

# Virtual Fayetteville Community Meeting

## June 20, 2020

Welcome and thank you for joining us! A few housekeeping items:

Everyone will remain muted for the session. Please send questions through the Q&A box.

This meeting will be recorded and posted to our website:  
[GenXStudy.ncsu.edu](https://GenXStudy.ncsu.edu).

You can send any follow up questions or comments to  
[genx-exposure-study@ncsu.edu](mailto:genx-exposure-study@ncsu.edu).

# PFAS results for private wells sampled Feb 2019

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# GenX Exposure Study

The GenX Exposure Study is a research study  
Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Designed to answer community questions about  
GenX exposure:

Is GenX detectable in my body? My house?

What predicts GenX in my body?

Are there health effects associated with GenX?



# More than just GenX

GenX is part of a family of chemicals called:

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

GenX in NC is uniquely associated with  
Fayetteville Works on the Cape Fear River

Released to both air and water

Other byproducts of Chemours include  
PFMOAA, Nafion byproduct 2 and others

Also measuring legacy PFAS

GOAL: to get a picture of the overall PFAS  
exposure



# GenX Exposure Study: What did we do?

Enrolled 153 Fayetteville participants in February 2019

Wells previously sampled for GenX by  
DEQ/Chemours

Collected well and tap water to analyze for PFAS

Collected blood and urine samples for PFAS

Analyzed blood for clinical measures





# “Fayetteville cohort”



# Fayetteville Participation – Feb 2019

**153 people enrolled**

137 adults

16 children

**85 households**

14 Bladen County

71 Cumberland County

**Up to 5 people/household**

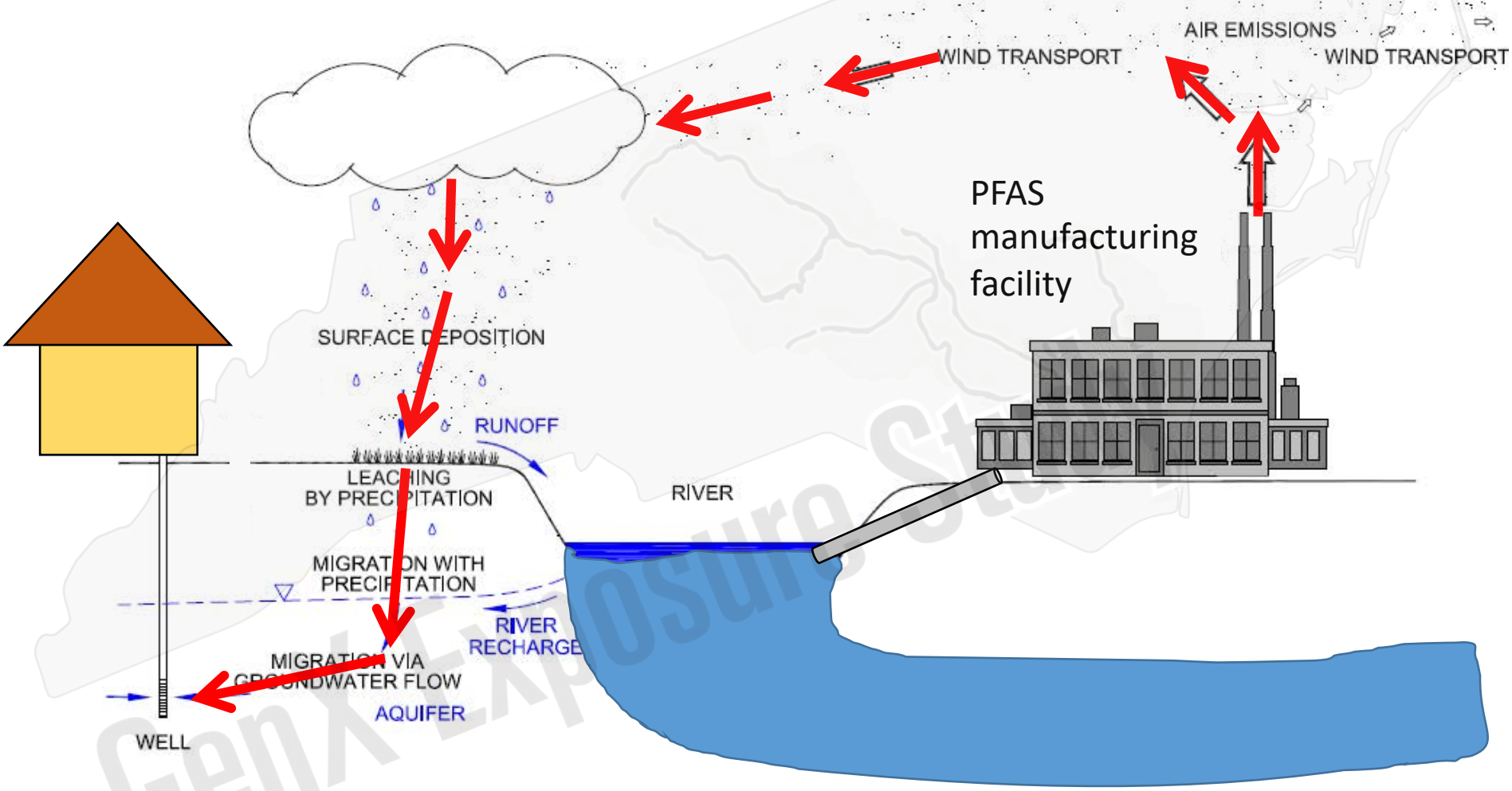
**Lived at current address**

17% <5 years

44% 20+ years



# How did wells get contaminated?





# Well and tap water sampling

Well sample (84 wells)



Kitchen tap sample  
(82 taps)



# Why collect WELL water samples?

- 1) Understand sources of PFAS exposure
- 2) Look for other PFAS besides GenX

# Why collect TAP water samples?

Get information about what people are exposed to



# Timeline





# Timeline

Wastewater  
discharges  
containing PFAS to  
Cape Fear River  
stopped

September, 2017



# Timeline

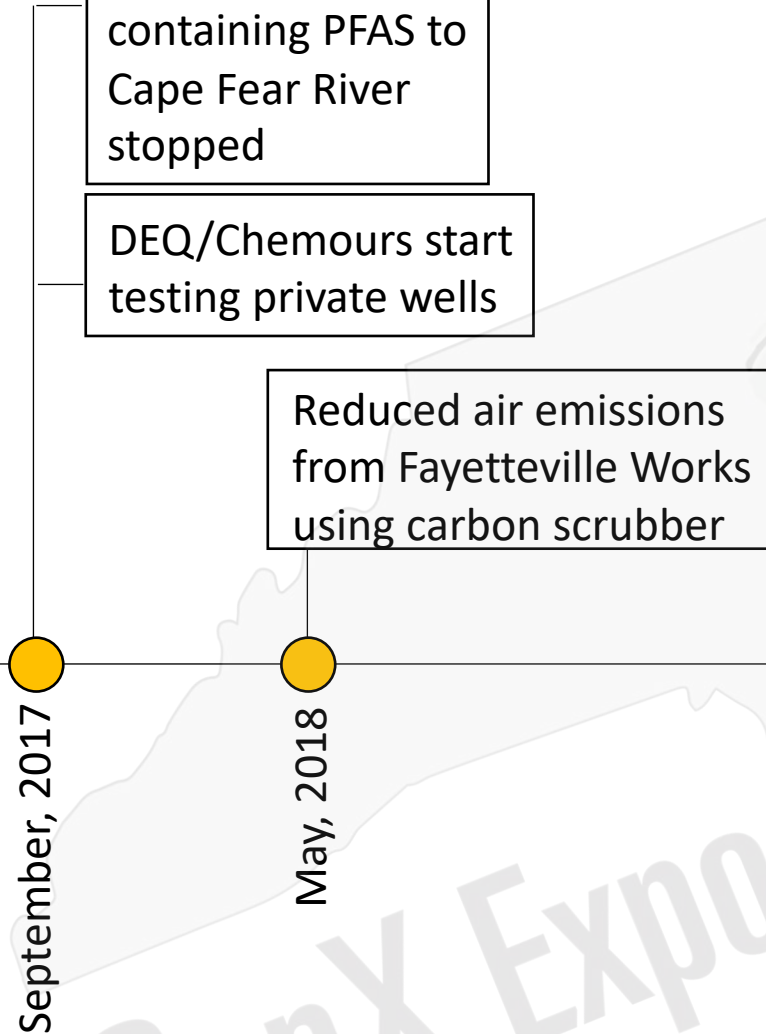
Wastewater  
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stopped

