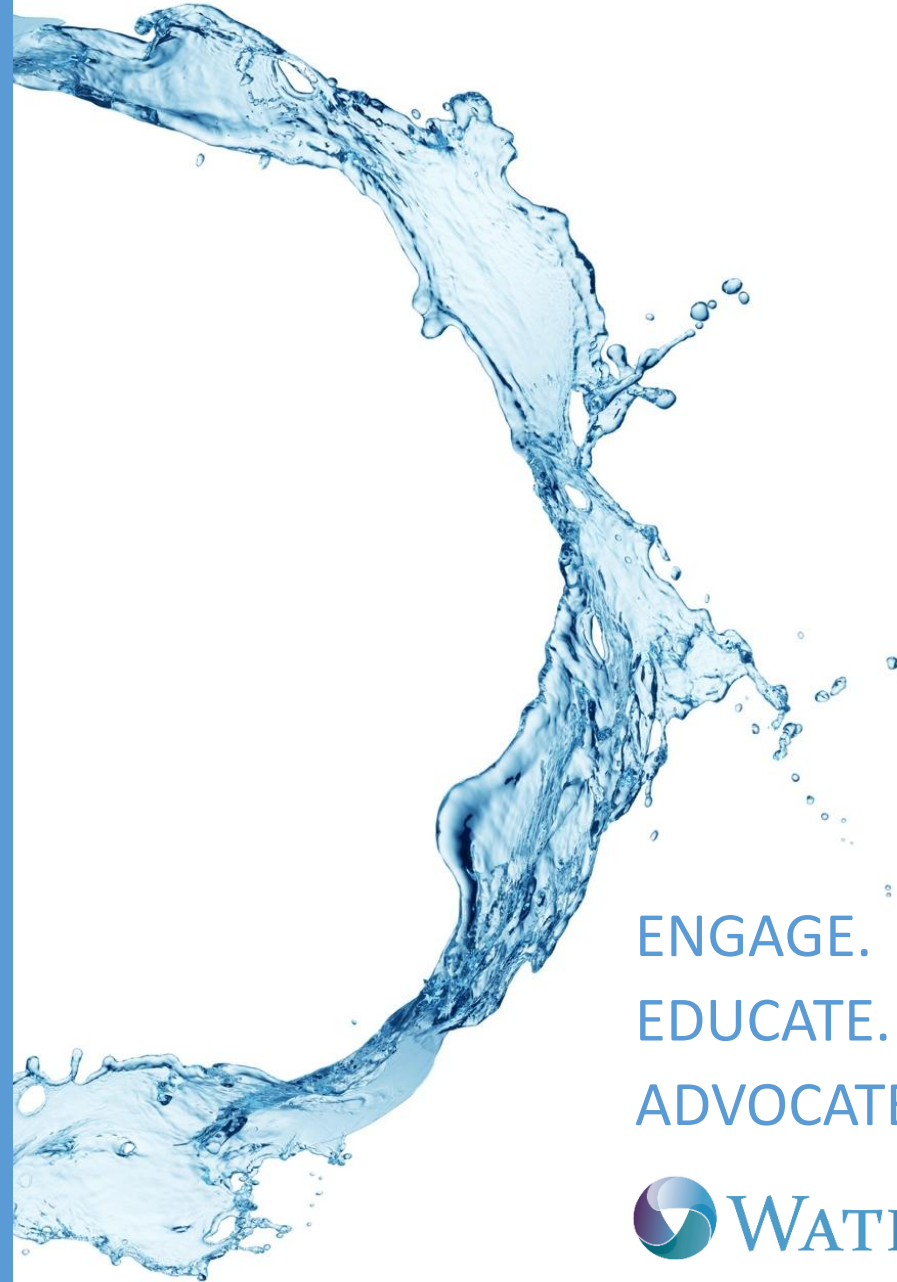


U.S. EPA INSIGHTS ON RISK-BASED APPROACHES TO WATER REUSE

PRESENTED BY: WATEREUSE OHIO

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025
10:00 AM ET | 7:00 AM PT

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- A PDF of this presentation will be shared afterwards via email
- Please type questions for the presenters into the Q&A box located at the bottom of your screen.
- There is one (1) Professional Development Hour (PDH) available for this webcast. Please email the PDH form to webcasts@watereuse.org





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Upcoming Webinar:

**Water Recycling: Past, Present, and Future Through
the Eyes of the Nation's First Potable Reuse Project
to Use Surface Water Augmentation**

Thursday, November 13, 2025
10 a.m.

Moderator:



Jessica Langdon
Asst. Policy Director
Ohio EPA

Today's Presenters



Jay Garland
U.S. EPA
Office of Research
and Development



Michael Jahne
U.S. EPA
Office of Research
and Development



A Risk-Based Approach to Water Reuse

Michael Jahne, Ph.D., Environmental Engineer
Jay Garland, Ph.D., Associate Director for Research

Challenge

- Existing Federal regulatory frameworks for water use are narrowly defined
 - Ground and surface water sources treated to drinking water quality
 - States regulate planned water reuse for other applications
- Increasing water demands drive the need for alternative water supplies
 - Potable reuse of municipal wastewater
 - Onsite water systems
 - Industrial reuse
- How do we expand these opportunities while protecting human health?
 - States and industry are seeking scientifically-defensible technical assistance on appropriate levels of treatment



- Developing risk-based treatment targets
 - Fit-for-purpose assessments considering specific sources of water and end uses
- Treatment levels tailored to different contaminants and types of exposure
 - Pathogens drive treatment requirements for municipal and domestic wastewaters
 - Chemical risks important for potable use and industrial sources
- “Risk-based” targets attempt to achieve a specific level of health protection
 - Pathogen log-reduction targets (LRTs): Calculated 10-fold removal needed by treatment
 - Maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs), effects-based assays



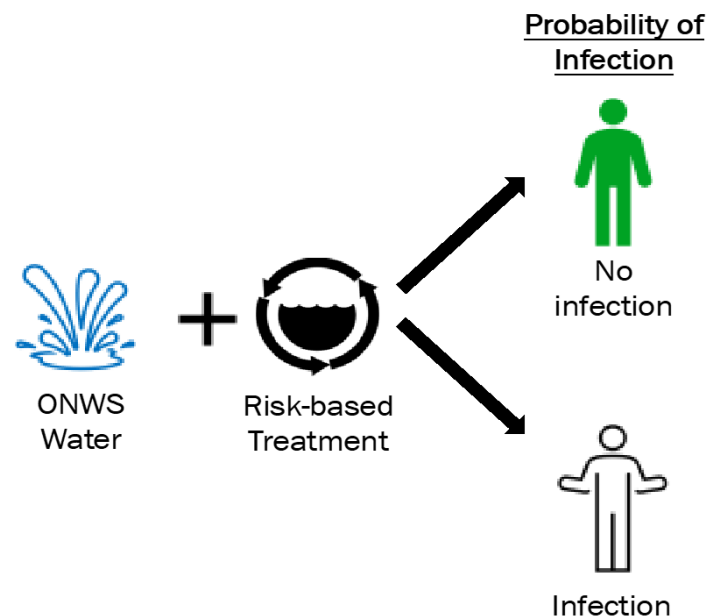


Microbial Risk Management

Onsite and Municipal Reuse

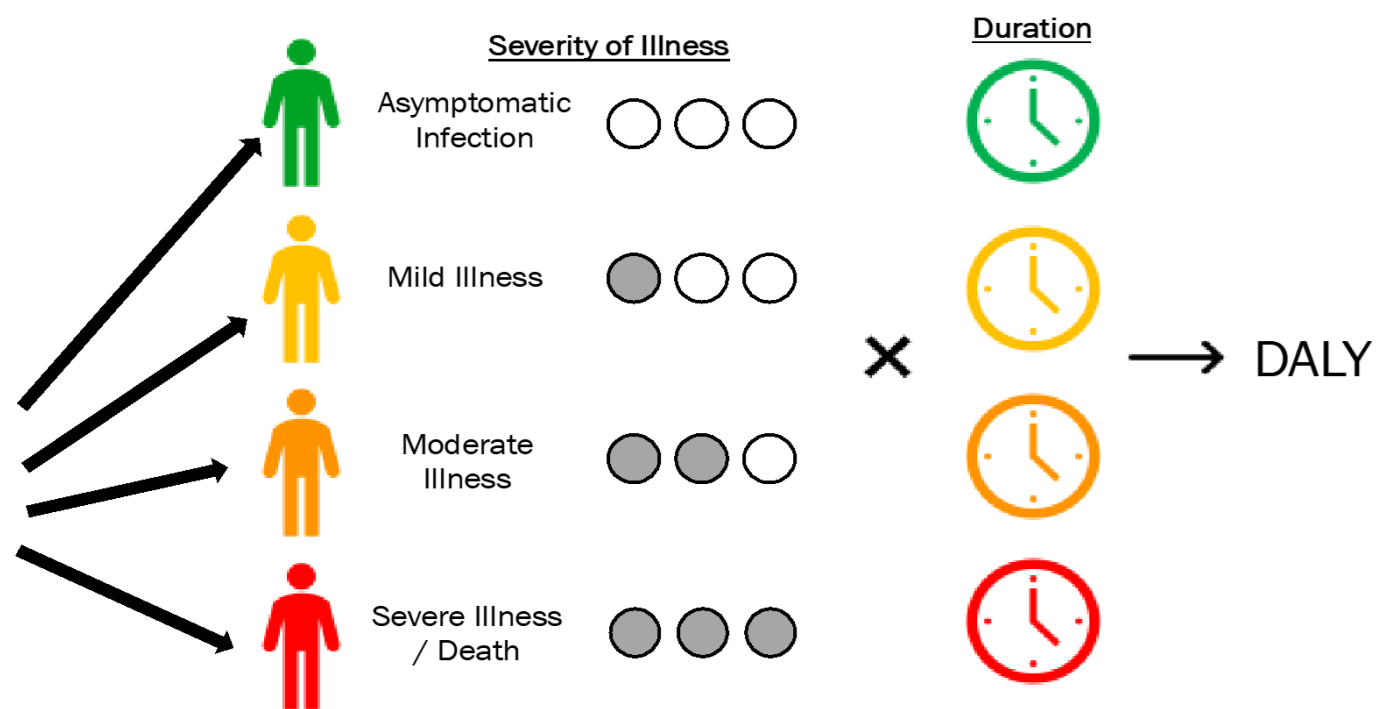
Risk Metrics for Pathogen Exposure

Infection-Based Risk Framework



Goal: ensure probability of infection does not exceed 1 in 10,000 infections per person per year

