



## FIELD CALIBRATION AND PAS-SIM MODEL EVALUATION OF THE XAD-BASED PASSIVE AIR SAMPLER FOR SEMI-VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Li, Y., F. Zhan, Y.D. Lei, C. Shunthirasingham, H. Hung, and E. Wania.  
Environmental Science & Technology 57(25):9224-9233(2023)

The XAD-passive air sampler (PAS) was calibrated using a styrene-divinylbenzene sorbent through a year-long side-by-side deployment with an active sampler to advance quantitative understanding of uptake kinetics. Twelve XAD-PASs were deployed in June 2020 and retrieved at 4-week intervals, while gas phase SVOCs were quantified in 48 consecutive week-long active samples taken from June 2020 to May 2021. Consistent with XAD's high uptake capacity, even relatively volatile SVOCs, such as hexachlorobutadiene, displayed linear uptake throughout the deployment. Sampling rates (SRs) range between 0.1 and 0.6 m<sup>3</sup>/day for 26 SVOCs, including brominated flame retardants, organophosphate esters, and halogenated methoxybenzenes. SRs were compared with experimental SRs reported previously. The ability of the existing mechanistic uptake model PAS-SIM to reproduce the observed uptake and SRs was evaluated. Agreement between simulated and measured uptake curves was reasonable but varied with compound volatility and the assumed stagnant air layer boundary thickness. Even though PAS-SIM predicted the SR range for the studied SVOCs, it failed to capture the volatility dependence of the SR by underestimating the length of the linear uptake period and not considering the kinetics of sorption.

## ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS IMPACT PFAS CONCENTRATIONS IN A U.S. NORTH ATLANTIC FOOD WEB

Hedgespeth, M.L., D.L. Taylor, S. Balint, M. Schwartz, and M.G. Cantwell. Science of The Total Environment 880:163302(2023)

A comprehensive study characterized the presence and concentrations of 24 targeted PFAS across 18 marine species from Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island, and surrounding waters. These species reflect the diversity of a typical North Atlantic Ocean food web with organisms from various taxa, habitat types, and feeding guilds. Many organisms have no previously reported information on PFAS tissue concentrations. Significant relationships of PFAS concentrations with respect to various ecological characteristics, including species, body size, habitat, feeding guild, and collection location were found. Based upon the 19 PFAS detected, benthic omnivores (American lobsters = 10.5 ng/g ww, winter skates = 5.77 ng/g ww, Cancer crabs = 4.59 ng/g ww) and pelagic piscivores (striped bass = 8.50 ng/g ww, bluefish = 4.30 ng/g ww) demonstrated the greatest average ΣPFAS concentrations across all species sampled. American lobsters had the highest concentrations detected in individuals (ΣPFAS up to 21.1 ng/g ww, of primarily long-chain PFASs). Calculations of field-based trophic magnification factors for the top eight detected PFAS determined that PFDA, PFOs, and FOSA associated with the pelagic habitat biomagnified. In contrast, PFTeDA associated with the benthic habitat demonstrated trophic dilution in this food web (calculated trophic levels ranged from 1.65 to 4.97). While PFAS exposure to these organisms may have adverse implications for ecological impacts via toxicological effects, many of these species are also key recreational and commercial fisheries resulting in potential for human exposure via dietary consumption.

## General News

### CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AT CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER SITES

EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, EPA 542-F-24-001, 7 pp, 2024

In October 2021, EPA released its updated Climate Adaptation Plan, which examines how EPA programs may be vulnerable to a changing climate and how the Agency can adapt in order to continue meeting its mission of protecting human health and the environment. Under the Superfund Program, existing processes for assessing and remediating contaminated sites provide a robust structure that enables consideration of climate changes such as increasing temperatures, decreasing precipitation and sea level rise. Examination of associated vulnerabilities is most effective through use of a place-based strategy due to wide variations in the hydrogeologic characteristics of sites, the nature of remediation systems operating at contaminated sites, and local or regional climate and weather regimes. <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-01/consideration-of-climate-change-at-contaminated-groundwater-sites.pdf>

### MARKET RESEARCH STUDY: PFAS IN WASTEWATER

DOE Commercial Potential Evaluation Report, 87 pp, 2023

This report introduces the complex problem of PFAS at wastewater treatment plants and presents current and emerging methods for potential PFAS destruction. The report also discusses the wastewater treatment process in general, current methods of PFAS containment used by wastewater treatment plants, state initiatives and regulations, and themes in recent PFAS destruction research, including a survey of industry solutions that are either on the market or in the process of commercialization. [https://science.doe.gov/media/story/pdf/Application\\_Resources/2023/05/PFAS-Final-Report.pdf](https://science.doe.gov/media/story/pdf/Application_Resources/2023/05/PFAS-Final-Report.pdf)

