

Application of Modified Impact-to-Groundwater Tools for PFAS Assessment

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Because PFAS are generally released at the surface, it is important to estimate the transport of PFAS from the initial release, through the unsaturated zone, and into groundwater. Unlike more conventional contaminants such as chlorinated solvents, several additional retention processes are likely to influence PFAS transport in the unsaturated zone, such as storage at air-water interfaces. Many of these factors cannot be fully explained under all environmentally relevant conditions, indicating a need to determine PFAS migration potential on a site-specific basis. This presentation provides an update on development of a simple leaching method for estimating impact to groundwater from PFAS-contaminated soil based on studies being conducted at sites in Region 3 and Region 10. The proposed leaching method provides actionable information on potential PFAS migration, uses equipment and methods commonly available, and with minimal sample collection and processing requirements.