

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Technical Expert Working Group (TEWG) Conference Call

Thursday December 13, 2012
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

CALL SUMMARY

Attendees:

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

The Washington Aqueduct: Tom Jacobus, Mike Chicoine

Concerned Citizen: Susan Kanen

Agenda and Housekeeping Issues

Bill Arguto led the call. He indicated that minutes have been distributed for the last call. Any comments or revisions to the minutes can be sent to Wendy Gray. Mr. Arguto apologized that the call had to be rescheduled from November 30th when Region 3 staff were responding to an emergency. He noted that DC Water was unable to participate today but he decided to hold a brief call rather than postpone until after the holidays. Mr. Arguto reviewed the meeting agenda that is included as Attachment A to this call summary. The three agenda items for DC Water (pipe loop update, posting data to the website, and Lead and Copper Rule results) will be discussed on the next call.

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 summarize data for the period November 2010 to November 7, 2012 and graphs for the Dalecarlia WTP pipe loops include data for the period March 2005 to November 15, 2012. Mike Chicoine said that the pipe loop data show no significant changes over the last quarter and follow seasonal trends with decreasing temperature. He asked if anyone had questions on the pipe loop data.

Sue Kanen asked if Tom Jacobus had prepared a response on synchronization of Dalecarlia pipe loop stagnation time per her request in the last TEWG call. Mr. Jacobus apologized that he had not prepared a statement but could briefly discuss the issue. Ms. Kanen said that it is difficult to compare pipe loop data over time or between pipe loops if different stagnation times may have been used. Ms. Kanen also asked why some data points are missing after 2008. Mr. Jacobus responded that Washington Aqueduct is using the pipe

loops for operational purposes and is not conducting a scientific experiment, and therefore it should not be construed that data are missing from an experimental effort. The pipe loops are operated and samples are collected as needed for operations and depending on staff availability. Mr. Jacobus offered to continue the discussion with Ms. Kanen in a separate conversation. Washington Aqueduct has not identified any problems based on regulatory samples collected in the distribution system for the Lead and Copper Rule. Because Washington Aqueduct is not interested in conducting a scientific study with the pipe loops, Mr. Jacobus requested that the topic be dropped from discussion during the TEWG calls. As an alternative, Washington Aqueduct could stop operating the pipe loops and collecting pipe loop data if collection of samples from the loops continues to be challenged; however, the Aqueduct prefers to continue to use the pipe loops for operational purposes.

Mr. Jacobus asked Bill Arguto to provide direction as to the purpose of the TEWG calls. Mr. Arguto said that the TEWG calls are intended as a platform for a collegial discussion and exchange of technical information on lead issues such as water chemistry. He confirmed that the pipe loops are a voluntary effort carried out by Washington Aqueduct and not a compliance requirement. They are intended to add to the body of knowledge and improve the understanding of what is happening in the distribution system. Mr. Arguto added that maybe this is an opportunity to determine how to best move forward with the loops. Mr. Jacobus replied that, if that is the understanding of the pipe loops and related discussions on the TEWG calls, Washington Aqueduct would be happy to participate. He added that he would like EPA to clarify the course the TEWG calls are on and make sure all TEWG participants understand the role of the calls. Mr. Jacobus said that they would gladly participate in the discussion but that the lead loops may be confusing to the public. Ms. Kanen said that she would like data reported clearly in a representative manner. Ms. Kanen raised several other concerns about the presentation of the pipe loop data including the font size, use of colors in the graphs and the scale for the y-axis (lead concentration). Mr. Arguto concluded the discussion by offering to prepare a summary history of the pipe loops and TEWG calls. He understands the concerns raised by both Mr. Jacobus and Ms. Kanen.

2. Review of Lead Sampling Procedures

Bill Arguto said that EPA has drafted a response to questions on lead sampling procedures that were raised by Yanna Lambrinidou (Parents for Non-Toxic Alternatives) in a previous TEWG call. The draft response is currently under review and not ready for distribution.

