

Troubleshooting Sludge Problems in Wastewater Lagoons Systems!





What we will do today:

Make introductions

Then Steve will:

- Review today's learning objective
- Clear up some sludge judging issues
- Define what sludge is
- Free sludge removal
- The problems sludge creates
- How to sludge judge and core sample a lagoon
- Go through case studies on sludge control



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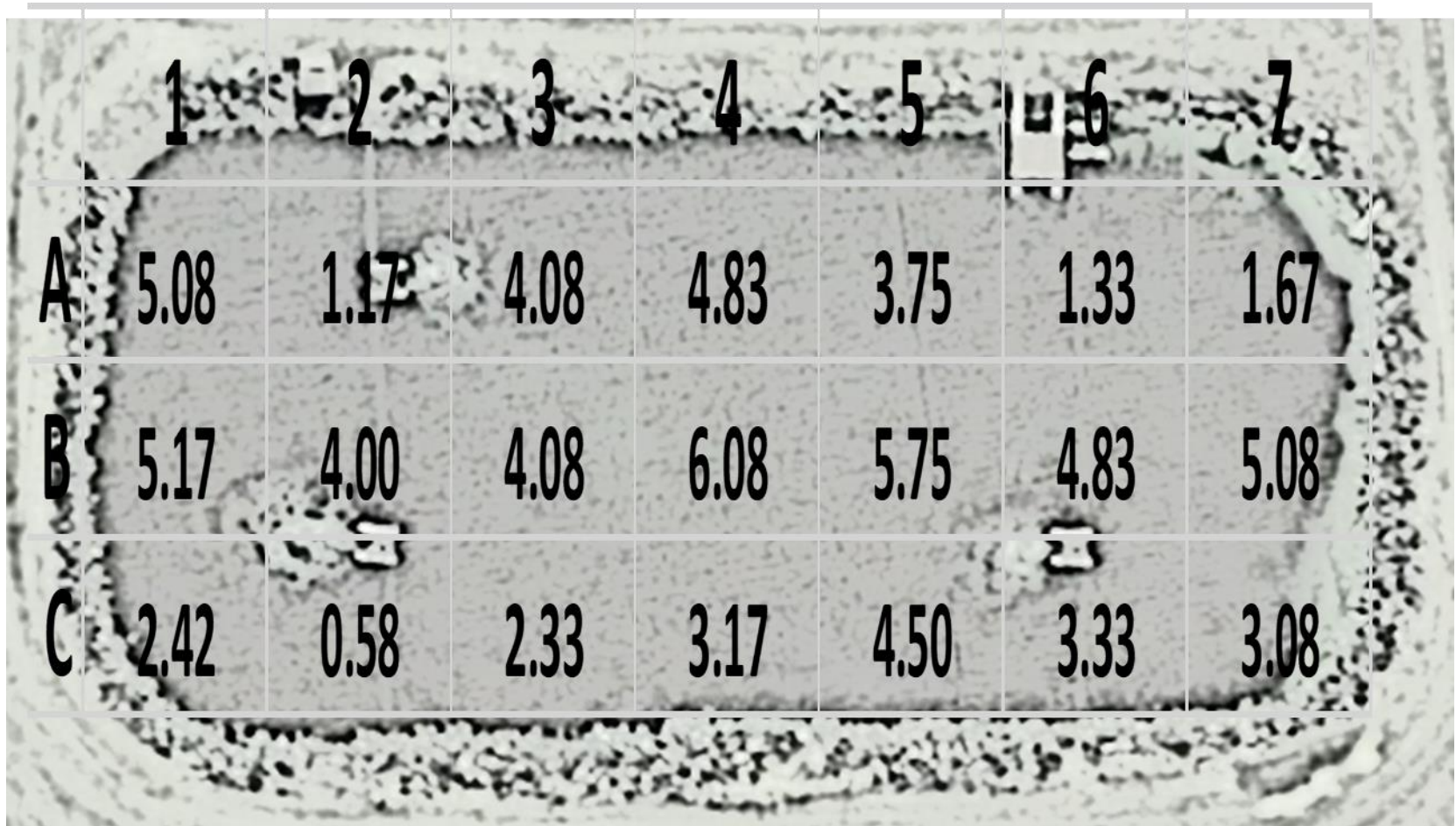
Troubleshooting Sludge Problems in Wastewater Lagoon Systems



Objective

To broaden your understanding of sludge and its effect on a wastewater lagoon system

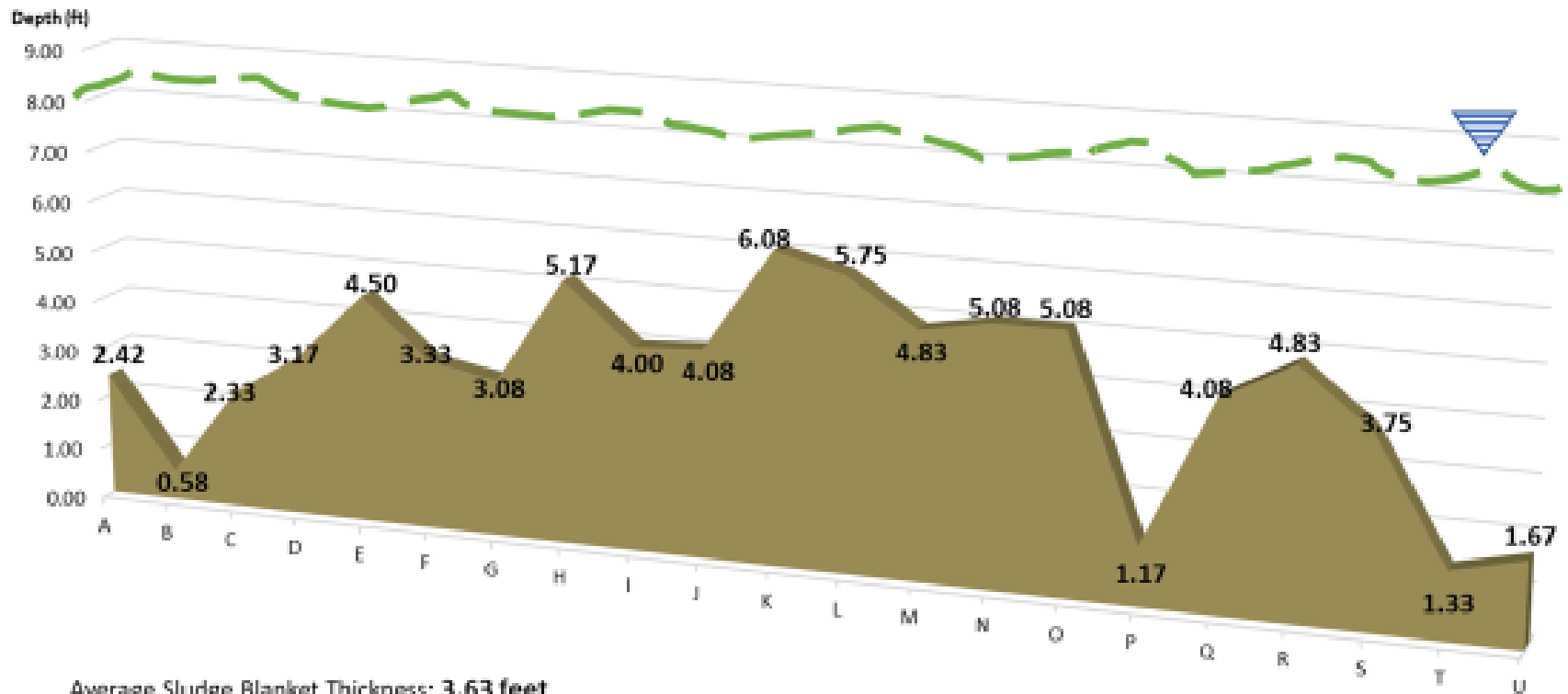
Cell # A of the City of Marsing Idaho's Wastewater Lagoon System



An aerial photograph of a circular wastewater lagoon system, divided into seven numbered cells (1 through 7) arranged in a ring. A data table is overlaid on the image, showing numerical values for three rows labeled A, B, and C across the seven cells. The background shows the textured surface of the lagoon water and the surrounding land.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	5.08	1.17	4.08	4.83	3.75	1.33	1.67
B	5.17	4.00	4.08	6.08	5.75	4.83	5.08
C	2.42	0.58	2.33	3.17	4.50	3.33	3.08

Cell A Sludge Blanket Thickness Relative to Water Depth in Feet



Average Sludge Blanket Thickness: **3.63 feet**

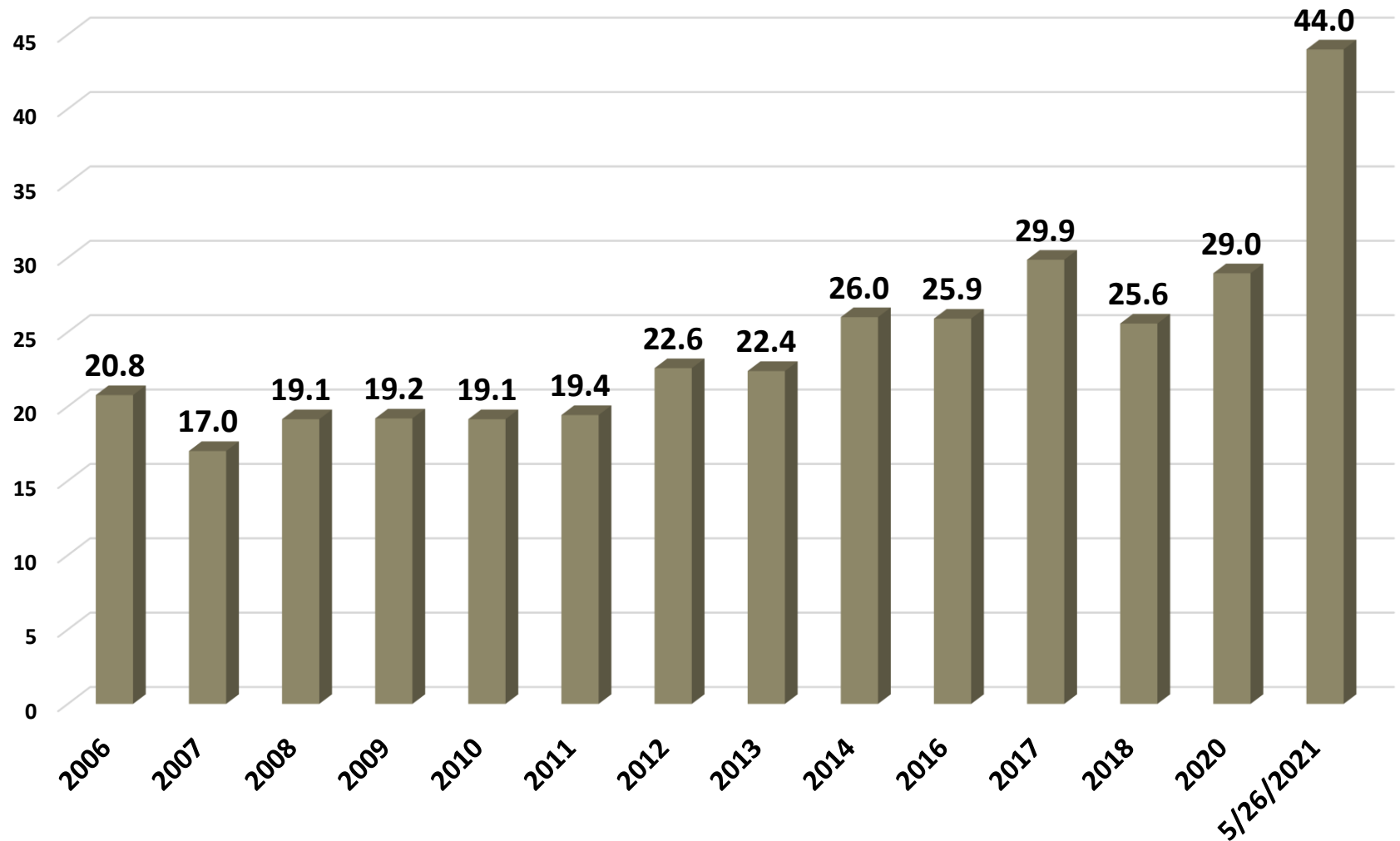
Average Water Depth: **7.86 feet**

Average Water Cap Remaining Over the Sludge Blanket: **4.23 feet**

Percent of Treatment Cell Occupied by Sludge: **46.2 %**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2016	2017	2018	2020	Sludge Blanket Thickness on 5/26/2021
A	4'	2'3"	3'	2'6"	3'	2'8"	3'	3'	1'6"	0'8"	1'3"	1'3"	1'	A 2'5"
B	1'	1'	1'6"	2'	1'	1'	0'2"	1'	1'3"	1'	1'8"	1'	2'6"	B 0'7"
C	1'	0'6"	1'6"	1'6"	1'10"	2'	2'	2'	1'11"	1'	2'	2'	8"	C 2'4"
D	2'	2'	1'6"	2'6"	1'10"	2'6"	2'3"	2'2"	2'3"	2'	2'4"	2'3"	2'6"	D 3'2"
E	2'8"	1'	2'	1'6"	1'6"	1'2"	2'2"	2'3"	0'10"	2'6"	2'6"	2'2"	2'2"	E 4'6"
F	1'	1'	1'	0'10"	0'10"	0'10"	1'2"	1'4"	0'11"	2'	1'6"	1'	1'8"	F 3'4"
G	2'	1'	0'6"	0'1"	0'	0'6"	1'	0'10"	3'2"	3'	3'	2'2"	1'8"	G 3'1"
H	2'	2'6"	2'6"	2'6"	3'	2'6"	2'10"	2'10"	2'3"	2'4"	3'	2'4"	2'10"	H 5'2"
I	1'	2'	2'	2'	2'4"	2'	3'6"	1'11"	2'6"	2'6"	2'6"	3'	3'	I 4'
J	1'	1'6"	0'6"	1'2"	1'	0'6"	1'2"	1'6"	2'10"	3'	3'2"	3'	3'2"	J 4'1"
K	1'	1'	1'	1'	1'4"	1'6"	2'1"	1'6"	2'8"	3'	3'	3'	3'8"	K 6'1"
L	1'6"	1'	1'	1'	1'1"	0'10"	1'2"	1'10"	2'3"	2'	3'	3'	3'3"	L 5'9"
M	2'	1'6"	2'	2'	1'10"	1'10"	2'3"	2'2"	2'10"	3'	2'10"	2'	2'10"	M 4'10"
N	1'6"	2'6"	2'	2'	2'6"	3'	2'6"	2'10"	2'4"	3'2"	2'10"	3'	3'	N 5'1"
O	2'	1'	2'6"	0'6"	0'5"	0'1"	0'4"	0'6"	2'2"	2'	3'	3'	2'10"	O 5'1"
P	1'6"	0'6"	0'6"	1'	1'4"	1'4"	1'6"	1'6"	1'9"	1'8"	2'6"	1'8"	2'6"	P 1'2"
Q	2'	1'6"	2'	2'	2'	2'	2'	2'2"	2'4"	2'6"	2'10"	3'	2'10"	Q 4'1"
R	1'6"	2'	3'	2'	2'4"	2'2"	3'	2'8"	1'11"	2'6"	2'10"	1'6"	2'3"	R 4'10"
S	1'6"	1'	1'	2'	1'4"	2'4"	1'2"	2'4"	2'	2'4"	2'1"	2'	1'8"	S 3'9"
T	1'6"	0'6"	0'6"	1'	0'6"	0'7"	0'6"	1'6"	1'8"	2'	2'3"	2'	2'	T 1'4"
U	2'8"	2'6"	2'	2'6"	2'6"	2'8"	3'	1'4"	1'2"	1'6"	1'2"	1'4"	2'2"	U 1'8"
Total	36'4"	29'9"	33'6"	33'7"	33'6"	34'	39'6"	39'2"	45'6"	45'4"	52'3"	44'9"	50'8"	Total 76'4"
Average	20.76"	17"	19.14"	19.19"	19.14"	19.42"	22.57"	22.38"	26"	25.90"	29.86"	25.57"	28.95"	Average 44"

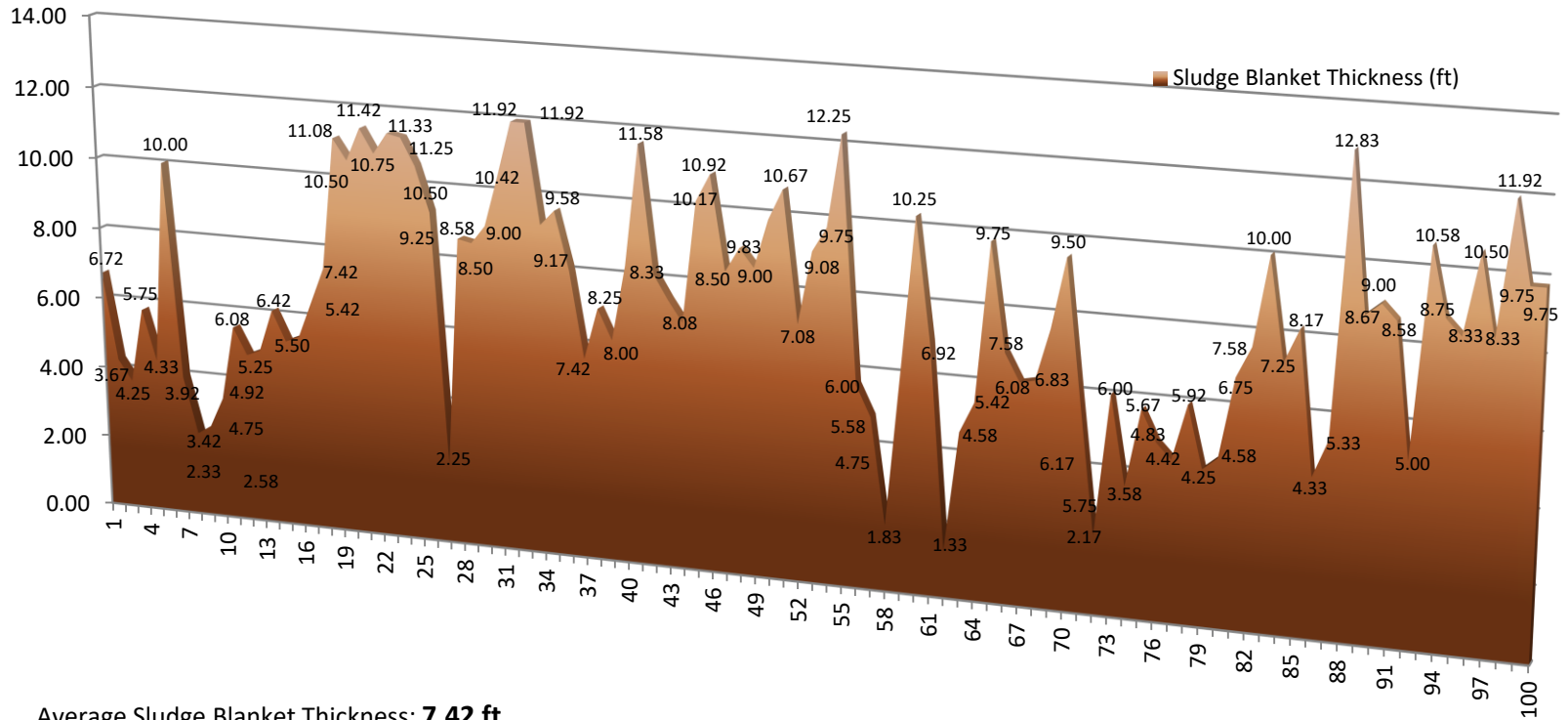
Average Sludge Depth in Feet for Cell A of the Marsing Idaho Wastewater Lagoon System





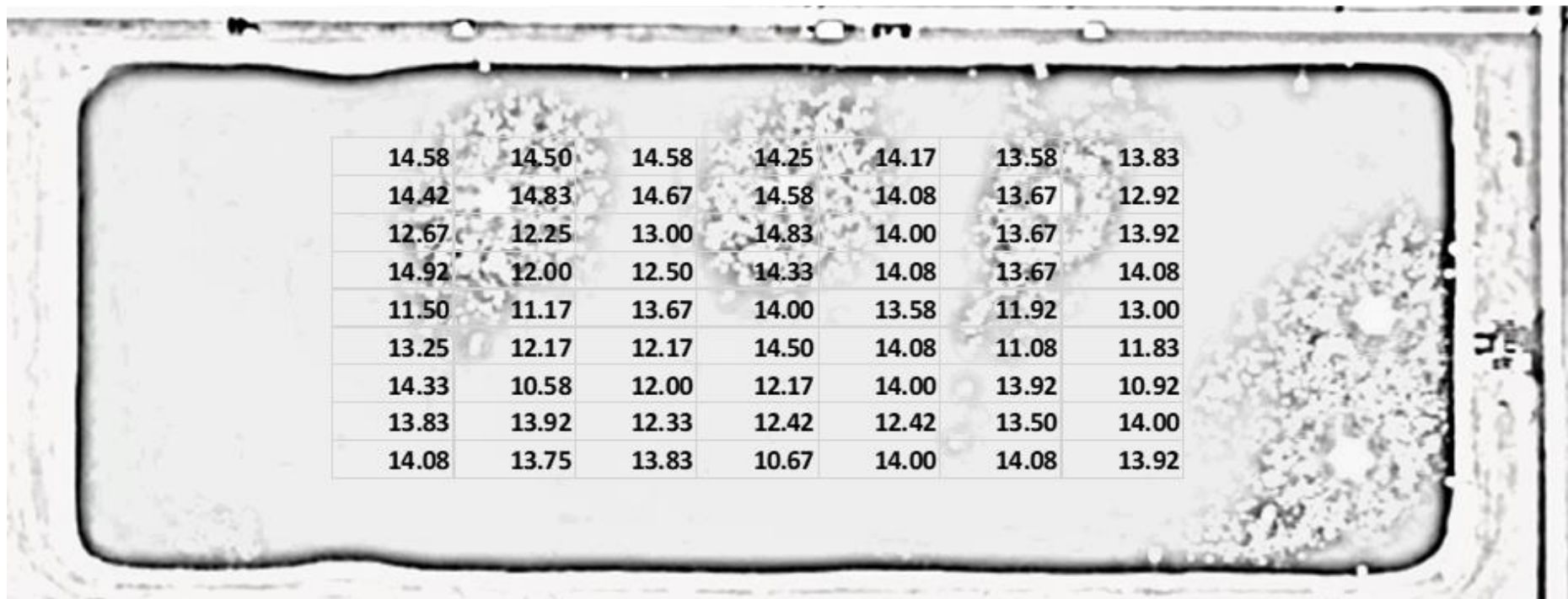
2-Cell, Aerated
Lagoon System
Built in 1970,
20 Acre Cells, 14
feet Deep 85 MG
Capacity Each

Results of a 100 Point Sludge Blanket Thickness Profile of Cell # 1 of the XXXX Pond System



Average Sludge Blanket Thickness: **7.42 ft**
 Average Water Depth: **13.4 ft**
 Estimated Sludge Volume: **44,720,414 gallons**
 Sampled on 6/25/2014

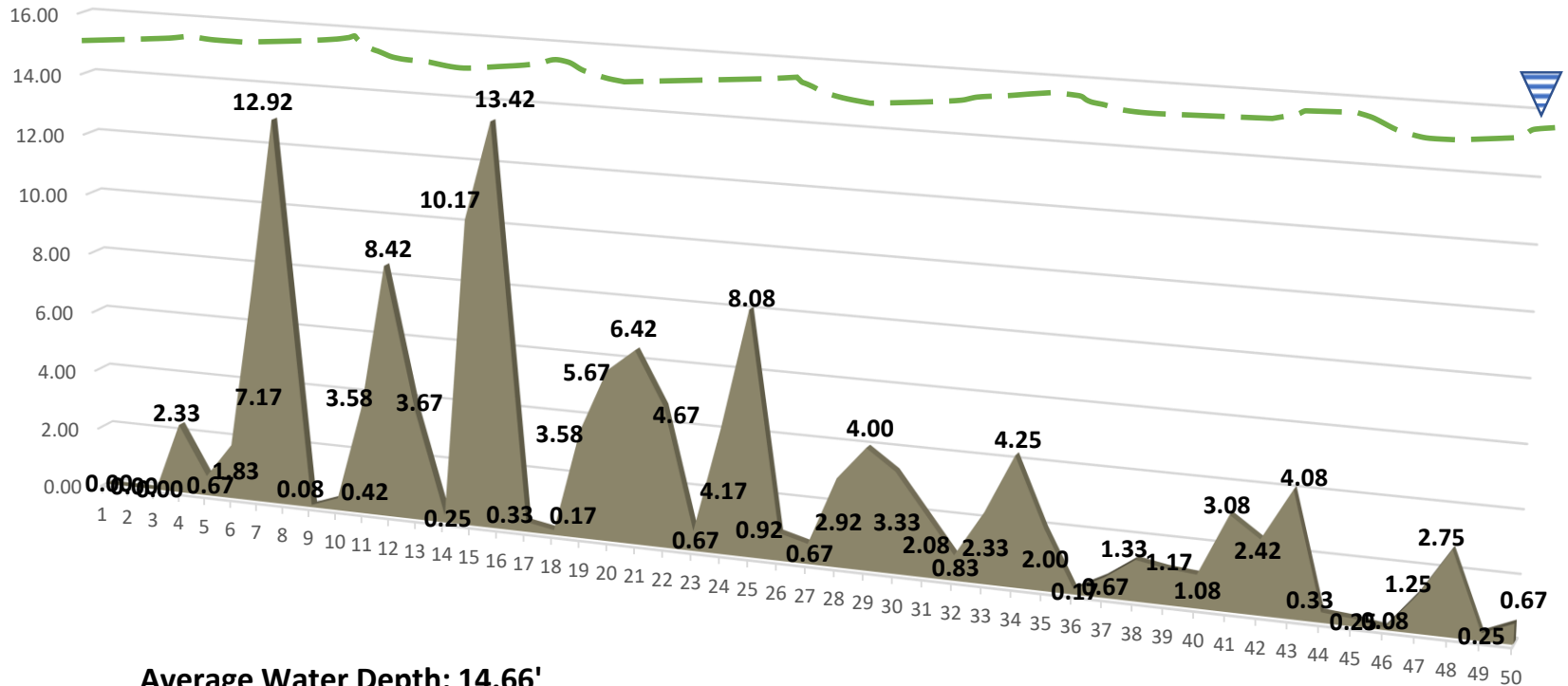
Change	3.42	4.25	2.67	4.17	3	3.17	3.2		
3.20 feet x 43,560 x 20 acres x 7.48 x 8.34 x .0675 % Solids /2000 = 5,870 dry tons x \$250 = \$1,467,403									



	12.00	12.50	14.33	14.08	13.67		
	11.17	13.67	14.00	13.58	11.92		
	12.17	12.17	14.50	14.08	11.08		
Ave	11.78	12.78	14.28	13.92	12.22		
Min	11.17	12.17	14.00	13.58	11.08		
Max	12.17	13.67	14.50	14.08	13.67		
						Average	
delta:	1.00	1.50	0.50	0.50	2.58	1.22	
1.22 feet x 20 x 43560 x 7,48 x 8.34 x .0675 / 2000 = 2,238 dry tons x \$350 = \$783,226							



Sludge Blanket Thickness Relative to the Surface of the Water



Average Water Depth: 14.66'

Min Water Depth: 10.55'

Max Water Depth: 16.58'

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
A			16.58	16.33	16.33	15.00					
B		13.00	16.67	16.00	16.42	16.50	16.50	15.25	15.83	13.58	7.17
C		14.58	16.67	16.33	16.25	16.25	16.75	16.75	16.80	16.50	14.83
D		16.58	16.17	16.75	16.33	16.25	16.67	16.92	16.75	16.58	14.92
E	14.75	16.58	16.58	15.67	16.00	16.33	16.58	16.83	17.00	16.00	15.17
F	16.33	14.83	11.50				12.50	12.67	10.00	11.58	13.33

16.17 - 16.92 = .75 feet

9 inch variance

$352,900 \text{ sq feet} \times .75 \times 7.48 \times 8.34 \times .065 / 2000 = 537 \text{ dry tons} \times \$350/\text{dry ton} = \$187,816$

16.67	16.00	16.42	16.50	16.50	15.25	15.83	13.58
16.67	16.33	16.25	16.25	16.75	16.75	16.80	16.50
16.17	16.75	16.33	16.25	16.67	16.92	16.75	16.58
16.58	15.67	16.00	16.33	16.58	16.83	17.00	16.00

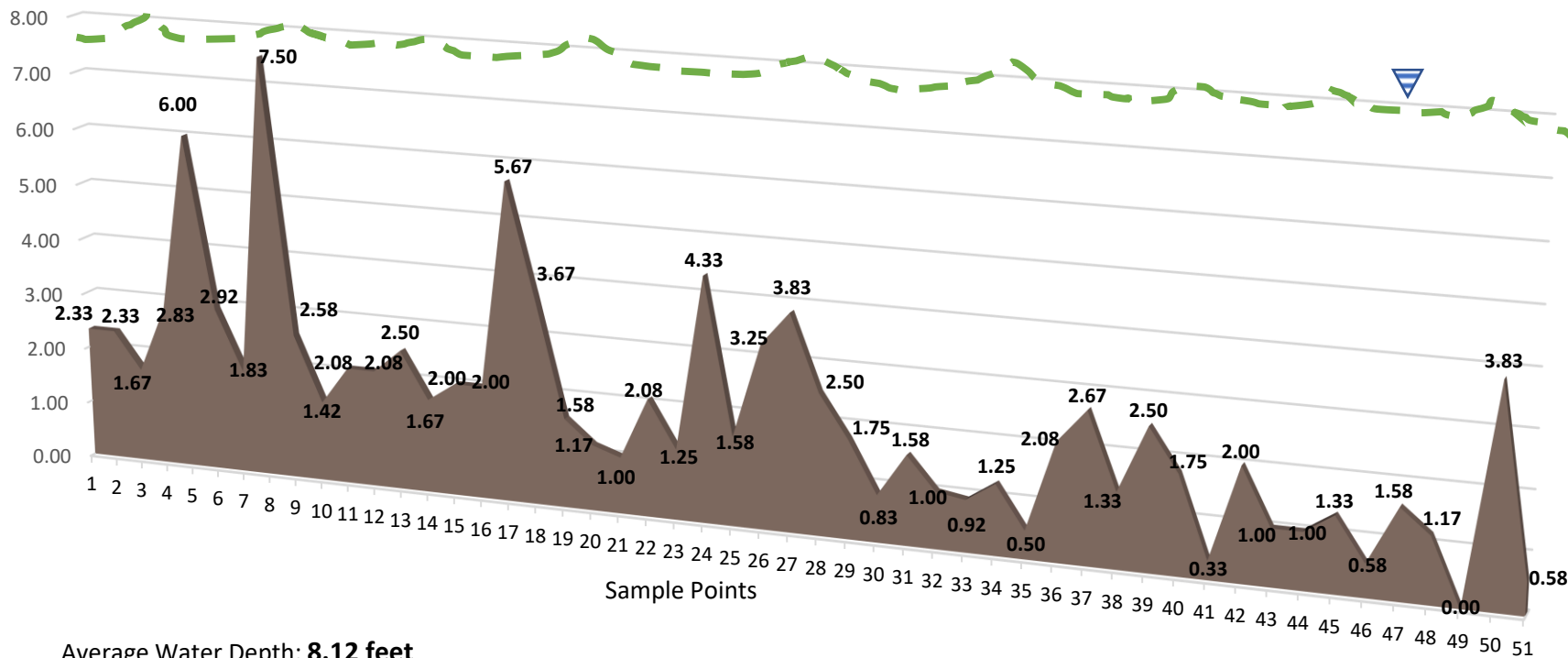
Through out the high and low 13.58 and 17.00 average variance is = 1 foot

$352,900 \text{ sq feet} \times 1.00 \times 7.48 \times 8.34 \times .065 / 2000 = 715 \text{ dry tons} \times \$350/\text{dry ton} = \$250,420$



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	8.42	7.42	8.33	7.92	7.92	8.25	8.75	7.42	8.00		
2	9.00	8.58	8.50	8.25	8.00	8.25	8.00	8.08	9.00	8.25	
3	8.17	8.33	7.67	8.00	7.33	8.25	8.58	7.50	7.33	8.25	8.50
4	8.58	8.00	8.25	8.08	8.08	8.17	8.33	8.75	7.42	8.50	8.50
5	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.08	7.25	7.92	8.10	8.00	8.25	8.50

Sludge Blanket Thickness Relative to the Water Depth of Cell # 1 at the XXXXXXXX Wastewater Pond System



Average Water Depth: **8.12 feet**
 Average Sludge Blanket Thickness: **2.10 feet**
 Volume of Water: **20,313,776 gallons**
 Volume of Sludge: **7,124,938 gallons**
 Water Cap Remaining to Treat the Daily Load: **6.02 feet**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	8.42	7.42	8.33	7.92	7.92	8.25	8.75	7.42	8.00		
2	9.00	8.58	8.50	8.25	8.00	8.25	8.00	8.08	9.00	8.25	
3	8.17	8.33	7.67	8.00	7.33	8.25	8.58	7.50	7.33	8.25	8.50
4	8.58	8.00	8.25	8.08	8.08	8.17	8.33	8.75	7.42	8.50	8.50
5	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.08	7.25	7.92	8.10	8.00	8.25	8.50

	8.58	8.50	8.25	8.00	8.25	8.00	8.08	9.00			
	8.33	7.67	8.00	7.33	8.25	8.58	7.50	7.33			
	8.00	8.25	8.08	8.08	8.17	8.33	8.75	7.42	Average	Minimum	Maximum
Average	8.31	8.14	8.11	7.81	8.22	8.31	8.11	7.92	8.11	7.81	8.31
Difference	8.32 - 7.81 = 0.5 feet (6 inches)										
552,980 sq ft x 0.5 x 7.47 x 8.34 x .0675 / 2000 lbs/ton = 561 dry tons at \$350/dry ton = \$196,199											

What is Sludge?

Sludge is composed of :

- Primary organic matter...poop
- Dead Algae
- Living and Dead Bacteria
- Dead Protozoa
- Dead Duckweed
- Dead cattails and rush
- Grit
- Clay
- Sand
- Dirt, trash, plastics, fabrics

Much of the sludge you
see in a wastewater
lagoon is potentially
gas

Sludge is:



Other empirical formulas for biomass are:

- Activated sludge: $C_{60}H_{87}O_{23}N_{12}P$
- Anaerobic sludge: $C_{54}H_{99}O_{32}N_{11}P$
- Algae: $C_{106}H_{181}O_{45}N_{16}P$

(WEF, 1994)

The building blocks of sludge

Table 3.1 Elemental composition of microbial cells.

Variations in composition of microbial cells, dry weight %		
Elemental		
Carbon		45 – 55
Oxygen		16 – 22
Nitrogen	← These elements can form gasses	12 – 16
Hydrogen		7 – 10
Phosphorus		2 – 5
Sulfur		0.8 – 1.5
Potassium	85% of dead bacteria and algae mass can be converted to gas	0.8 – 1.5
Sodium		0.5 – 2.0
Calcium		0.4 – 0.7
Magnesium		0.4 – 0.7
Chlorine		0.4 – 0.7
Iron		0.1 – 0.4
All others*		0.2 – 0.5

* Includes trace elements.

Sludge is mostly composed of Carbon, Oxygen, Nitrogen, and Hydrogen, and under the right conditions, these elements can be converted into gas.

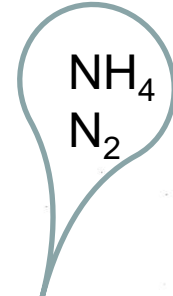
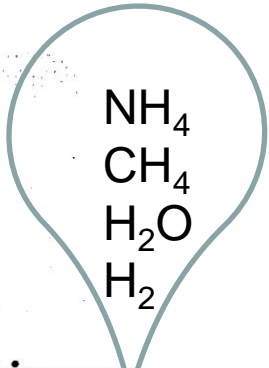
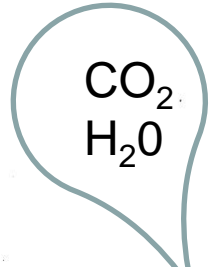
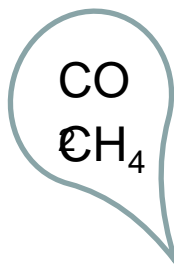
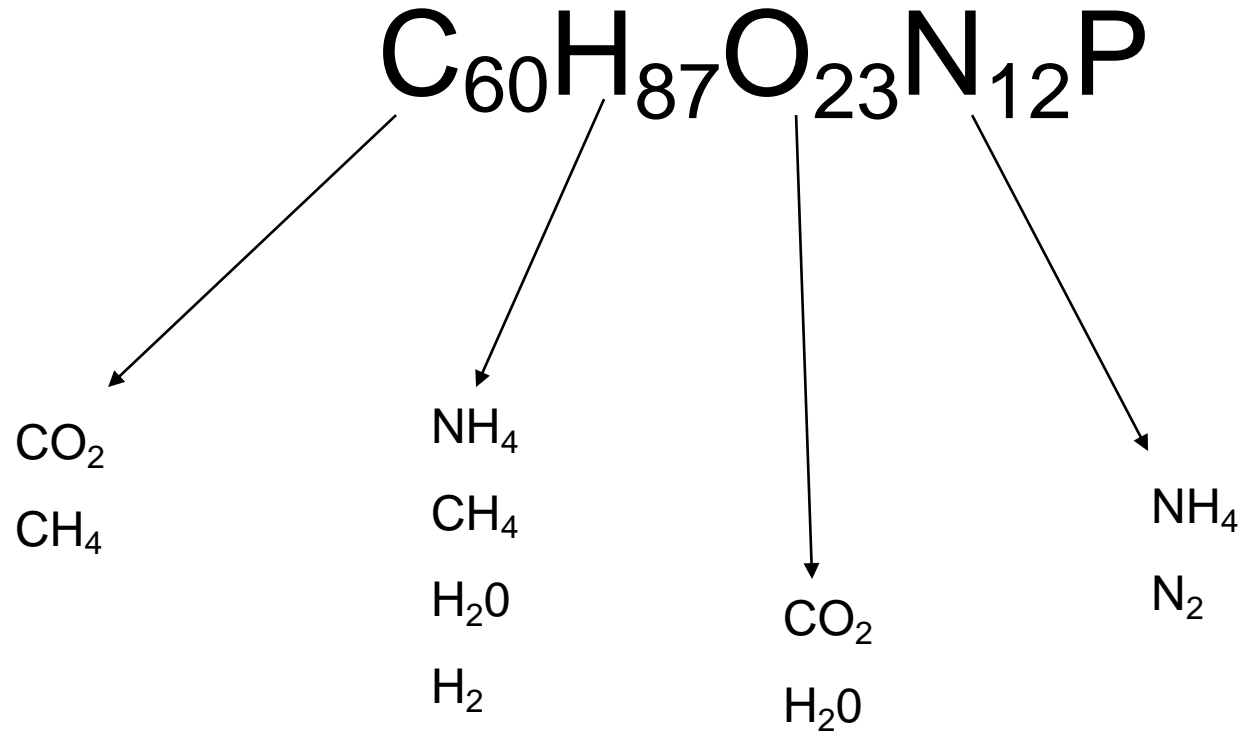


Table 3.4 Empirical formulas for biomass.

Empirical formula	Organic fraction, %					Phosphorus	References
	Carbon	Oxygen	Hydrogen	Nitrogen			
Activated sludge C ₆₀ H ₈₇ O ₂₃ N ₁₂ P	52.4	26.8	6.3	12.2		2.3	McCarty (1970)
C ₁₁₈ H ₁₇₀ O ₅₁ N ₁₇ P	53	30.5	6.4	8.9		1.2	Sawyer (1956)
Anaerobic sludge C ₅₄ H ₉₉ O ₃₂ N ₁₁ P	44.9	35.4	6.9	10.7		2.1	Speece and McCarty (1964)
Algae C ₁₀₆ H ₁₈₁ O ₄₅ N ₁₆ P	52.4	29.7	7.4	9.2		1.3	Stumm and Tenney (1964)

Sludge is potentially all gas and water







St. Henry







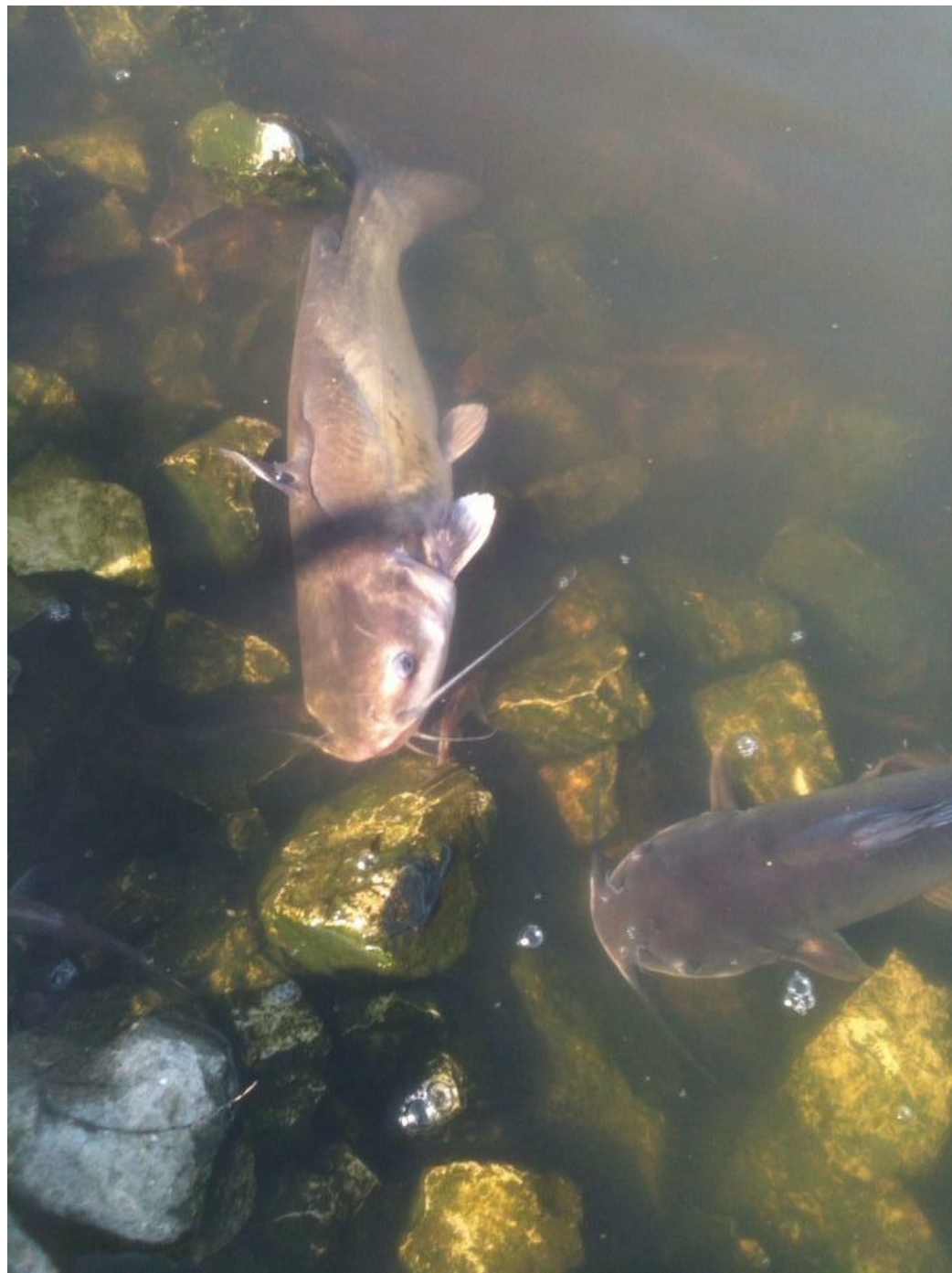
Mixing the Sludge blanket with a Trash Pump



Mixing the sludge blanket can stir it up a bit so be prepared







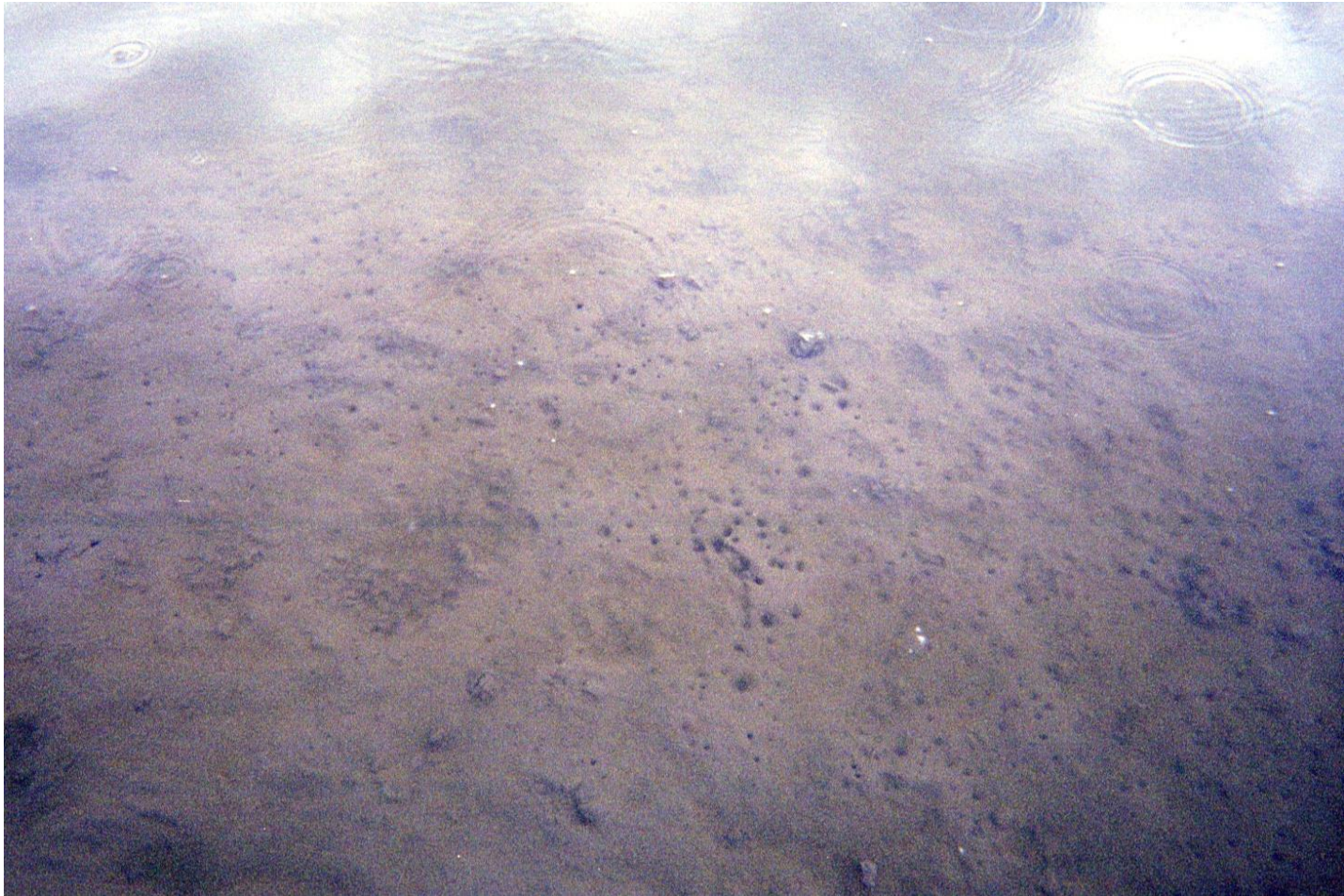
Think of a log in a fireplace

















What Effect does Sludge have on a System?