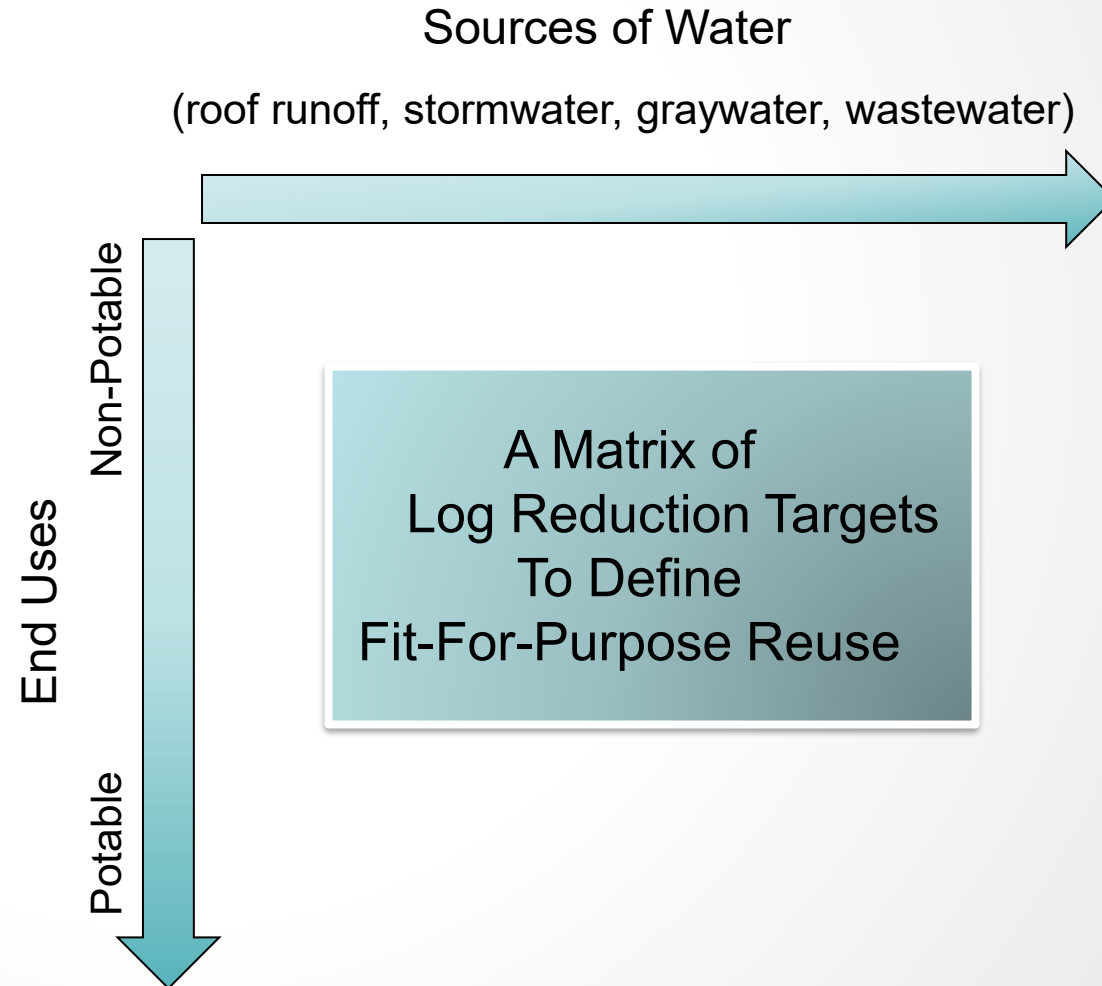
DALY-Based Risk Framework

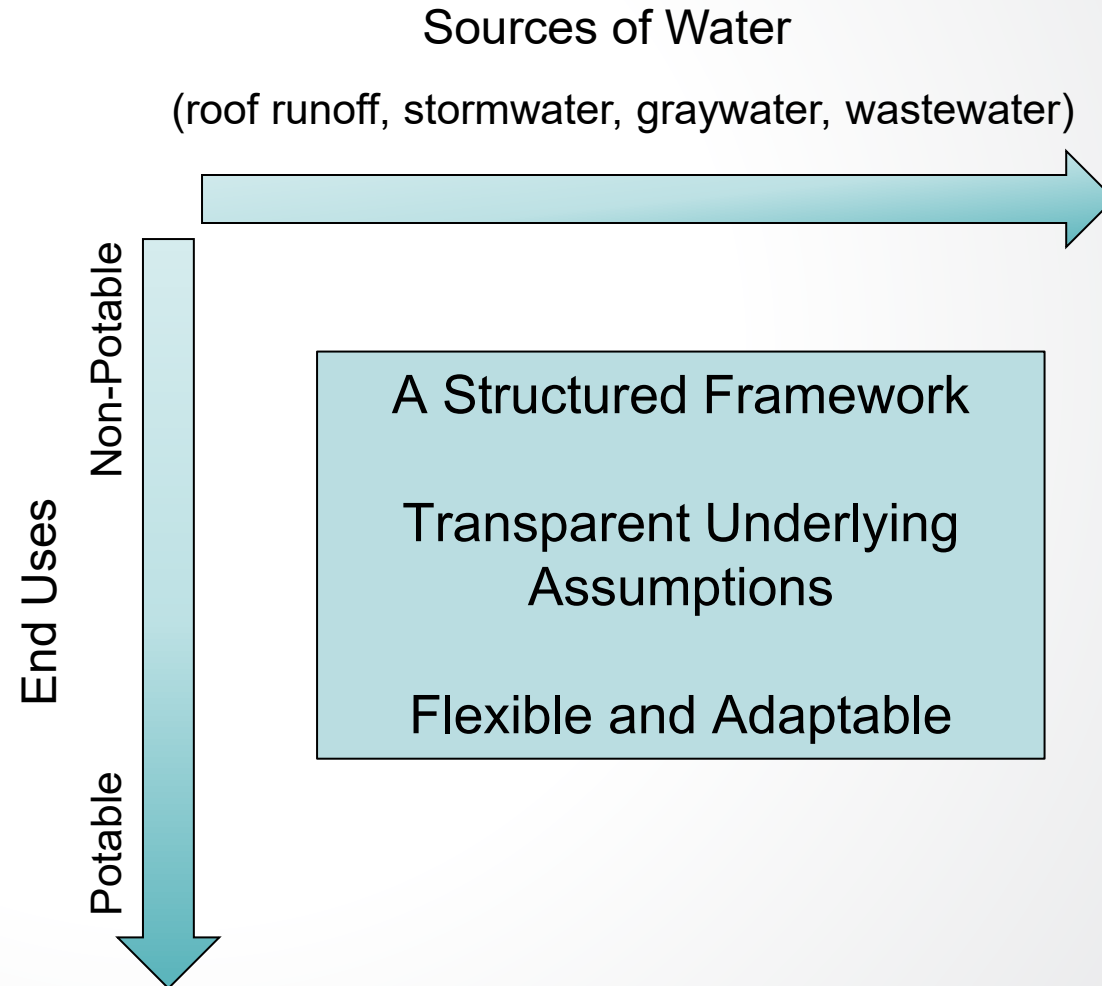


Goal: ensure the burden of disease does not exceed in 1 in 1,000,000 DALYs per person per year

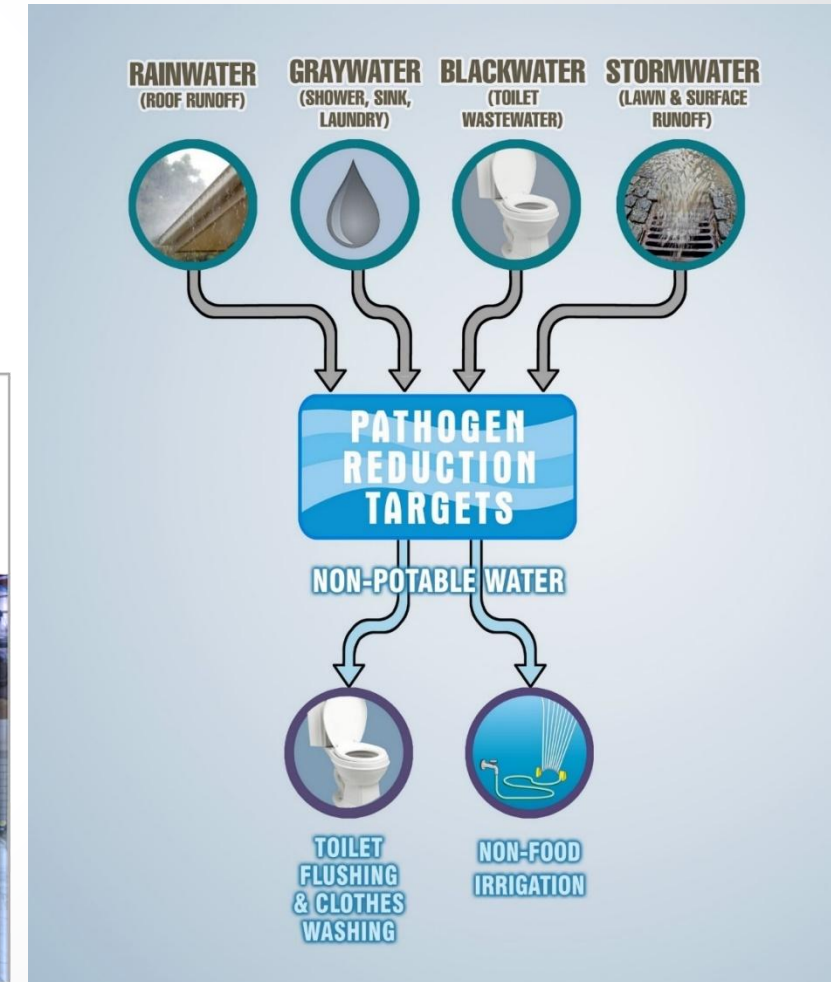
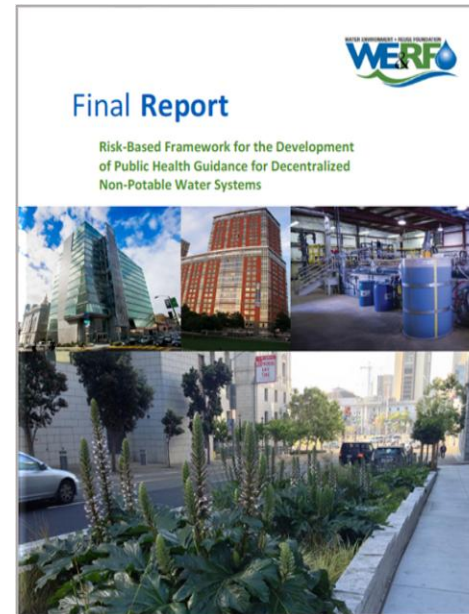
DALY = Disability-Adjusted Life Year
= 1 year of healthy life lost

Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment



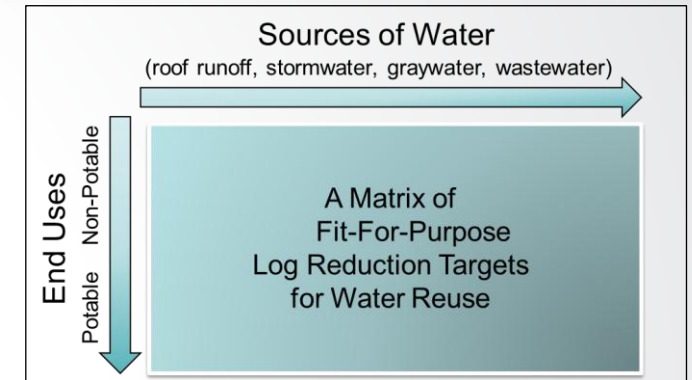


- Previous ORD work focused on onsite reuse
 - Quality of alternative source waters?
 - Scaling effects for decentralized systems?
 - Fit-for-purpose water?
- Stakeholder-endorsed LRTs
 - Expert Panel report
 - National Blue Ribbon Commission
 - State/local adoption
 - Building code integration
- Updated in 2023 to incorporate latest science