DEQ/Chemours start  
testing private wells

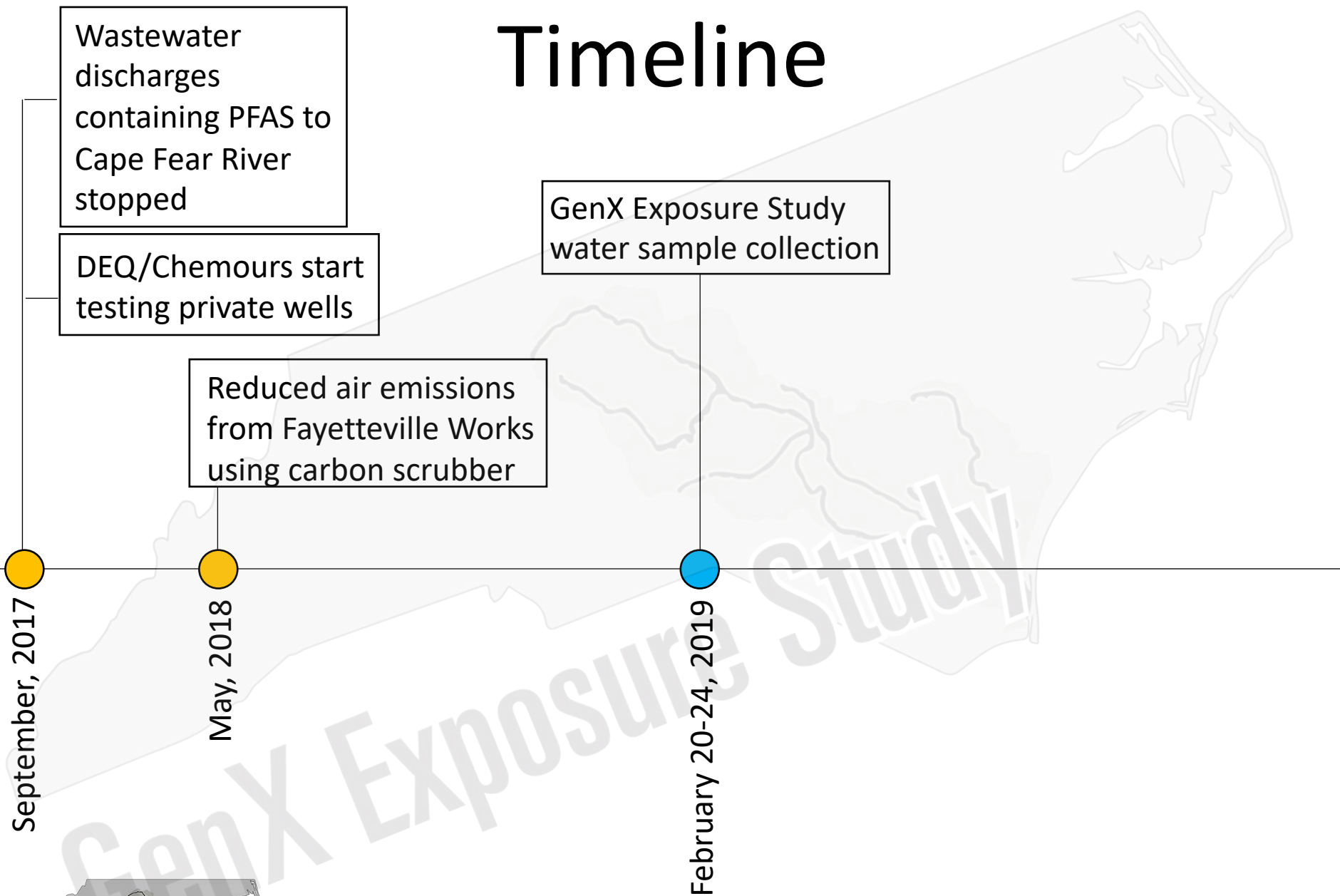
September, 2017



# Timeline

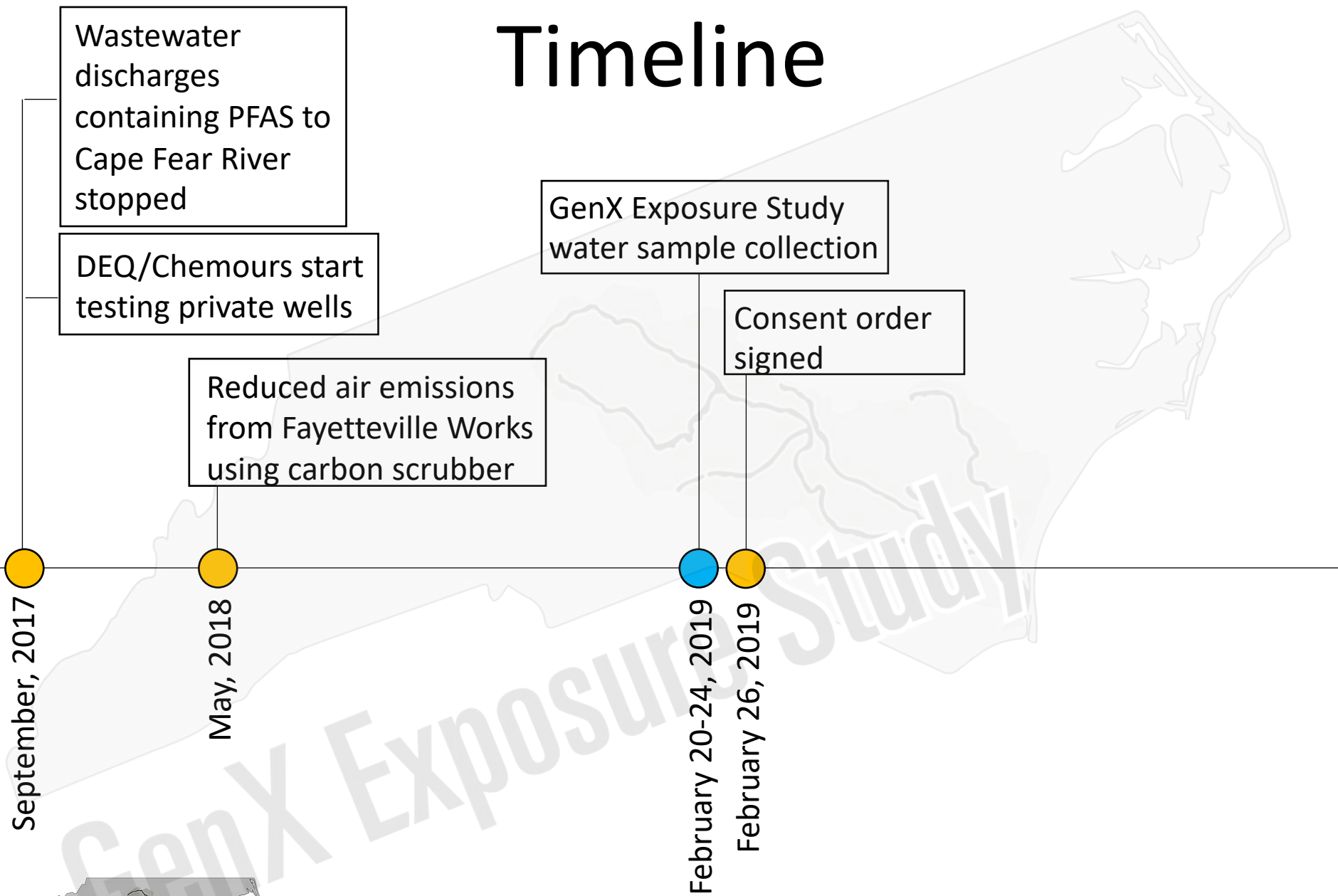


# Timeline

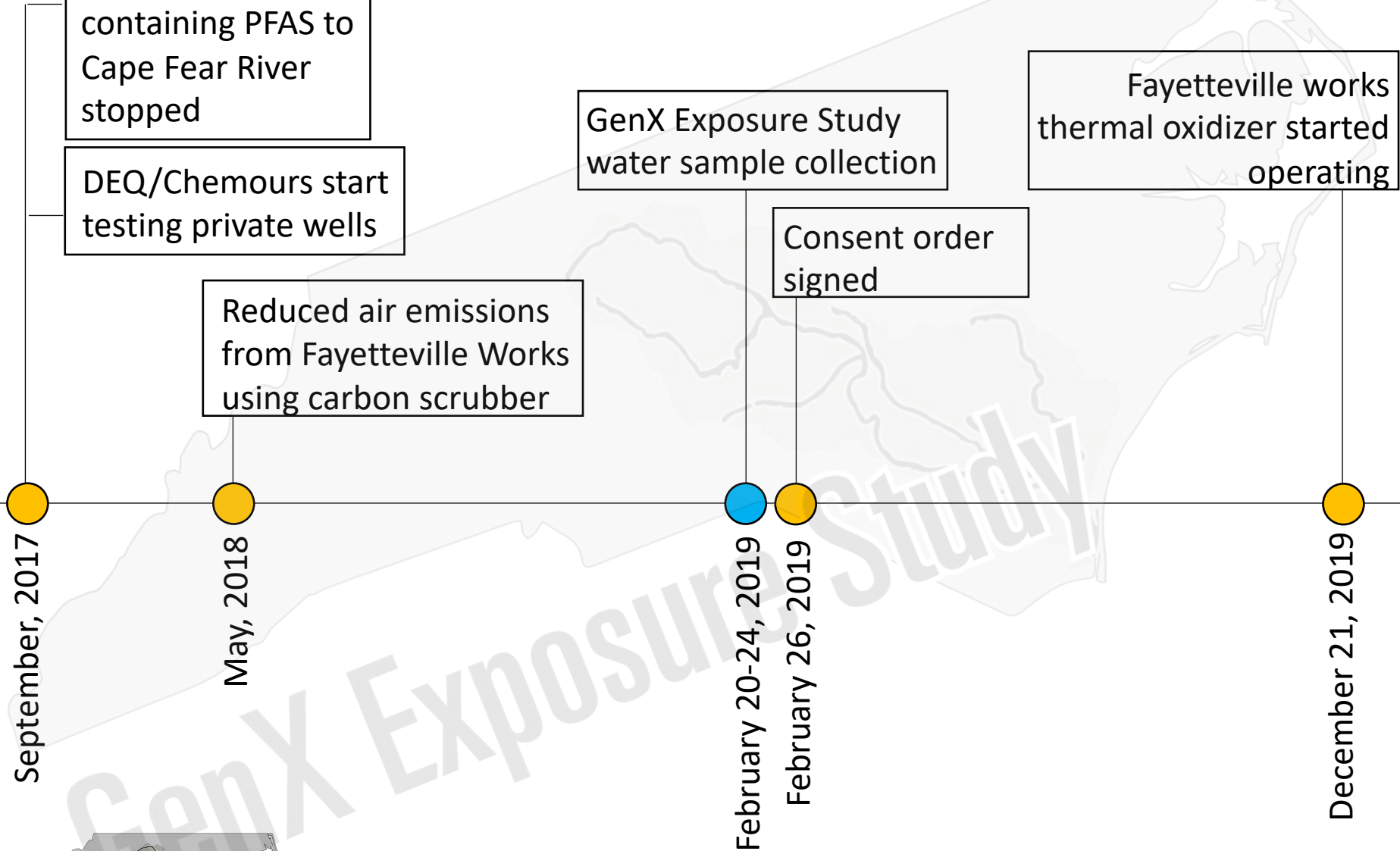




# Timeline



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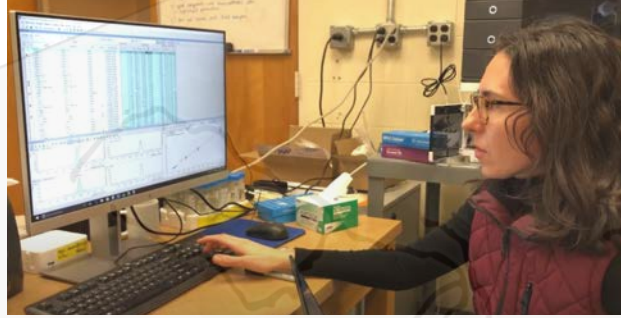
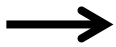
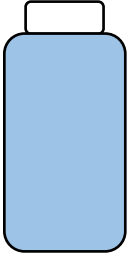
# From sample to results

166  
samples

Develop  
method

Review results for 31  
PFAS for each sample

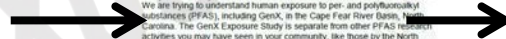
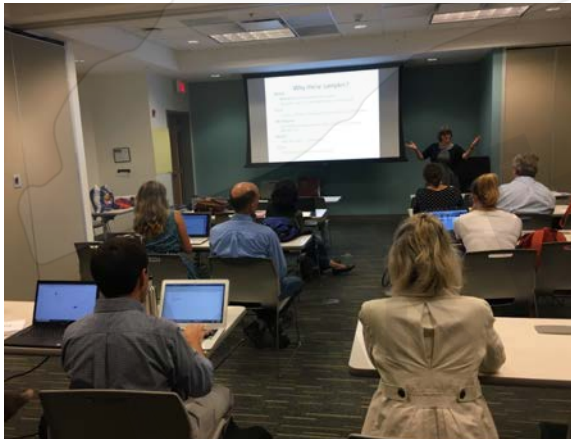
Discuss with team



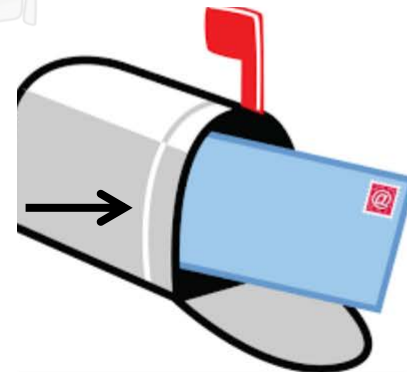
Discuss with community  
science advisory board

Draft letter

Mail letters



Reviewed by  
NC State  
Institutional  
Review Board



# Summary of PFAS water results





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5. Overall, treated taps had lower levels of GenX than untreated taps

# Looked for 31 PFAS in water

## Unique to Fayetteville Works

1. GenX
2. PFMOAA
3. PEPA
4. PMPA
5. PFO2HxA
6. PFO3OA
7. NVHOS
8. PFO4DA
9. Hydro-EVE
10. PFO5DoA
11. Nafion byproduct 1
12. Nafion byproduct 2
13. Nafion byproduct 4



# Looked for 31 PFAS in water

## Unique to Fayetteville Works “Legacy” PFAS

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1. PFOA
2. PFOS
3. PFBA
4. PFBS
5. PFPeA
6. PFPeS
7. PFHxA
8. PFHxS
9. PFHpA
10. PFHpS
11. PFNA
12. PFDA
13. 4:2 FTS
14. 6:2 FTS
15. 8:2 FTS
16. FBSA
17. FOSA
18. FHxSA



# Focus on results for 13 PFAS

## Unique to Fayetteville Works

1. GenX
2. PFMOAA
3. PEPA
4. PMPA
5. PFO2HxA
6. PFO3OA
7. NVHOS

## “Legacy” PFAS

1. PFOA
2. PFOS
3. PFBA
5. PFPeA

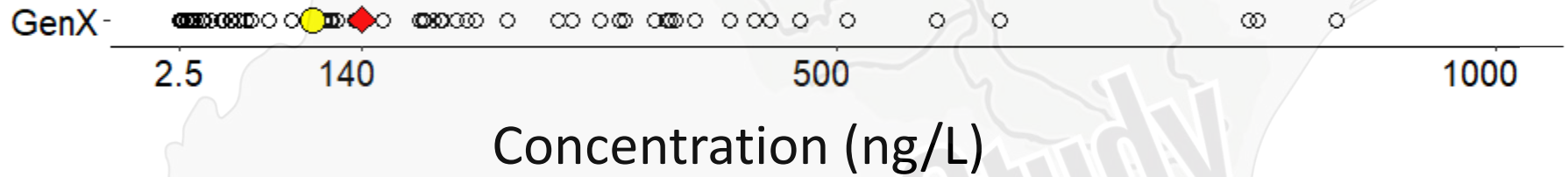
12. Nafion byproduct 2
13. Nafion byproduct 4





