



Clean Air Status and Trends Network

Second Quarter 2026 Quality Assurance Report

Summary of Quarterly Operations (April through June)

Submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Air Quality Assessment Division

EPA Contract No. 68HERH21D0006

Introduction

This quarterly report summarizes results from the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET) quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) program for data collected during second quarter 2026. The various QA/QC criteria and policies are documented in the CASTNET Quality Assurance Project Plan [QAPP; WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. (WSP), 2025]. The QAPP is comprehensive and includes standards and policies for all components of project operation from site selection through final data reporting. It is reviewed annually and updated as warranted.

Quarterly Summary

The CASTNET QA Manager completed incorporating the EPA's comments on the CASTNET QAPP Revision 11. The updated QAPP was submitted to the EPA on April 27, 2026.

A managerial review is performed annually in support of continuing International Organization for Standardization (ISO)/International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 17025:2017 accreditation of WSP's analytical and field laboratories by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). During second quarter 2026, the QA Manager continued the quality managerial review of 2025 activities. The audit of suppliers' performance and the quality of the goods supplied continued, and the 2025 Supplier Evaluation was finalized and signed on April 30, 2026. Additionally, the QA Manager reviewed and signed off on the completed demonstration of capability forms for CASTNET laboratory personnel, and compiled and analyzed performance metrics for site operators. The QA Manager will complete the managerial review report and prepare a presentation on the report for WSP corporate management and QA personnel during third quarter 2026.

WSP continued uploading historical 9-meter temperature data to the EPA's Air Quality System (AQS). Three files are uploaded for each site. WSP plans to upload temperature data to the AQS for all EPA- and Indian River Lagoon Council-sponsored sites from 1990 through 2024.

WSP completed uploading validated CASTNET 2025 filter pack concentration data to the EPA's AQS. The EPA requested that WSP submit the 2025 filter pack data earlier than usual so the data can be used by the EPA in its 2025 trends report to highlight 40 years of CASTNET filter pack concentration data.

During second quarter 2026, WSP continued work on developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the QA and operational aspects of the new Teledyne API (TAPI) N400 ozone analyzers. These SOPs will cover acceptance and performance testing at the CASTNET ozone laboratory in Gainesville, FL through installation, operation, and maintenance at the sites. The installation SOP was completed and verified by the CASTNET Field Operations Manager when he installed the first TAPI N400 ozone analyzer at the DUK008, NC site on June 17, 2026.

The CASTNET Data Management, Analysis, Interpretation, and Reporting Manager and other members of the data operations team completed work to incorporate fog and cloud screening for application of data flags to QuantAQ particulate matter (PM) data for easy identification of fog and cloud events. WSP evaluated the dewpoint calculation using the relative humidity and ambient temperature values obtained from the QuantAQ MODULAIR sensor to determine if fog or clouds were occurring at the site. A fog event is determined if the sensor's ambient temperature is within 3.75 degrees Celsius of the calculated dewpoint and PM_{coarse} is $>200 \mu g/m^3$. The fog and cloud screening and associated flags were included in the daily submittals of QuantAQ data beginning May 19, 2026.

Table 1 lists external audits of CASTNET ozone systems at the EPA-sponsored sites that were performed by state agencies and National Performance Audit Program (NPAP) auditors during the quarter.

Table 2 lists the quarters of data that were validated to Level 3 during second quarter 2026 per site calibration group. Table 3 lists the sites in each calibration group along with the calibration schedule. Table 4 presents the measurement criteria for laboratory filter pack measurements. These criteria apply to the QC samples listed in the following section of this report. Table 5 presents the critical criteria for ozone monitoring. Table 6 presents the critical criteria for trace-level gas monitoring.

Quality Control Analysis Count

The QC sample statistics presented in this report are for reference standards (RF) and continuing calibration verification spikes (CCV) used to assess accuracy and for replicate sample analyses (RP) used to assess "in-run" precision. In addition, laboratory method blanks (MB) containing reagents without a filter; laboratory blanks (LB) containing reagents and a new, unexposed filter; and field blanks (FB) containing reagents and an unexposed filter that had been loaded into a filter pack assembly and shipped to and from the monitoring site while remaining in sealed packaging are also included. Table 7 presents the number of analyses in each category that were performed during second quarter 2026.

Sample Receipt Statistics

Ninety-five percent of field samples from EPA-sponsored sites should be received by the CASTNET laboratory in Gainesville, FL no later than 14 days after removal from the sampling tower. Table 8 presents the relevant sample receipt statistics for second quarter 2026.

Data Quality Indicator (DQI) Results

Figures 1 through 3 present the results of RF, CCV, and RP QC sample analyses for second quarter 2026. All results were within the criteria listed in Table 4. The calcium RP result at 27 percent was less than 5 times the RL, and the absolute difference was within $\pm RL$.

Table 9 presents summary statistics of critical criteria measurements at ozone sites collected during second quarter 2026. The statistics presented contain data validated at Level 2 and Level 3. All data associated with QC checks that fail to meet the criteria listed in Table 5 were or will be invalidated unless the cause of failure has no effect on ambient data collection and passing results still meet

frequency criteria. Results in shaded cells either exceed documented criteria or are otherwise notable. Table 10 presents observations associated with the shaded cell results in Table 9.

Table 11 presents summary statistics of critical criteria measurements at trace-level gas monitoring sites collected during second quarter 2026. The statistics presented contain data validated at Level 2 and Level 3. All data associated with QC checks that fail to meet the criteria listed in Table 6 were or will be invalidated unless the cause of failure has no effect on ambient data collection and passing results still meet frequency criteria. Results in shaded cells either exceed documented criteria or are otherwise notable. Table 12 presents observations associated with the shaded cell results in Table 11.