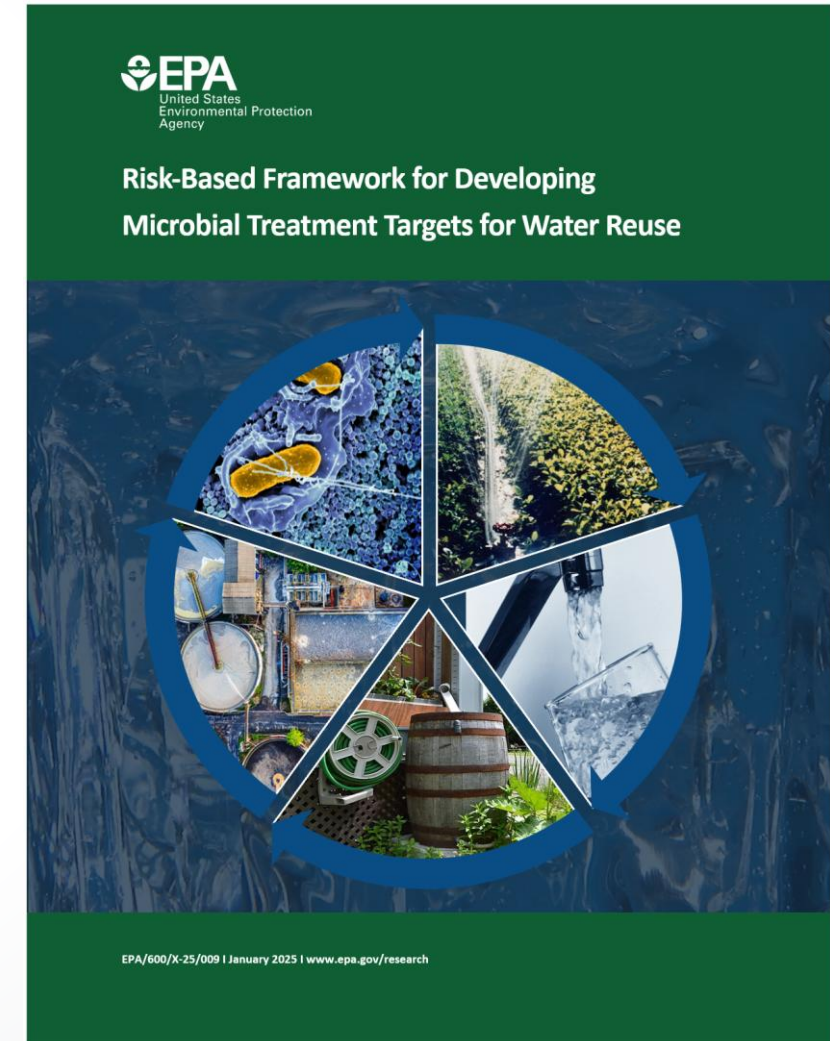
Potable Reuse Harmonization

- Previous OW work focused on potable reuse
- Same math, different numbers
 - End use is drinking water
 - Source of water is municipal wastewater
- Direct and indirect potable reuse (DPR/IPR) addressed collectively
 - Environmental buffer could be credited to meet total LRTs
- Harmonization completes “the matrix” of fit-for purpose treatment targets
 - Potable uses of onsite waters
 - Non-potable use of municipal wastewater (purple pipe systems)
- Includes both infection and DALY benchmarks
- Focus on enteric pathogen *treatment*, not opportunistic pathogen *control*



Risk-Based Framework Report

- Scientific resource for states adopting reuse
 - Collaboration between ORD and OW Water Reuse Program
- Describes QMRA framework and current parameter assumptions
 - Reference pathogens to consider
 - Pathogen density characterizations (municipal and onsite)
 - Exposure estimates for potable and non-potable uses
 - Pathogen dose-response models
 - Risk characterization approaches
- Includes computed log-reduction targets and information needed for new calculations
- Summarizes related policy decisions and future research needs



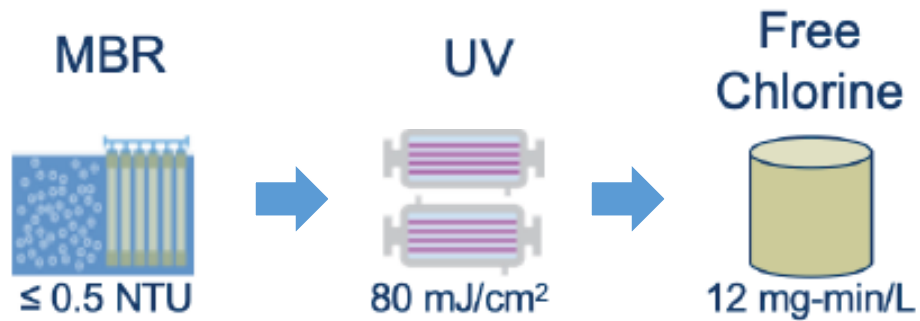


Harmonized LRT Table

End Use	Source of Water	Norovirus		Adenovirus		Cryptosporidium spp.		Giardia spp.		Campylobacter spp.		Salmonella spp.	
		LRT _{INF}	LRT _{DALY}	LRT _{INF}	LRT _{DALY}	LRT _{INF}	LRT _{DALY}	LRT _{INF}	LRT _{DALY}	LRT _{INF}	LRT _{DALY}	LRT _{INF}	LRT _{DALY}
Potable use	Untreated municipal wastewater	14.5	12.5	NSD	NSD	10.5	10.0	9.5	8.5	11.0	7.5	9.5	9.5
	Untreated onsite wastewater	14.5	12.5	NSD	NSD	11.5	11.0	10.0	9.0	12.0	9.5	8.0	8.0
	Graywater	13.0	11.0	NSD	NSD	9.0	8.5	8.0	7.0	9.5	7.5	5.5	5.5
	Stormwater (10% wastewater)	13.5	11.5	NSD	NSD	9.5	9.0	8.5	7.5	10.0	6.5	8.5	8.5
	Roof runoff	n/a	n/a	NSD	NSD	NSD	NSD	5.5	4.5	9.0	6.5	8.0	8.0
Unrestricted access landscape irrigation	Untreated municipal wastewater	10.0	8.5	NSD	NSD	6.5	6.0	5.5	4.5	6.5	4.0	5.5	5.5
	Untreated onsite wastewater	10.5	8.5	NSD	NSD	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.0	7.5	5.5	3.5	3.5
	Graywater	8.5	6.5	NSD	NSD	4.5	4.0	3.5	2.5	5.5	3.0	1.5	1.5
	Stormwater (10% wastewater)	9.0	7.5	NSD	NSD	5.5	5.0	4.5	3.5	5.5	3.0	4.5	4.5
	Roof runoff	n/a	n/a	NSD	NSD	NSD	NSD	1.5	0.5	5.0	2.5	3.5	3.5
Indoor non-potable use	Untreated municipal wastewater	10.5	9.0	NSD	NSD	7.5	7.0	6.5	5.5	7.5	5.5	6.5	6.5
	Untreated onsite wastewater	11.5	10.0	NSD	NSD	7.0	6.5	6.5	5.5	7.5	5.5	4.0	4.0
	Graywater	9.0	7.5	NSD	NSD	4.5	4.0	4.0	3.0	5.5	3.5	2.0	1.5
	Stormwater (10% wastewater)	9.5	8.0	NSD	NSD	6.5	6.0	5.5	4.5	6.5	5.0	5.5	5.5
	Roof runoff	n/a	n/a	NSD	NSD	NSD	NSD	2.0	1.0	5.0	3.0	3.5	3.5

NSD = not sufficient data; n/a = not applicable

Example Treatment Trains for Indoor Use of Onsite Wastewater/Blackwater



Pathogens	LRV Achieved by Treatment Process			Total LRV Achieved	LRV Required for Indoor Use
	MBR	UV	Free Cl ₂		
Enteric Virus	1.0	3.5 ^b	4.0	8.5	8.5
<i>Giardia</i>	2.5	6.0	--	8.5	7.0
<i>Crypto</i>	2.5	6.0	--	8.5	7.0
Bacteria	4.0	6.0 ^d	4.0	14	6.0

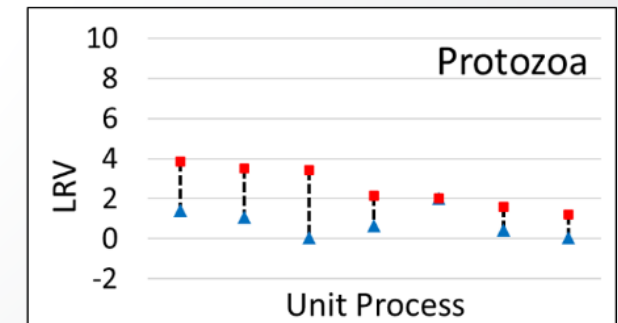
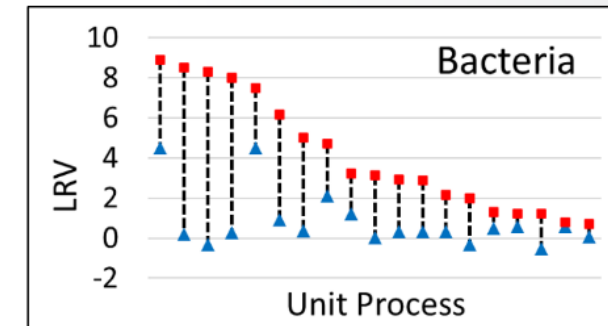
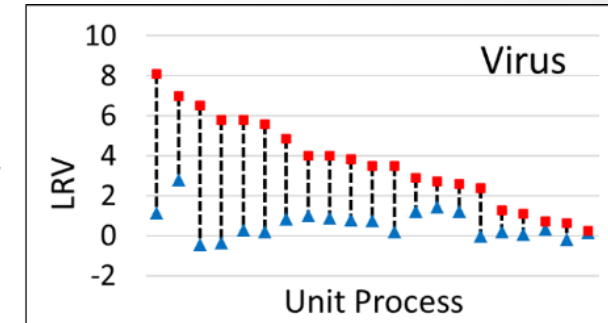
Sum of reduction values must meet LRTs



MBR = Membrane bioreactor (compact biological treatment)
 UV = Ultraviolet disinfection
 LRV = Log reduction target (pathogen removal required)
 LRV = Log reduction value (pathogen removal achieved by process)

Unit Process Log Reduction Values

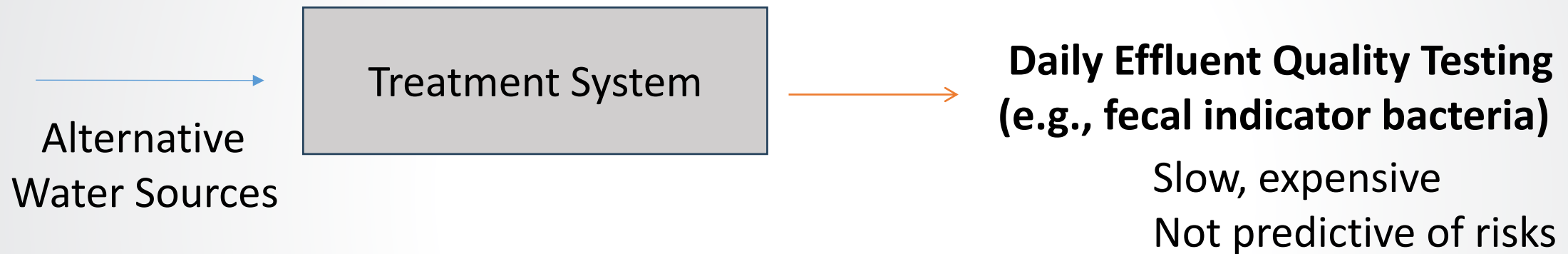
AP16								
ID	Source	Unit Process	Brief Description of Unit Process	Location	Sampling Plan	Source Water	Influent	End Use
1	Bounty et al. (2012)	UV	LPUV	Lab		Synthetic	phosphate buffered saline	
2	Bounty et al. (2012)	UV + H2O2	LPUV with H2O2 (10 mg/L)	Lab		Synthetic	phosphate buffered saline	
3	Linden et al. (2012)	UV	LPUV; Manatee	Manatee, FL		Wastewater	Filtered secondary effluent	
4	Linden et al. (2012)	UV	MPUV; Manatee	Manatee, FL		Wastewater	Filtered secondary effluent	
5	Linden et al. (2012)	UV	LPUV; Manatee	Manatee, FL		Wastewater	Filtered secondary effluent	
6	Linden et al. (2012)	UV	MPUV; Manatee	Manatee, FL		Wastewater	Filtered secondary effluent	
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9	Linden et al. (2012)	UV	LPUV; Manatee	Manatee, FL		Wastewater	Filtered secondary effluent	
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24	Linden et al. (2012)	UV	MPUV; Manatee	Manatee, FL		Wastewater	Filtered secondary effluent	
25	Linden et al. (2012)	UV	LPUV; Bradenton	Bradenton, FL		Wastewater	Filtered secondary effluent	
26	Linden et al. (2012)	UV	MPUV; Bradenton	Bradenton, FL		Wastewater	Filtered secondary effluent	
27	Linden et al. (2012)	UV	LPUV; Bradenton	Bradenton, FL		Wastewater	Filtered secondary effluent	
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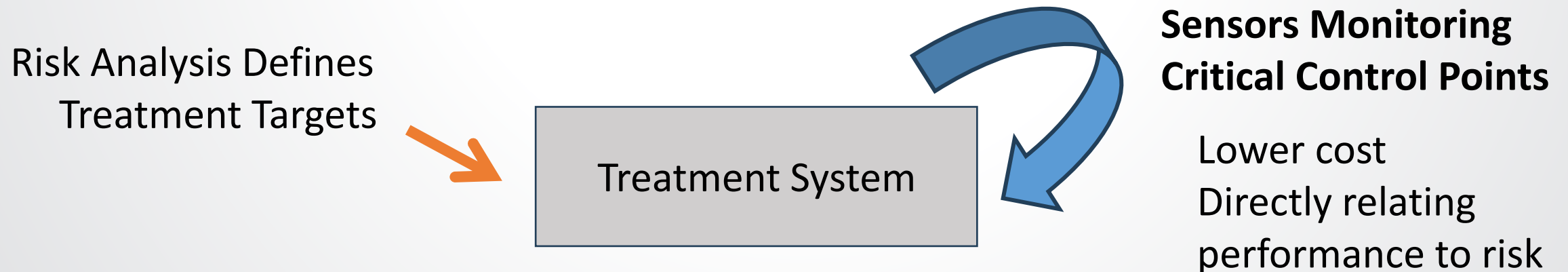


