



Fisheries and Environment
Canada

Pêches et Environnement
Canada

Environmental Protection
Service

Service de la protection
de l'environnement

A Study of Municipal Wastewater Toxicity, Village of Clinton Sewage Treatment Lagoons and the Town of Williams Lake Sewage Treatment Lagoons, August, 1976

Manuscript Report
77-10

Pacific Region
December, 1977

Microbiology Laboratory
Fisheries & Environment Canada
Environmental Protection Service
Room 8 - 1801 Welch Street
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7P 1B7

A STUDY OF MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER
TOXICITY, VILLAGE OF CLINTON SEWAGE
TREATMENT LAGOONS AND THE TOWN OF WILLIAMS
LAKE SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS, AUGUST 1976

by

T.W. Higgs, P.Eng.
Sigma Resource Consultants Ltd.

for the

Environmental Protection Branch
Environmental Protection Service
Pacific Region

Manuscript Report 77-10
December, 1977

ABSTRACT

Wastewater toxicity studies of the Village of Clinton, Sewage Treatment Lagoons and the Town of Williams Lake, Sewage Treatment Lagoons were conducted by personnel from the Environmental Protection Service, Pacific Region.

The objectives of the surveys carried out at Clinton and Williams Lake were as follows:

1. to determine the extent of toxicity removal achieved by lagoon sewage treatment systems,
2. to determine the effect of chlorination on the toxicity of the effluent (Williams Lake),
3. to relate the toxicity of the influent and effluent to the concentrations of certain known toxic substances, and
4. to determine the incidence and the extent of removal of polychlorinated biphenyls.

These studies also included the collection of information concerning such factors as system design, actual loadings and chlorine dosages. This information was collected to assist in interpreting data gathered for the objectives listed above.

This report contains the results of bioassay determinations and chemical analyses of samples collected during the survey at different treatment lagoon locations.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
ABSTRACT	i
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ii
LIST OF FIGURES	iv
LIST OF TABLES	iv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	v
CONCLUSIONS	vi
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Clinton Sewage Treatment Lagoons, Description	2
1.2 Williams Lake Sewage Treatment Lagoons, Description	2
2.0 PROCEDURES AND METHODS	6
2.1 Sampling Program - Clinton Sewage Treatment Lagoons	6
2.2 Sampling Program - Williams Lake Sewage Treatment Lagoons	6
2.3 Analyses	7
2.3.1 Chemical Analyses	10
2.3.2 Polychlorinated Biphenyls Analysis (PCB)	10
2.3.3 Bioassay Determination (96 hr LC ₅₀)	10
2.4 Chlorine Residual Monitoring (Williams Lake)	10
3 RESULTS	12
3.1 Bioassay Results	12
3.2 Chemical Analyses Results - Clinton	12
3.3 Chemical Analyses Results - Williams Lake	12
3.4 Polychlorinated Biphenyls Results (PCB)	17
3.5 Lagoon Contents Grab Sampling Results	17
3.6 Chlorine Residual Monitoring Results - Williams Lake	17
3.7 Daily Flowrates, Chlorine Dosages and Precipitation	17
3.8 Metal Analyses Summary - Williams Lake	19

	PAGE
4 DISCUSSION	21
4.1 Bioassay Evaluation	21
4.1.1 Ammonia Toxicity	21
4.1.2 Surfactant Toxicity	22
4.2 Bioassay Summary	24
4.2.1 Clinton Bioassay Summary	24
4.2.2 Williams Lake Bioassay Summary	24
REFERENCES	25
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	26
APPENDIX I COMPOSITE SAMPLING ANALYTICAL RESULTS	27
APPENDIX II 12 HR GRAB SAMPLING PROGRAM ANALYTICAL RESULTS	34
APPENDIX III LAGOON CONTENTS GRAB SAMPLING RESULTS	37
APPENDIX IV WILLIAMS LAKE SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS DAILY FLOW RATES, CHLORINE DOSAGES AND PRECIPITATION AUGUST 1, 1975 - JULY 31, 1976	40

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE
1	VILLAGE OF CLINTON SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS, FLOW DIAGRAM AND SAMPLE POINT LOCATIONS	3
2	WILLIAMS LAKE SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS, FLOW DIAGRAM AND SAMPLE POINT LOCATIONS	4
3a & b	COMPARISON OF ANALYTICAL RESULTS, CLINTON LAGOONS	13 & 14
4a & b	COMPARISON OF ANALYTICAL RESULTS, WILLIAMS LAKE LAGOONS	15 & 16
5	24 HOUR CHLORINE RESIDUAL MONITORING PROGRAM, WILLIAMS LAKE LAGOONS.	18

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		
1	ANALYTICAL PARAMETERS - 24 HOUR COMPOSITE SAMPLING PROGRAM	8
2	ANALYTICAL PARAMETERS - GRAB SAMPLING PROGRAM	9
3	METAL ANALYSES SUMMARY	20
4	COMPARISON OF ANALYTICAL AND BIOASSAY RESULTS	23

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ft	feet
GLC	gas liquid chromatography
hr	hour(s)
Imp GPD	imperial gallons per day
l	liter(s)
LAS	linear alkylate sulfonate
LC ₅₀	50th percentile lethal concentration
mg/l	milligrams per liter
NFR	non filterable residue (formerly SS)
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyls
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
Tc	toxicity concentration
TRC	total residual chlorine
TU	toxic units
µg/l	micrograms per liter

CONCLUSIONS

Based on data collected at the Clinton Sewage Treatment Lagoons from August 3 to August 5, 1976 the following conclusions can be made:

1. The treatment lagoons were responsible for complete removal of the toxicity associated with the raw sewage samples ($T_c = 2.21$). This was attributable to the reduction of surfactant and un-ionized ammonia concentrations accomplished by biological treatment in the lagoons.
2. The average raw sewage PCB concentration was 0.031 ppb. The treatment system reduced PCB levels an average of 52%. All PCB concentrations encountered were significantly low.

Based on data collected at the Williams Lake Sewage Treatment Lagoons from August 10 to August 12, 1976, the following conclusions can be made.

1. The treatment lagoons were responsible for complete removal of the toxicity associated with the raw sewage samples ($T_c = 2.06$). This was attributable to the reduction of the surfactant and un-ionized ammonia concentrations accomplished by biological treatment in the lagoons.
2. Chlorination of the final effluent was not responsible for any change in toxicity. However, as discussed in Section 3.6 the chlorine residuals maintained in the effluent would be insufficient to result in any increase in toxicity.
3. The average raw sewage PCB concentration was 0.052 ppb. The treatment system reduced PCB levels an average of 89%. All PCB concentrations encountered were significantly low.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Village of Clinton, located in the Cariboo area of British Columbia, had an estimated population of 800 in 1976(1). All sewage from the village is collected and treated by the Clinton Sewage Treatment Lagoons. The sanitary and storm sewers are completely separate. Economic activity is mainly associated with service to the agricultural resources in the area plus tourism in the summer months. There are no industrial discharges to the sewer system.

The Town of Williams Lake, located in the Cariboo area of British Columbia, had an estimated population of 6,199 in 1976(1). All sewage from the town is collected and treated by the Williams Lake Treatment Lagoons. The sanitary and storm sewers are completely separate. Economic activity is associated with lumber, agriculture and service industries. There are no industrial discharges to the sewer system.

The objectives of the surveys carried out at Clinton and Williams Lake were as follows:

- 1) to determine the extent of toxicity removal achieved by lagoon sewage treatment systems,
- 2) to determine the effect of chlorination on the toxicity of the effluent (Williams Lake),
- 3) to relate the toxicity of the influent and effluent to the concentrations of certain known toxic substances, and
- 4) to determine the incidence and the extent of removal of polychlorinated biphenyls.