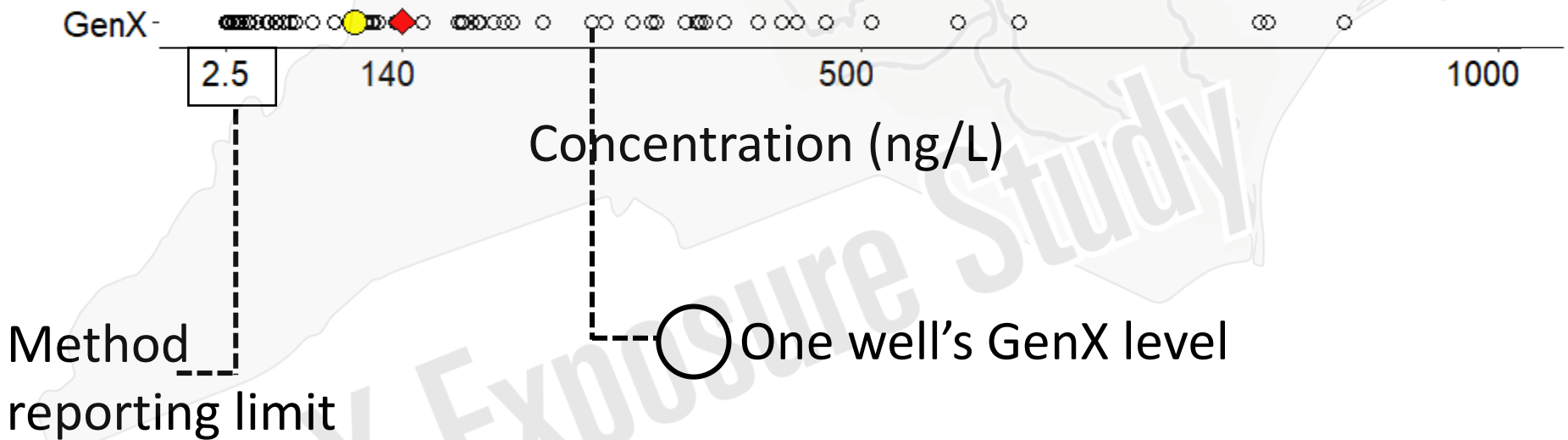
# What did we find in wells?

# GenX detected in 70 wells

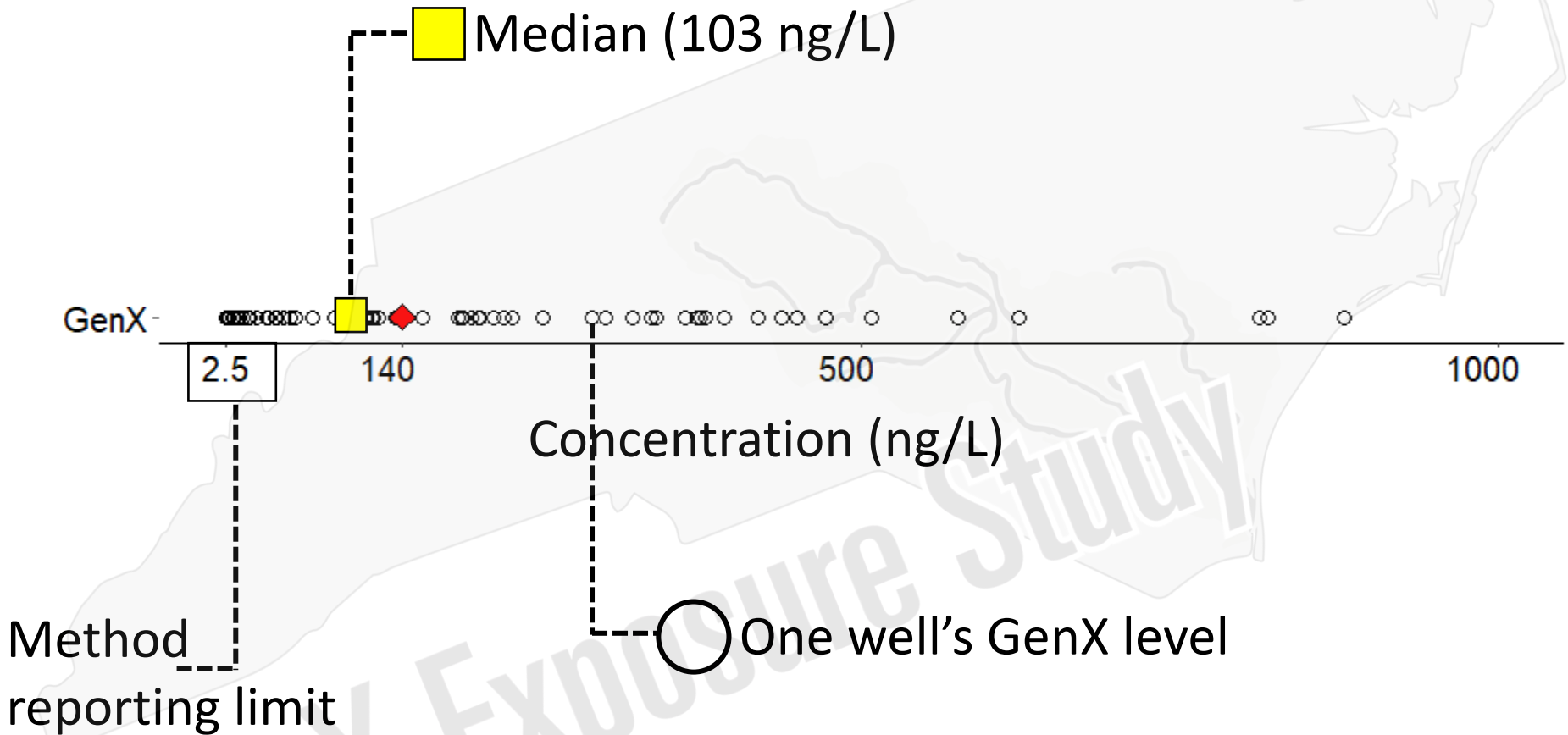




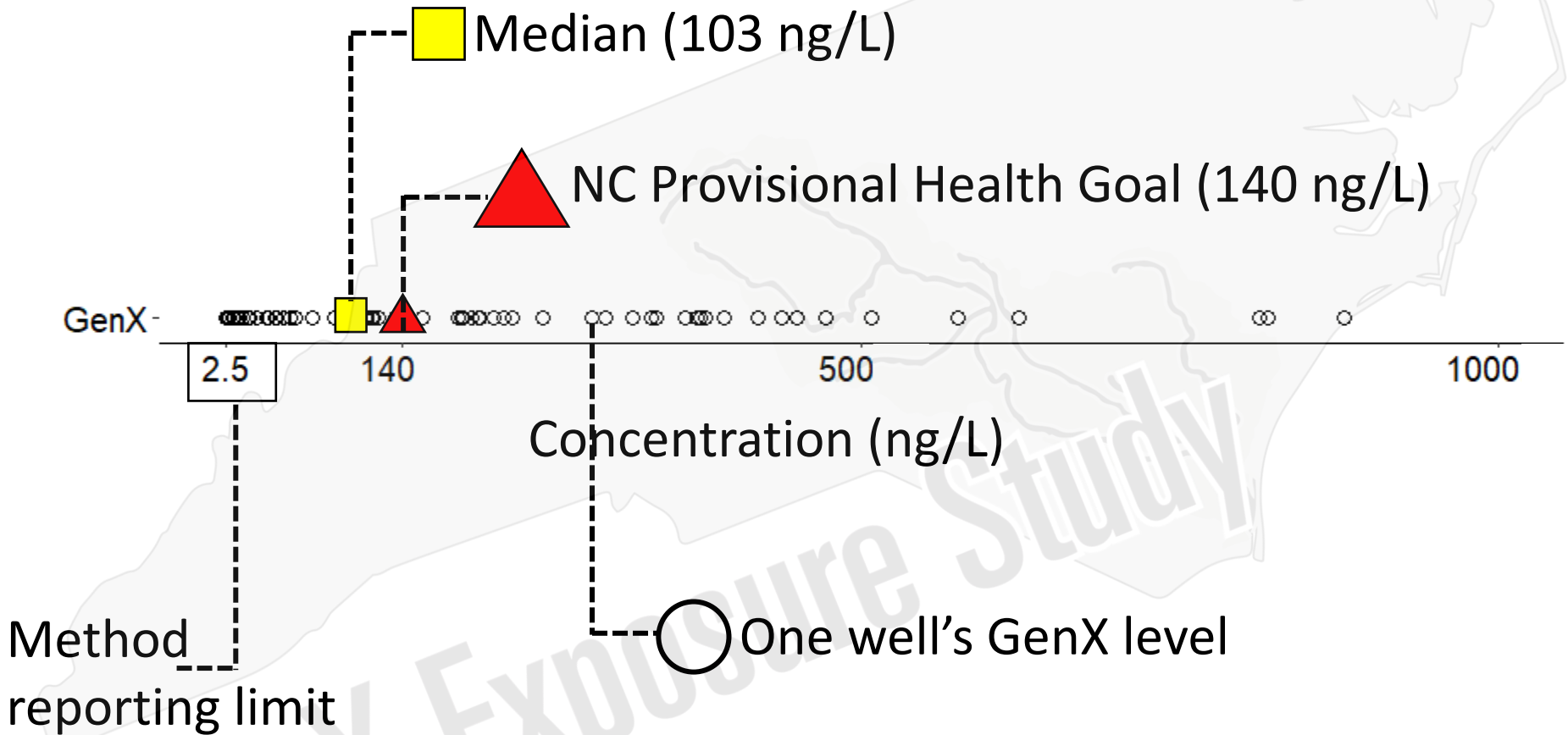
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# Drinking water health goal or advisory

A concentration in drinking water (ng/L)

NC Dept Health and Human Services 140 ng/L GenX

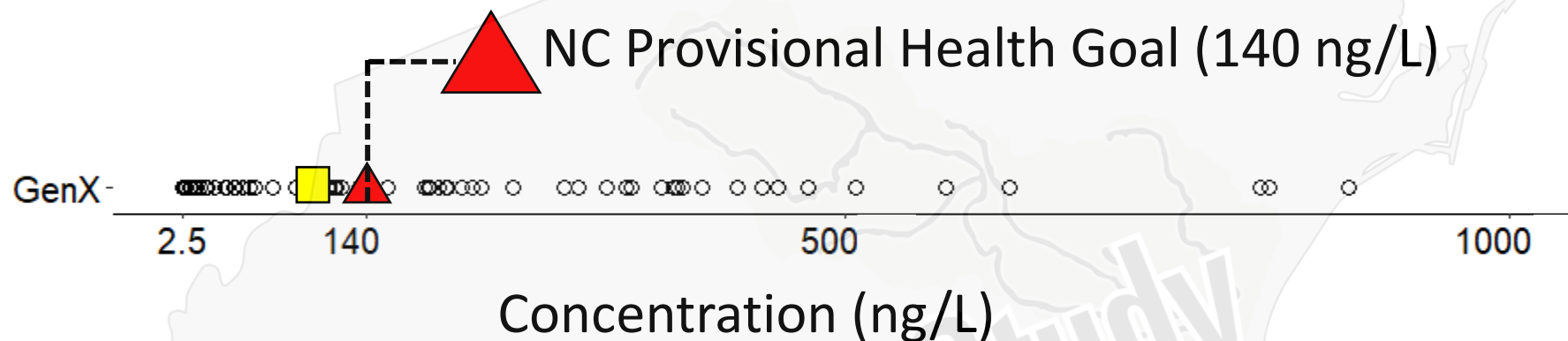
US Environmental Protection Agency 70 ng/L PFOA