### ADVANCES IN PFAS DESTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES

Krause, M. P. Lemieux, and M. Crimi. AAAS Epi Center webinar, 120 minutes, 2022

In this webinar, expert panelists share the scientific evidence related to current and emerging PFAS destruction technologies to support decision-makers in their state or community. The webinar also provides an overview of destruction needs and challenges. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BM04tSw8G4>

### MECHANISMS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RATIONAL IN SILICO DESIGN OF ENZYMES TO DEGRADE PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

Marclesky, M., D.S. Age, I.M. Bradley, N. Arch and C. Yu.  
Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling 63(23):7929-7939(2023)

This review explores the use of in silico enzymatic design as a potential PFAS degradation technique. The scope of the enzymes included is based on currently known PFAS degradation techniques, including chemical redox systems, which have been studied for PFOS and PFOA defluorination, such as those that incorporate hydrated electrons, sulfate, peroxide, and metal catalysts. Bioremediation techniques, namely the laccase and horseradish peroxidase systems, are also discussed. The redox potential of known reactants and enzymatic radicals/metal complexes are then compared to potential enzymes for degrading PFAS. The molecular structure and reaction cycle of prospective enzymes are explored. Current knowledge and techniques of enzyme design, particularly radical-generating enzymes, and application are also discussed. Finally, potential routes for bioengineering enzymes to enable or enhance PFAS remediation and the future outlook for computational exploration of enzymatic in situ bioremediation routes for these highly persistent and globally distributed contaminants are considered.

### 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE USING PERSULFATE IN REMEDIATING SOIL AND GROUNDWATER - DO'S AND DON'TS

Pare, J. | RemTech 2023: Remediation Technologies Symposium 2023, 11-13 October, Banff, Alberta, Canada, 40 slides, 2023

This presentation revisits 20 years of learning and optimizing persulfate use for the chemical oxidation of organic contamination in soil and groundwater, covering the evolution of the technology to make it more effective and applicable in a broader range of soil and groundwater remediation applications. The first part of the presentation discusses selecting the proper oxidation mechanism and applying the persulfate in Na and high Sodium Adsorption Ratio aquifers. The presentation also covers the evolution of the technology and its use in:

- Combining in situ soil stabilization with in situ chemical oxidation
- Low solubility oxidant used as permeable reactive barrier media
- Combining in situ chemical oxidation and bioremediation

Complete case studies illustrate each of these evolutions to help determine the application range for the type of contaminant and geology for their use. Conclusions in the form of Do's and Don'ts close the presentation and guide the potential user to understand technology limitations under specific site conditions.

**Slides:** [https://www.remtech.com/uploads/2023/10/RT2023Pare\\_2.pdf](https://www.remtech.com/uploads/2023/10/RT2023Pare_2.pdf)

**Longer abstract:** <https://www.remtech.com/uploads/2023/10/RT2023-Abstracts-35.pdf>

### DEVELOPMENT OF A PFAS SCREENING TECHNIQUE FOR DRINKING WATER AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Jin, Y. | 2023 Great Lakes PFAS Summit, 5-7 December, virtual, 40 minutes, 2023

This presentation summarizes the development of a rapid-screening tool for adsorbable organic fluorine in groundwater and drinking water, which can also be used for various consumer products. Particle-Induced Gamma-ray Emission (PIGE) spectroscopy combined with a novel solid-phase extraction technique can provide a sensitive and economical solution to screen water samples for high fluorine content as a surrogate for PFAS. Adding a simple rinse to distinguish organic from inorganic and ultra-short-chain PFAS makes this tool practical for monitoring water supplies. Several examples of environmental samples and recent consumer product screening are provided.

[https://edweb.zoom.us/j/9171102555?pwd=SkpScEFTMkRkZWpabkM0SnE5YS9lZWZkdRVEaU9MUnpsW60LxXU5SSX6.4bXsvbq4HnW4rF8ZcapBlawFromShare=true&from=share\\_recording\\_detail&continueMode=true&component](https://edweb.zoom.us/j/9171102555?pwd=SkpScEFTMkRkZWpabkM0SnE5YS9lZWZkdRVEaU9MUnpsW60LxXU5SSX6.4bXsvbq4HnW4rF8ZcapBlawFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&component)

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