Risk-Based Management

Traditional Monitoring Approach



Risk-Based Monitoring Approach





Continuous Process Monitoring

Example Treatment Process	Available Pathogen Reduction Credits Virus / Protozoa / Bacteria	Example Information Included in an Engineering Report	Example Continuous Monitoring Methods
Microfiltration or Ultrafiltration	0 / 4 / 0	Description and calculation of how the system defines an acceptable pressure decay test value per the US EPA's Membrane Filtration Guidance Manual to detect 3.0 µm breach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily pressure decay test• Effluent turbidity
Membrane Biological Reactor	1.5 / 2 / 4	Operation within the Tier 1 operating envelope as defined in the AWRCE Membrane bio-reactor, WaterVal validation protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effluent turbidity
Reverse Osmosis	Up to 2 / 2 / 2	Demonstration of ability to meet salt rejection criteria and a description of surrogate parameter used to calculate pathogen reduction credits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influent and effluent total organic carbon (TOC)• Influent and effluent electrical conductivity
Ultraviolet Light Disinfection	Up to 6 / 6 / 6	UV reactor's validation report following US EPA UV Disinfection Guidance Manual or NSF/ANSI 55 Class A validation and demonstration of ability of system to meet criteria to achieve specified UV dose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UV intensity• Flow rate
Chlorine Disinfection	Up to 5 / 0 / 5	Demonstration of ability to achieve a target CT ¹ including description of chlorine contactor, contact time provided, and monitoring of chlorine residual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chlorine residual• Flow rate
Ozone Disinfection	Up to 4 / 3 / 4	Demonstration of ability to achieve a target CT ¹ including description of ozone contactor, contact time provided, and monitoring of ozone residual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ozone residual• Flow rate

Future Research Needs

- Pathogen Dose-Response
 - Dose-dependent probabilities of illness?
 - Ingestion exposure to enteric adenoviruses
- Pathogen Characterization
 - Additional high-sensitivity measurements
 - Updated modeling inputs and approaches
 - Norovirus culture methods
- Log-reduction crediting and monitoring
 - LRTs are only the first step in risk-based reuse
 - Treatment trains must be credited to meet them
 - Unit processes must be monitored for ongoing performance
 - *Key priorities for advancement by states!*

A Structured Framework

Transparent Underlying
Assumptions

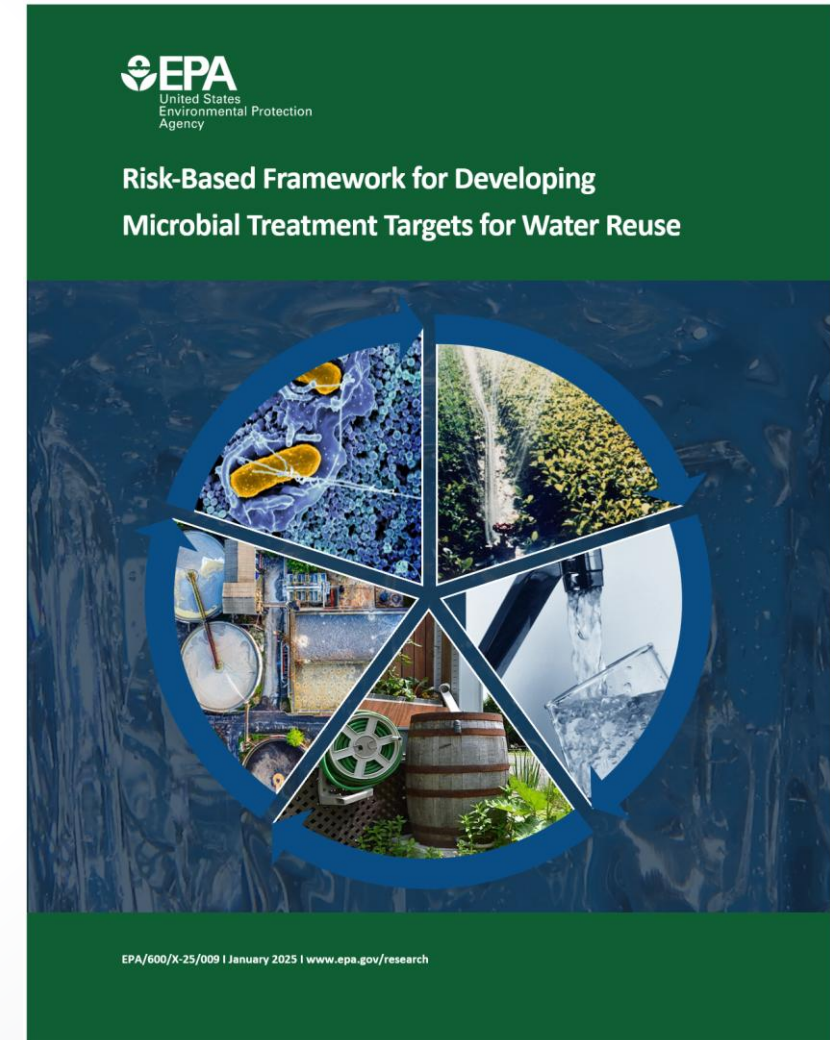
Flexible and Adaptable

Risk-Based
Treatment
Targets

Process
Crediting
Frameworks

Performance
Validation
Monitoring

- Coauthors
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Chemical Risk Management

Industrial and Produced Water Reuse

Protein Processing Wastewater

- Animal slaughtering, meat and poultry product production, rendering of byproducts
- Water reuse permitted provided it has been treated by “*onsite advanced wastewater treatment facility*” and meets *National Primary Drinking Water Standards*
- Similar challenge to municipal DPR – potable regulations tied to source water

Oil and Gas Produced Water

- Byproduct of oil and gas extraction containing formation fluid and chemical additives
- Growing interest in off-field reuse as disposal options reach capacity
- Complex and variable mixture – what is “*good enough quality*” for different uses?

How do you define effective treatment?



Tyson Project Objectives

- **Task 1: Source Characterization**

- Focus on microbial contaminants likely to drive treatment train
- Include conventional contaminants (biochemical oxygen demand, solids, oil & grease, nitrogen)
- Secondary assessment of industry-specific chemicals (antibiotics, hormones, cleaning compounds)

- **Task 2: Treatment Target Development**

- Based on microbial contaminants: quantitative microbial risk assessment (QMRA) to develop pathogen log reduction targets (LRTs)

- **Task 3: Treatment Train Configurations**

- Identify unit processes to meet LRTs
- Additional consideration of conventional contaminants and chemicals; does treatment train for microbials manage these or need additional unit process(es)
- Will not provide actual engineering design

- **Facilities:**

- 3 beef sites
- 3 pork sites
- 4 poultry sites

- **Sampling:**

- Post-DAF (dissolved air flotation)
- 2 sites rotating weekly
- Separate microbial and chemical phases

- **Samples:**

- 8-12 each for microbial
- 3 each for chemical screening

Microbial Targets

- **Fecal Indicator Bacteria (culture):**

- Enterococci
- *Escherichia coli*

- **Pathogens (molecular):**

- *Listeria*
- *Salmonella*
- *Campylobacter*
- Pathogenic *E. coli*
- *Cryptosporidium*
- *Giardia*



LRT Results for Potable Use

	<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>Campylobacter</i>	Pathogenic <i>E. coli</i>	<i>Listeria</i>	<i>Giardia</i>	<i>Cryptosporidium</i>	Norovirus
Beef	8.2	11.4	6.8	8.9	6.5	7.7	n/a
Pork	10.7	13.3	7.1	8.7	7.3	7.7	n/a
Poultry	8.7	15.8	2.8	9.2	0	0	n/a
Combined	10.3	14.7	7.2	9.3	7.1	7.5	n/a
WW-DPR	9.5	11	n/a	n/a	9.5	10.5	14.5

**italics indicate greater uncertainty for rare pathogens*

- **Antibiotics**

- Tylosin
- Lincomycin
- Sulfadimethoxine
- Trimethoprim
- Ampicillin
- Sulfamethazine
- Sulfanilamide
- Monensin sodium
- Erythromycin
- Virginiamycin
- Dicyclohexylcarbodiimide
- Clarithromycin
- Tiamulin
- Thiabendazole
- Penicillin G
- Novobiocin
- Azithromycin
- Oxolinic acid

- **Hormones**

- Progesterone
- Testosterone
- Equilin
- Equilenin
- Medroxyprogesterone
- Levonorgestrel
- Estrone
- Genistein
- Norethindrone
- Estriol
- Hydrocortisone
- Drospirenone
- Gestodene
- Triclocarban
- Formononetin
- Prednisone
- Diethylstilbestrol
- Coumestrol

- 4-Androstene-3,17-dione
- 17beta-Estradiol
- 7,4'-Dihydroxyisoflavone
- Norgestrol acetate
- 17beta-Estradiol
- 5alpha-Dihydrotestosterone
- 17alpha-Ethinylestradiol

- **Plant use chemicals**

- Cyclohexylamine
- (S)-Lactic acid
- Didecyldimethylammonium

**Typically trace
concentrations (ng – µg/L)**

Variable occurrence



Hazard Comparison

	VH - Very High	H - High		M - Medium		L - Low		I - Inconclusive		No Data		Authoritative			Screening		QSAR Model		
Name	Human Health Effects														Ecotoxicity		Fate		
	Acute Mammalian Toxicity			Carcinogenicity	Genotoxicity Mutagenicity	Endocrine Disruption	Reproductive	Developmental	Neurotoxicity		Systemic Toxicity		Skin Sensitization	Skin Irritation	Eye Irritation	Acute Aquatic Toxicity	Chronic Aquatic Toxicity	Persistence	Bioaccumulation
	Oral	Inhalation	Dermal						Repeat Exposure	Single Exposure	Repeat Exposure	Single Exposure							
Norethindrone	L			VH	VH	H	H	H								L	VH		L
Didecyldimethylammonium	H	I	I	I	L	L	I	L	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	M	H
7,4'-Dihydroxyisoflavone	M				L	H		H	M							H	VH		L
Estrone	L	I	L	VH	VH	H	H	H	H	I	H	I	I	I	I	H	VH	M	M
(S)-Lactic acid	M	L	L	I	L	L	I	H	L	I	L	I	I	VH	VH	L	L	L	L
17beta-Estradiol	L			VH	VH		H				H					VH	VH		L
Estriol	L				L	H	H	H								H	VH		L
Levonorgestrel	L				L	H	H	H								VH			I
Medroxyprogesterone	M				L	L	M	H								H	M		L
17alpha-Ethinylestradiol	M			VH	VH		H				H					H	VH	H	H
Diethylstilbestrol	M	I	I	VH	VH	H	H	H			H	M	H	I	I	H	H		M