“other than displacing capacity”

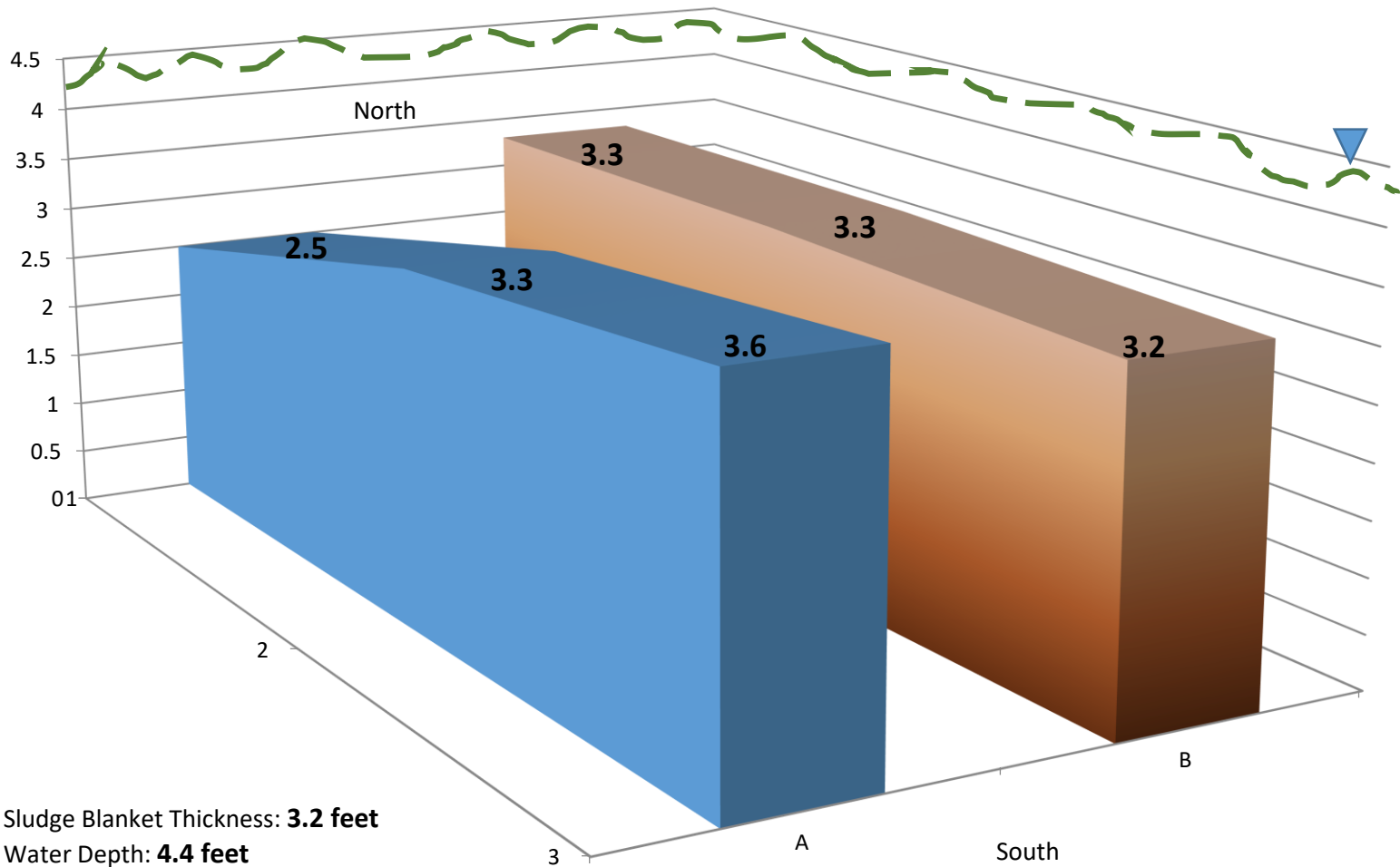


Sludge Causes Problems in 4 Ways:

- Sludge displaces valuable treatment capacity
- It creates channeling of sewage flows creating short circuiting
- It feeds nutrients back into the water column feeding new algae cell growth
- Creates/ Causes odors



Sludge Blanket Profile for Cell # 3 of the [REDACTED] STP



Average Sludge Blanket Thickness: **3.2 feet**

Average Water Depth: **4.4 feet**

Average Clearwater Cap Over Top of Sludge: **1.2 feet**

Volume of Sludge: **181,598 gallons**

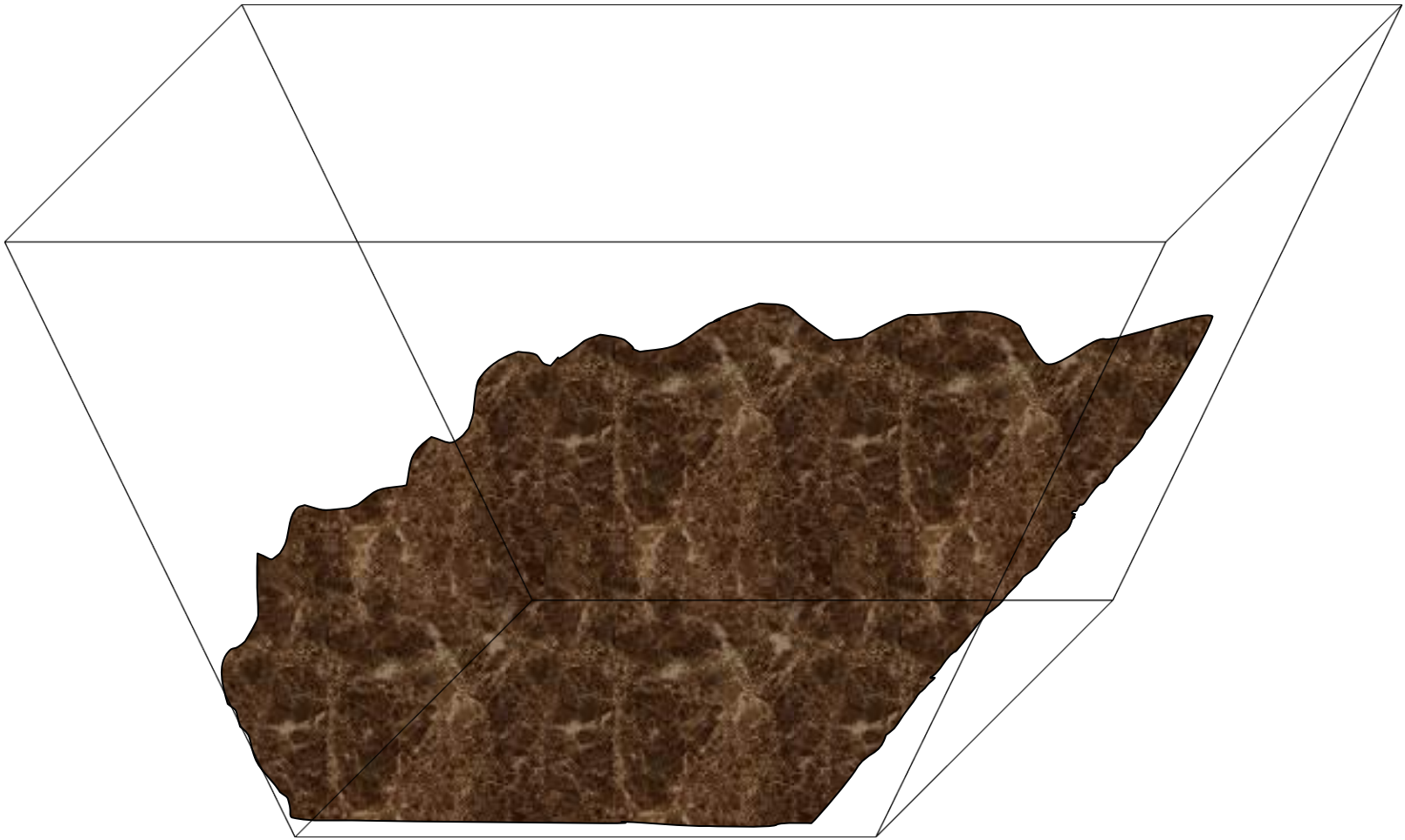
Estimated Mass of Sludge Based on 20.3% Total Solids: **154 dry tons**

Sampled on: **4/1/2014**

73% of this Treatment Cell's Capacity is Occupied by Sludge

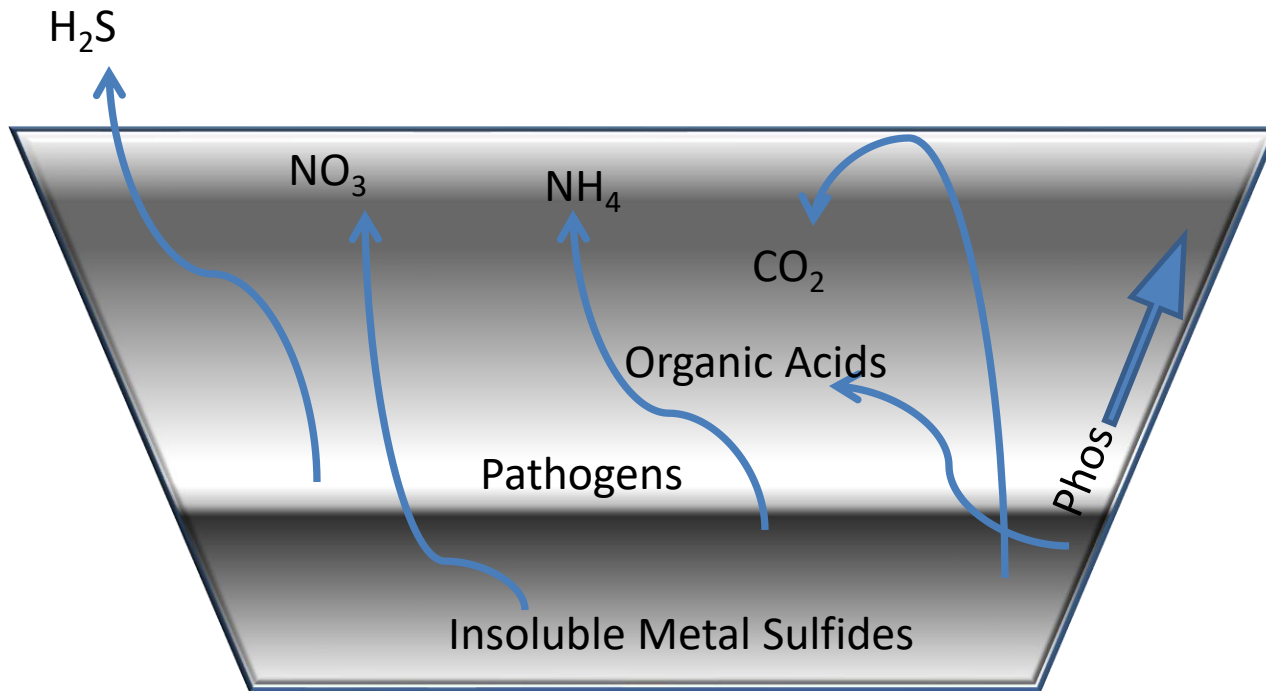
These Cattails Could not Grow Except on Accumulated Sludge





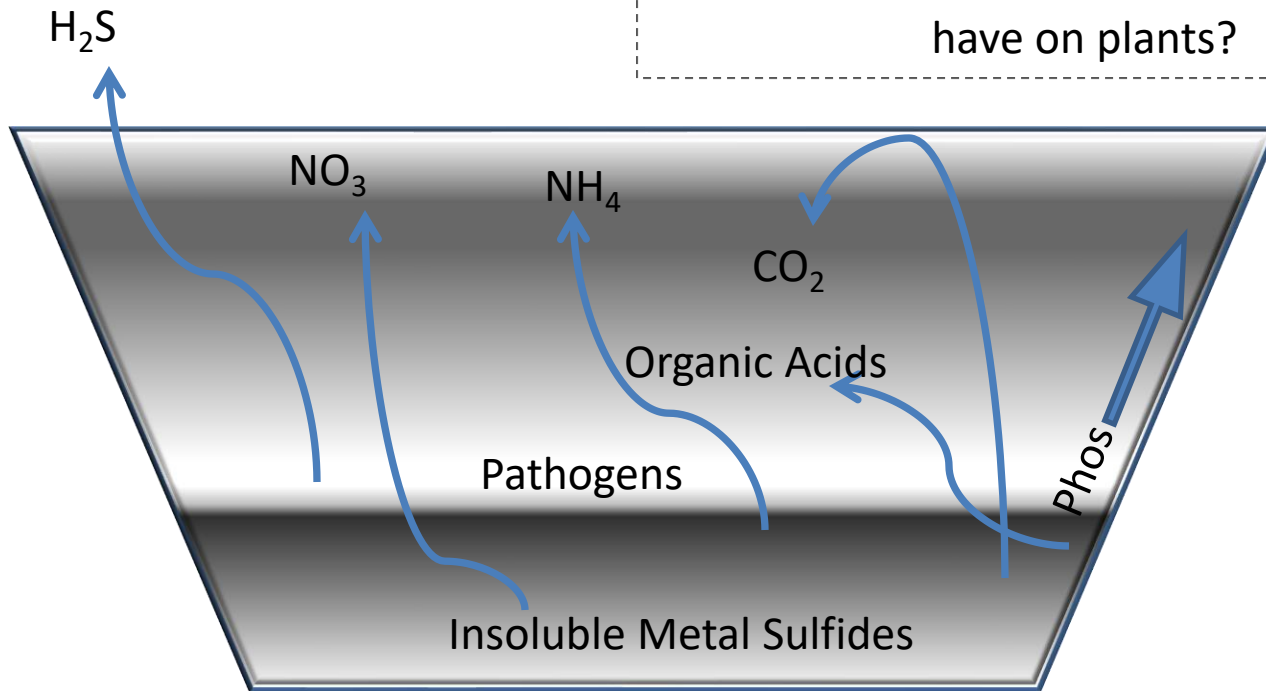
What is in Sludge?

The Other Effects of Sludge

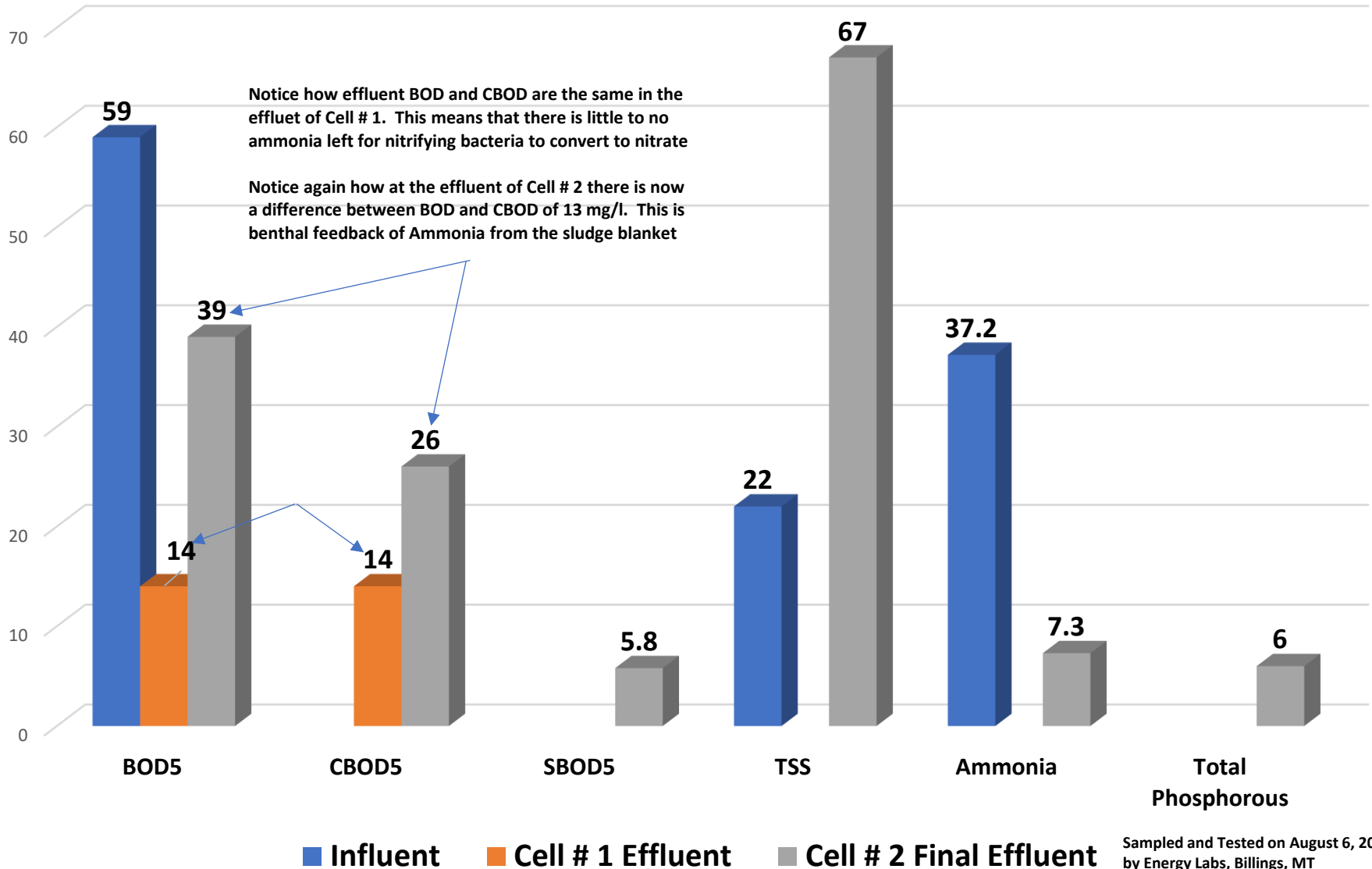


The Other Effects of Sludge

OK Farmers...What are these things?
What is algae?
What effect do these things
have on plants?



Intra-Pond BOD₅ Test Results from Energy Laboratories in Billings Montana



Nutrients Feed Back to the Water Column Feeding Algae & Bacteria

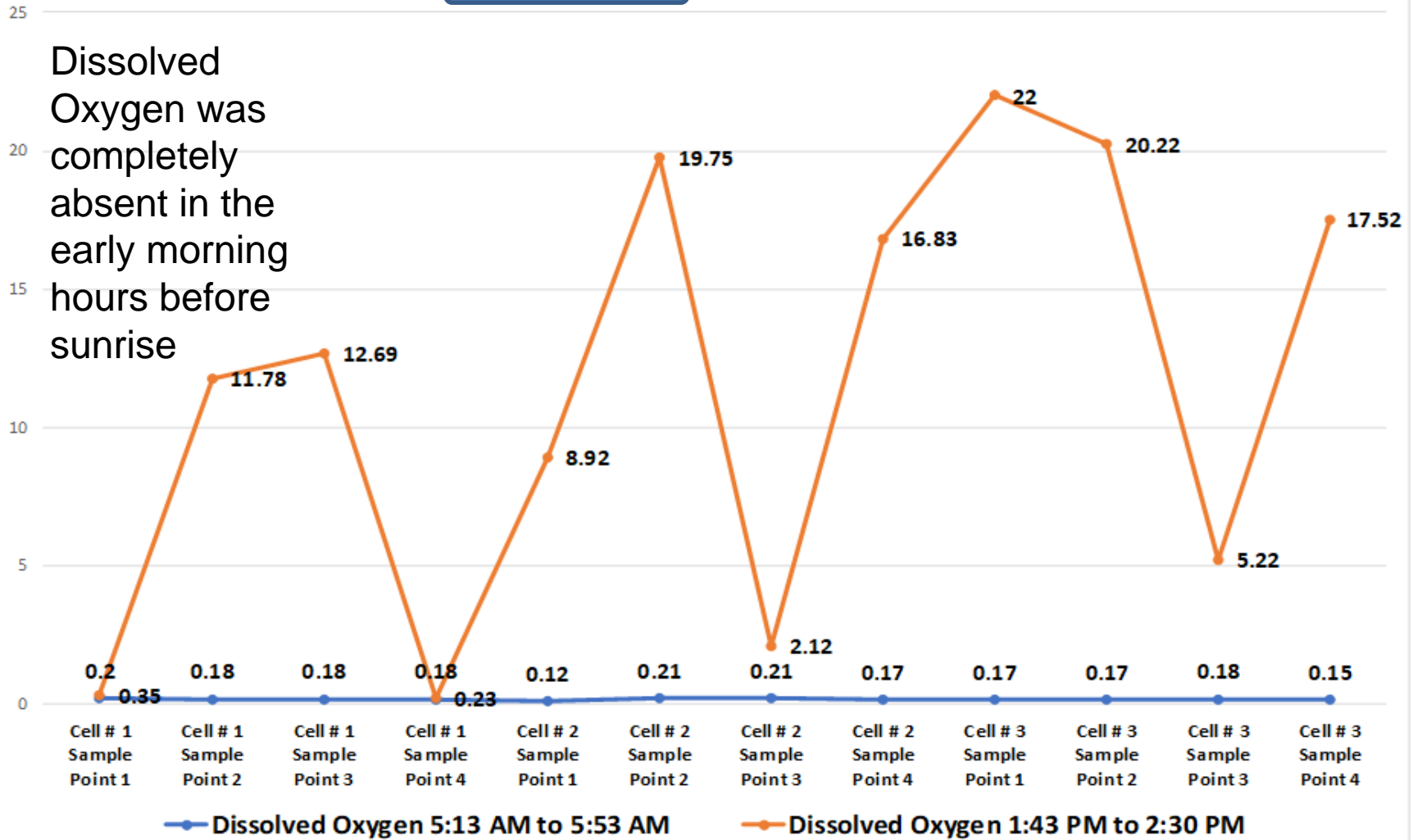


Excess Algae Cause TSS problems and **Oxygen Depletion Problems**

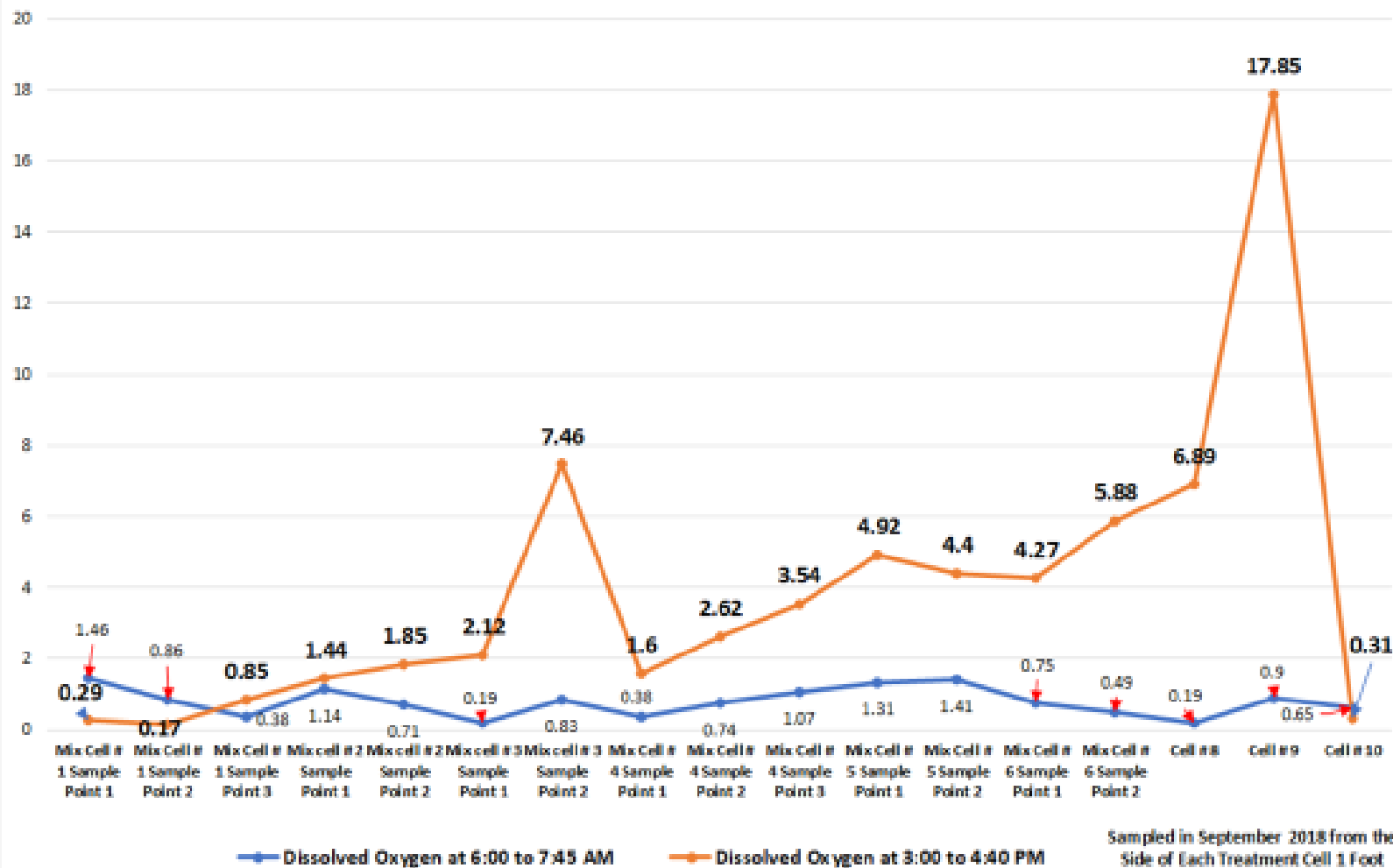


Pre-Dawn and Afternoon Surface Measured Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations for the [REDACTED] Wastewater Pond System

Dissolved Oxygen was completely absent in the early morning hours before sunrise



Pre-Dawn and Afternoon Surface Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations for the Wastewater Pond System

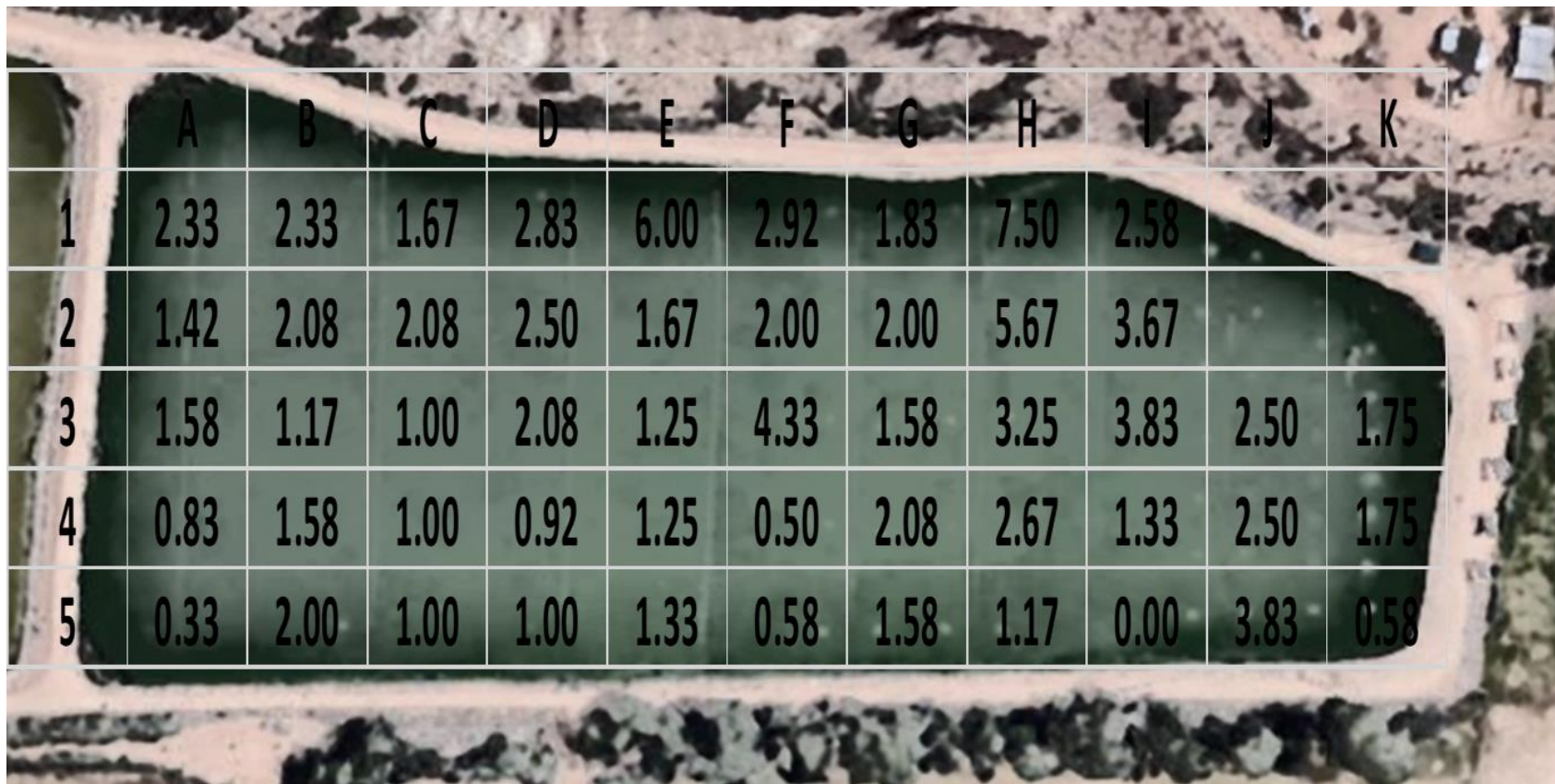


Sludge
Causes
TSS
Problems
in Two
Ways

TSS as particulate matter

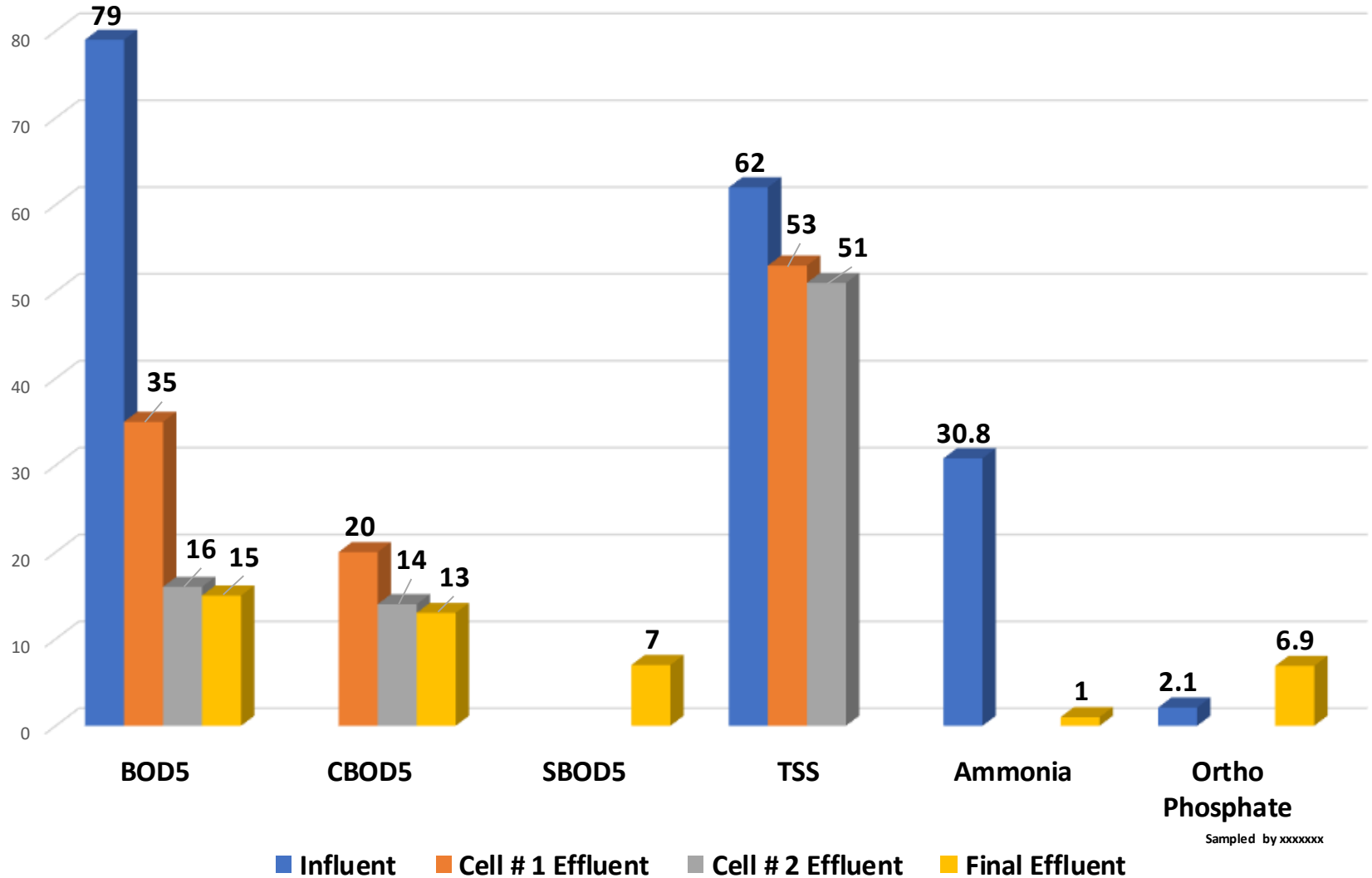
Soluble BOD and Nutrients feeding algae growth

Polling Question # 1

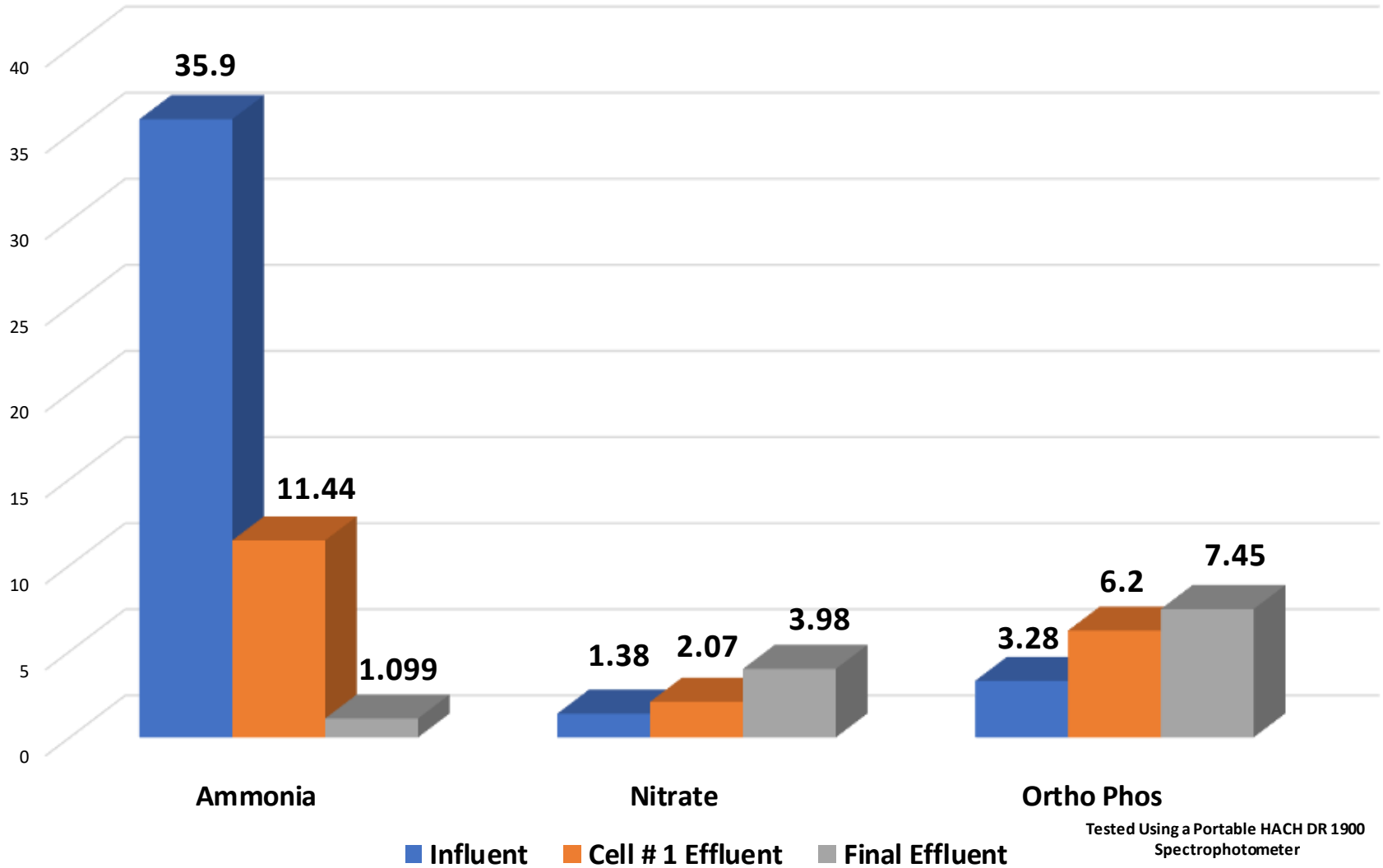


	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	2.33	2.33	1.67	2.83	6.00	2.92	1.83	7.50	2.58		
2	1.42	2.08	2.08	2.50	1.67	2.00	2.00	5.67	3.67		
3	1.58	1.17	1.00	2.08	1.25	4.33	1.58	3.25	3.83	2.50	1.75
4	0.83	1.58	1.00	0.92	1.25	0.50	2.08	2.67	1.33	2.50	1.75
5	0.33	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.33	0.58	1.58	1.17	0.00	3.83	0.58

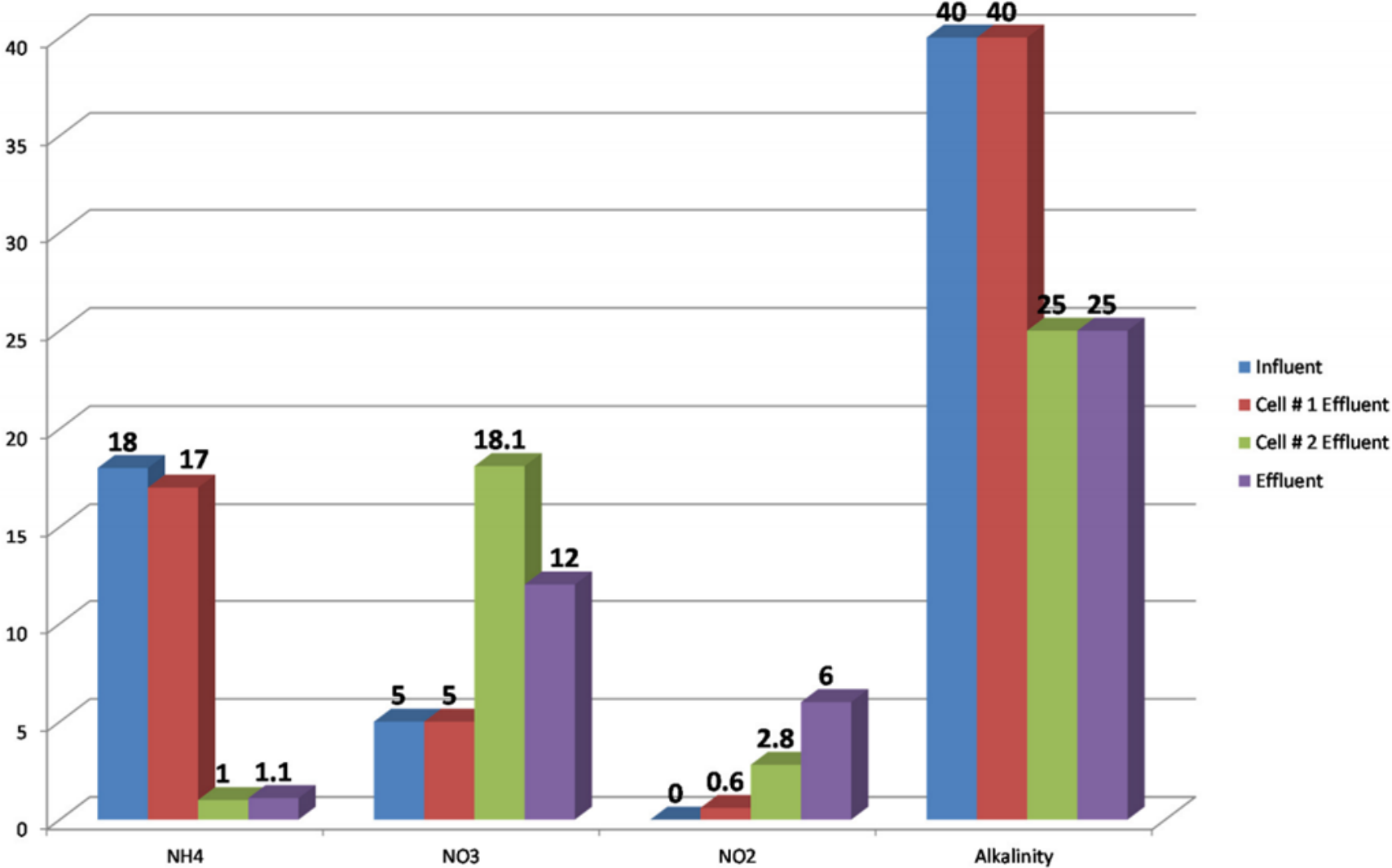
Intra-Pond BOD₅ Laboratory Results for the XXXXX Wastewater Pond System



Field Nutrient Sampling Results on January 24, 2020



Intra-Pond Ammonia, Nitrate, and Alkalinity Results for Grab Samples from Cells 1,2,&3 at the Red Lodge Pond System



A Five Cell Lagoon system with Benthal Feedback

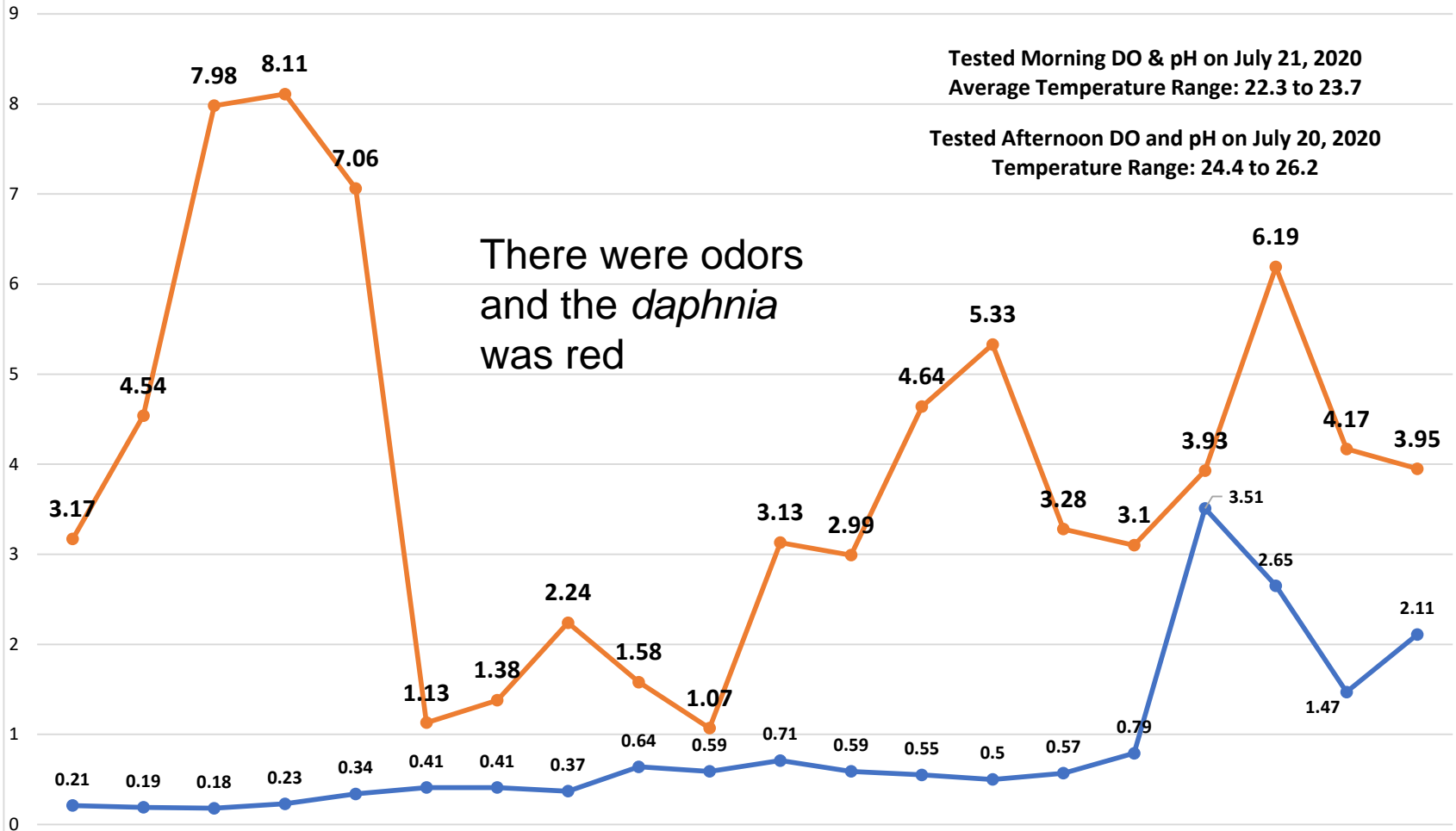


Pre-dawn and Afternoon Dissolved Oxygen Samples in the Five Treatment Cells at the [REDACTED] Wastewater Lagoon System