Mr. Arguto expects the response will be in a final form for distribution in early 2013.

Ms. Kanen raised a question on use of the 4300 block 38th Street N.W. as a LCR monitoring site since this monitoring location has a copper service line, according to sample data posted on DC Water's website. It was formerly listed as having a lead service line or unknown service line. This monitoring location has been used 11 times for LCR monitoring since 2005. It could represent multiple home addresses within the block.

Ms. Kanen asked Mr. Arguto to confirm with DC Water that the sample collected from the 4300 block of 38th Street NW on 11/4/11 is a valid Tier 1 sample. Mr. Arguto said he will talk with Maureen at DC Water about the sample. Ms. Kanen raised additional questions on DC Water's use of lead service lines or other Tier 1 sites for compliance sampling. She

also would like EPA to validate the Tier 1 locations to ensure that sample locations satisfy Tier 1 requirements because she said that over 60% of compliance samples rarely contain more than 3 parts per billion lead and that she thought that Maureen Schmelling of DC Water had said at one point previously that 90% of the sample locations had not been validated sample sites. Mr. Arguto indicated that Ms. Lambrinidou raised similar questions on lead sampling procedures and EPA's response will address these questions. Mr. Arguto also mentioned that the revised Lead and Copper Rule will likely address some of these sampling issues. When the revised rule is promulgated, there will be a public comment period. Ms. Kanen also requested that DC Water add to its chain of custody form the question "Do you have a lead service line?"

3. Update on Freedom of Information Act Request

Bill Arguto said that there is no new information on the Freedom of Information Act request. He has spoken with Marc Edwards (Virginia Tech) in a separate call regarding an on-going issue with experimental data. Dr. Edwards suggested that Mr. Arguto read a discussion published in December 2012 in the Journal of the American Water Works Association published in response to the paper, Effect of Changing Water Quality on Galvanic Coupling, published in March 2012. Mr. Arguto added that he thinks the original article and the resulting discussion published in December 2012 provide a good summary on the topic.

