

# ASSESSING UPGRADIENT PFAS VULNERABILITY TO WATER SUPPLIES

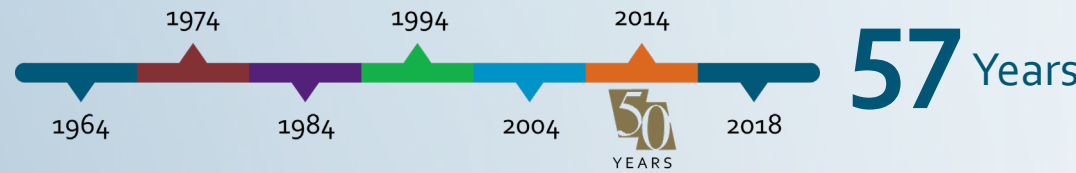


## NORTHEAST CONFERENCE **THE SCIENCE OF PFAS:** Public Health & The Environment

**Richard J. Desrosiers, LEP, PG**  
**Vice President, PFAS Initiative Lead**

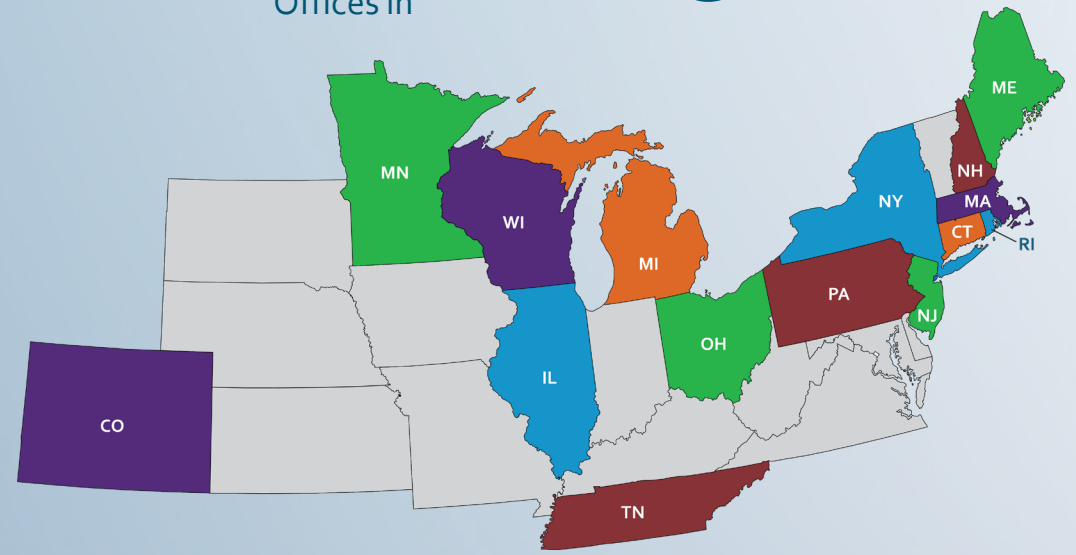
**GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.**  
**April 5, 2022**

# About GZA



30  
Offices in

15 States



Headquartered in Norwood, MA

## Core Services

- GEOTECHNICAL
- ENVIRONMENTAL
- ECOLOGICAL
- WATER
- CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Engineers/Scientists



Extensive Training & Experience



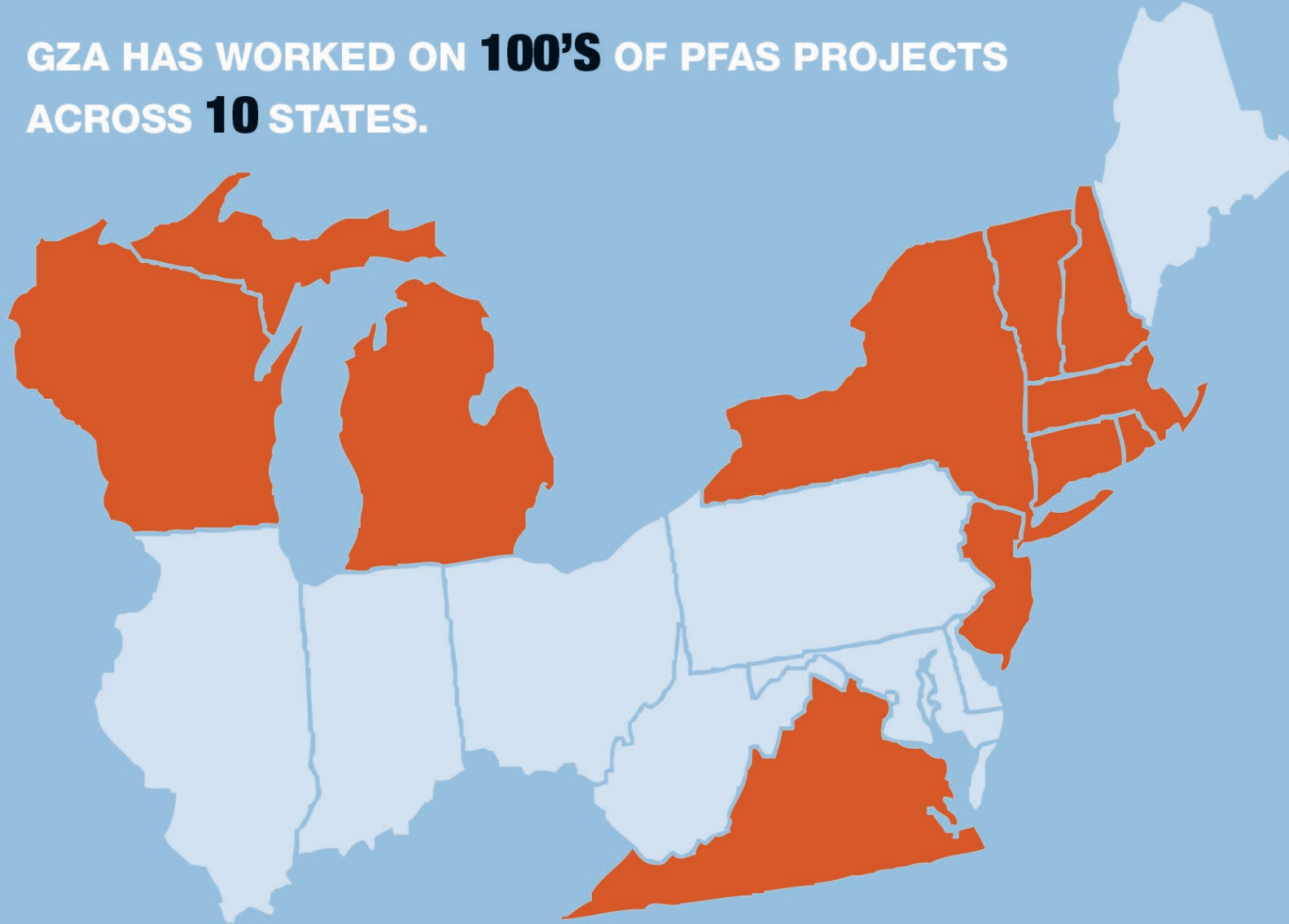
700+ Staff

Employee-Owned

# GZA's PFAS Project Experience



GZA HAS WORKED ON **100'S** OF PFAS PROJECTS  
ACROSS **10** STATES.

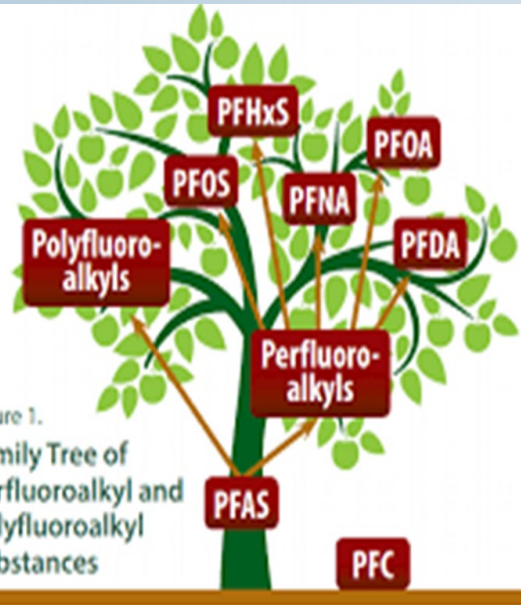


- ❑ PFAS Overview & Environmental Pathways
- ❑ Assess Potential Regional PFAS Impacts to Water Supplies
- ❑ Case Study - AFFF Releases within Area of Potable Water Supplies
- ❑ Questions and Discussion

# What Makes PFAS Different

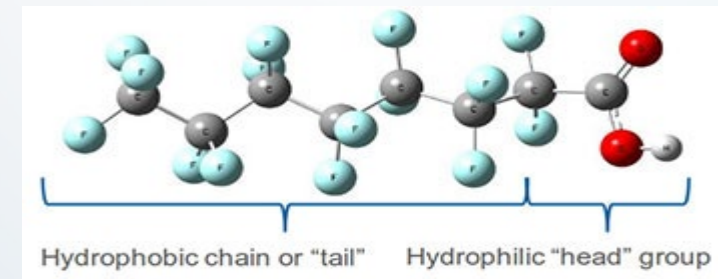
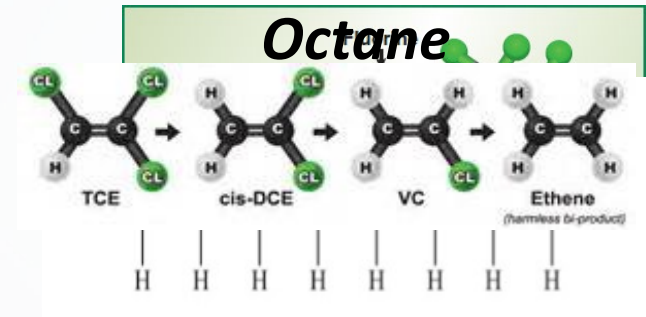


