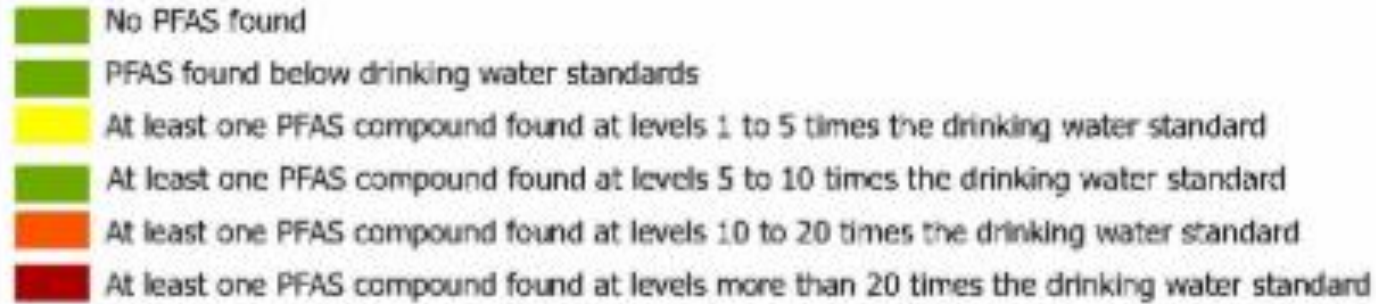
PFHxS most detected at high concentrations

- PFBS also common but at low concentrations

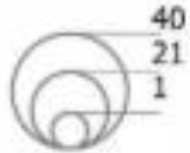


Summary of PFAS Levels by Section

Results from March & June 2024 West Plains Sampling Events



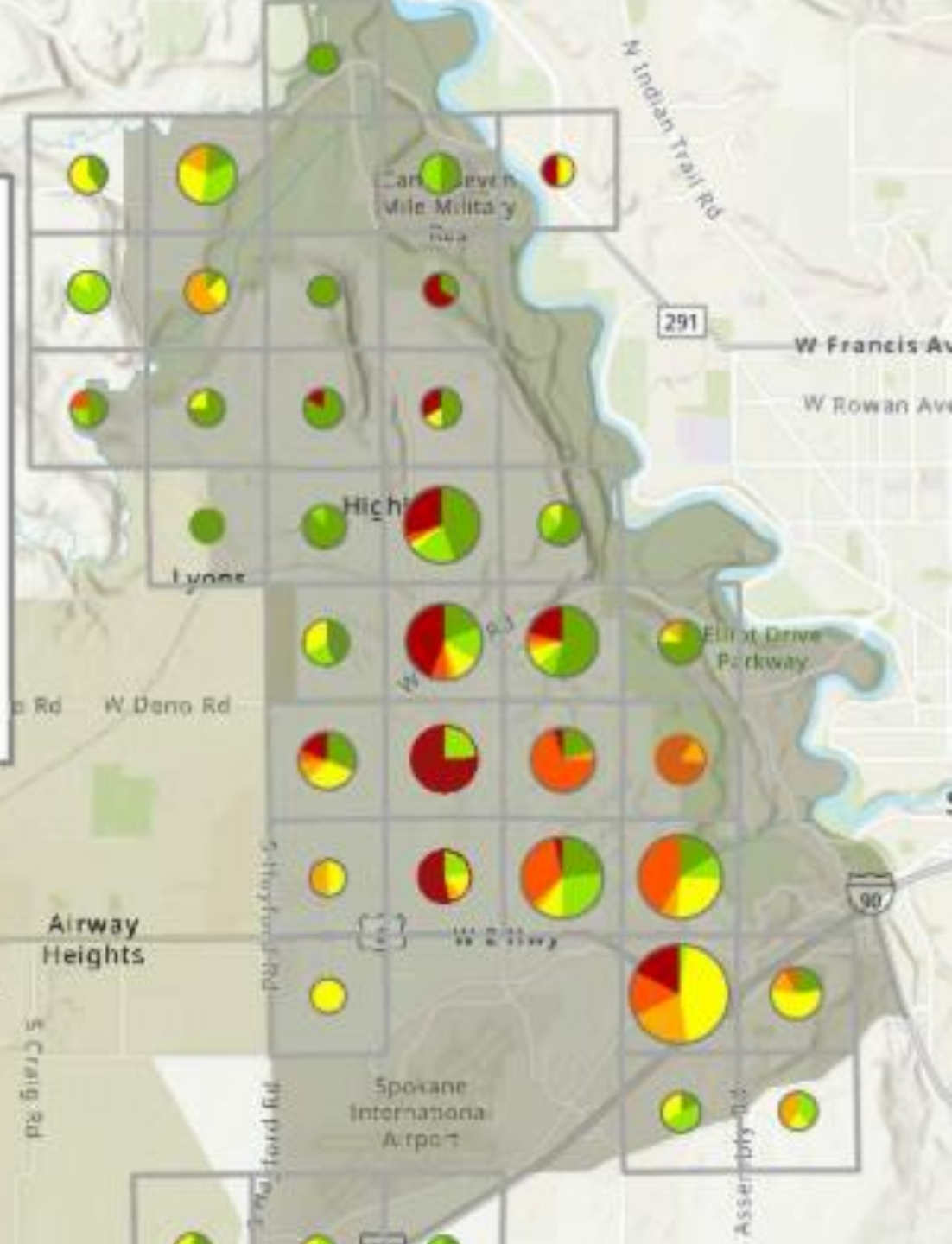
Number of Samples Collected



Map Shading

■ EPA Sampling Area

Fairchild AFB Sampling Area





Alternative Drinking Water


Office of Drinking Water, Alternative Drinking Water Program



Public Engagement

- Website
- Email List





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Spills & Cleanup > Contamination cleanup > Cleanup sites > Sites with PFAS in drinking water > West Plains PFAS

Sites with PFAS in drinking water

Joint Base Lewis McChord

West Plains PFAS

PFAS in West Plains private wells

We are working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Washington State Department of Health (DOH), Spokane Regional Health District, Eastern Washington University, and the West Plains Water Coalition on [Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\)](#) contamination in groundwater in the northeast West Plains near Spokane.

In March and June 2024, EPA sampled 411 private wells in the [eligible sampling area](#), and **236 wells, or 57%, had PFAS above safe [drinking water standards](#)**. The [Alternative Drinking Water Program](#) at DOH is providing point-of-use filters after homeowners [share sampling results](#) with Ecology.

I want to...

- [Send my drinking water sampling results to Ecology](#)
- [Sign up for Ecology's West Plains PFAS updates email list](#)
- [Download PFAS in West Plains private wells: Real estate transactions](#)

Receive no-cost safe water when you share your results to help our investigation

Summary

- Although Washington has made progress in dealing with PFAS, this is a long-term problem.
- More information is being gathered to better inform future cleanup efforts.
- Interagency collaboration continues to address PFAS.





Thank you

Bri Brinkman, PhD
Site manager, Toxics Cleanup Program

Cell | 1-509-202-7869

Email | bri.brinkman@ecy.wa.gov