

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Technical Expert Working Group (TEWG) Conference Call

Friday June 1, 2012
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

CALL SUMMARY

Attendees:

EPA Region 3 and contractors: Bill Arguto, George Rizzo, Wendy Gray, Michelle Hoover, Kathy Martel (Cadmus), Karen Sklenar (Cadmus)

The Washington Aqueduct: Tom Jacobus, Lloyd Stowe

DC Water and contractors: Maureen Schmelling, Sarah Neiderer, John Civardi (Hatch Mott McDonald)

DC Department of the Environment: Collin Burrell

Virginia Tech: Marc Edwards

Concerned Citizen: Susan Kanen

Parents for Non-Toxic Alternatives: Yanna Lambrinidou

Clean Water Action: Andrew Fellows

Water Alliance: Paul Schwartz

EPA Office of Research and Development: Jeff Kempic

Agenda and Housekeeping Issues

Bill Arguto led the call. He reviewed the meeting agenda that is included as Attachment A to this call summary. Bill also reminded attendees that the general purpose of the TEWG calls is to share factual information based on science including findings from pipe loop studies and regulatory sampling. Participation in the TEWG calls is voluntary.

Summary of Discussions by Topic Area

1. Washington Aqueduct Pipe Loop Update

Prior to the call, Mike Chicoine distributed graphs showing total and dissolved lead concentrations for the pipe loops of both of Washington Aqueduct's water treatment plants (WTPs). Graphs for the McMillan WTP pipe loops present data for the period November 2010 to May 2012 and graphs for the Dalecarlia WTP pipe loops present data for the period March 2005 to May 2012.

During the call, Lloyd Stowe discussed the recent pipe loop data shown on the graphs and changes to sample collection practices. The samples collected in the last few months have had low lead levels that are typical for the water temperature at this time of year. Based on Dr. Edwards' visit and review of the pipe loop setup at both WTPs, Washington Aqueduct has decided to change the sampling rates to help resolve the past issue with particulate lead levels in samples collected from the pipe loops. The sampling rates will be changed effective July 1, 2012 to 3 gpm at the McMillan WTP and 1.5 gpm at the Dalecarlia WTP. A throttling valve has been installed in the McMillan WTP pipe loop discharge line to enable the new sampling rate.

The Washington Aqueduct staff recently discovered that the three pipe loops at the McMillan WTP were combined at the point of discharge. Therefore, each one liter sample collected from the discharge line for the period November 2010 to mid-May 2012 is assumed to have included approximately one-third of a liter from each of three pipe loops. On or about May 15, 2012, Washington Aqueduct staff separated the discharge lines for the three pipe loops to allow collection of distinct samples that represent each individual pipe loop. Yanna Lambrinidou asked Lloyd Stowe to confirm the dates for which the combined samples were collected; Mr. Stowe confirmed that combined samples were collected since the pipe loops were put into service [November 2010] until two weeks ago [approximately May 15, 2012].

Susan Kanen asked if Washington Aqueduct was planning to conduct any sampling to follow up on her sampling of drain water last summer. Lloyd Stowe said that the Aqueduct is not planning on collecting or analyzing additional samples of drain water.

2. DC Water Pipe Loop Update

Maureen Schmelling distributed DC Water's latest pipe loop data prior to the call. The graph shows that all samples collected in the last three months had lead concentrations less than 5 ppb. The lead levels have decreased slightly from the previous three month period. Collin Burrell requested that Maureen add "Fort Reno" to the graph title so that the graph will be self-explanatory; Maureen agreed to make this change.

Marc Edwards asked if DC Water plans to sample the pipe loops to measure dissolved and particulate lead levels. Maureen Schmelling said that she needs to meet with DC Water's Safety Department to review safety equipment and procedures that would be needed for this work. Yanna Lambrinidou asked for further clarification on the safety issues. Ms. Schmelling explained that an acid solution will be used in preparing the samples for dissolved lead analysis, which will require attention to personnel safety and ventilation needs.

3. DC Water Update on Posting Data to the Website

Sarah Neiderer provided an update on the posting of lead data to DC Water's website. Lead information has been updated and includes results for individual regulatory samples including sampling dates. The website includes a description of lead profiling procedures and several examples, but does not include profile results for individual homes. Yanna Lambrinidou thanked Ms. Neiderer for posting the data.

4. DC Water Preliminary Lead and Copper Rule Results Update

Ms. Schmelling reported that Lead and Copper Rule sampling for this semester has been completed. DC Water has received laboratory results for 94 homes and is waiting for results on several more sampling locations. Results to date indicate that no first draw or second draw sample exceeds the lead action level of 15 ppb. Based on the 94 first draw samples, the 90th percentile lead level is 4 ppb.

Yanna Lambrinidou asked if anyone from Region 3 is involved in oversight of the LCR monitoring. Wendy Gray said yes, EPA Region 3 staff reviews all monitoring results for LCR and other regulatory samples. Ms. Lambrinidou asked if Wendy was personally involved in this oversight and if it is a team or individual effort. Bill Arguto responded that Region 3 uses a team approach and a rule lead is assigned for each drinking water regulation. The number of team members addressing each oversight issue varies depending on the need.