PFAS = **P**er- and **P**oly-**F**luoro**a**lkyl **S**ubstances



More than 6,000 PFAS compounds

- Man-made compounds (multiple C bonds)
  - Thermally stable (strong C - F molecular bond)
  - Chemically stable (low reactivity)
  - Unlike chlorinated solvents, No biodegradation
- Persistent in the environment
- Found worldwide in all environmental media (including human blood)
- Half-lives (2 to 8-years in humans) \*\*\*\*
- “Tail” end – Repels water (hydrophobic) and oil/fat (lipophobic)
- “Head” end - attracts/dissolves
  - water (hydrophilic)
  - Nonreactive, non-stick



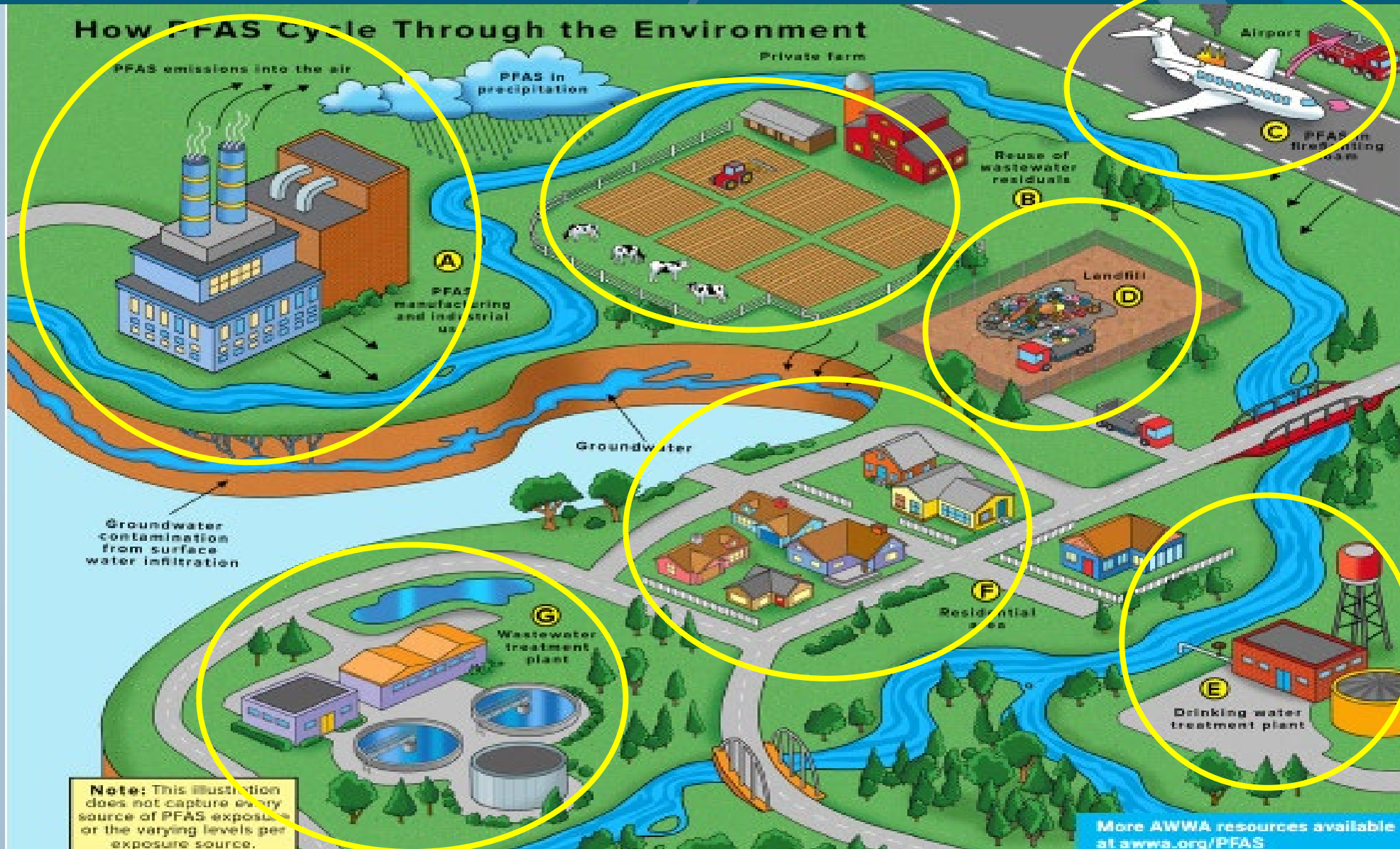


# Sources of PFAS

- Fire-fighting foams
  - Airports, training facilities, terminals
- Industrial facilities
  - Electroplating (mist suppressants)
  - Semiconductor manufacturing
  - Aerospace & electronic applications
  - Automobile
- Landfills
  - Leachate
  - Residential/commercial/industrial waste
- Wastewater treatment plants
  - Effluent discharges
  - Biosolids
- Consumer Products
  - Water Repellents
  - Stain-resistant - carpet/furniture/clothing
  - Teflon cookware
  - Cosmetics
  - Pesticides



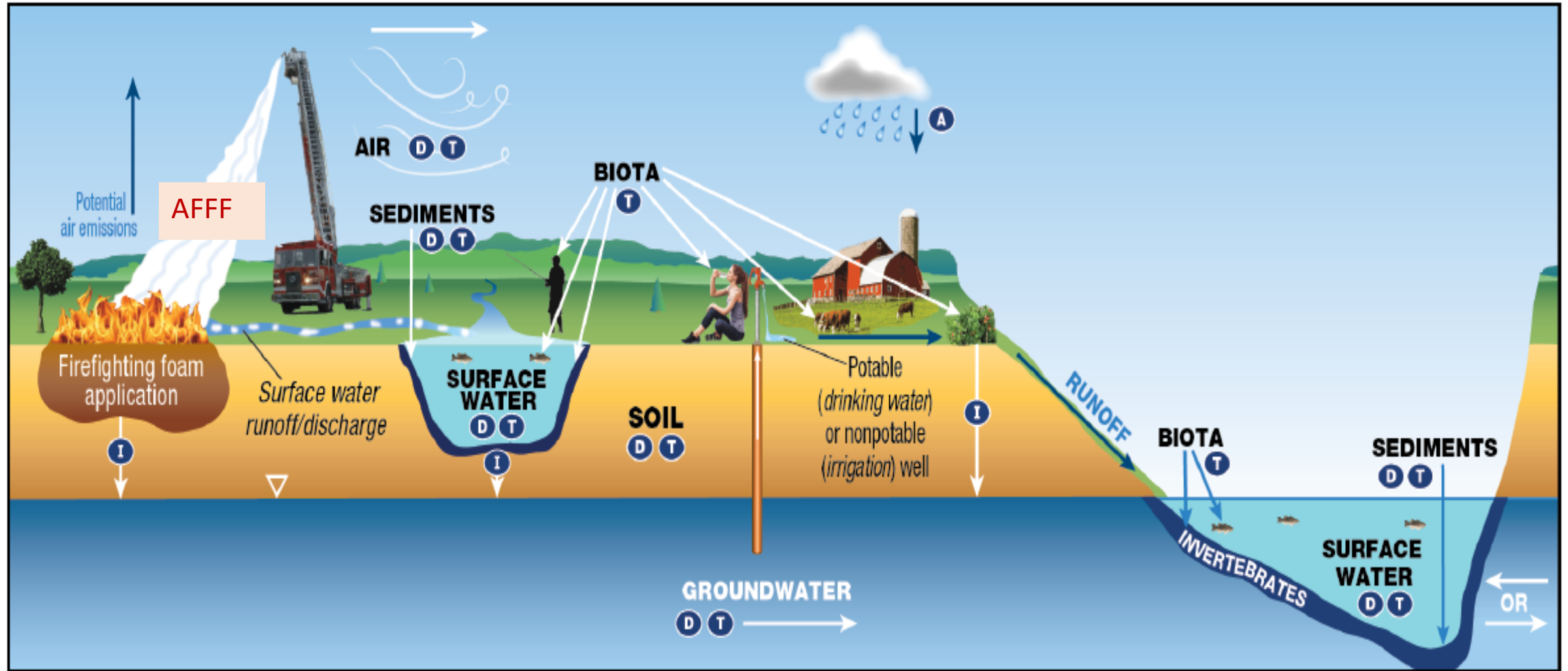
# Sources and Transport Mechanisms of PFAS



- Industrial Facilities
- Wastewater Plants
- Biosolid Applications
- Landfills
- Leaching Fields
- Water Supplies
- Airports/Fire Training



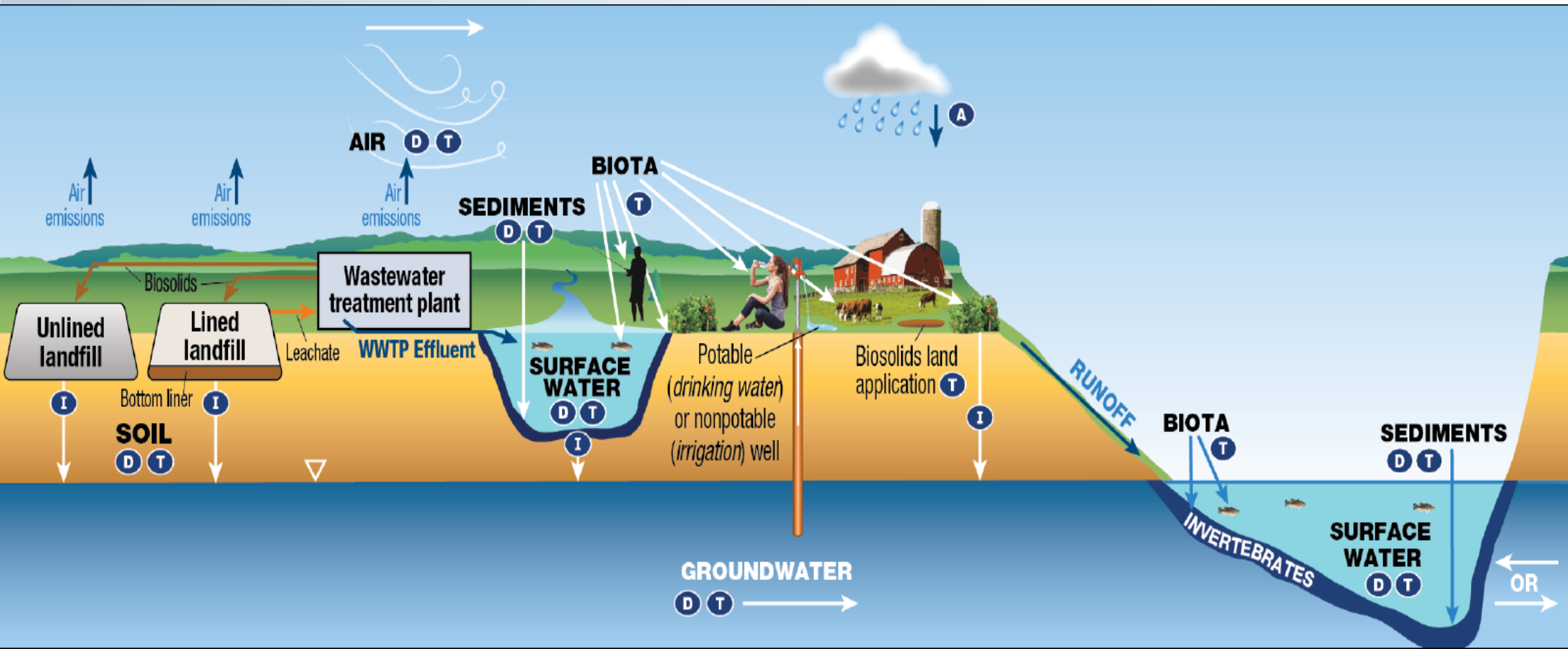
# AFFF - Fate & Transport Conceptual Site Model