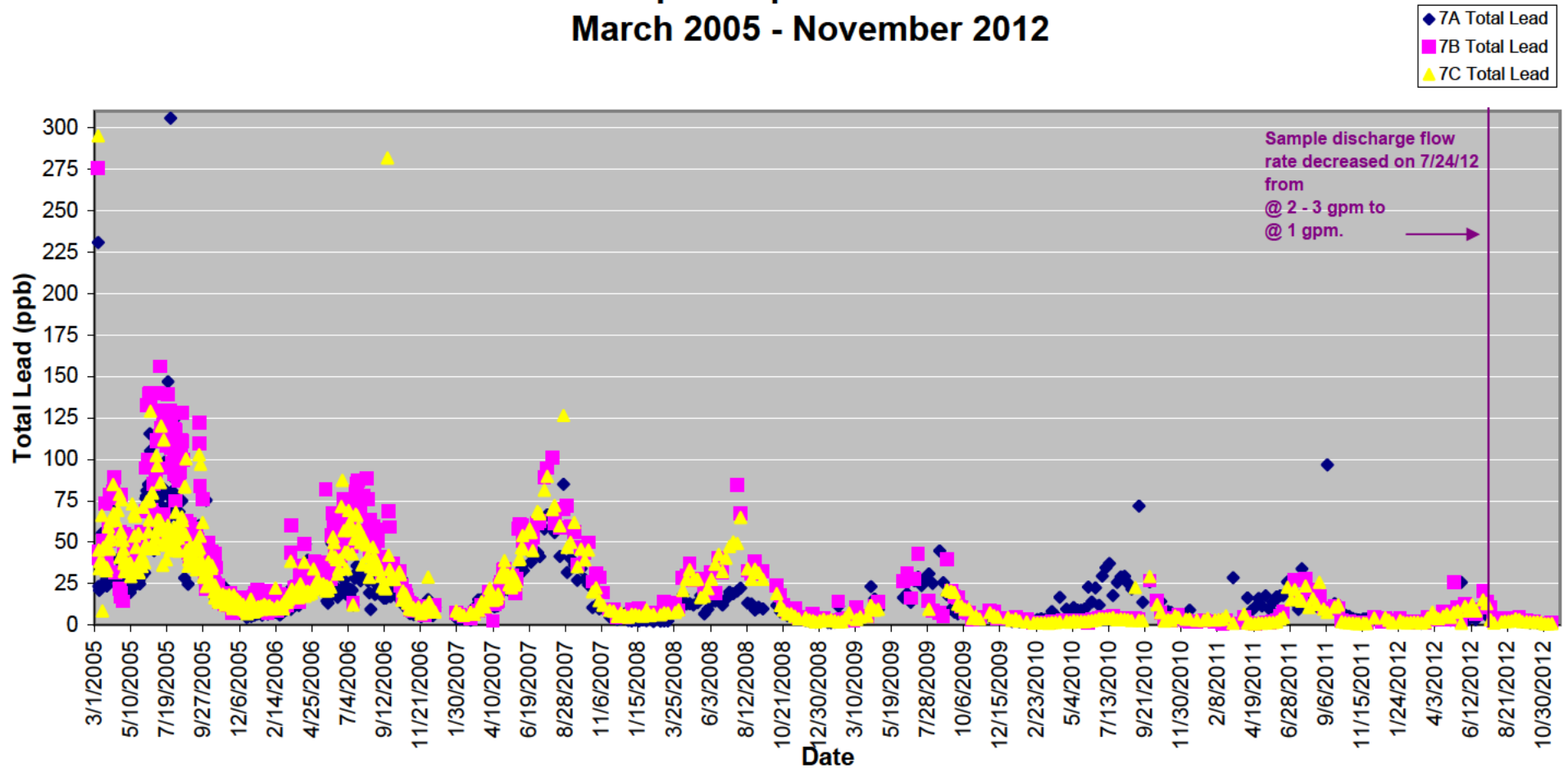
4. Wrap-Up

The meeting notes will be prepared and distributed to TEWG members prior to the next call. The next call is scheduled for April 26, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. If anyone has additional questions or comments, please email Bill Arguto or Wendy Gray.