The surveys consisted of the following programs:

- 1) a 2 day composite sampling program,
- 2) a 12 hour grab sampling program,
- 3) a lagoon contents grab sampling program,
- 4) a 24 hour chlorine residual monitoring program (Williams Lake only), and
- 5) general operating data collection.

The Clinton Sewage treatment lagoon survey was carried out from August 3 to 5, 1976; the Williams Lake sewage treatment lagoon survey was carried out from August 10 to 12, 1976.

Additional municipal wastewater toxicity studies were conducted at other locations in the Pacific Region during 1976. These surveys were conducted to collect information regarding the ability of various types of sewage treatment systems to remove or reduce wastewater toxicity and to establish the toxicity concentrations involved in each case.

1.1 Clinton Sewage Treatment Lagoons, Description

The Clinton Sewage Treatment Lagoons consist of two anaerobic primary lagoons, which operate alternately, a facultative secondary lagoon and a final aerobic lagoon. A flow diagram showing sample point locations is presented in Figure 1. At the design flowrate of 100,000 Imp GPD, the anaerobic lagoon has a retention time of approximately 10 days, the facultative lagoon has a retention of 43 days and the final aerobic lagoon has a retention time of 84 days, for a total of 137 days. The final aerobic lagoon and the facultative lagoon have operating depths of 5 ft while the anaerobic lagoon or primary lagoon has an operating depth of 10 ft. The final effluent discharges through a Parshall flume for flow measurement. The flowrate measurement and recording device was not operating either prior to, or during the survey. The lagoon effluent is discharged to Clinton Creek as shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Williams Lake Sewage Treatment Lagoons, Description

The Williams Lake Sewage Treatment Lagoons consist of two anaerobic primary lagoons, which operate alternately, an aerated lagoon, a final settling lagoon and chlorine addition. The outfall is used to provide chlorine contact. A flow diagram showing sample point locations is presented in Figure 2. At the average daily flowrate during July, 1976 of 280,000 Imp GPD the anaerobic lagoon had a retention time of approximately 13 days, the aerated lagoon had a retention of 61 days and the final settling lagoon had a retention time of 31 days, for a total of 105 days. All the lagoons have operating depths of 15 ft. Chlorine addition takes

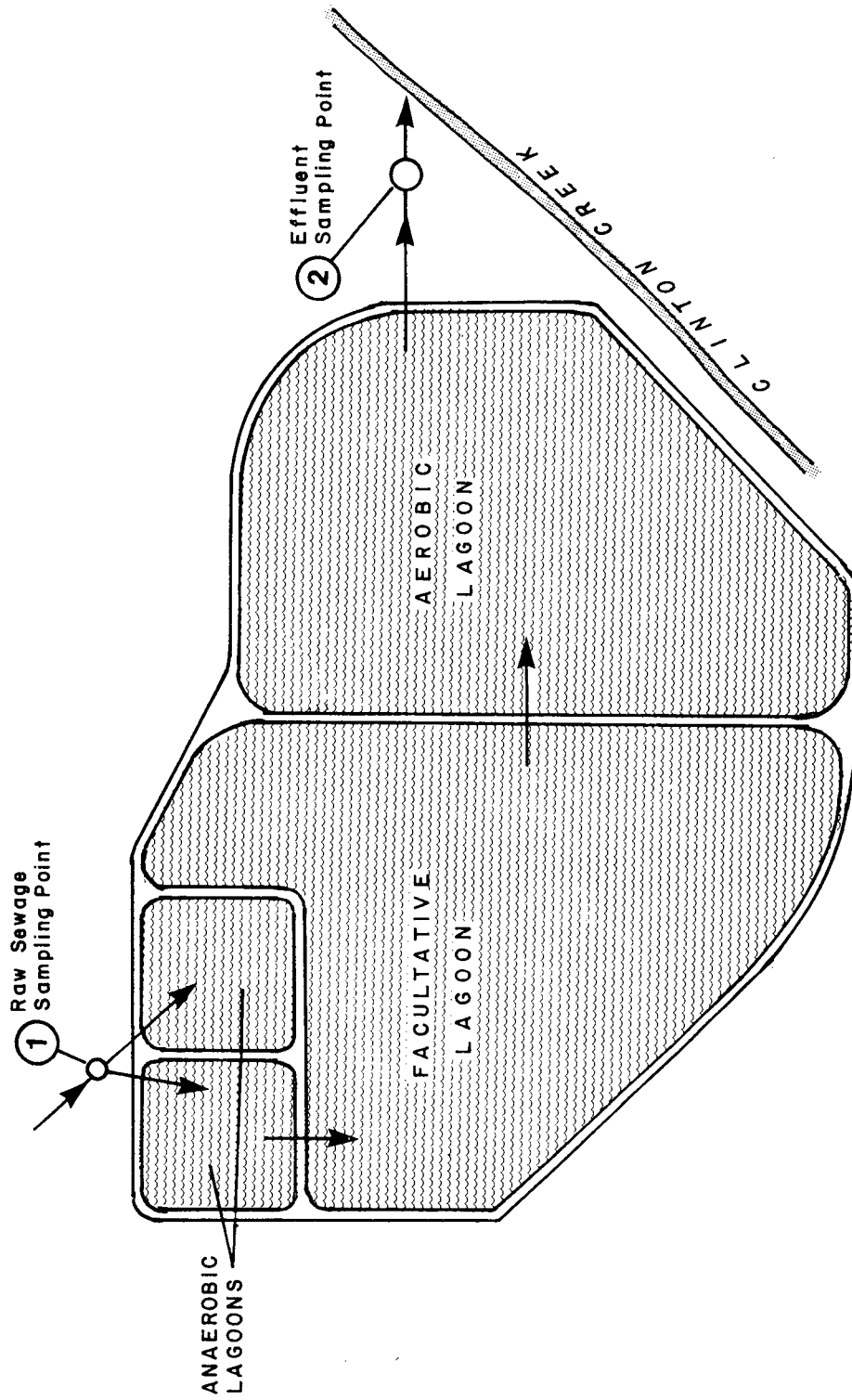


FIGURE 1 VILLAGE OF CLINTON - SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS, FLOW DIAGRAM AND SAMPLE POINT LOCATIONS