**KEY** **A** Atmospheric Deposition **D** Diffusion/Dispersion/Advection **I** Infiltration **T** Transformation of precursors (abiotic/biotic)



# Landfill - Fate & Transport Conceptual Site Model



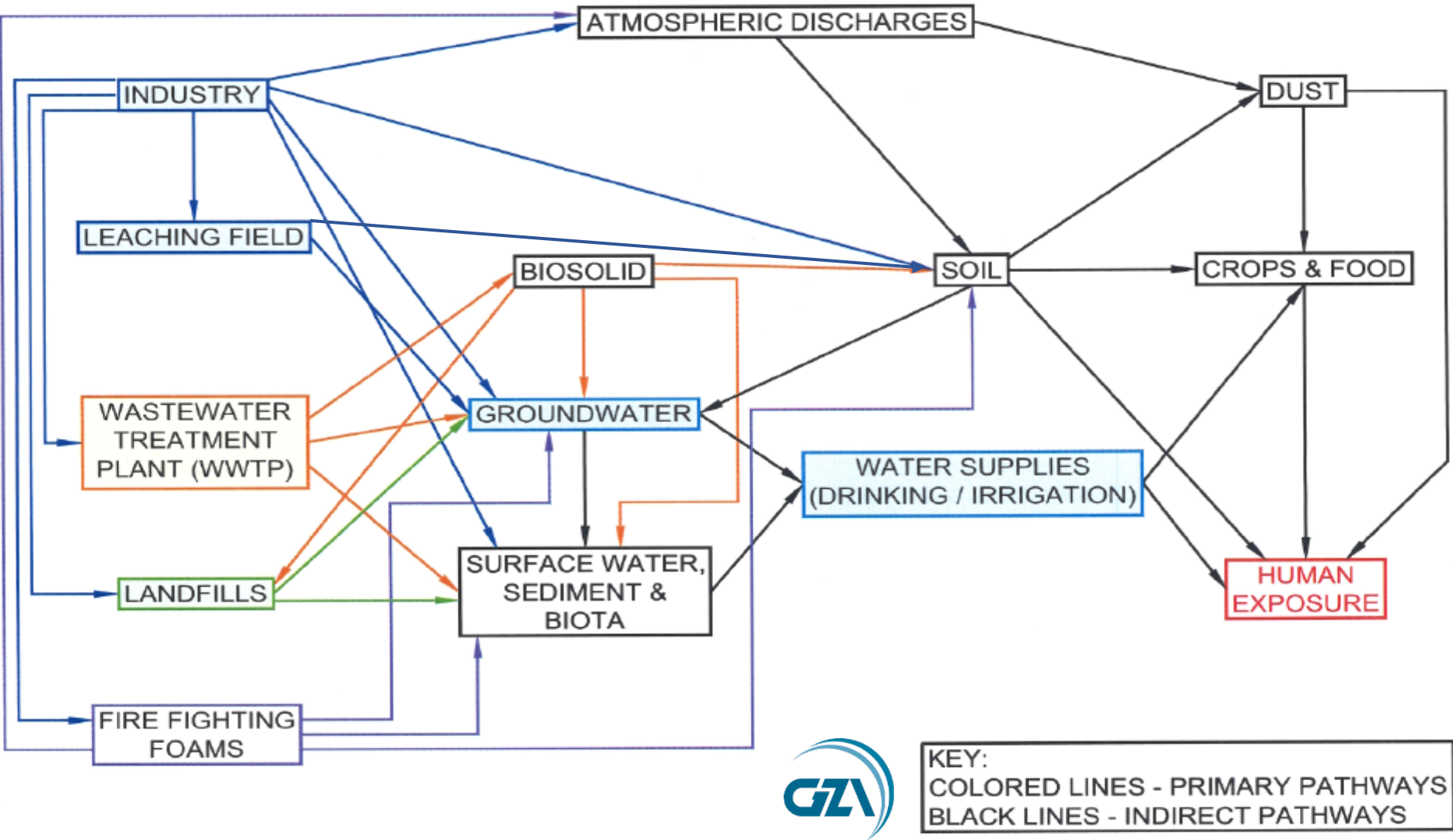
**KEY** **A** Atmospheric Deposition **D** Diffusion/Dispersion/Advection **I** Infiltration **T** Transformation of precursors (abiotic/biotic)

TRC Environmental Fate & Transport Fact Sheet – Figure 3



**GZA** KNOWN FOR EXPERIENCE.  
BUILT ON TRUST.

# Exposure Pathways



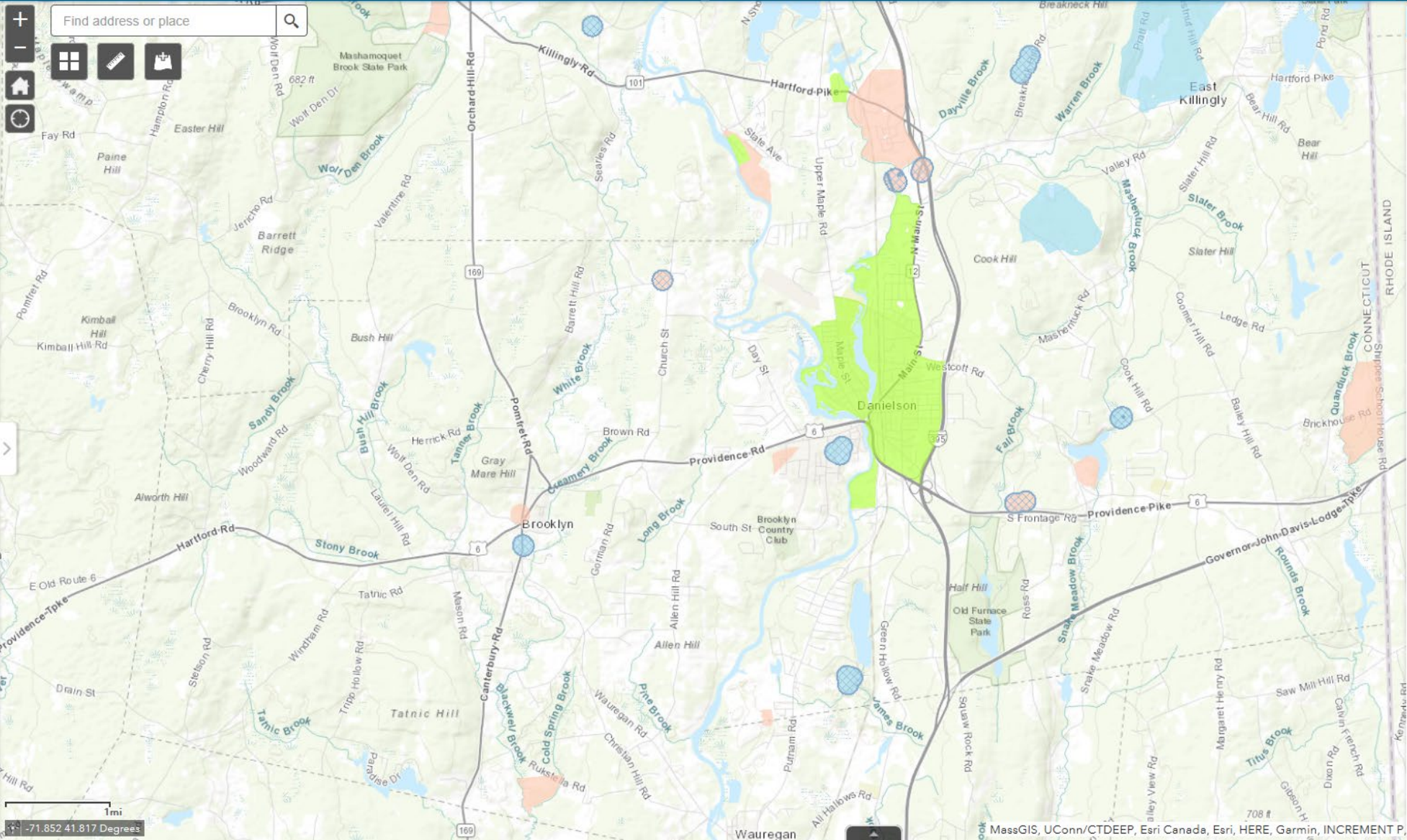
SOURCE: MODIFIED FROM - SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGING PFAS CONTAMINATIONS IN MICHIGAN, DECEMBER 7, 2018.