Tested Morning DO & pH on July 21, 2020
Average Temperature Range: 22.3 to 23.7

Tested Afternoon DO and pH on July 20, 2020
Temperature Range: 24.4 to 26.2

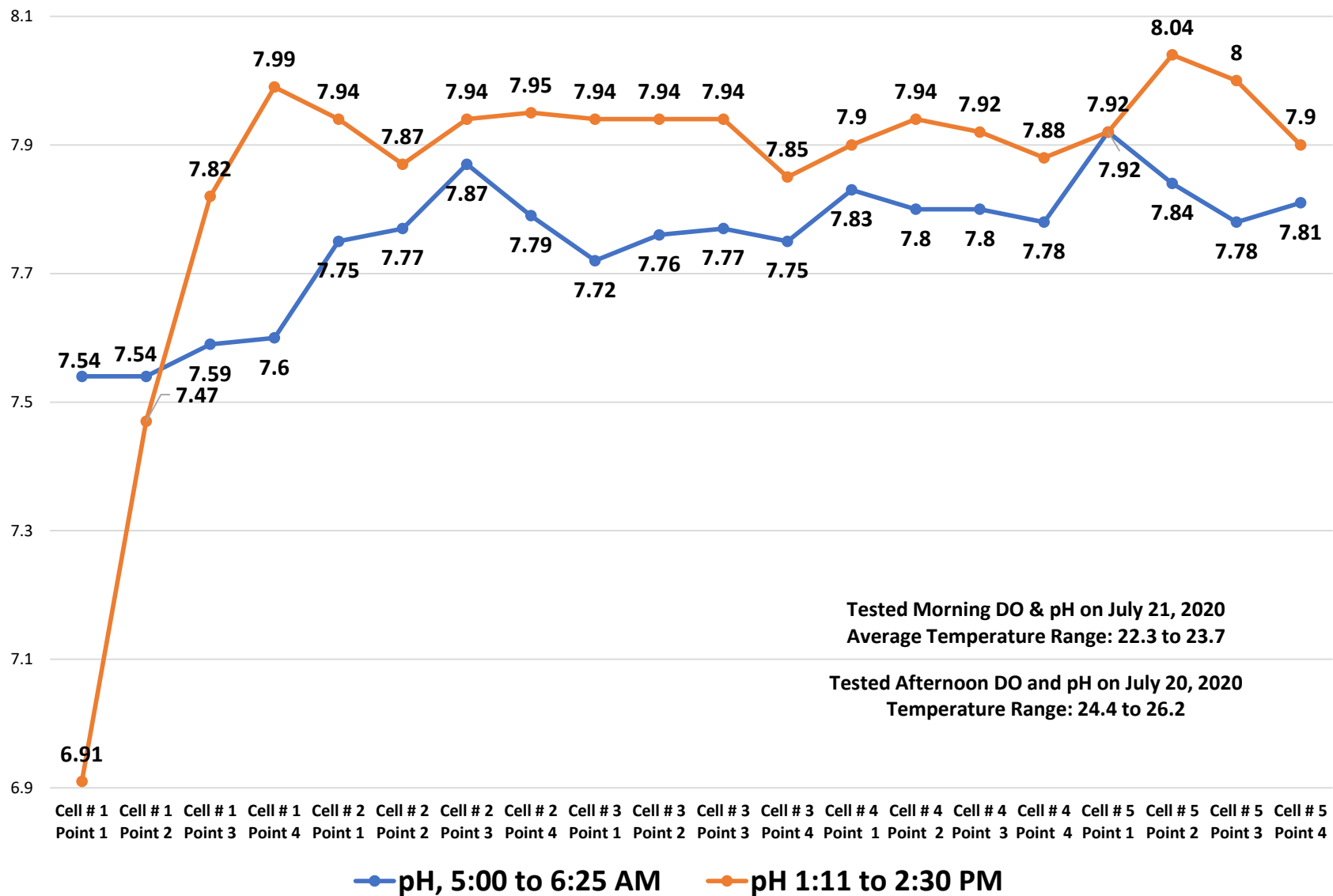
There were odors
and the *daphnia*
was red




—●— Dissolved Oxygen, 5:00 to 6:25 AM

—●— Dissolved Oxygen 1:11 to 2:30 PM

Pre-dawn and Afternoon pH for the [REDACTED] Wastewater Lagoon System

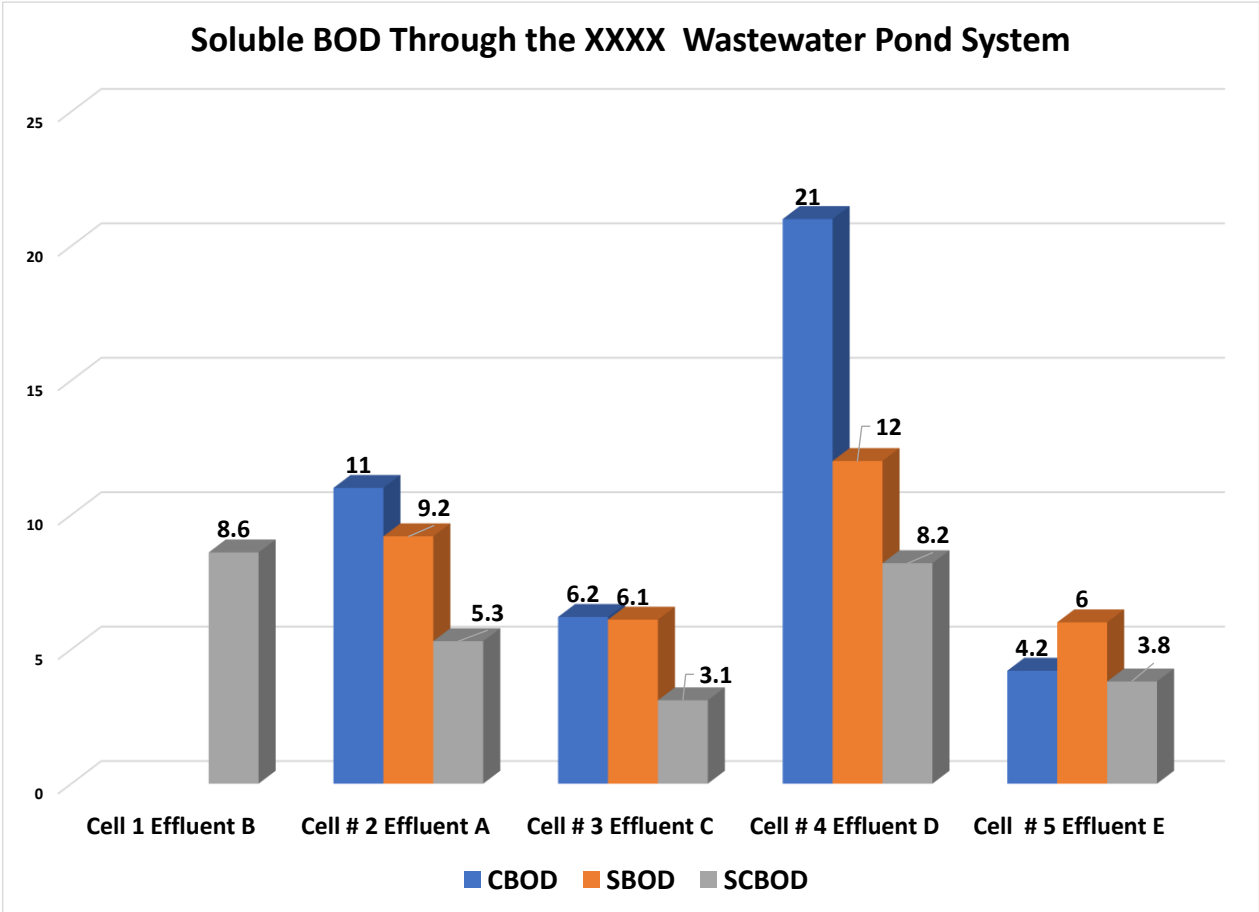


They laid the diffused air system right over the sludge blanket, added bacteria, and after two years the sludge was still there

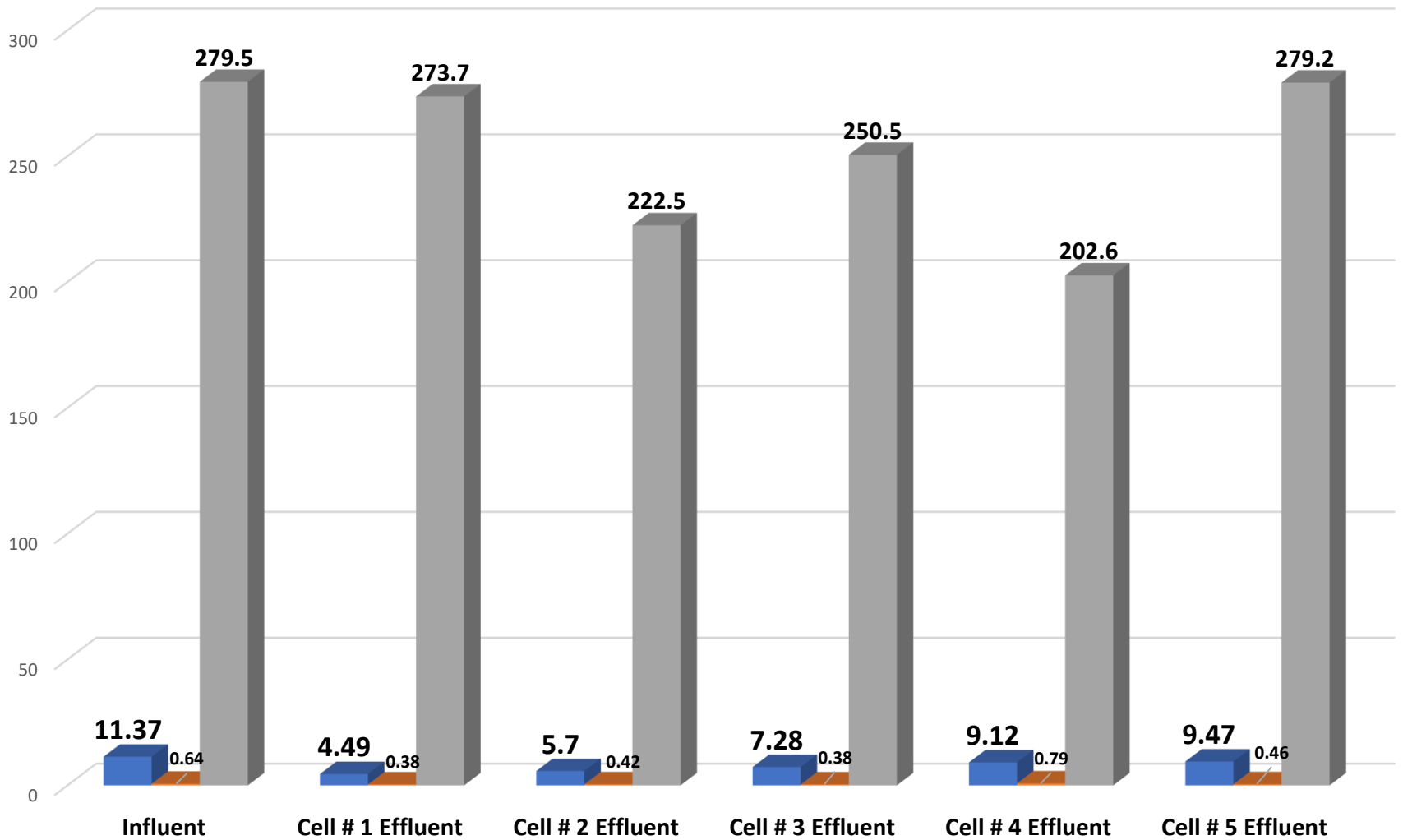


	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	0.92	3.83	4.17	4.67	3.67	3.17
B	3.25	0.83	1.17	2.33	1.58	2.75
North C	0.25	1.83	2.08	2.42	2.58	
D	0.25	0.67	1.33	1.92		

Notice the Increase in Cell # 4 SBOD and the Ammonia in the Next slide

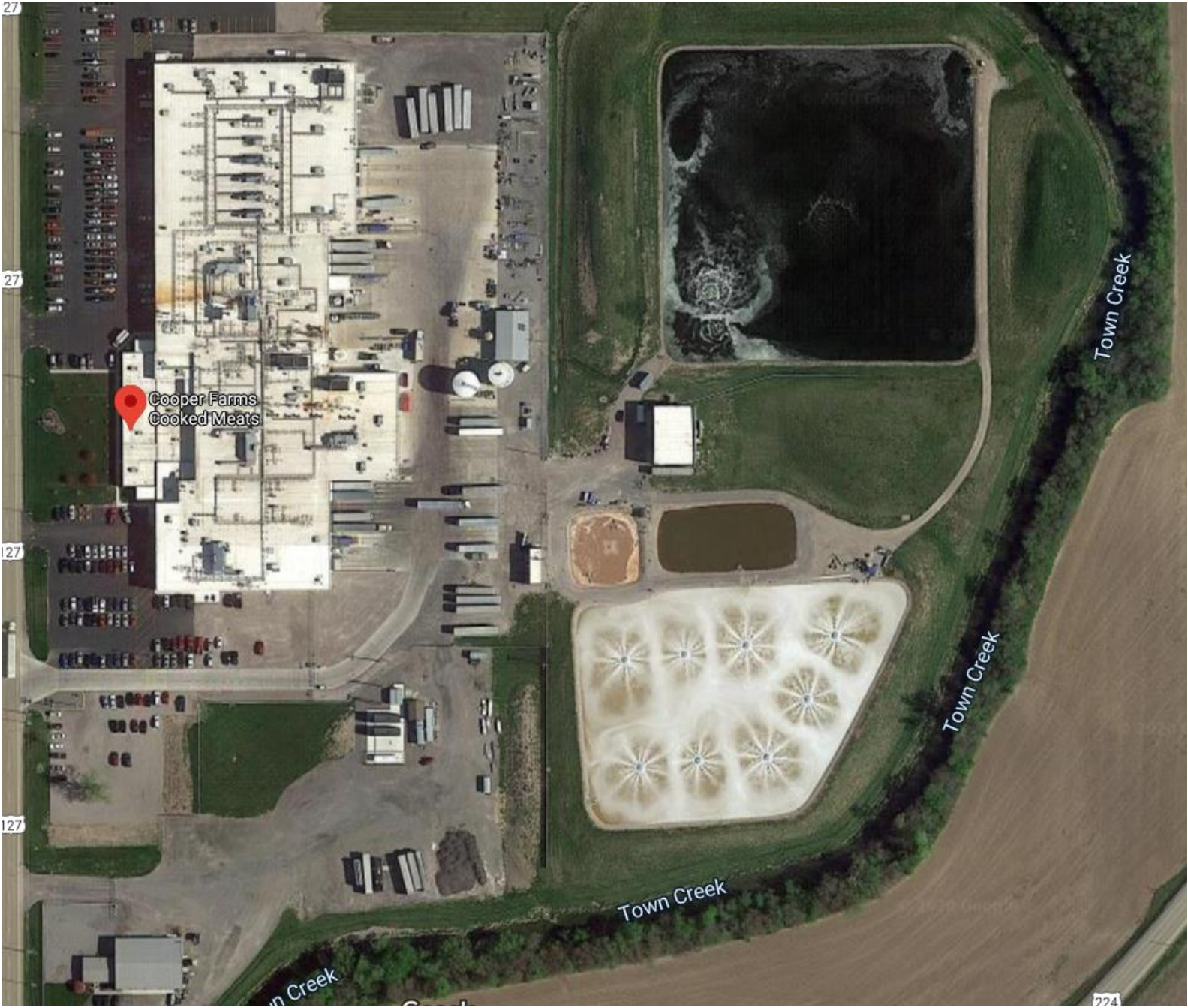


Intra-Pond Ammonia, Nitrate, and Alkalinity Concentrations for the XXX Wastewater Lagoon System



■ Ammonia (mg/l) ■ Nitrate (mg/l) ■ Alkalinity (mg/l)

Tested on July 20, 2020 after 1:00 PM
Average Water Temperature: 25 Deg C



Cooper Farms
Cooked Meats

Town Creek

Town Creek

Town Creek

Town Creek

274

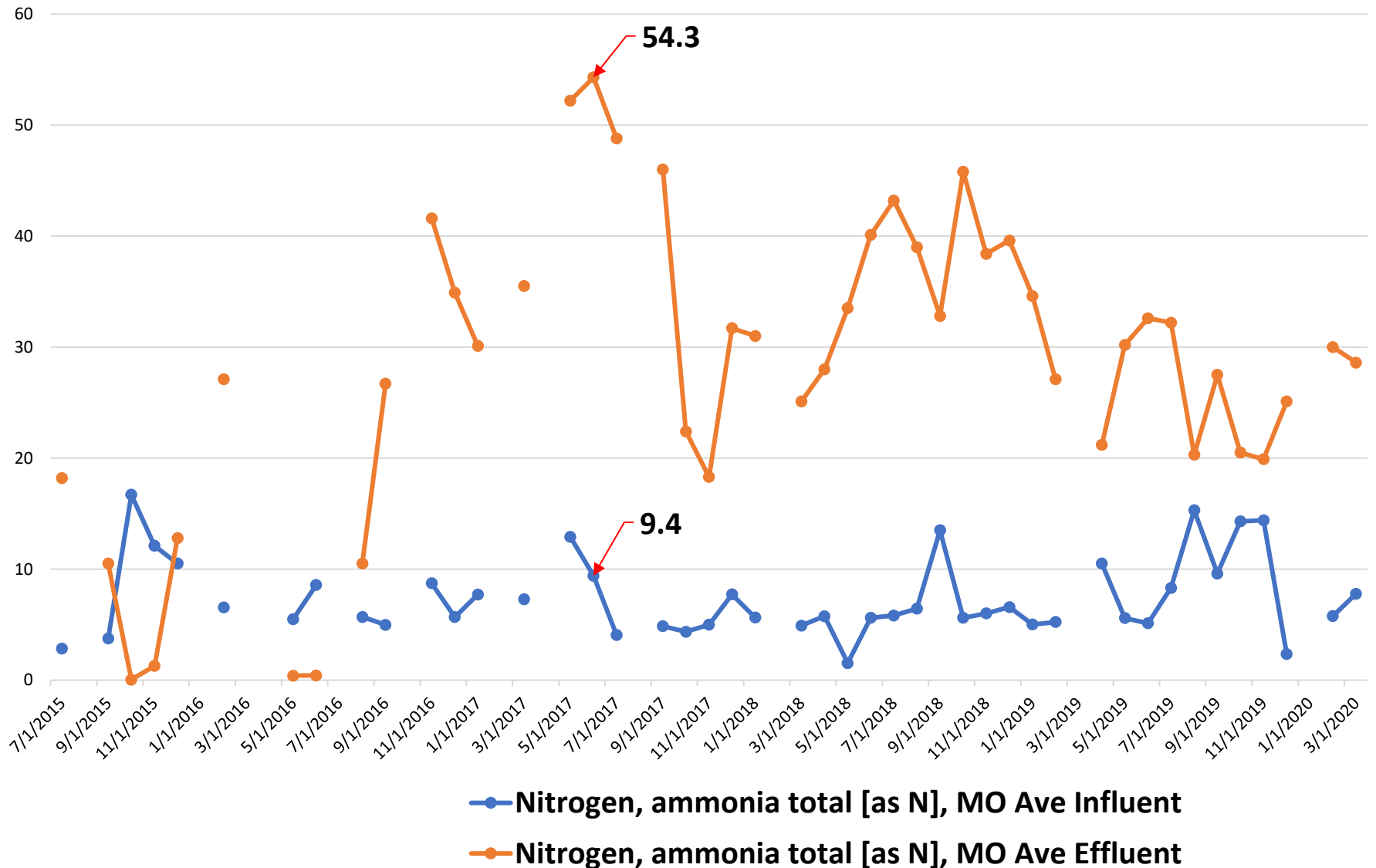
27

27

27

27

Influent vs Effluent Ammonia for a Food Processing Plant in the Midwest



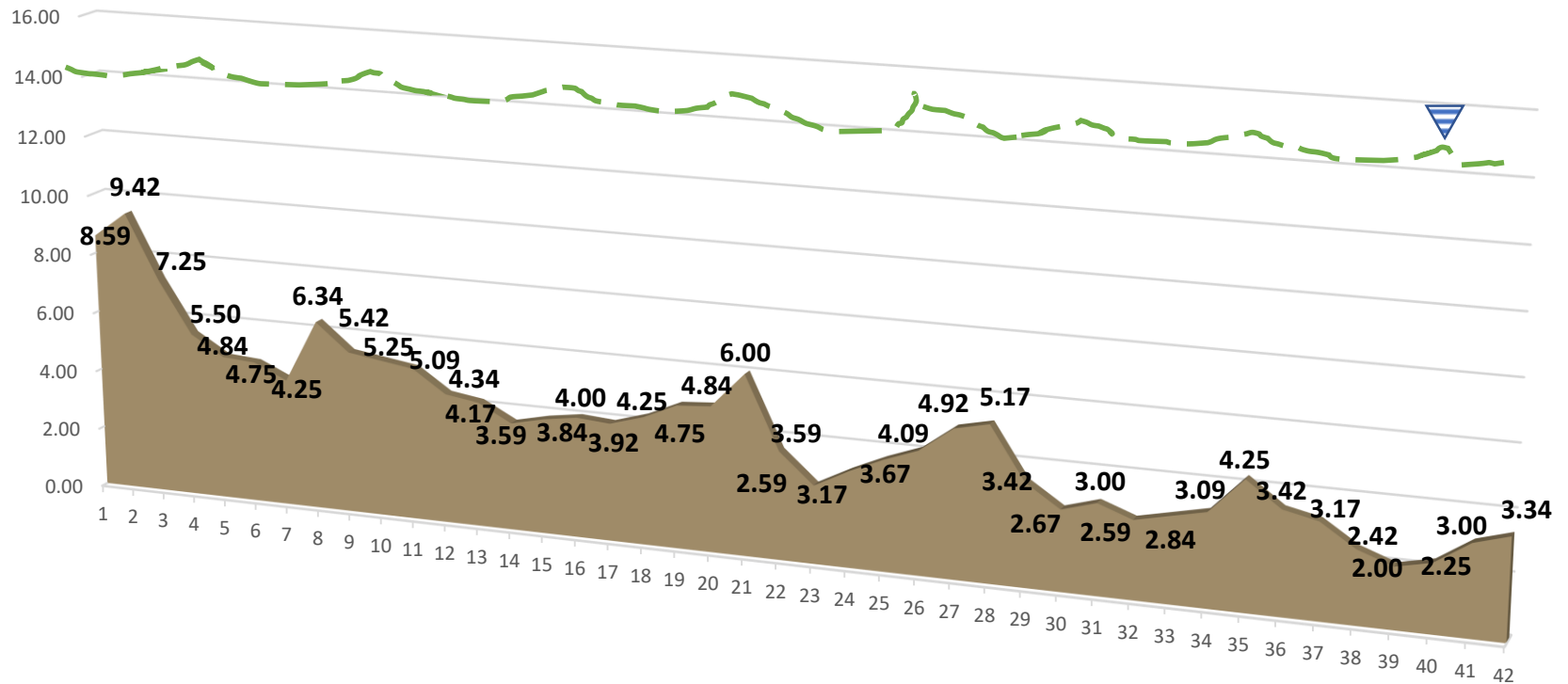
Benthal Feedback and the Principle of Residuals



Average Sludge Blanket Thickness: 4.26 feet

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	3.42	3.17	2.42	2.00	2.25	3.00	3.34
B	3.42	2.67	3.00	2.59	2.84	3.09	4.25
C	3.59	2.59	3.17	3.67	4.09	4.92	5.17
D	3.84	4.00	3.92	4.25	4.75	4.84	6.00
E	6.34	5.42	5.25	5.09	4.34	4.17	3.59
F	8.59	9.42	7.25	5.50	4.84	4.75	4.25

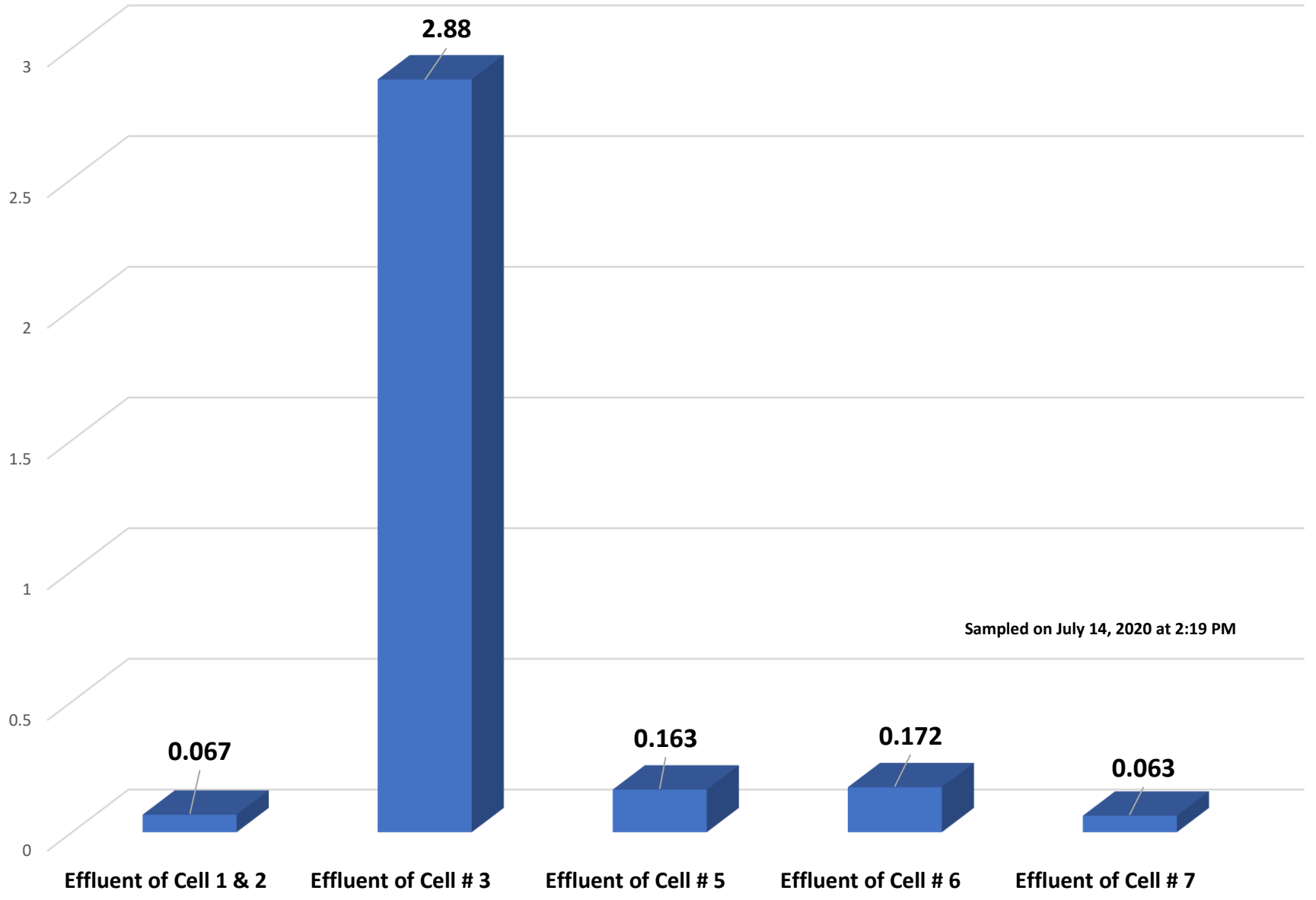
Sludge Blanket Thickness (ft) for XXXXXXXX's Cell # 3



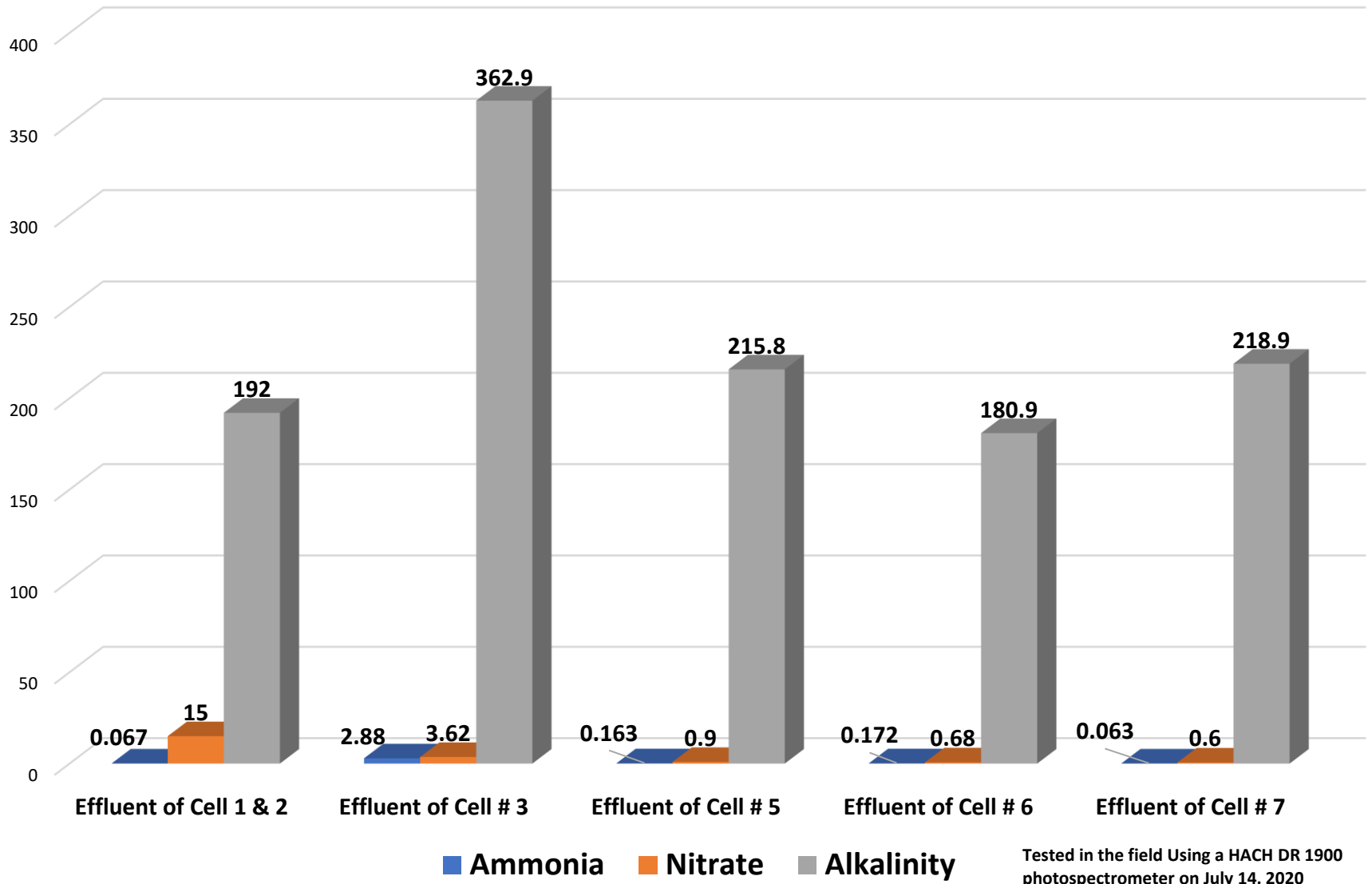
Average Water Depth: **14.8 feet**
 Average Sludge Depth: **4.26 feet**

Sampled on July 14, 2020. Pond bottom varied in depth from 13.8 to 15.8 feet. Used 14.8 feet average for thickness calculations

Intra-Pond Effluent Ammonia at the Wastewater Lagoon System



Intra-Pond Ammonia, Nitrate, and Alkalinity Concentrations for the XXXXXXXX Wastewater Pond System



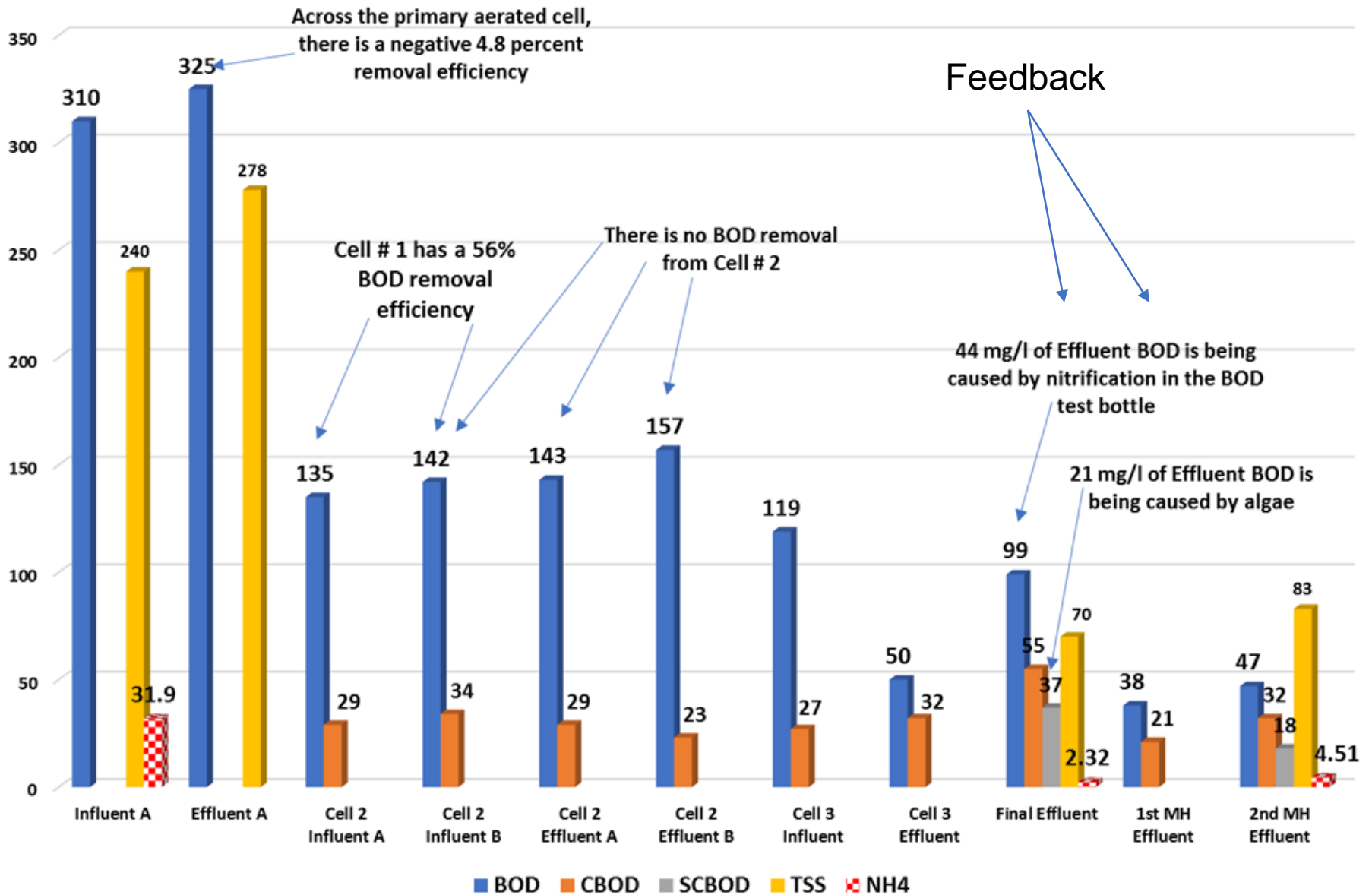
TSS MO Ave mg/l



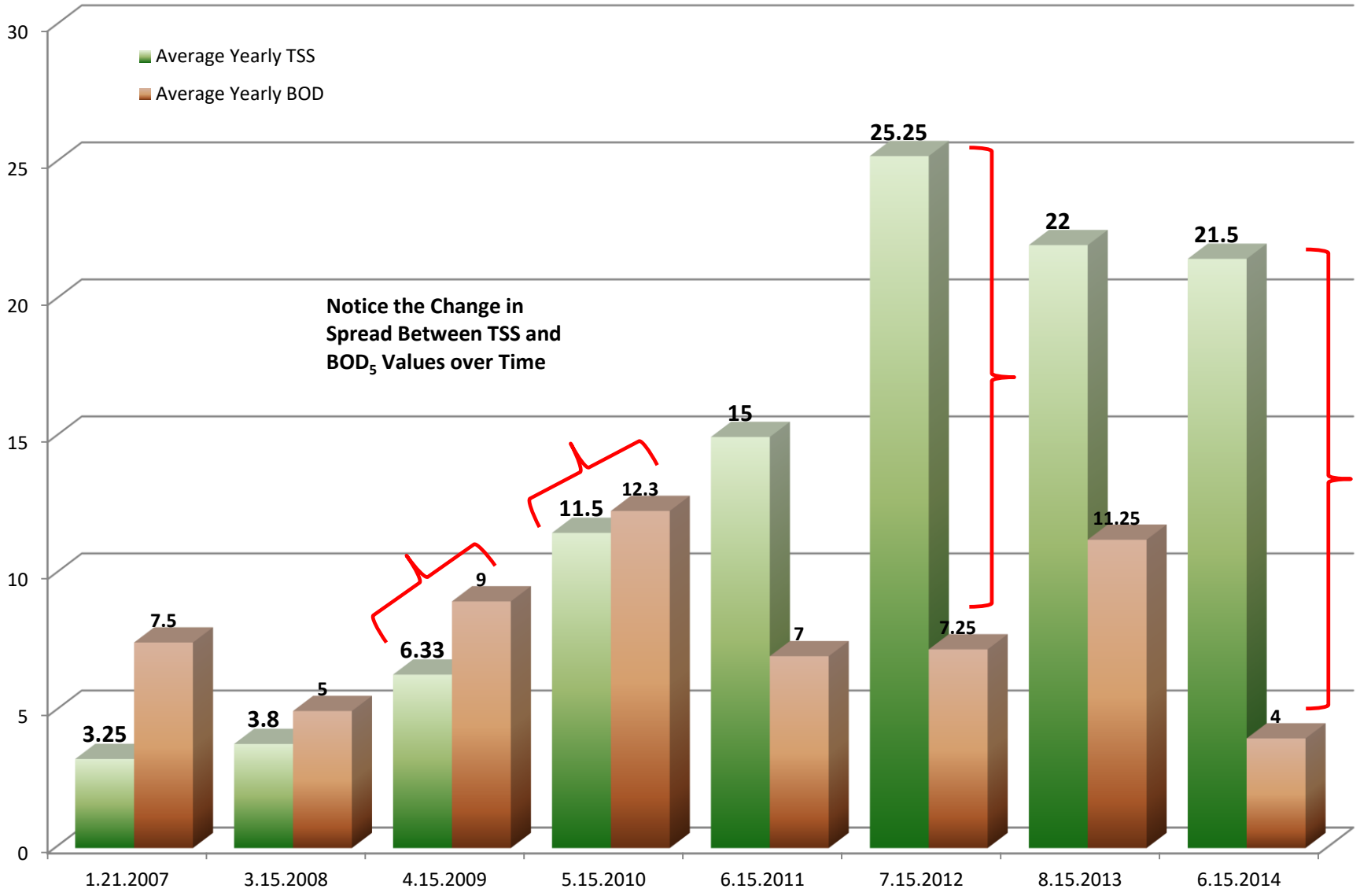
The Principle of Residuals

- You can only measure what is left over after the microbes are finished consuming what they need
- The 2.88 mg/l of ammonia from the slide before last is what is left over after the bacteria and algae use the nutrient as a growth factor.
- There may be more than 2.88 mg/l of ammonia released from the sludge blanket. Algae and bacteria consume some portion of the nutrient feedback. All you can measure what is left!