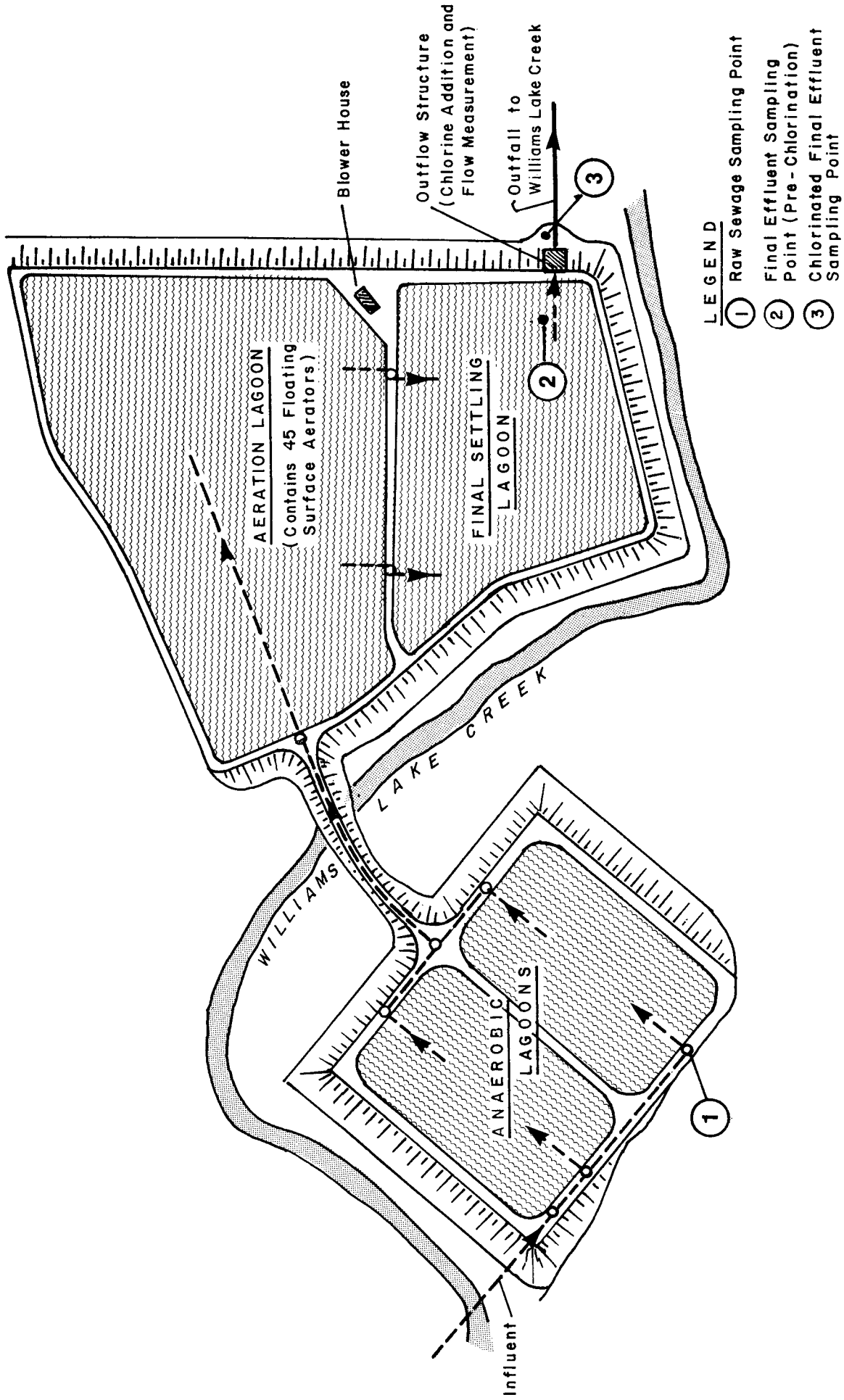


FIGURE 2 WILLIAMS LAKE-SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS, FLOW DIAGRAM AND SAMPLE POINT LOCATIONS

place in the outflow structure just prior to discharge to the outfall. The outflow structure also contains a V notch weir and floating flow measurement device, which is connected to a flow recorder in the blower house. A signal from the flow recorder paces the chlorine metering equipment. The final chlorinated effluent discharges to Williams Lake Creek.

2. PROCEDURES AND METHODS

2.1 Sampling Program - Clinton Sewage Treatment Lagoons

The time proportional 24 hour composite samples were collected at two locations:

- 1) The raw sewage sample was taken from a manhole, as shown in Figure 1, situated between the sewer line and the primary lagoons. Approximate 1.1 l samples were taken every ten minutes, using a timer assembly and a submersible pump.
- 2) The final effluent sample was taken from a manhole, as shown in Figure 1, situated between the final lagoon and the discharge point. Approximate 250 ml samples were taken every 2.5 minutes using a Markland Model 2101- Special Duckbill sampler.

The composite sample aliquots were collected in 45 gallon polyethylene barrels. The composite sampling program commenced at 0600 hr August 3 and ended at 0600 hr August 5.

The raw sewage grab samples, taken from the same location as the composite, were collected every 2 hr on August 4 from 0600 hr to 1800 hr.

In addition, the contents of each lagoon were grab sampled on August 4 and 5 using a small boat. This was done to determine the level of treatment accomplished by each lagoon.

2.2 Sampling Program - Williams Lake Sewage Treatment Lagoons

The time proportional 24 hr composite samples were collected at three locations as follows.

- 1) The raw sewage sample was taken from the inlet structure, as shown in Figure 2, situated between the sewer line and the anaerobic lagoon, which was in operation during the survey. Approximate 250 ml samples were taken every 2.5 minutes using a Markland Model 2101 - Special Duckbill sampler.

- 2) The final effluent sample (pre-chlorination) was taken from the final settling lagoon directly adjacent to the outlet to the outflow structure. A submersible pump was suspended from a raft anchored to the berm and controlled by a timer assembly. Approximate 1.1 l samples were taken every 10 minutes.
- 3) The chlorinated effluent sample was taken from the outflow structure adjacent to the overflow weir. Approximate 1.1 l samples were taken every 10 minutes using a submersible pump and a timer assembly.

The composite sample aliquots were collected in 45 gal. polyethylene barrels. The composite sampling program commenced at 0800 hr August 10 and ended at 0800 hr August 12.

Grab samples of the influent and final chlorinated effluent were collected every two hours on August 11 from 0600 hr to 1800 hr. The contents of each lagoon were grab sampled on August 10 using a small boat.

2.3 Analyses

Table 1 lists the analytical parameters for the 24 hour composite sampling program. Table 2 lists the analytical parameters for the grab sampling program.

The contents of the composite sample barrels were blended prior to sample division. The samples for chemical analysis including metals were divided into sample bottles and preserved as outlined in the Environment Canada Pollution Sampling Handbook. Samples for bioassay analysis were placed in 4 - 5 gallon jerry cans. All samples were delivered within 6 hours to the respective Environment Canada laboratory facility. Sample analysis for all parameters except metals commenced within 7 hours of collection.

Grab samples collected on August 4 (Clinton) and August 11 (Williams Lake) were separated into the proper container, preserved as required and stored at 4°C before being shipped the following day with the 24 hour composite samples.

TABLE 1 ANALYTICAL PARAMETERS - 24 HOUR COMPOSITE SAMPLING PROGRAM

Parameter	Abbreviation	Units
Total Phosphate	TPO ₄	mg/l P
Ammonia	NH ₃	mg/l N
Nitrate	NO ₃	mg/l N
Nitrite	NO ₂	mg/l N
Total Alkalinity	-	mg/l CaCO ₃
Chemical Oxygen Demand	COD	mg/l
Total Organic Carbon	TOC	mg/l C
pH	-	0-14 pH units
Non Filterable Residue	NFR	mg/l
Anionic Surfactants	-	mg/l LAS
Total Residue	TR	mg/l
Cyanide	CN	mg/l
Phenol	-	mg/l
Oil & Grease	-	mg/l
Polychlorinated Biphenyls	PCB	ppb
Bioassay	LC ₅₀	%
<u>Metals</u>		
Total Mercury	Hg	µg/l
Copper, Total & Dissolved	Cu	mg/l
Iron, Total & Dissolved	Fe	mg/l
Nickel, Total & Dissolved	Ni	mg/l
Lead, Total & Dissolved	Pb	mg/l
Zinc, Total & Dissolved	Zn	mg/l
Aluminum, Total & Dissolved	Al	mg/l
Cadmium, Total & Dissolved	Cd	mg/l
Manganese, Total & Dissolved	Mn	mg/l
Chromium, Total & Dissolved	Cr	mg/l

TABLE 2 ANALYTICAL PARAMETERS - GRAB SAMPLING PROGRAM

Parameter	Abbreviation	Units	
Total Phosphate	TPO_4	mg/l	P
Ammonia	NH_3	mg/l	N
Nitrate	NO_3	mg/l	N
Nitrite	NO_2	mg/l	N
Non Filterable Residue	NFR	mg/l	
Chemical Oxygen Demand	COD	mg/l	
Anionic Surfactants	-	mg/l	LAS
Total Residue	TR	mg/l	
Total Organic Carbon	TOC	mg/l	C

2.3.1 Chemical Analyses

The chemical parameters, including metals as listed in Tables 1 and 2, were analyzed as described in the Environment Canada Pacific Region Laboratory Manual.