## Assess Potential Regional PFAS Impacts to Water Supplies



# Groundwater Classifications



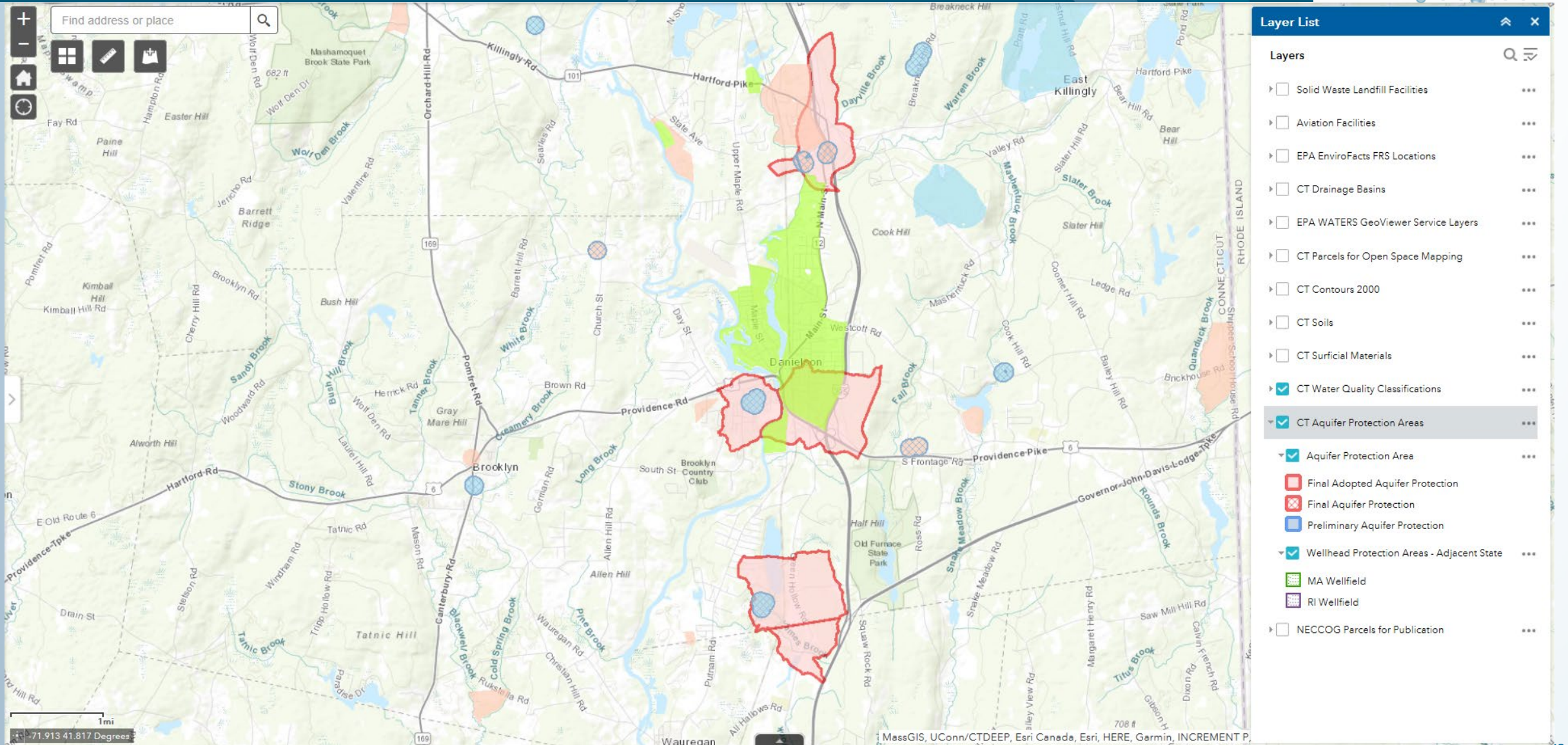
## Legend

### CT Water Quality Classifications

- Ground Water Quality
- Ground Water Quality Well
- Area of Contribution to Public Supply Well
- Ground Water Quality
- GA
- GAA, GAAs
- GB
- GC
- GA, GAA May be impaired

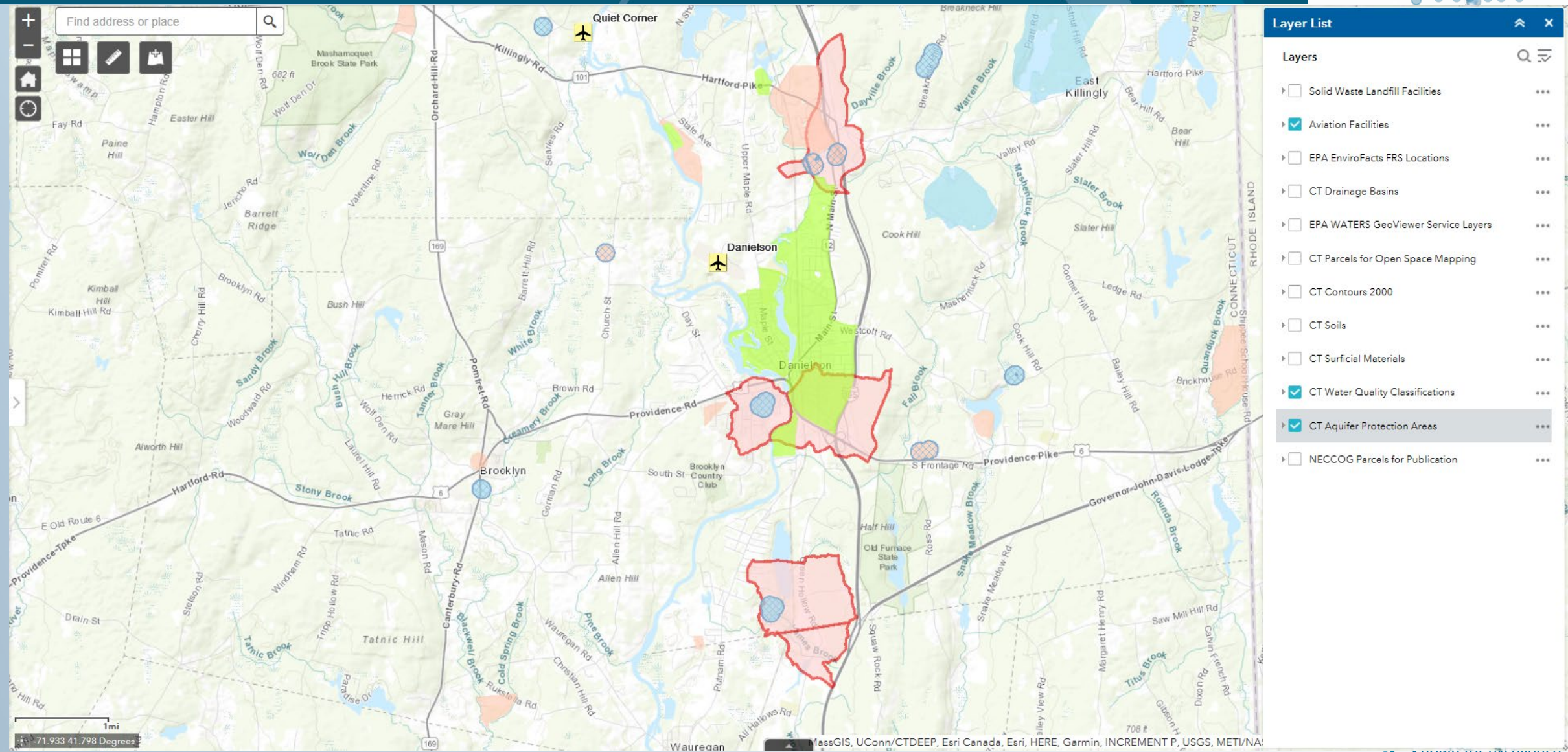
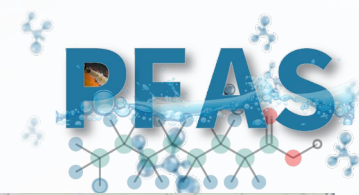