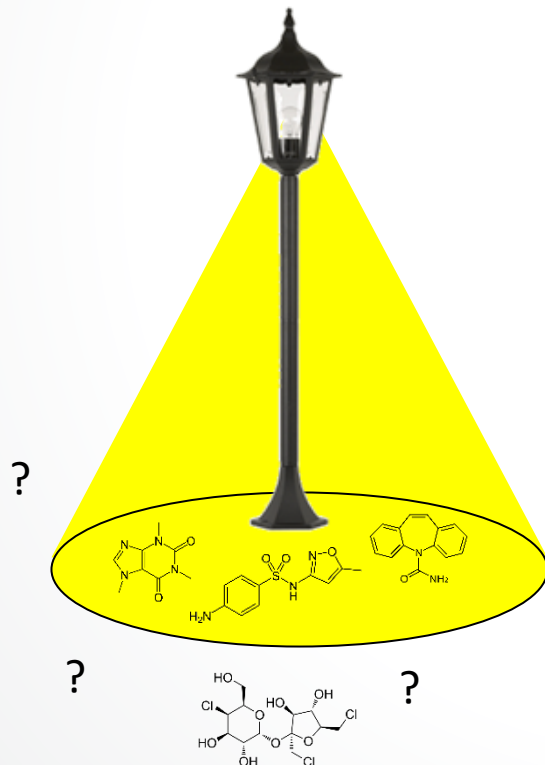


U.S. EPA CompTox Cheminformatics Modules
<https://www.epa.gov/comptox-tools/cheminformatics>

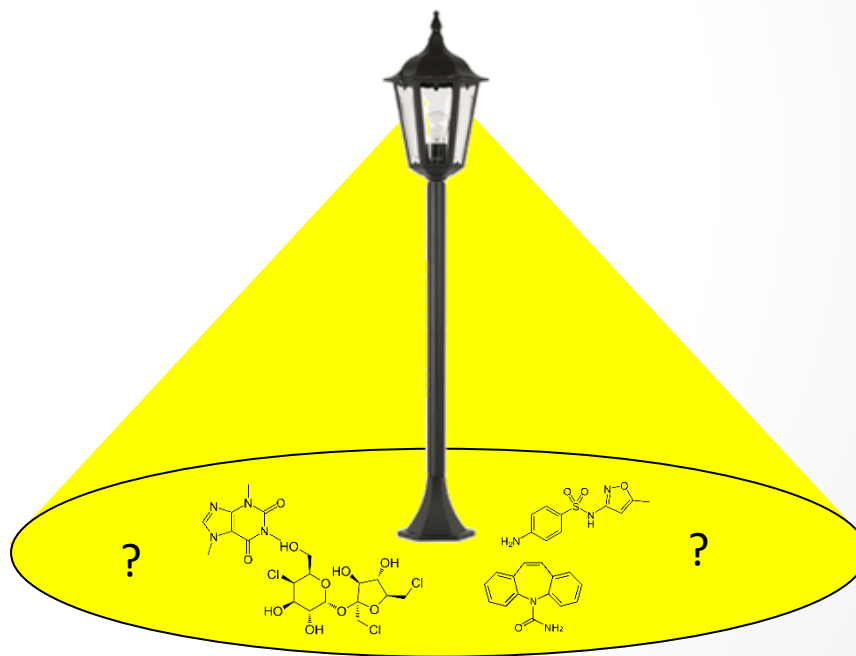
Next step: Assess removal needs by comparing observed concentrations to reported toxicity thresholds

Analytical Space

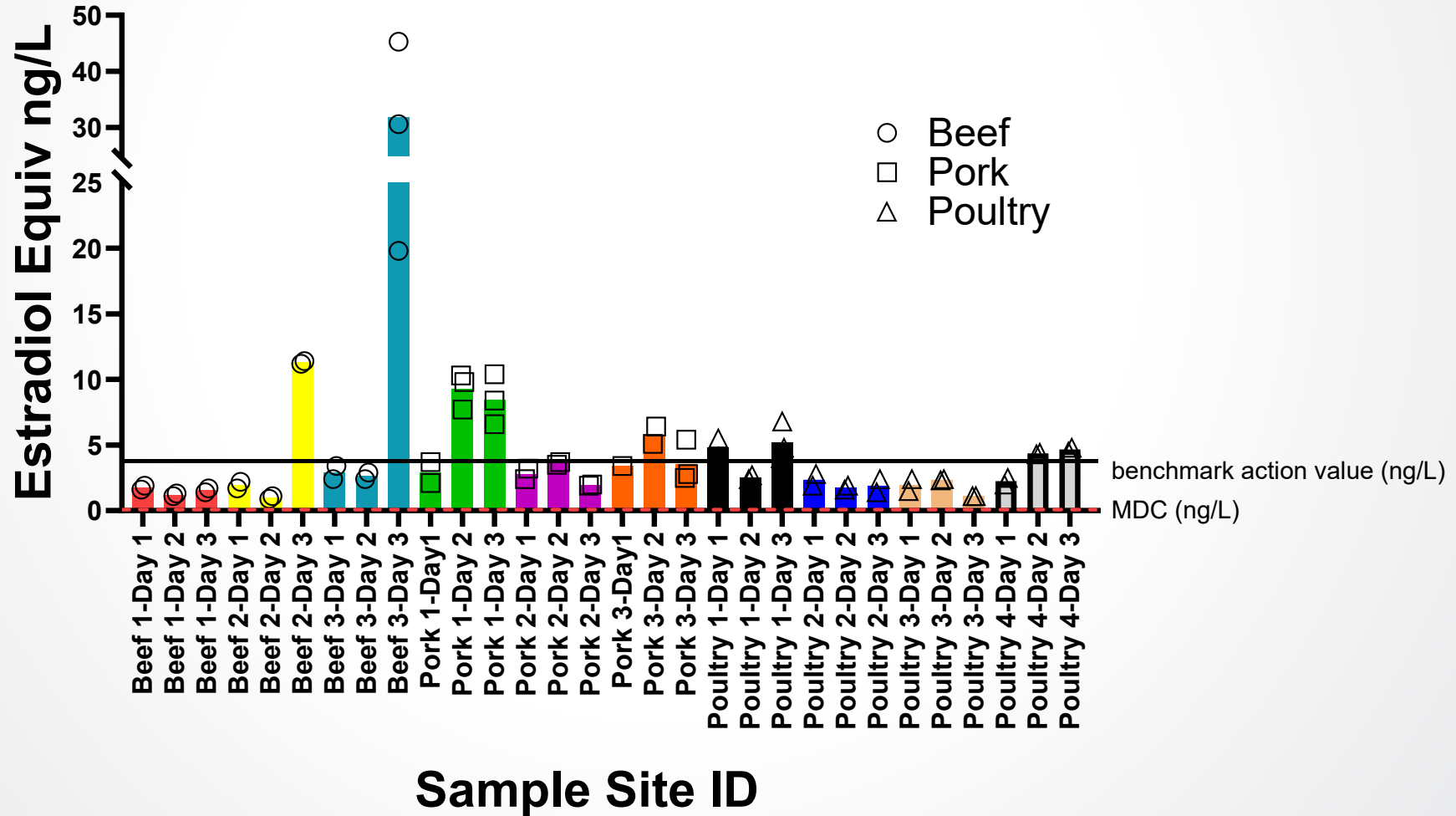
Targeted Chemical Analysis



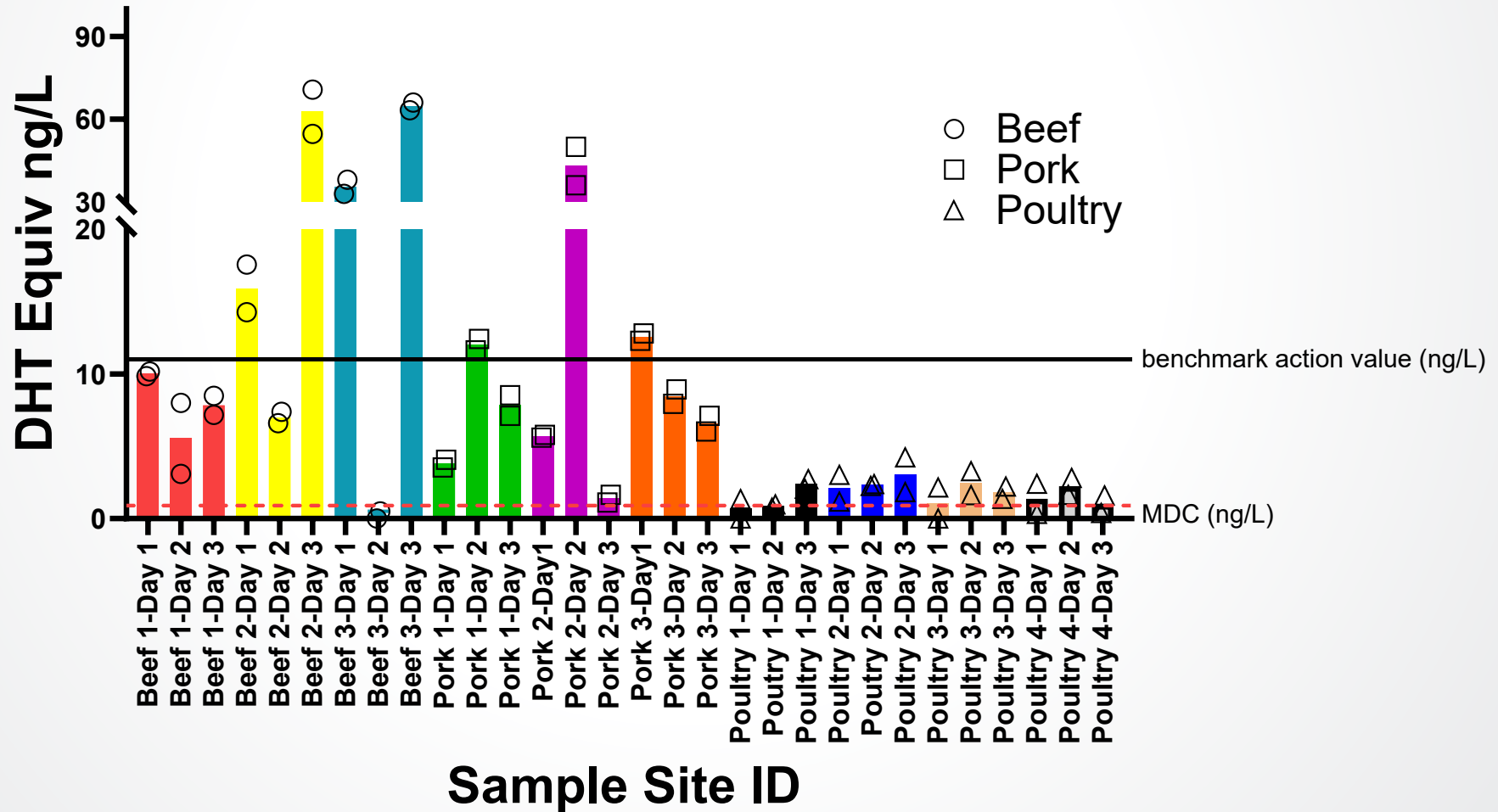
Effects-based Analysis



Estrogen Receptor Assay



Androgen Receptor Assay



Next Step: Demonstration Projects

- **Tyson Foods developing potable reuse pilot project at Kansas facility**
 - Demonstrating “potability” of water to state and federal regulators
 - Seeking waiver for product contact use in final rinse
 - Treatment design based on study results
- **Proof of concept for further expansion**
 - Water scarcity is critical driver, despite treatment costs
 - Need to establish both technical and regulatory processes
- **Beyond Tyson: Ohio turkey plant**
 - Local water and wastewater constraints
 - Similar microbial evaluation by ORD
 - Working with Ohio EPA and local municipality on potential reuse

