

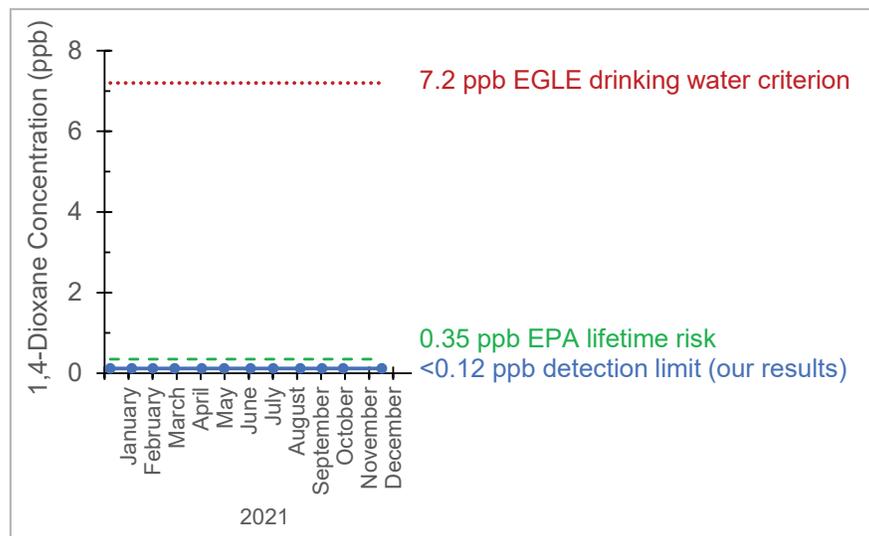


As 2021 has come to an end, it is hard not to reflect on the optimism that we had at the start of it. A year ago, at the end of 2020, most were glad to put a difficult year that revolved around response to the pandemic behind us.

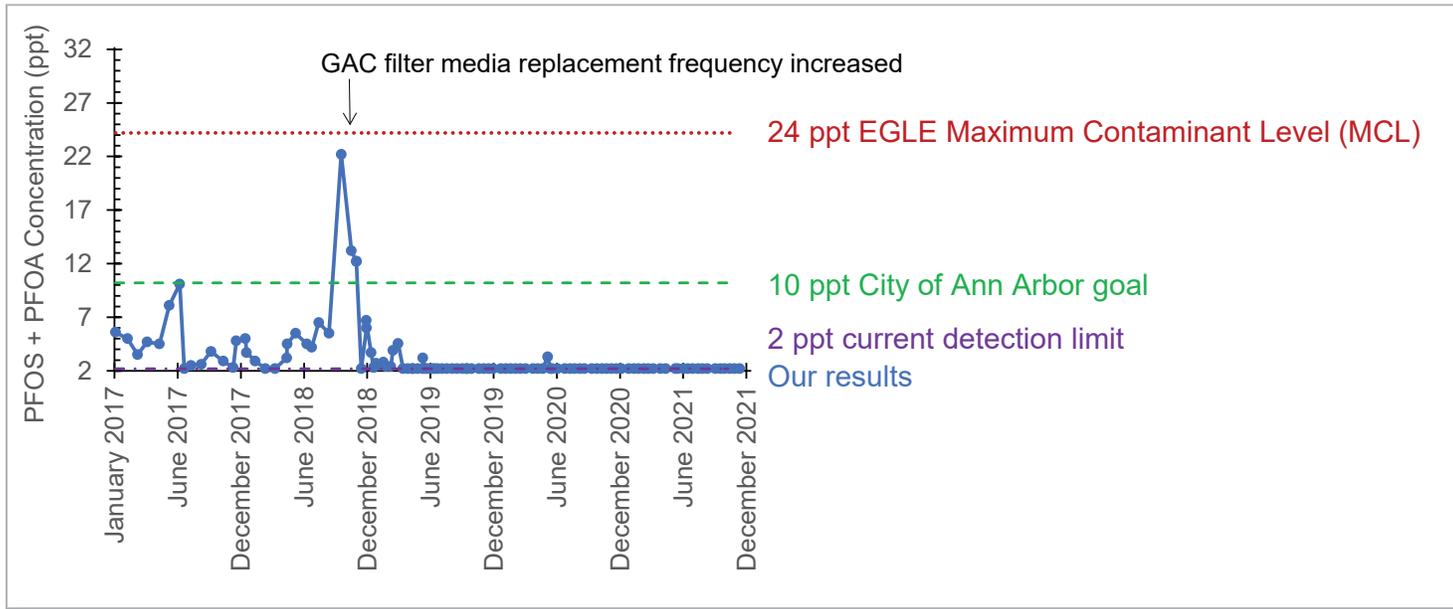
We thought 2021 would be the year when we could move on and return to our pre-pandemic normal lives. However, 2021 proved that we must adjust to a new normal.