Ms. Lambrinidou asked if EPA Region 3 would participate in a face-to-face meeting with several agencies in the DC area to discuss questions and concerns about LCR monitoring. Bill Arguto responded that the request should be made in writing and should list specific concerns so that the meeting will be productive. He clarified that an e-mail is an acceptable form of notice. Collin Burrell requested that he be copied on the e-mail.

5. Other Issues

Several other topics were raised during the call by Susan Kanen and Marc Edwards.

Susan Kanen requested that sampling for the next semester begin on July 1st rather than a later date in July such as July 24. She understands why DC Water does not collect samples in June. Yanna Lambrinidou said that she also questions why in 2011 no samples were collected during the period May 20th to July 26th. Lloyd Stowe indicated that peak lead levels are correlated with water temperature. Susan Kanen commented that the peak temperature is often observed in the third week of July. Further, Maureen Schmelling stated that DC Water does sample during the warm weather months from July through October. In past years, LCR sampling for July has not been initiated during the first week of the month because of the July 4th holiday and the poor response rate of customer's

returning sample bottles. Susan Kanen asked if the sampling results posted on the web site include the sampling date; Ms. Neiderer said yes the dates are included.

Marc Edwards raised a concern regarding the availability of data used in an influential 2006 report by Dr. Steve Reiber (HDR) and Laura Dufresne (The Cadmus Group). [The report is entitled "Effects of External Currents and Dissimilar Metal Contact on Corrosion from Lead Service Lines"]. Mr. Edwards e-mailed EPA requesting that this issue be added to the agenda for today's call. He indicated that the original need for this study was identified by the TEWG. When the report was completed, Mr. Edwards contacted the primary author, Dr. Reiber, requesting a copy of the data used to produce the report's graphs. Mr. Edwards again requested the data from Dr. Reiber about 4 months ago and offered to pay for or copy the data that substantiates the report. He recently submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to EPA Region 3 to obtain the data. Wendy Gray referred Mr. Edwards to a letter EPA Region 3 sent him in response to the FOIA request that states the data are not available. Mr. Edwards expressed a concern with citing the results of this report if the data are not available. Mr. Edwards said that that the Quality Assurance Project Plan indicates that the data would be collected and archived. Yanna Lambrinidou agreed with Mr. Edwards' concern. Bill Arguto stated that he understands Mr. Edwards' concern. Paul Schwartz commented that the availability of data is important in maintaining the public's trust of the report's conclusions. Mr. Edwards requested that EPA consider retracting this report from the public record if the data are not available. Mr. Edwards also asked EPA to review their quality assurance policy for providing raw data. Mr. Arguto said that he would review these policies before speaking on the topic. Yanna Lambrinidou asked if EPA could state the date upon which action steps would be identified in response to this concern. Bill Arguto agreed that EPA will review this concern but would not commit to a specific date.

6. Wrap-Up

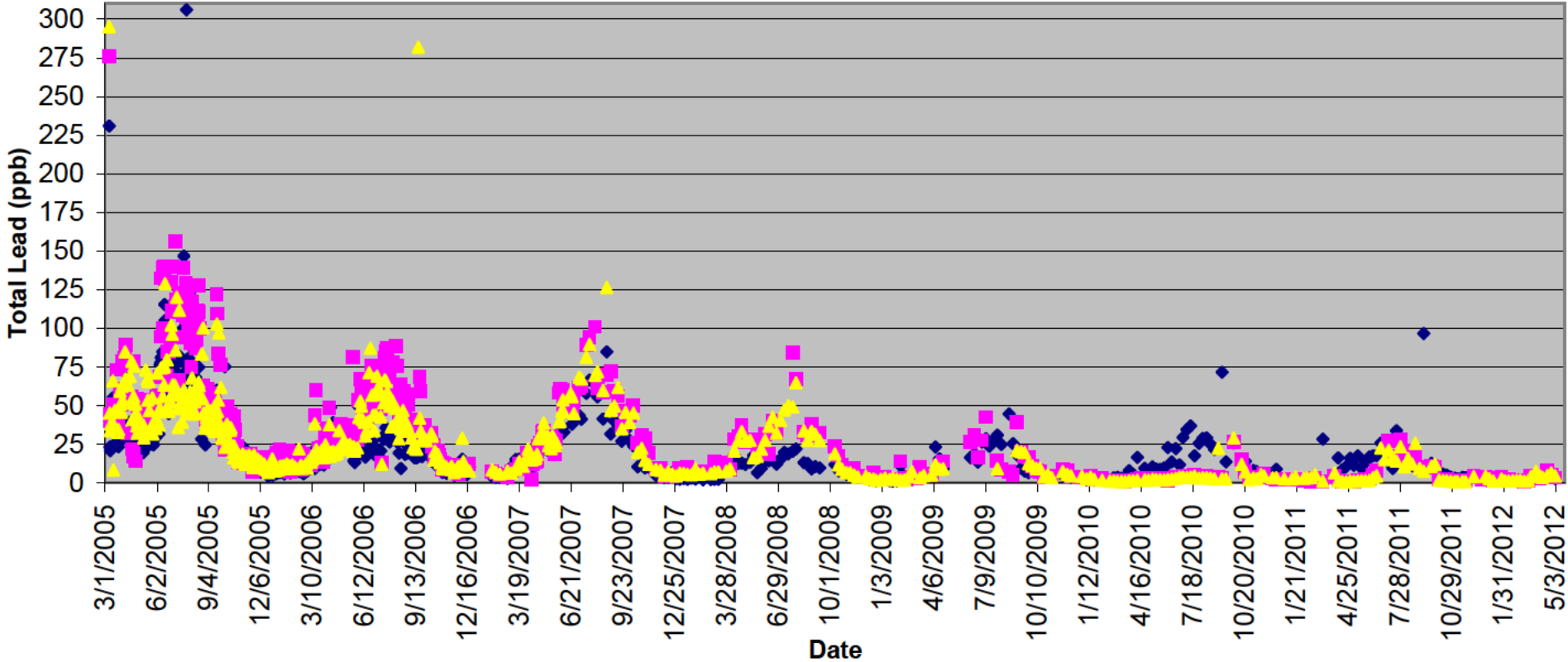
The meeting notes will be prepared and distributed to TEWG members prior to the next call. The next call is scheduled for August 24th at 10:00 a.m. EST. If anyone has additional questions or comments, please email Bill Arguto or Wendy Gray.