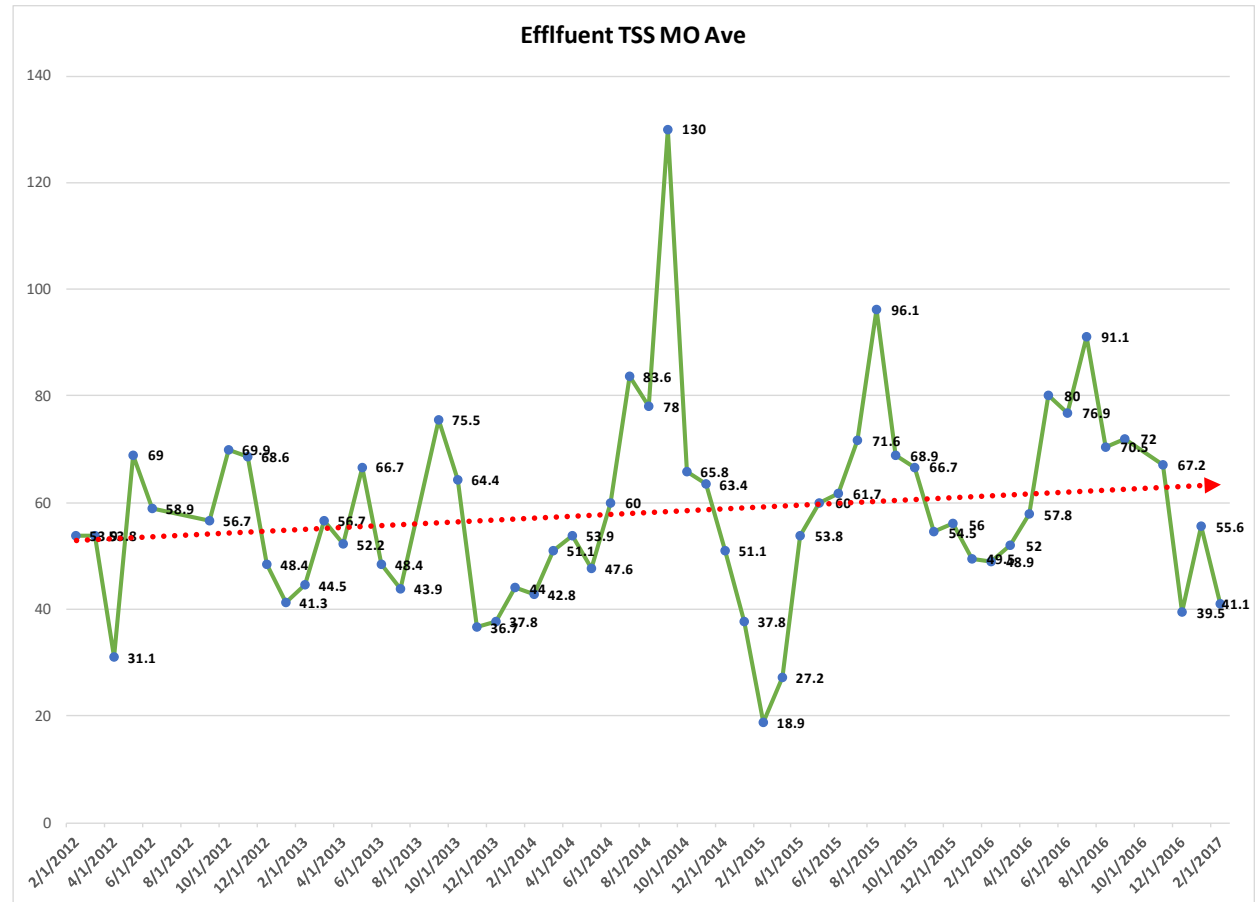
Intra-Pond BOD, CBOD, SCBOD, TSS and Ammonia Results in the Lagoon System



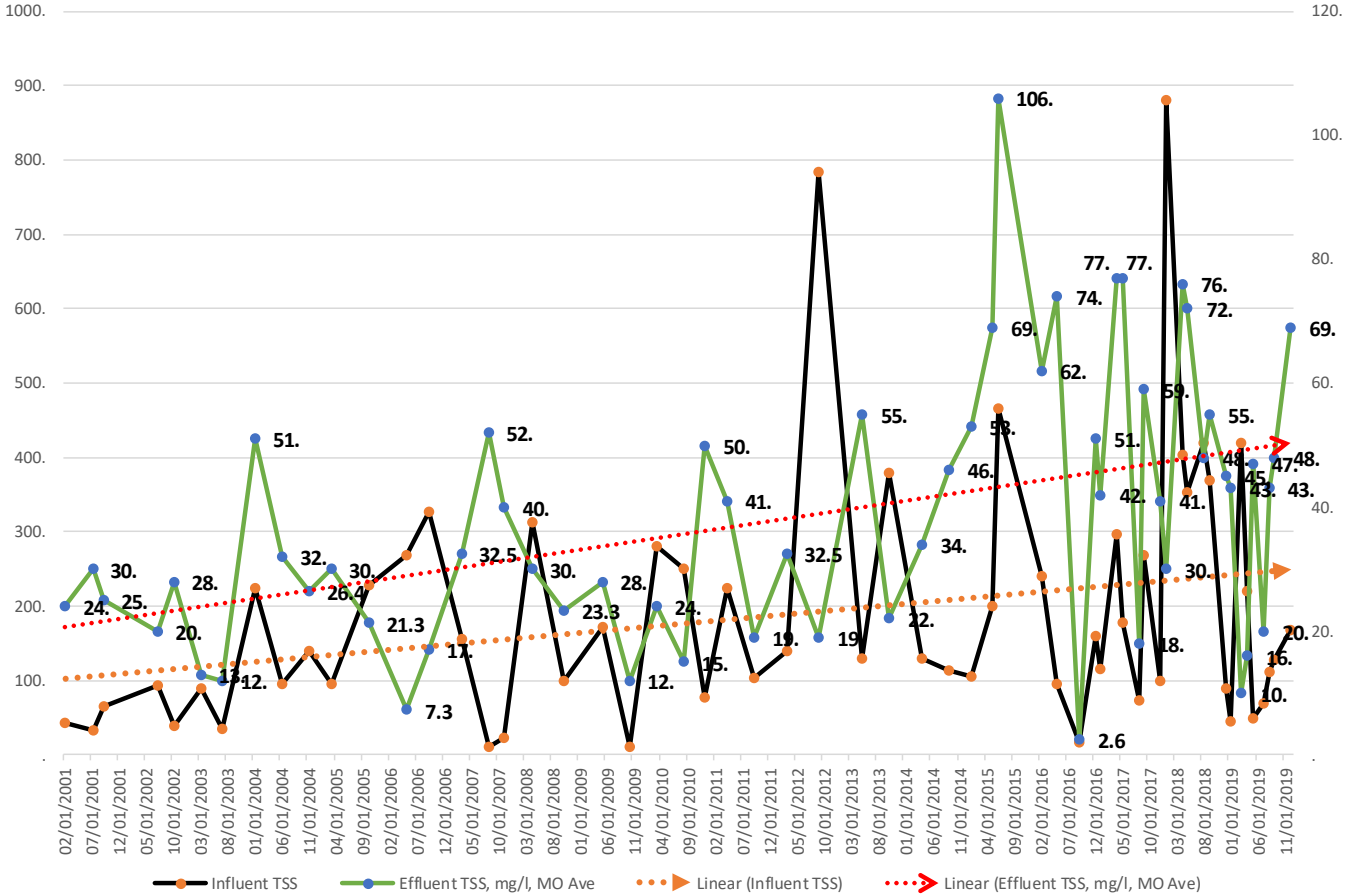
Average Yearly TSS and BOD



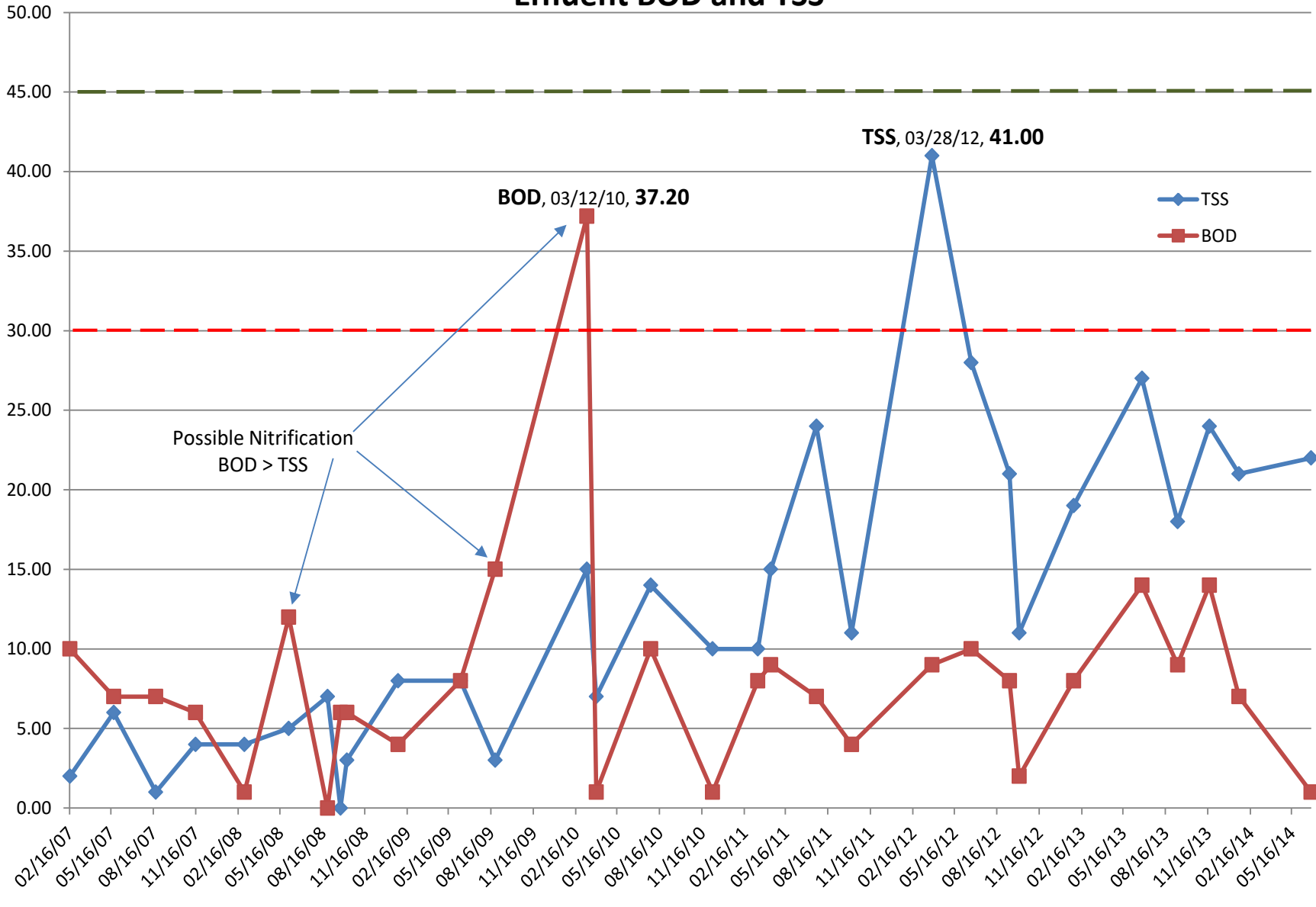
Here is what accumulated sludge looks like over time:



Twenty Years of Influent and Effluent Total Suspended Solids



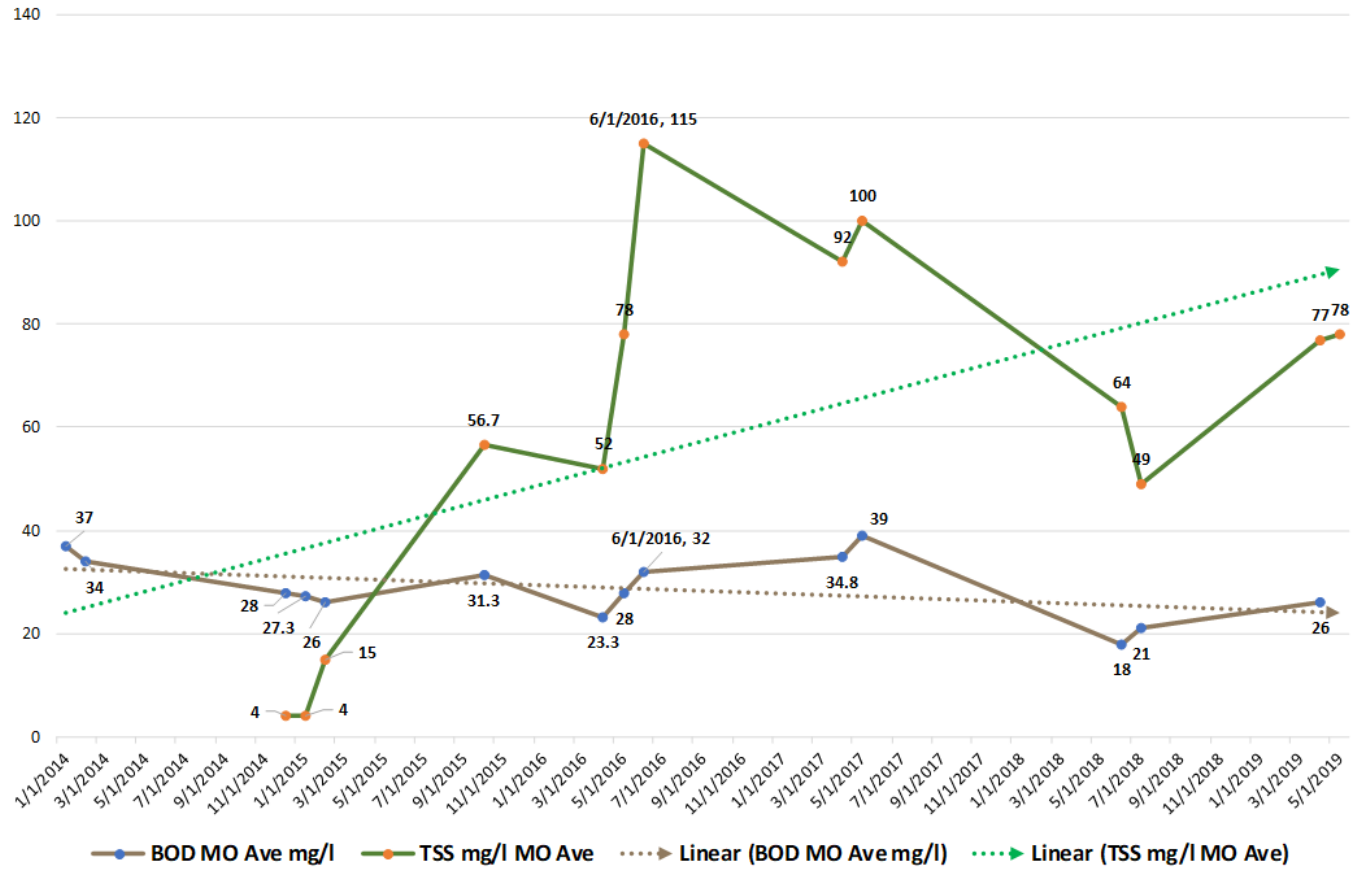
Seven Year and Four Month History of STP Effluent BOD and TSS







Five Years of Effluent TSS and BOD₅ for the [REDACTED] Wastewater Pond System



D.O Crashes in the early morning hours
may be a result of too much algae or
too much sludge



Rising Sludge Caused by Nitrification



Too little water over a sludge blanket
can cause odors



Odors



Things that Add to Sludge Accumulation



Erosion



Septage





Causes of Sludge Accumulation



Leaves



Duck Weed



Solids Leaving the lagoon
Can Cause Clogging of Perc Basins



If not removed, cattails and rushes can cause solids accumulation as they die and decay. These cattails are growing on top of accumulated sludge.

Sludge can choke off transfer structure
flows





In this system
sludge has been
Leaving the
lagoon through
the effluent
pipe for years







How to Sludge Judge a Lagoon



There are different purposes for sludge judging a lagoon system

- Determine a sludge accumulation rate
- To estimate sludge volume and mass for a dredging contractor
- To determine if accumulated sludge has reached the effluent pipe to the point where sludge is flowing out with the effluent
- For permit or compliance requirements

Grid your lagoon out









Why do you want to grid your lagoon out?





















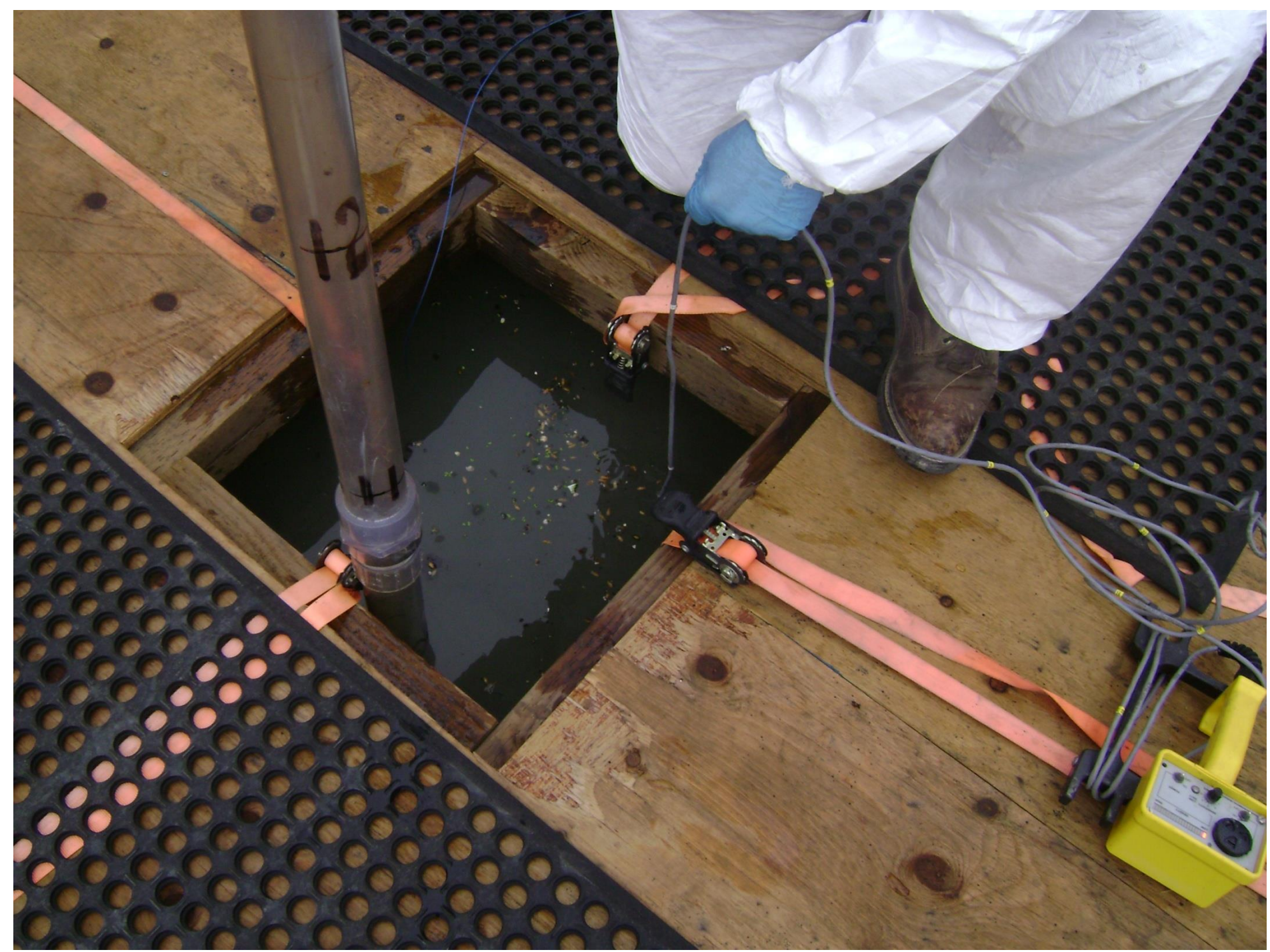






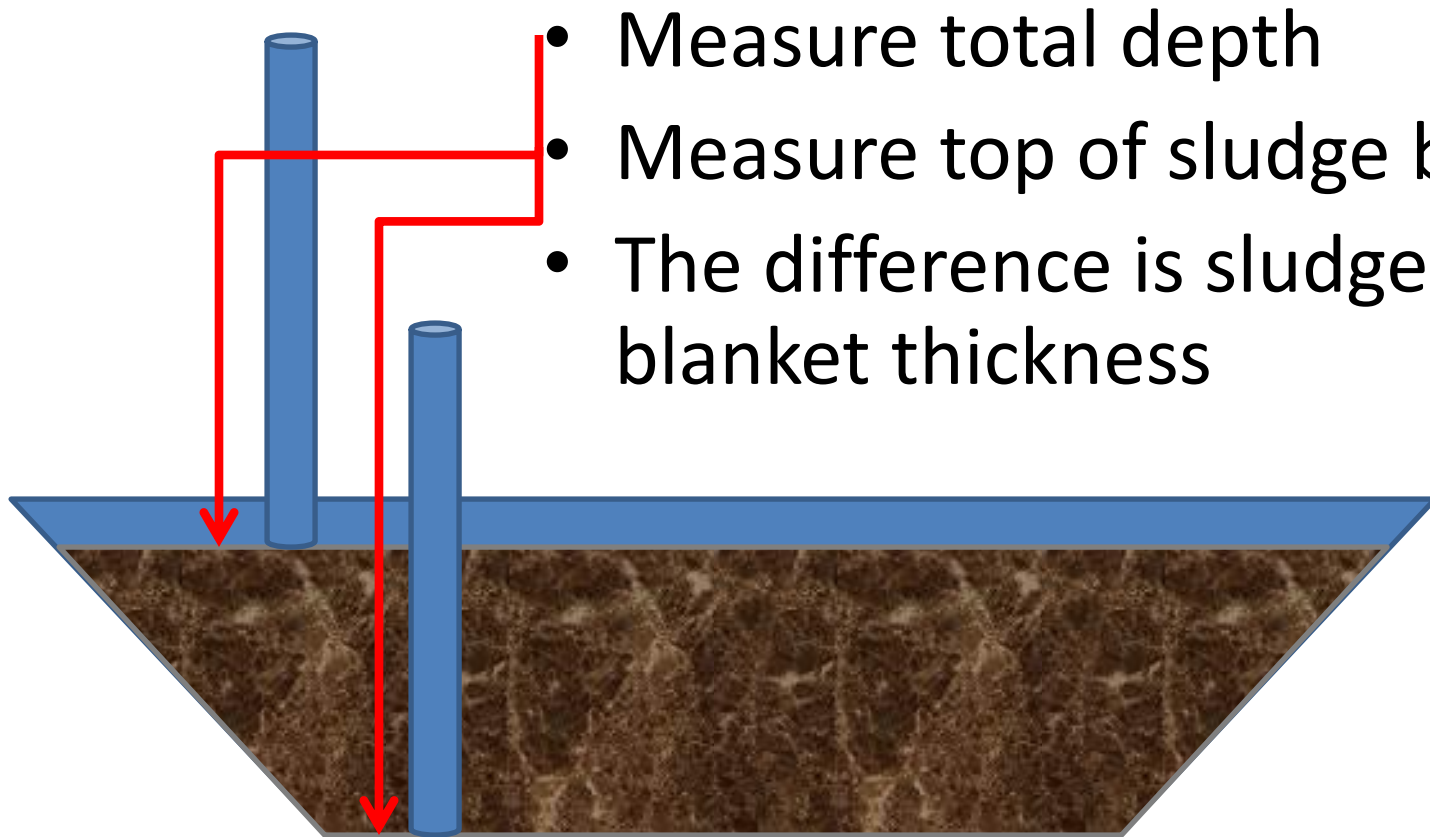








Measuring Sludge Blanket Thickness



- Measure total depth
- Measure top of sludge blanket
- The difference is sludge blanket thickness

How You Measure a Sludge Blanket Can Make a Difference

There is a 33.5 % Difference in Sludge Blanket Thickness by Measuring the Top of the Blanket

City of Marsing
Lagoon A Sludge Levels 2006-2021

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2016	2017	2018	2020		5/26/2021
A	4'	2'3"	3'	2'6"	3'	2'8"	3'	3'	1'6"	0'8"	1'3"	1'3"	1'	A	2'5"
B	1'	1'	1'6"	2'	1'	1'	0'2"	1'	1'3"	1'	1'8"	1'	2'6"	B	0'7"
C	1'	0'6"	1'6"	1'6"	1'10"	2'	2'	2'	1'11"	1'	2'	2'	8"	C	2'4"
D	2'	2'	1'6"	2'6"	1'10"	2'6"	2'3"	2'2"	2'3"	2'	2'4"	2'3"	2'6"	D	3'2"
E	2'8"	1'	2'	1'6"	1'6"	1'2"	2'2"	2'3"	0'10"	2'6"	2'6"	2'2"	2'2"	E	4'6"
F	1'	1'	1'	0'10"	0'10"	0'10"	1'2"	1'4"	0'11"	2'	1'6"	1'	1'8"	F	3'4"
G	2'	1'	0'6"	0'1"	0'	0'6"	1'	0'10"	3'2"	3'	3'	2'2"	1'8"	G	3'1"
H	2'	2'6"	2'6"	2'6"	3'	2'6"	2'10"	2'10"	2'3"	2'4"	3'	2'4"	2'10"	H	5'2"
I	1'	2'	2'	2'	2'4"	2'	3'6"	1'11"	2'6"	2'6"	2'6"	3'	3'	I	4'
J	1'	1'6"	0'6"	1'2"	1'	0'6"	1'2"	1'6"	2'10"	3'	3'2"	3'	3'2"	J	4'1"
K	1'	1'	1'	1'	1'4"	1'6"	2'1"	1'6"	2'8"	3'	3'	3'	3'8"	K	6'1"
L	1'6"	1'	1'	1'	1'1"	0'10"	1'2"	1'10"	2'3"	2'	3'	3'	3'3"	L	5'9"
M	2'	1'6"	2'	2'	1'10"	1'10"	2'3"	2'2"	2'10"	3'	2'10"	2'	2'10"	M	4'10"
N	1'6"	2'6"	2'	2'	2'6"	3'	2'6"	2'10"	2'4"	3'2"	2'10"	3'	3'	N	5'1"
O	2'	1'	2'6"	0'6"	0'5"	0'1"	0'4"	0'6"	2'2"	2'	3'	3'	2'10"	O	5'1"
P	1'6"	0'6"	0'6"	1'	1'4"	1'4"	1'6"	1'6"	1'9"	1'8"	2'6"	1'8"	2'6"	P	1'2"
Q	2'	1'6"	2'	2'	2'	2'	2'	2'2"	2'4"	2'6"	2'10"	3'	2'10"	Q	4'1"
R	1'6"	2'	3'	2'	2'4"	2'2"	3'	2'8"	1'11"	2'6"	2'10"	1'6"	2'3"	R	4'10"
S	1'6"	1'	1'	2'	1'4"	2'4"	1'2"	2'4"	2'	2'4"	2'1"	2'	1'8"	S	3'9"
T	1'6"	0'6"	0'6"	1'	0'6"	0'7"	0'6"	1'6"	1'8"	2'	2'3"	2'	2'	T	1'4"
U	2'8"	2'6"	2'	2'6"	2'6"	2'8"	3'	1'4"	1'2"	1'6"	1'2"	1'4"	2'2"	U	1'8"
Tota	36'4"	29'9"	33'6"	33'7"	33'6"	34'	39'6"	39'2"	45'6"	45'4"	52'3"	44'9"	50'8"	Tota	76'4"
Aver	20.76"	17"	19.14"	19.19"	19.14"	19.42"	22.57"	22.38"	26"	25.90"	29.86"	25.57"	28.95"	Aver	44"

Sludge Judging will tell you
how thick the sludge blanket
is, is there anything else?

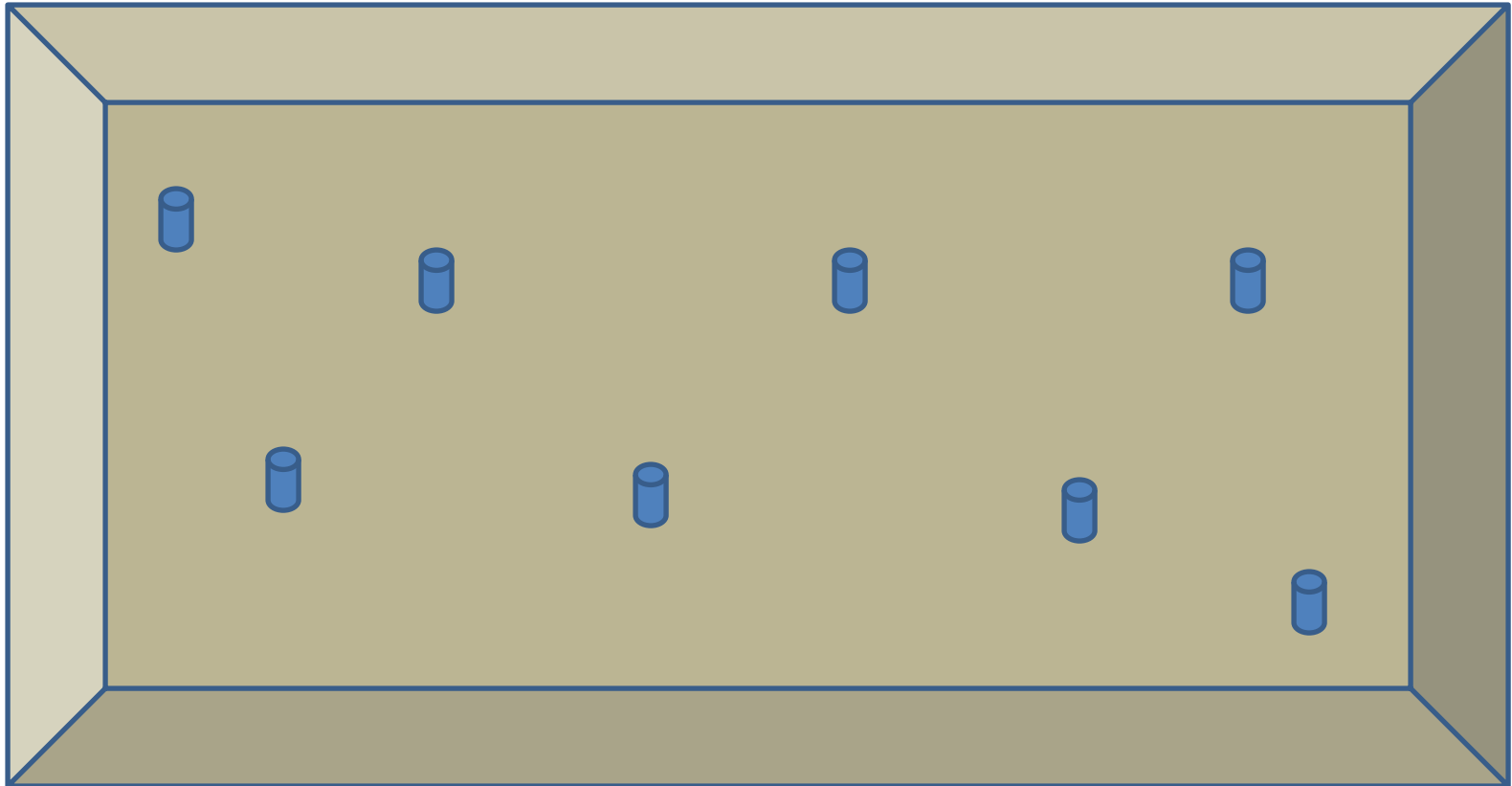


Why would we want to take a sludge sample and send it to the lab?

Sludge Judging
will give you
sludge volume,
core sampling will
give you the mass
of the sludge



Typically you want to pull enough core samples to make a couple of composite samples to get a better idea of the average Total Solids concentration of the sludge





Pulling the
Sample



Contain and Mix
the Sample.
Usually three (3)
or four (4)
samples in one
bucket for a
composite.

Mix Well and Put into
Sample Bottles

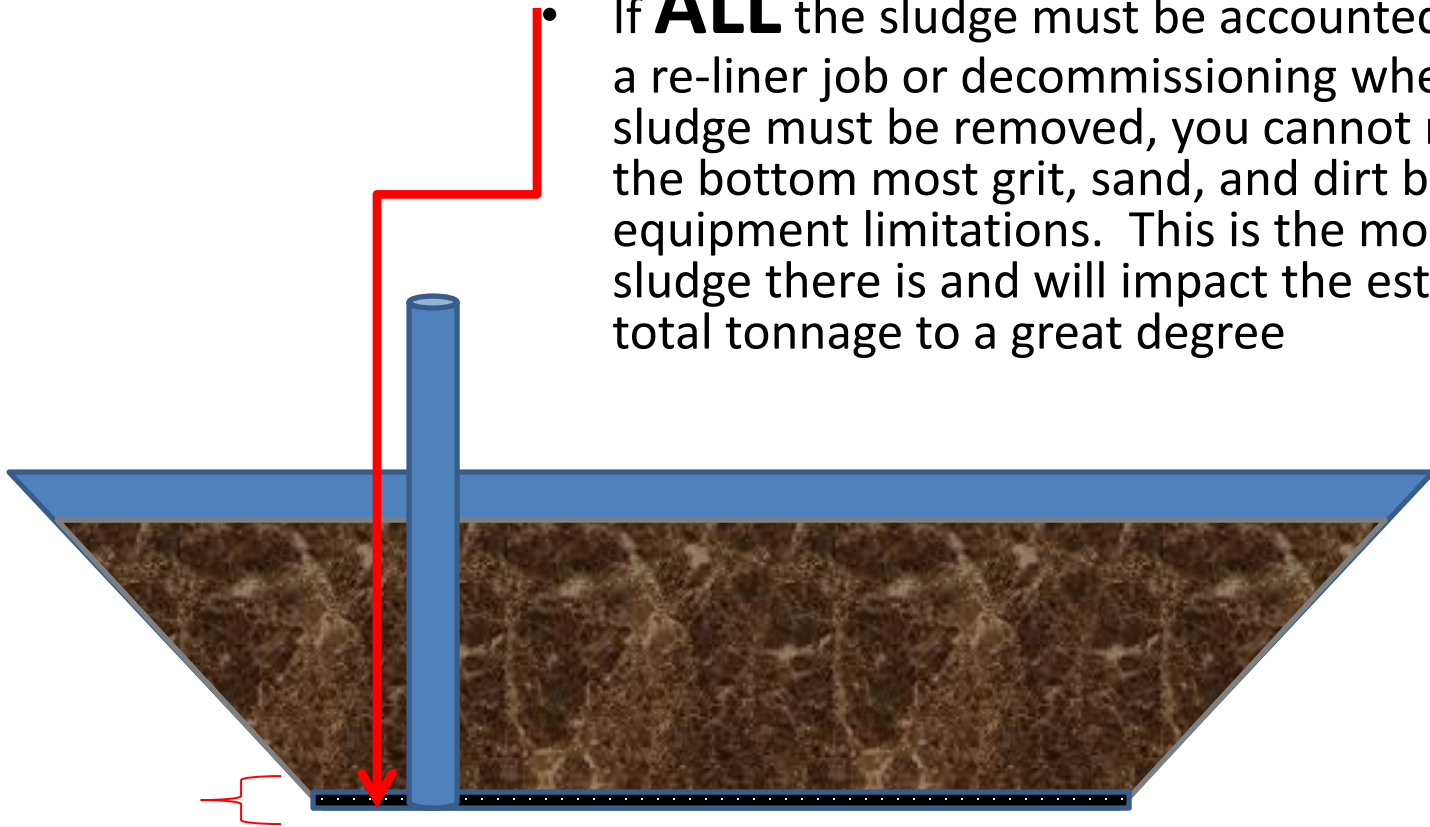






Pulling Core Samples

- If **ALL** the sludge must be accounted for, as in a re-liner job or decommissioning where all the sludge must be removed, you cannot retrieve the bottom most grit, sand, and dirt because of equipment limitations. This is the most dense sludge there is and will impact the estimate of total tonnage to a great degree









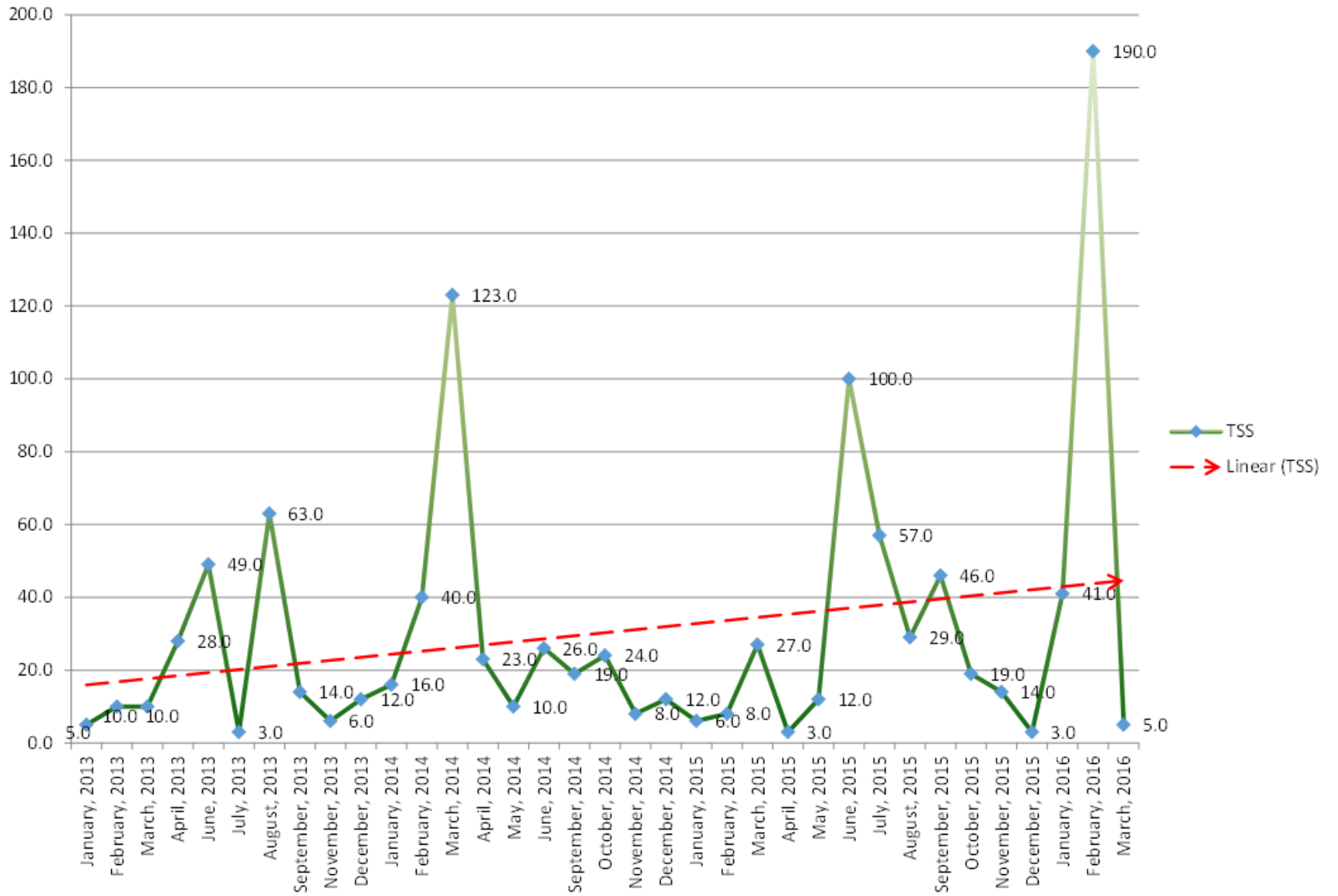




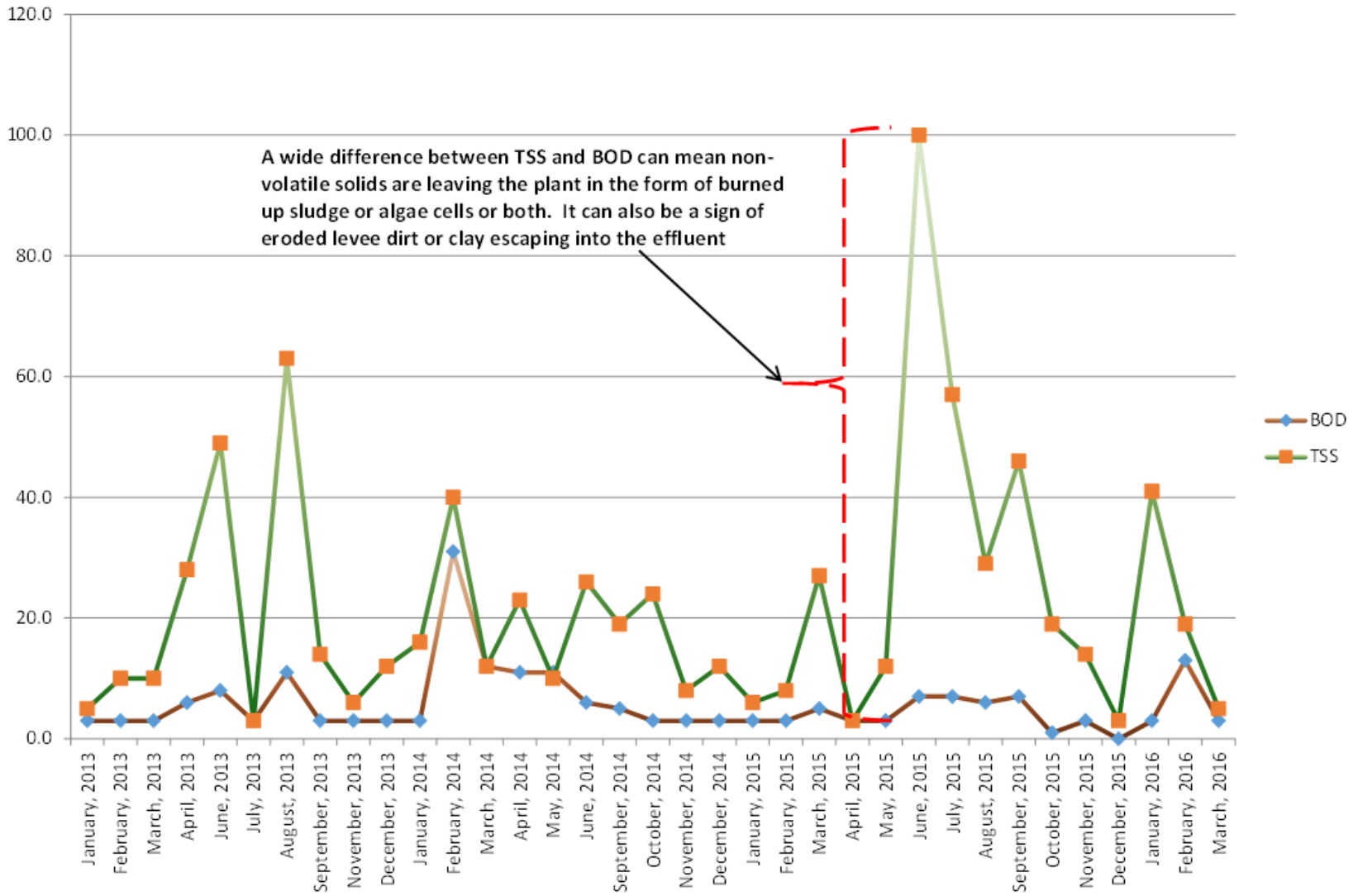




Effluent TSS for the Wastewater Treatment Pond System



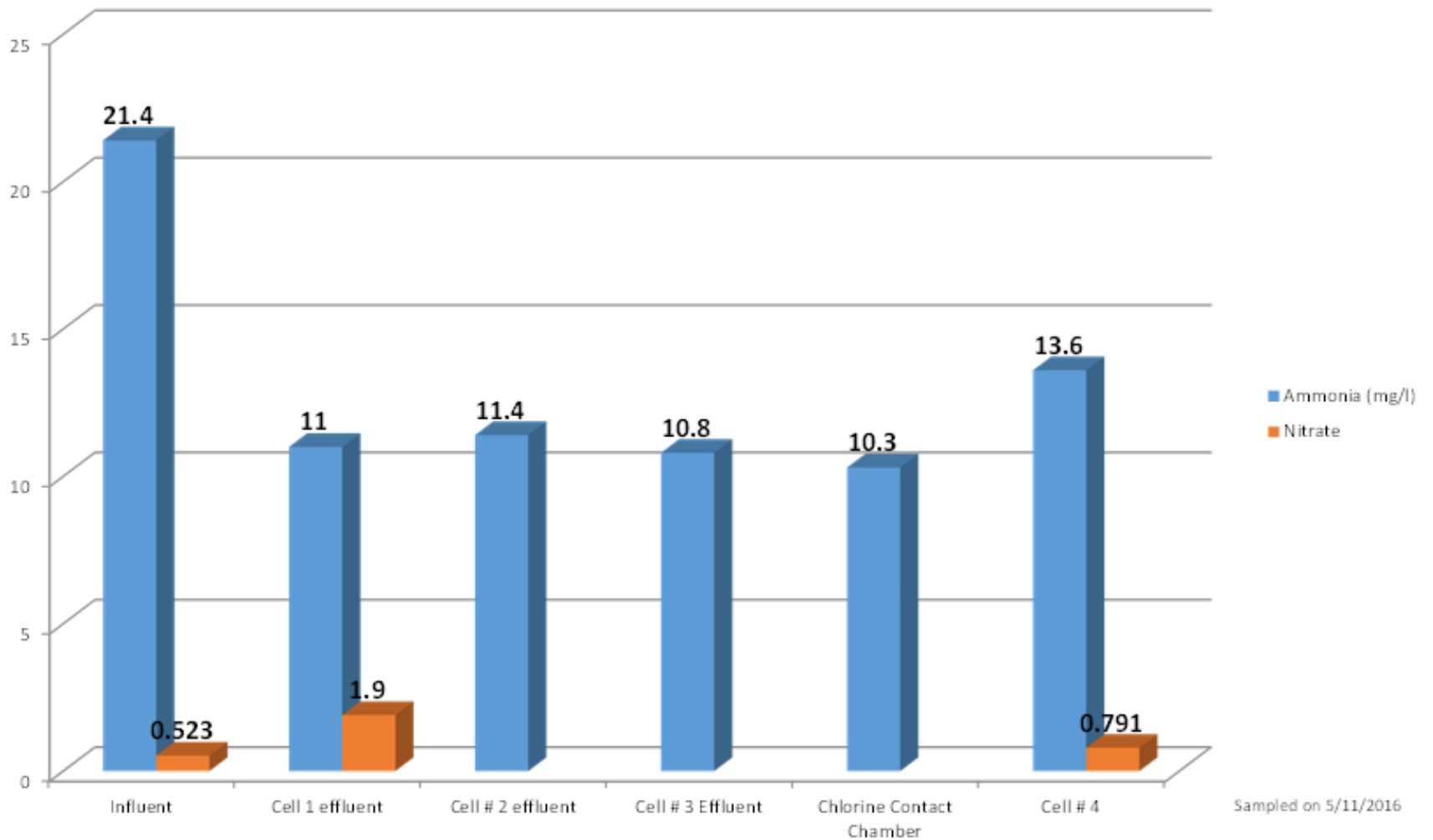
Effluent BOD and TSS on the Same Scale With Outlying Data Removed



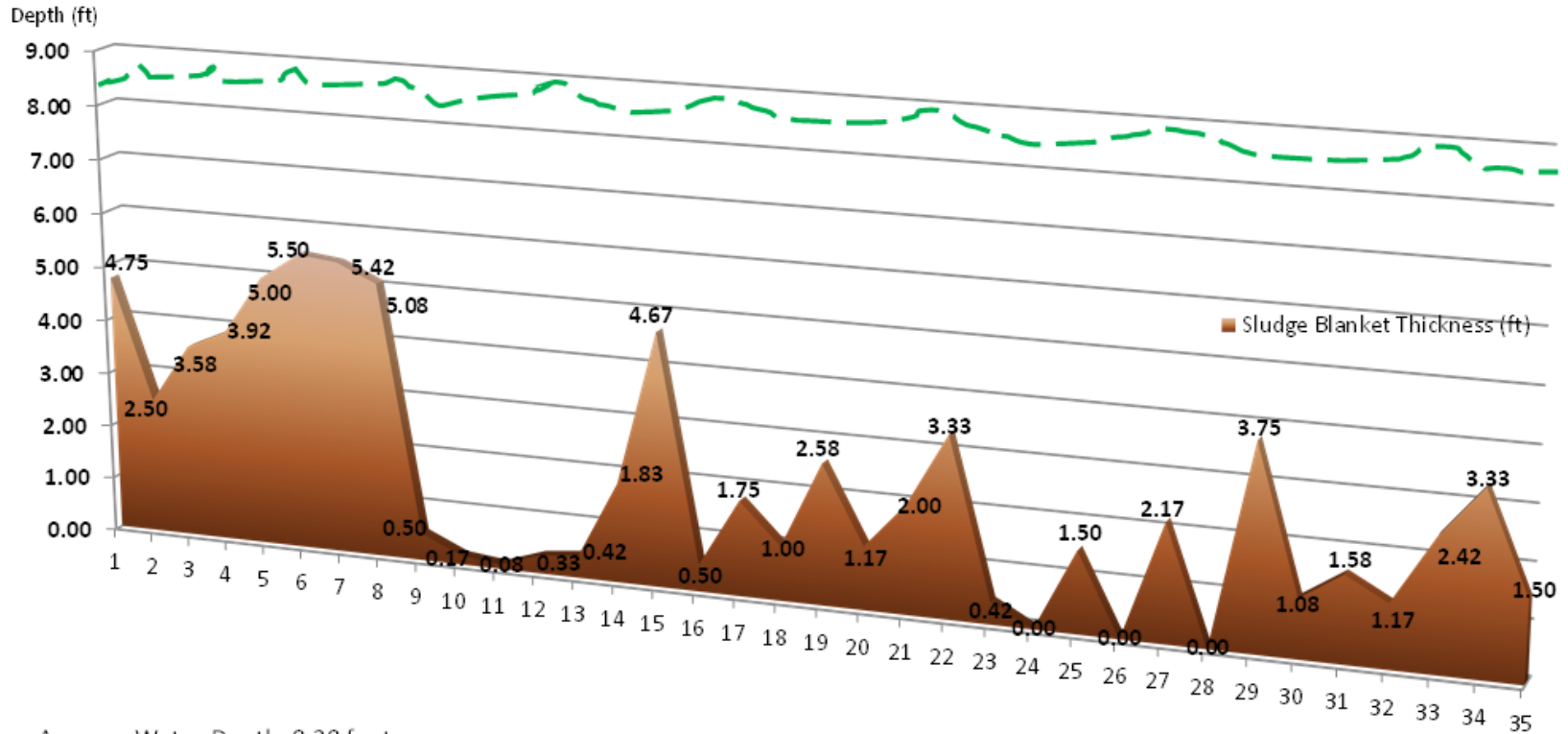




Intra-Pond Ammonia and Nitrate Analysis for the [] Pond System

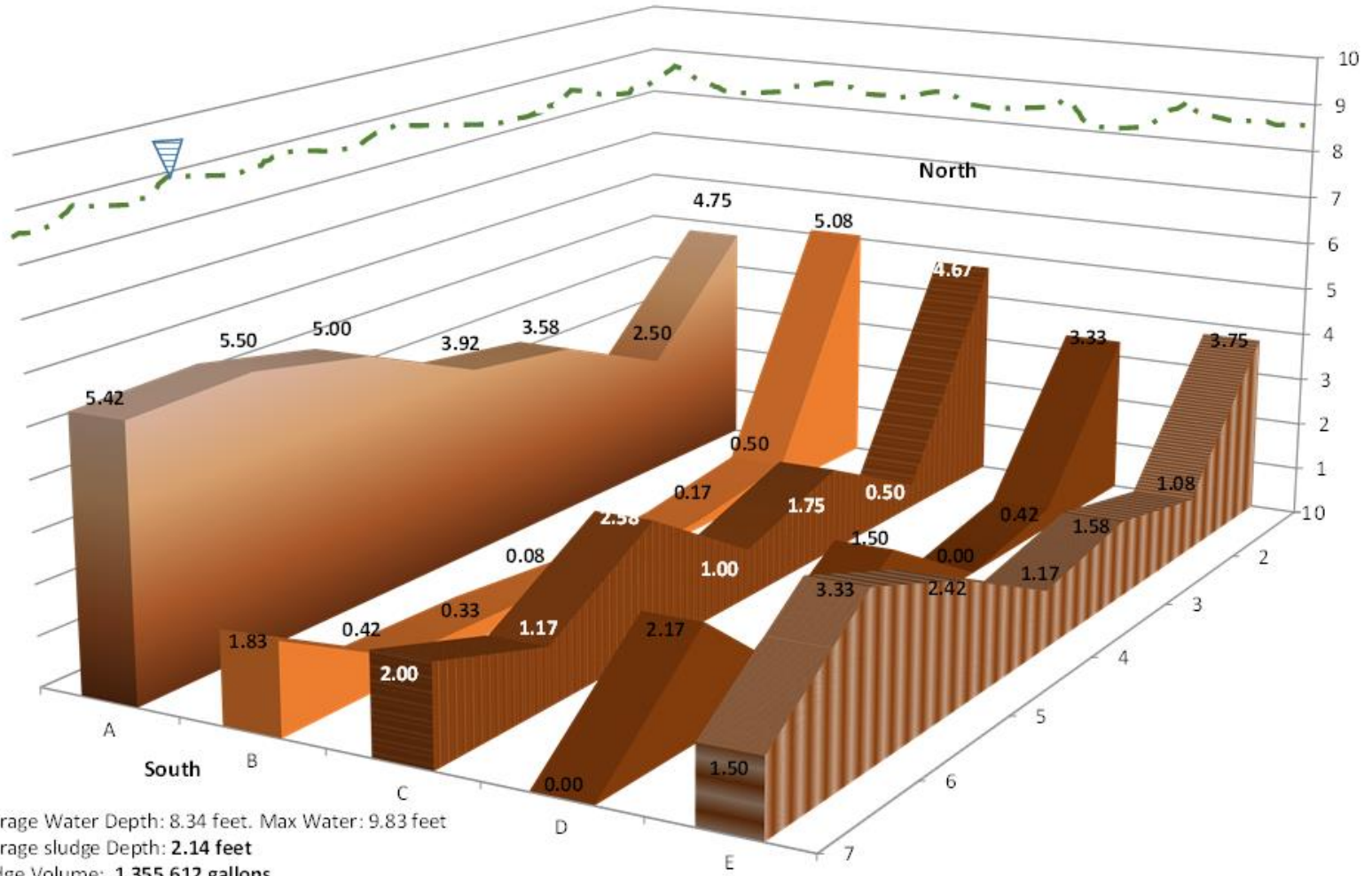


Sludge Blanket Thickness Profile for Cell # 1 of the Wastewater Treatment Plant



Average Water Depth: 8.38 feet
 Average Sludge Depth: **2.14 feet**
 Water Volume: 6,263,739 gallons
 Sludge Volume: **1,355,612 gallons**
 Estimated Sludge Mass based on 6.5% Solids: **382 dry tons**