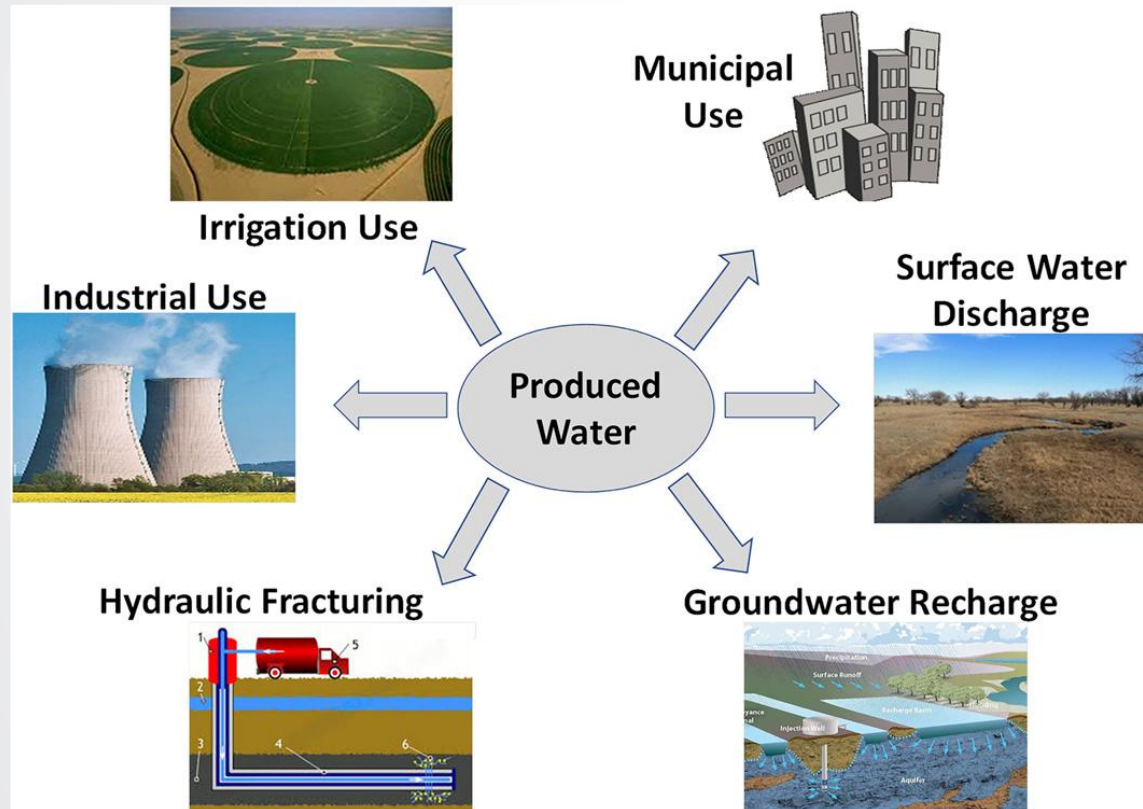




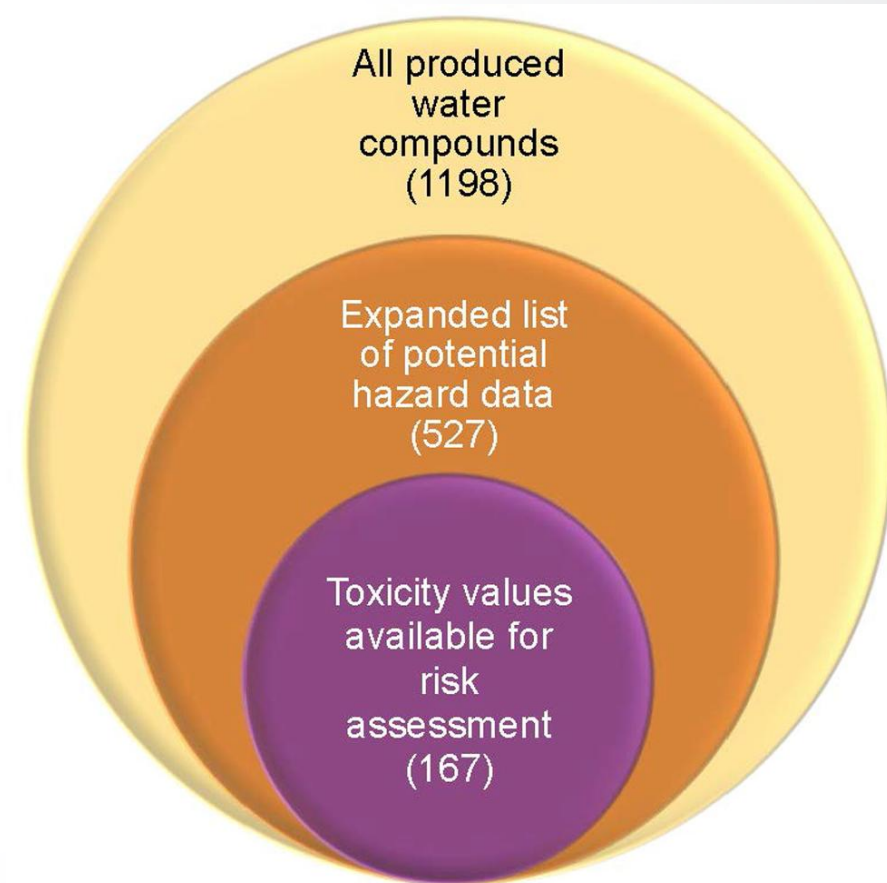
Collaborators

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- Nick Sylvest (Pegasus)
- Kim Dirks (Tyson Foods)
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Opportunities



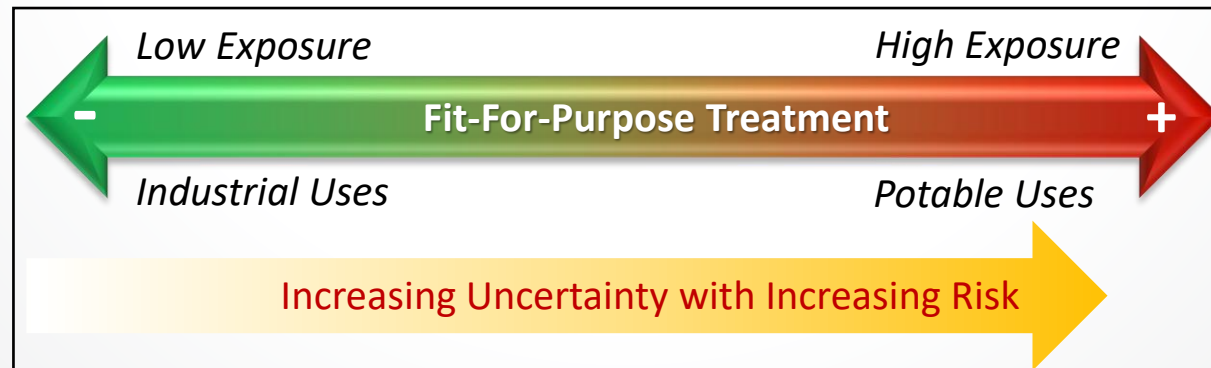
Challenges



- **Integrated risk assessment to inform treatment guidance**
 - Holistic characterization of produced water using analytical, computational, and effects-based methods
 - Development of risk-based, fit-for-purpose treatment targets
 - Test case for R&D of risk frameworks extendible to other complex waters
- **Linking bulk toxicity to constituent organics**
 - Biological endpoints (*in vivo*, *in vitro*)
 - Gene expression (high-throughput transcriptomics)
 - Non-targeted analysis
 - Computational prediction

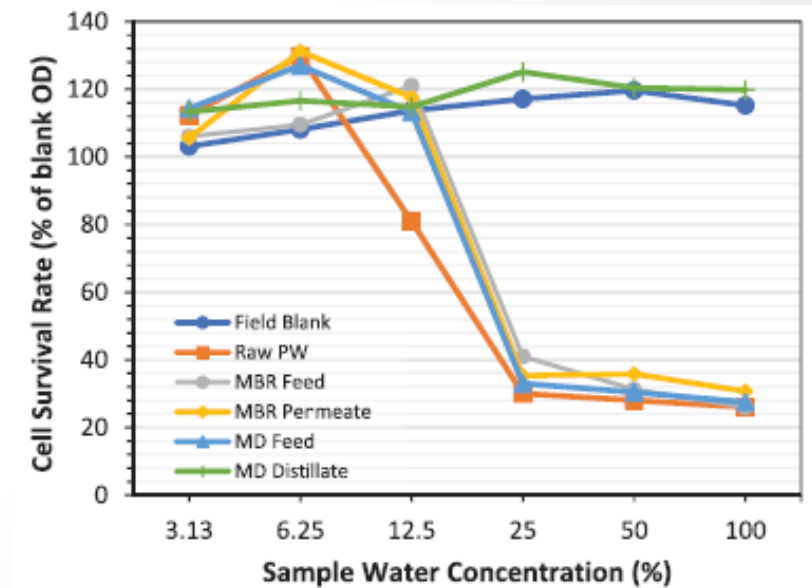
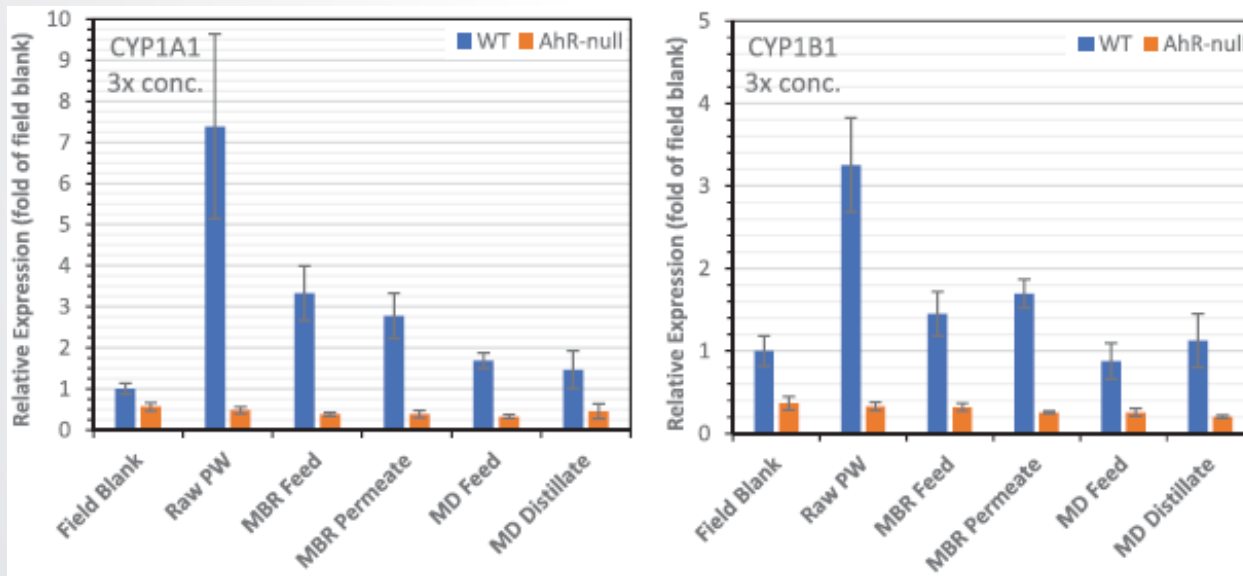