Attachment A: Call Agenda

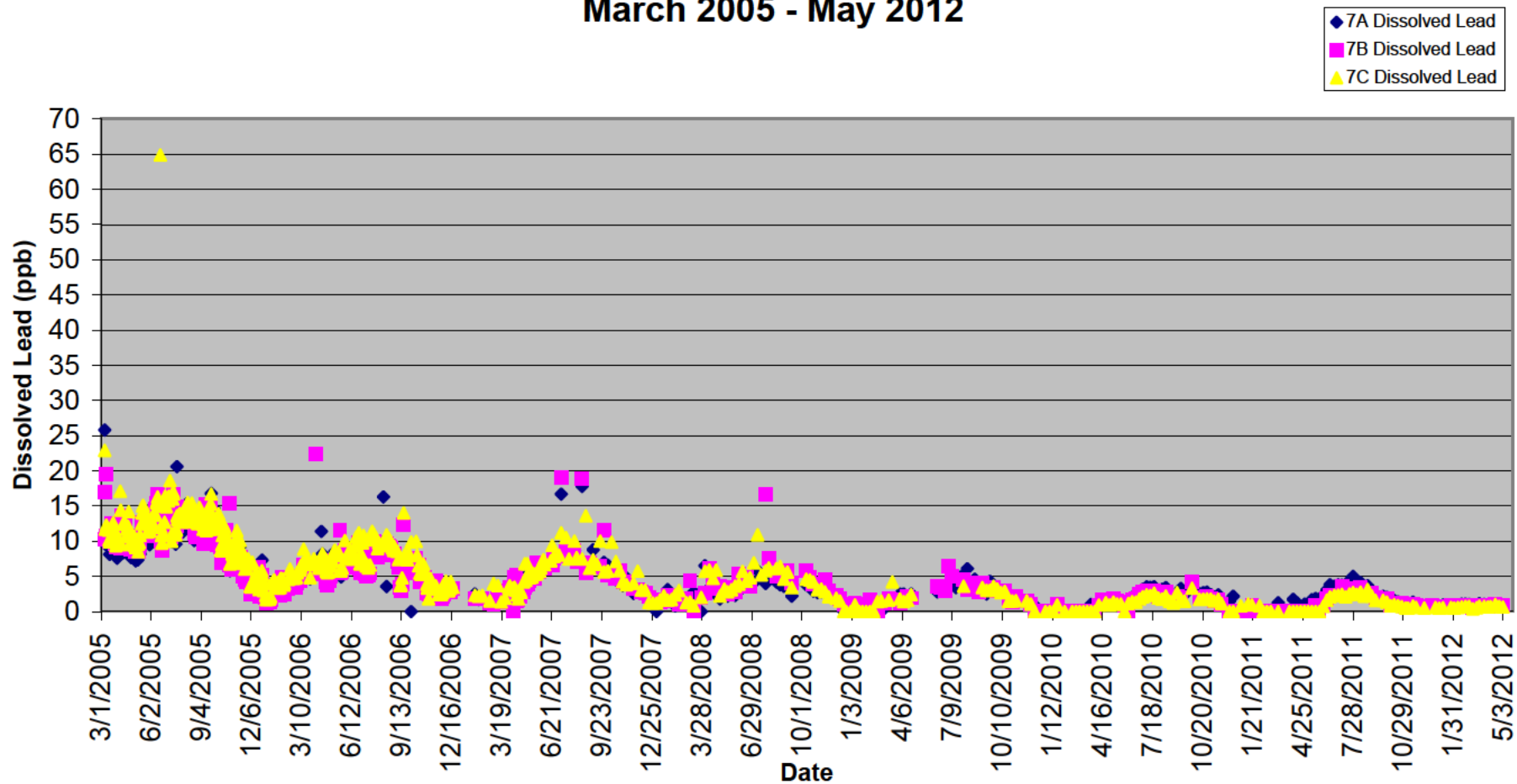
1. Washington Aqueduct pipe loop update and particulate lead sampling proposal
2. DC Water pipe loop update
3. DC Water update on posting data to website
4. DC Water preliminary lead and copper rule results update