With a new COVID-19 variant spreading, the importance of vaccinations, mask-wearing, and social distancing remains at the forefront of our response to beating this threat to public health. Hybrid work forces, supply chain disruptions, and an increased cost of doing business all are part of our new normal. Fortunately, the comprehensive business continuity plans that we put in place in early 2020, have enabled us to continue delivering safe and uninterrupted drinking water to our customers. *Continued on ..... page 2*

### 1,4 Dioxane Concentration in City Drinking Water - Year in Review



### PFOS+PFOA Concentrations in City's Drinking Water Since 2017



..... continued from page 1

Even with these challenges, we have made great strides in our efforts to rehabilitate the water system. While some of our capital projects have seen some delays, a significant amount of work was completed at both the water treatment plant and in the distribution system in 2021.

- In 2021, we implemented structural improvements at the WTP to replace aging building components such as roofs, and deteriorating brick and concrete and rehabilitated filter control instrumentation.
- In the distribution system, over 6000 feet of water main were replaced, some of which dated from the late 1800s.
- The city also launched our galvanized service line replacement project.

Our water quality continues to exceed both regulatory and our own, more stringent, internal water quality goals. The two graphs on page one illustrate annual trends for both PFOS/PFOA and 1,4-dioxane. As you can see, we have consistently achieved non-detectable levels of these contaminants in the drinking water during the last year. This is a testament to both previous investments in water treatment infrastructure and the efforts of staff who closely monitor and control the treatment process.

I hope that you can approach 2022 with that same optimism felt one year ago. For the water system, we

plan to continue to reinvest in both the water treatment plant and the distribution system by replacing aging infrastructure.

*Projects that will begin this year include:*

- Replacing our lab's information management system which is responsible for tracking more than 200,000 sample results per year.
- Replacement of valves and piping at the city's raw water pumping station that is responsible for more than 80% of the water delivered to Ann Arbor water system customers.

These projects, among others, will position us well to continue to deliver high quality and reliable water service for years to come. As always, if you have questions about your water quality, please reach out to us at [water@a2gov.org](mailto:water@a2gov.org).

Be well.

*Brian Steglitz*

Brian Steglitz, P.E., Drinking Water License F-1, Water Treatment Plant Manager

## January 2022 Water Champion



Congratulations to January's Water Champion **Nick Baran**, who is the Water Treatment Plant's inventory control technician. Baran is being recognized for always being willing to step up and pitch in when needed to fill a role or see a project to fruition. During the past year, he's repeatedly shown his commitment to delivering quality water and ensuring the Water Treatment Plant runs smoothly.

"I enjoy being involved with all aspects of the water treatment plant operations and assisting on projects to help keep us running smoothly," says Baran. "I get great satisfaction watching a well-planned project come together and knowing that it will enable us to provide clean water to the community."

## Let it snow!

While the city's winter road maintenance objective is to provide surfaces that are safe to use at reasonable speeds for all modes of transportation, Public Works staff also need to balance the environmental impact of over application of salt. As a result, the city does not treat all roads to bare pavement.

The city is in a multi-year process of fully equipping its fleet to more widely utilize liquid brine solutions for anti-icing and de-icing. Brine solutions are less impactful to the environment and are more effective in certain situations than rock salt alone. More information about city snow removal is available at [www.a2gov.org/snow](http://www.a2gov.org/snow).