US Environmental Protection Agency 70 ng/L PFOS

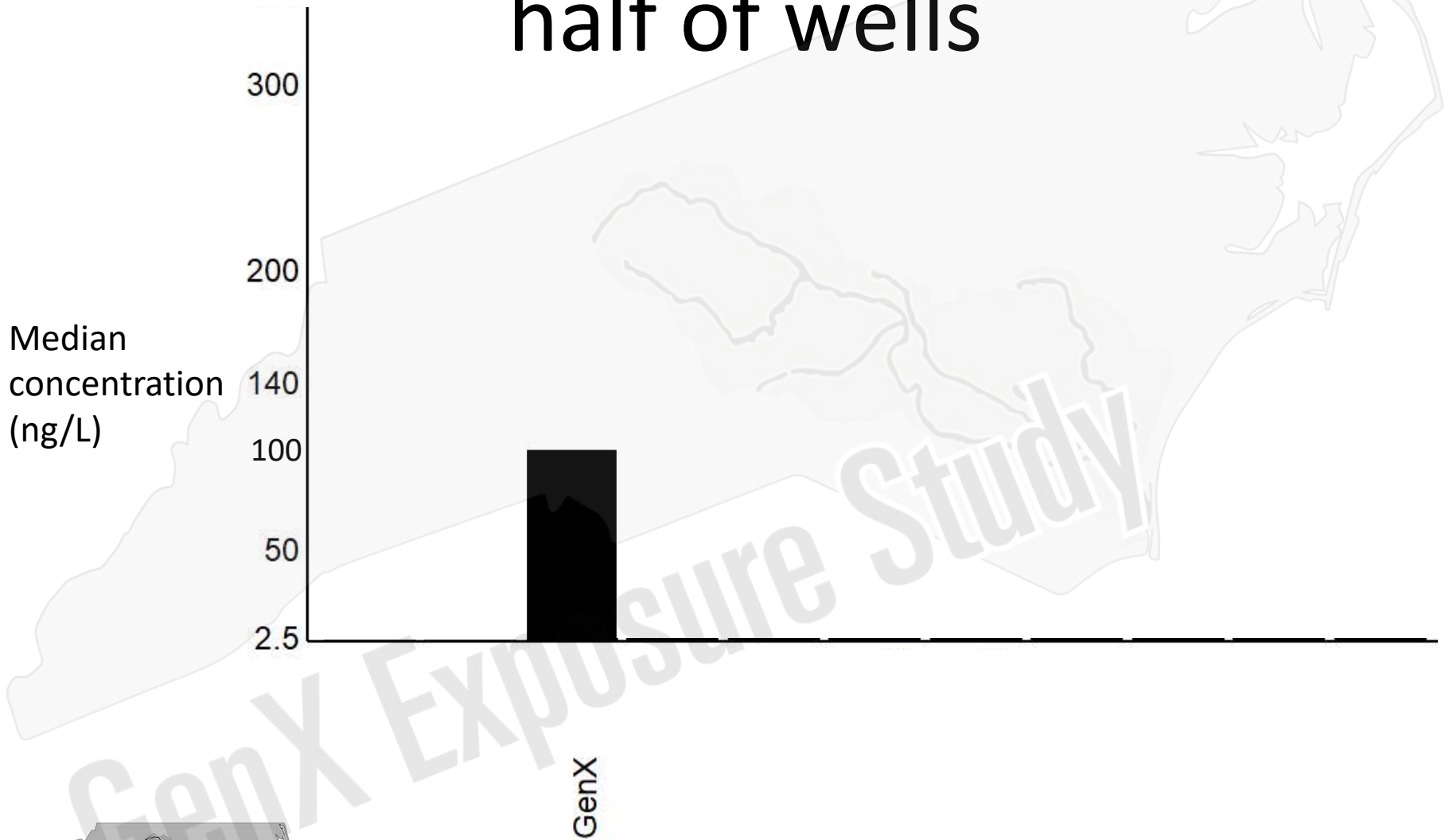
Chosen based on current scientific research

At this level or lower, no human health effects are expected in the most sensitive people over a lifetime of exposure