Laboratory Control Sample Analysis

The laboratory control sample (LCS) is a reagent blank spiked with the target analytes from the established analytical methods and carried through the same extraction process that field samples must undergo. LCS analyses are performed by the laboratory to monitor for potential sample handling artifacts and provide a means to identify possible analyte loss from the extraction process. Figure 4 presents LCS analysis results for second quarter 2026. All recovery values were between 92 percent and 106 percent.

Blank Results

Figures 5 through 7 present the results of MB, LB, and FB QC sample analyses for second quarter 2026. All second quarter results were within criteria (two times the reporting limit) listed in Table 4 except the cellulose FB sample for April at EGB181, ON. This sample remained onsite for approximately two months and measured at 5.08 µg with a reporting limit of 2.0 µg. The April ambient concentrations were not unusual, and all other associated QC were within criteria.

Suspect/Invalid Filter Pack Samples

Filter pack samples that were flagged as suspect or invalid during second quarter 2026 are listed in Table 13. This table also includes associated site identification and a brief description of the reason the sample was flagged. During second quarter, one filter pack sample was invalidated.

Field Problem Count

Table 14 presents counts of field problems affecting continuous data collection for more than one day for second quarter 2026. The problem counts are sorted by a 30-, 60-, or 90-day time period to resolution. A category for unresolved problems is also included.

References

- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). 2022. ASTM E29-22, Standard Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications. ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, DOI:10.1520/E0029-22. www.astm.org.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2025. Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 58, “Appendix A to Part 58 – Quality Assurance Requirements for Monitors used in Evaluations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.” <https://www.epa.gov/amtic/ambient-air-monitoring-quality-assurance> (Accessed July 2026).
- WSP USA Environment & Infrastructure Inc. (WSP). 2025. *Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET) Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Revision 10.2*. Prepared for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Air and Radiation, Clean Air and Power Division, Washington, DC. Contract No. 68HERH21D0006. Gainesville, FL. <https://www.epa.gov/castnet/documents-reports> (Accessed July 2026).

Table 1 NPAP and State Agency Audits of CASTNET Ozone Systems

Site ID	Auditing Agency
ALC188, TX	NPAP (EPA Region 6)
KEF112, PA	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
MKG113, PA	Pennsylvania DEP
SPD111, TN	NPAP (EPA Region 4)

Table 2 Data Validated to Level 3 through Second Quarter 2026

Calibration Group*	Months Available	Number of Months	Complete Quarters	Number of Quarters
E-1/SE-5	August 2025– January 2026	6	Quarter 4 2025	1
MW-7/W-9	September 2025– February 2026	6	Quarter 4 2025	1
E-2/MW-8	October 2025– March 2026	6	Quarter 4 2025– Quarter 1 2026	2

Note: * The sites contained in each calibration group are listed in Table 3.

Table 3 Field Calibration Schedule for 2026

Calibration Group	Months Calibrated	Sites Calibrated			
Eastern Sites (18 Total)					
E-1 (7 Sites)	February/August	ARE128, PA PED108, VA	BEL116, MD VPI120, VA	BWR139, MD WSP144, NJ	CTH110, NY
E-2 (6 Sites)	April/October	ABT147, CT WFM105, NY	CAT175, NY WST109, NH	EGB181, ON	NIC001, NY
E-3 (5 Sites)	May/November	CDR119, WV PAR107, WV	KEF112, PA	LRL117, PA	MKG113, PA
Southeastern Sites (13 Total)					
SE-4 (7 Sites)	January/July	BFT142, NC GAS153, GA	CND125, NC SND152, AL	COW137, NC SPD111, TN	DUK008, NC ¹
SE-5 (6 Sites)	February/August	CAD150, AR MAR013, FL	CNS011, FL SUM156, FL	CVL151, MS	IRL141, FL
Midwestern Sites (15 Total)					
MW-6 (4 Sites)	January/July	CKT136, KY	ESP127, TN	MCK131, KY	MCK231, KY
MW-7 (7 Sites)	March/September	BVL130, IL ² RED004, MN	OXF122, OH STK138, IL ²	PRK134, WI VIN140, IN	QAK172, OH
MW-8 (4 Sites)	April/October	ANA115, MI	HOX148, MI	SAL133, IN	UVL124, MI
Western Sites (14 Total)					
W-9 (6 Sites)	March/September	ALC188, TX KNZ184, KS	CHE185, OK SAN192, NE ²	CNO014, OK	HAS012, KS
W-10 (8 Sites)	May/November	CNT169, WY PAL190, TX	GTH161, CO PND165, WY	LPO010, CA ROM206, CO	NPT006, ID UMA009, WA

Notes: ¹ Trace-level gas calibrations are performed quarterly in January, April, July, and October.

² Trace-level gas calibrations are performed quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

Table 4 Data Quality Indicators for CASTNET Laboratory Measurements

Analyte	Method	Precision ¹ (MARPD)	Accuracy ² (%)	Nominal Reporting Limits ³	
				mg/L	µg/Filter
Ammonium (NH ₄ ⁺)	AC	20	90–110	0.020*	0.5
Sodium (Na ⁺)	ICP-OES	20	95–105	0.005	0.125
Potassium (K ⁺)	ICP-OES	20	95–105	0.006	0.15
Magnesium (Mg ²⁺)	ICP-OES	20	95–105	0.003	0.075
Calcium (Ca ²⁺)	ICP-OES	20	95–105	0.006	0.15
Chloride (Cl ⁻)	IC	20	95–105	0.020	0.5
Nitrate (NO ₃ ⁻)	IC	20	95–105	0.008*	0.2
Sulfate (SO ₄ ²⁻)	IC	20	95–105	0.040	1.0

Notes: ¹ This column lists precision goals for both network precision calculated from co-located filter samples and laboratory precision based on replicate samples for samples > five times the reporting limit. The criterion is ± the reporting limit if the sample is ≤ five times the reporting limit.