# Aquifer Protection Areas



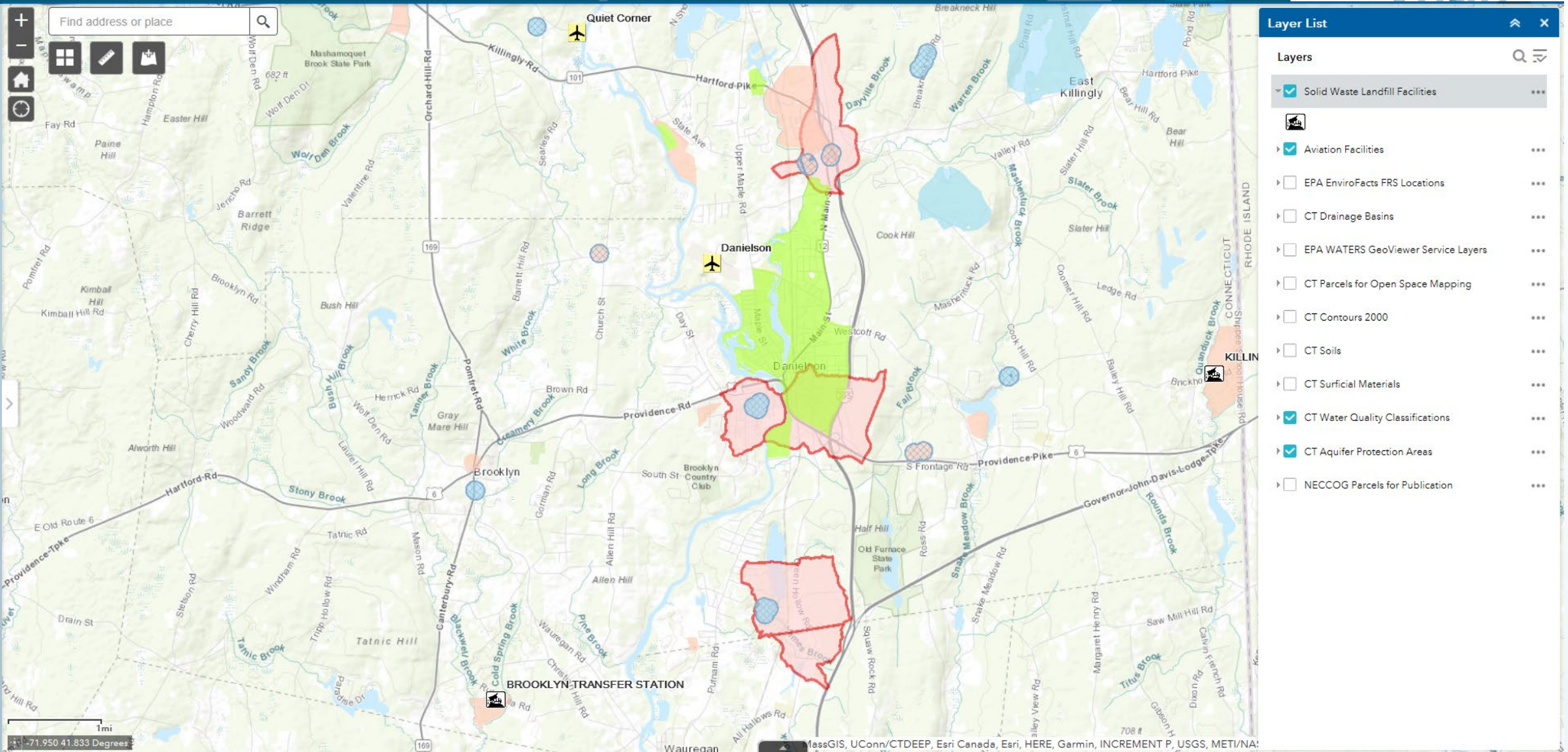


# Airports



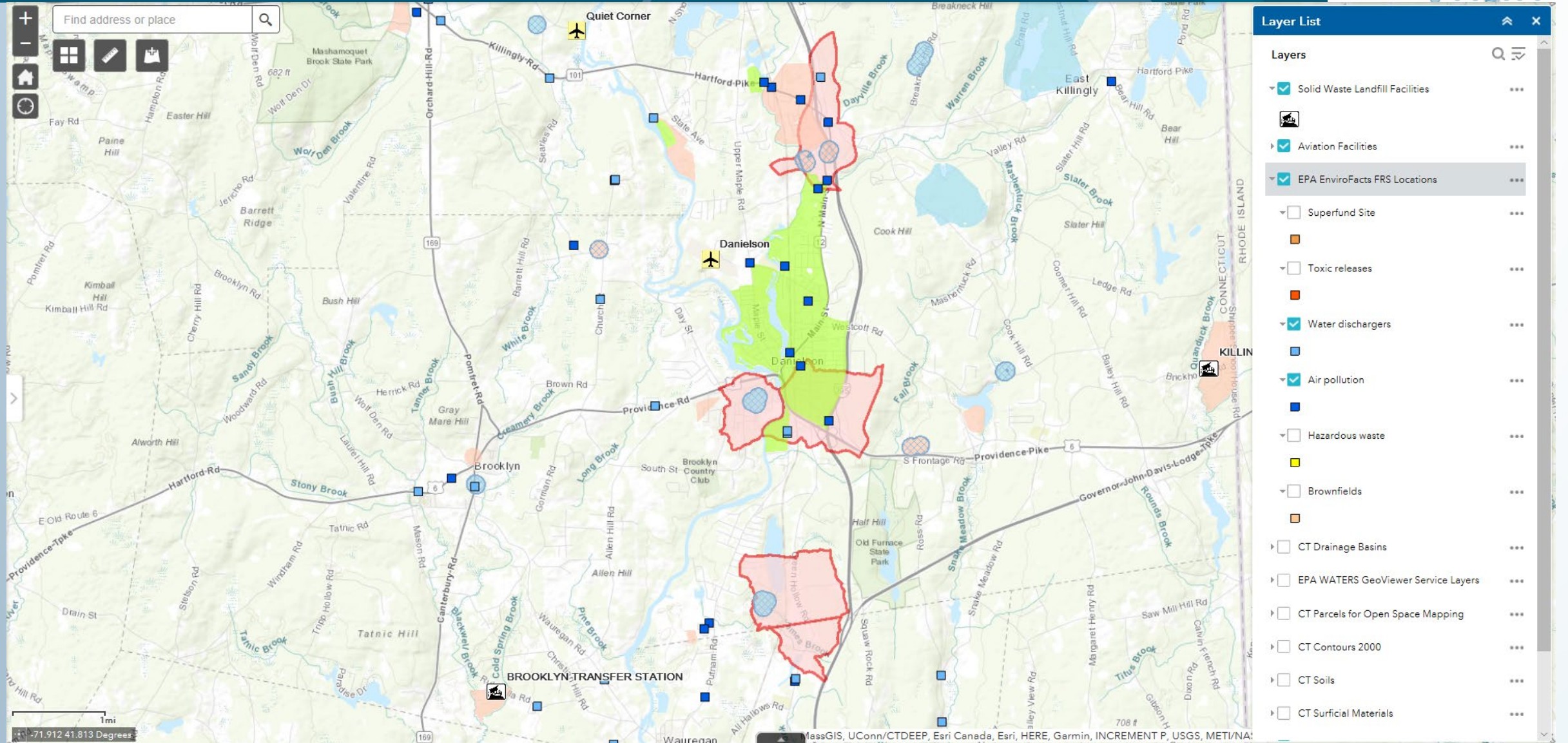


# Solid Waste Facilities



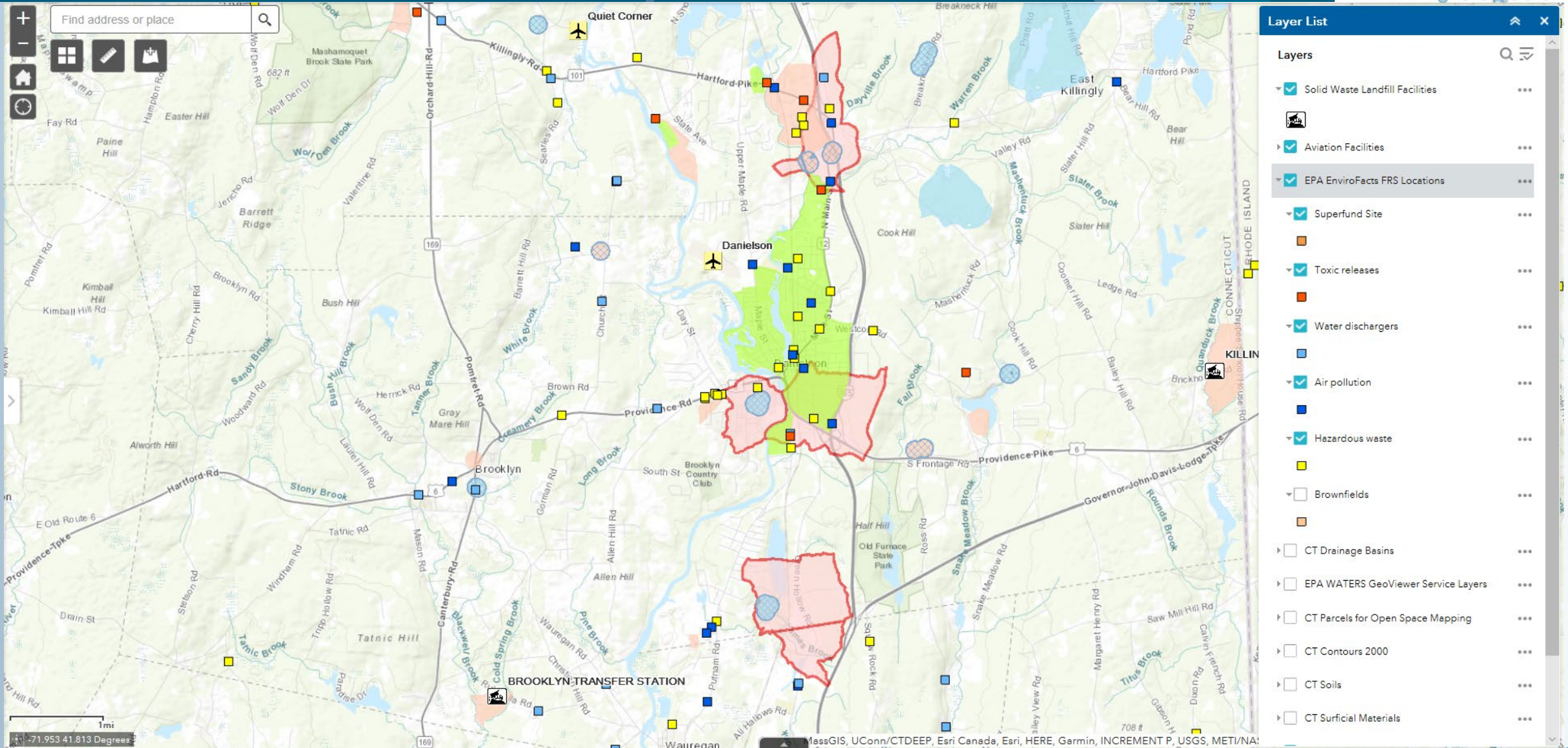


# EPA (Water Dischargers & Air Pollution)



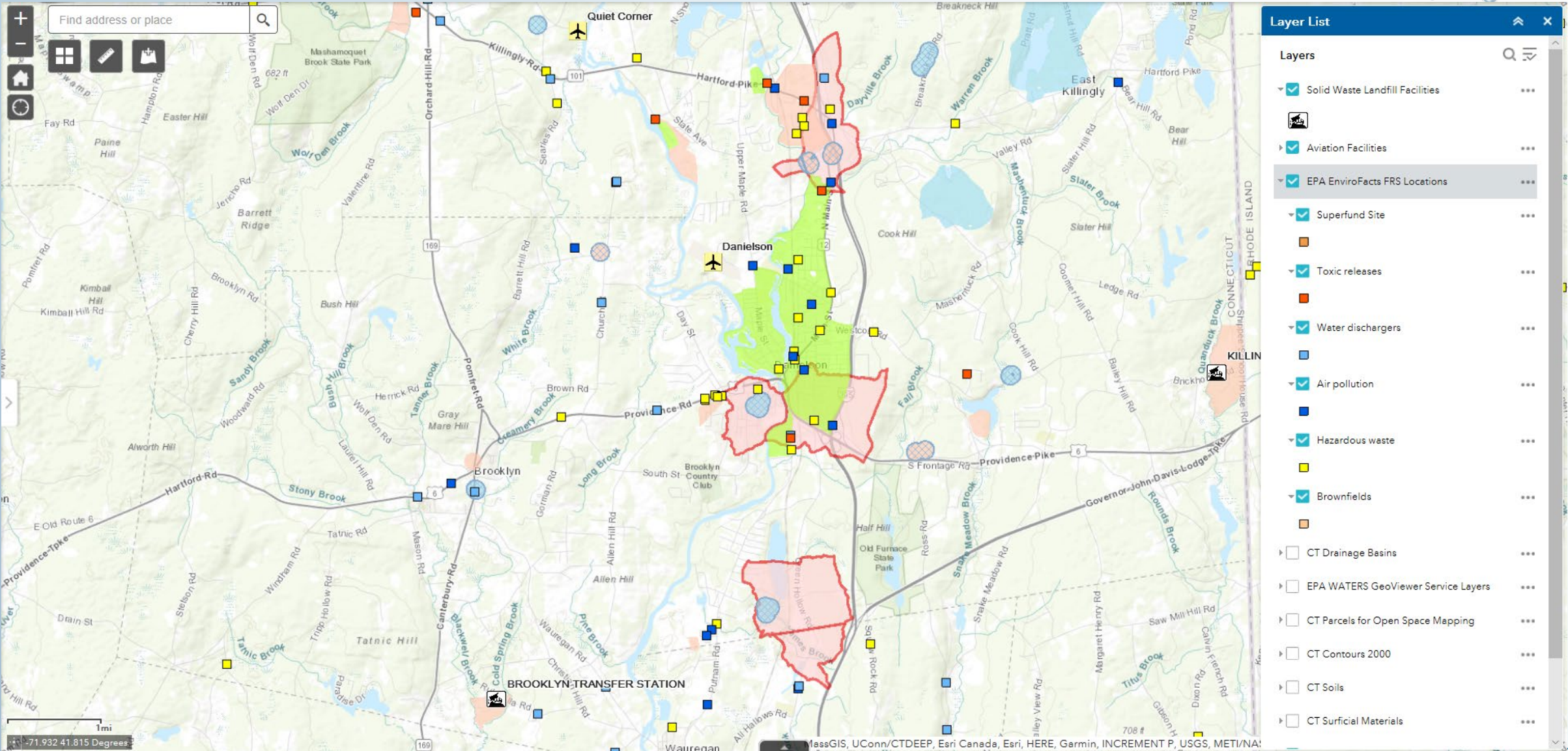


# EPA (+ Superfund/Toxic Releases/Haz Waste)





# EPA (+ Brownfield Sites)



Layer List

Layers

☒ Solid Waste Landfill Facilities

☒ Aviation Facilities

☒ EPA EnviroFacts FRS Locations

☒ Superfund Site

☒ Toxic releases

☒ Water dischargers

☒ Air pollution

☒ Hazardous waste

☒ Brownfields

☐ CT Drainage Basins

☐ EPA WATERS GeoViewer Service Layers

☐ CT Parcels for Open Space Mapping

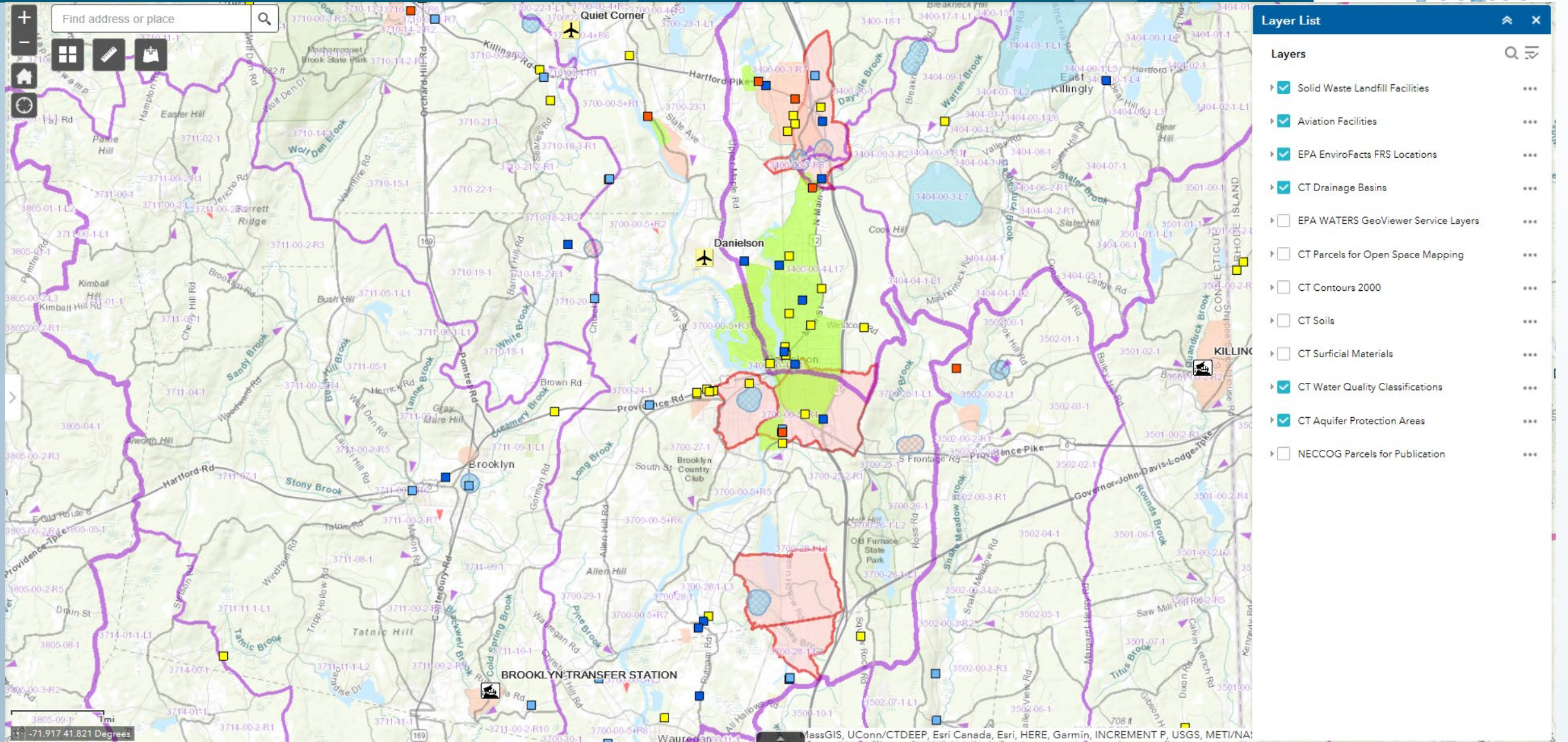
☐ CT Contours 2000

☐ CT Soils