# 33 wells had GenX higher than 140 ng/L

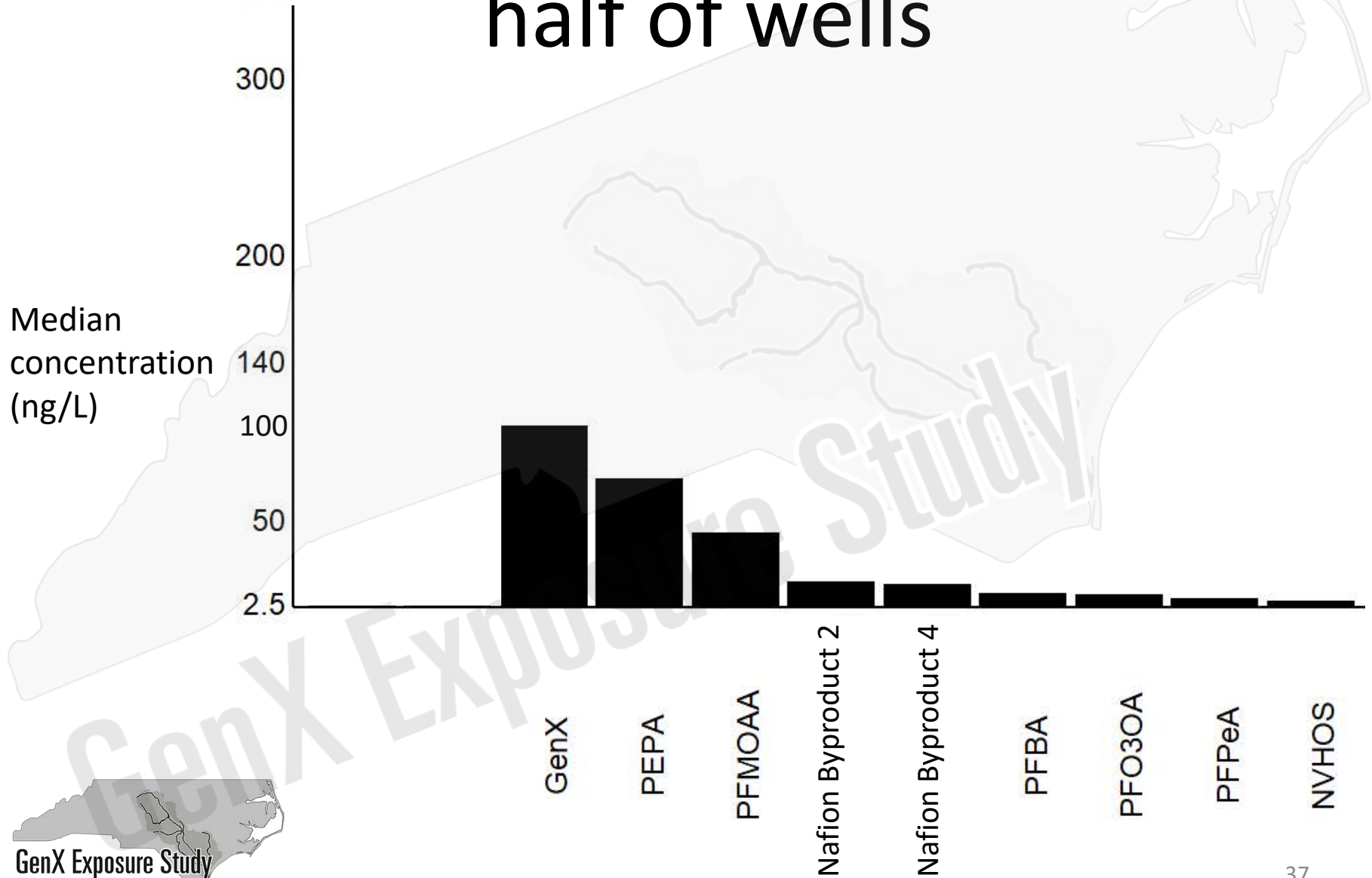


# 10 other PFAS detected in more than half of wells

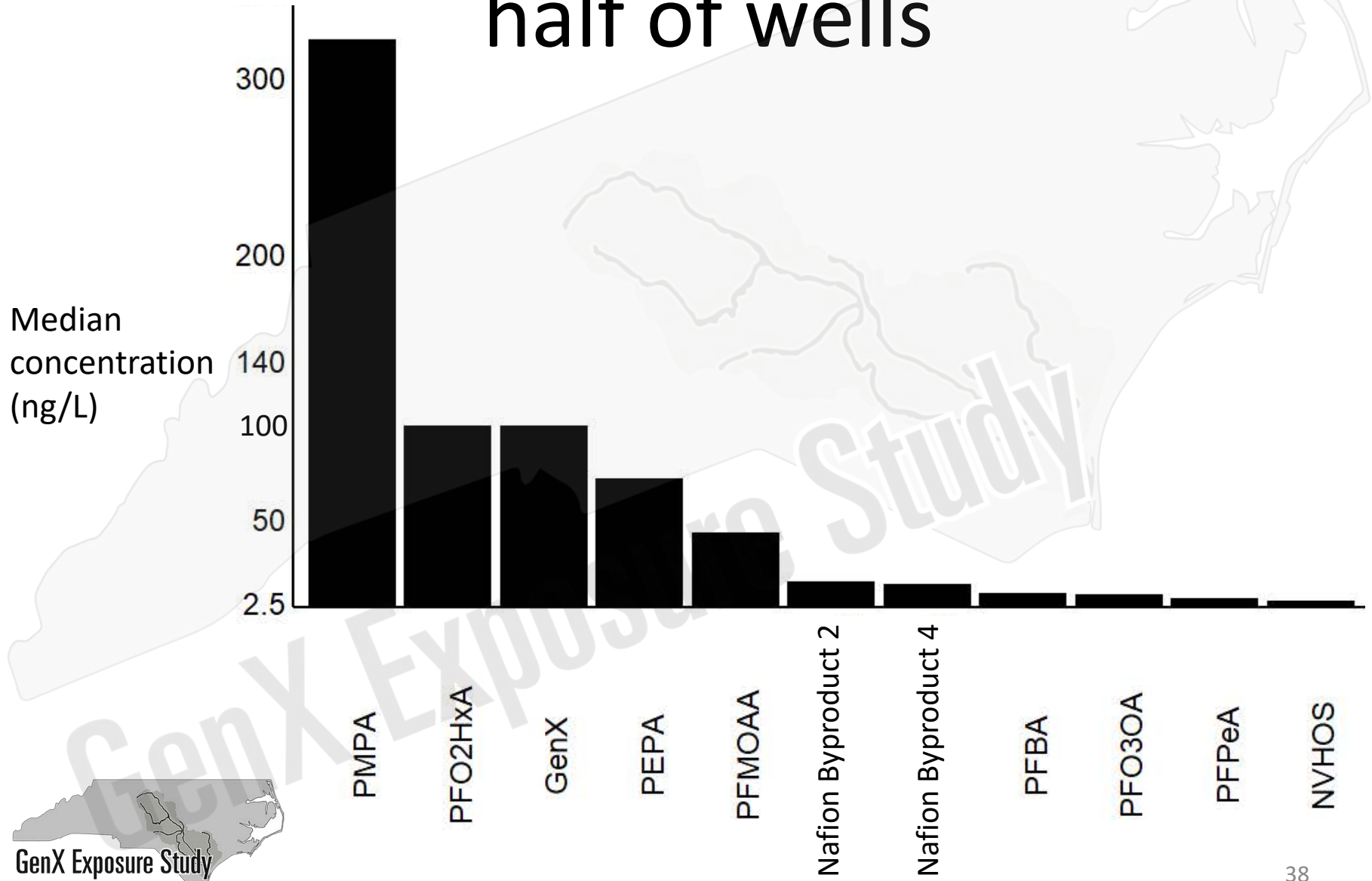




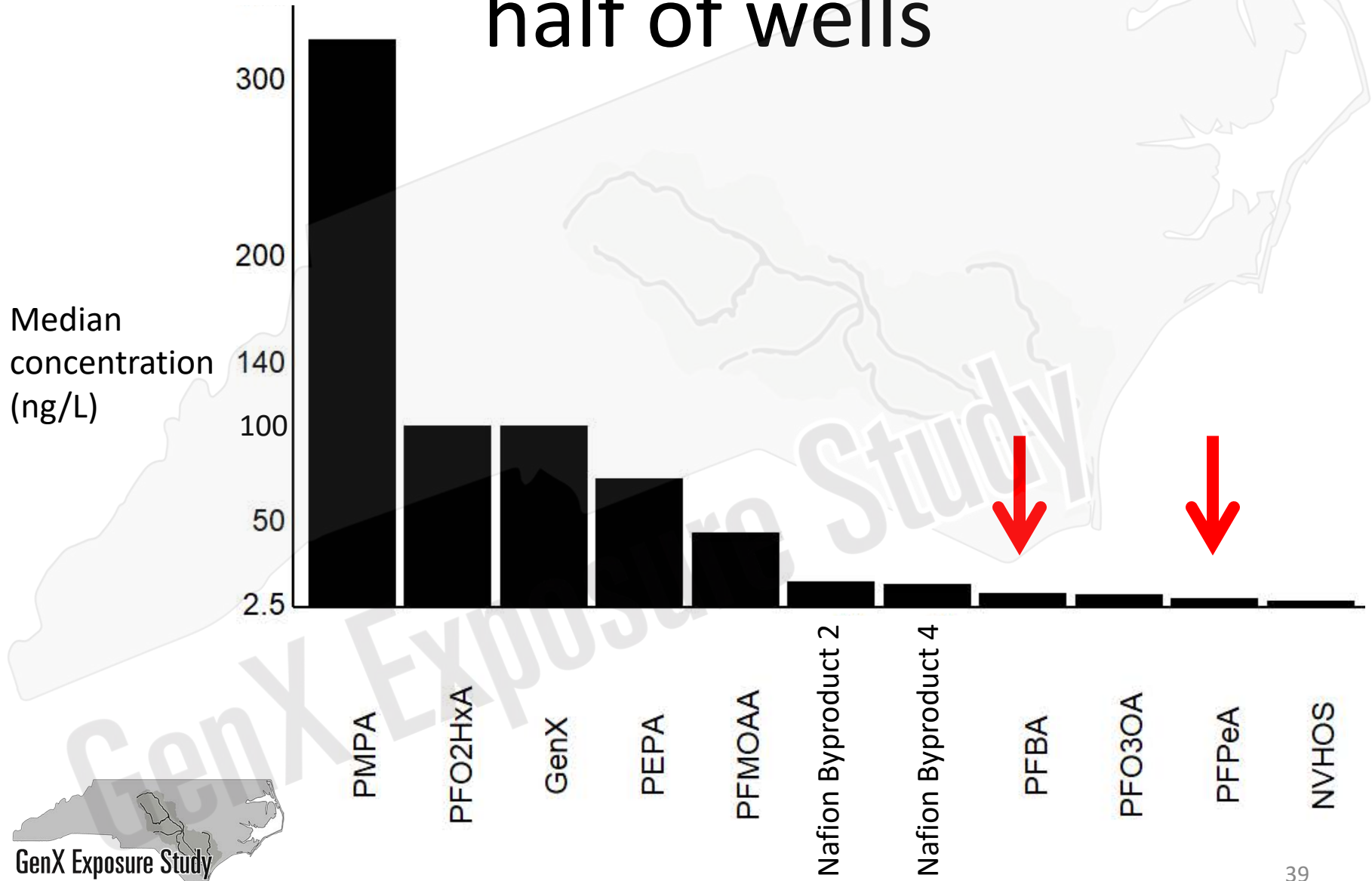
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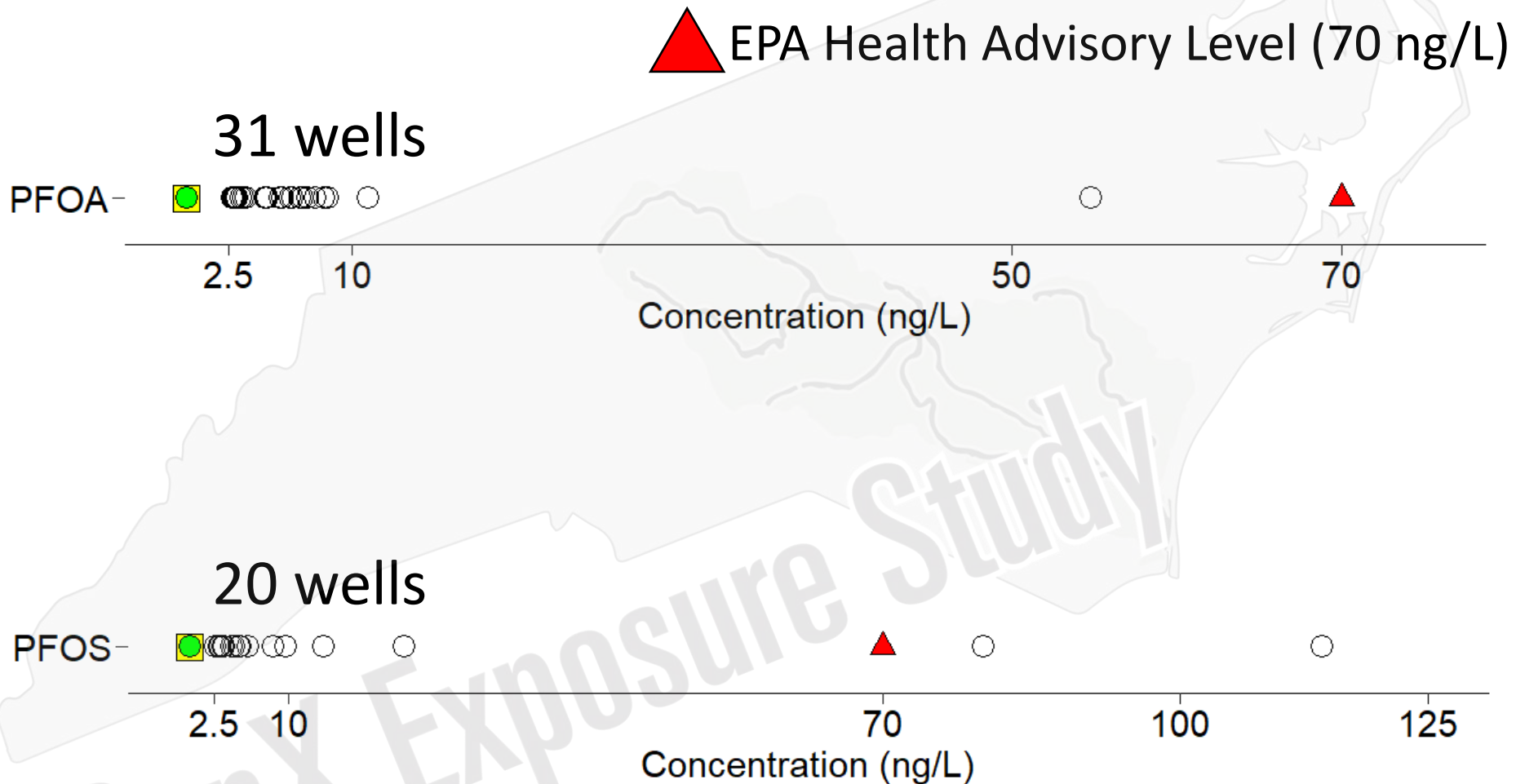
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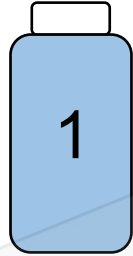
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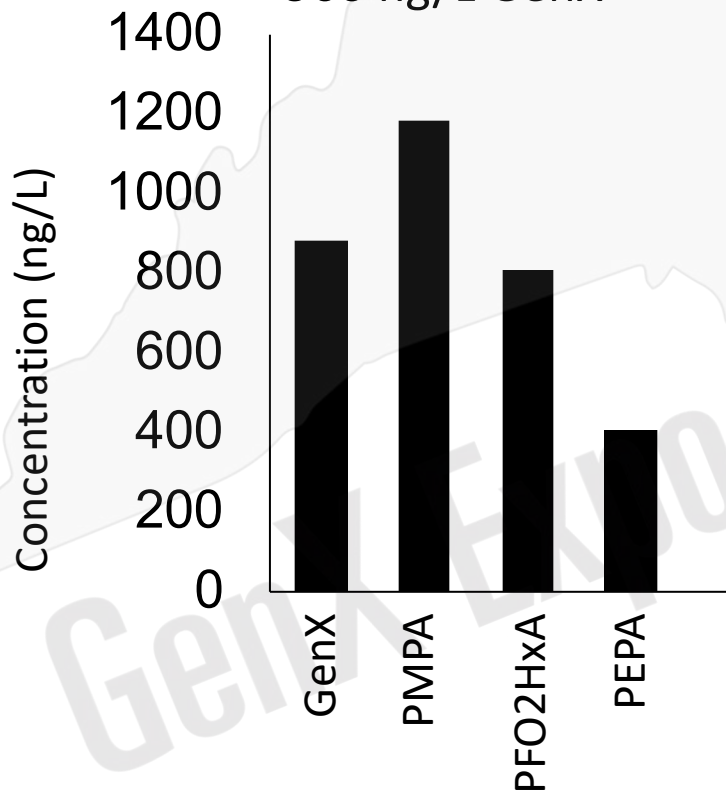
# Detected PFOA and PFOS in some wells



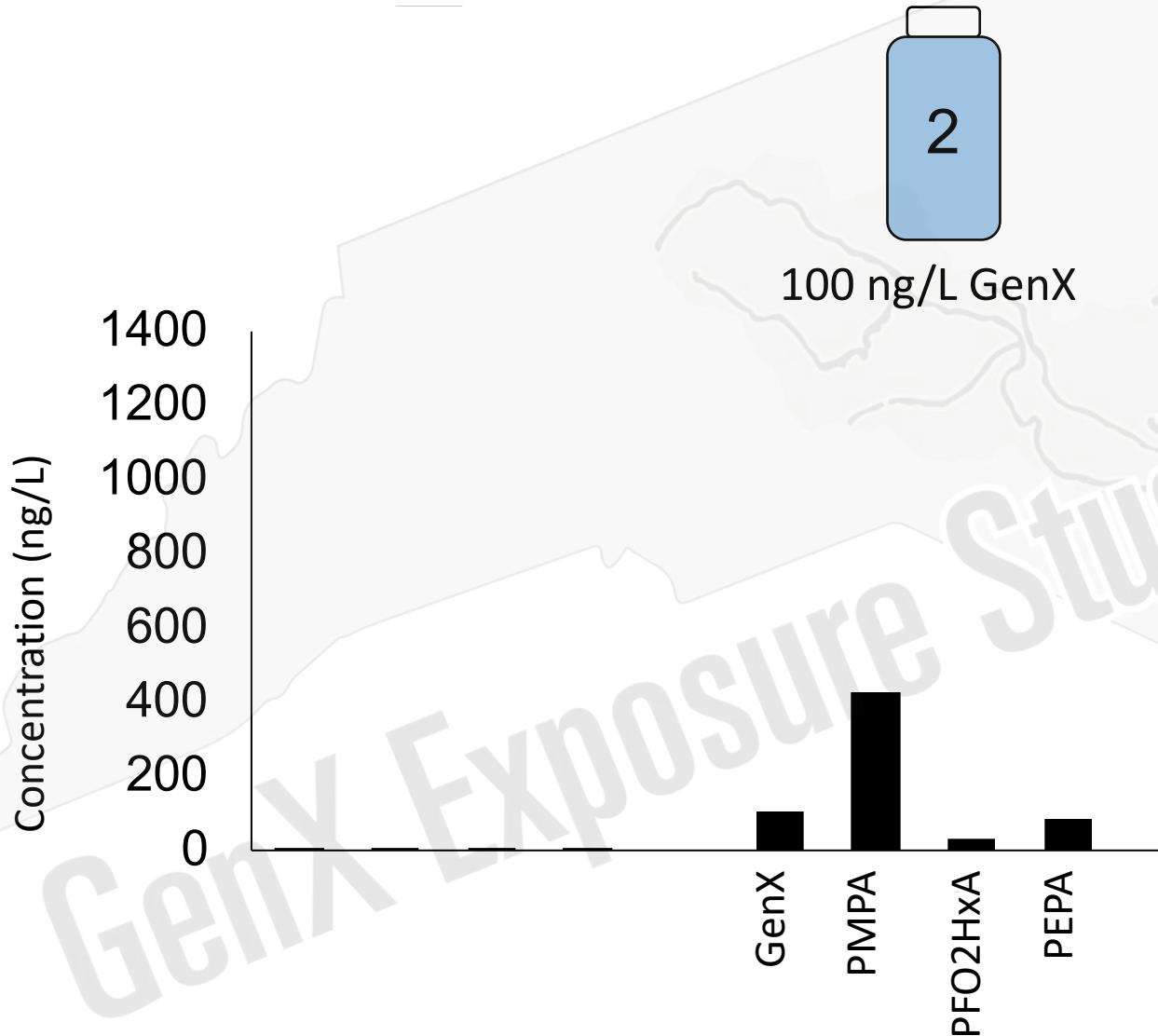
# Samples with higher GenX tended to have higher levels of other PFAS