WA Dalecarlia Pipe Loop Total Lead Concentrations March 2005 - May 2012

- ◆ 7A Total Lead
- 7B Total Lead
- ▲ 7C Total Lead

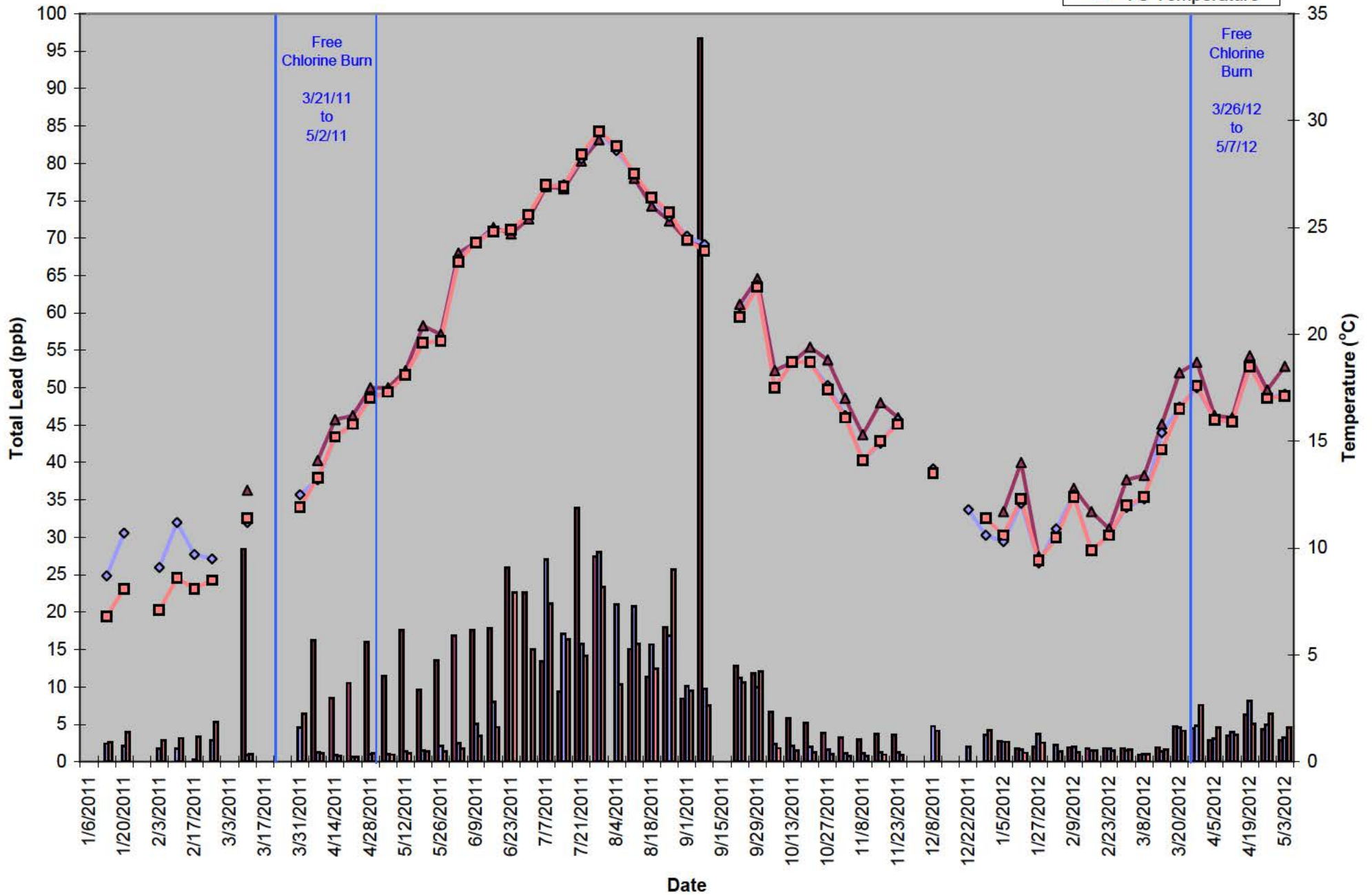


WA Dalecarlia Pipe Loop Dissolved Lead Concentrations March 2005 - May 2012