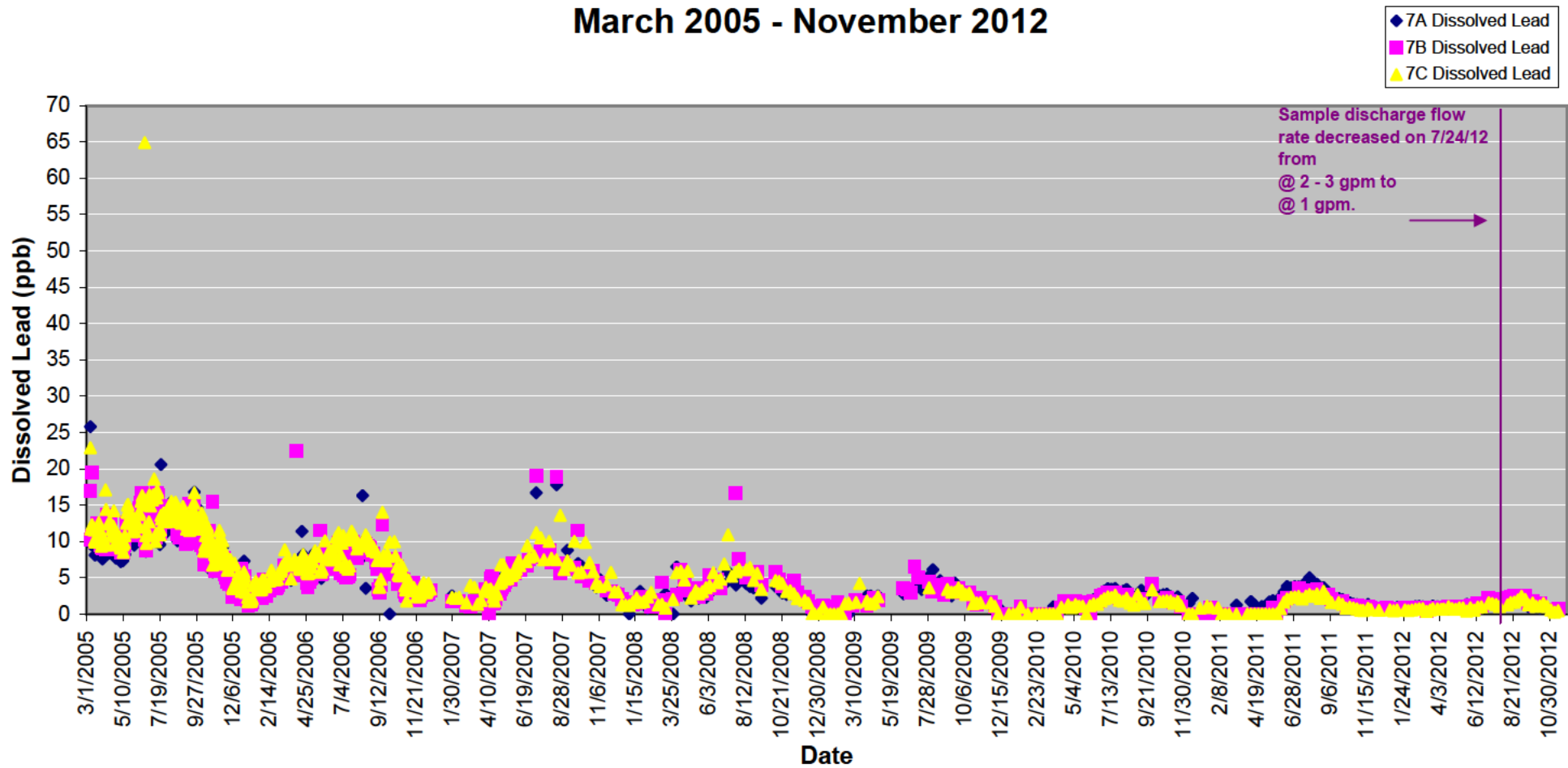
Attachment A: Call Agenda

1. Washington Aqueduct pipe loop update
2. Review of lead sampling procedures
3. Update on Freedom of Information Act Request