900 ng/L GenX

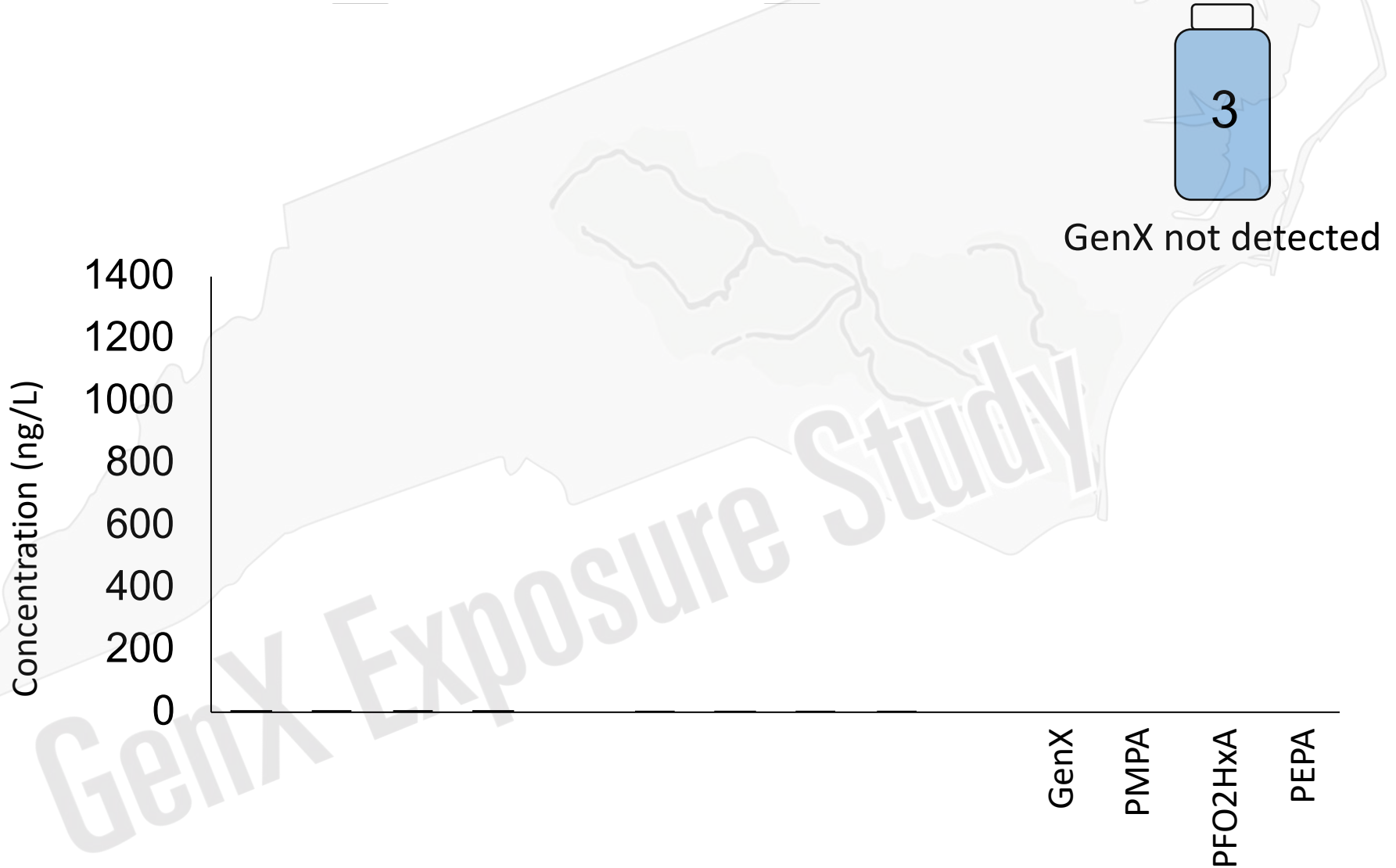


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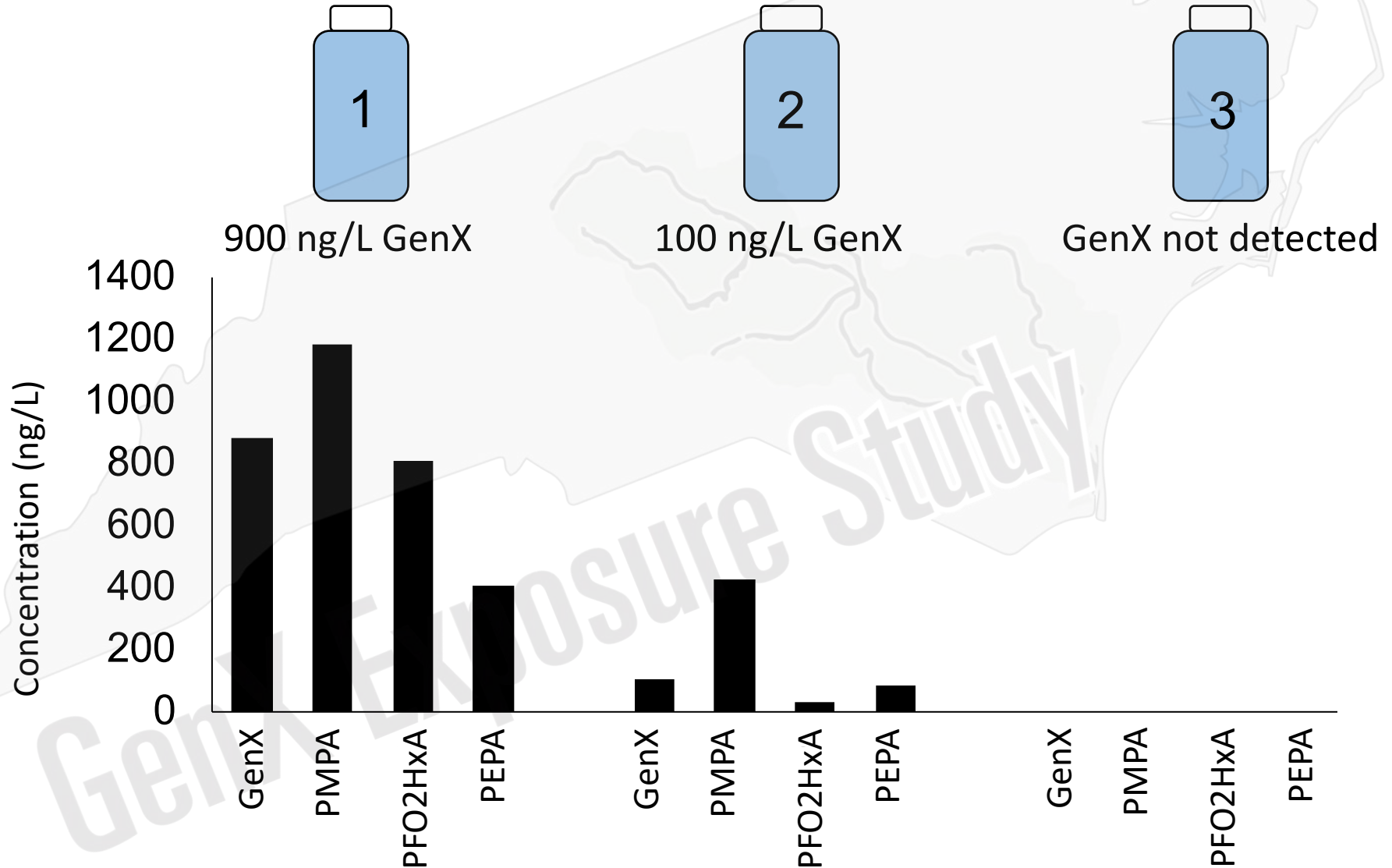




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# Summary of PFAS water results

1. Wide range of GenX concentrations in wells
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# Important to know

>3000 private wells impacted by Fayetteville Works emissions identified to date

The 84 wells we sampled were not a random sampling of wells surrounding Fayetteville Works

Our data tell us about our study participants

May not be representative of all contaminated wells surrounding Fayetteville Works



# What did we find in taps?

# Kitchen tap water sampling

Sampled *as is*



In February 2019, most treatments were homeowner implemented (not Chemours)