² This column lists laboratory accuracy goals based on reference standards and continuing calibration verification spikes. The criterion is 90–110 percent for ICP-OES reference standards.

³ The reporting limit for sulfate on cellulose filters (reported as SO₄²⁻ with correction factor applied) is 0.080 mg/L (2.0 µg/filter).

AC = automated colorimetry
 IC = ion chromatography
 ICP-OES = inductively coupled plasma-optical emission spectrometry
 MARPD = mean absolute relative percent difference
 mg/L = milligrams per liter
 µg/Filter = micrograms per filter
 * = as nitrogen

Values are rounded according to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) E29-22, “Standard Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications” (ASTM, 2022).

For more information on analytical methods and associated precision and accuracy criteria, see the CASTNET QAPP, (WSP, 2025).

Table 5 Ozone Critical Criteria*

Type Check	Analyzer Response
Zero	Less than ± 3.1 parts per billion (ppb)
Span	Less than ± 7.1 percent between supplied and observed concentrations
Single Point QC	Less than ± 7.1 percent between supplied and observed concentrations

Notes: * Applies to CASTNET sites that are configured and operated in accordance with Part 58 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (EPA, 2025). The minimum frequency for these checks is once every two weeks.

Values are rounded according to ASTM E29-22, “Standard Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications” (ASTM, 2022).

Table 6 Trace-level Gas Monitoring Critical Criteria*

Parameter	Analyzer Response	
	Zero Check	Span Check / Single Point QC Check
SO ₂	Less than ± 1.51 ppb	Less than ± 10.1 percent between supplied and observed concentrations
NO _y	Less than ± 1.51 ppb	
CO	Less than ± 50 ppb	

Notes: *Applies to CASTNET sites that are configured and operated in accordance with Part 58 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (EPA, 2025). The minimum frequency for these checks is once every two weeks.

Values are rounded according to ASTM E29-22, "Standard Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications" (ASTM, 2022).

SO₂ = sulfur dioxide
 NO_y = total reactive oxides of nitrogen
 CO = carbon monoxide
 ppb = parts per billion

Table 7 QC Analysis Count for Second Quarter 2026

Filter Type	Parameter	RF Sample Count	CCV Sample Count	RP Sample Count	MB Sample Count	LB Sample Count	FB Sample Count
Teflon	SO ₄ ²⁻	58	170	69	14	22	41
	NO ₃ ⁻	58	170	69	14	22	41
	NH ₄ ⁺	42	150	67	14	22	41
	Cl ⁻	58	170	69	14	22	41
	Ca ²⁺	28	155	68	14	22	41
	Mg ²⁺	28	155	68	14	22	41
	Na ⁺	28	155	68	14	22	41
	K ⁺	28	155	68	14	22	41
Nylon	SO ₄ ²⁻	39	154	65	13	22	41
	HNO ₃	39	154	65	13	22	41
Cellulose	SO ₂	22	47	16	8	22	9

Table 8 Filter Pack Receipt Summary for Second Quarter 2026

Count of samples received more than 14 days after removal from tower:	22
Count of all samples received:	750
Fraction of samples received within 14 days:	0.971
Average interval in days:	4.983
First receipt date:	04/02/2026
Last receipt date:	06/29/2026

Note: Sample shipments for the Egbert, Ontario site (EGB181) are sent in groups of four. Samples associated with EGB181 are excluded from this statistic.

Table 9 Ozone QC Summary for Second Quarter 2026 (1 of 2)

Site ID	% Span Pass ¹	Span [%D] ²	% Single Point QC Pass ¹	Single Point QC [%D] ²	% Zero Pass ¹	Zero Average (ppb) ²
ABT147, CT	100.00	1.95	100.00	2.69	100.00	0.17
ALC188, TX	100.00	0.49	100.00	0.68	100.00	0.49
ANA115, MI	100.00	1.85	100.00	1.50	100.00	0.22
ARE128, PA	100.00	1.58	98.82	2.80	96.30	1.51
BEL116, MD	100.00	1.45	93.42	3.51	75.00	2.15
BFT142, NC	100.00	1.72	100.00	1.65	100.00	0.23
BVL130, IL	100.00	1.27	100.00	1.56	100.00	0.20
BWR139, MD	100.00	2.18	100.00	2.84	100.00	0.29
CAD150, AR	100.00	0.92	100.00	0.93	100.00	0.68
CDR119, WV	100.00	1.05	100.00	1.07	100.00	0.33
CKT136, KY	98.94	0.67	100.00	0.90	98.94	0.20
CND125, NC	100.00	0.79	100.00	1.69	100.00	0.29
CNT169, WY	100.00	0.86	100.00	1.00	100.00	0.23
COW137, NC	98.94	1.77	98.94	1.69	100.00	0.70
CTH110, NY	98.97	0.94	98.97	1.54	100.00	0.45
CVL151, MS	86.73	14.17	86.73	14.38	100.00	0.48
DUK008, NC	83.51	16.16	83.51	11.04	83.51	5.83
ESP127, TN	100.00	2.02	100.00	1.44	100.00	0.39
GAS153, GA	100.00	1.21	100.00	2.79	96.84	1.27
GTH161, CO	100.00	0.87	100.00	0.84	100.00	0.32
HAS012, KS	100.00	2.75	98.91	1.82	100.00	0.85
HOX148, MI	100.00	0.46	100.00	1.00	100.00	0.28
IRL141, FL	100.00	2.50	100.00	2.36	97.73	0.94
KEF112, PA	100.00	2.05	100.00	1.90	100.00	0.34
LPO010, CA	95.60	5.64	95.51	5.43	95.51	2.37
LRL117, PA	97.89	1.88	98.95	1.44	98.95	0.30
MCK131, KY	100.00	0.58	100.00	0.81	100.00	0.56
MCK231, KY	98.92	0.60	100.00	1.18	100.00	0.69
MKG113, PA	92.86	4.73	91.84	4.69	98.98	0.56
NPT006, ID	91.78	6.26	93.06	6.74	94.44	1.96
OXF122, OH	100.00	1.93	100.00	2.36	100.00	0.27
PAL190, TX	100.00	0.71	100.00	1.03	100.00	0.18
PAR107, WV	100.00	0.41	100.00	0.65	100.00	0.14
PED108, VA	100.00	1.89	100.00	1.95	100.00	0.33
PND165, WY	100.00	2.13	100.00	2.03	100.00	0.17
PRK134, WI	100.00	0.68	98.95	1.01	97.89	0.28
PSU106, PA	95.74	3.15	98.94	2.97	98.94	0.51
QAK172, OH	100.00	1.95	100.00	2.01	100.00	0.28
ROM206, CO	100.00	1.78	100.00	2.63	100.00	0.30
SAL133, IN	95.79	1.80	98.95	1.31	100.00	0.32
SAN192, NE	100.00	2.73	100.00	3.53	100.00	0.63
SND152, AL	97.03	1.20	98.02	1.99	99.01	1.14
SPD111, TN	98.86	3.38	100.00	3.10	100.00	0.21
STK138, IL	98.96	1.56	98.92	1.51	100.00	0.28