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



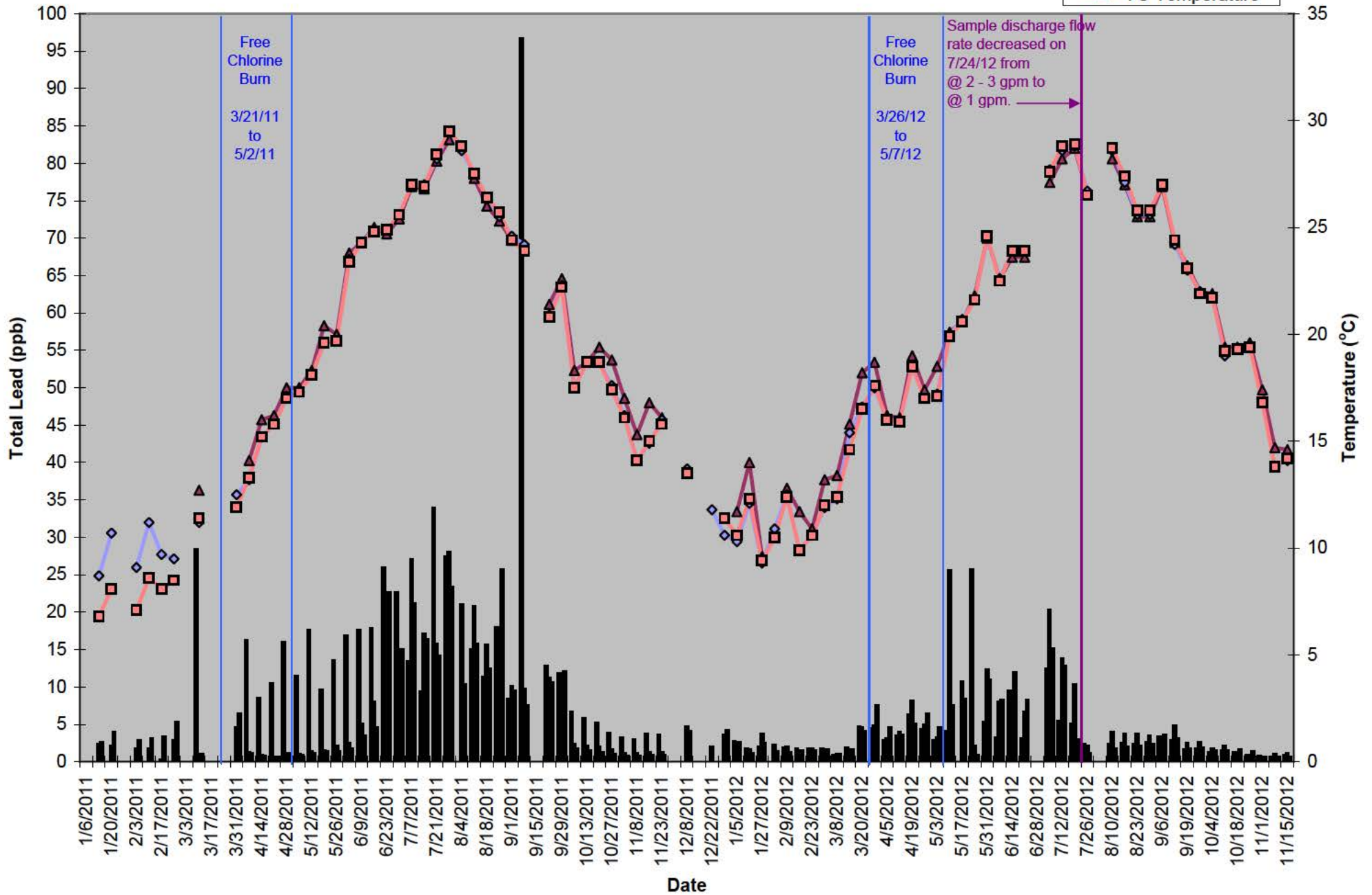
WA Dalecarlia Pipe Loop Dissolved Lead Concentrations March 2005 - November 2012