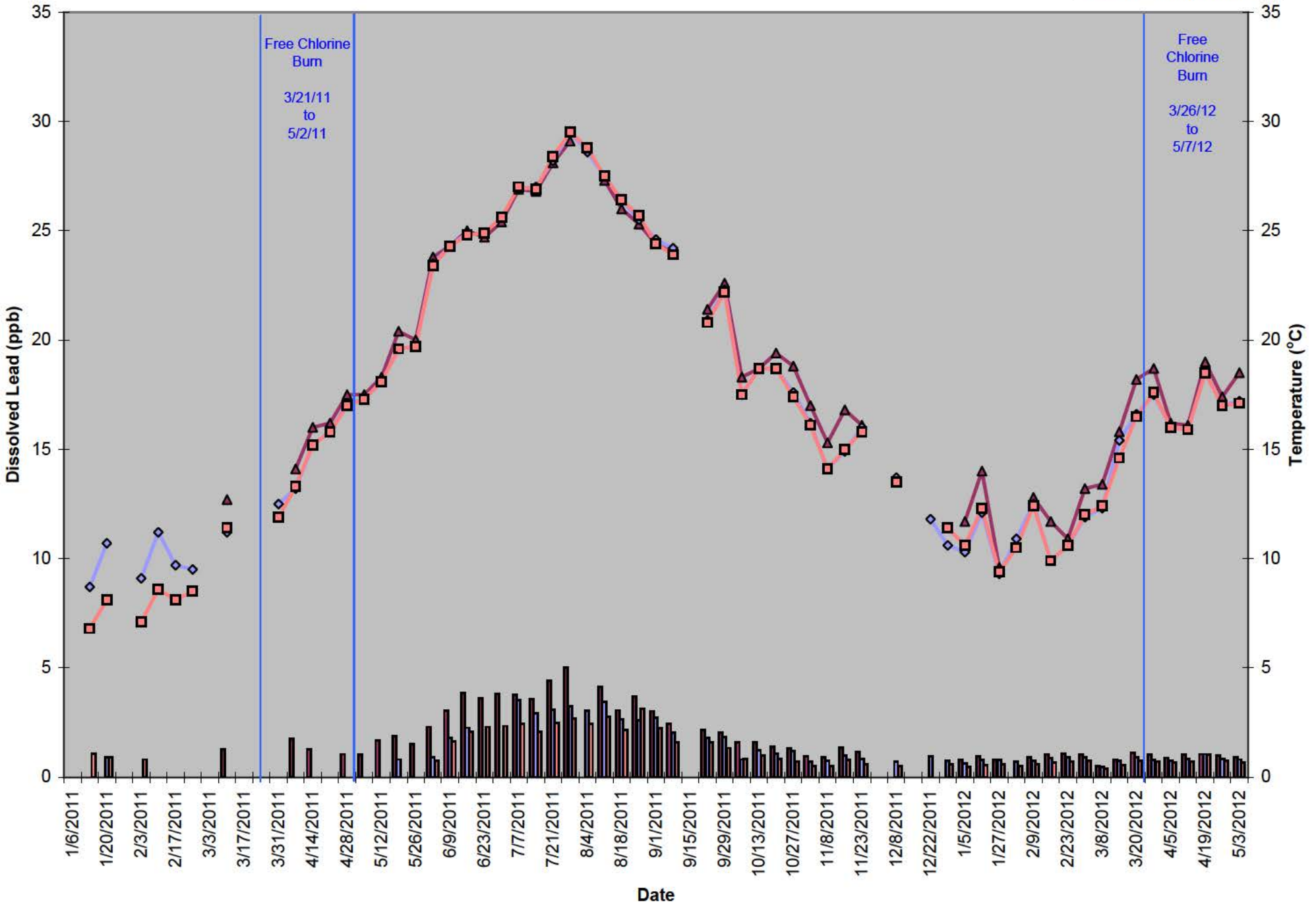
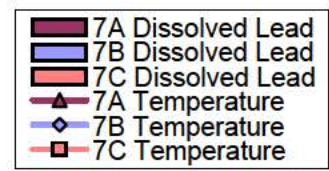
WA Dalecarlia Pipe Loop Total Lead Concentrations vs Temperature January 2011 - May 2012

- 7A Total Lead
- 7B Total Lead
- 7C Total Lead
- 7A Temperature
- 7B Temperature
- 7C Temperature