Table 9 Ozone QC Summary for Second Quarter 2026 (2 of 2)

Site ID	% Span Pass ¹	Span [%D] ²	% Single Point QC Pass ¹	Single Point QC [%D] ²	% Zero Pass ¹	Zero Average (ppb) ²
SUM156, FL	100.00	0.75	100.00	1.23	100.00	0.35
UMA009, WA	97.67	2.10	97.67	1.59	97.67	1.10
UVL124, MI	65.63	19.81	68.75	14.42	96.88	0.87
VIN140, IN	100.00	0.65	100.00	0.82	100.00	0.27
VPI120, VA	94.85	1.76	98.97	1.53	98.97	0.76
WSP144, NJ	98.92	1.03	100.00	1.02	100.00	0.45
WST109, NH	98.78	0.93	100.00	1.06	98.78	0.44

Notes: ¹Percentage of comparisons that pass the criteria listed in Table 5. Values falling below 90 percent are addressed in Table 10.

²Absolute value of the average percent differences between the on-site transfer standard and the site monitor. Values exceeding the criteria listed in Table 5 are addressed in Table 10.

%D = percent difference

ppb = parts per billion

Table 10 Ozone QC Observations for Second Quarter 2026

Site ID	QC Criterion	Comments
BEL116, MD	% Zero Pass	Due to analyzer malfunction. Associated data were invalidated.
CVL151, MS	% Span Pass Span [%D] % Single Point QC Pass Single Point QC [%D]	Due to analyzer malfunction. Associated data were invalidated.
DUK008, NC	% Span Pass Span [%D] % Single Point QC Pass Single Point QC [%D] % Zero Pass Zero Average	Due to analyzer malfunction. Associated data were invalidated.
UVL124, MI	% Span Pass Span [%D] % Single Point QC Pass Single Point QC [%D]	Due to a leak in the sampling train. Associated data were invalidated.

Note: %D = percent difference

Table 11 Trace-level Gas QC Summary for Second Quarter 2026

Parameter	% Span Pass ¹	Span [%D] ²	% Single Point QC Pass ¹	Single Point QC [%D] ²	% Zero Pass ¹	Zero Average (ppb) ²
BVL130, IL						
SO ₂	100.0	0.50	100.0	0.77	100.0	0.26
NO _y	62.50	7.31	62.50	7.95	97.92	0.53
CO	100.0	3.28	87.50	5.89	85.71	31.89
DUK008, NC						
NO _y	100.0	4.55	97.73	6.00	94.74	1.13
SAN192, NE						
NO _y	100.0	1.95	97.73	4.40	90.91	1.24
STK138, IL						
NO _y	92.68	4.16	90.24	5.30	94.74	0.74

Notes: ¹Percentage of comparisons that pass the criteria listed in Table 6. Values falling below 90 percent are addressed in Table 12.

²Absolute value of the average percent differences between the supplied and observed concentrations. Values exceeding the criteria listed in Table 6 are addressed in Table 12.

%D = percent difference

ppb = parts per billion

Table 12 Trace-level Gas QC Observations for Second Quarter 2026

Site ID	Parameter	QC Criterion	Comments
BVL130, IL	NO _y	% Span Pass % Single Point QC Pass	Due to photomultiplier tube cooler malfunction in April and calibration drift in May. Associated data were invalidated.
BVL130, IL	CO	% Single Point QC Pass % Zero Pass	Data associated with QC failures were invalidated.

Note: %D = percent difference

Table 13 Filter Packs Flagged as Suspect or Invalid During Second Quarter 2026

Site ID	Sample No.	Reason
ALB801, ON	2618006-01	May through June flow data were not in the database at the time of review. These data should be available during third quarter.

Table 14 Field Problems Affecting Data Collection

Days to Resolution	Problem Count
30	291
60	18
90	1
Unresolved by end of quarter	0

