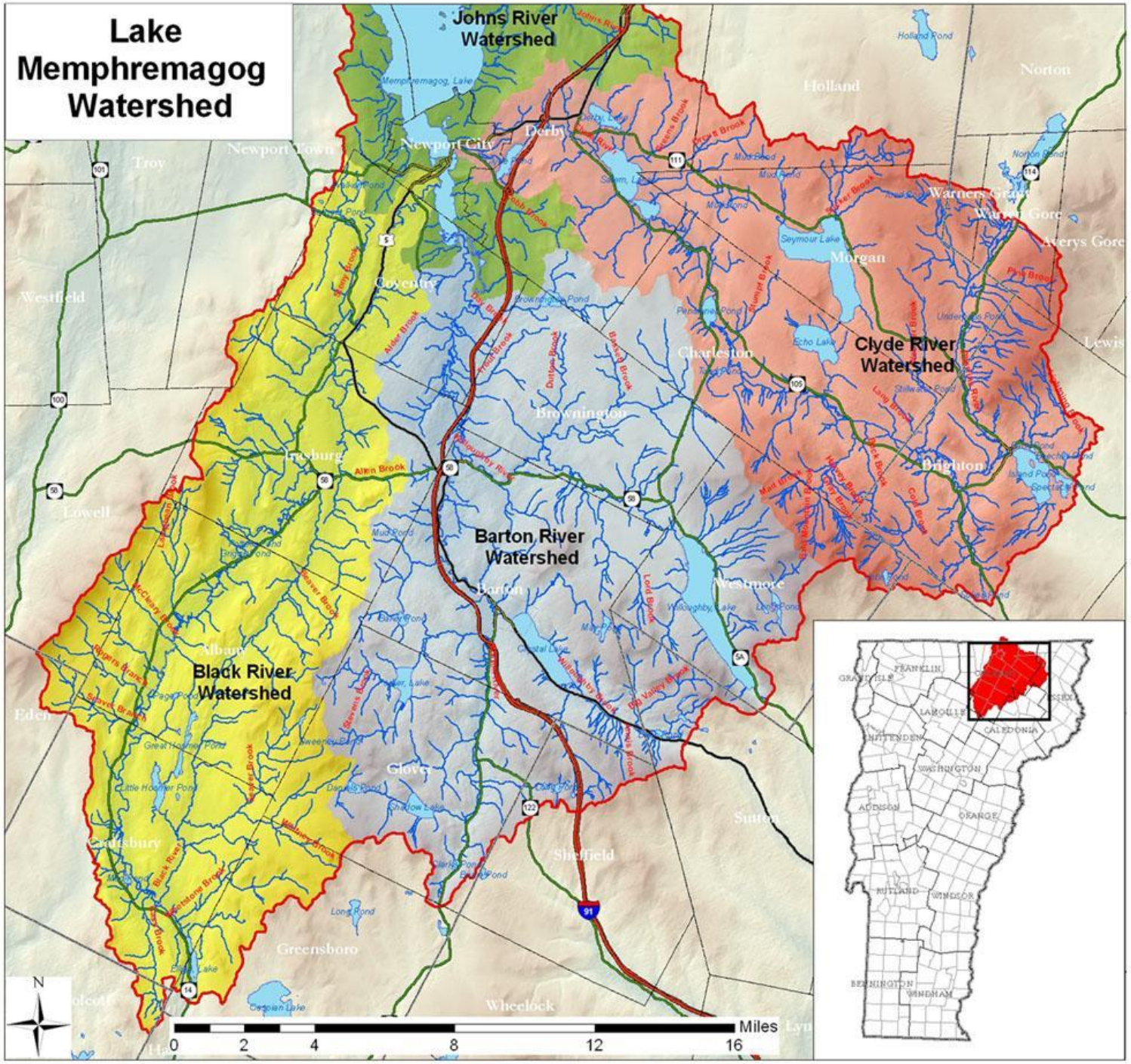
Protecting Our Watershed with H.113

- Public Health & Safety
- Environmental Protection
- Economic Security
- Environmental Justice