WA Dalecarlia Pipe Loop Total Lead Concentrations vs Temperature

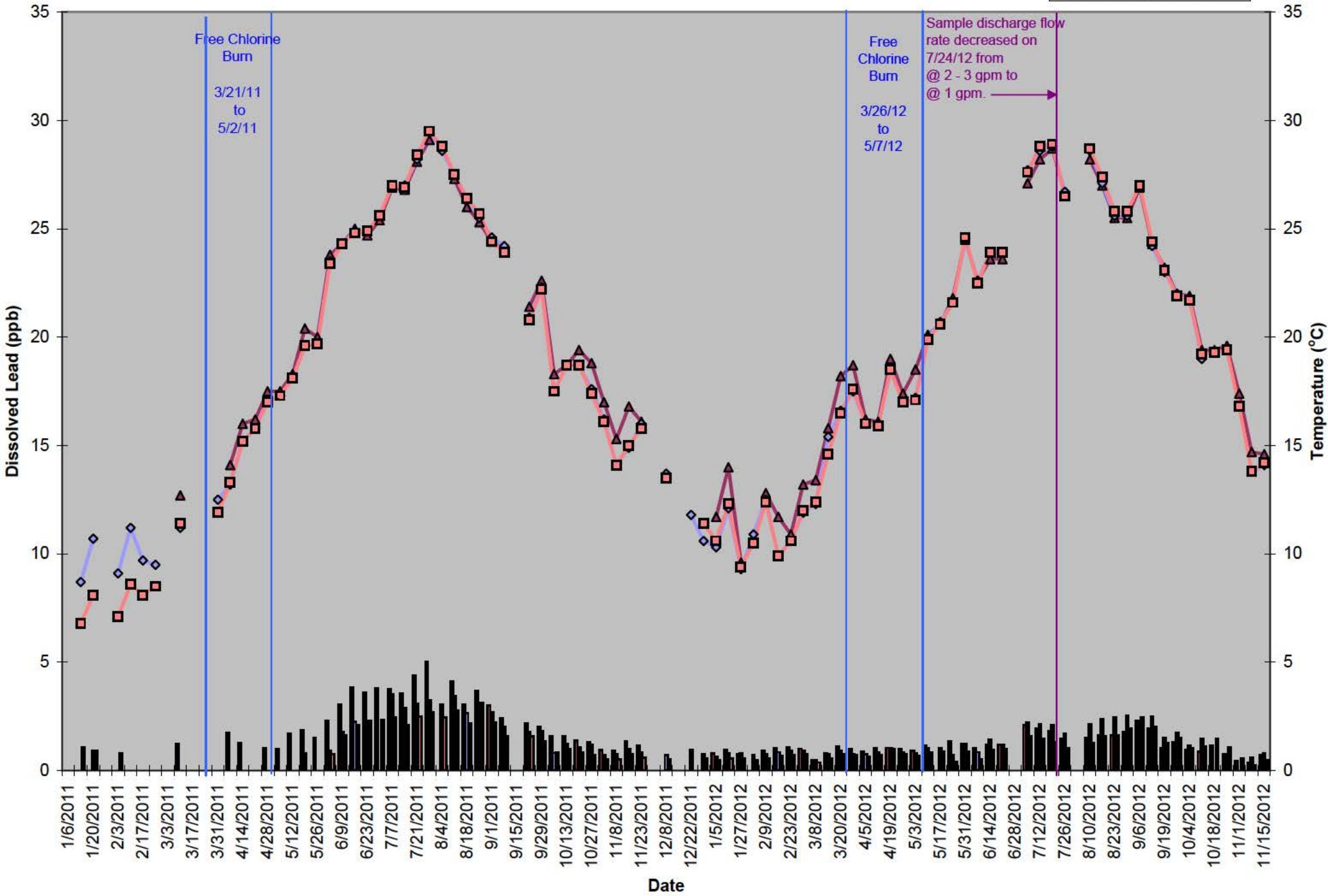
January 2011 - November 2012

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

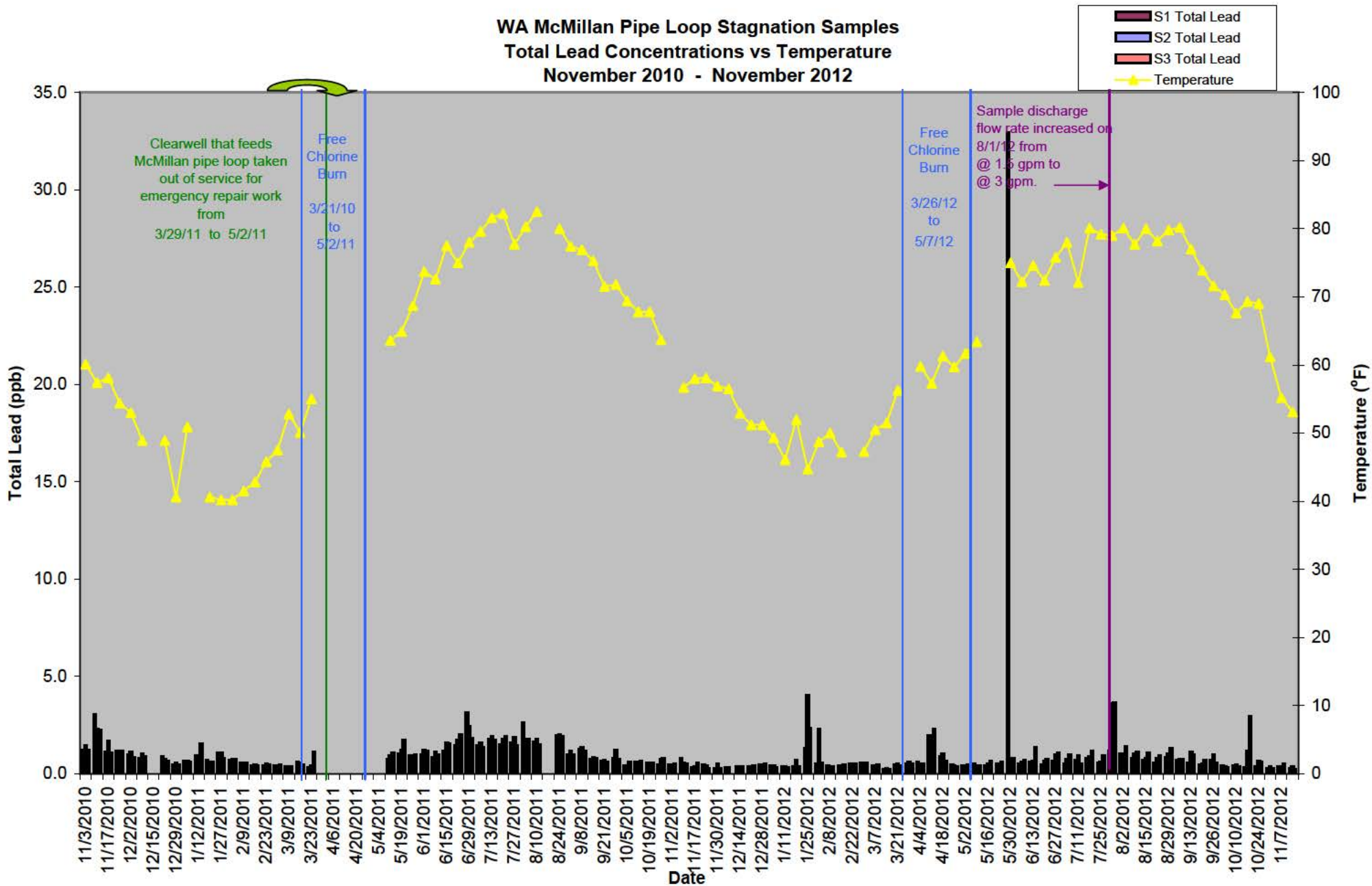


WA Dalecarlia Pipe Loop Dissolved Lead Concentrations vs Temperature January 2011 - November 2012

- 7A Dissolved Lead
- 7B Dissolved Lead
- 7C Dissolved Lead
- 7A Temperature
- 7B Temperature
- 7C Temperature