- **Assessing treatment processes for water reuse**
 - Characterization and monitoring of treatment performance
 - Collaborations with Colorado School of Mines (CSM), New Mexico State University (NMSU), and research partners on treatment train testing
- **Evaluation of produced water discharges**
 - Understanding effects on receiving streams
 - Data generation supports reuse risk assessments



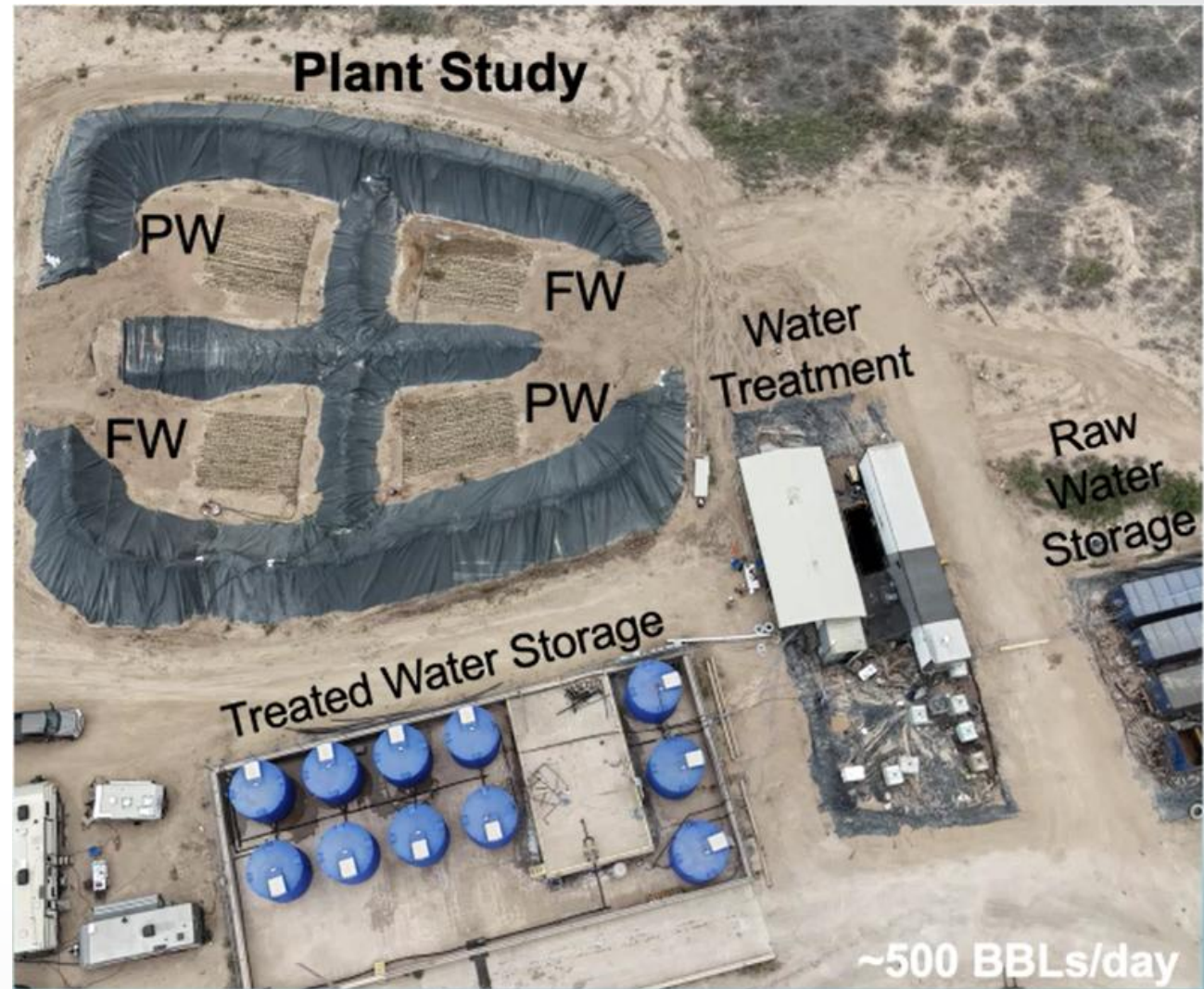
CSM Treatment Pilot

- Coagulation + membrane bioreactor (MBR) + granular activated carbon (GAC) + ion exchange (IX) + membrane distillation (MD)
- Cell-line assays for aryl hydrocarbon [dioxin] receptor (AhR) and cytotoxicity
- Toxicity dependent on AhR pathway and reduced during treatment

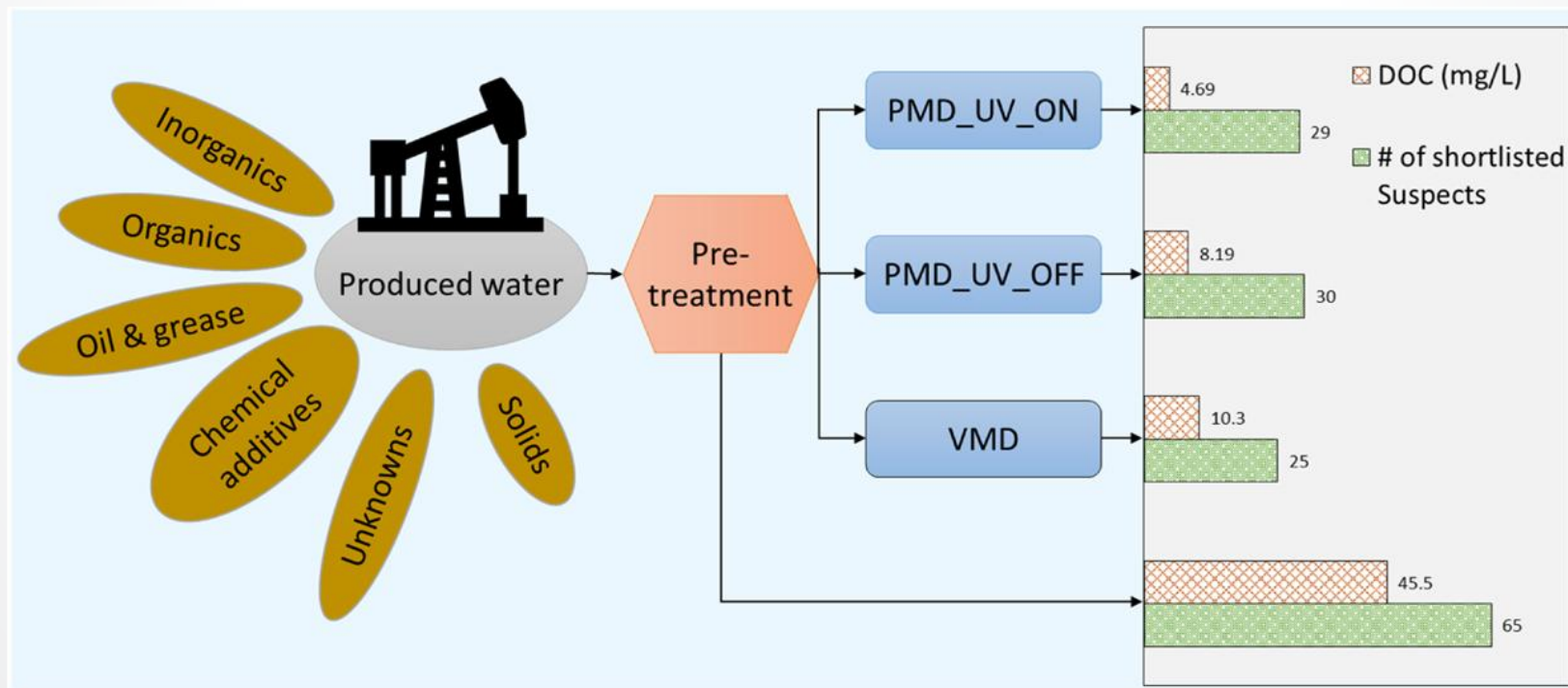


CSM Treatment Pilot

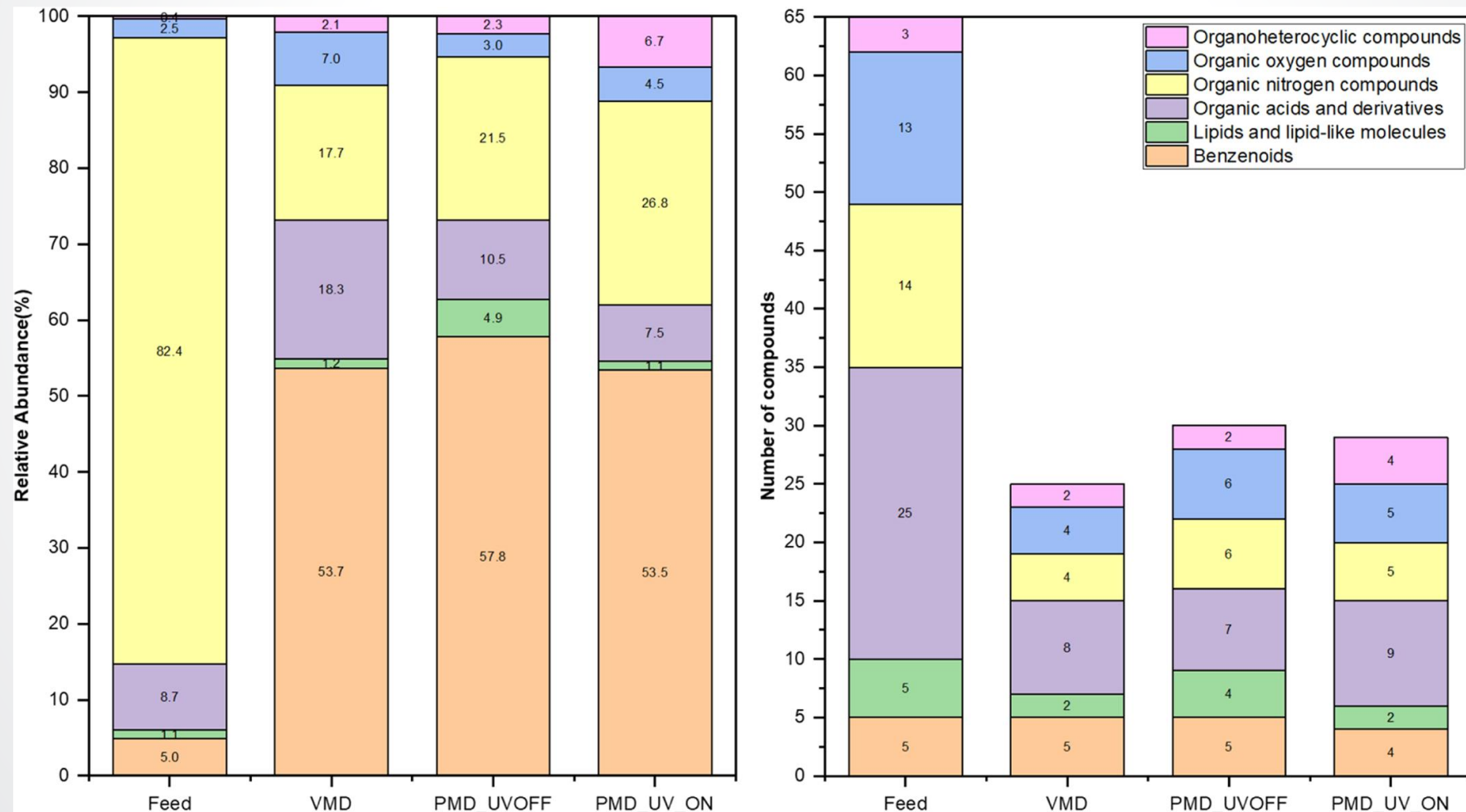
- New study in progress: Field-scale including crop irrigation
- Industry and academic partners
 - PWR, NGL, Exxon, CSM, Colorado State
- Adding new effects-based methods for endocrine disruption and aquatic toxicity