☐ CT Surficial Materials



# Drainage Basins



## AFFF Releases + Potable Water Supply Wells



# Identification of Potential Sources of AFFF



## ➤ Conceptual Site Model (CSM)

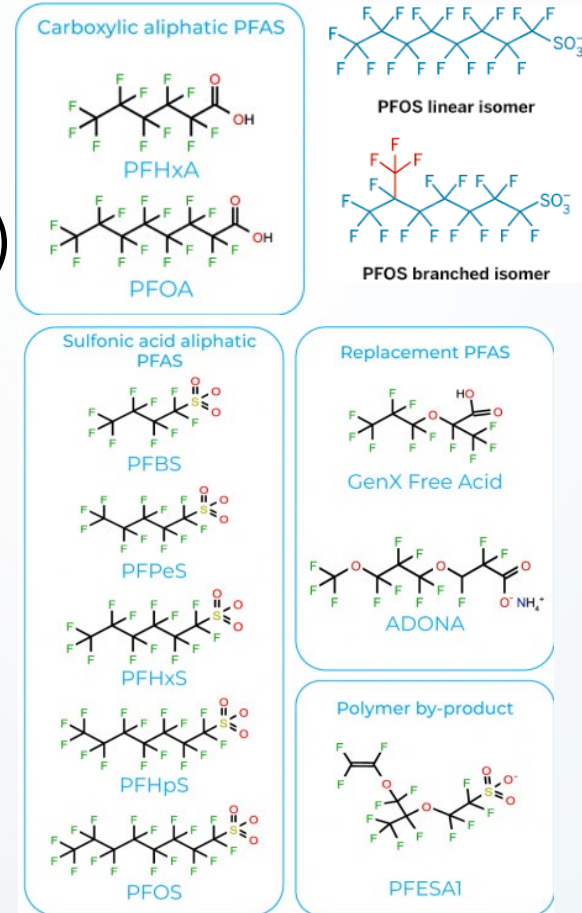
- Geologic and hydrogeologic (assessment for fate & transport)
- Source(s) and types of PFAS compounds released
- What are the exposure routes (water supply, direct contact, biota)

## ➤ Chemical Analyses

- Analysis targeting compounds and types of PFAS
  - Linear, branched
- Graphically/statistical distribution of PFAS compounds

## ➤ Data Comparisons

- Compare analytical data to sources
- Identify unique constituents
- Revisit CSM



## ❖ Legacy PFOS AFFF

- ✓ – Manufactured early 1960s until about 2002
- ✓ - Primary PFAS Compounds – **PFOS & PFHxS**