Lake Memphremagog Watershed
Johns River Watershed
Clyde River Watershed
Barton River Watershed
Black River Watershed
Newport City
Derby
Holland
Norton
Troy
Newport Town
Westfield
Coventry
Charleston
Morgan
Brownington
Irasburg
Lowell
Barton
Westmore
Glover
Sheffield
Greensboro
Wheelock
Sutton
Lyndonville
Eden
Albany
Seymour Lake
Echo Lake
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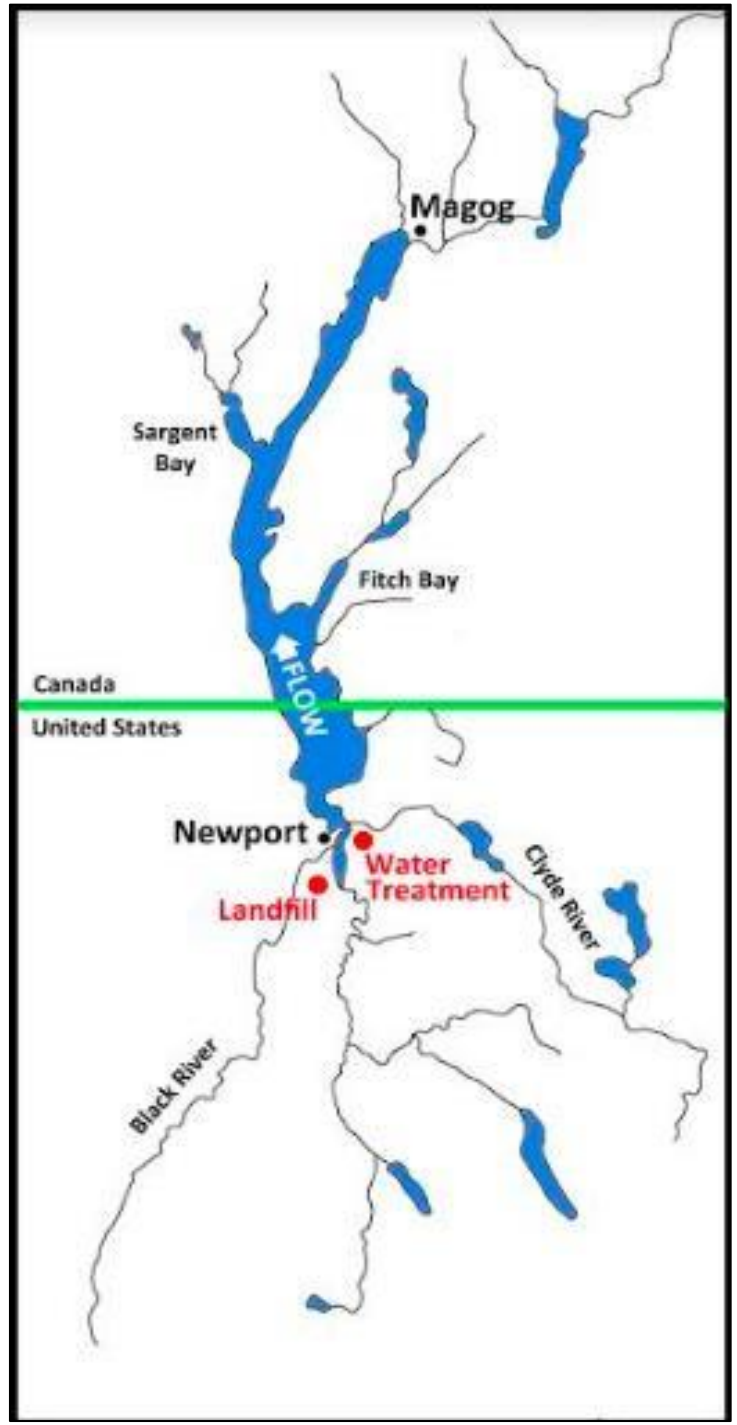
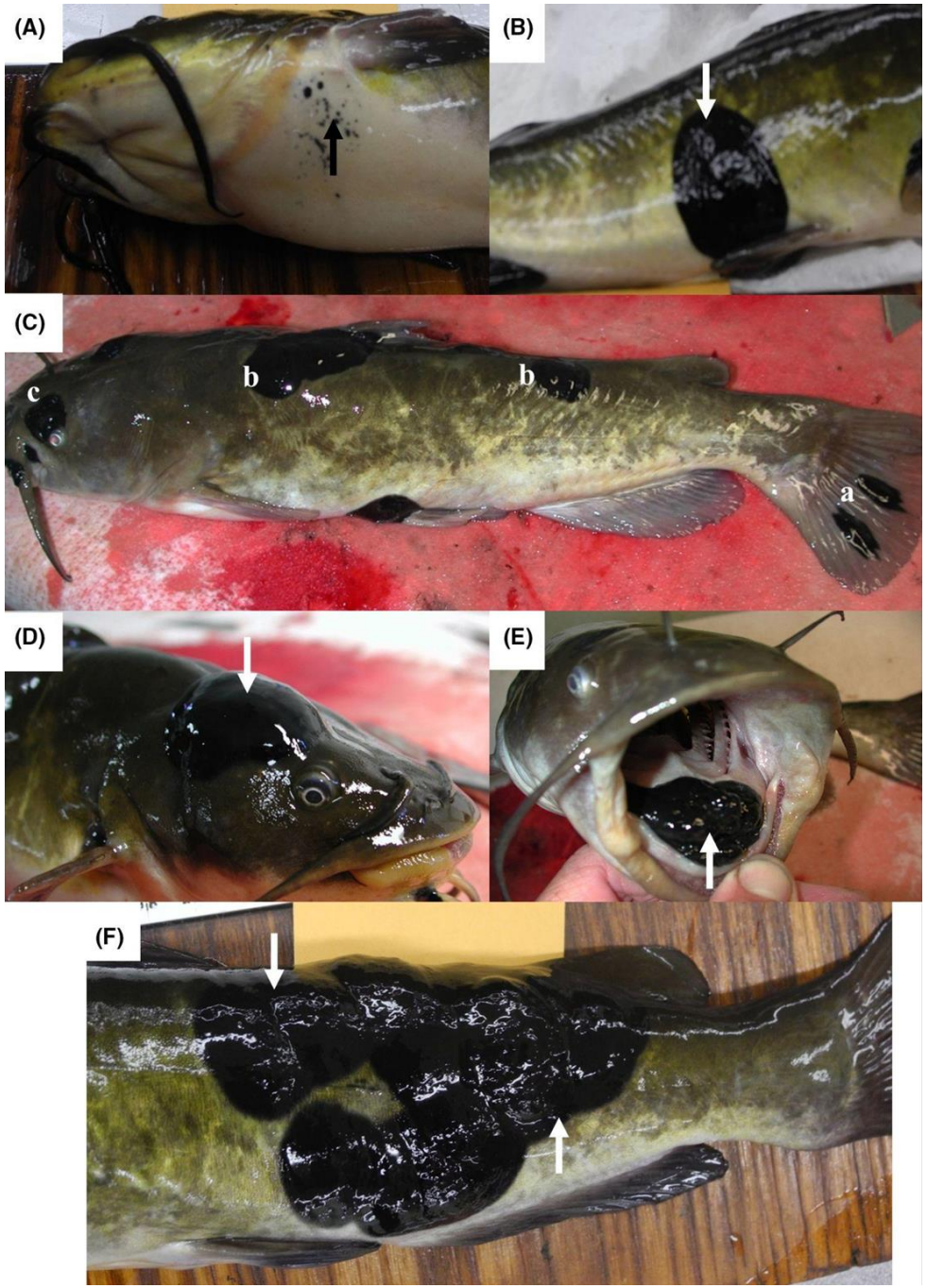