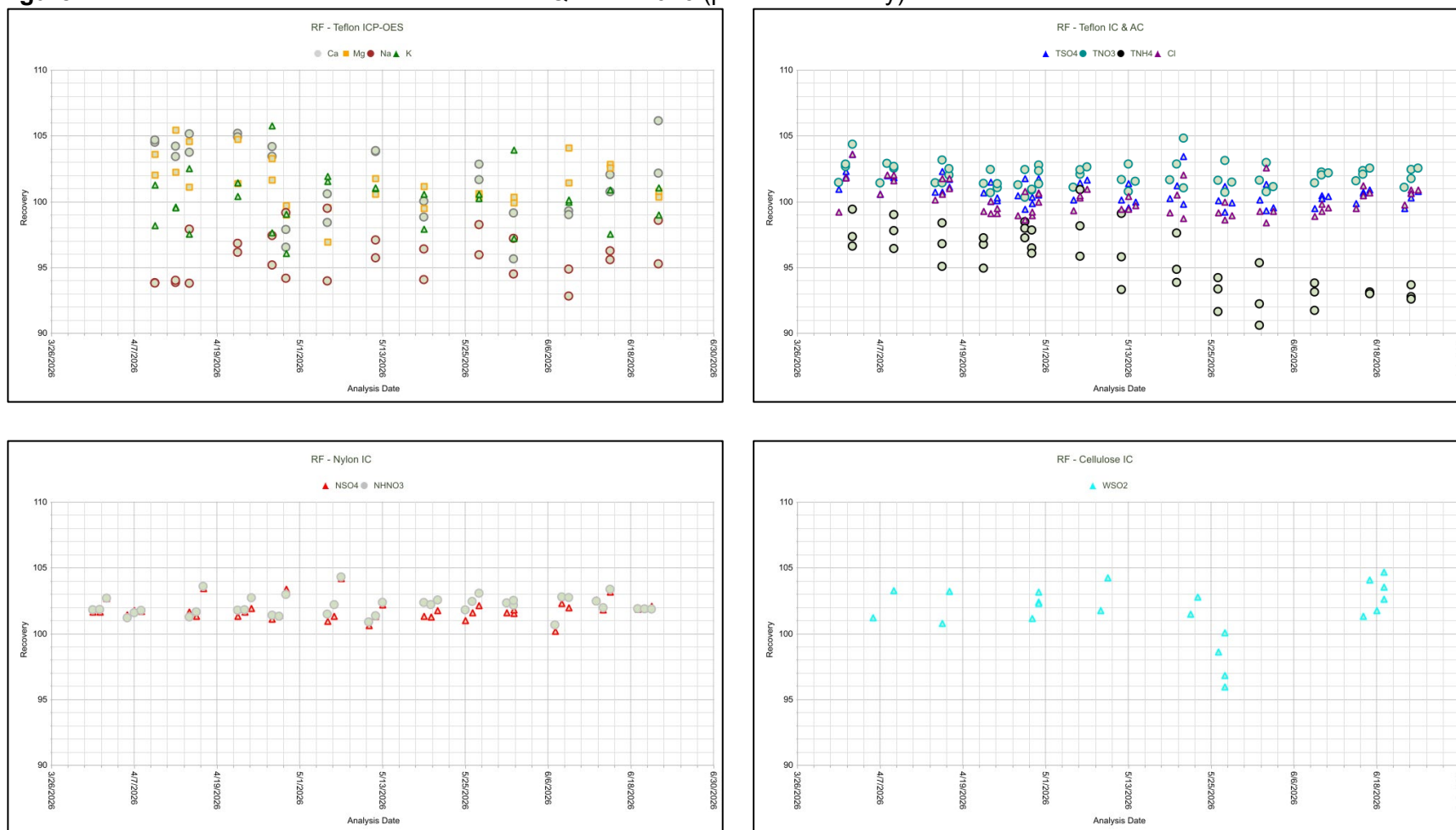
Figure 1 Reference Standard Results for Second Quarter 2026 (percent recovery)

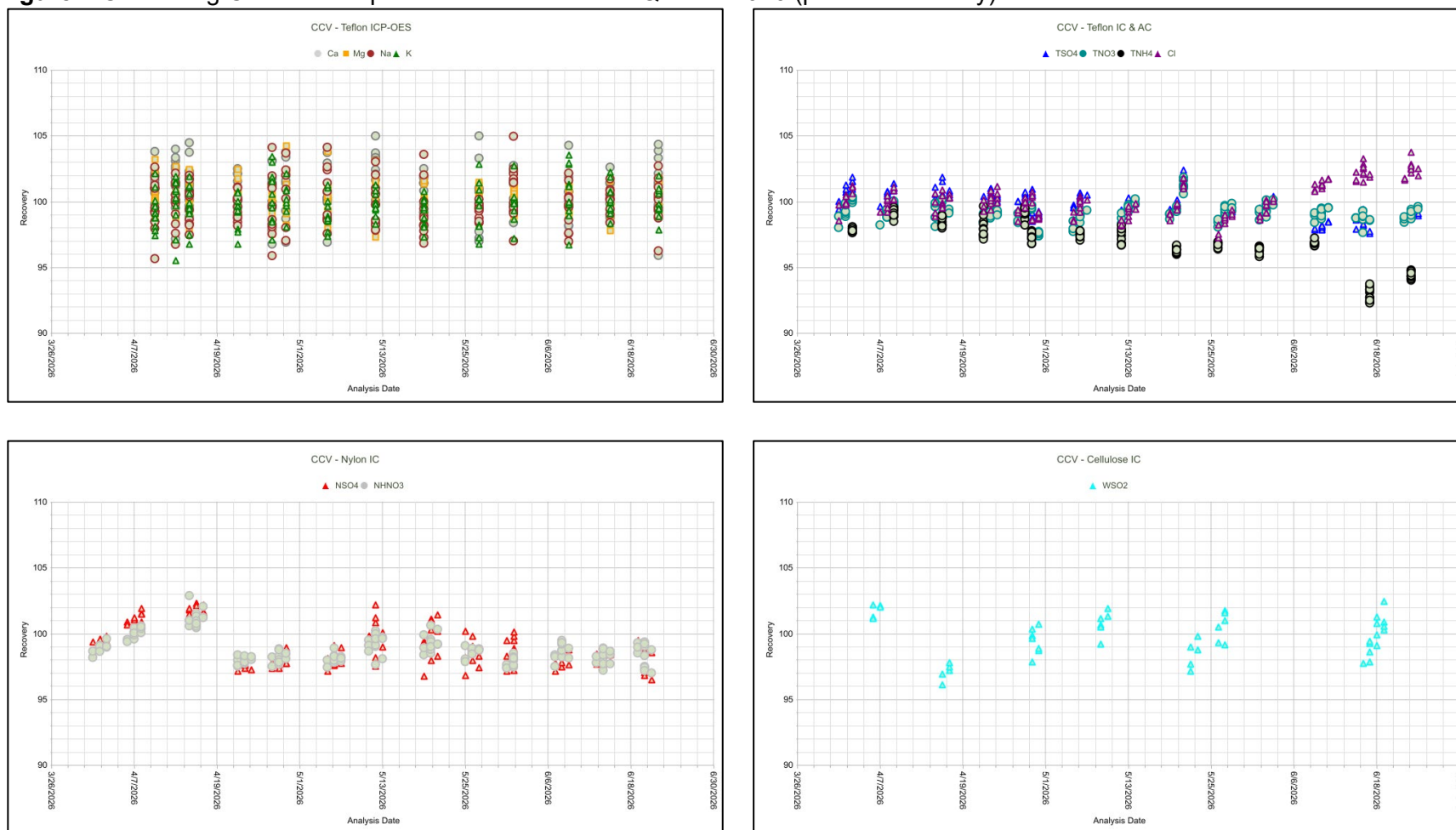
Figure 2 Continuing Calibration Spike Results for Second Quarter 2026 (percent recovery)