# 45 out of 82 homes had water treatment in February 2019

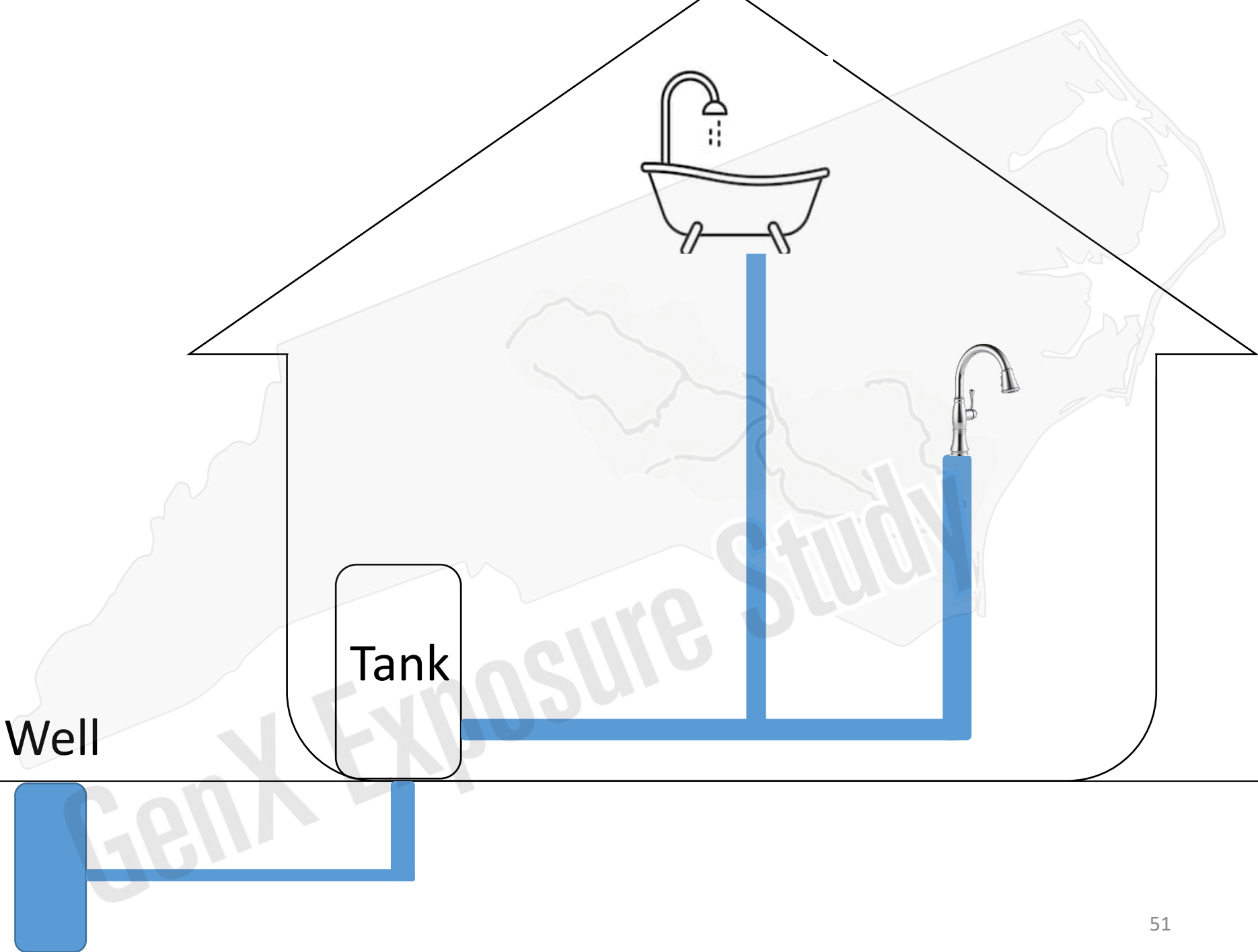
## Out of 82 homes

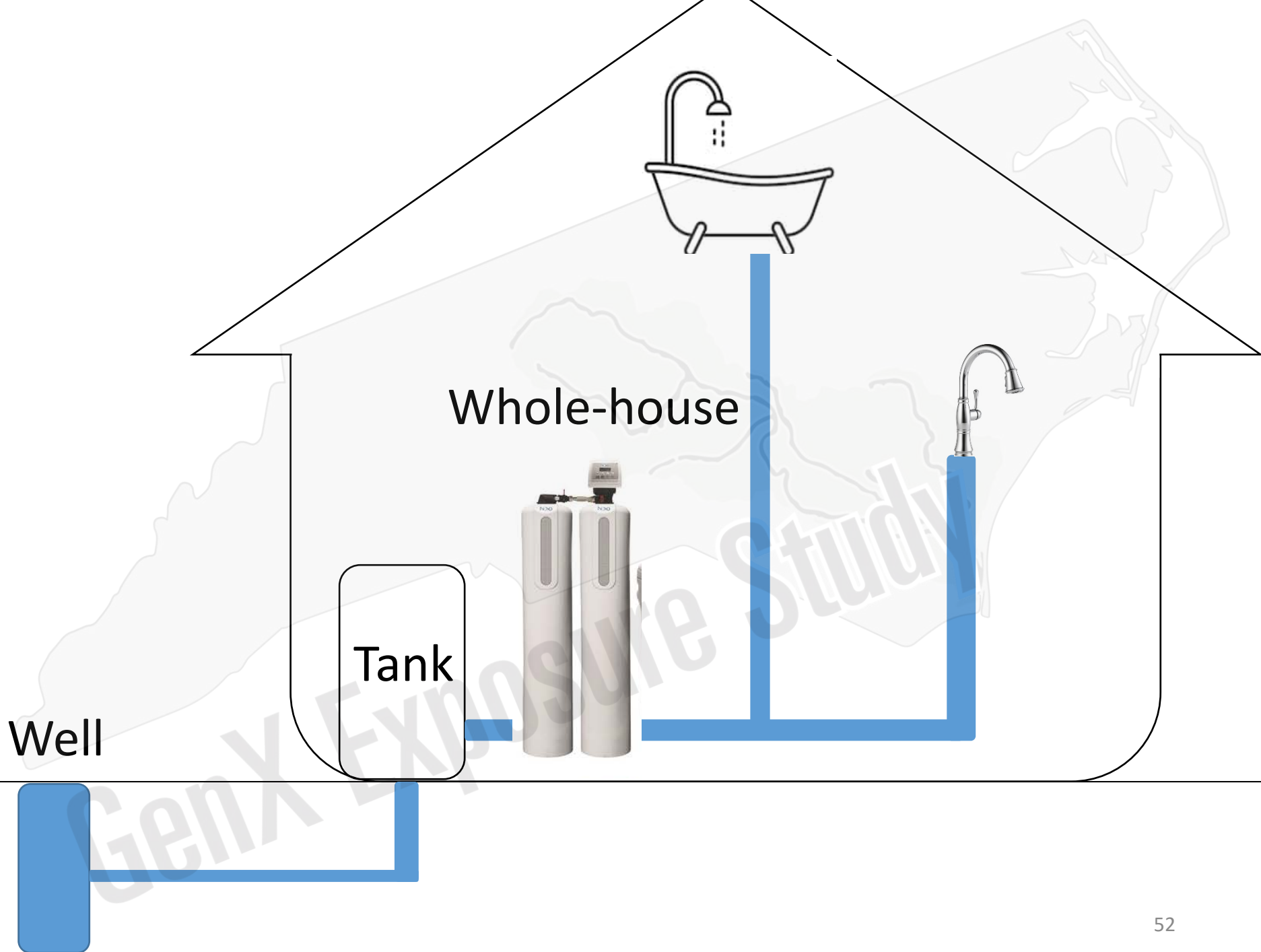
No treatment	32 (39%)
At least one type of treatment	45 (55%)
Public water	4 (5%)
Other water at the tap	1 (1%)

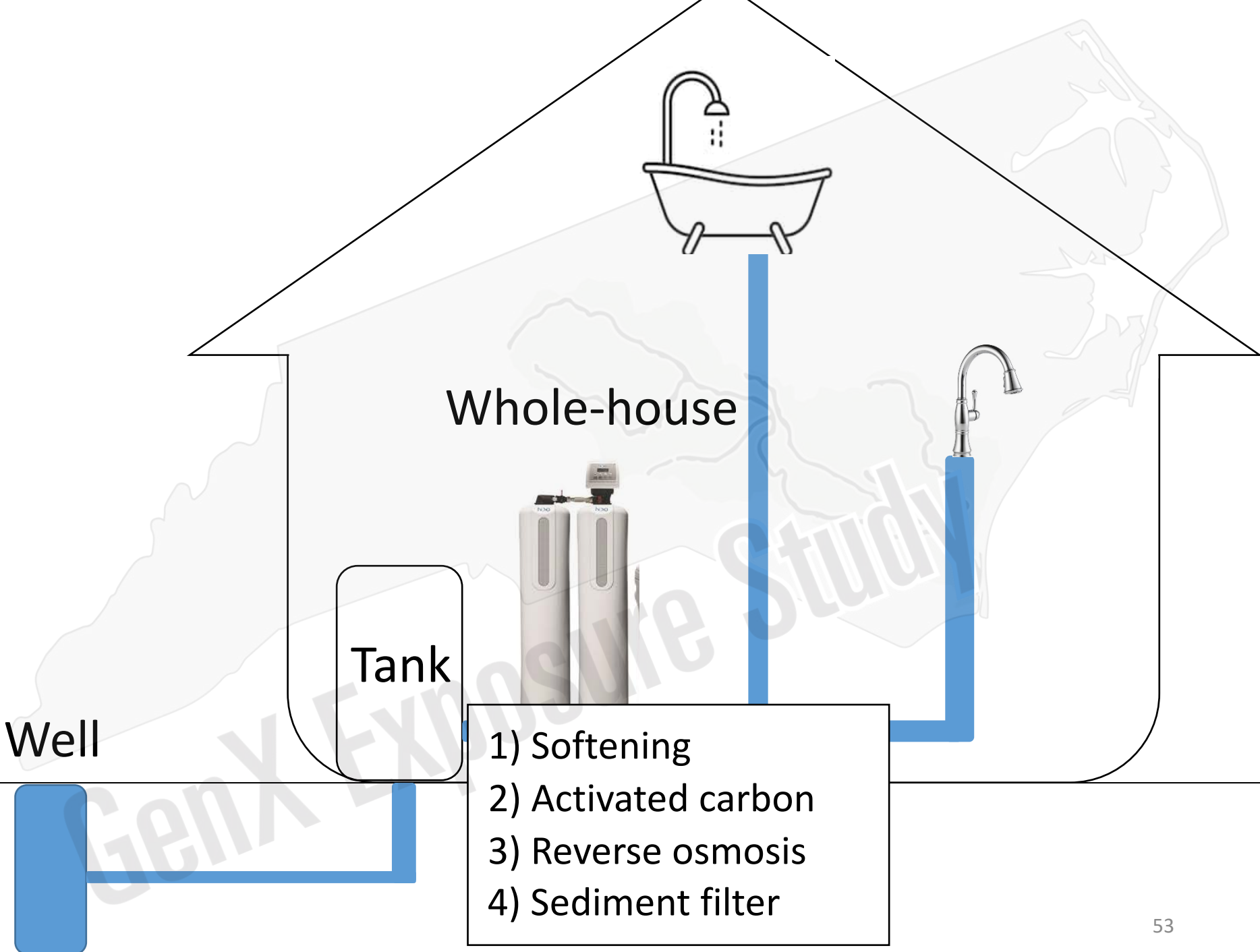
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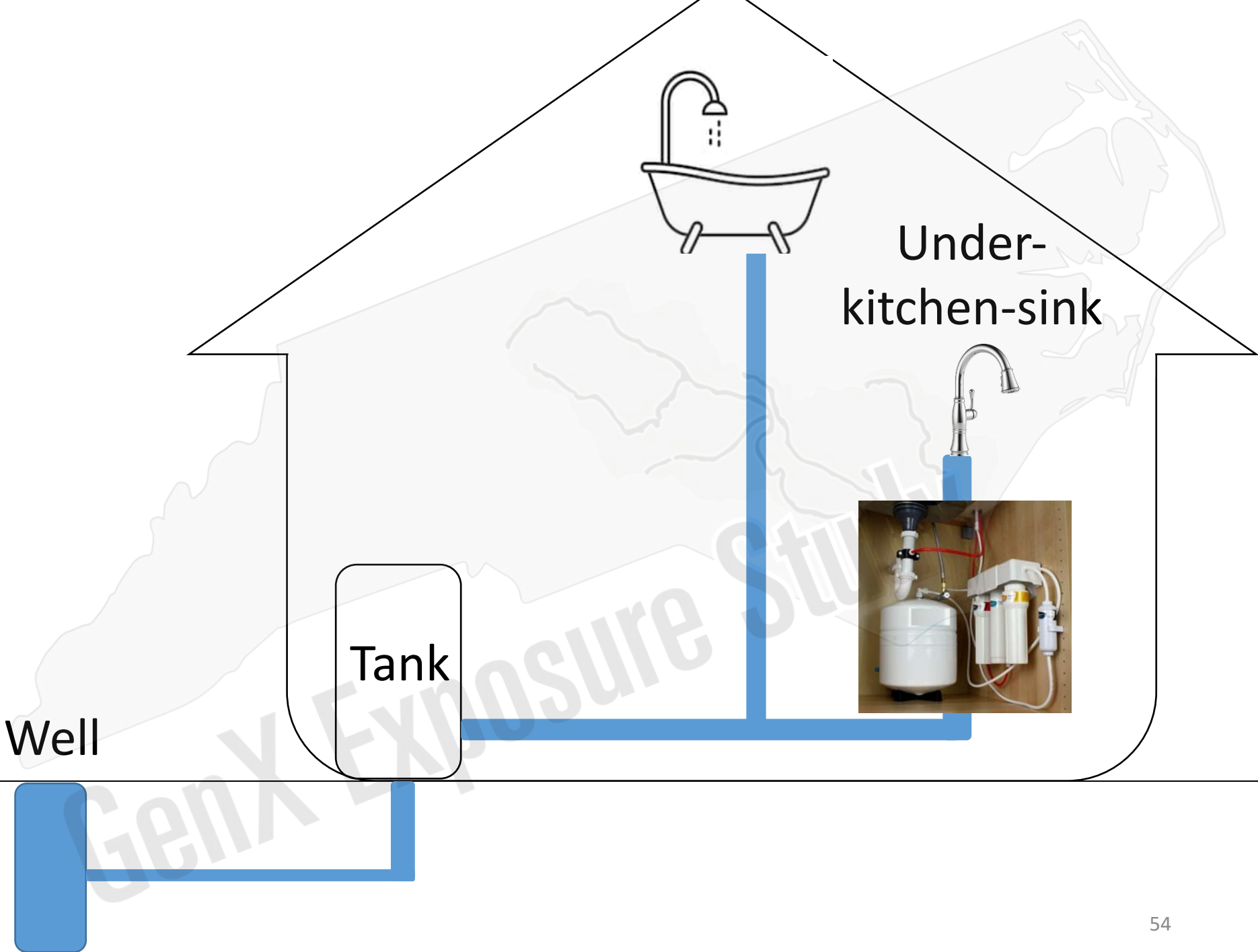
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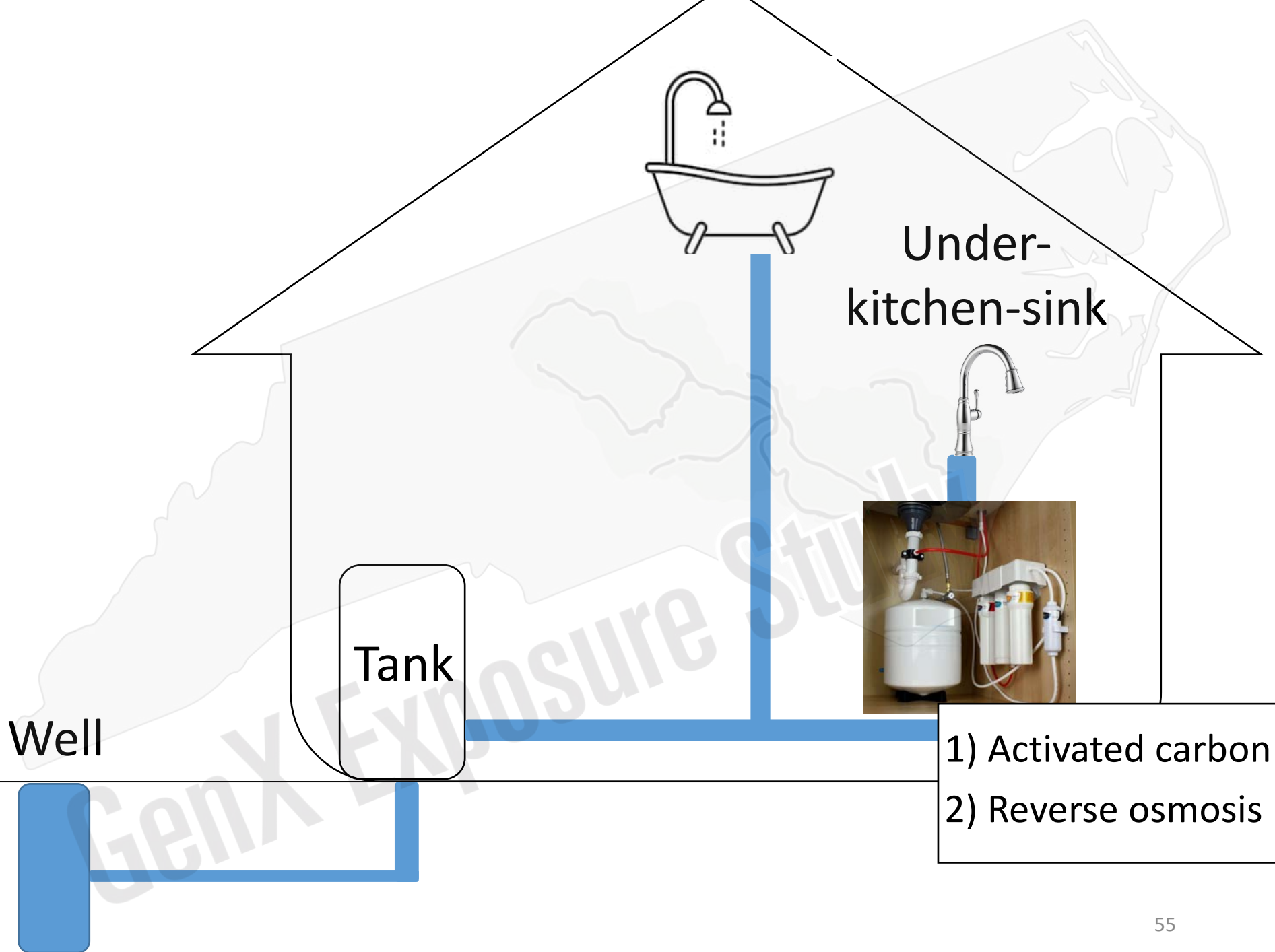