Magog
Sargent Bay
Fitch Bay
FLOW
Canada
United States
Newport
Water Treatment
Landfill
Clyde River
Black River

Walter Medwid

Photo - VT DEC

VT allows sludge to be applied as fertilizer. It is not tested for PFAS content.

VT farmers spread about 4,000 tons of sludge from wastewater treatment facilities on fields in 2022



USGS/VTF&W Memphremagog Study 2014 & 2023

Are the Fish Safe to Eat?

Average PFOS Contamination of Lake Memphremagog Fish – 2021 ANR Study

Brown Bullhead – 1,199 ng/kg

Yellow Perch – 1,251 ng/kg

Rock Bass – 1,080 ng/kg

Largemouth Bass – 2,010 ng/kg

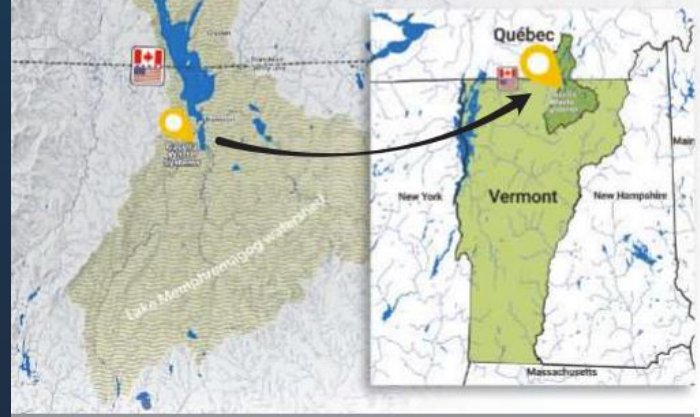
2024 - For PFOA and PFOS, EPA has set a non-enforceable health- based goal of zero. This is called a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG).

There is NO safe level of exposure to these two PFAS. National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR)

2021-PFAS-Surface-Water-Fish-Tissue-and-WWTF-Effluent-Monitoring-Report

The Coventry, Vermont garbage dump: a toxic legacy

MCI is particularly concerned with the environmental impacts of toxins leaching from the American landfill site at the head of Lake Memphremagog, source of potable water for 175,000 Canadians. MCI is following the situation closely and continues working towards a permanent moratorium on the discharge of leachate into the Lake Memphremagog watershed.



A few facts

- The Coventry landfill is Vermont's only landfill site. It is located at the head of Lake Memphremagog, a few hundred metres from one of the lake's largest tributaries.
- By the end of its current permit, the site will have grown to the equivalent of 98 football fields and attained a height equivalent to that of Place Ville Marie in Montréal.
- In 2019, MCI and the Vermont environmental group DUMP (Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity) obtained a moratorium preventing the landfill operator from discharging leachate into the Lake Memphremagog watershed. This moratorium ends in 2026.
- In 2023, the site generated 13.5 million gallons of leachate, commonly called 'garbage juice', enough to fill 20 Olympic swimming pools.
- MCI and DUMP continue to work on a permanent moratorium to prevent the discharge of any leachate, treated or not, into the Lake Memphremagog watershed.

Many questions remain.

MCI is questioning the handling of leachate at the landfill site and the pretreatment process proposed by the operator of the site. Understand that MCI believes that treating the leachate is better than not treating it, which the operator is doing to a certain extent today. However, will the construction of a new pretreatment plant close to Lake Memphremagog result in the eventual return of leachate discharge into the watershed? How will they dispose of the pollutants extracted from the leachate? What quantity and concentration of pollutants will they need to dispose of? Is the leachate at the site handled properly? What procedures are in place for maintenance and to handle equipment breakdowns? Is there adequate communication between Canadian and American authorities in case of environmental emergencies? These and many more questions remain.

Environmental and health risks

Regarding leachate, the science is clear, it is toxic. Leachate contains significant quantities of pollutants, including PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances), commonly called forever chemicals. PFAS are endocrine disruptors. When ingested, they accumulate in living things, causing serious health problems.