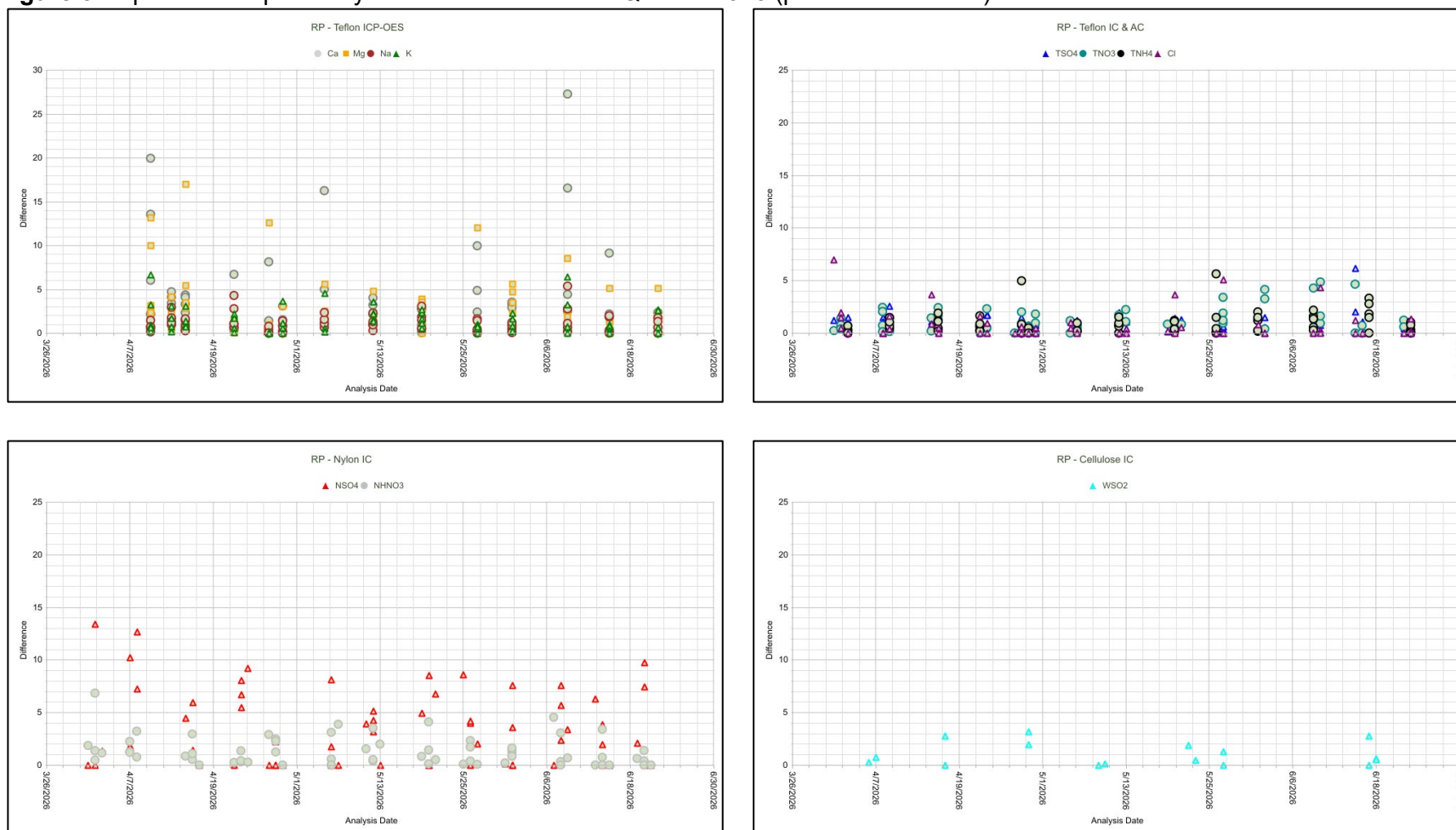
Figure 3 Replicate Sample Analysis Results for Second Quarter 2026 (percent difference)

