

## Effective and Sustainable Treatment of PFAS with Granular Activated Carbon

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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).

**John Matthis** is the Global Business Development Director for Calgon Carbon Corporation. He spearheads the Calgon Carbon PFAS task force and has contributed to Perfluoroalkyl Substances in the Environment Theory, Practice, and Innovation, 2018. He has conducted more than 10 webinars on PFAS treatment with activated carbon and has spoken at NEWMOA PFAS Technical Workshop (2017), the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management (2018), and the International Water Conference (2021). Mr. Matthis earned his double BS in Chemistry and Mathematics from Duquesne University, his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, and his MS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Rebecca DiStefano** is a Sr. Applications Engineer at Calgon Carbon Corporation in the Industrial Solutions and Diversified Applications Business Unit. Prior to this position, Rebecca was Sr. Group Leader of Carbon Applications and Testing, overseeing testing to evaluate carbon performance for PFAS removal. Rebecca received her BS degree in chemical engineering in 2000 from The Pennsylvania State University in State College, PA and her MBA in 2021 from Robert Morris University in Moon Township, PA.

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