2.3.2 Polychlorinated Biphenyls Analysis (PCB). Samples for PCB were collected in one gallon amber glass bottles containing 50 ml hexane as a preservative. Basically the analysis involved acetone-hexane extraction, filtration, purification and electron capture GLC analysis. The detection limit for a one gallon sample is approximately 0.005 ppb.

2.3.3 Bioassay Determination (96 hr LC₅₀). The static fish bioassay test gives an approximate numerical value to the biological toxicity of wastewater. It is defined as the concentration of a measurable lethal agent (in this case wastewater) required to kill the 50th percentile in a group of test organisms over a period of 96 hours.

The static bioassay test consists of a series of 30 l glass vessels containing different sample dilutions with 6-9 Rainbow Trout (Salmo gairdneri) per test vessel. The test vessels were placed in a controlled environment room with the temperature maintained at $15.0 \pm 1.0^{\circ} \text{C}$ and a photo period limited to 16 hours per 24 hours. The bioassay test procedure calls for samples with pH values below 6.0 or above 8.0 to be neutralized to a pH of 7; however, pH adjustment was not required for any of the samples collected. All samples were aerated prior to the test and continuously, for the 96 hour period. Pre-test aeration times are listed with the test results in Table 4. The fish loading density in each vessel was 0.5 g/l. The percent mortality and percent dilution were plotted on semi log paper to establish an LC₅₀ value.

2.4 Chlorine Residual Monitoring (Williams Lake)

The chlorine residual monitoring program consisted of grab sampling the chlorinated final effluent (Sample Point No.3) every hour for 24 hours from 0600 hr August 11 to 0600 hr August 12 and determining the total residual chlorine concentration (TRC).

The determination of TRC was done using a Wallace & Tiernan Amperometric Titrator series A-790013. The fundamental procedure used

is a Back Titration method involving the neutralization of an oxidizing agent (free iodine) with a reducing agent (phenylarsine oxide solution) of known strength, in the presence of potassium iodide.

Total residual chlorine as determined by the amperometric Back Titration method determines the concentration of compounds in the wastewater containing active chlorine (which consist of monochloramines, dichloramines and hypochlorous acid).

3. RESULTS

3.1 Bioassay Results

The static fish bioassay results obtained from the 24 hour composite samples are included in Table 4 (Page 23). The results are expressed as both a 96 hour LC_{50} as defined earlier and a toxicity concentration T_c . The toxicity concentration, T_c can be expressed in toxic unit, TU, as follows:

$$T_c = \frac{100\%}{96 \text{ hr } LC_{50}(\%)}$$

This value becomes important when considering wastewater that produces less than 50 per cent mortality at the 100% concentration in the bioassay test. The T_c value in this case is determined by plotting the per cent mortality of test fish versus the T_c values for the various test dilutions.

The average T_c values listed in Table 4 represent the average of the T_c values obtained with each bioassay determination and not the T_c which could be calculated using the average LC_{50} value.

3.2 Chemical Analyses Results - Clinton

The chemical analyses (non-metal and metal) results from the 24 hr composite sampling program are listed in Appendix I.

A comparison between influent and effluent using these results is illustrated in Figure 3a and b. The values plotted in this comparison represent the mean values from two 24-hour composite samples. The results of the 12 hour raw sewage grab sampling program, for metals and non-metals, are listed in Appendix II.

3.3 Chemical Analyses Results - Williams Lake

The chemical analyses non-metal and metal results from the 24 hour composite sampling program are listed in Appendix I. A comparison between influent and effluent using these results is illustrated in Figure 4a and b. The values plotted represent the mean values from two