Sludge Blanket Profile of Cell # 1 of the Wastewater Pond System

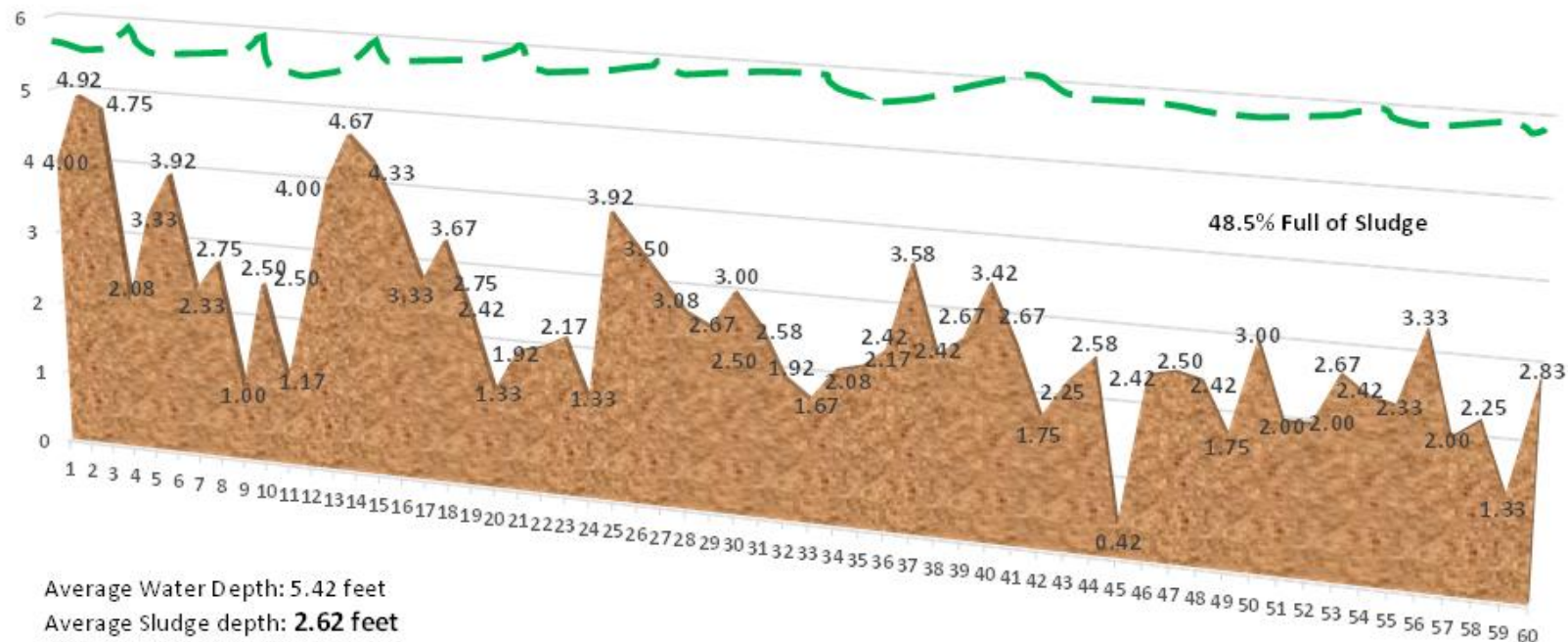


Average Water Depth: 8.34 feet. Max Water: 9.83 feet
 Average sludge Depth: **2.14 feet**
 Sludge Volume: **1,355,612 gallons**

This in my experience is very typical in diffused air systems



Cell # 2 Sludge Blanket Thickness Profile at the Wastewater Lagoon System



Average Water Depth: 5.42 feet

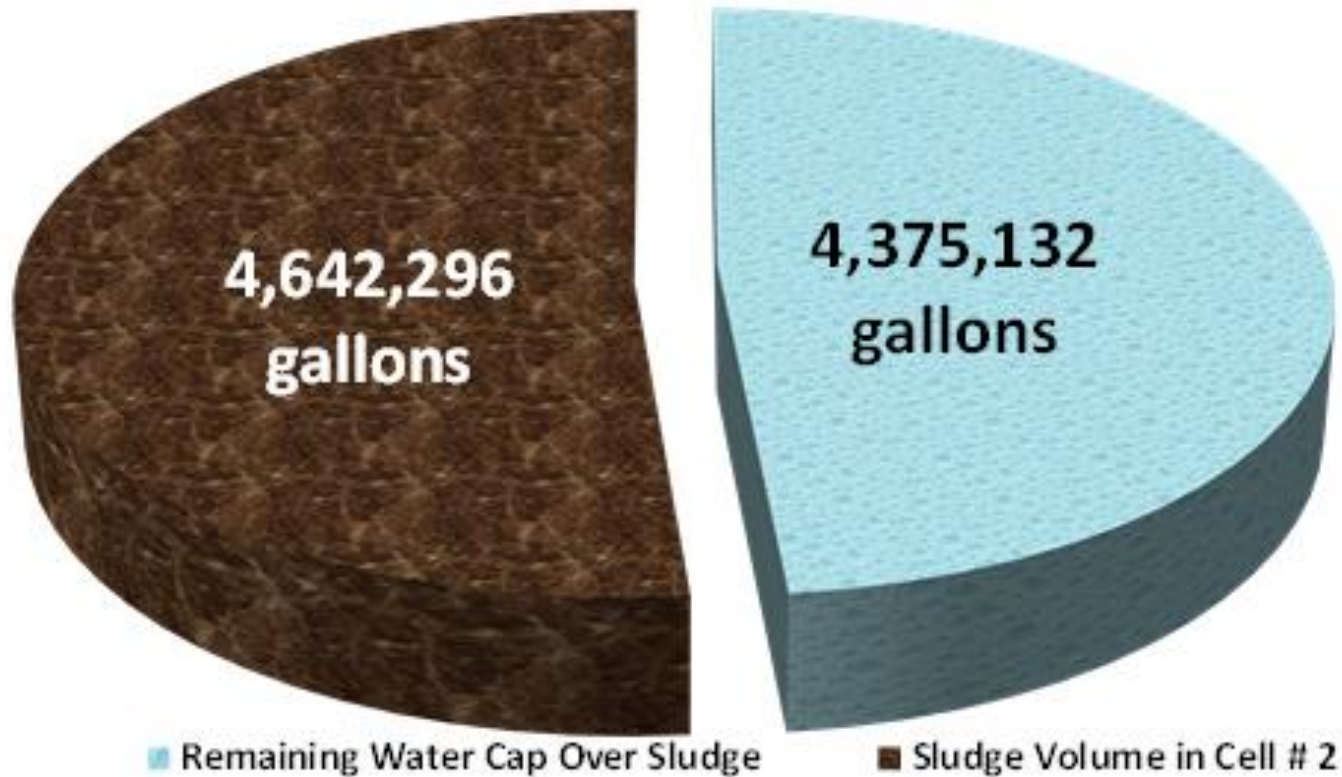
Average Sludge depth: **2.62 feet**

Water Volume: 9,017,428 gallons

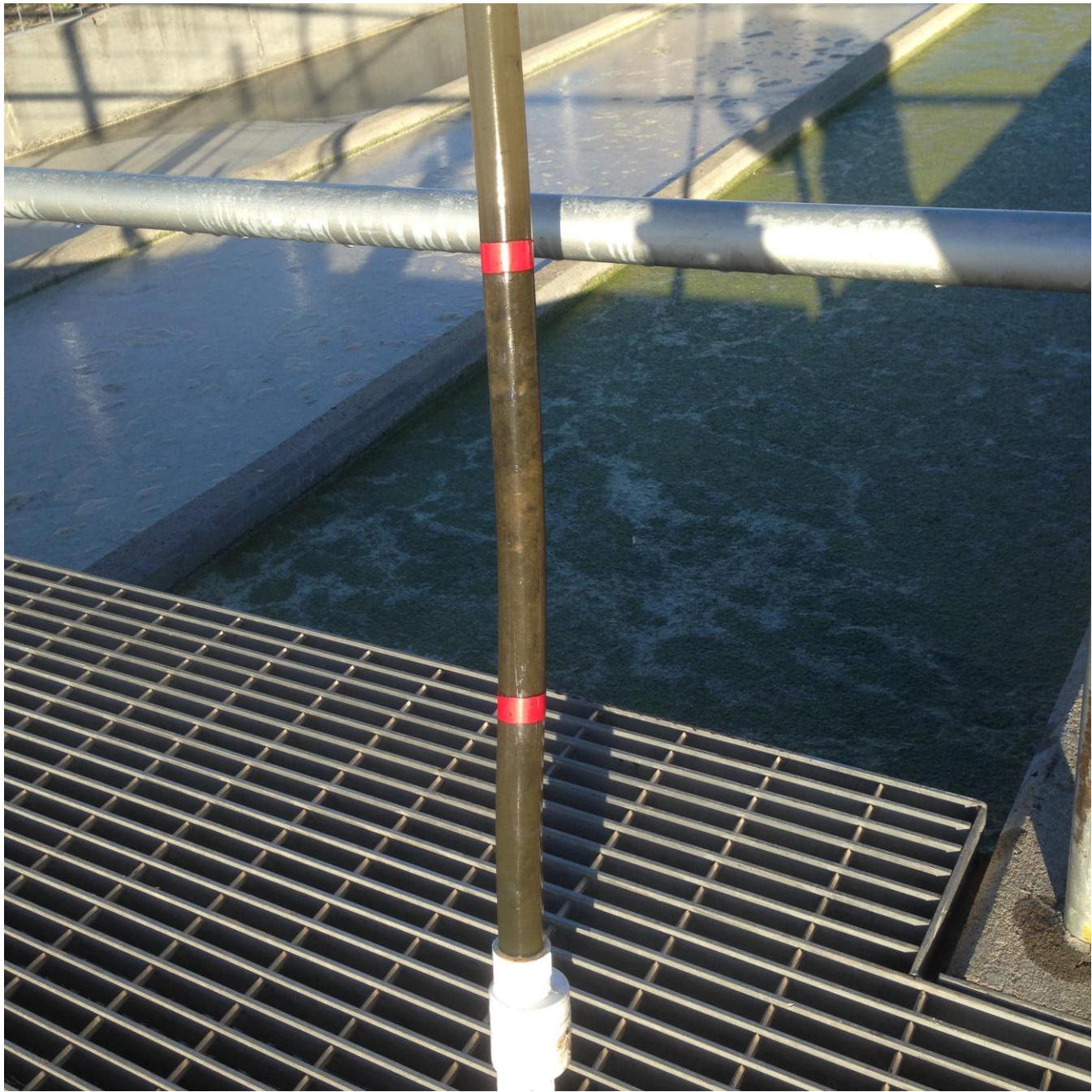
Sludge Volume: **4,642,296 gallons**

Sludge Mass Based on an average TS of 6.82: 1,320 dry tons

Treatment Capacity Replaced by Sludge in Cell # 2



5.89 days of Treatment Time LOST out of 11.45 days

















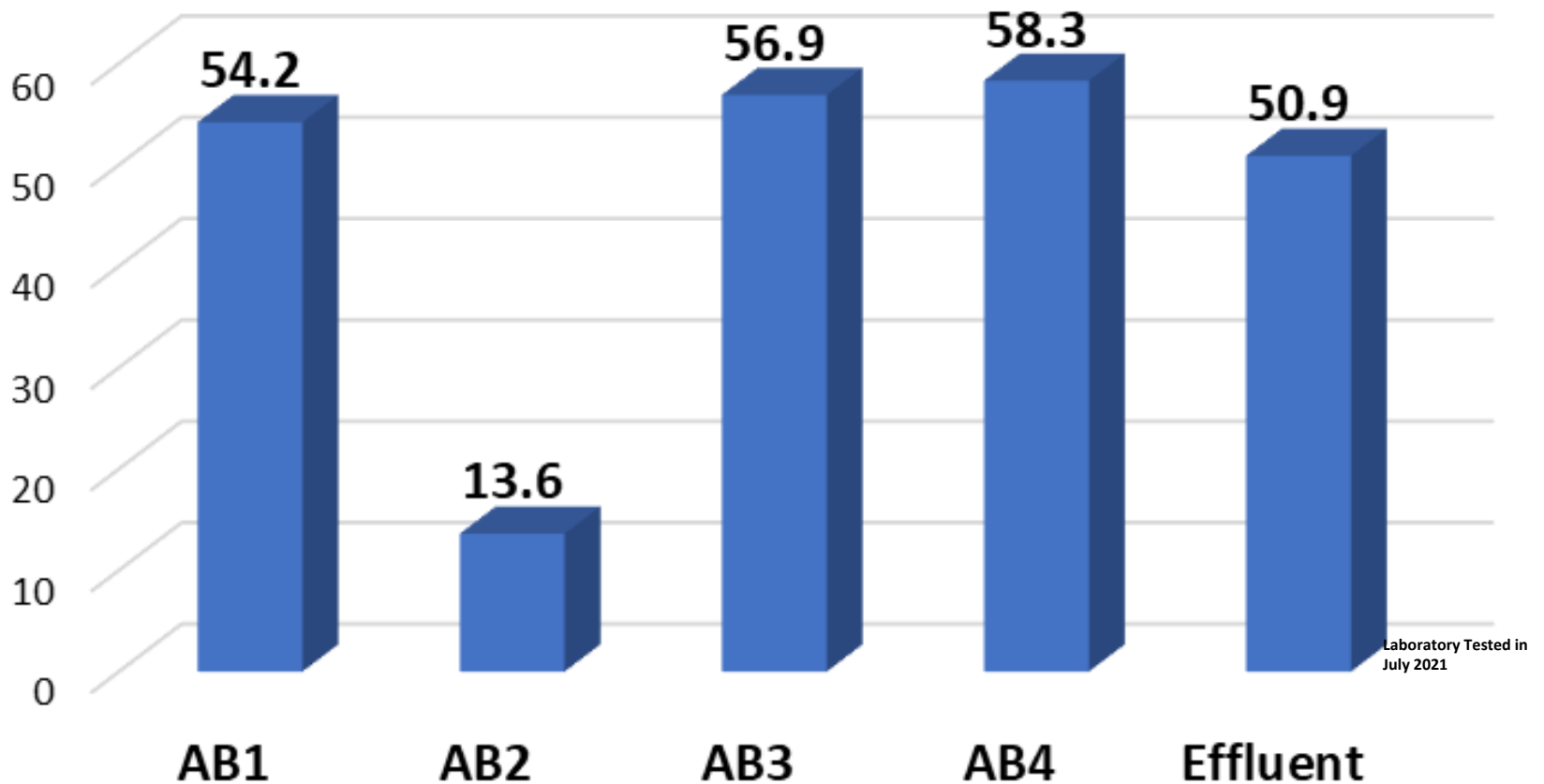
The Effect of Solids Accumulation on Effluent Water Quality

The Problem with Sludge

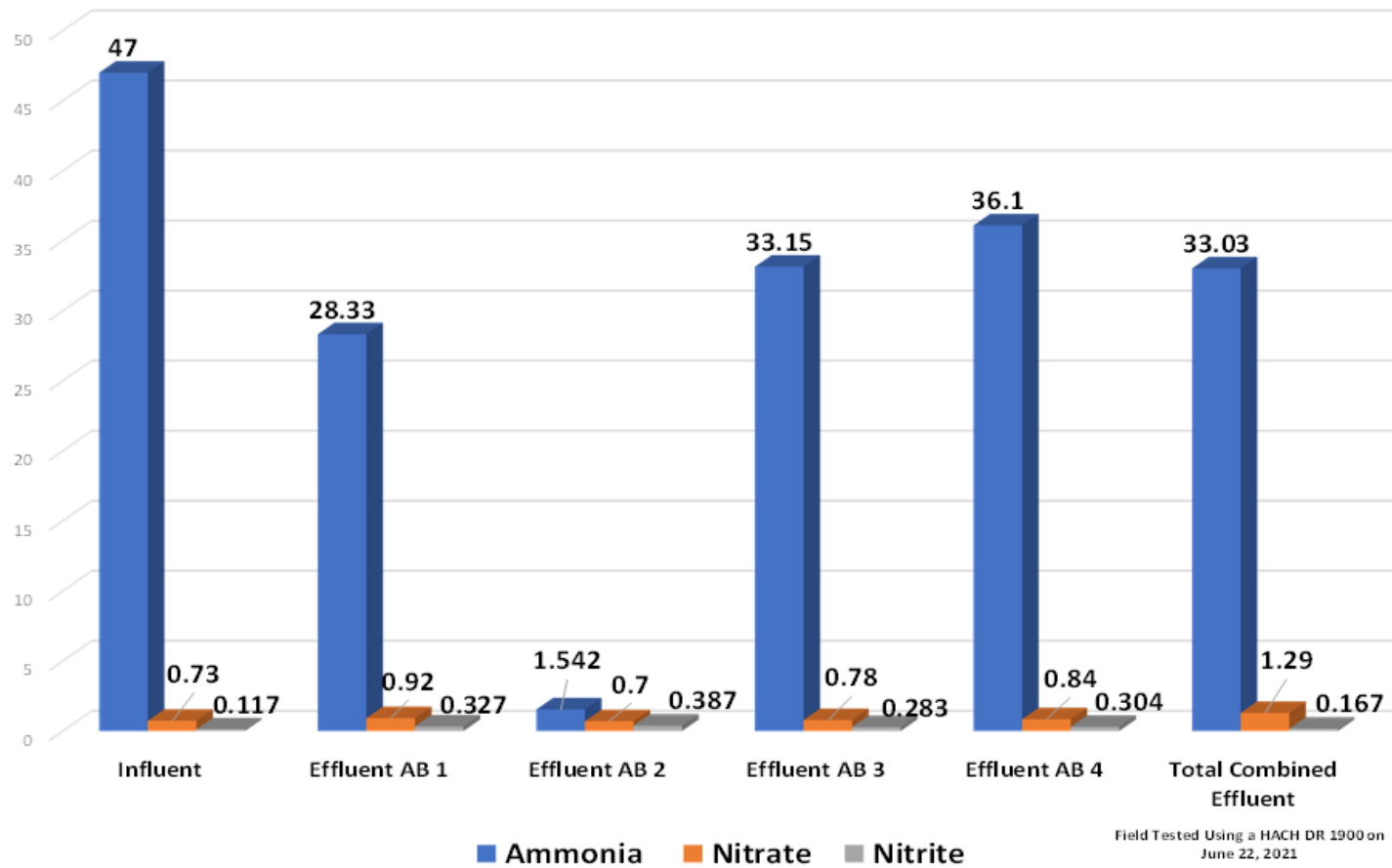


Cell AB2 was Desludged in the Summer of 2019

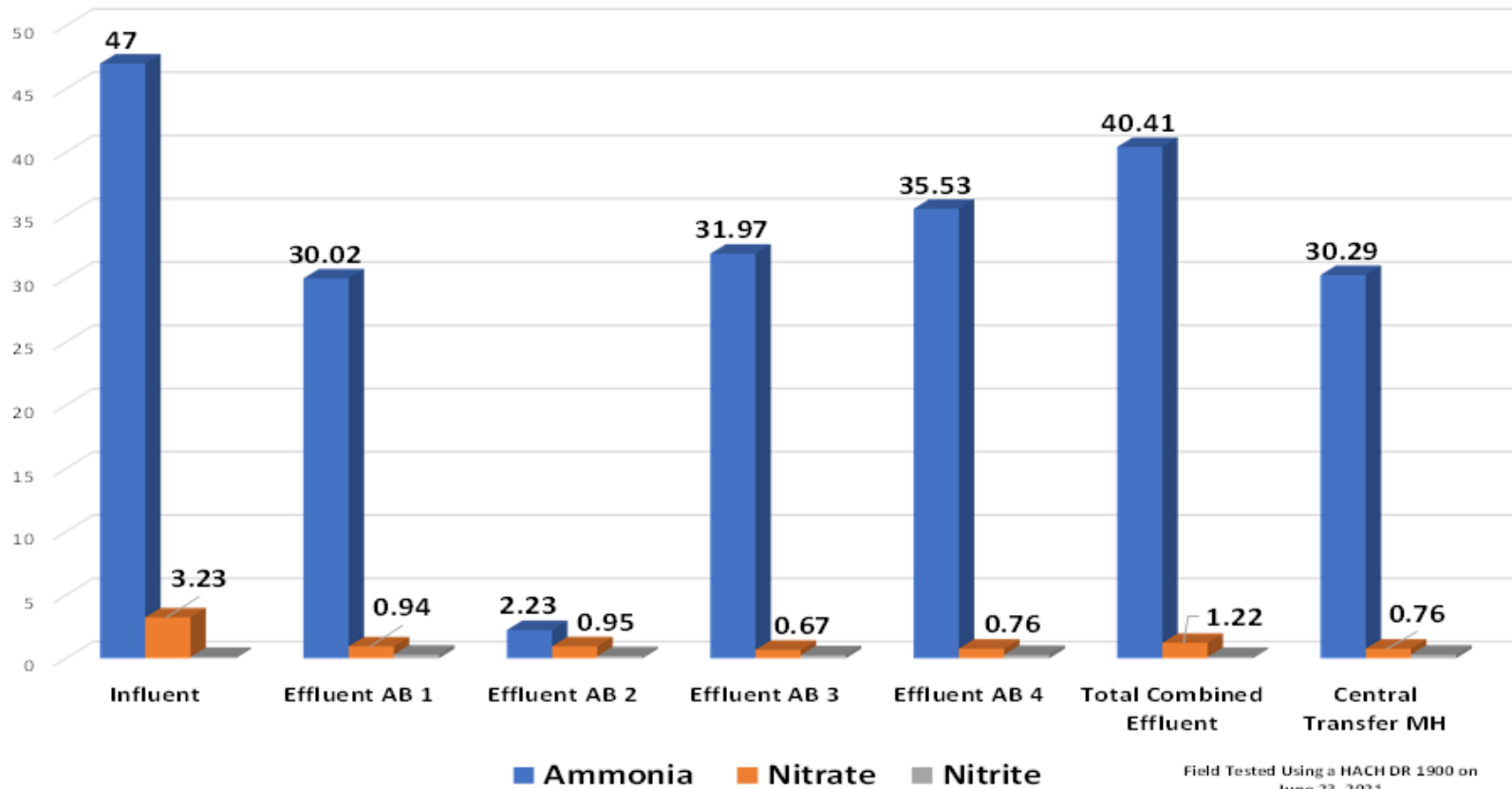
Total Nitrogen



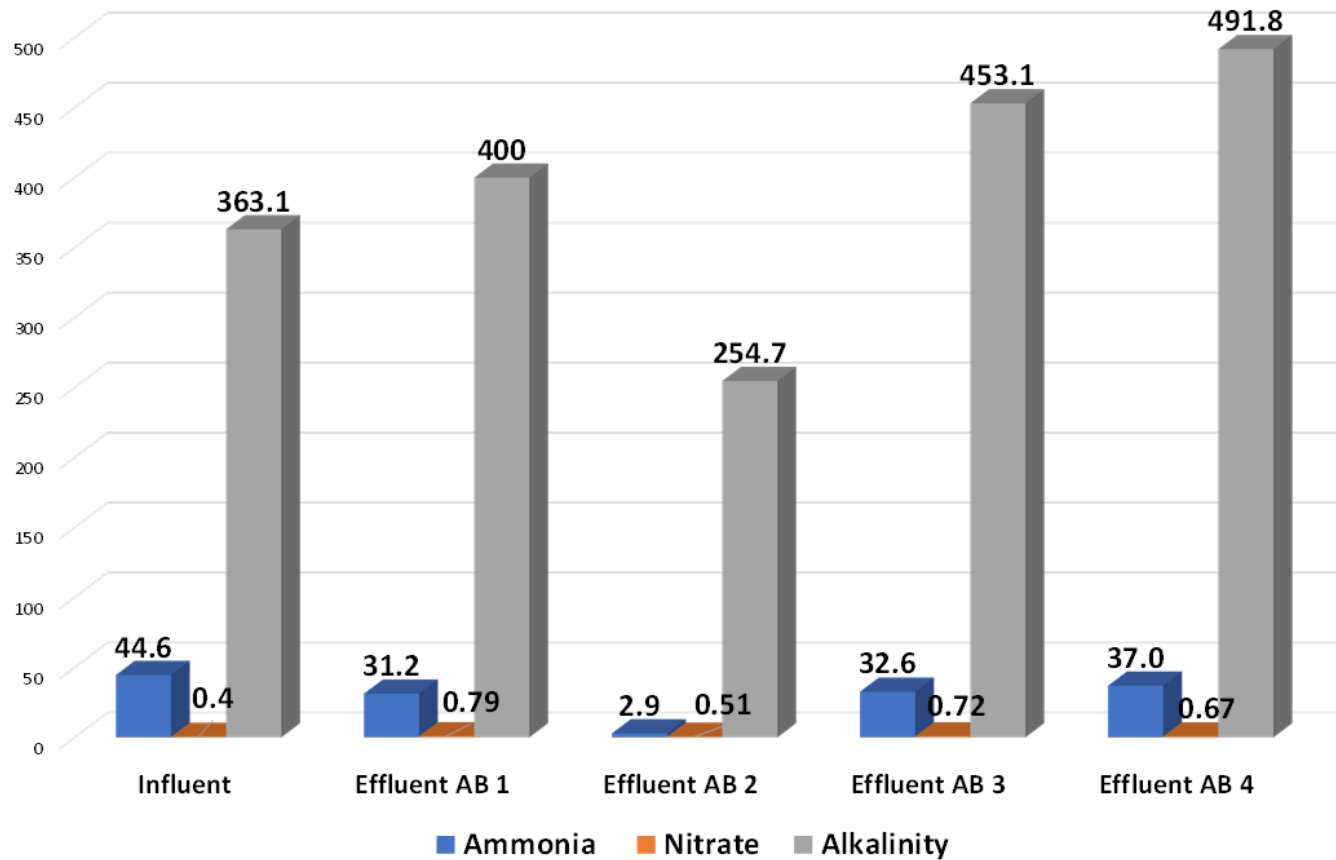
Section 11 Effluent Ammonia, Nitrate, and Nitrite Concentrations



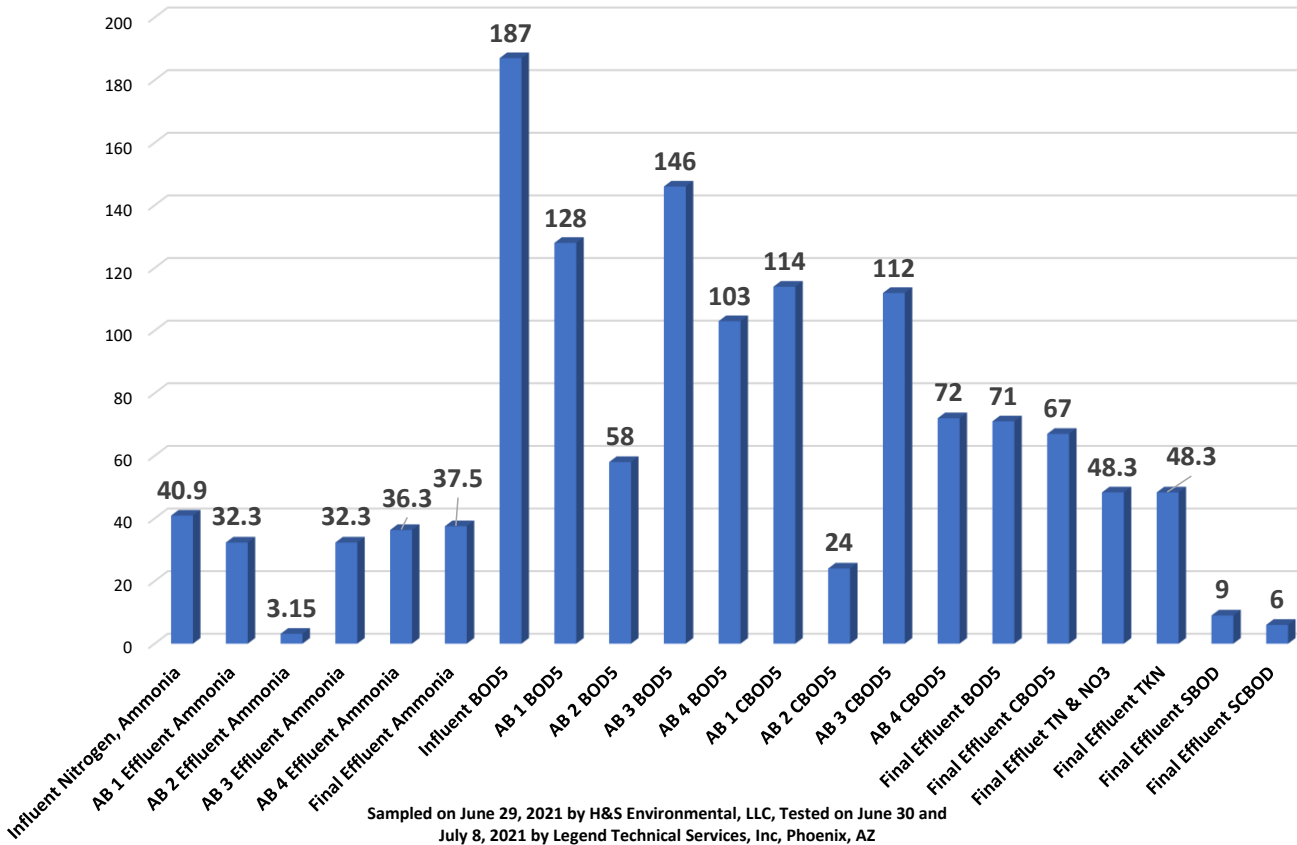
Intra- Pond Ammonia, Nitrate, and Nitrite Concentrations for the Section 11 Pond System



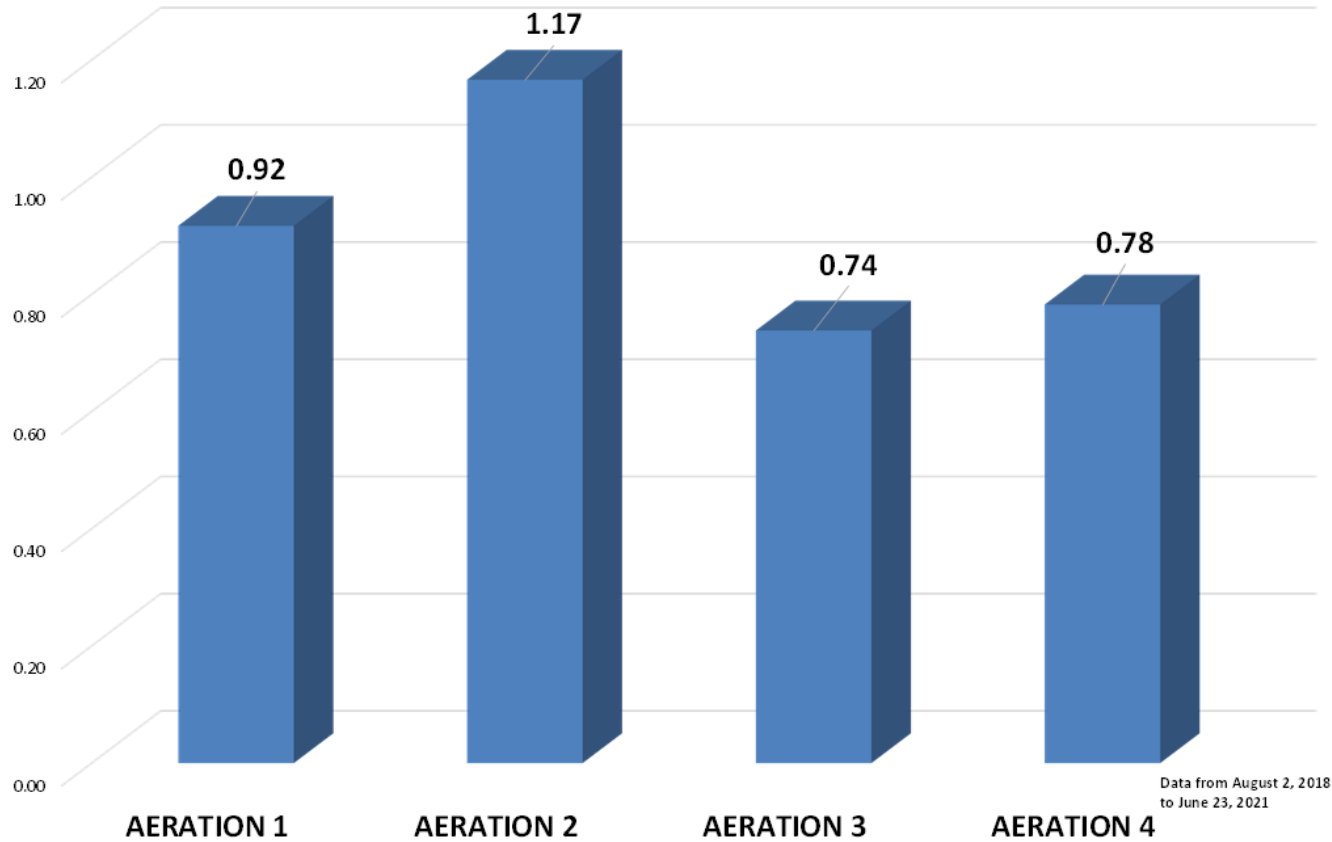
Intra-Pond Effluent Ammonia , Nitrate, and Alkalinity Concentrations for the Section 11 Pond System



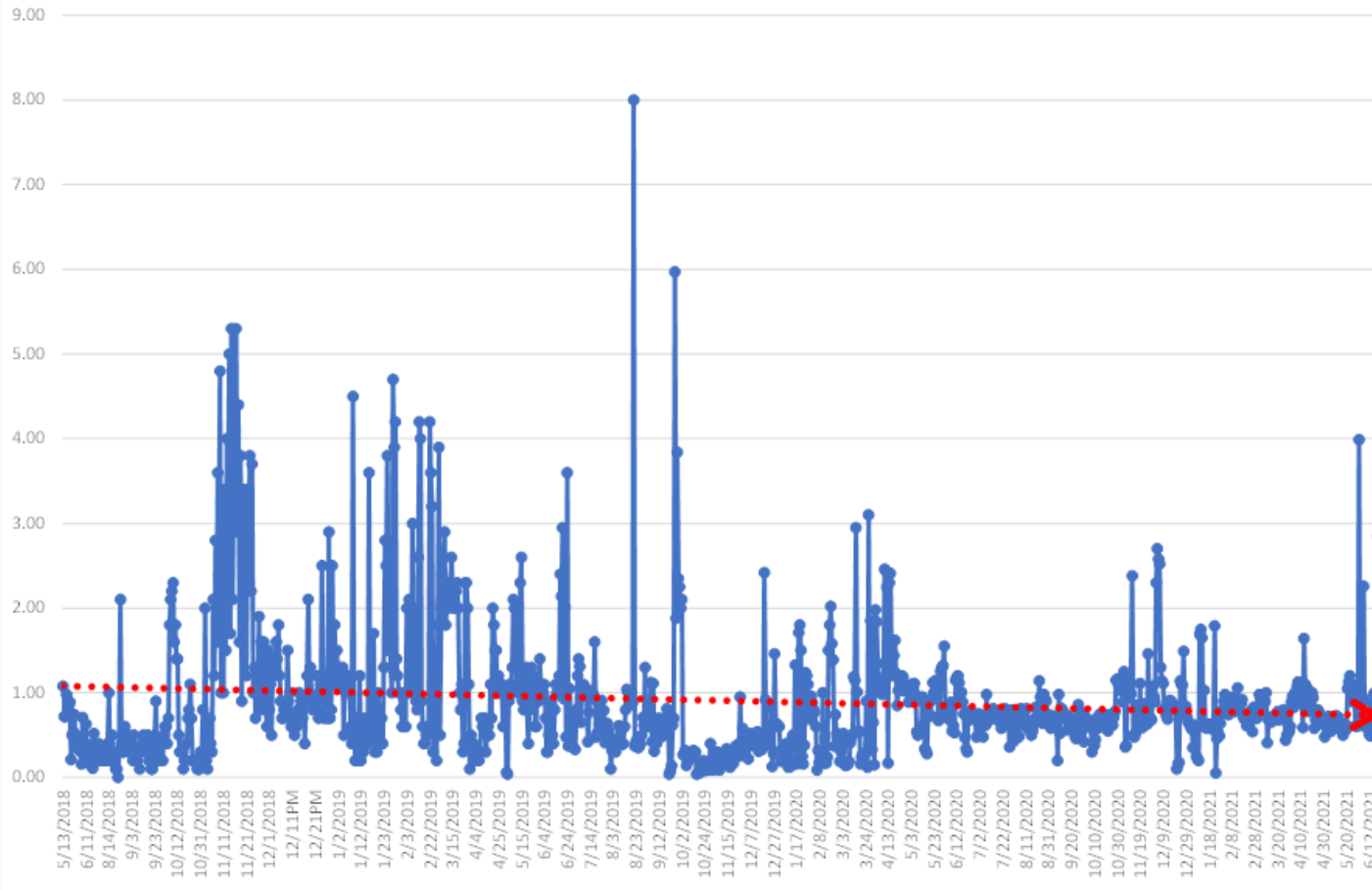
Intra-Pond BOD₅ Laboratory Results for XYZ's Wastewater Lagoon System



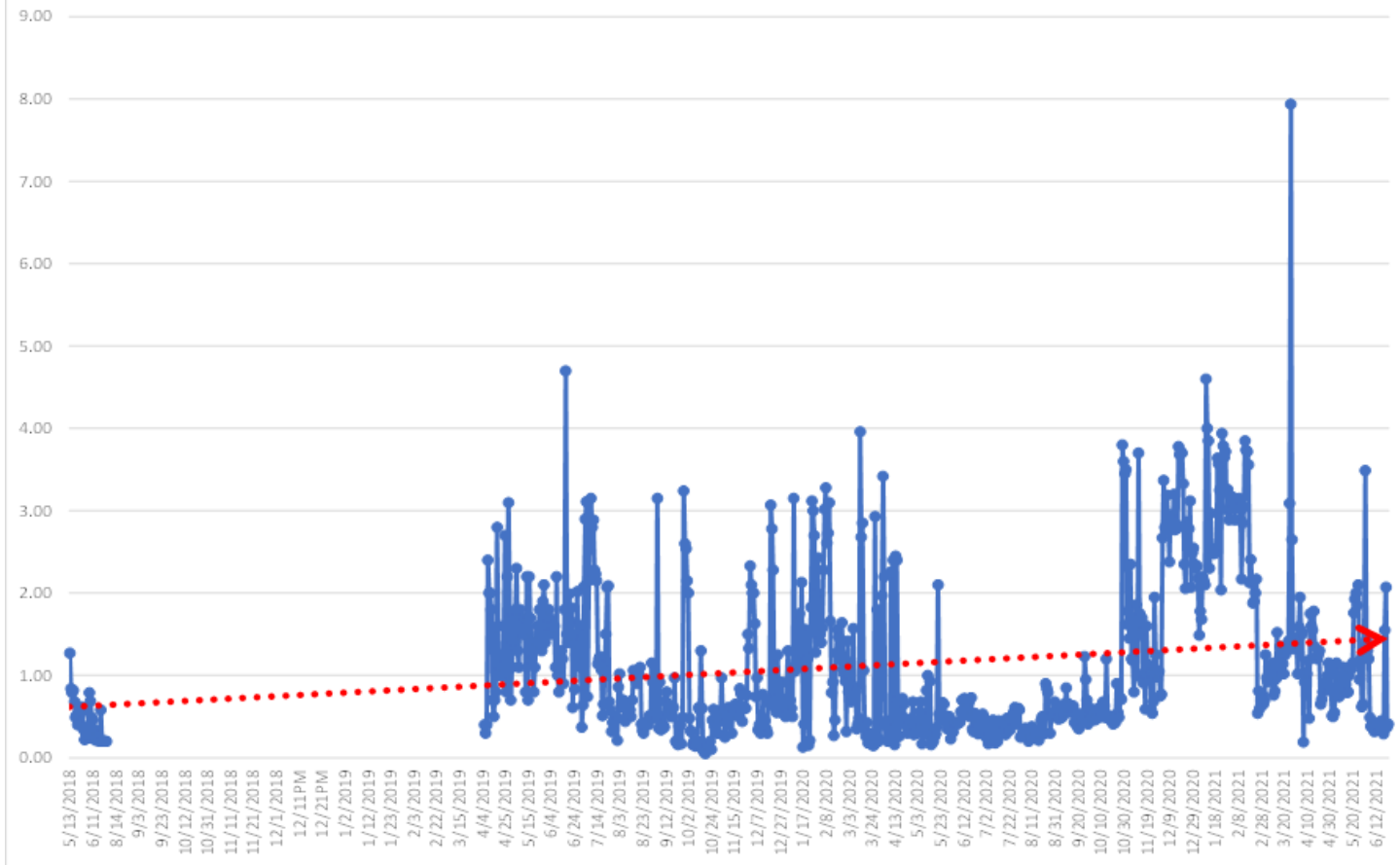
The Average of 2.89 Years of Dissolved Oxygen Results for Section 11



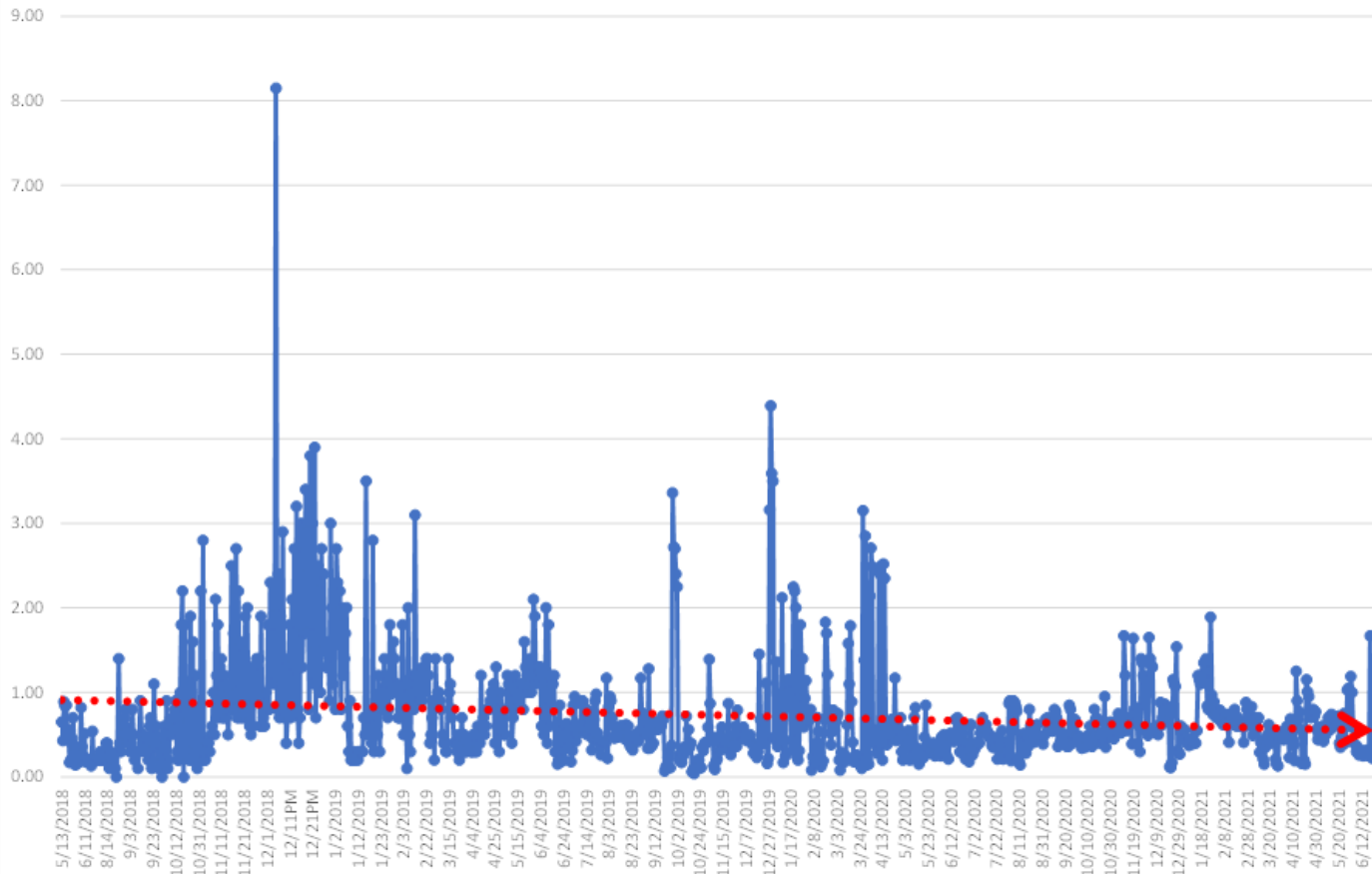
Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations Over the Past Three Years in AERATION BASIN # 1