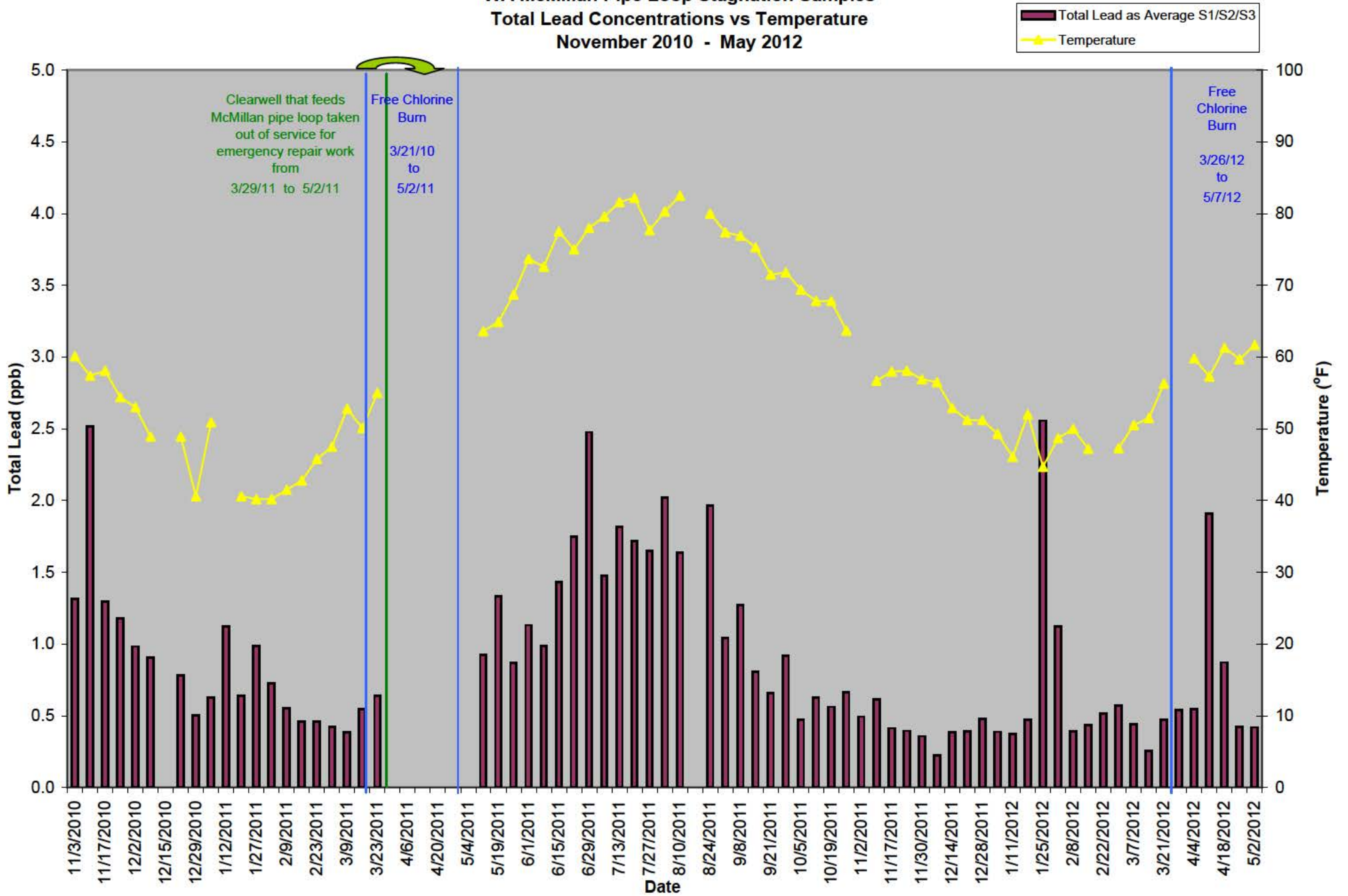


WA Dalecarlia Pipe Loop Dissolved Lead Concentrations vs Temperature

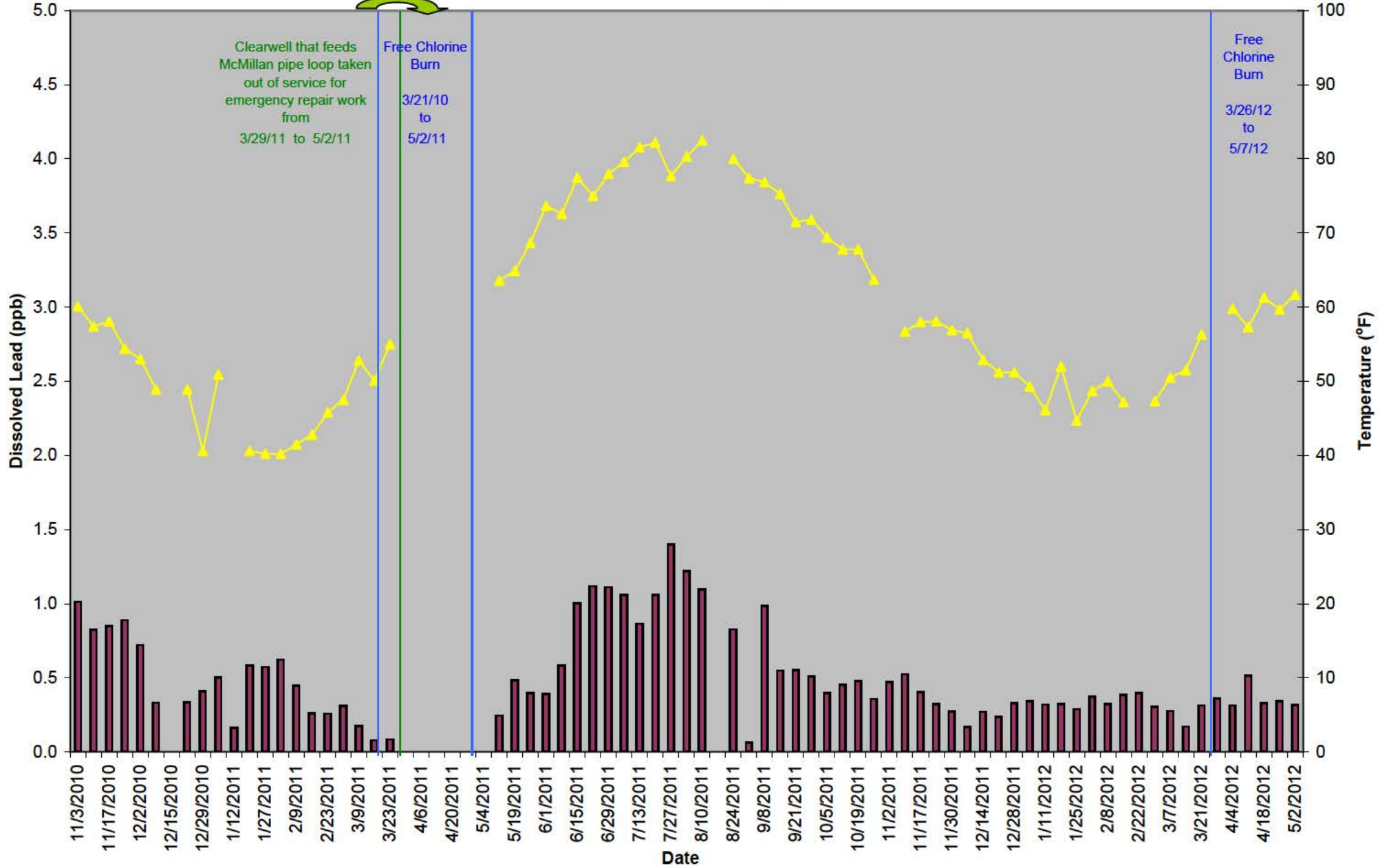