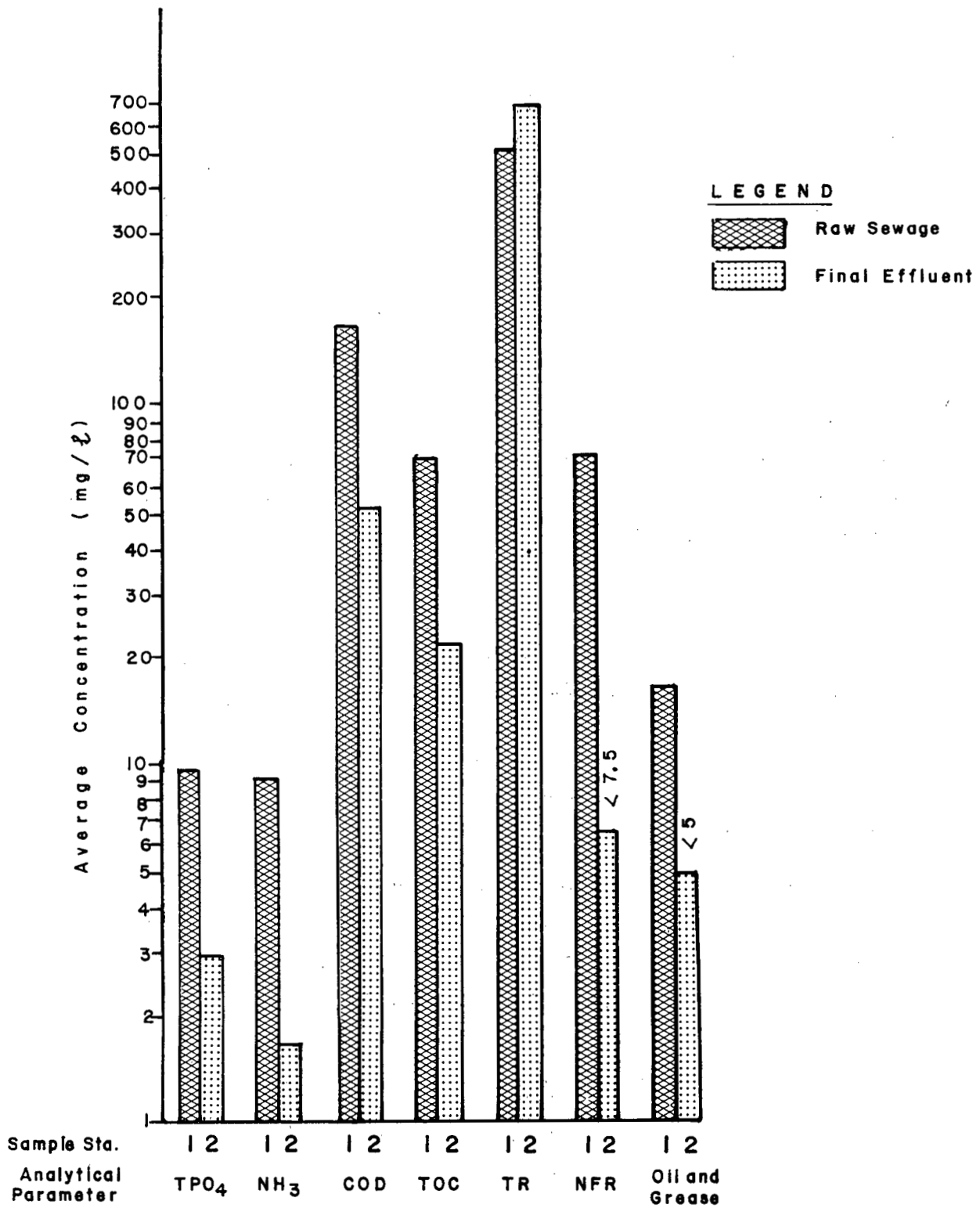


FIGURE 3a COMPARISON OF INFLUENT AND EFFLUENT ANALYTICAL RESULTS - CLINTON LAGOONS

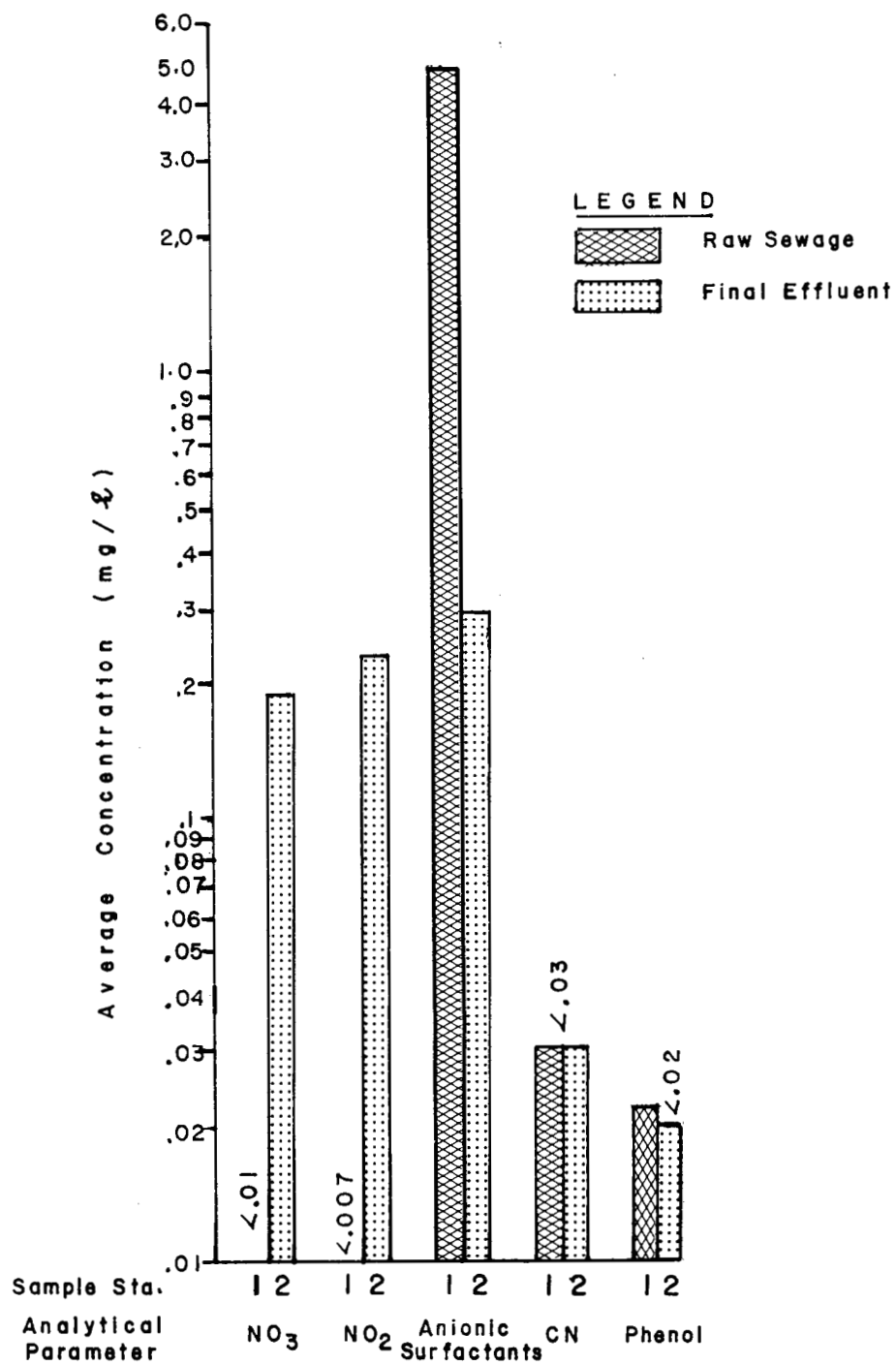


FIGURE 3b COMPARISON OF INFLUENT AND EFFLUENT ANALYTICAL RESULTS - CLINTON LAGOONS

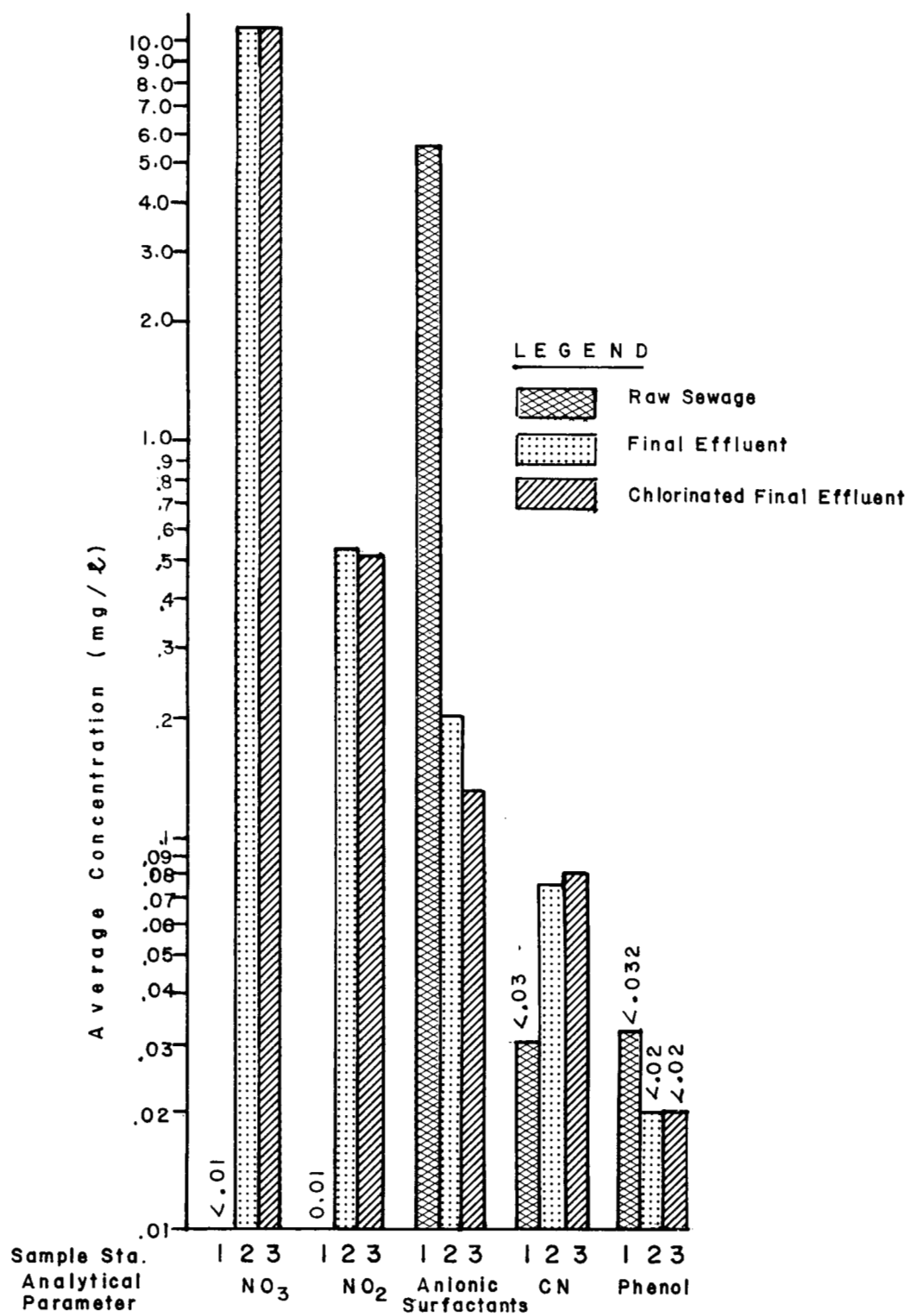


FIGURE 4a COMPARISON OF ANALYTICAL RESULTS - WILLIAMS LAKE LAGOONS

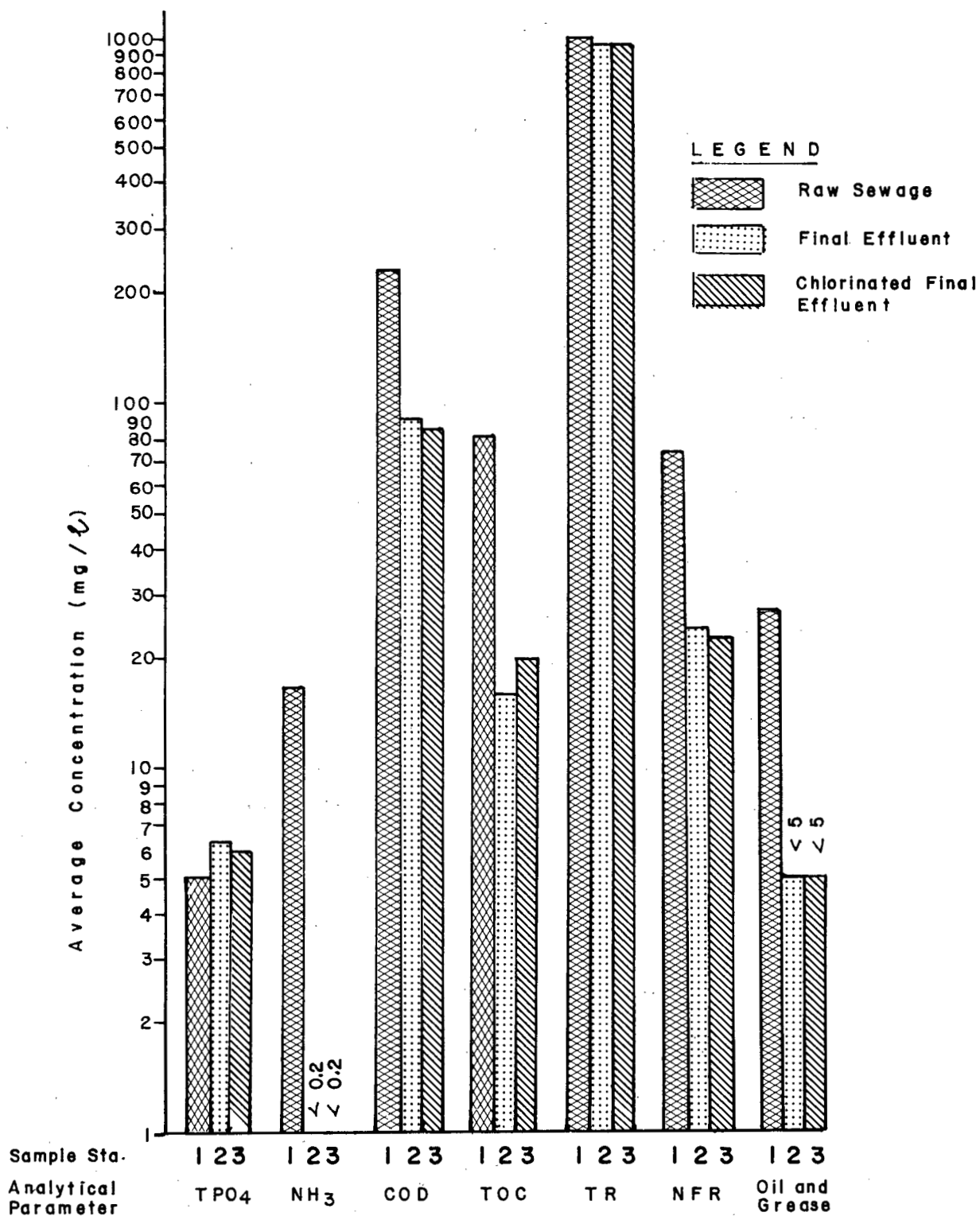


FIGURE 4b COMPARISON OF ANALYTICAL RESULTS - WILLIAMS LAKE LAGOONS

24-hour composite samples. The results of the 12 hour grab sampling program are listed in Appendix II.

3.4 Polychlorinated Biphenyls Results (PCB)

The results of the PCB analyses for the 24-hour composite samples for Clinton and Williams Lake are listed in Appendix I. All levels encountered are significantly low. The Clinton Sewage Treatment Lagoons were responsible for a 52% reduction in PCB levels while the Williams Lake Sewage Treatment Lagoons were responsible for a 89% reduction.

3.5 Lagoon Contents Grab Sampling Results

Clinton. The results of the lagoon contents grab sampling program are listed in Appendix III. The results indicate significant reductions take place in NH_3 , TPO_4 and NFR levels with corresponding increases in NO_3 , NO_2 and DO levels from the primary to the final lagoon.

Williams Lake. The results of the lagoon contents grab sampling program are listed in Appendix III. The results indicate a reduction of NH_3 and subsequent conversion to NO_3 and NO_2 from the anaerobic lagoon to the final settling lagoon.

3.6 Chlorine Residual Monitoring Results - Williams Lake

The results of the 24-hour chlorine residual monitoring program are illustrated in Figure 5. The TRC concentration had a mean of 0.034 mg/l and a range of 0.26 to non-detectable. The TRC was non-detectable for 14 samples out of 25. These chlorine residuals would be insufficient to produce a significant reduction of fecal coliform levels in the effluent. In addition, it can be assumed that the chlorination practiced by the plant would not result in an increase in toxicity (in this case).

3.7 Daily Flowrates, Chlorine Dosages and Precipitation

Daily flowrates and chlorine dosages for Williams Lake for a one year period from August 1, 1975 to July 31, 1976 have been plotted in Appendix IV. In addition total daily precipitation data has been provided. This data would tend to indicate the absence of an infiltration/inflow