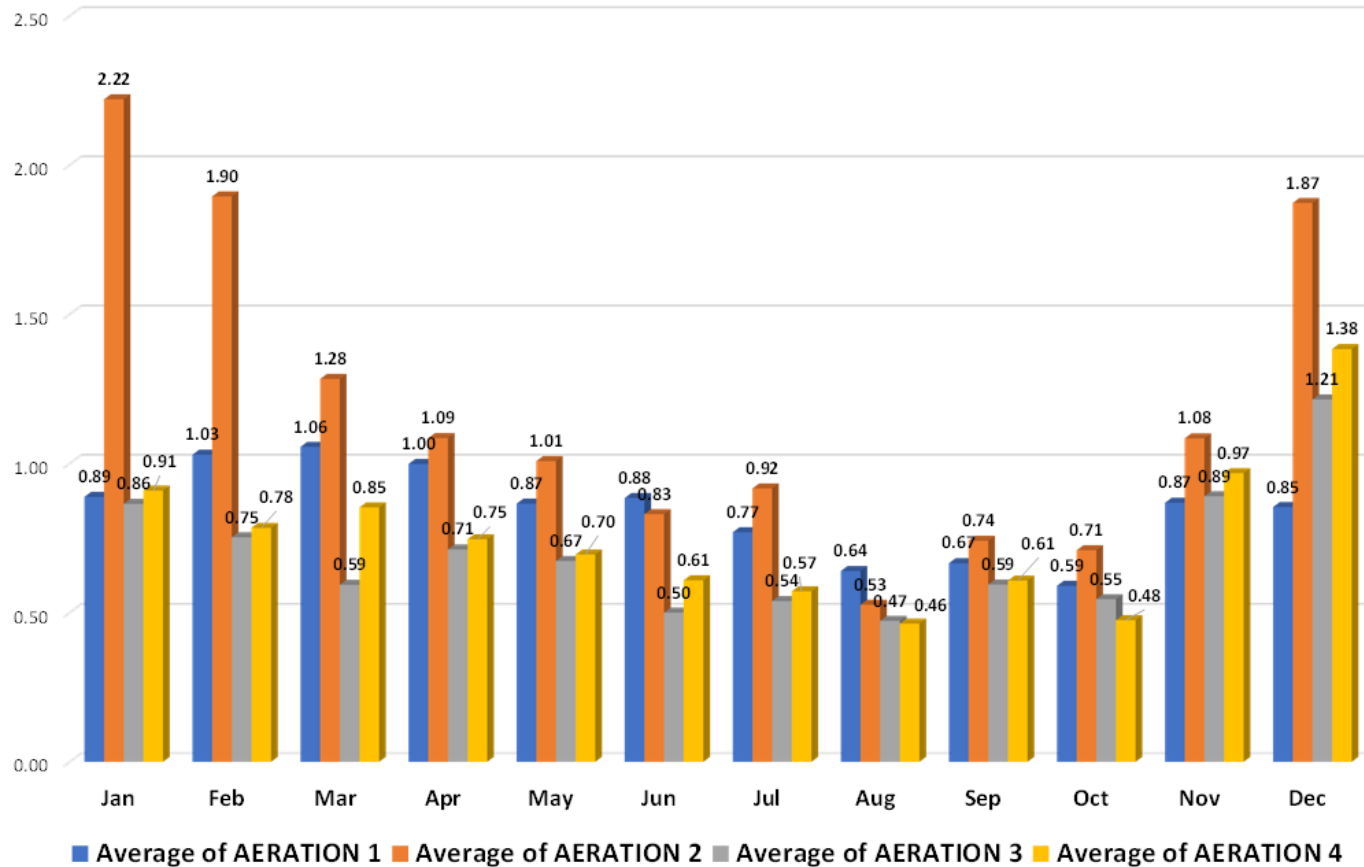
Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations Over the Past Three Years in AERATION BASIN # 2



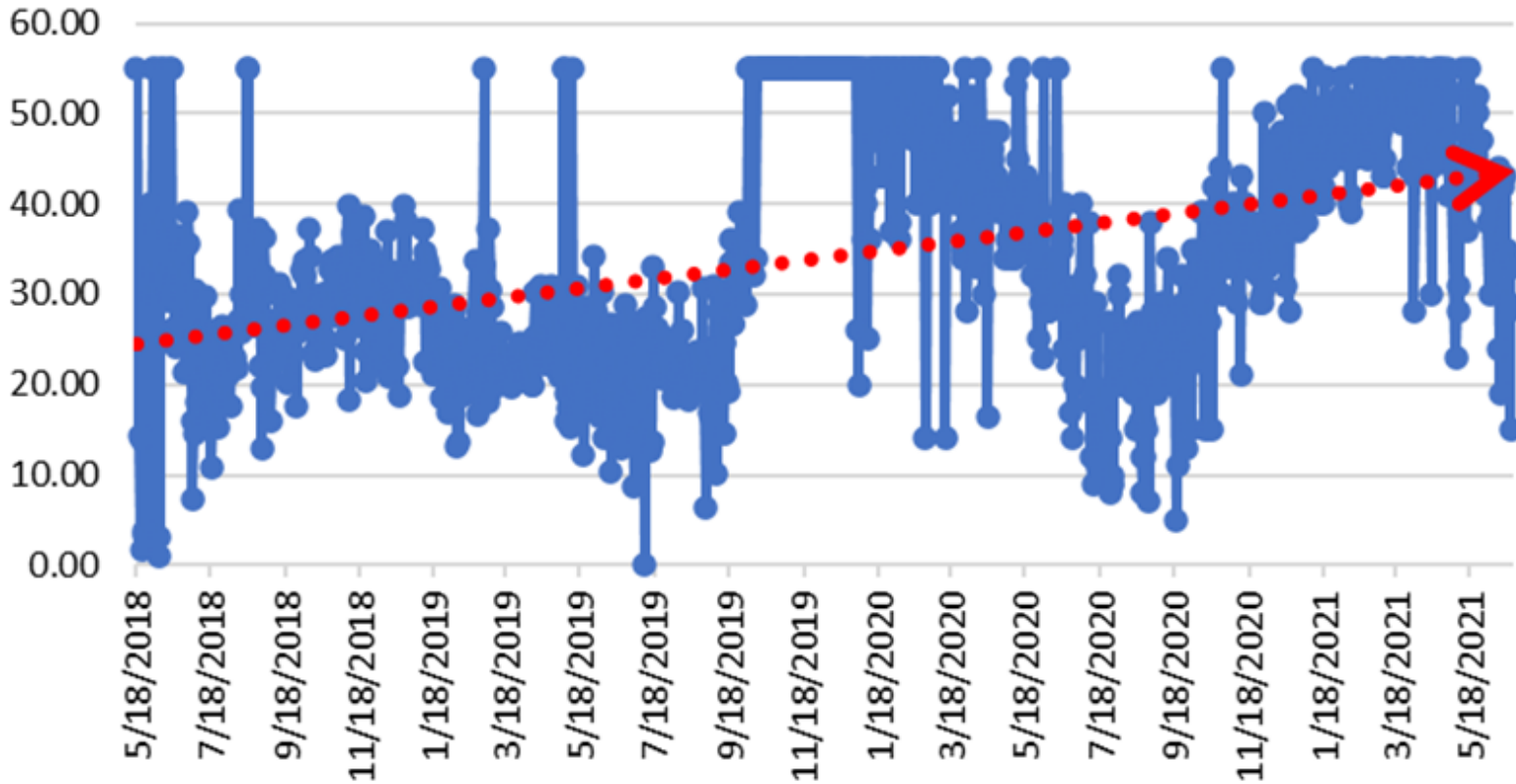
Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations Over the Past Three Years for AERATION BASIN # 3



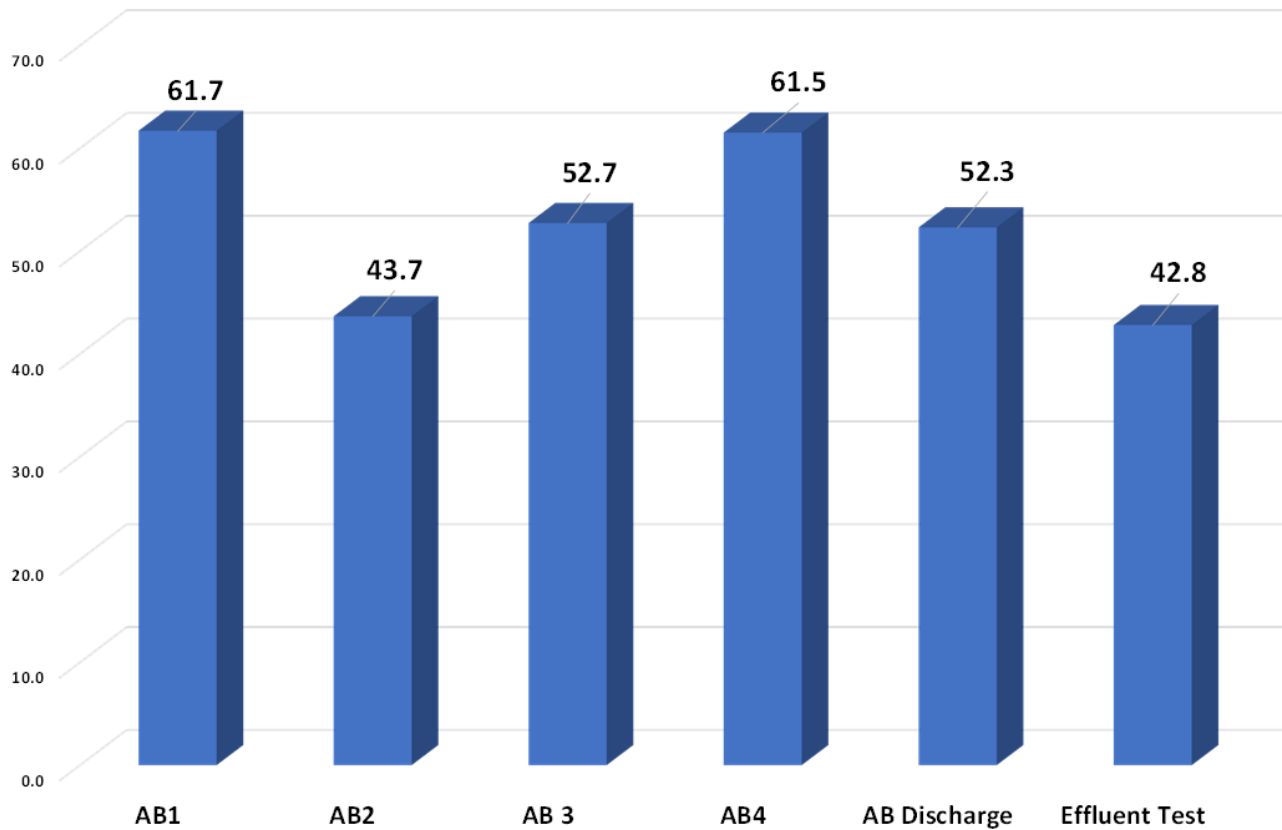
Three Years of Monthly Average Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations Grouped by Month



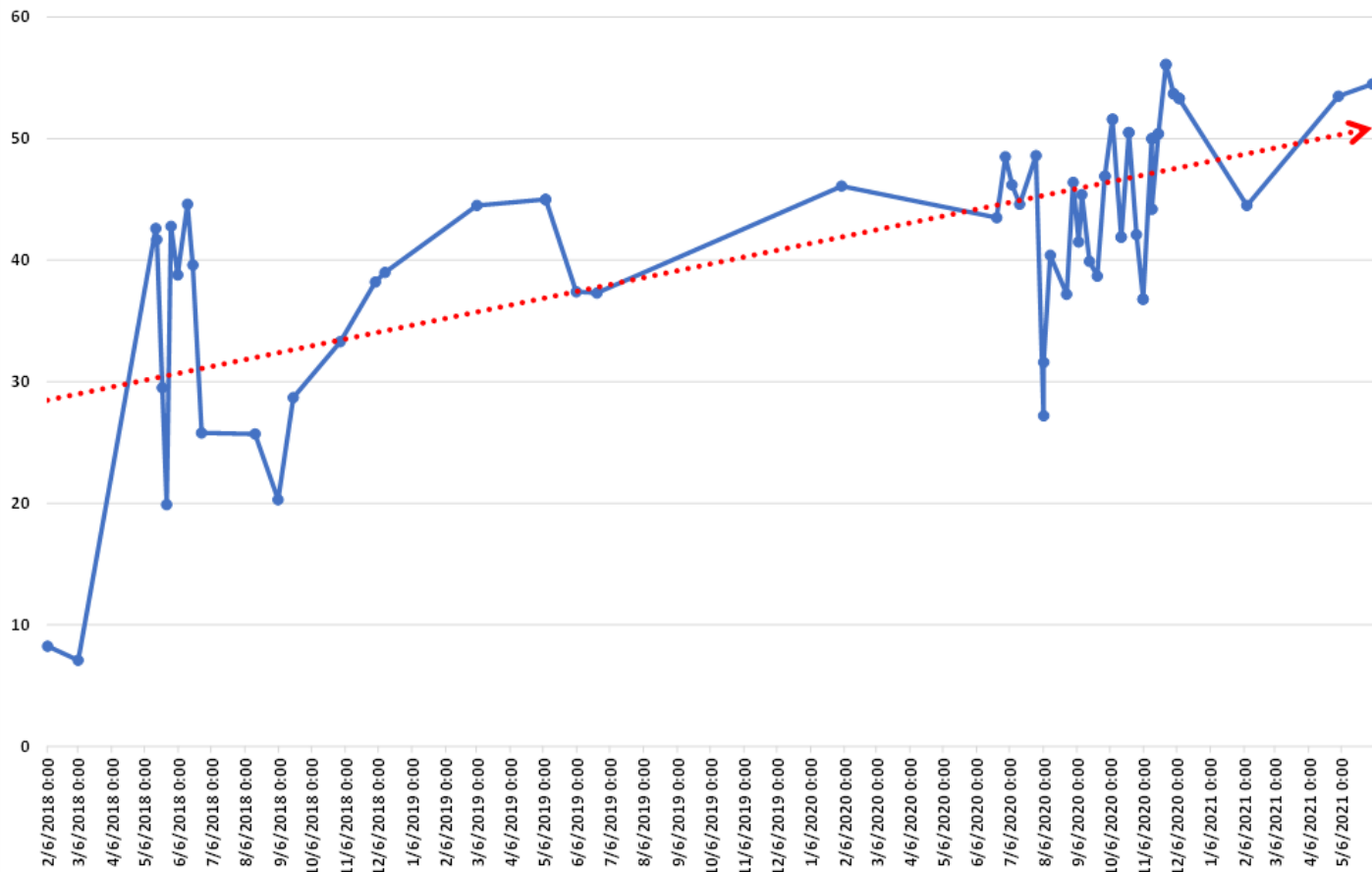
Three Years of Effluent Ammonia Concentrations



Three Years of Average Effluent Total Nitrogen at Various Discharge Points of the Section 11 Wastewater Lagoon System



Effluent Total Nitrogen for Section 11 as Sampled from the Test Port





Sludge at the Effluent Structure

In a 43 Year Old Lagoon System



Marsing Idaho





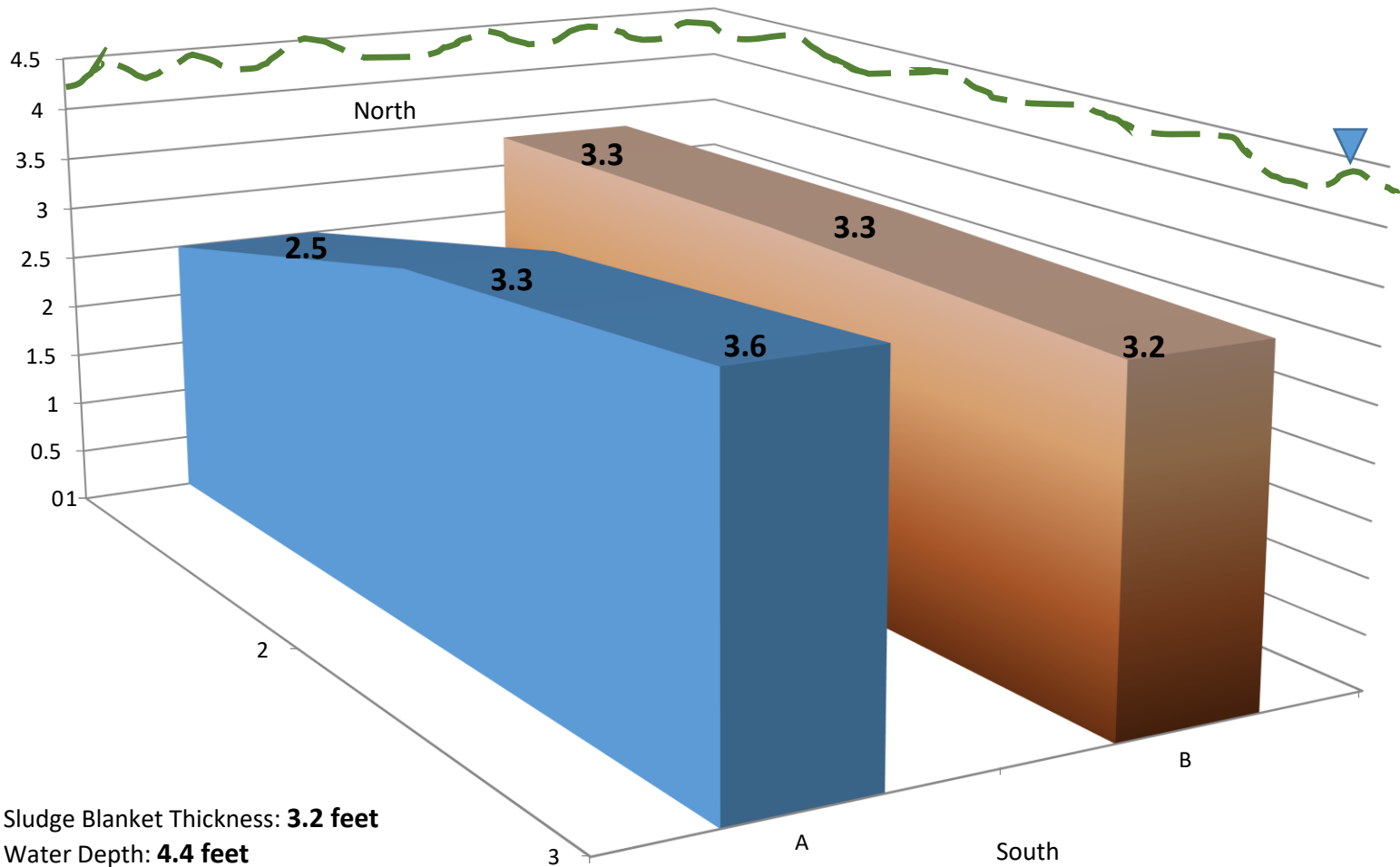








Sludge Blanket Profile for Cell # 3 of the [REDACTED] STP



Average Sludge Blanket Thickness: **3.2 feet**

Average Water Depth: **4.4 feet**

Average Clearwater Cap Over Top of Sludge: **1.2 feet**

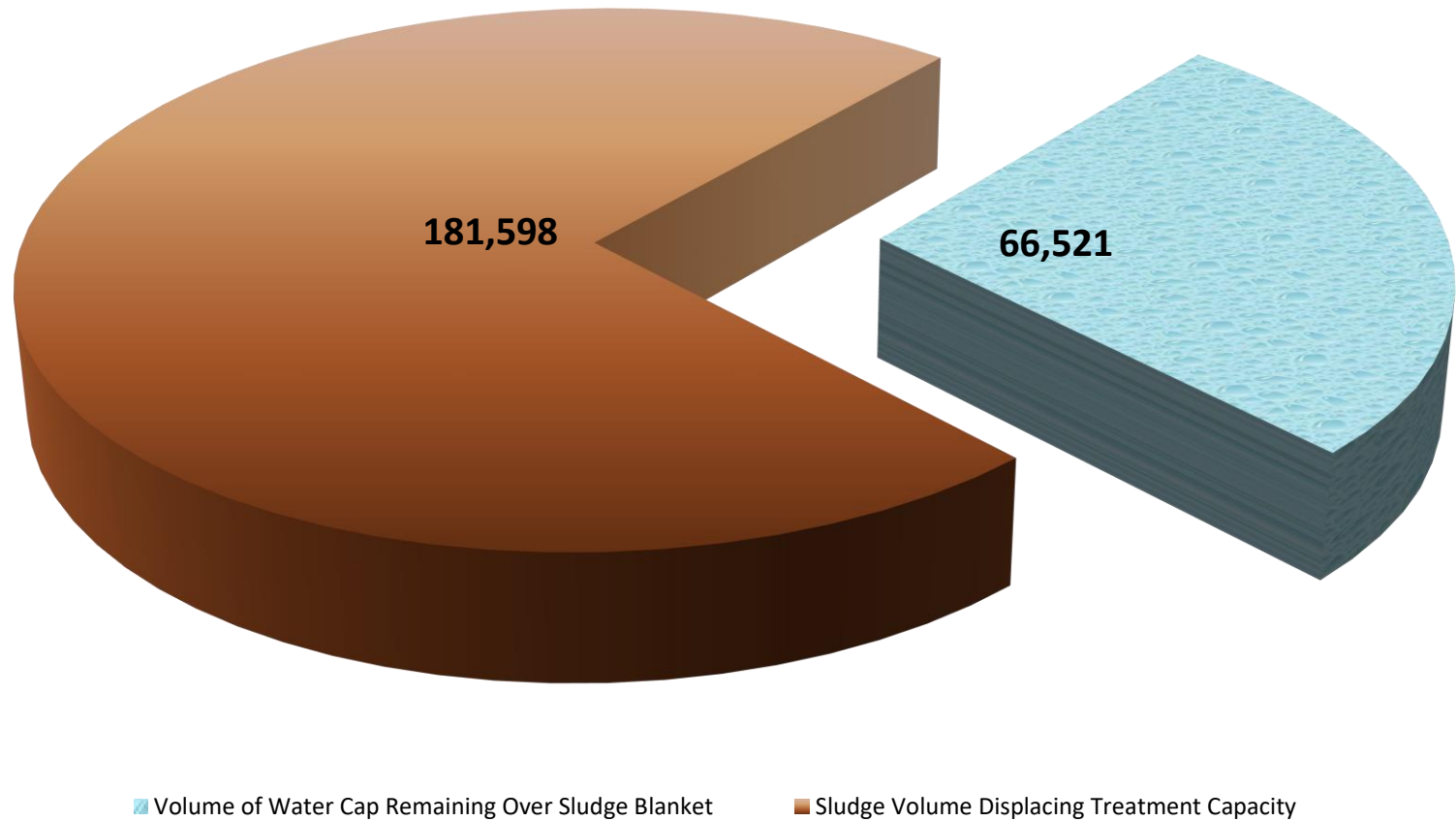
Volume of Sludge: **181,598 gallons**

Estimated Mass of Sludge Based on 20.3% Total Solids: **154 dry tons**

Sampled on: **4/1/2014**

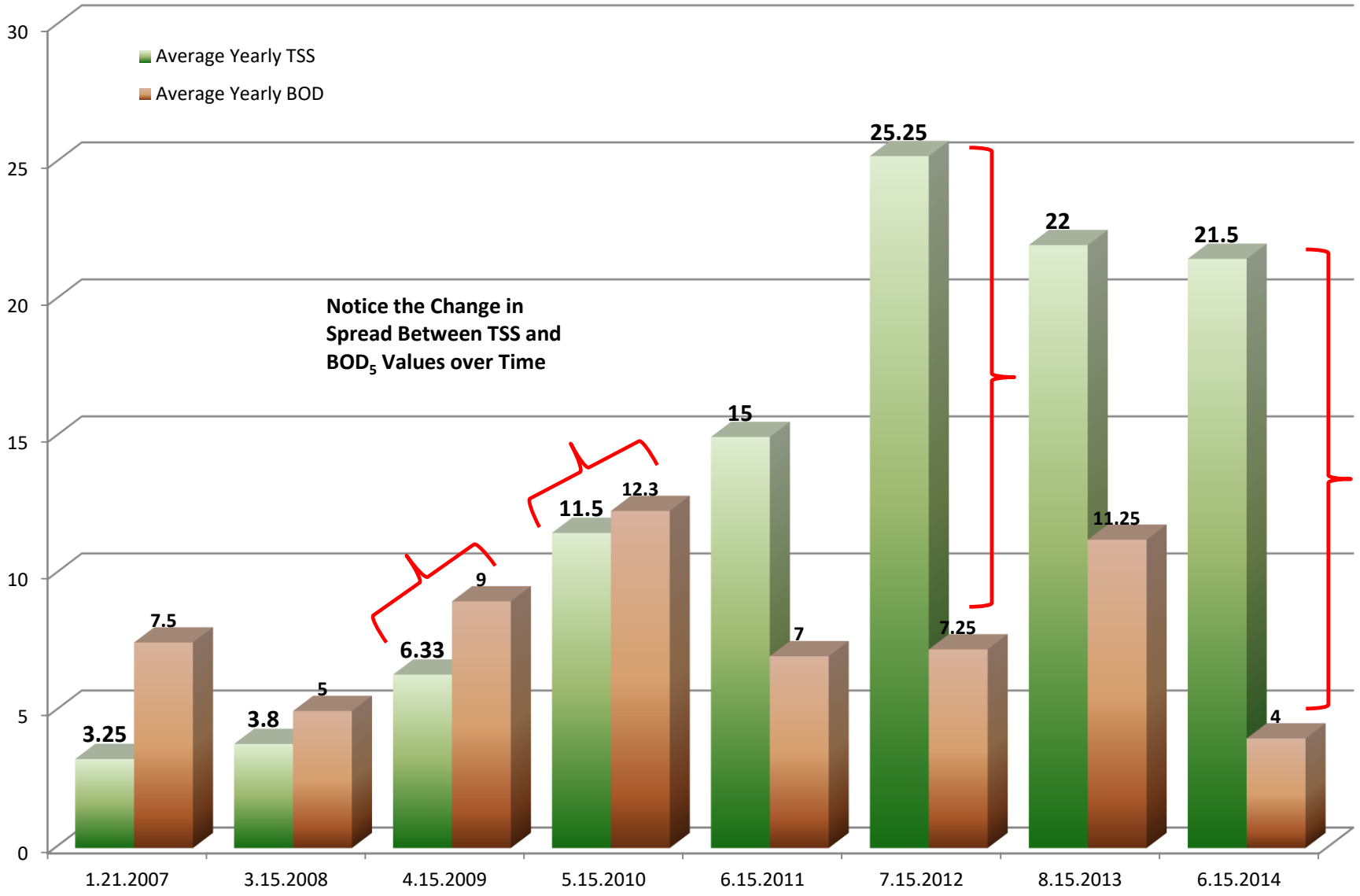
73% of this Treatment Cell's Capacity is Occupied by Sludge

Cell # 3's Diminished Treatment Capacity

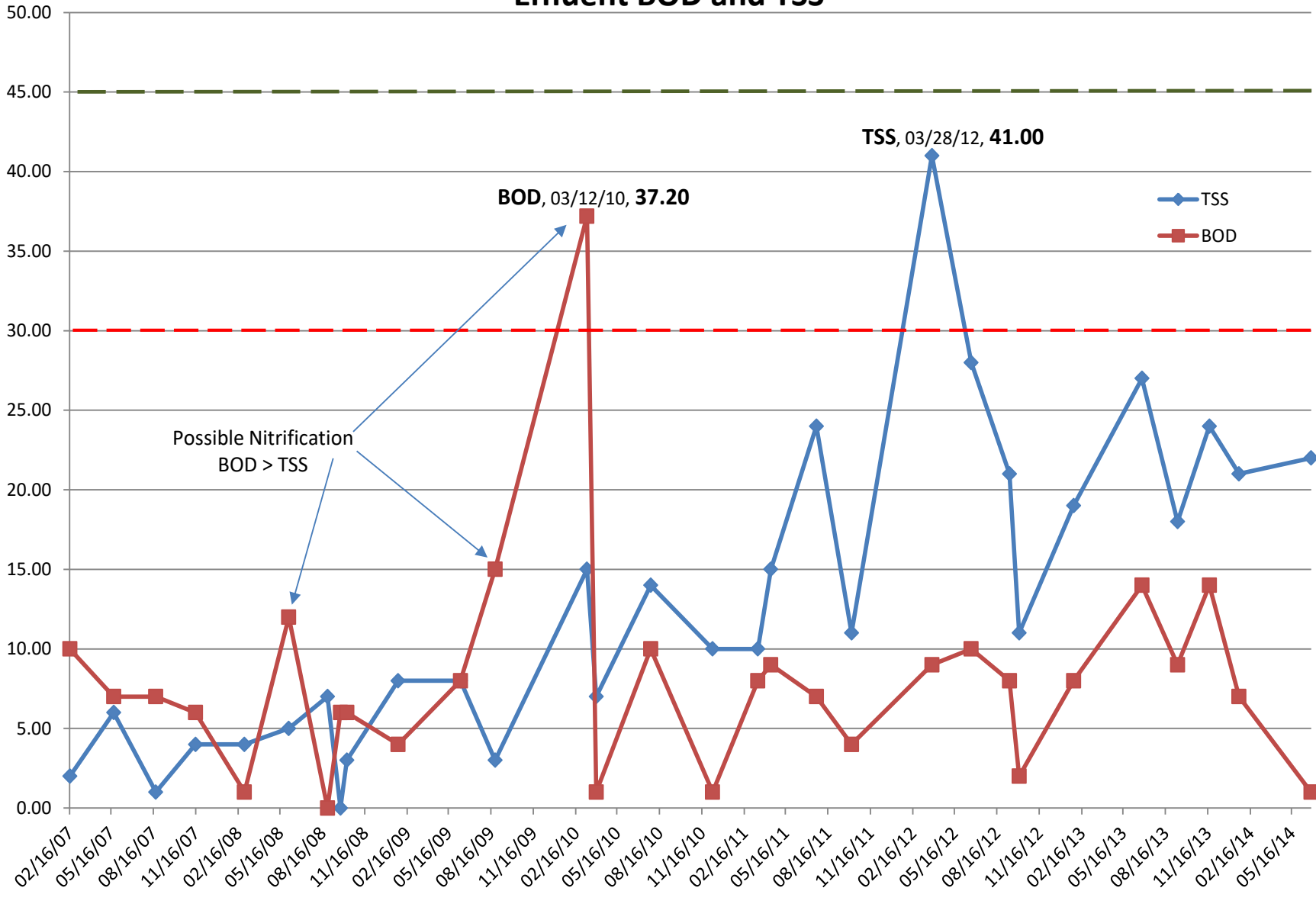


73% of Cell # 3's Treatment Capacity is Occupied by Sludge

Average Yearly TSS and BOD



Seven Year and Four Month History of STP Effluent BOD and TSS





Cleaning Sludge from an Effluent Structure



Cleaning an Effluent Structure





Three Feet of
Sludge at the
Effluent
Structure

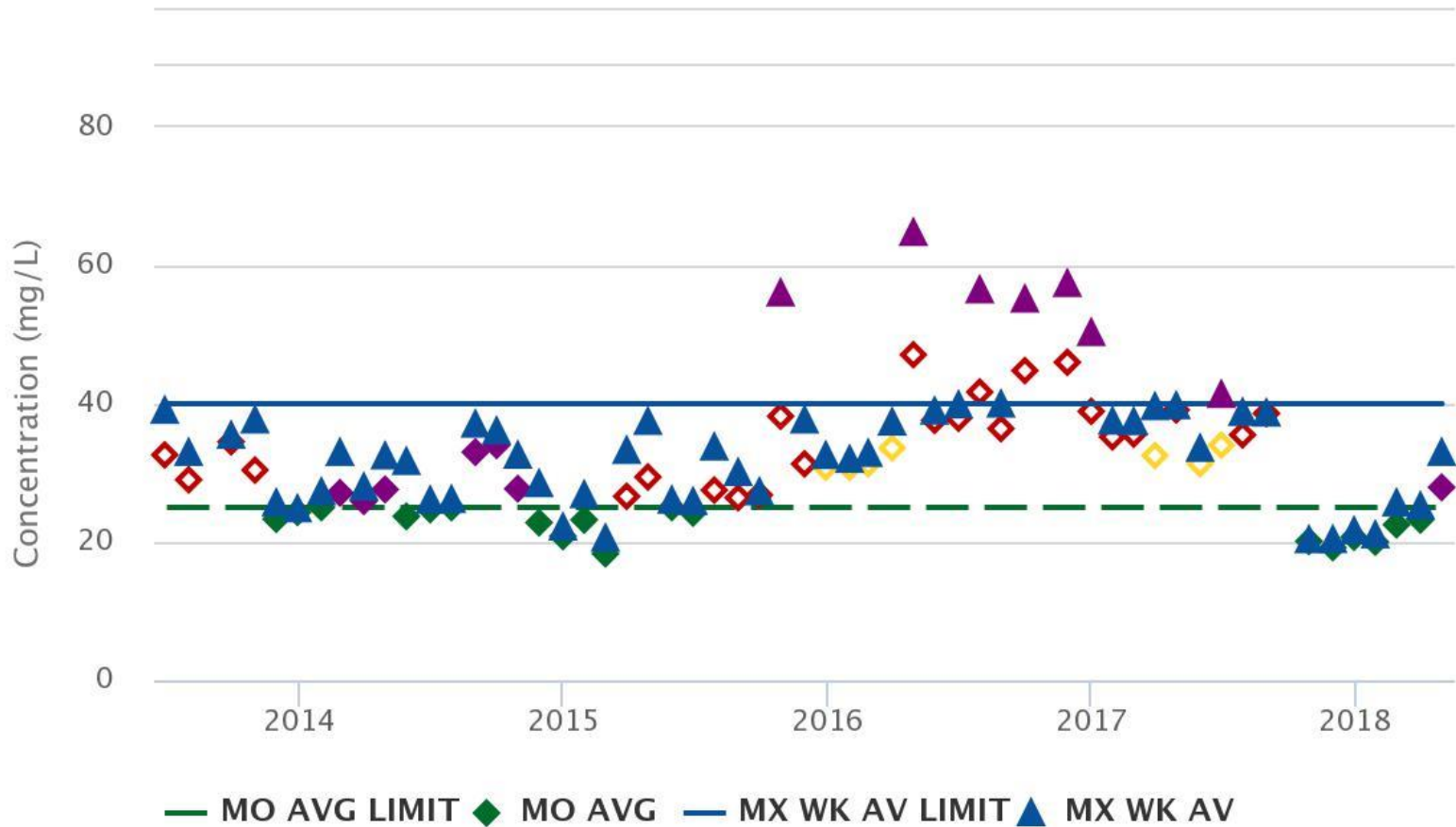




Sludge Removal at St Paul, IN Effluent Structure

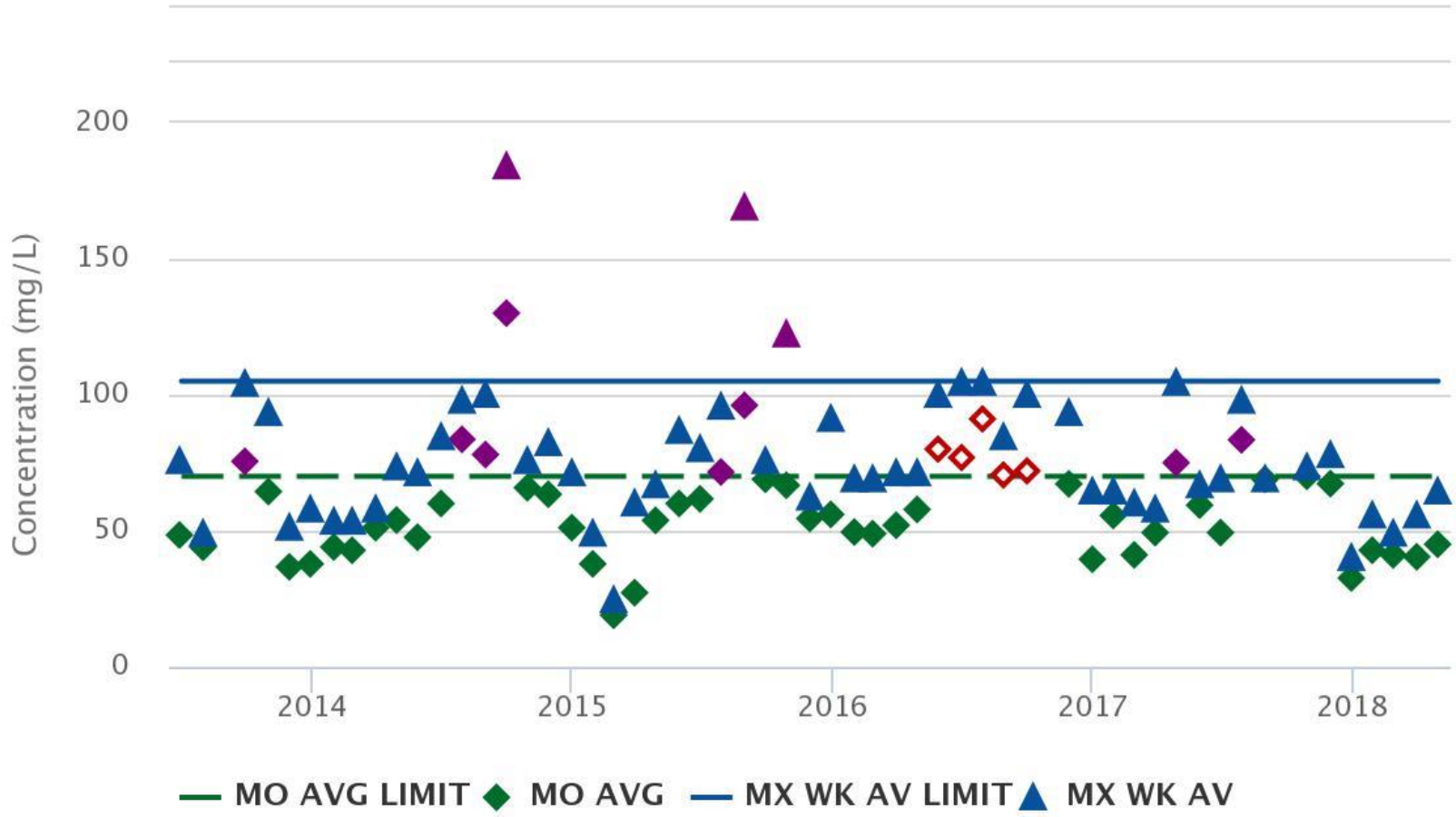


ST. PAUL WWTP (IN0020842) 001 – BOD, carbonaceous [5 day, 20 C] – Effluent Gross –
Late/Missing Reports Timeline Concentration

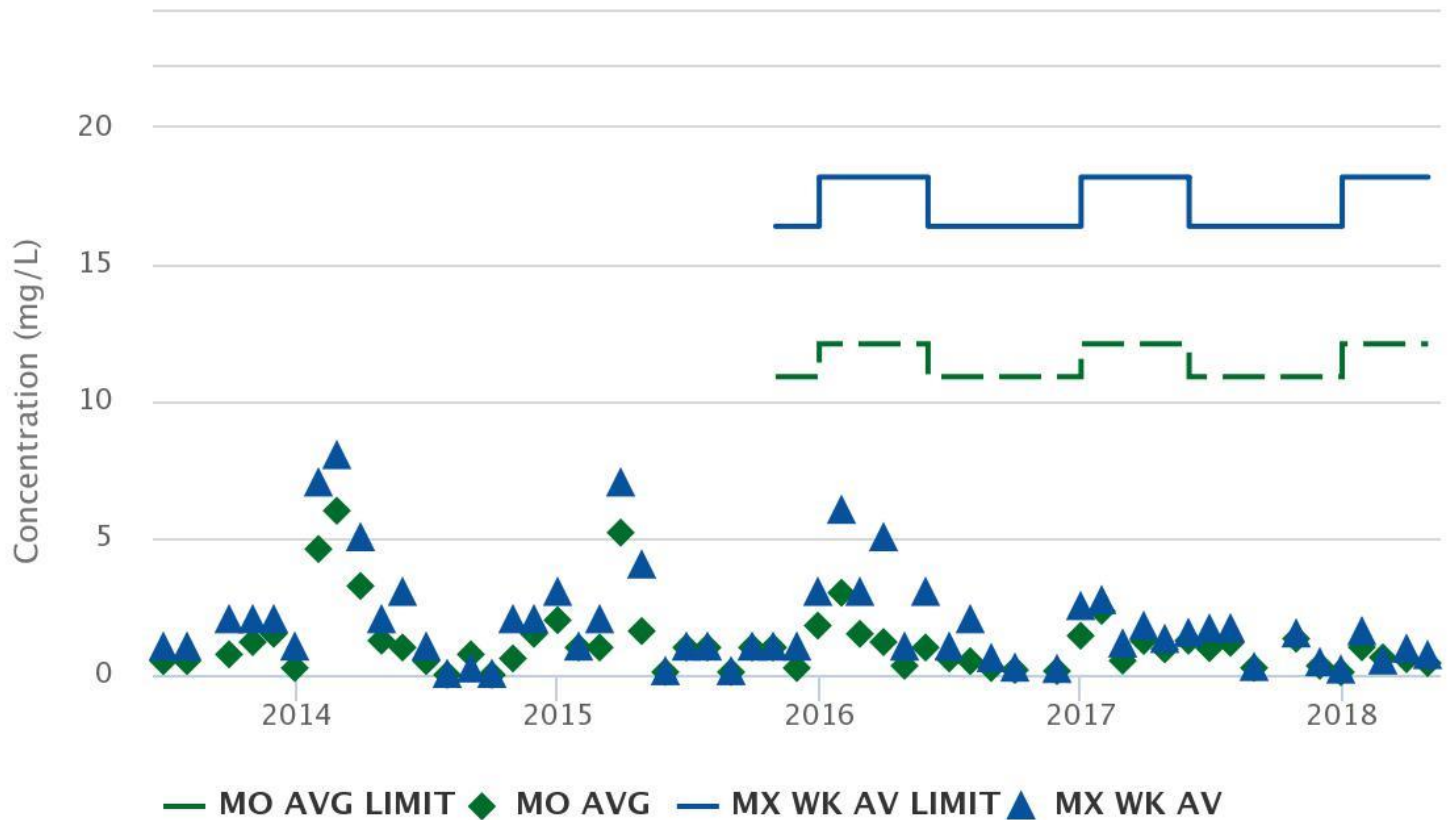


ST. PAUL WWTP (IN0020842) 001 – Solids, total suspended – Effluent Gross –

Late/Missing Reports Timeline Concentration



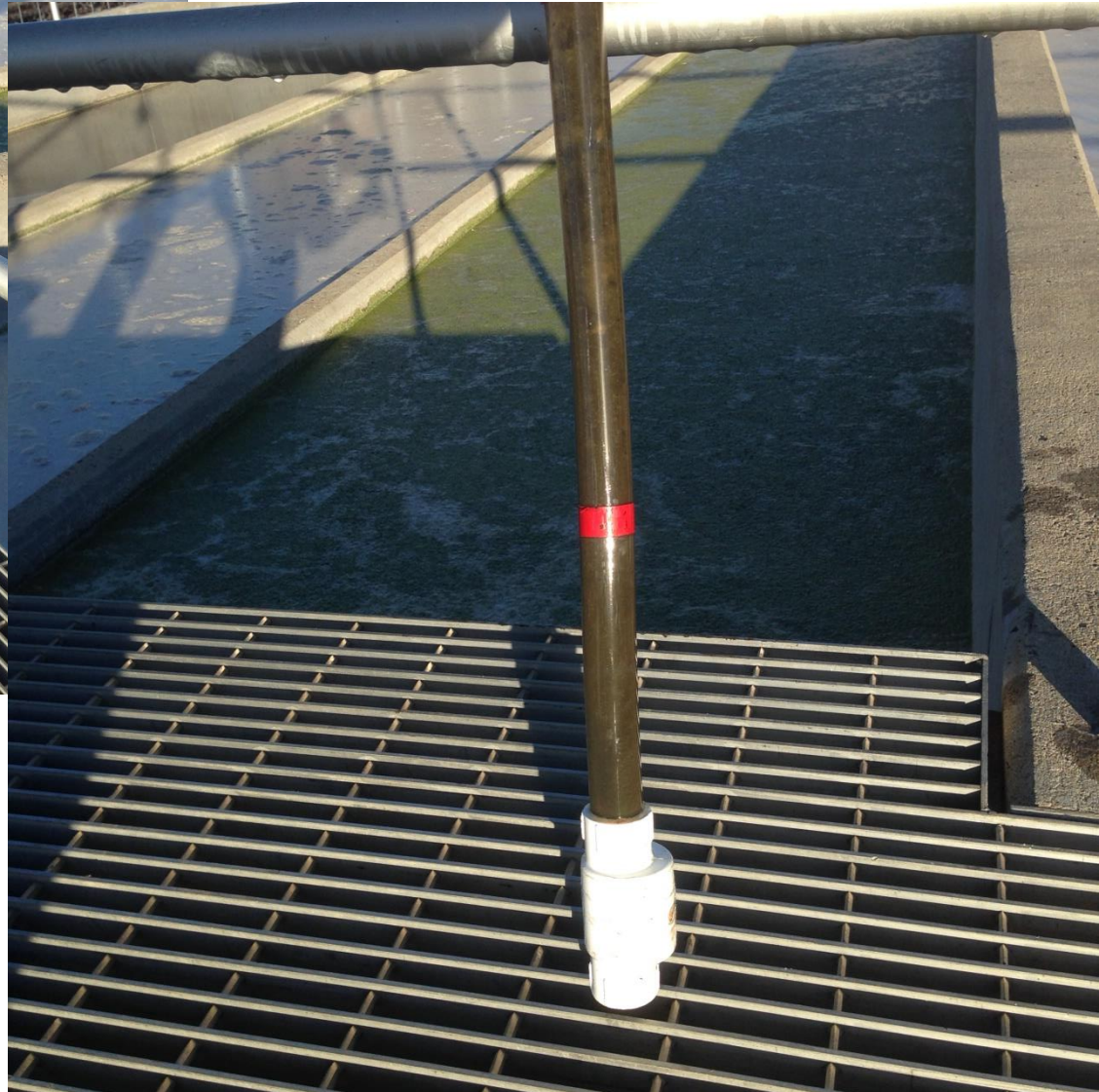
ST. PAUL WWTP (IN0020842) 001 – Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N] – Effluent Gross –
Late/Missing Reports Timeline Concentration