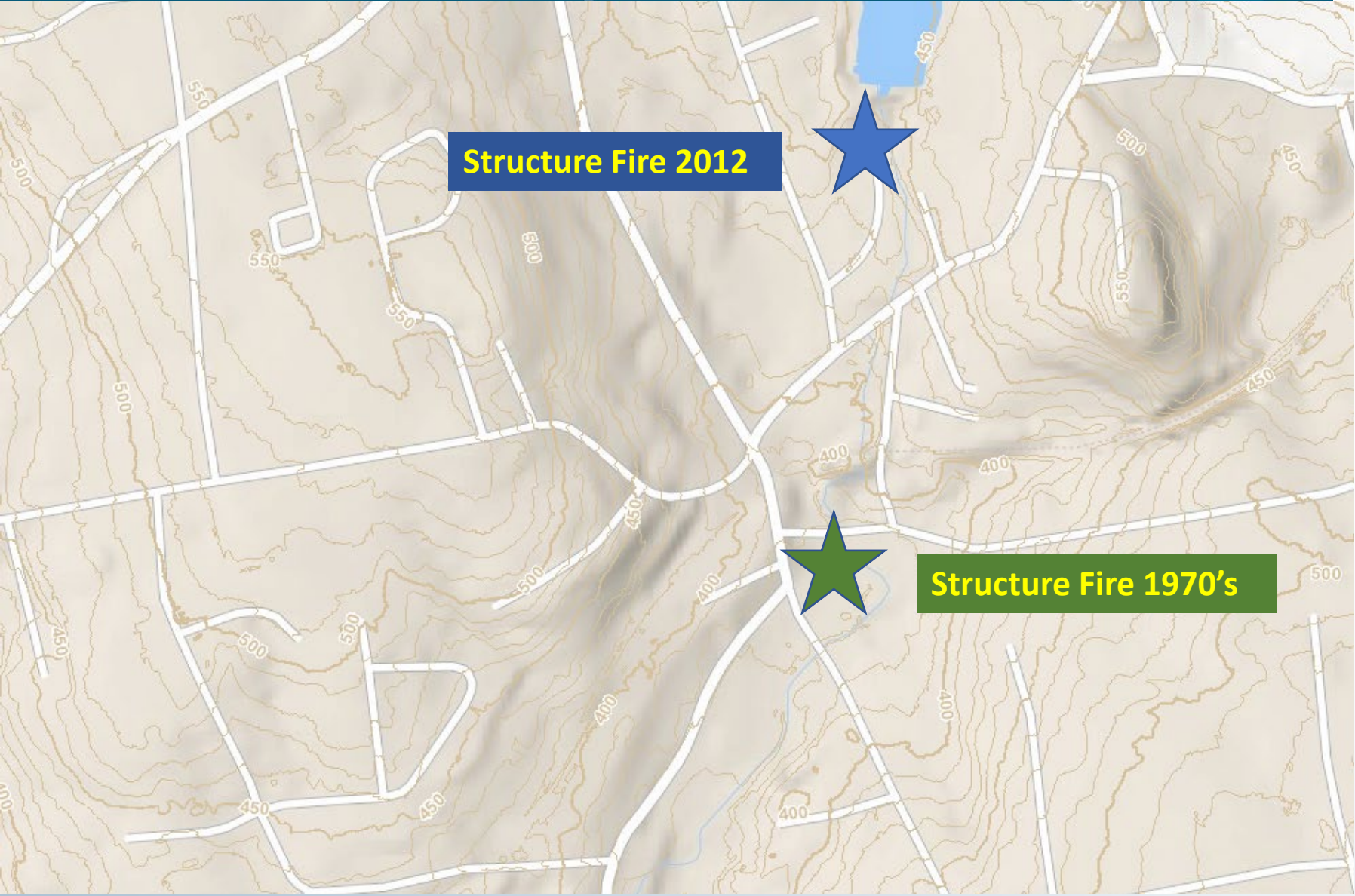
## ❖ Second Generation AFFF – Fluorotelomer Sulfonates (FTS)

- ✓ - Manufactured 1970s until about 2016
- ✓ - Primary PFAS Compounds – **FTS (6:2, 8:2) + PFOA, PFHxA**

## ❖ Today's FTS

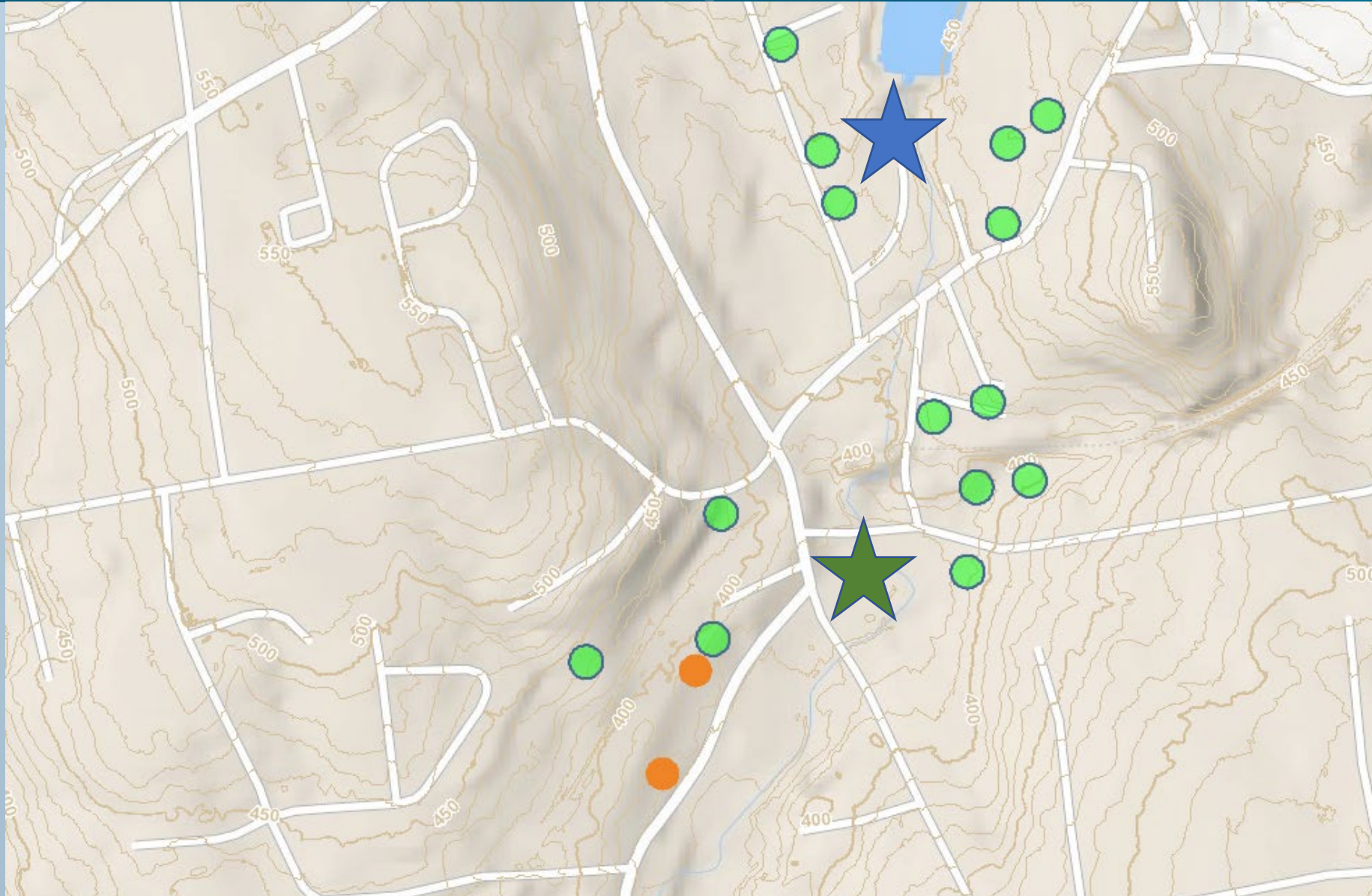
- ✓ - Manufactured after 2010
- ✓ - Primary PFAS Compounds - **FTS (6:2, 8:2)**

# AFFF – Initial CSM







# AFFF – Initial Potable Water Well Sampling



	GREEN SHADING INDICATES PROPERTY WITH TEST RESULT LESS THAN 20 PPT
	BLUE SHADING INDICATES PROPERTY WITH TEST RESULT BETWEEN 20 AND 70 PPT
	ORANGE SHADING INDICATES PROPERTY WITH TEST RESULT GREATER THAN 70 PPT

 Potential Use of AFFF  
2012

(Potentially Second  
Generation or Today's  
AFFF)

 Potential Use of AFFF  
1970s  
(Legacy or Second  
Generation AFFF)



# AFFF –Analytical Graphical Distribution



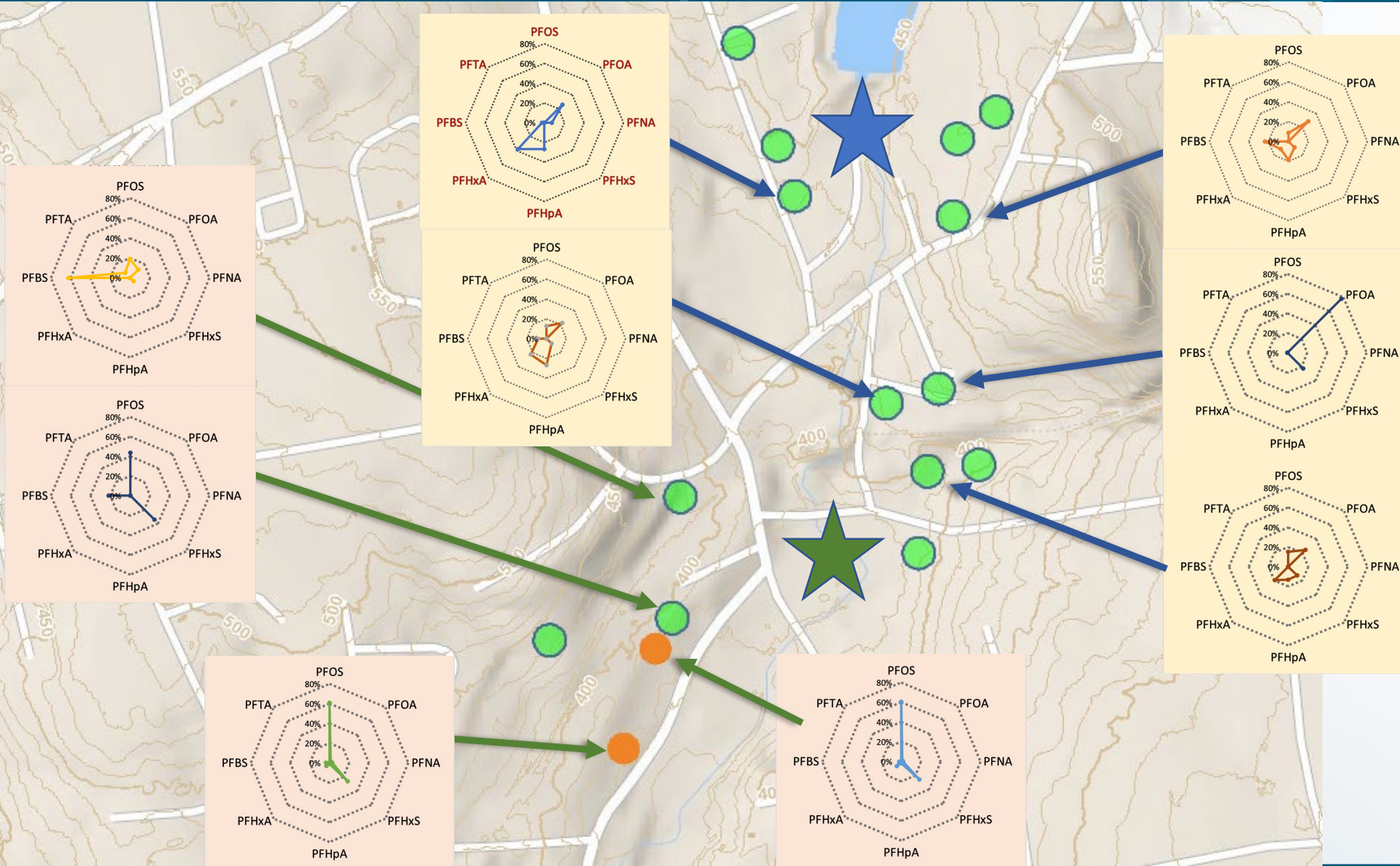
AFFF used 2012  
(Potentially Second  
Generation or Today's  
AFFF)