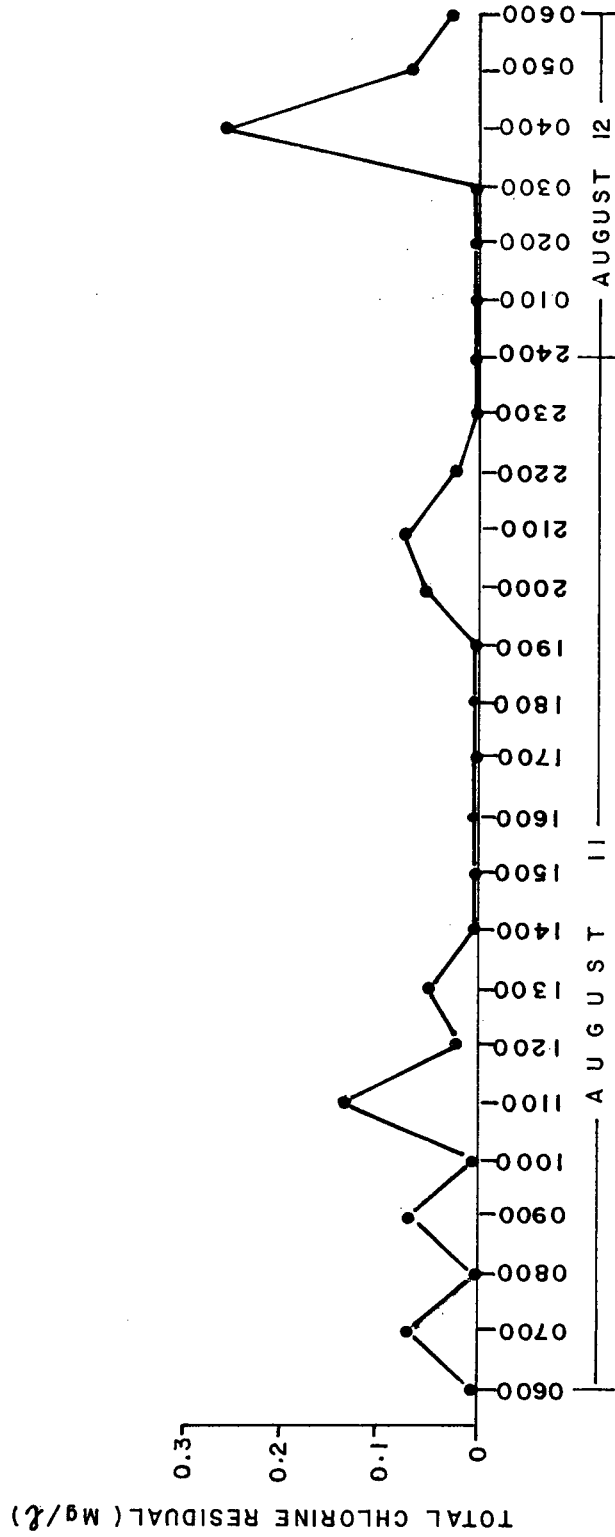


FIGURE 5 24-HOUR CHLORINE RESIDUAL MONITORING PROGRAM -
WILLIAMS LAKE LAGOONS - August 11-12, 1976

problem in the sewer system. However, in reference to the months of May and June, 1976, flowrates tended to increase during periods of heavy rainfall and decrease during dry periods.

3.8 Metal Analyses Summary

A summary of metal analyses results from Clinton Sewage Treatment Lagoons and the Williams Lake Sewage Treatment Lagoons is presented in Table 3. Municipal water supply metal analyses have been included to provide background information.

TABLE 3 METAL ANALYSES SUMMARY

Metal (Total)	Clinton			Williams Lake		
	Influent*	Effluent*	Water** Supply	Influent*	Effluent*	Water** Supply
	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l
Cu	0.06	0.015	0.07	0.07	0.01	0.12
Fe	0.32	<0.30	0.03	0.61	0.09	0.14
Ni	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05
Pb	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	0.02	<0.02	<0.02
Zn	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.18	0.06	0.09
Al	<0.3	<0.3	<0.3	0.4	<0.3	<0.3
Cd	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
Mn	0.08	0.03	<0.03	0.15	<0.03	0.15
Cr	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02	<0.02
Hg***	<0.20	<0.20	<0.20	0.20	<0.20	0.25

*Average of two 24-hour composite samples

**Results from one grab sample

***µg/l

4. DISCUSSION

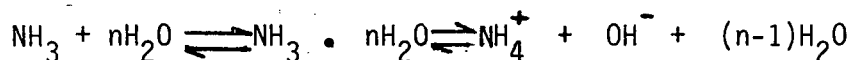
4.1 Bioassay Evaluation

Municipal wastewaters in general contain a wide variety of chemical constituents readily known to be toxic to fish. The most common constituents exerting toxicity include ammonia, cyanide, sulfides, chlorine and chloramine, phenols, surfactants and several heavy metals which include copper, zinc, chromium and nickel. Other factors such as temperature, pH, hardness, alkalinity and dissolved oxygen tend to modify the toxicity produced by various chemical constituents. However, as outlined earlier the bioassay test conditions are controlled so that pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen do not themselves affect toxicity. The chemical analyses results for the individual composite samples were examined with reference to the literature to determine those factors responsible for toxicity. Following is a discussion of those factors deemed responsible for the bioassay results encountered in the survey.

4.1.1 Ammonia Toxicity. The common sources of ammonia in wastewater are:

- (1) urine, which contains urea ($\text{H}_2\text{NCOH}_2\text{N}$) which in turn readily hydrolyzes to ammonia;
- (2) organic matter containing protein and amino acids which decomposes under bacterial action yielding ammonia;
- (3) chemical plants and cleaning establishments which release ammonia to the sewer system; and,
- (4) household cleaning agents.

The toxicity of ammonia and ammonium salts to fish is directly related to the amount of un-ionized ammonia in solution. Ammonia establishes a pH dependent equilibrium in solution as follows:



Emmerson, et al (2) have outlined a set of equilibrium calculations for determining the un-ionized ammonia in solution under varying conditions of pH and temperature. The un-ionized ammonia concentrations for the

24-hour composite samples have been calculated according to this set of equations and are reported in Table 4. In addition, this table lists the bioassay results and the major toxic constituents involved for each composite sample.

Mayo et al (3) state that 0.006 mg/l N un-ionized ammonia may be considered to be the desirable upper level for extended fish exposure. A level of 0.025 mg/l un-ionized ammonia has been stated as the maximum that fish can tolerate (4). Lloyd and Orr (5) reported that 0.44 mg/l un-ionized ammonia caused 100% mortality in *Salmo gairdneri* in 96 hours.

The raw sewage samples from both the Clinton and Williams Lake Sewage Lagoons exhibited un-ionized NH_3 levels that could be expected to exert some toxicity. However, the levels encountered in the final effluent samples are near the threshold level and as indicated did not exert a toxic effect. Esvelt, Kaufman and Selleck (6) point out that factors in addition to un-ionized ammonia, in this case high alkalinity, may tend to modify ammonia toxicity.

4.1.2 Surfactant Toxicity. Detergents are a common component of sewage and industrial effluents, derived largely from household cleaning agents. Surfactants can be divided as being either anionic, cationic or non-ionic. In current detergent formulas, the primary toxic active agent is LAS (linear alkylate sulfonates), an anionic surfactant. The surfactant analysis conducted during this survey was carried out specifically for LAS.

The toxicity of LAS tends to increase in hard water, and increase as the carbon chain length increases (6).

Thatcher and Santner (8) found 96 hr LC_{50} values for LAS of 3.3-6.4 mg/l for five species of fish. Dolan and Hendricks determined an LC_{50} of 5.9 mg/l LAS for bluegill sunfish (9). The anionic surfactant concentrations for the raw sewage samples as outlined in Table 4 would be expected to contribute significantly to wastewater toxicity. In addition, the surfactant toxicity in both cases would tend to increase with the alkalinity of the wastewater (assuming a relationship between hardness and alkalinity).

TABLE 4

COMPARISON OF ANALYTICAL AND BIOASSAY RESULTS

Sample Points	Date	LC ₅₀	T _c	NH ₃	¹ Un-Ionized NH ₃	Anionic Surfactants	Total Alkalinity	pH	Pre-test Aeration
	August	%	TU	mg/l N	mg/l N	mg/l LAS	mg/l CaCO ₃		hr.
Clinton Sewage Treatment Lagoons	4	60.5	1.65	9.7	0.13	3.5	330	7.7	18
	5	36.0	2.78	8.5	0.12	6.4	326	7.7	21.5
	4	² NT	-	1.5	0.05	0.42	510	8.1	18
	5	NT	-	1.8	0.07	0.16	514	8.2	21.5
Williams Lake Sewage Treatment Lagoons	10	48	2.08	14.0	0.22	4.6	500	7.9	-
	11	49	2.04	19.0	0.15	6.4	500	7.6	-
	10	NT	-	0.12	0.007	0.10	390	8.5	-
	11	NT	-	0.20	0.008	0.30	400	8.3	-
Chlorinated Final Effluent	10	NT	-	0.12	0.007	0.11	390	8.5	-
	11	NT	-	0.17	0.007	0.15	390	8.3	-

¹ According to Emmerson et al (2)² NT Non toxic (no mortalities at 100% concentration)

4.2 Bioassay Summary

4.2.1 Clinton Bioassay Summary. The raw sewage exhibited 96 hr LC_{50} values of 60.5 and 36.0% ($T_c = 1.65$ and 2.78). Most of this toxicity would be attributable to the anionic surfactant concentration. The un-ionized ammonia content would also be expected to exert some toxicity.

The final effluent was non-toxic at the 100% concentration for both 24 hour composite samples indicating that treatment is responsible for the removal of the raw sewage toxicity.