**These accumulated Solids
Can Affect Permit Results**







Solids at the effluent can cause sporadic test results as sludge “burps” up whenever





The effluent structure is too close to the surface and pulls duckweed, scum, and litter into the CCC





The Effluent Structure with Three Feet of the Water Cap Drained



Steven M. Harris

H&S Environmental, LLC

www.lagoonops@gmail.com

www.lagoonops.com

1 (480) 274-8410

Case # 3

- The Cause of Odors, Popping

Oxygen Demand Comes from Several Different Sources in a Lagoon

Oxygen Demand comes from:

- Influent BOD₅
- The sediment layer
- Nitrification
- Algae Respiring at Night

City of XXXX Arizona

- Engineers Using Text Book Methods Determined there was Enough Aeration for the System = **36,000 lbs. lbs O₂/day**
- D.O. Testing at Different times During the Day and Sediment O₂ Demand Calculations Showed a Total Demand of: **46,555 lbs O₂/day**

Xxxxxx WWTF, xxxxx, AZ



Rising “popping” sludge

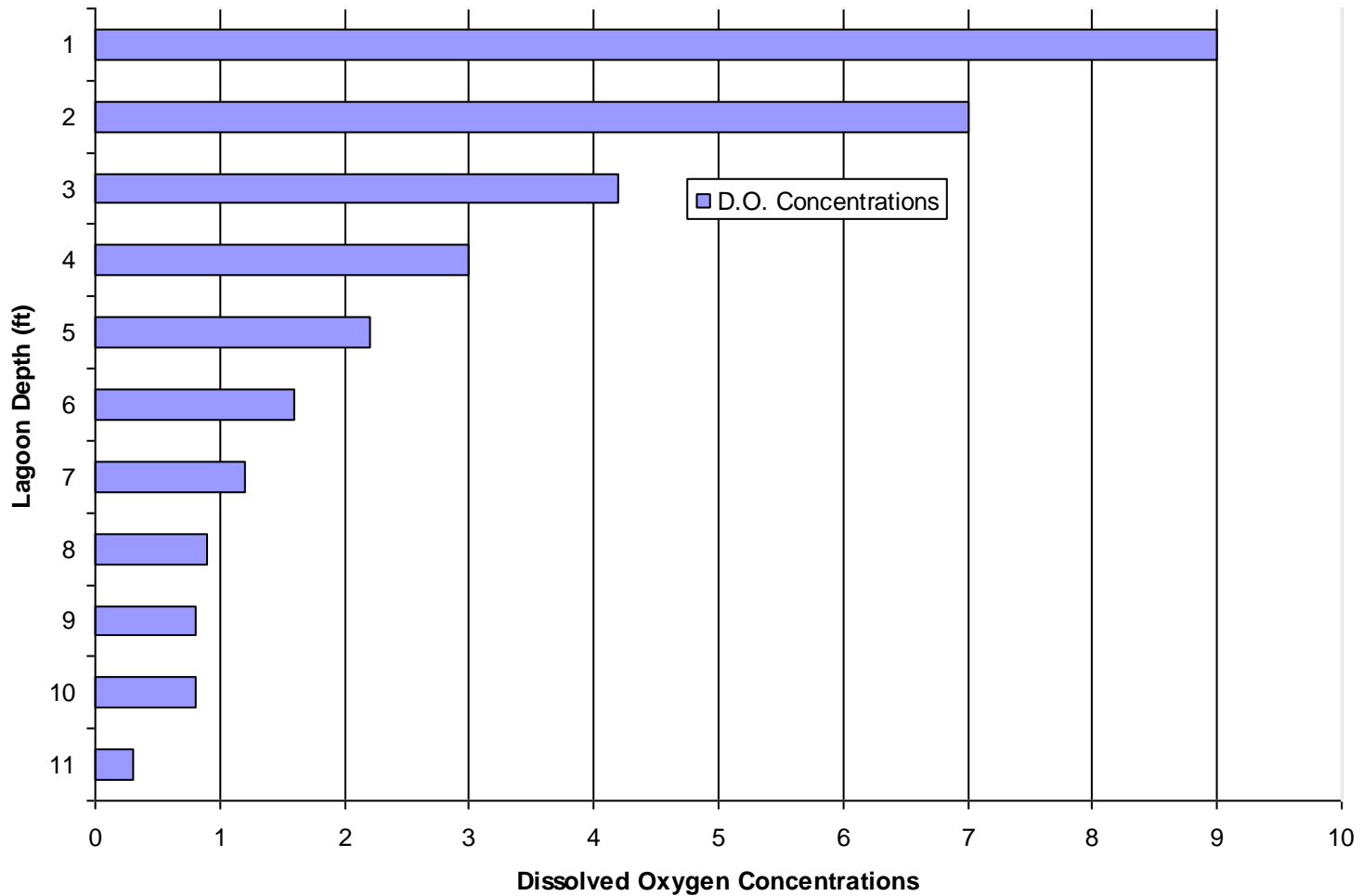


- Rising Sludge
- Color Changes
- Odors

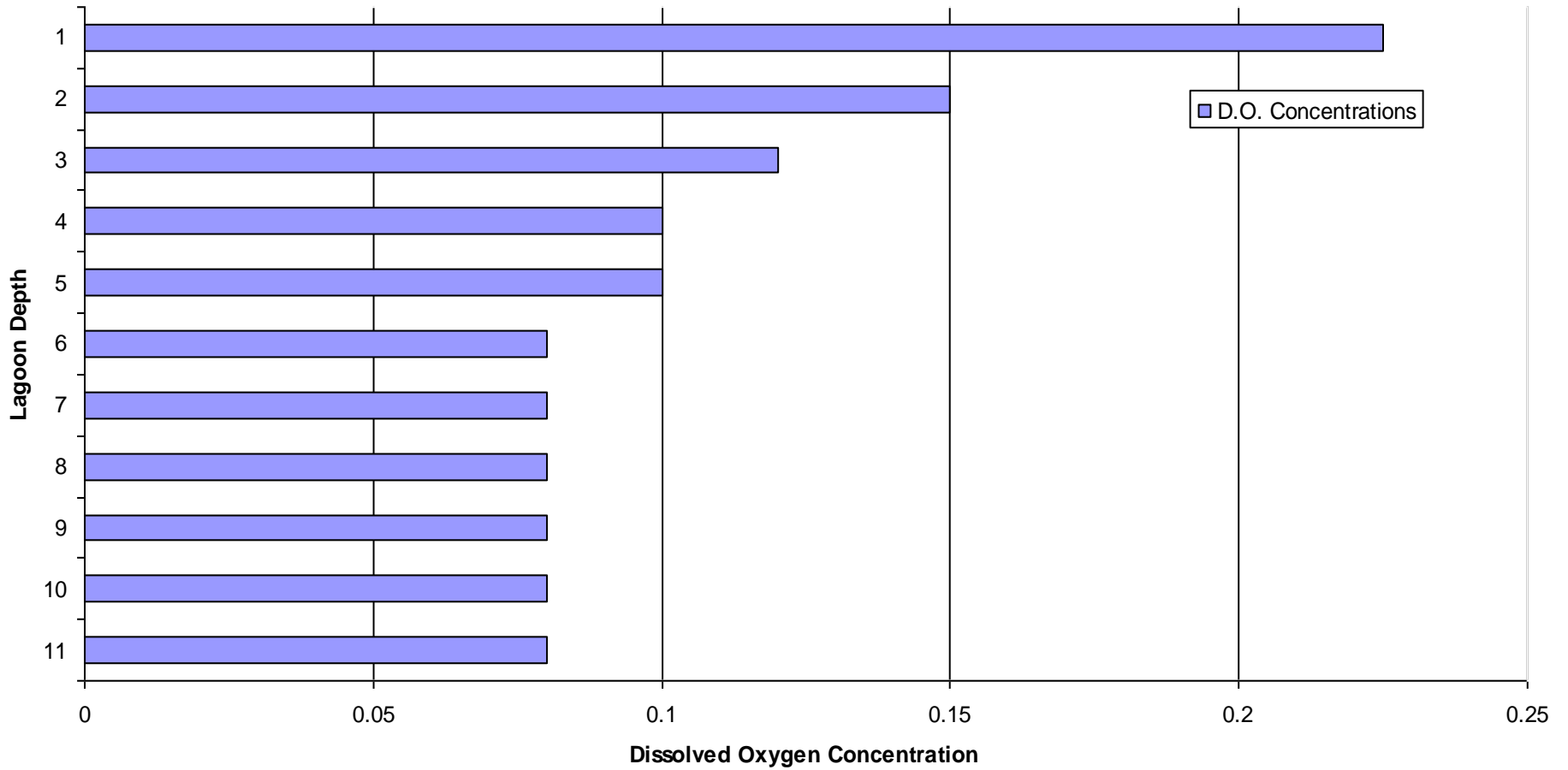


D.O. Profiles of the XXXXX Lagoon at Different Times During the Day

D.O. Concentrations in Lagoon # 2 at 12:00 PM



D.O. Concentrations in Lagoon # 2. 7:00 AM



Sediment Oxygen Demand

$$Ro_2 \text{ in Kg O}_2/\text{hr} = 4.16 \times 10^{-5} ABo_2 \text{ where:}$$

(Rich, 1999)

- Ro_2 = benthic oxygen demand rate in KgO_2/hr
- A = Area of sludge water interface in m^2
- Bo_2 = Unit rate of benthic oxygen demand in $\text{g O}_2/\text{m}^2/\text{d}$

Sediment O_2 demand in the City of Chandler, AZ was calculated to require an additional:

12,929 lbs O_2 /day

If you put this sludge in a BOD bottle and ran a BOD₅, what do you think would happen?



Why would it be any different in your pond system?

Older Less Efficient Aerators



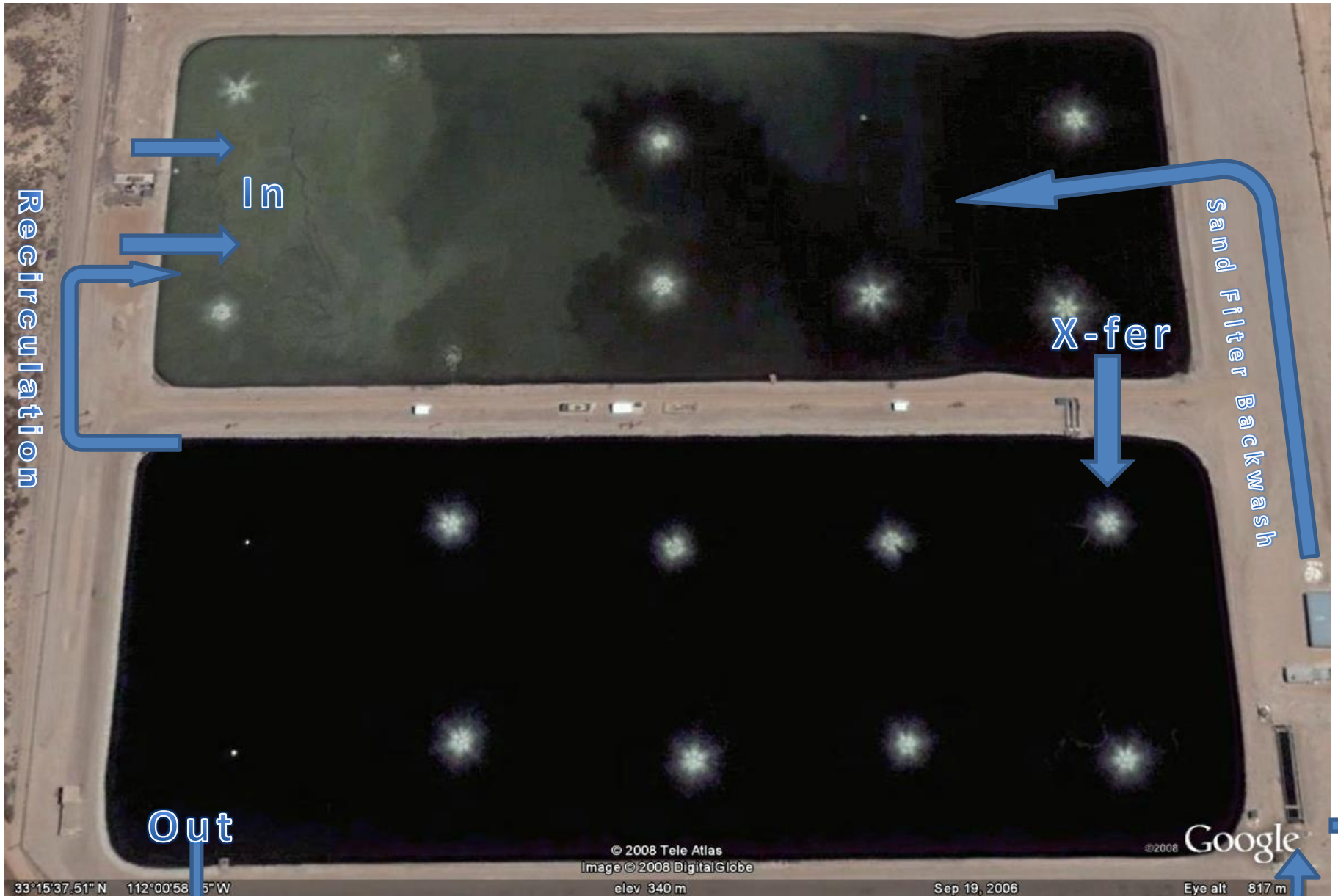
Sludge Profiling Project

xxxxxx, AZ



XXXXXX

- Average Daily Flow: 7 MGD
- Storage Capacity: Pond 1 84,235,092 gallons
Pond 2 86,185,831 gallons
- Operating depth: 14 feet
- Theoretical Retention Time: 12 days each
- 16 splashing aerators 3 directional mixers and recirculation
- Water reused for crop irrigation and golf course
- Built in 1970's never desludged



In

X-fer

Sand Filter Backwash

Out

Recirculation

© 2008 Tele Atlas
Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe

©2008 Google

33°15'37.51" N 112°00'58.5" W

elev 340 m

Sep 19, 2006

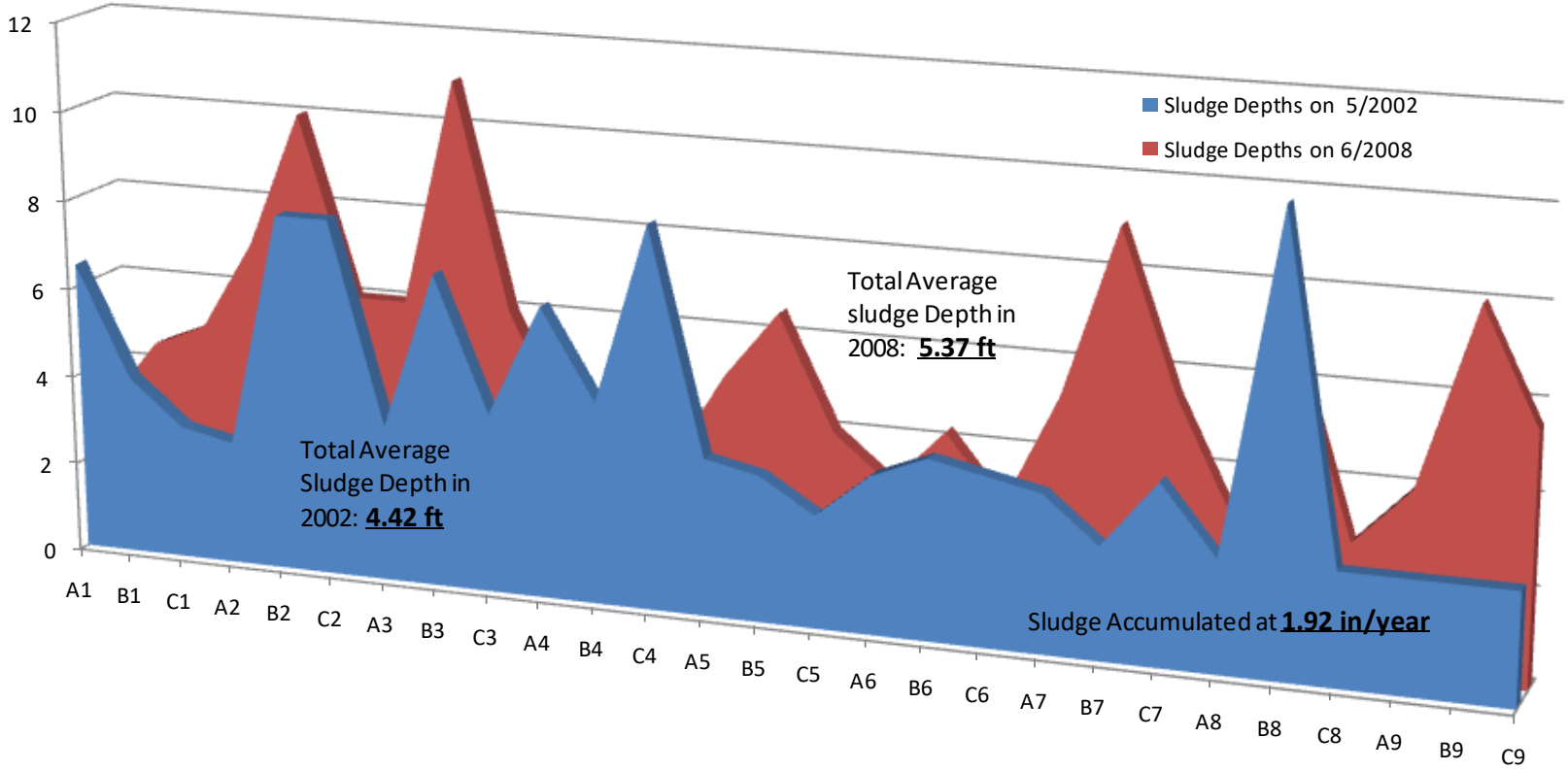
Eye alt 817 m

Profiling XXXXXXX

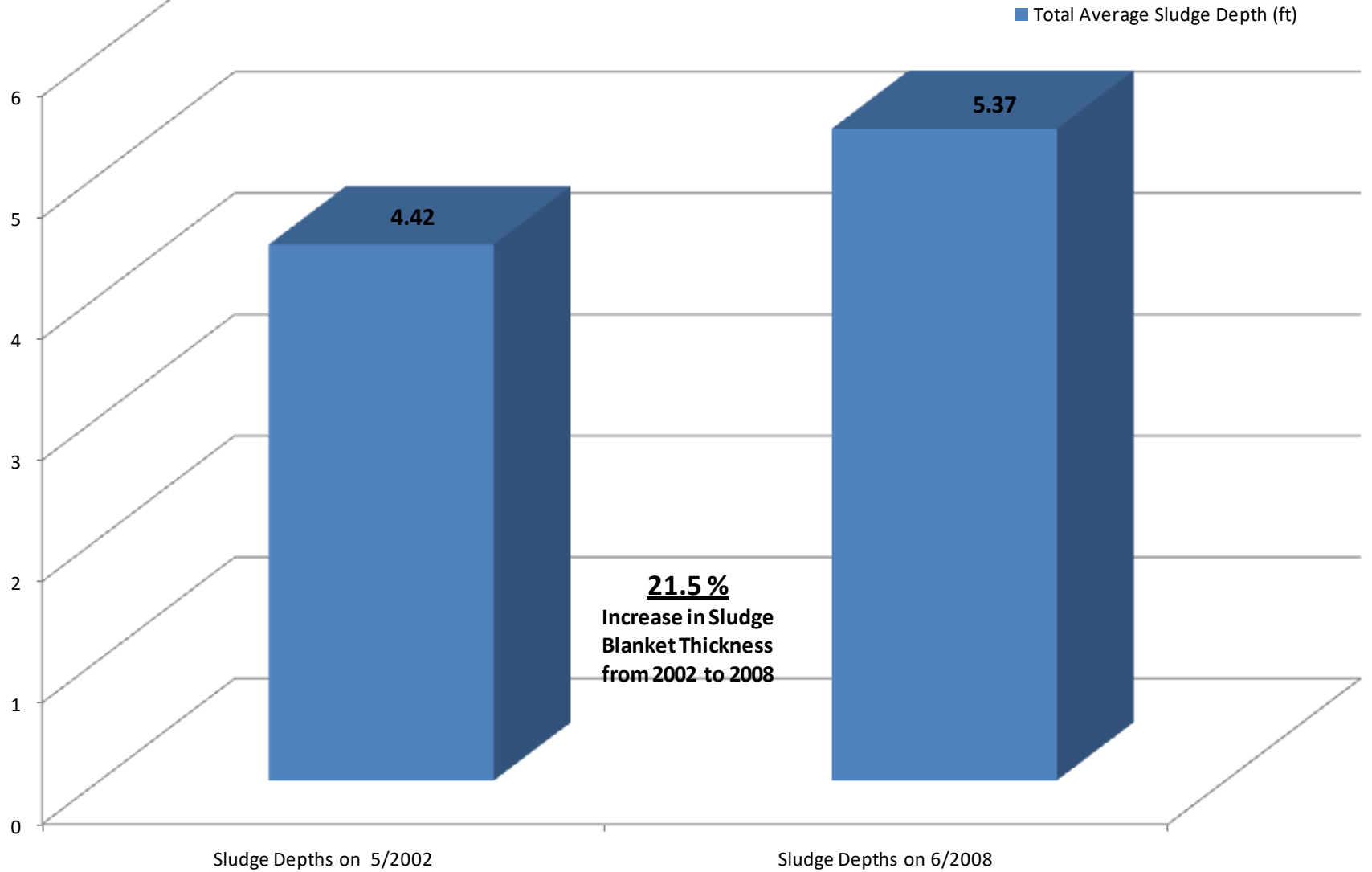
40 Sample Points / 20 Core Samples



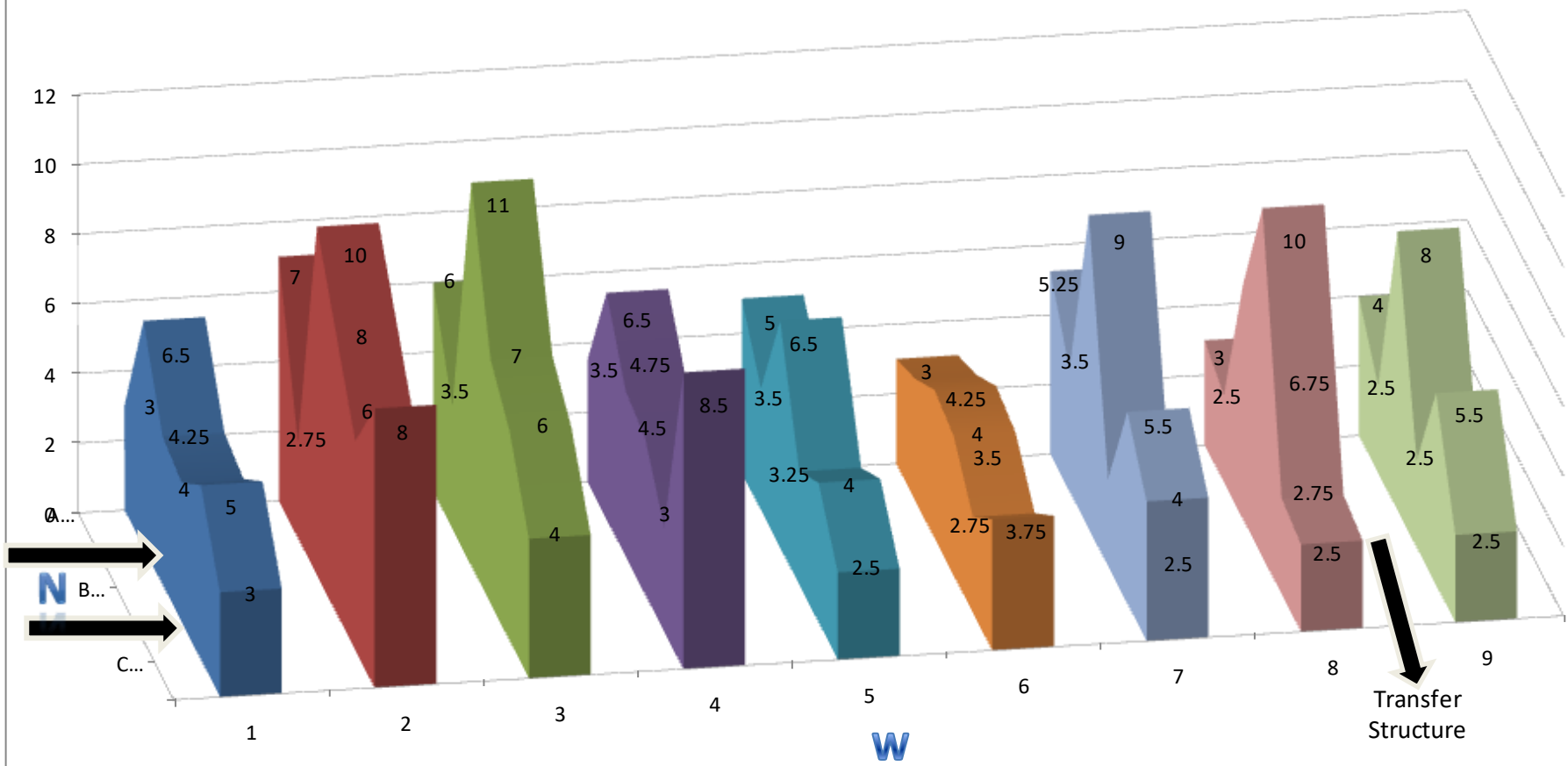
Sludge Depth Profile for Pond # 1 at the [redacted] WRF



Total Average Sludge Depth of Pond # 1 over a Six Year Period

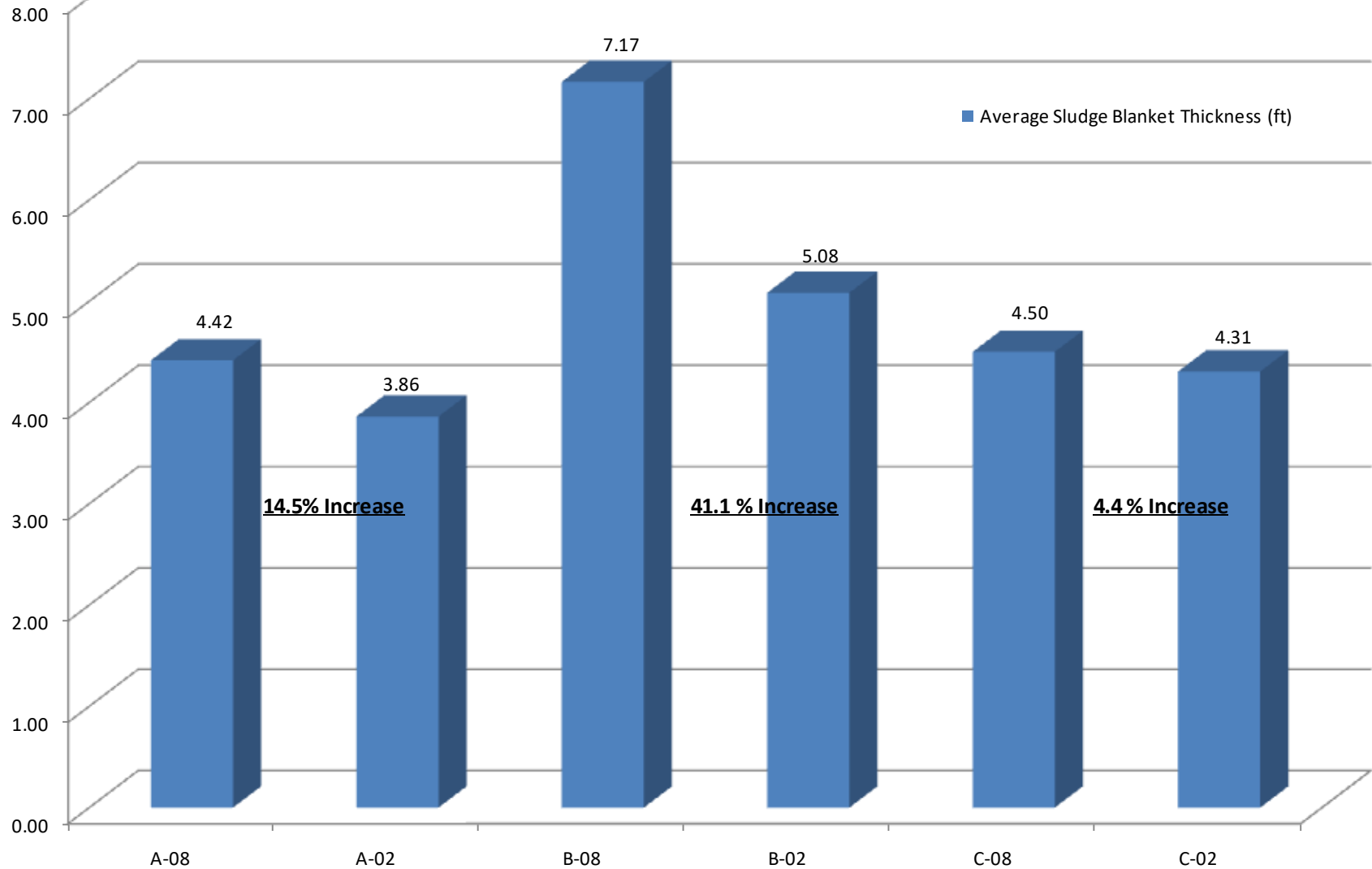


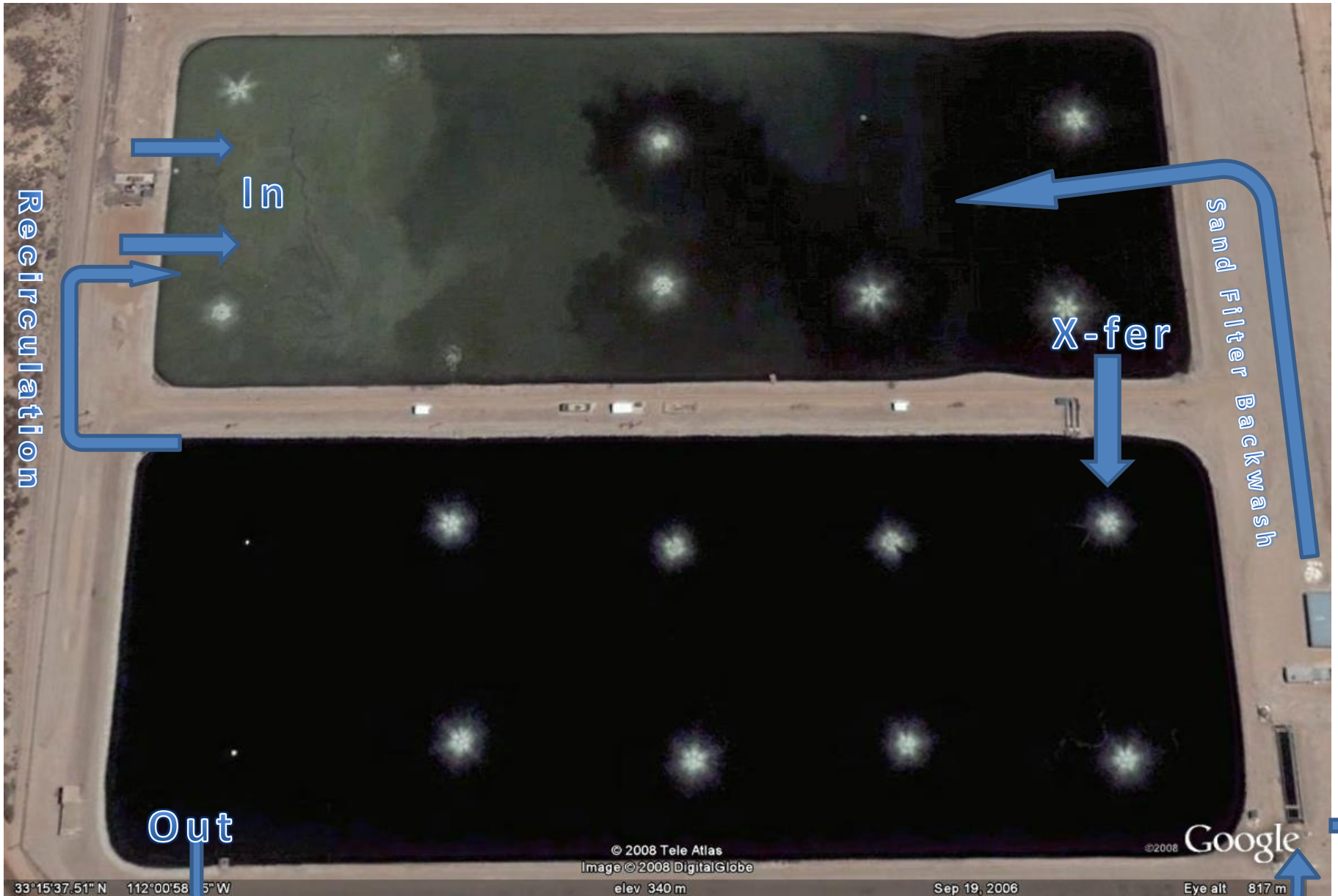
Pond # 1 Sludge Blanket Profile of the Water Reclamation Facility



Sampled on June 12, 2008

A Six Year Look at Sludge Blanket Thickness for Pond # 1 at [REDACTED] WRF from May, 2002 to June, 2008





In

Recirculation

X-fer

Sand Filter Backwash

Out

© 2008 Tele Atlas
Image © 2008 DigitalGlobe

©2008 Google

33°15'37.51" N 112°00'58.5" W

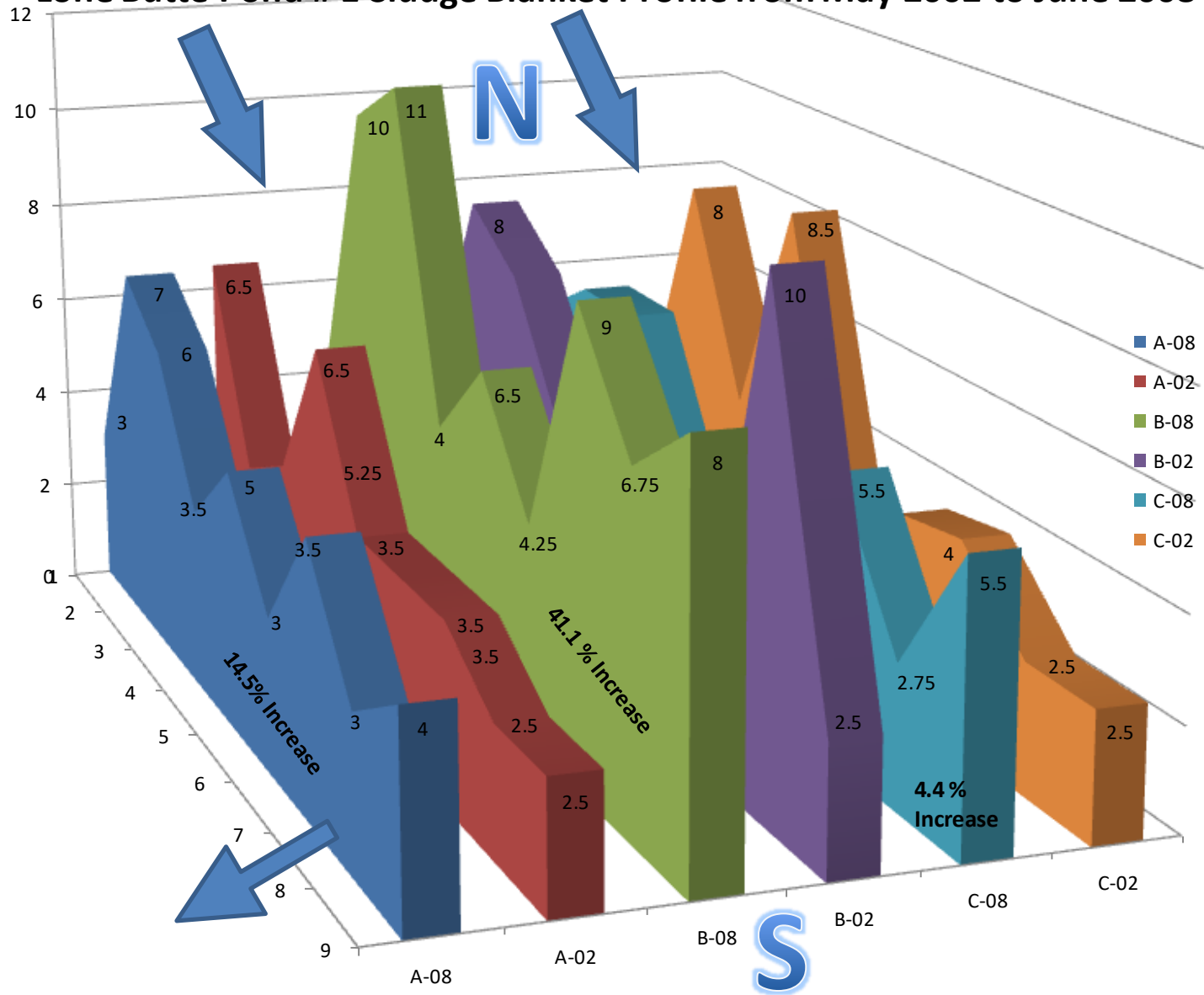
elev 340 m

Sep 19, 2006

Eye alt 817 m

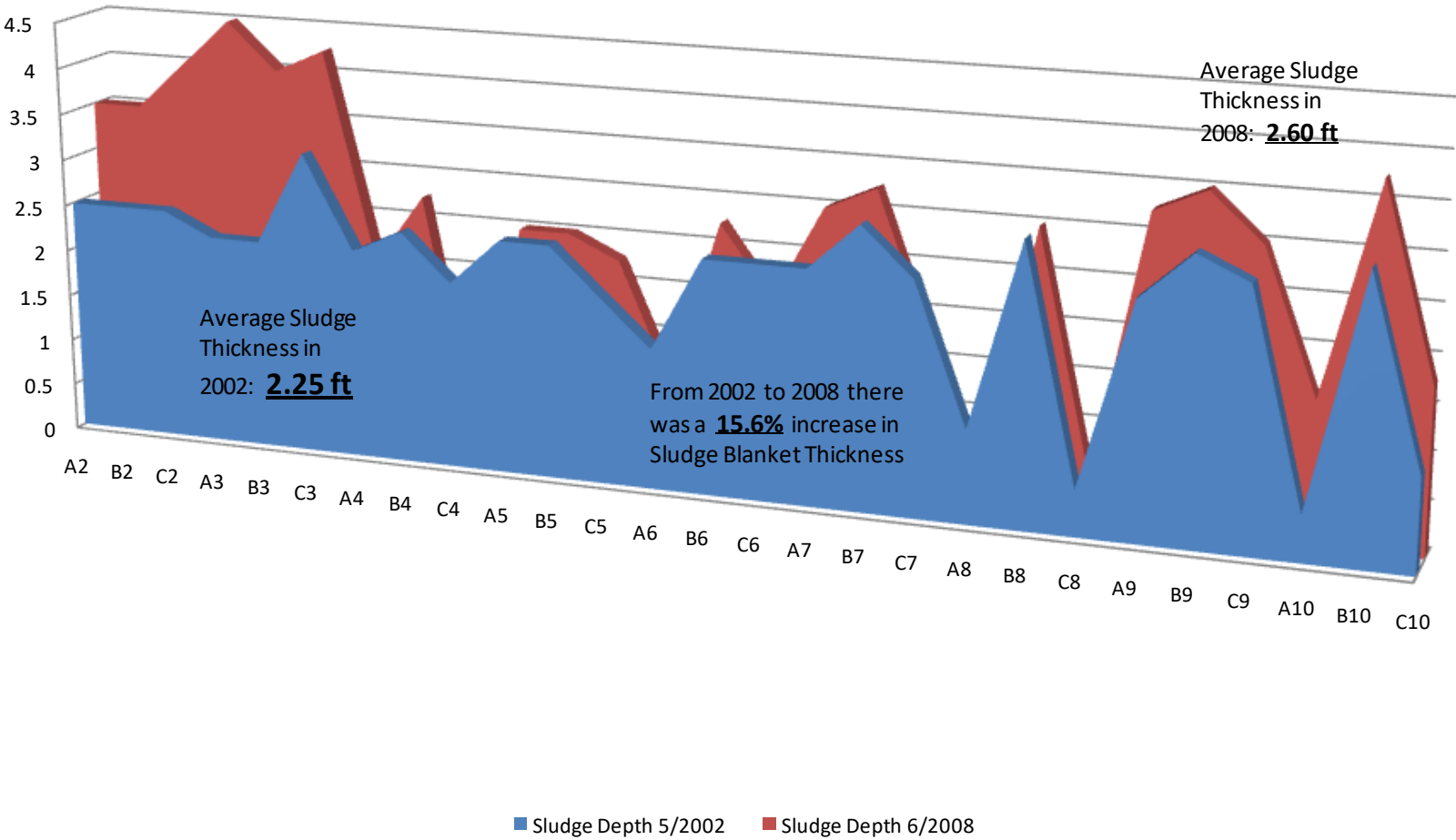
Backwash from the Dyna Sand filters
and the Traveling Bridge Filter are
backwashed back into the lagoon
system

Pond # 1 Sludge Blanket Profile from May 2002 to June 2008

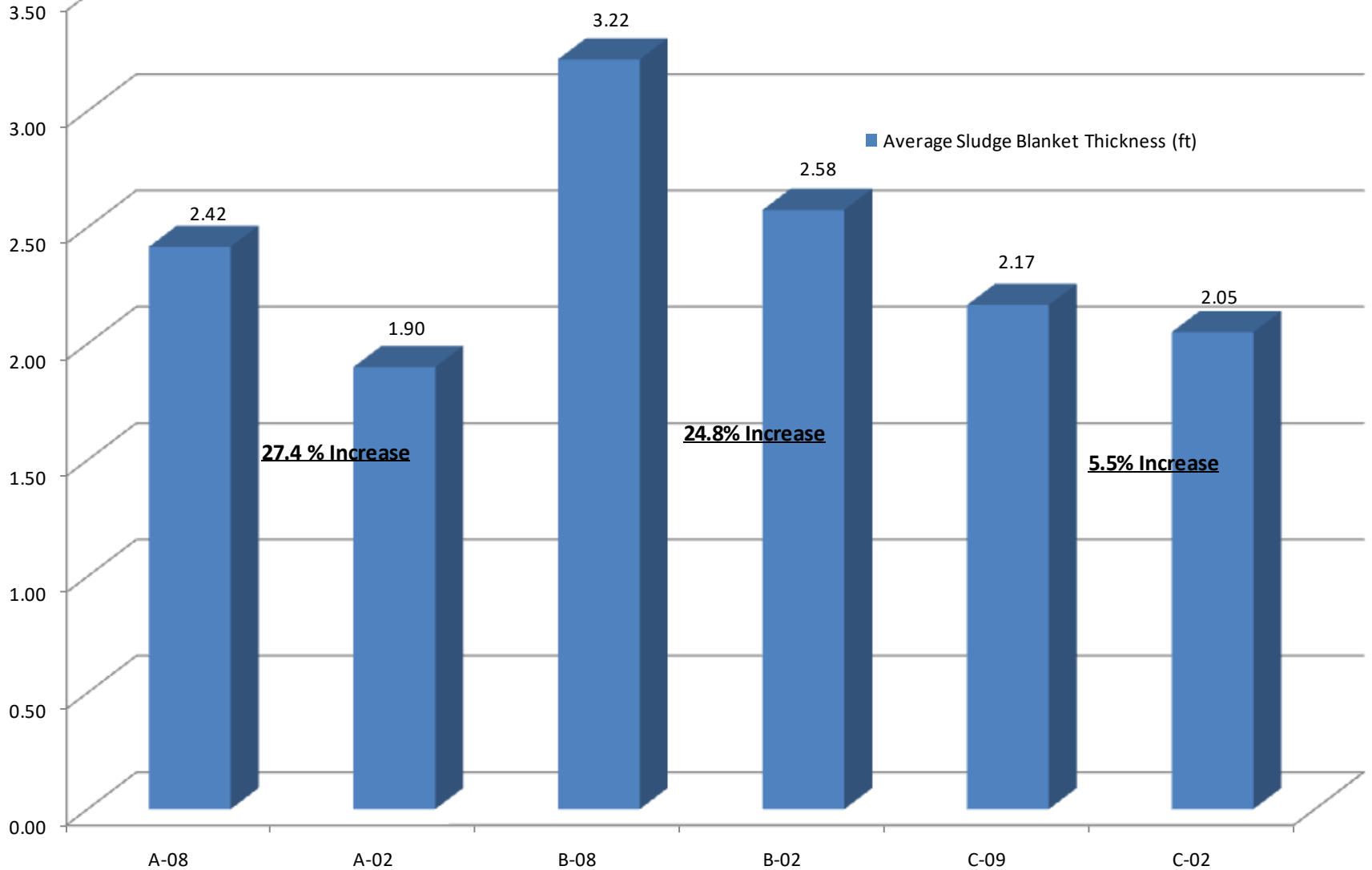




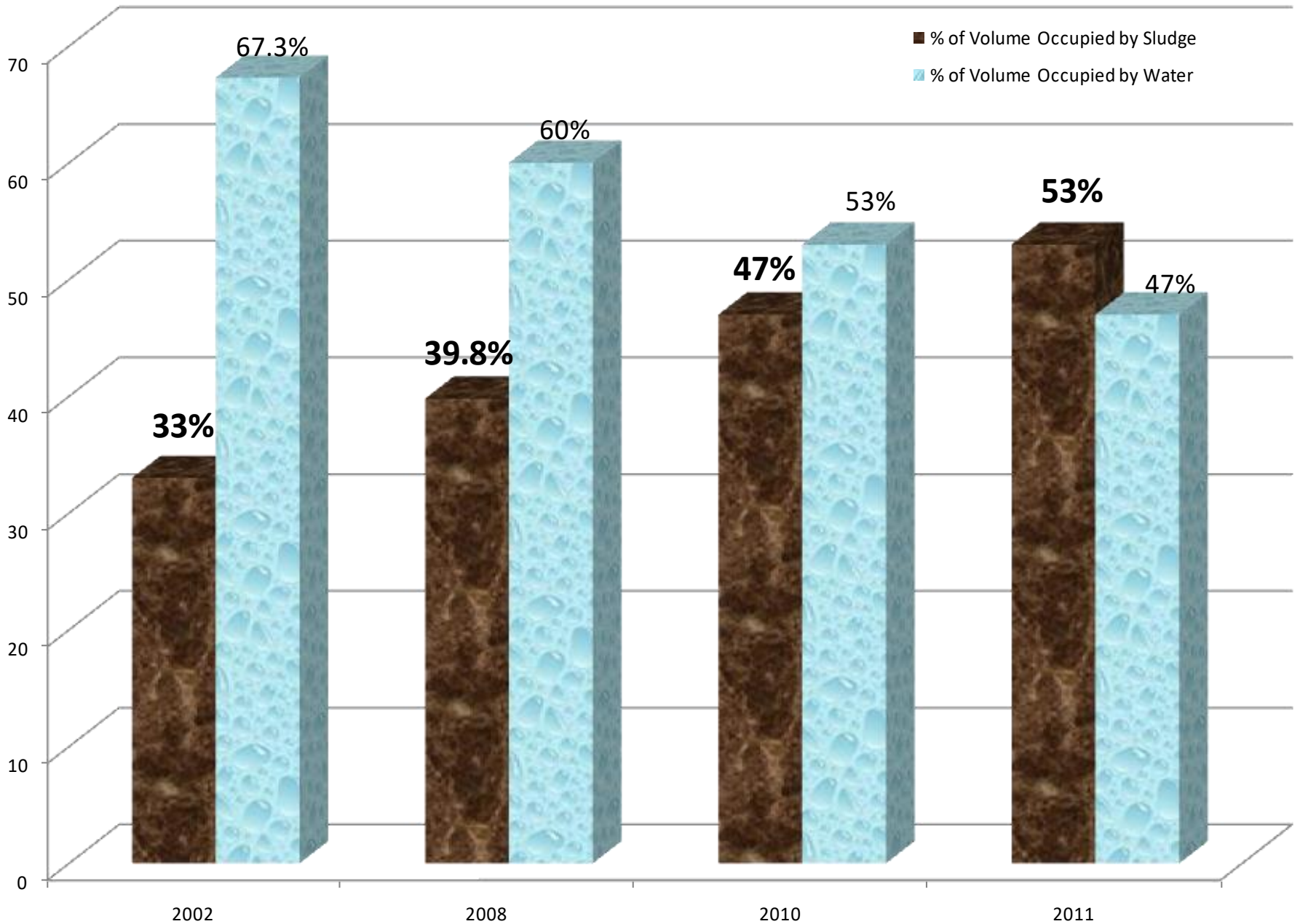
WRF Pond # 2 Sludge Blanket Depth Profile from May 2002 to June 2008