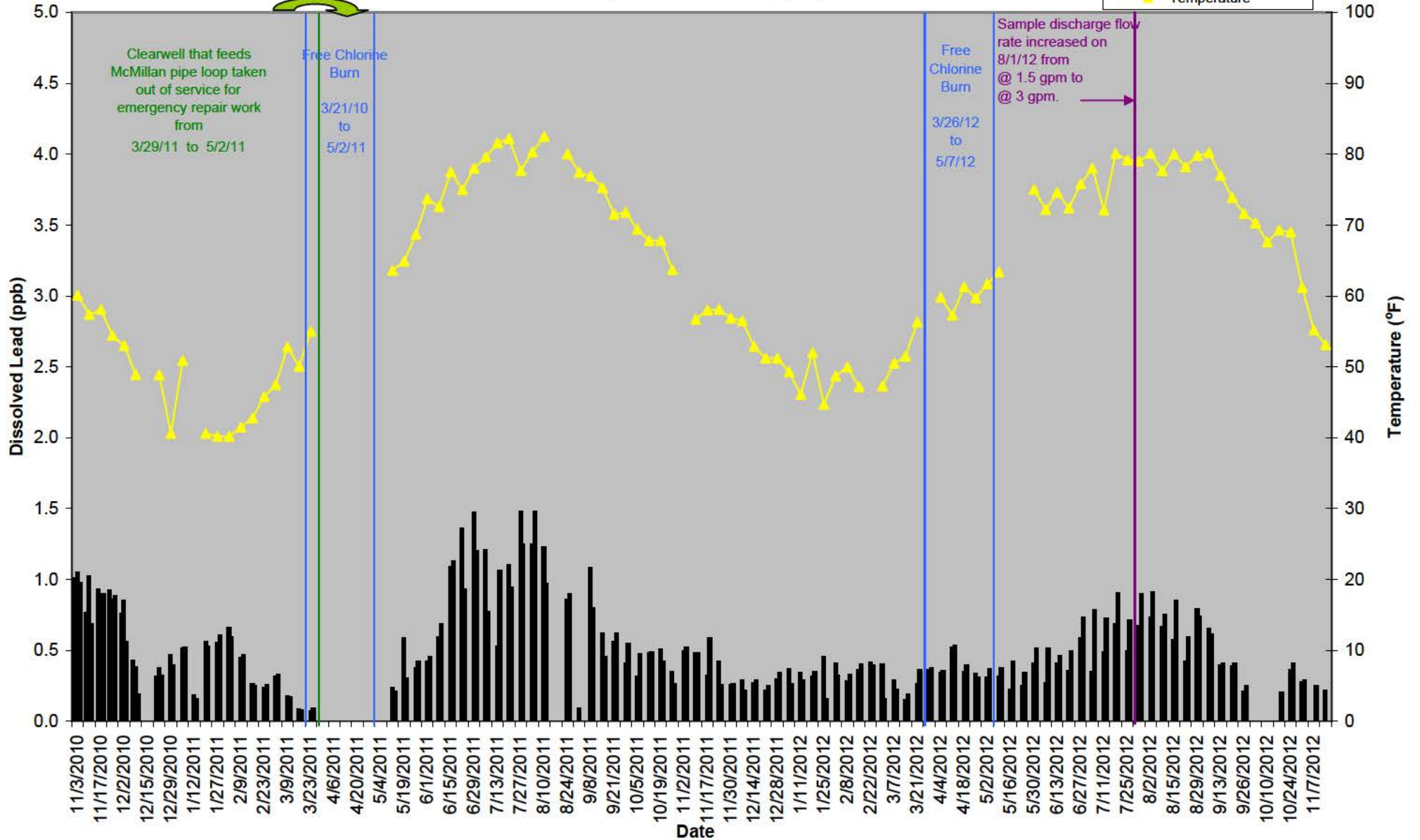


WA McMillan Pipe Loop Stagnation Samples Total Lead Concentrations vs Temperature November 2010 - November 2012



Note: Solenoids were installed on 6/7/2012 in order to isolate the sample discharges for loops 1, 2, and 3 from a common discharge. Lead data prior to this date represent the three loops being tied together at their discharge. So roughly, prior to 6/7/2012, the first sample contains the first third of all three loops, the second sample the second third, and the last sample the final third.

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



Note: Solenoids were installed on 6/7/2012 in order to isolate the sample discharges for loops 1, 2, and 3 from a common discharge. Lead data prior to this date represent the three loops being tied together at their discharge. So roughly, prior to 6/7/2012, the first sample contains the first third of all three loops, the second sample the second third, and the last sample the final third.

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