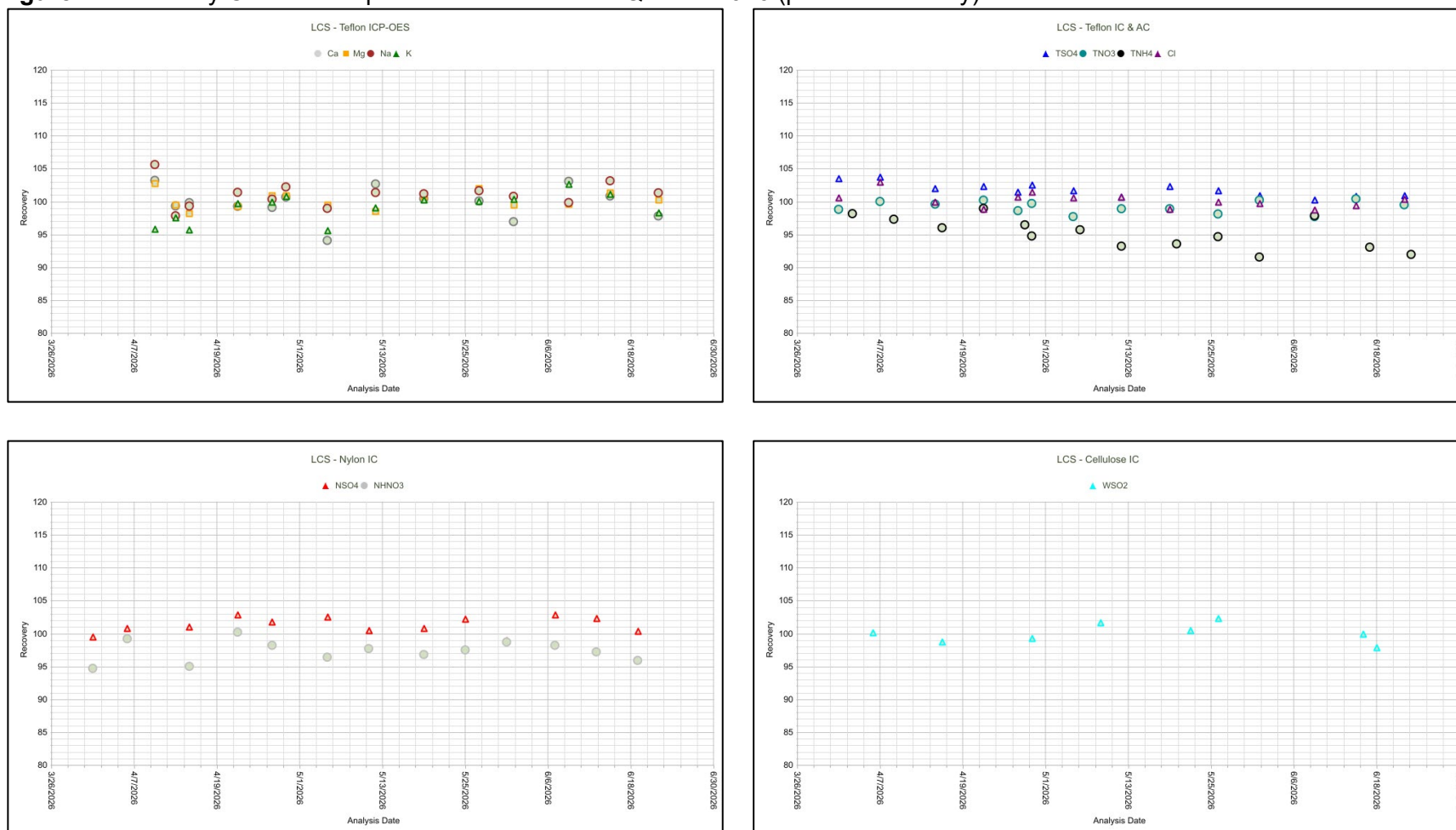
Figure 4 Laboratory Control Sample Results for Second Quarter 2026 (percent recovery)

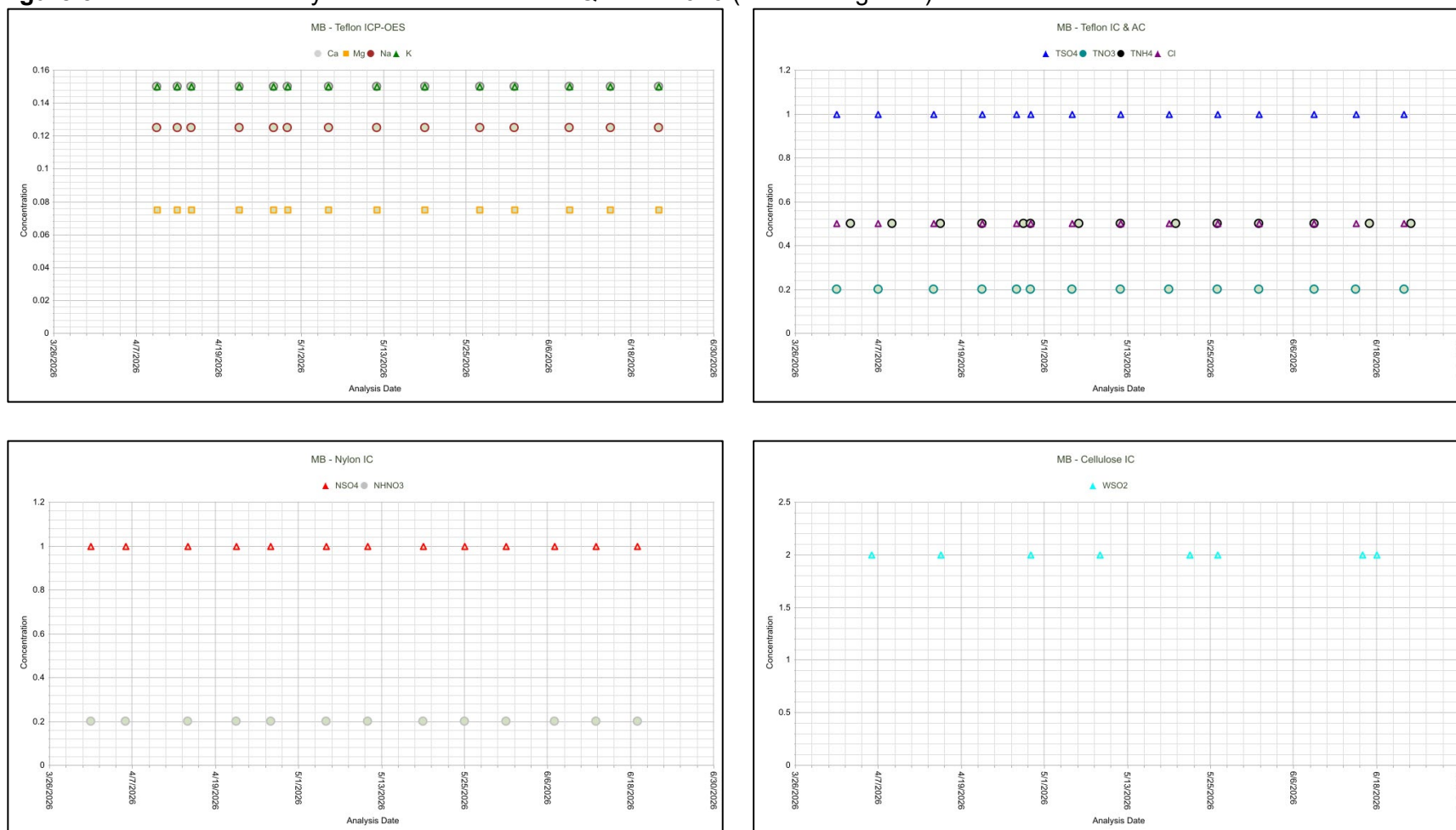
Figure 5 Method Blank Analysis Results for Second Quarter 2026 (total micrograms)