- Cartridge filtration + membrane distillation (MD)
 - Comparing vacuum (VMD) and photocatalytic (PMD)
- Non-targeted analysis (NTA) and toxicity prediction



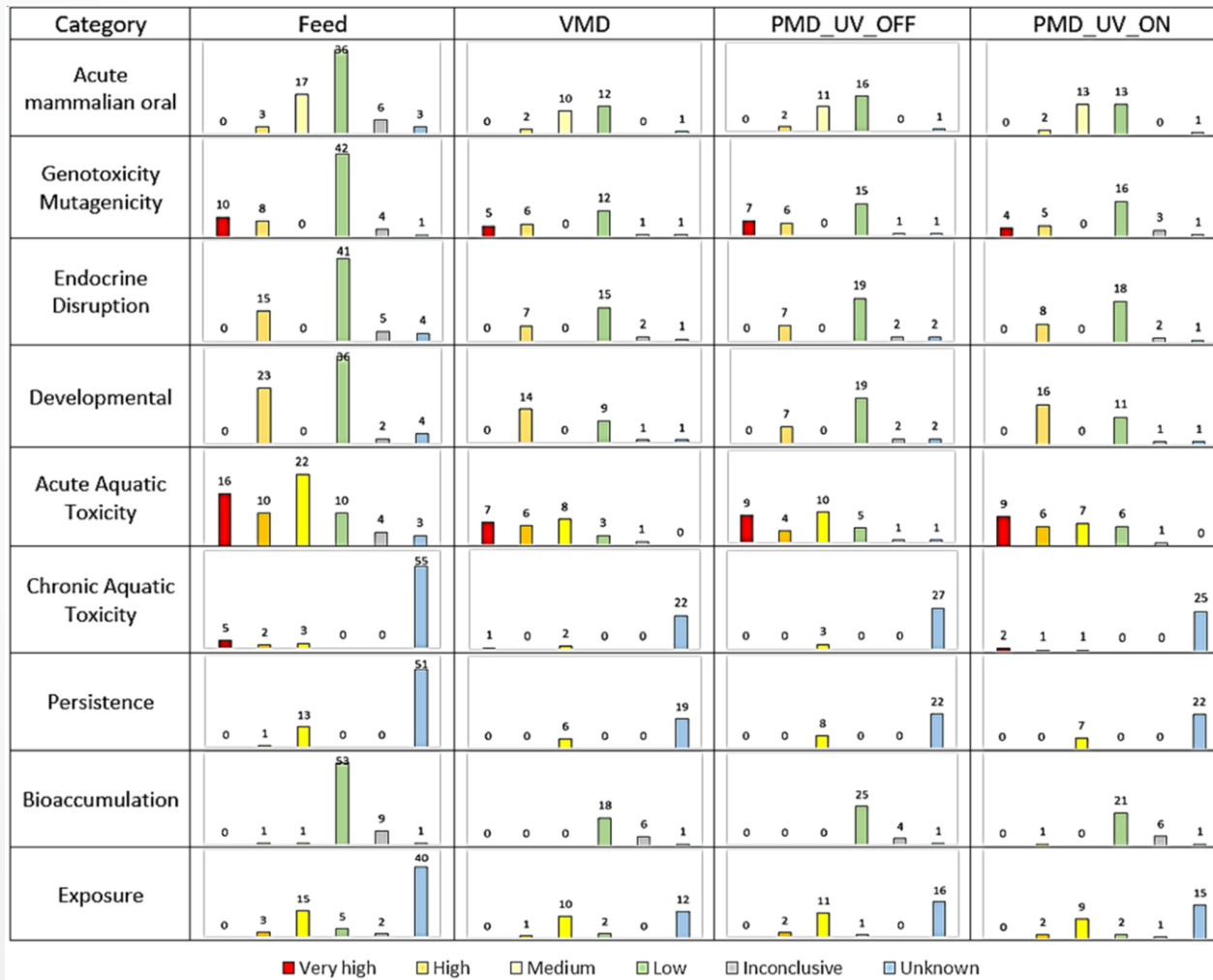
- Classification of suspect compounds shifts following treatment





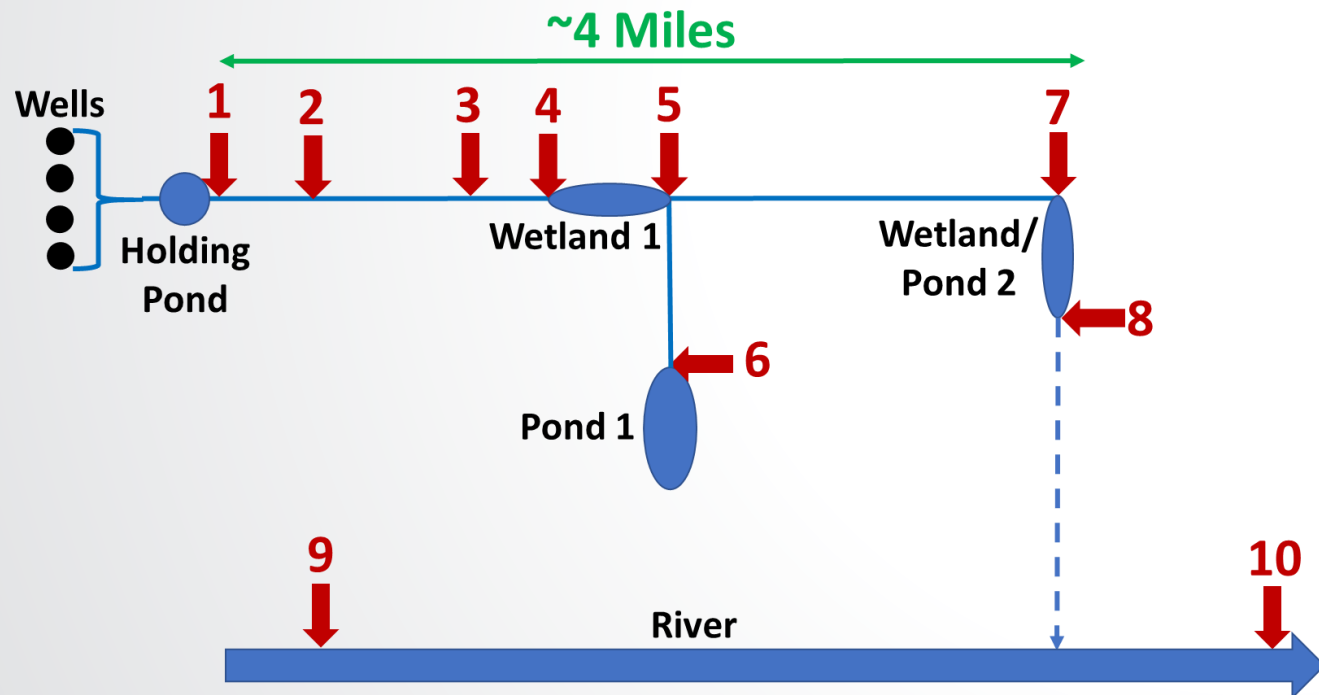
NMSU Treatment Pilot

- CompTox tools predict toxicity of suspect compounds across treatment

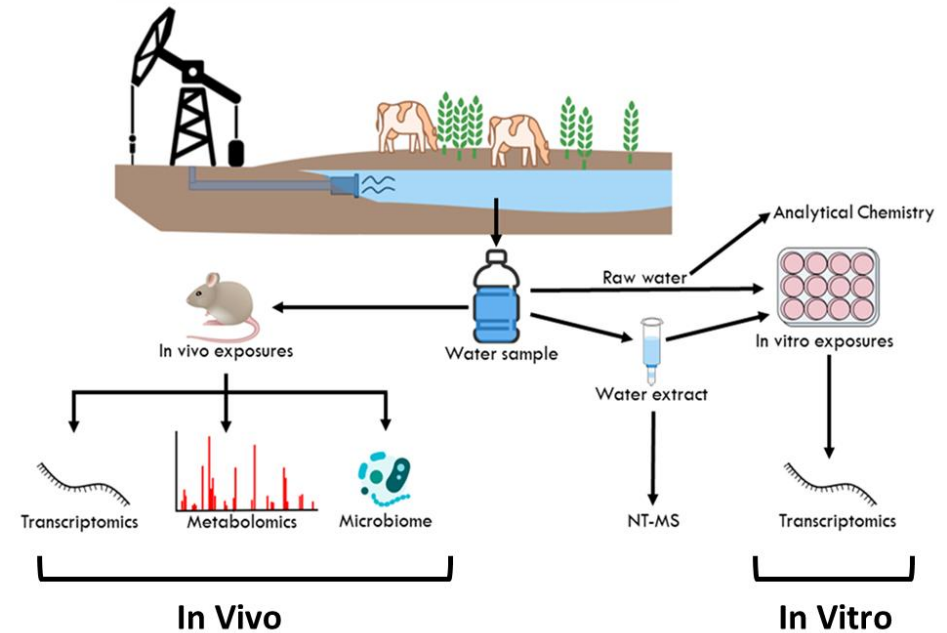


Produced Water Discharges

- Ongoing study: evaluating downstream effects from existing discharges
- *In vitro* and *in vivo* toxicity, high-throughput transcriptomics (HTTr), NTA

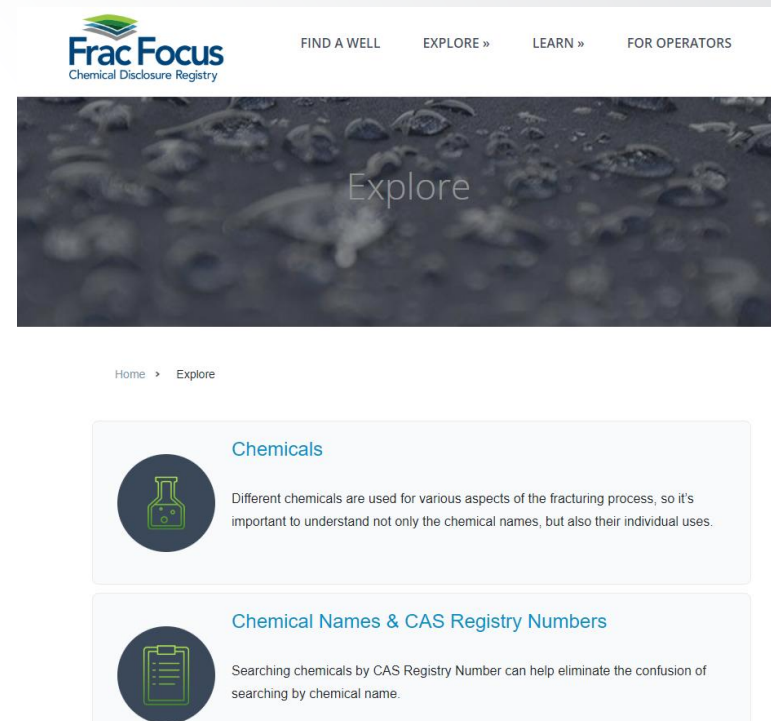


Sampling Design



Testing Design

- Computational analysis of [FracFocus](#) database for chemical use disclosures
- Data cleaning and organization
 - Provided “as is” and requires preprocessing
- Chemical-functional usage relationships
 - Understanding the purposes for which chemicals used
 - Identifying different chemicals used for similar functions
- Toxicity screening
 - Linking reported chemicals to potential human and ecological health effects
 - Proprietary information presents limitations



<https://comptox.epa.gov/chemexpo>



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Produced Water Partnerships

- New Mexico Produced Water Research Consortium (NMPWRC)
- New Mexico State University (NMSU)
- Colorado School of Mines (CSM)
- DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)
- Special thanks to:
 - Pei Xu (NMSU)
 - Himali Delanka-Pedige (NMSU)
 - James Rosenblum (CSM)
 - Brett Van Houghton (CSM)
 - Elliese Wright (CSM)
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**Thank You
Questions?**

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