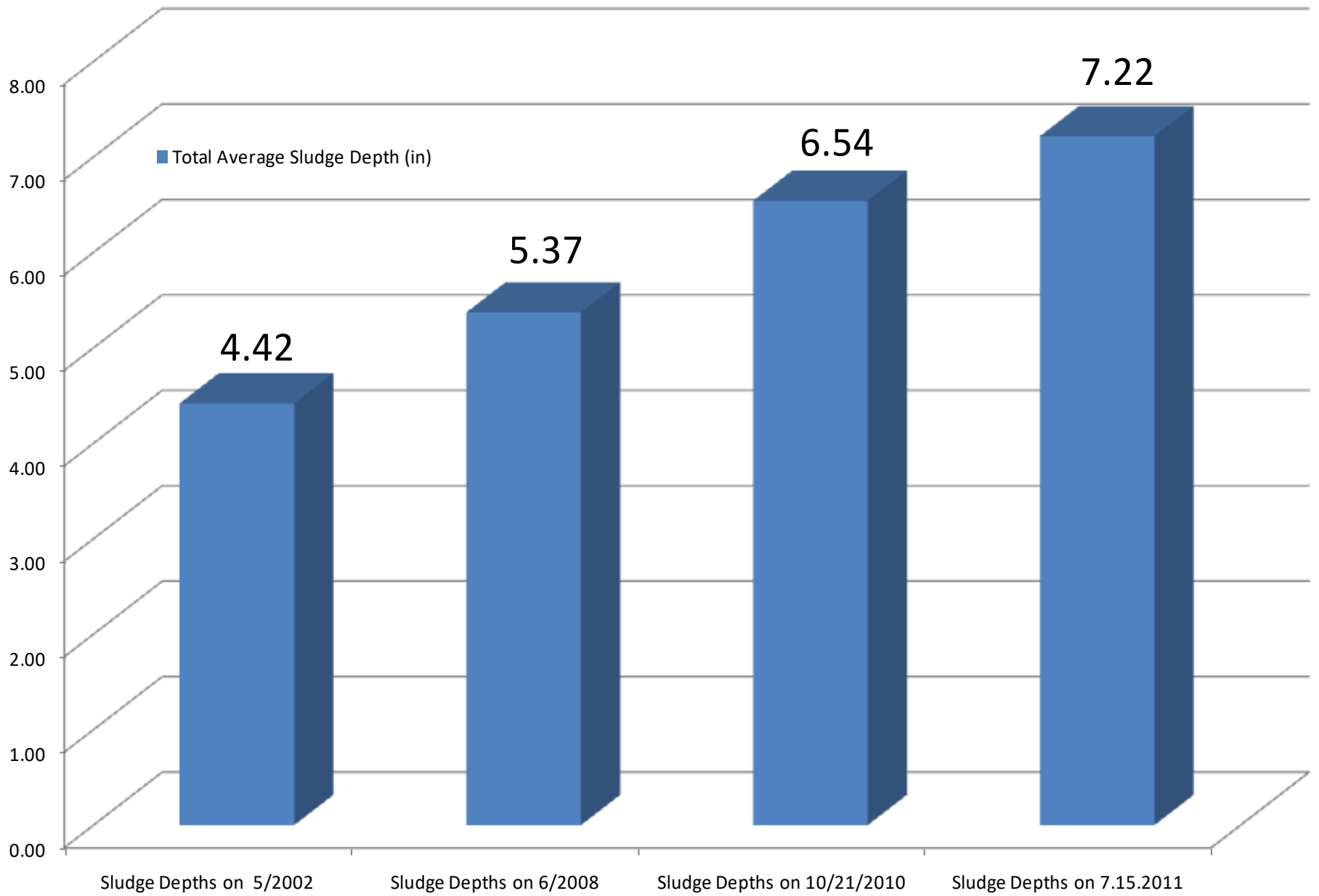
Chandler Pond # 2 Average Sludge Blanket Thickness over a Six Year Period from May, 2002 to June, 2008



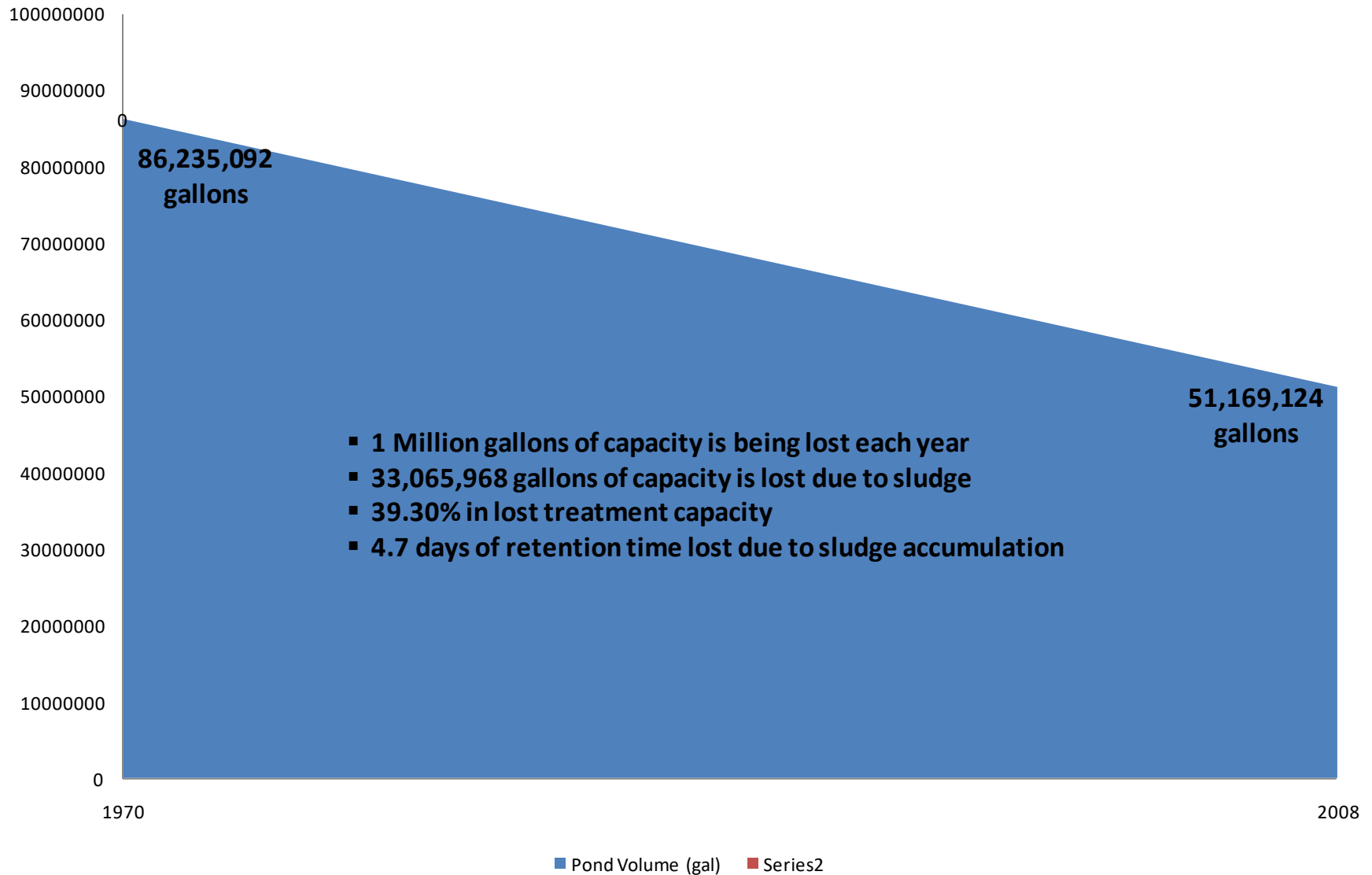
Pond # 1 Pond Volume Occupied by Sludge and Water over 10 Years



Pond # 1 Total Average Sludge Depth Over a 10 Year Period

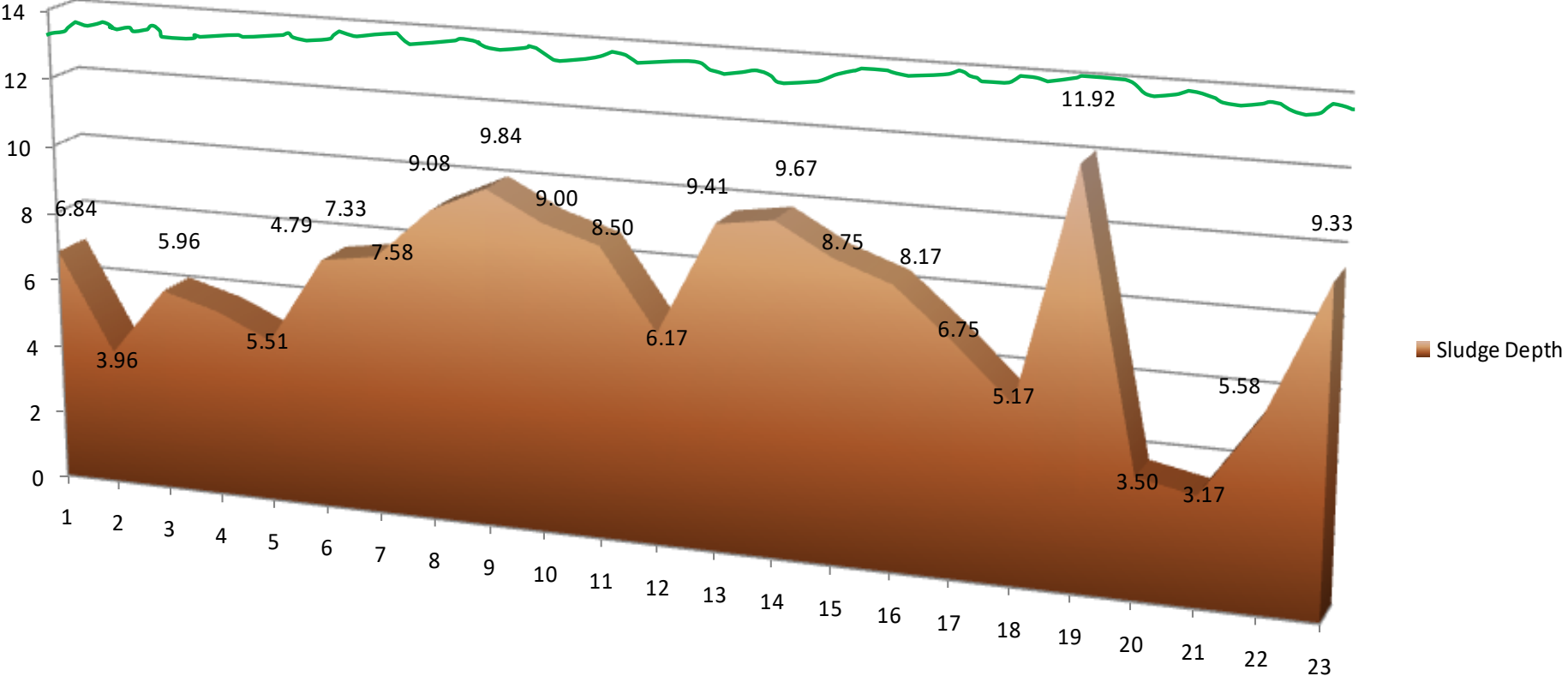


Change in Total Usable Volume of Pond # 1 from Pond as Newly Constructed, to Pond as it Exists in 2008





Pond # 1 Sludge Depth Profile taken on 7.15.2011



Average Water Depth: 13.6 feet
Average Sludge Depth: 7.22 feet
Pond Volume Occupied by Sludge: 53%

Sludge at 14 Ft. on 9/28/2012





Why is loss of retention time so important to the effluent quality of lagoons?

“Short-circuiting is the greatest deterrent to successful pond performance, barring any toxic effects. The importance of the hydraulic design of a pond system cannot be overemphasized”

- Middlebrooks

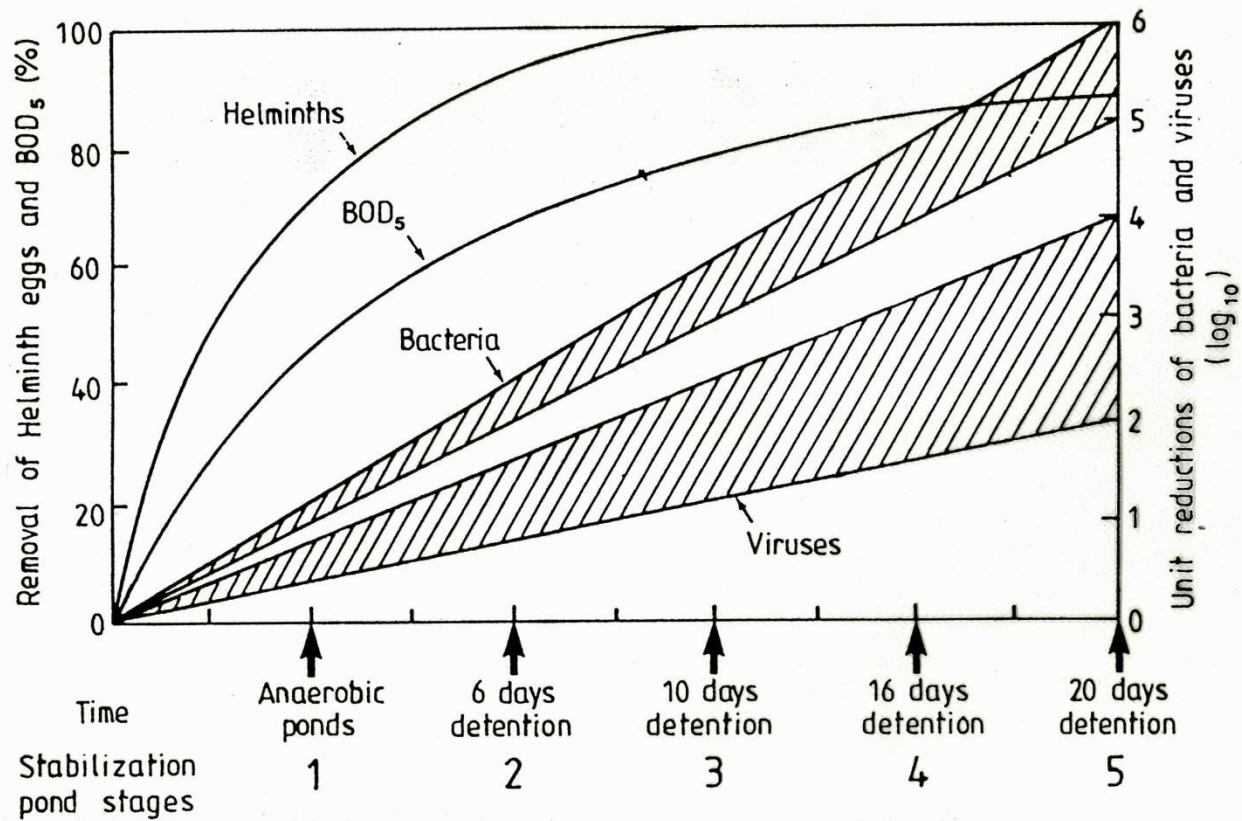


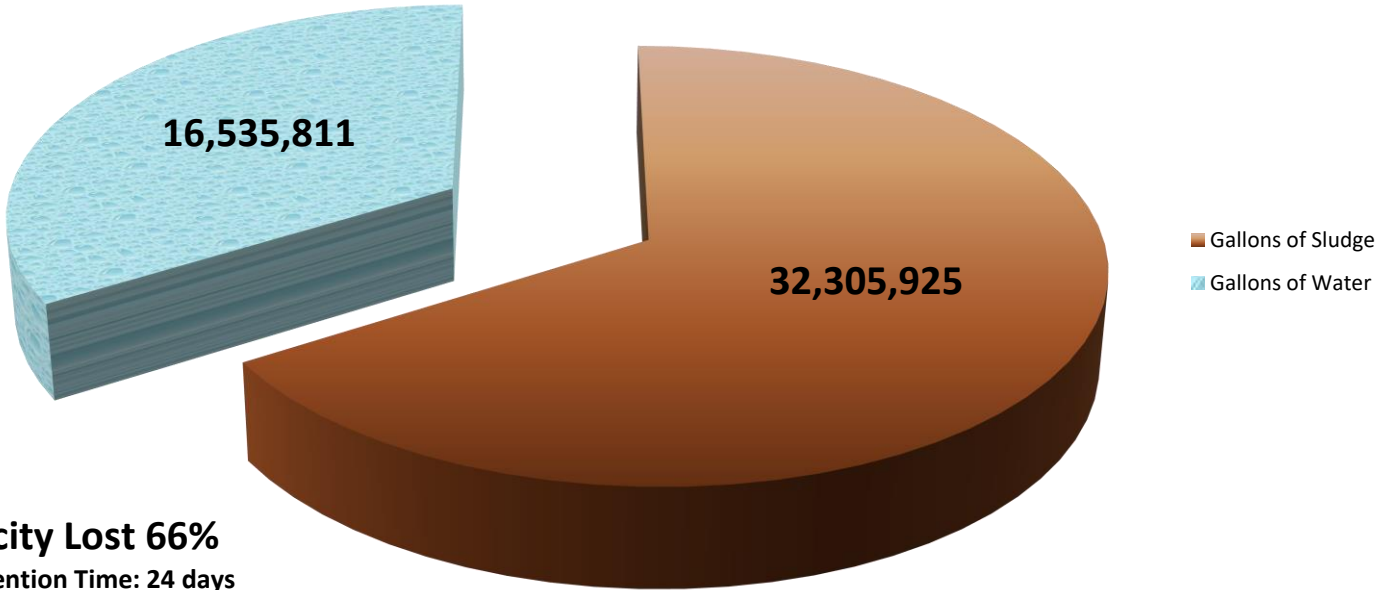
Figure 10.2 Generalised curve for the removal of organic material and excreted pathogens across a waste stabilisation series, for temperatures in excess of 20°C. (From *IRCWD News*, **23**, 1985. Reproduced by permission of the International Reference Centre for Waste Disposal.)

Hydraulic retention time in a pond is critical because it effects the following:

- 1. Nitrogen removal
- 2. Pathogen destruction and inactivation
- 3. Algae growth
- 4. BOD/COD removal

Capacity Reduction / Days Lost

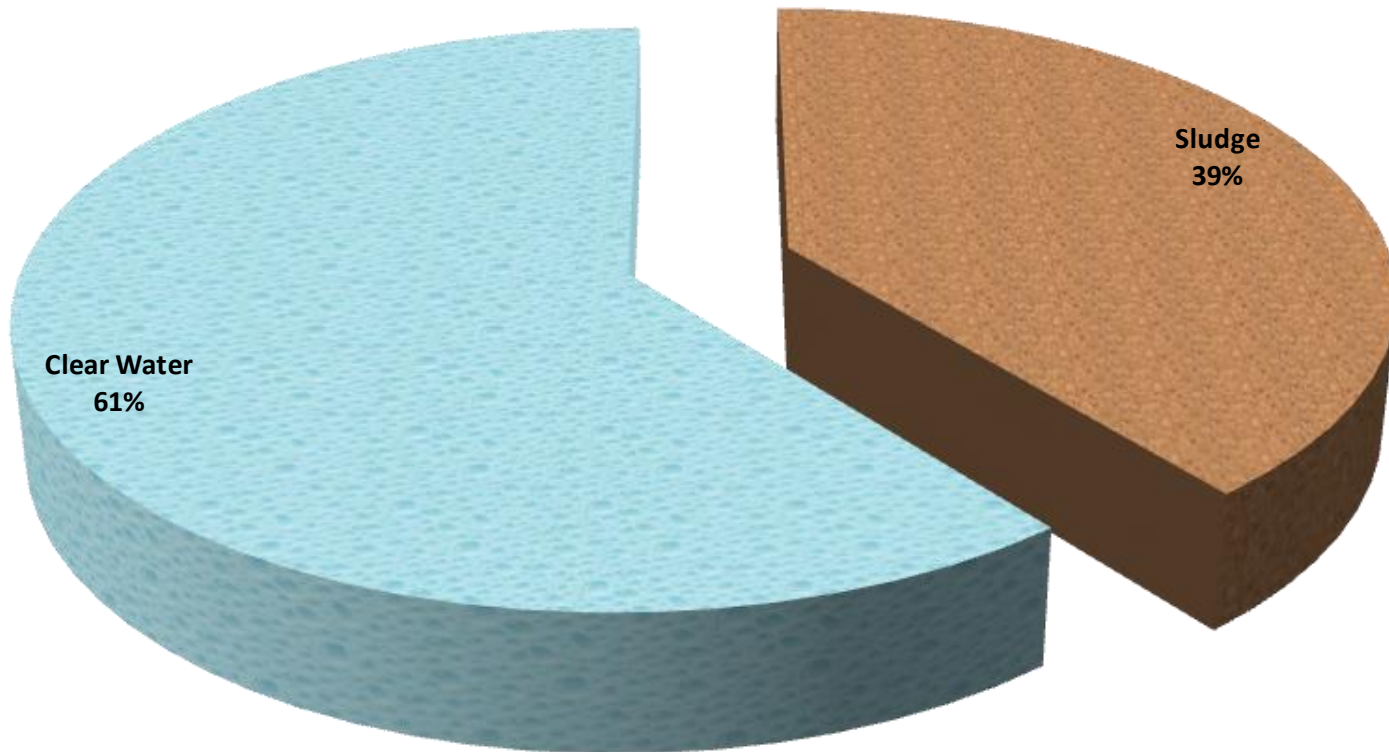
Treatment Capacity Displaced by Sludge in Cell # 1 of the
Wastewater Stabilization Pond System



Capacity Lost 66%

Old Retention Time: 24 days
New Retention Time 8.27 days
Average Water Depth: 6 feet
Average Sludge Depth: 3.966 feet
Volume of Sludge: 32,305,925 gallons
Estimated Mass of Sludge: 10,104 dry tons
Date Profiled: July 20, 2011

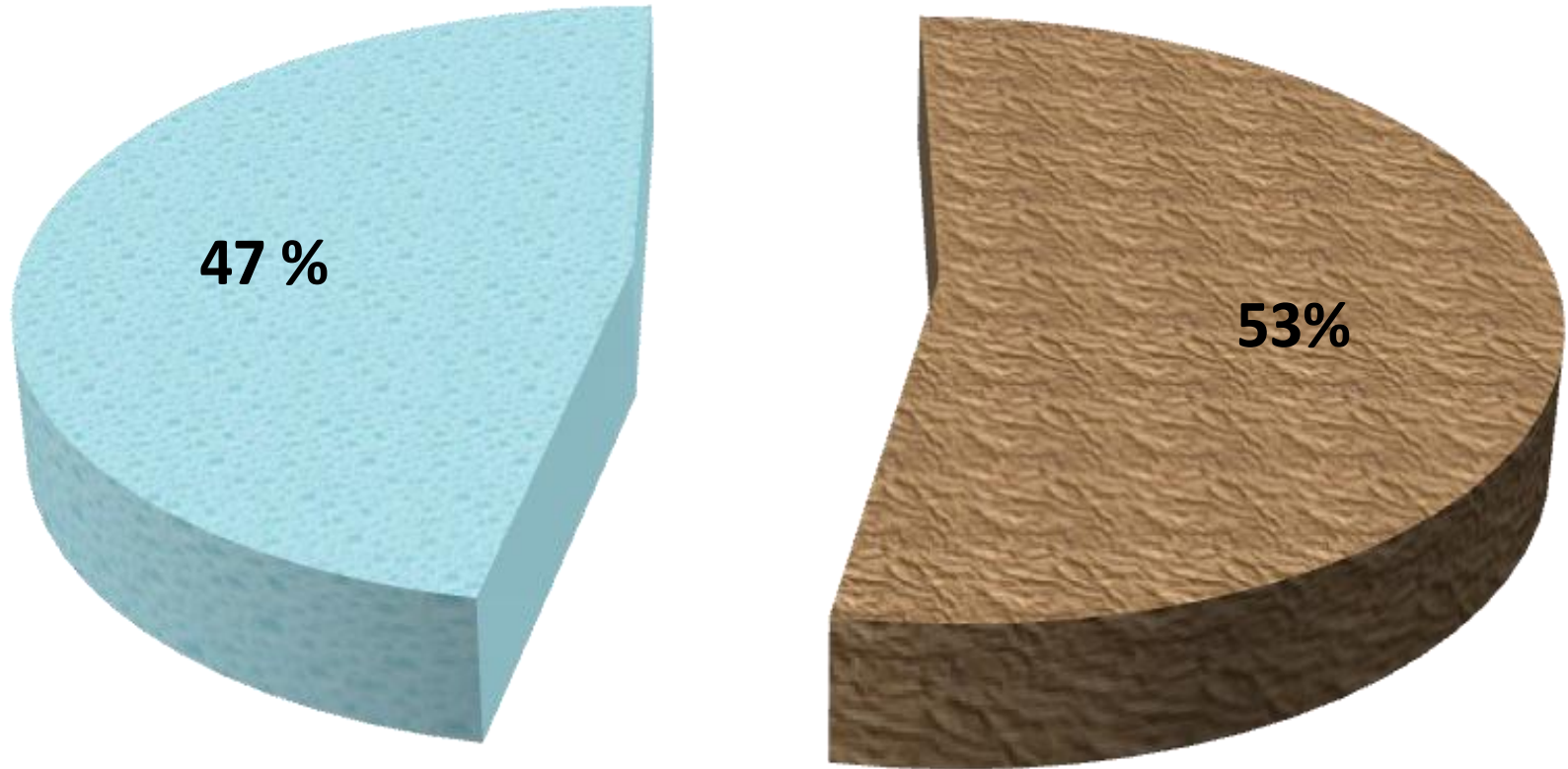
Capacity in Pond # 1 as of 6/12/2008



- 1 Million gallons of capacity is being lost each year
- 33,065,968 gallons of capacity is lost due to sludge
- 39.30% in lost treatment capacity
- 4.7 days of retention time lost due to sludge accumulation

Pond # 1 Water & Sludge Volume

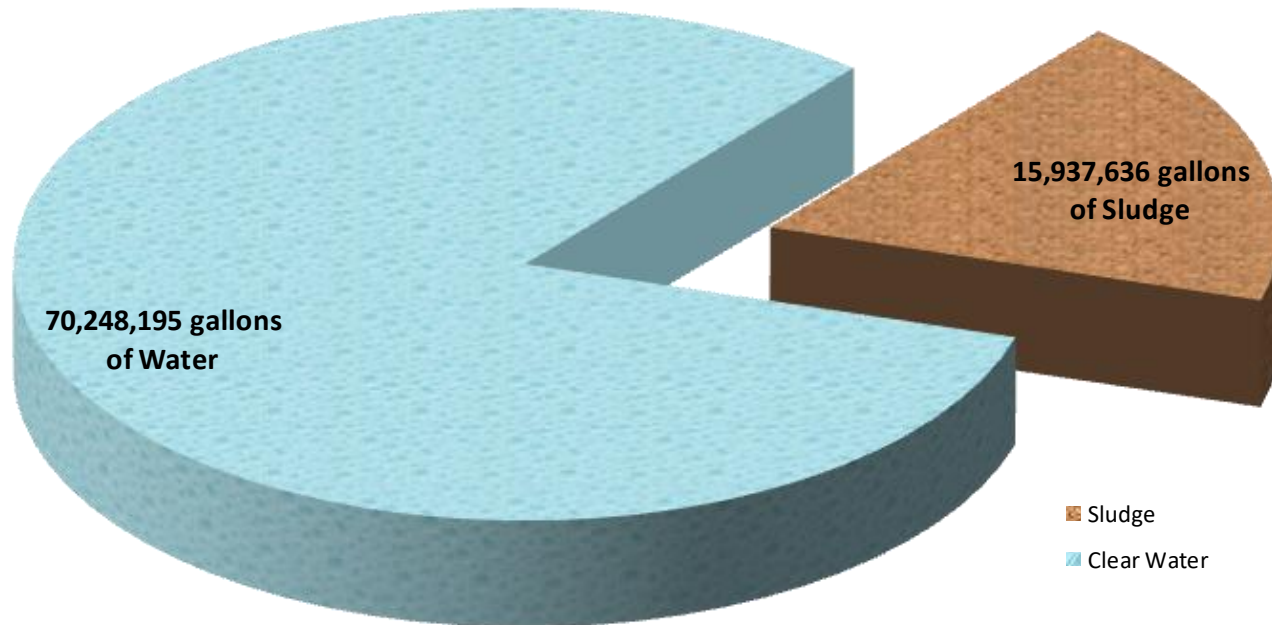
July 2011



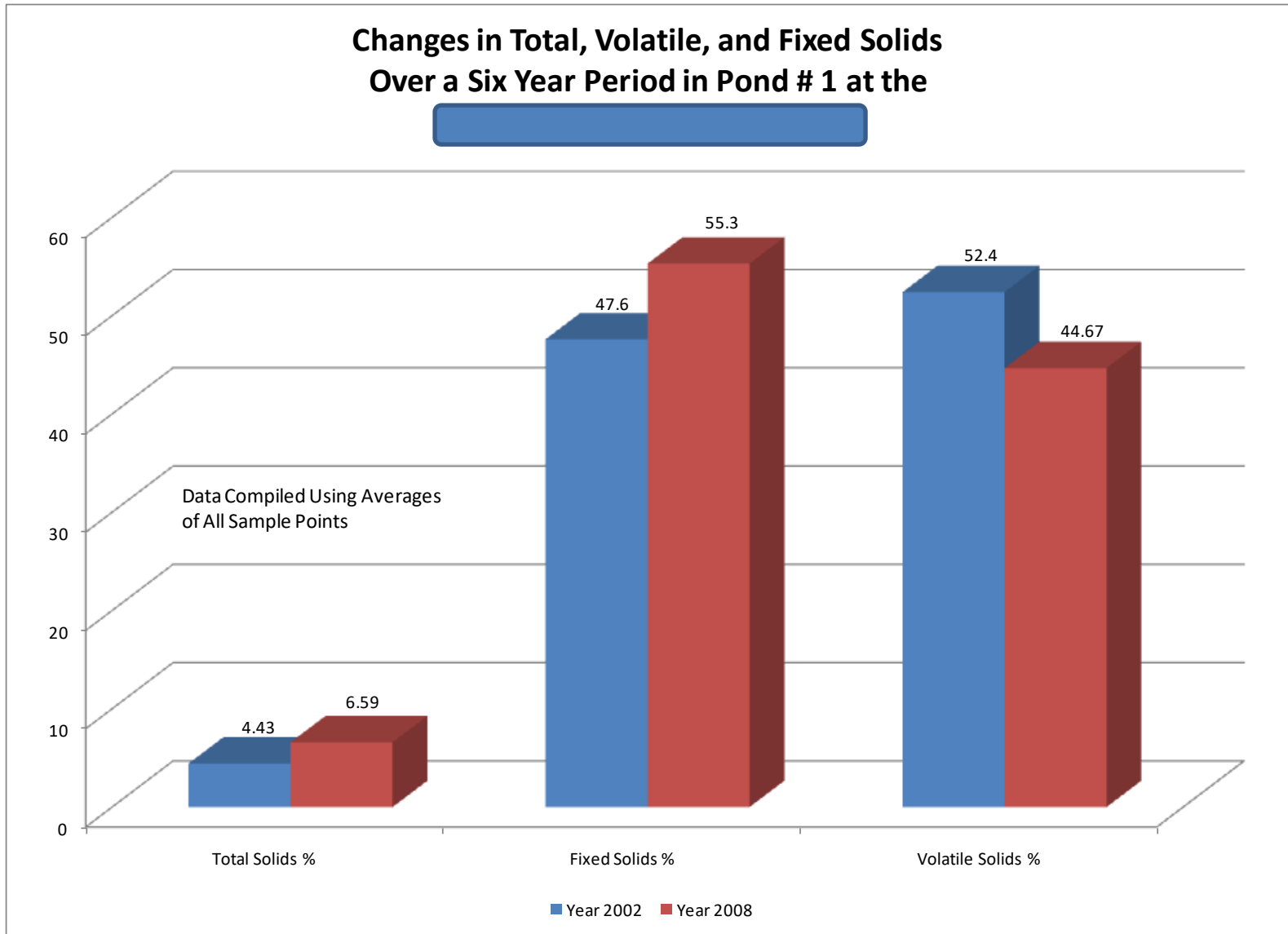
■ % Occupied by Sludge ■ % Occupied by Water

Current Capacity in Pond # 2

- Pond volume lost to sludge: 18.50%
- Sludge has displaced .35 million gallons of capacity each year
- Pond # 2 has lost 2 days of retention time since it came on line



Adding and Moving Aerators Helps Destroy Volatile Solids



- On the average, suspended sediments (mixed sediments) consume as much as 4.96 mg O₂/day which is 900 times more than unmixed sediments.
- As sediments are mixed, respiration rates can increase by 300 times (D.Chabir, 2000).

Summary

<u>Pond # 1</u>	<u>May-02</u>	<u>Jun-08</u>	<u>Net Increase</u>	<u>Net Decrease from 2002 to 2008</u>	<u>Overall Decrease</u>
Tons of Dry Solids	4,679	8,098	3419 dry tons		
Average Sludge Depth (ft)	4.42	5.37	.95 ft		
Average Total Solids (%)	5.9	6.25	0.35%		
Total Pond Volume with No Sludge	84,235,092 gal.	84,235,092 gal.	0.00%	0.00%	
Useable Pond Volume	57,018,783 gal.	51,169,124 gal.		5,849,659 gal.	
Pond Volume Lost to Sludge	27,215,309 gal	33,065,968 gal			33,065,968 gal. volume lost
% Pond Volume Lost to Sludge	32.30%	39.30%		7.00%	39.30%
Theoretical Retention Time No Sludge	12 days	12 days			1 million gallons of capacity is lost each year
Retention Time with Sludge	8.14 days	7.3 days		.84 days	4.7 days
Pond # 2	May-02	Jun-08			
Tons of Dry Solids	1551	2511	960 dry tons		
Average Sludge Depth (ft)	2.25	2.6	.35 ft		
Average Total Solids (%)	2.6	3.66	1%		
Total Pond Volume with No Sludge	86,185,831 gal	86,185,831 gal	0%		
Useable Pond Volume	72,393,646 gal	70,248,195 gal		2,145,451 gal	
Pond Volume Lost to Sludge	13792185 gal	15,937,636 gal.		2,145,451 gal.	15,937,636 gal
% Pond Volume Lost to Sludge	16%	18.5%		2.50%	18.50%
Theoretical Retention Time No Sludge	12.3 days	12.3 days			.35 million gallons of capacity is lost each year
Retention Time with Sludge	10.04 days	10.3 days		.26 days	2 days

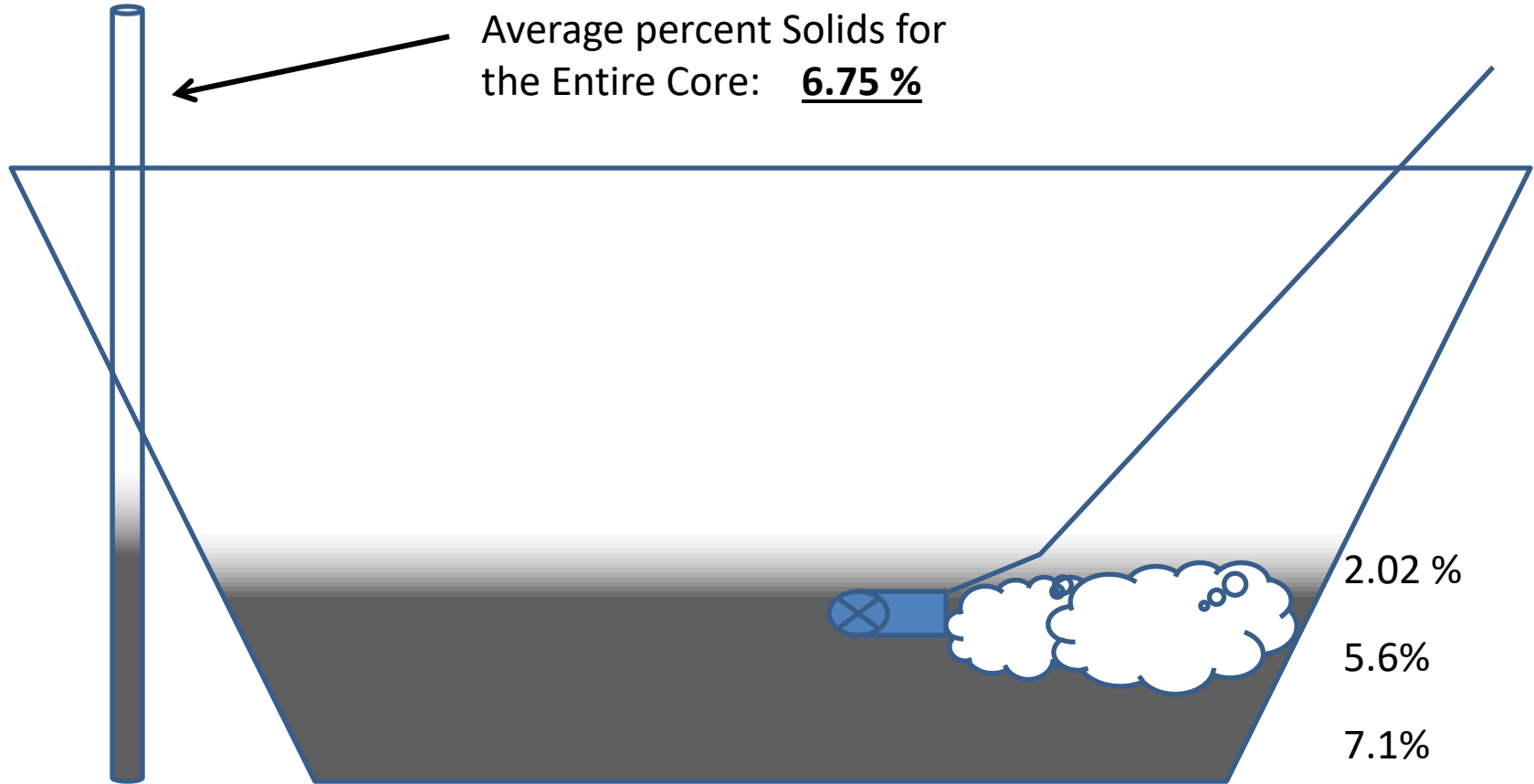
Solids Concentration Changes with Changing Sludge Depths



40 Sample Points / 20 Core Samples



Solids Concentration Changes with Changing Sludge Depths

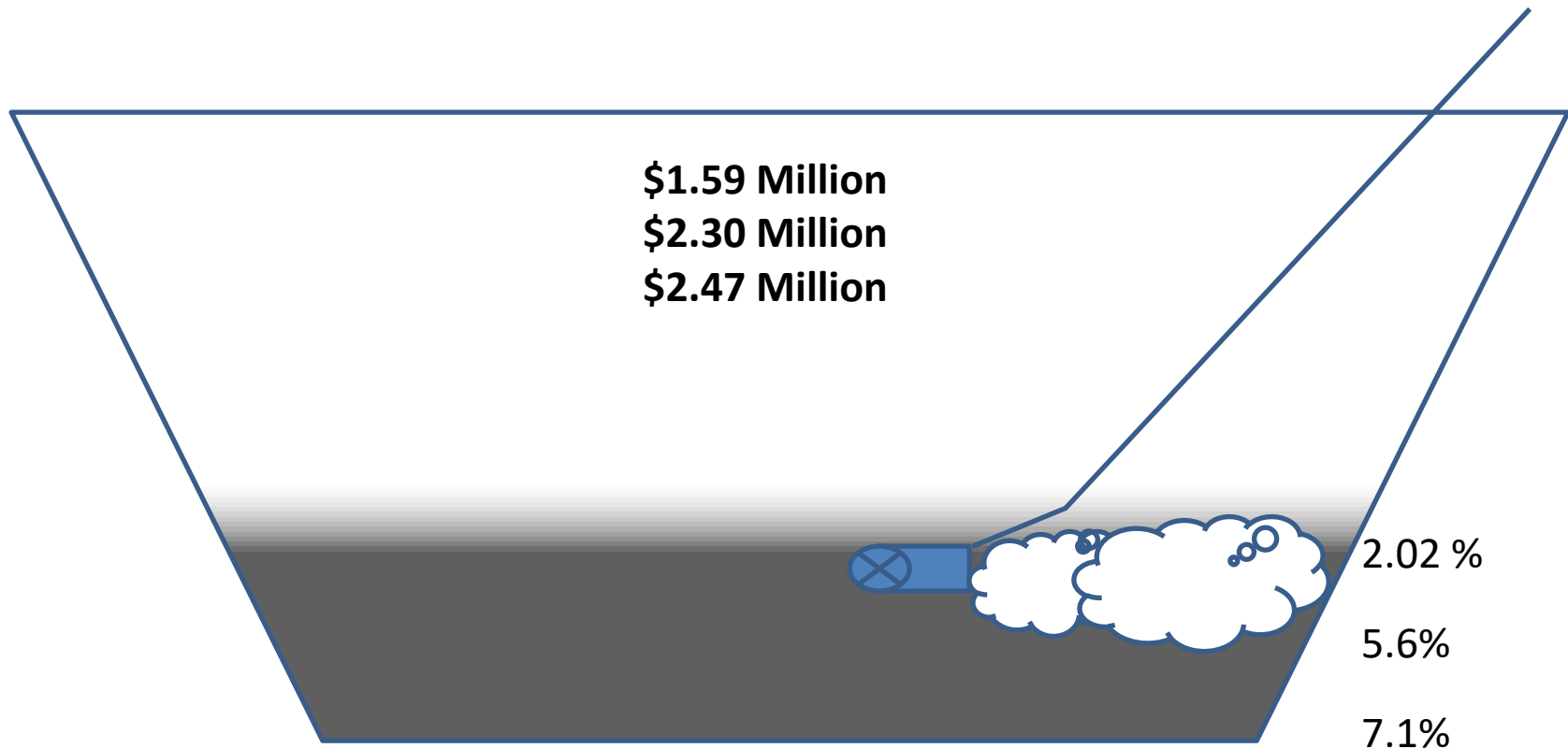


Solids Concentration Changes with Changing Sludge Depths

$1470' \times 560' \times 5.5' \text{ sludge} \times 7.48 \text{ gal/ft}^3 \times 8.34 \text{ lbs/gal} \times .045 \% \text{ solids} \times 1/2000 = \underline{\underline{6,355 \text{ dry tons}}}$

$1470' \times 560' \times 5.5' \text{ sludge} \times 7.48 \text{ gal/ft}^3 \times 8.34 \text{ lbs/gal} \times .065 \% \text{ solids} \times 1/2000 = \underline{\underline{9,179 \text{ dry tons}}}$

$1470' \times 560' \times 5.5' \text{ sludge} \times 7.48 \text{ gal/ft}^3 \times 8.34 \text{ lbs/gal} \times .070 \% \text{ solids} \times 1/2000 = \underline{\underline{9,886 \text{ dry tons}}}$



Questions to Think About

- What if you are paying by the gallon for sludge removal and the dredge does not move fast enough?
- What if you are paying by time and the dredge does not move fast enough?
- What if you are paying by the job and the dredge only get the upper 50 to 60% of the sludge blanket?