PFOA, PFHxA



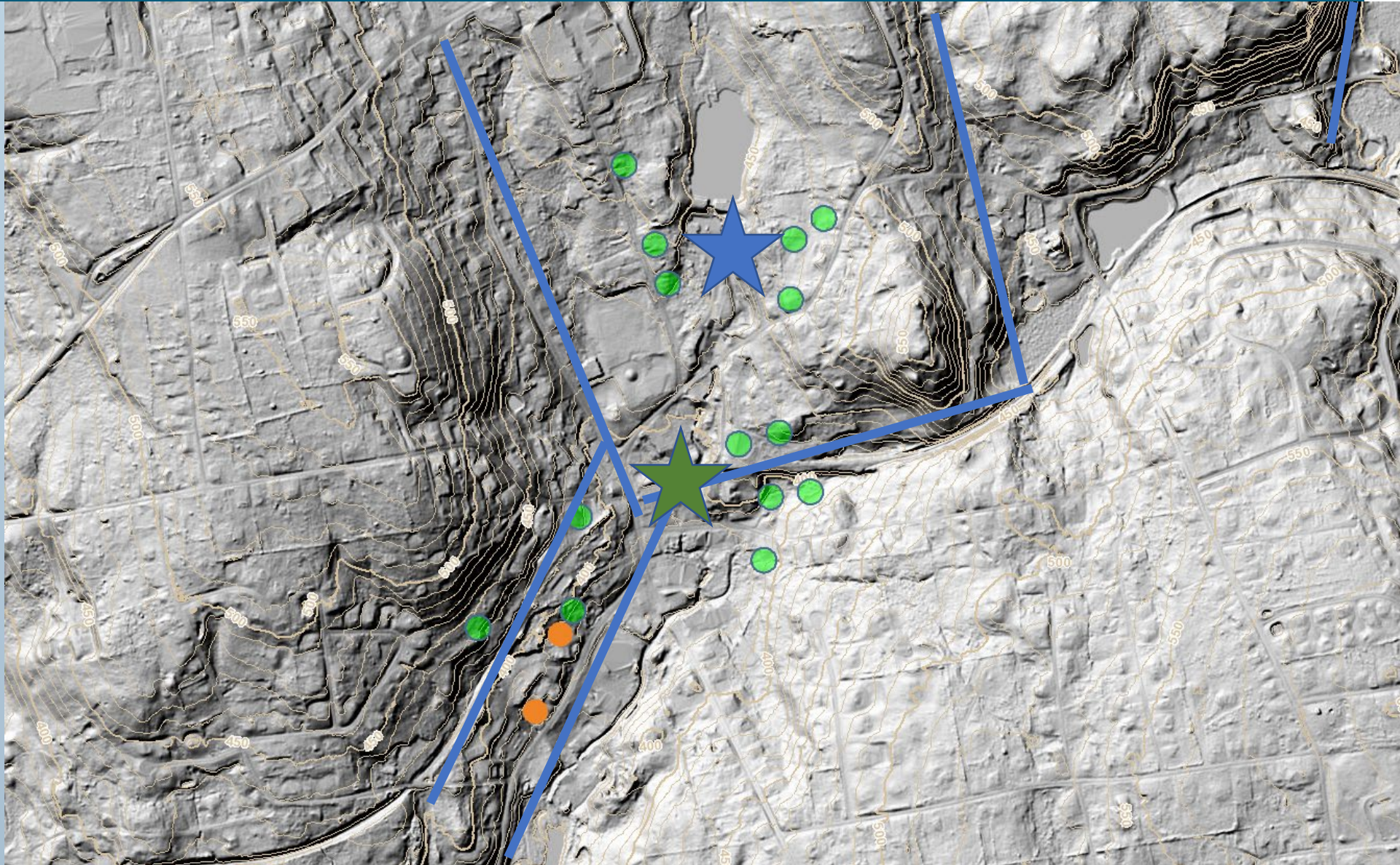
AFFF used 1970s  
(Legacy or Second  
Generation AFFF)

PFOS, PFHxS





# Update CSM – Bedrock Lineaments



Potential Bedrock  
Fracture Lineament



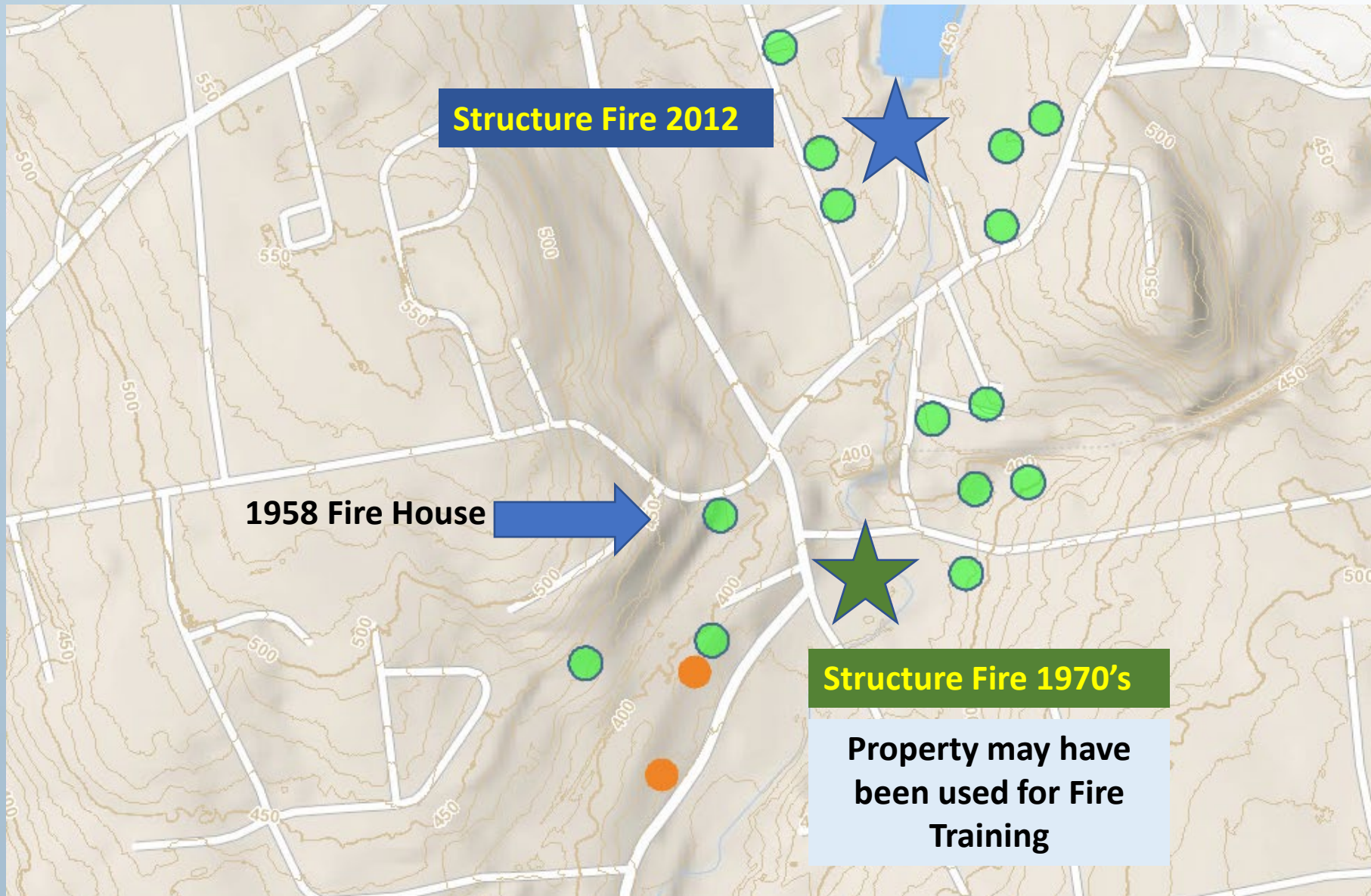
AFFF used 2012  
(Potentially  
Today's AFFF)



AFFF used 1970's  
(Legacy or Second  
Generation AFFF)



# AFFF – Initial Water Supply Sampling



## Next Steps

- ❖ Refine CSM
- ❖ Additional Sampling to Define the EXTENT of PFAS Impact
- ❖ POE Treatment
- ❖ Identify/Remediate Source(s)



# Question and Discussion



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