PFAS (Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) are a unique class of manmade chemicals ubiquitously used in various industries and applications. Due to the high stability of the carbon-fluorine bond, these compounds do not breakdown under ambient conditions and have been found problematic to human health. The US EPA announced in March 2023 new Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for two specific PFAS (PFOA & PFOS) and a hazard index value for four other compounds (PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS and GenX) in drinking water. Granular activated carbon (GAC) is recognized as one of three best available treatment technologies for PFAS treatment and a whole host of other species as well. Activated carbon is also used to treat various streams including drinking water, wastewater, and air emissions. The goal of this presentation is to provide a brief overview of the class of chemicals known as PFAS, what activated carbon is/how it removes PFAS, and how this technology is differentiated to the other best available treatment technologies (Ion Exchange resin and RO membranes).

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