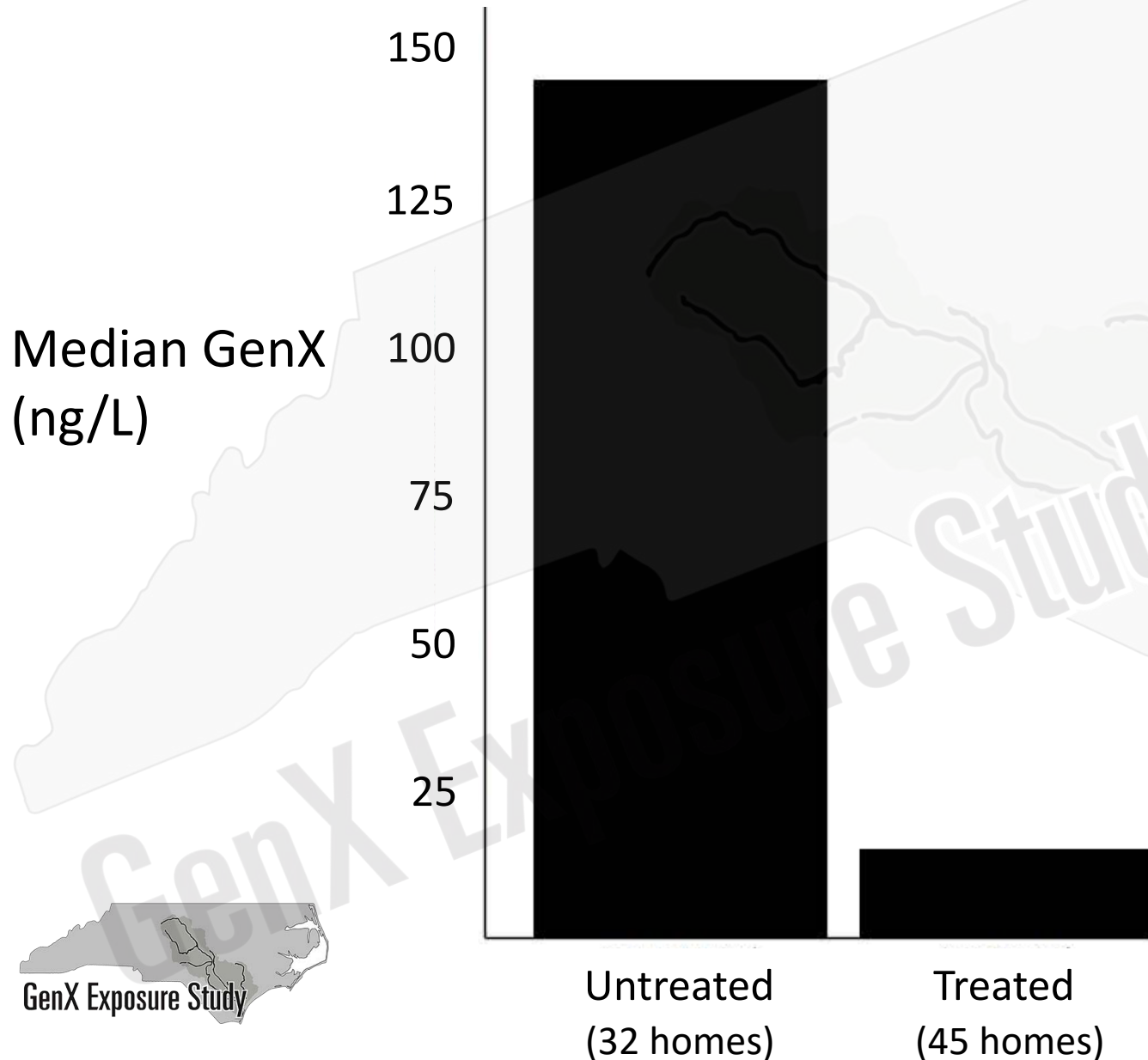




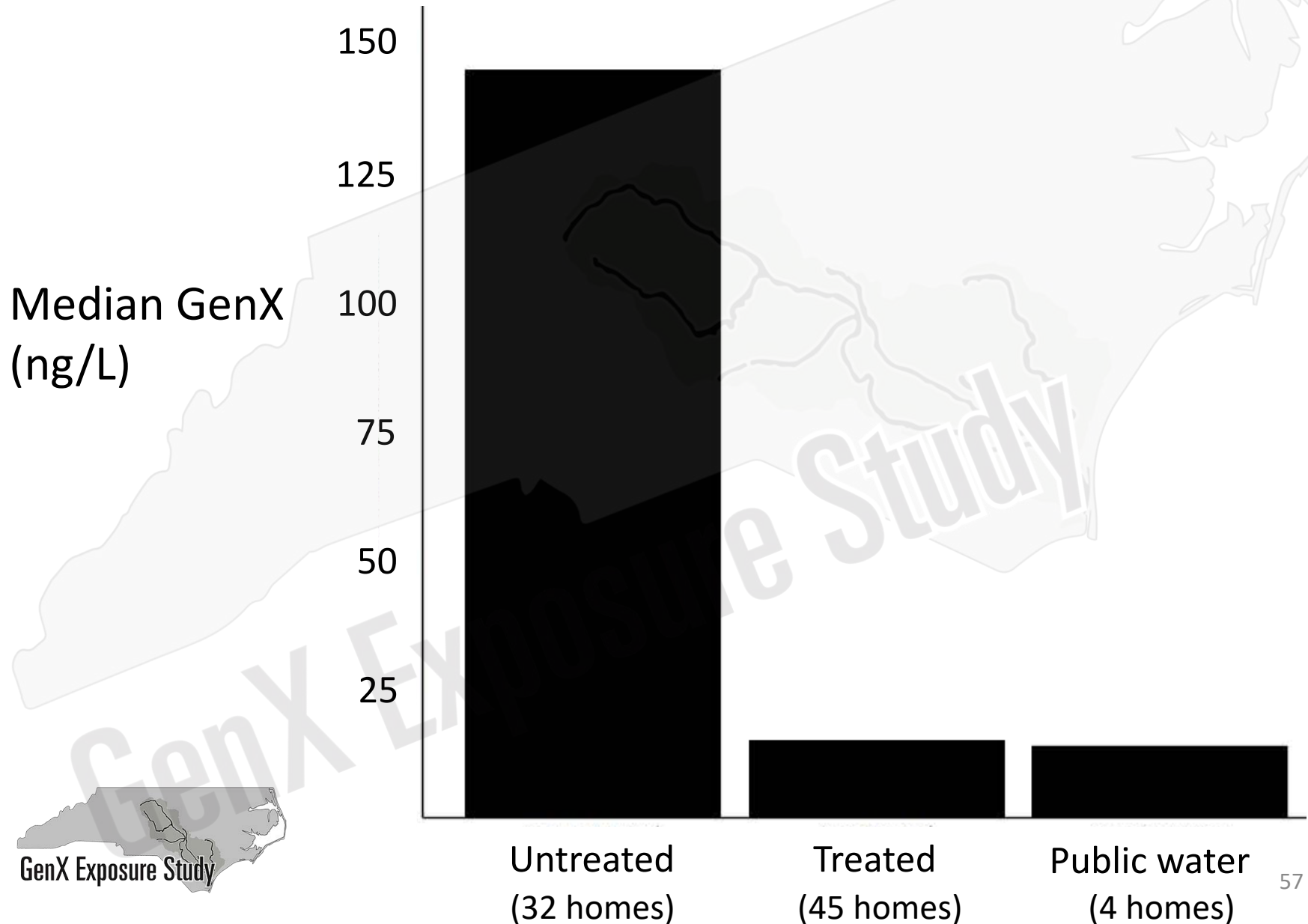




# Overall, treated taps had lower GenX



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# Chemours Consent Order

Requires Chemours to

- 1) Reduce air emissions, remove PFAS from wastewater before discharge, remove PFAS from contaminated groundwater
- 2) Provide filtration systems or public water for people with contaminated wells

Our study results do not qualify homeowners for Chemours provided treatment

Contact DEQ for additional well testing 919-707-8200

# What's next?

Analyze blood samples

Waiting for labs to reopen to continue

Continue analysis of well and tap water

Combine results with those from Wilmington

Analyze urine and other samples

# GenX Exposure Study will grow

Transition from an Exposure Study to a Health Study

Grow from 500 participants to 1000 participants

- 400 near Fayetteville

- 600 in New Hanover and Brunswick Counties

Increase Minority Recruitment

Five year study

- 2 blood collection events

- Measure PFAS

- Measure thyroid hormones



[Superfund.ncsu.edu](http://Superfund.ncsu.edu)



# Acknowledgements

## **NC State**

Jane Hoppin, PI  
Detlef Knappe  
Nadine Kotlarz  
Katy May  
Rob Smart  
Zachary Hopkins  
Claire Critchley

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David Collier  
Jamie DeWitt  
Suzanne Lea

## **US EPA**

Andrew Lindstrom  
James McCord  
Mark Strynar

## **New Hanover County Health Department**

Phillip Tarte  
Katelyn Matney

## **Cumberland County Health Department**

Rod Jenkins  
Adrian Jones  
Jennifer Green

## **Cape Fear River Watch**

Kemp Burdette  
Madi Polera  
Amanda Boomershine  
Larry Cahoon  
Deborah Maxwell

## **Sustainable Sandhills**

Jon Parsons  
Jonelle Kimborough





Thank you to study participants



# GenX Exposure Study

[GenXstudy.ncsu.edu](http://GenXstudy.ncsu.edu)

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NIEHS R21 ES029353

NC Policy Collaboratory

NC State Center for Human Health and the Environment

P30ES025128

NC State Superfund Center

**NC STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

**Center for**  
**Human**  
**Health and the**  
**Environment**

# **Virtual Fayetteville Community Meeting**

## **June 20,2020**

**Thank you for joining us!**

Keep up with the GenX Exposure Study at [GenXStudy.ncsu.edu](https://GenXStudy.ncsu.edu).

Follow the Center for Human Health and the Environment on Facebook  
[@NCStateCHHE](https://www.facebook.com/NCStateCHHE).

You can send any follow up questions or comments to  
[genx-exposure-study@ncsu.edu](mailto:genx-exposure-study@ncsu.edu).

*Thanks to Marisa Incremona, Claire Critchley, Adrien Wilkie, and Julia Kaplan for their help behind-the-scenes*