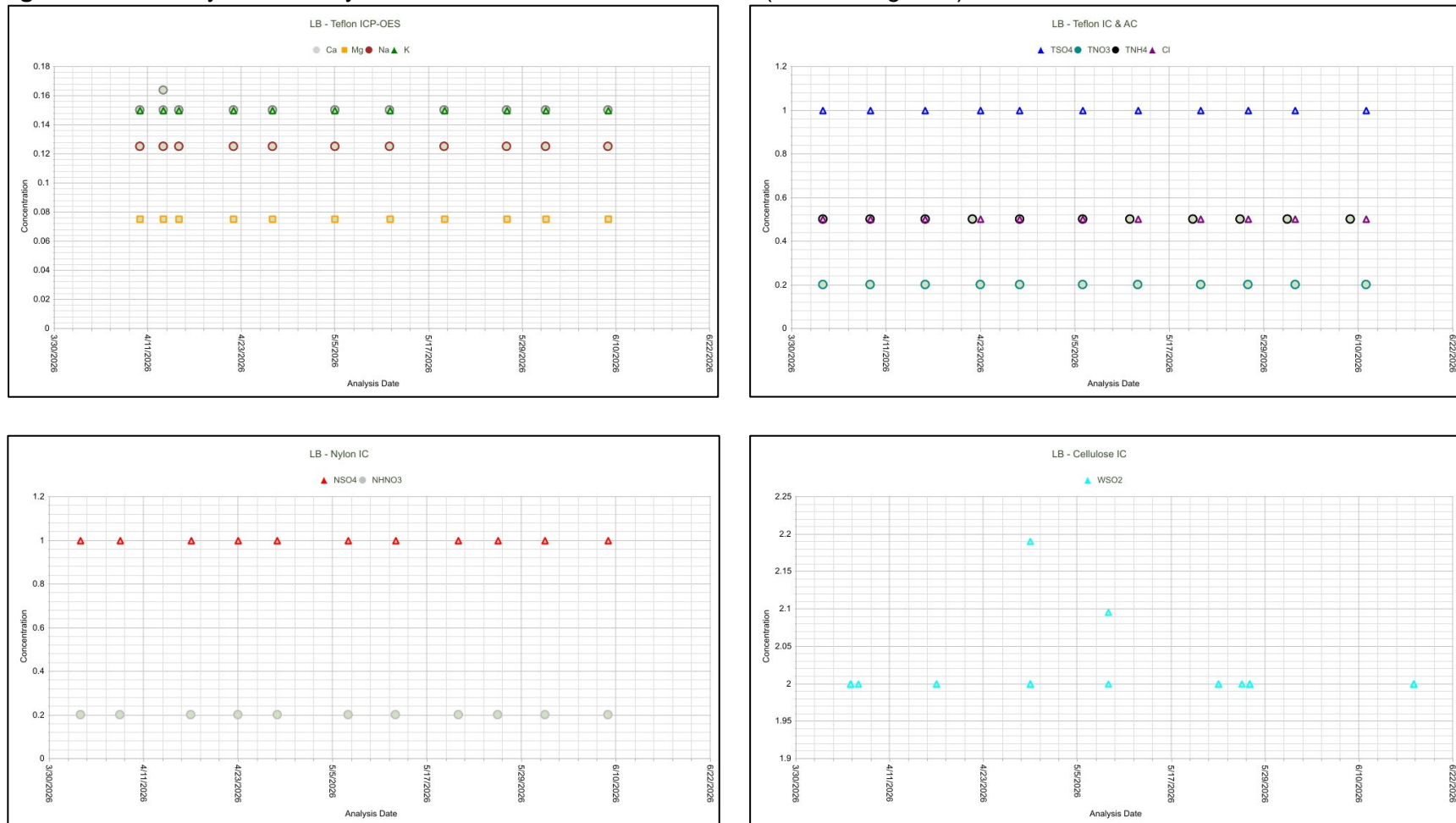
Figure 6 Laboratory Blank Analysis Results for Second Quarter 2026 (total micrograms)

Figure 7 Field Blank Analysis Results for Second Quarter 2026 (total micrograms)