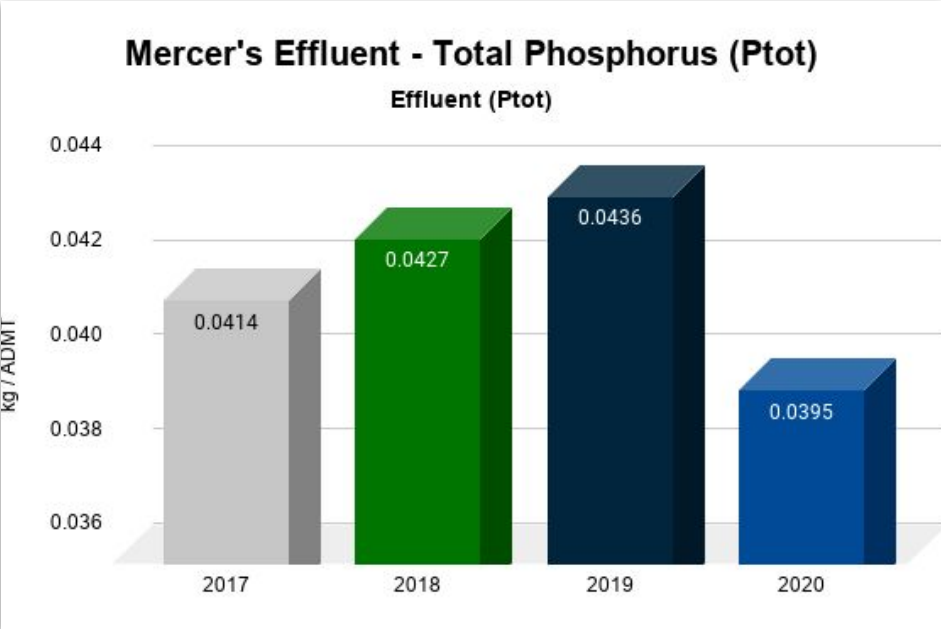


Mercer's Effluent - Total Phosphorus (Ptot)



Phosphorus is found both naturally in wood chips as well as lime used in the pulping process. If the naturally occurring nutrient is insufficient, it leads to phosphorus addition to the effluent treatment plant in order to provide sufficient amounts necessary for the efficient operation of the treatment process.

The phosphorus load per tonne of pulp has decreased 5% over the past four years. The Rosenthal and Stendal mills have been successful at removing excess phosphorus prior to discharge in their respective receiving environments. Celgar's receiving environment is deficient in phosphorus and therefore any discharge has a positive effect.