January 2011 - May 2012



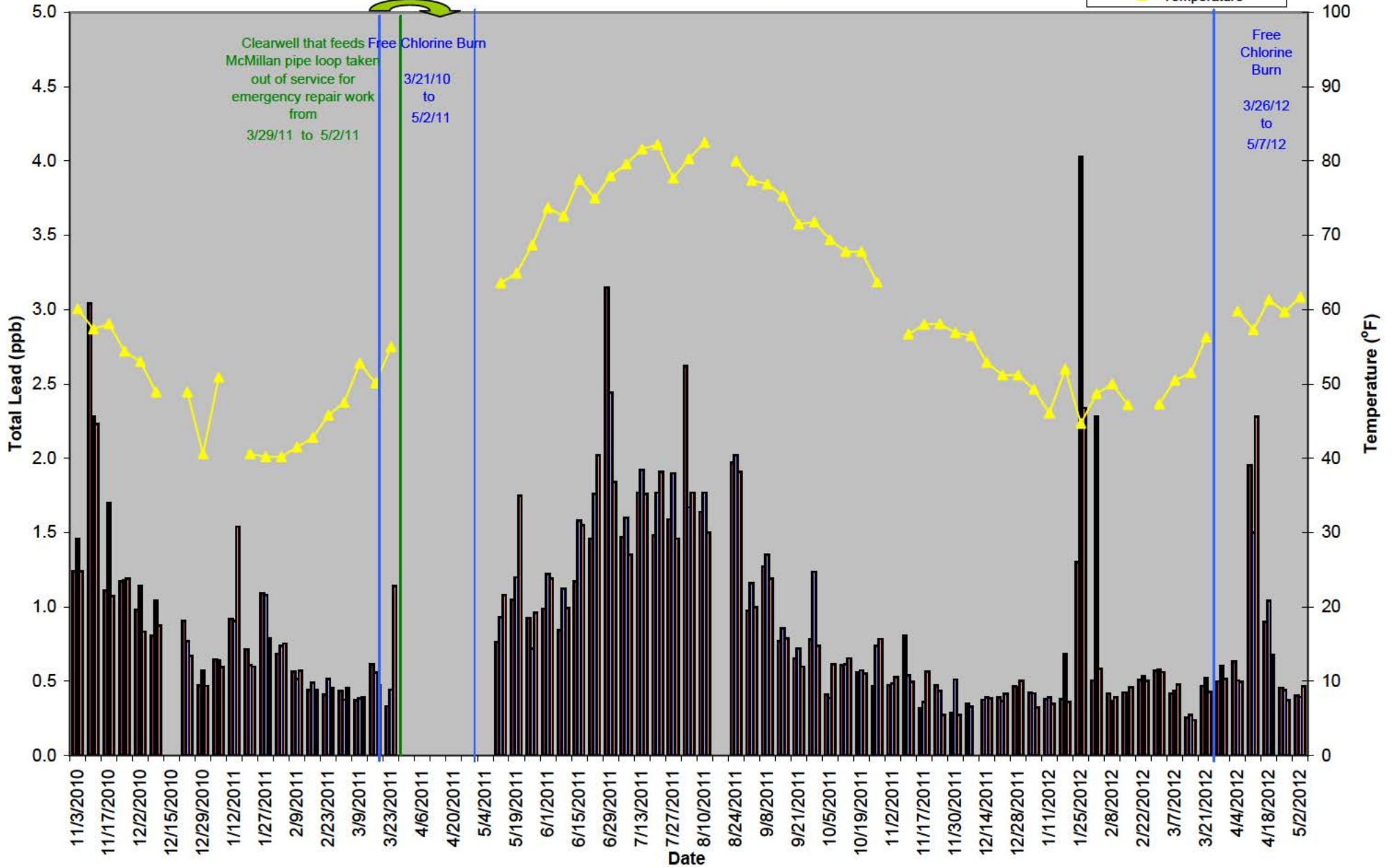
WA McMillan Pipe Loop Stagnation Samples Total Lead Concentrations vs Temperature November 2010 - May 2012



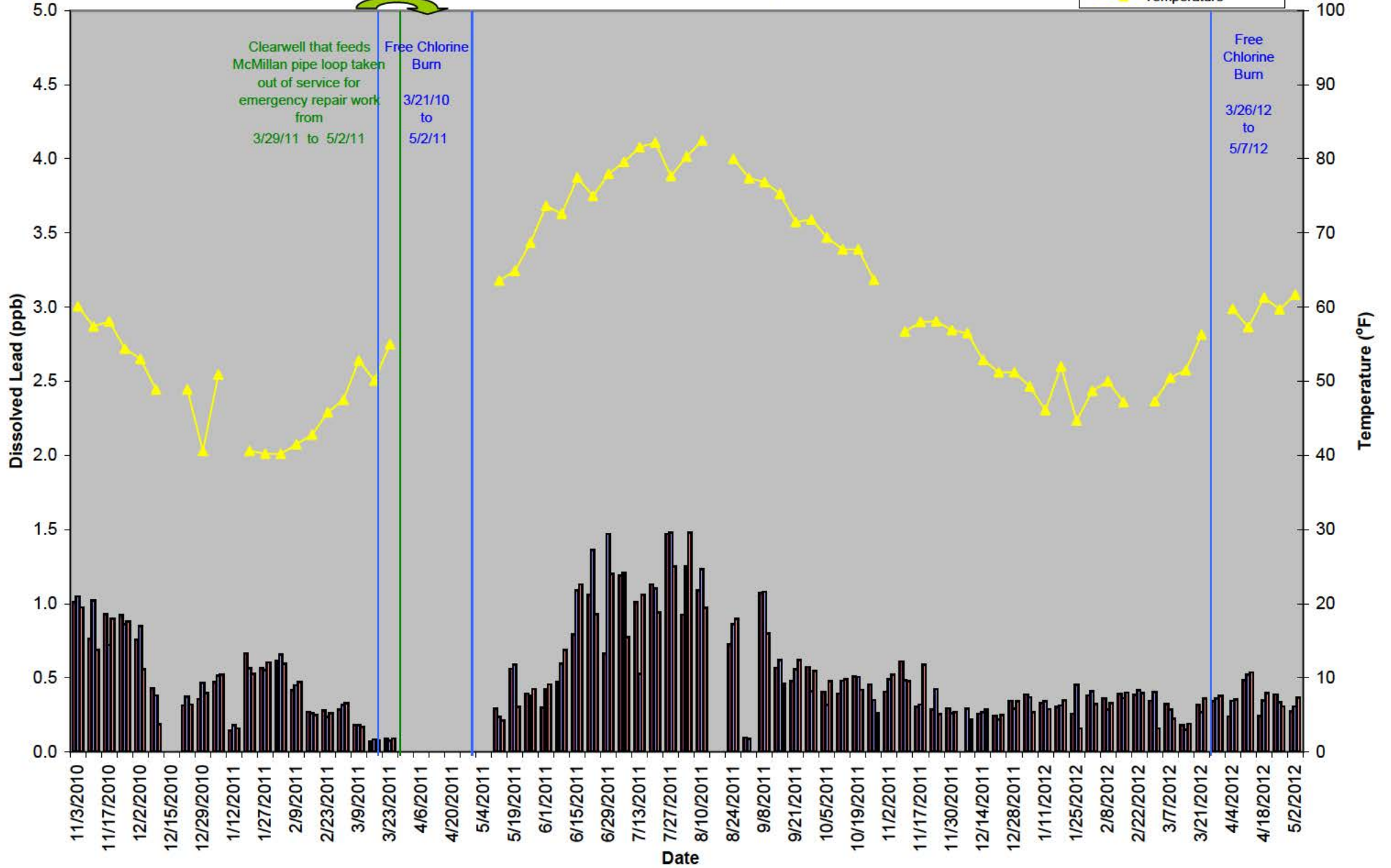
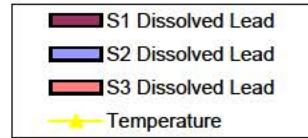
WA McMillan Pipe Loop Stagnation Samples Dissolved Lead Concentrations vs Temperature November 2010 - May 2012



WA McMillan Pipe Loop Stagnation Samples Total Lead Concentrations vs Temperature November 2010 - May 2012



WA McMillan Pipe Loop Stagnation Samples Dissolved Lead Concentrations vs Temperature November 2010 - May 2012



Fort Reno Pipe Loop

Pipe Loop 1 Final (Control Loop): 1/08 - Current