4.2.2 Williams Lake Bioassay. The raw sewage exhibited 96 hr LC_{50} values of 48 and 49% ($T_c = 2.08$ and 2.04). This toxicity would be attributable to the un-ionized ammonia and surfactant concentrations, with surfactant toxicity being influenced by the alkalinity of the wastewater.

The final effluent was non-toxic at the 100% concentration for both 24 hour composite samples, indicating that treatment is responsible for the removal of the toxicity associated with the raw sewage samples.

The chlorinated final effluent was also non-toxic at the 100% concentration for both 24 hour composite samples. However, as pointed out in Section 3.6, the TRC was maintained at either a very low or non-detectable level during the chlorine residual monitoring program. Chlorination, in this case, would not be expected to influence toxicity.

REFERENCES

1. Statistics Canada, Personal Correspondence.
2. Emmerson, K., Russo, R.C., Lund, R.E., Thurston, R.V. "Aqueous Ammonia Equilibrium Calculations: Effects of pH and Temperature", J. Fish Res. Board Can. 32, (1975).
3. Mayo, R.D., Liao, P.B., and Williams, W.G., "A Study for Development of Fish Hatchery Water Treatment Systems", U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Seattle, (1972).
4. Notes on Water Pollution No.63, Department of the Environment, U.K., H.M.S.O., (1973).
5. Lloyd, R. and L.D. Orr, "The Diuretic Response by Rainbow Trout to Sublethal Concentrations of NH_3 ", Water Research 3(5), (1969).
6. Esvelt, L.A., W.J. Kaufman and R.E. Selleck, "Toxicity Removal from Municipal Wastewater", SERL Rept. No. 71-7 San. Eng. Res. Lab., Univ. of California, Berkely, (1971).
7. Water Quality Criteria. A report of the Committee on Water Quality Criteria, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C., 1972.
8. Thatcher, T.O. and J.F. Santner, "Acute Toxicity of LAS to Various Fish Species", Purdue Univ. Eng. Bull. Ext. Ser. 121, (1966).
9. Dolan, J.M. and A.C. Hendricks, "The Lethality of an Intact & Degraded LAS Mixture to Bluegill Sunfish & a Snail", J. Water Pollut. Contr. Fed. 48(11), (1976).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the following:

G. Trasolini, Technical Officer, Surveillance Unit, Technical Services, Environmental Protection Service for planning and directing the study.

G. Thompson, Project Technologist, Surveillance Unit, Technical Services, Environmental Protection Service, for co-ordinating the field activities and for collecting and organizing data for this report.

The Chemistry and Bioassay Laboratory Services staff, Environmental Protection Service, for conducting analyses.

The Analytical Services of the Environmental Management Service for carrying out the polychlorinated biphenyls analyses.

T. Newton, Sewage Treatment Lagoon Operator, Village of Clinton for assistance in carrying out the survey and providing operating information.

H. Wilkinson, Sewage Treatment Lagoon Operator, Town of Williams Lake for assistance in carrying out the survey and for providing operating information.

P. J. Shand, Stanley Associates Engineering Ltd., for providing design drawings and operating data for both Clinton and Williams Lake lagoons.

APPENDIX I

COMPOSITE SAMPLING PROGRAM

ANALYTICAL RESULTS

	Page
Clinton Non-Metals	28
Metals	29
Williams Lake Non-Metals	30
Metals	32

APPENDIX I

CLINTON SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS

COMPOSITE SAMPLE ANALYTICAL RESULTS - NON-METALS

<u>Sampling Point</u>		<u>Number</u>		
Raw Sewage		1		
Final Effluent		2		
<u>Analytical Parameter</u>		<u>Sampling Point</u>	<u>Date</u>	
			<u>August 4</u>	<u>August 5</u>
TPO ₄ mg/l		1	3.5	16
		2	2.4	3.5
NH ₃ mg/l N		1	9.7	8.5
		2	1.5	1.8
NO ₃ mg/l N		1	<0.01	<0.01
		2	0.27	0.11
NO ₂ mg/l N		1	<0.005	0.008
		2	0.16	0.30
Alkalinity mg/l CaCO ₃		1	330	325
		2	510	514
COD mg/l		1	160	170
		2	59	45
TOC mg/l		1	87	56
		2	26	18
pH		1	7.7	7.7
		2	8.1	8.2
NFR mg/l		1	76	69
		2	<5	<10
Anionic Surfactants mg/l LAS		1	3.5	6.4
		2	0.42	0.16
TR mg/l		1	530	500
		2	730	650
CN mg/l		1	<0.03	<0.03
		2	<0.03	-
Phenol mg/l		1	0.25	0.02
		2	<0.02	<0.02
Oil & Grease mg/l		1	16	17
		2	<5	<5
PCB ppb		1	0.043	0.035
		2	0.018	0.019

APPENDIX I CLINTON SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS
COMPOSITE SAMPLE ANALYTICAL RESULTS - METALS

Sampling Point		Number			
Raw Sewage		1			
Final Effluent		2			

Analytical Parameter	Units	Sampling Point	Date	
			August 4	August 5
Hg	Total	µg/l	1	<0.2
			2	<0.2
Cu	Total	mg/l	1	0.05
			2	<0.01
Cu	Dissolved	mg/l	1	0.01
			2	<0.01
Fe	Total	mg/l	1	0.27
			2	0.48
Fe	Dissolved	mg/l	1	0.04
			2	0.08
Ni	Total	mg/l	1	<0.05
			2	<0.05
Ni	Dissolved	mg/l	1	<0.05
			2	<0.05
Pb	Total	mg/l	1	<0.02
			2	<0.02
Pb	Dissolved	mg/l	1	<0.02
			2	<0.02
Zn	Total	mg/l	1	0.10
			2	0.19
Zn	Dissolved	mg/l	1	<0.01
			2	0.06
Al	Total	mg/l	1	<0.3
			2	<0.3
Al	Dissolved	mg/l	1	<0.3
			2	<0.3
Cd	Total	mg/l	1	<0.01
			2	<0.01
Cd	Dissolved	mg/l	1	<0.01
			2	<0.01
Cr	Total	mg/l	1	<0.02
			2	<0.02
Cr	Dissolved	mg/l	1	<0.02
			2	<0.02
Mn	Total	mg/l	1	0.13
			2	<0.03
Mn	Dissolved	mg/l	1	0.10
			2	<0.03

APPENDIX I WILLIAMS LAKE SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS
COMPOSITE SAMPLE ANALYTICAL RESULTS - NON-METALS

Sampling Point		Number		
Raw Sewage		1		
Final Effluent		2	(Pre-chlorination)	
Chlorinated Final Effluent		3		
Analytical Parameter		Sampling Point	Date	
			August 11	August 12
TPO ₄	mg/l P	1	5.7	6.5
		2	5.6	7.0
		3	5.4	6.3
NH ₃	mg/l N	1	14.0	19.0
		2	0.12	0.20
		3	0.12	0.17
NO ₃	mg/l N	1	<0.01	-
		2	11.0	11.0
		3	11.0	11.0
NO ₂	mg/l N	1	0.01	0.01
		2	0.58	0.47
		3	0.56	0.45
Alkalinity	mg/l CaCO ₃	1	500	500
		2	390	400
		3	390	390
COD	mg/l	1	270	200
		2	86	96
		3	88	82
TOC	mg/l	1	-	81
		2	-	16
		3	-	20
pH		1	7.8	7.8
		2	8.6	8.6
		3	8.6	8.6
NFR	mg/l	1	95	56
		2	27	21
		3	23	22
Anionic Surfactants	mg/l LAS	1	4.6	6.4
		2	0.10	0.30
		3	0.11	0.15

APPENDIX I WILLIAMS LAKE SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS
(Cont'd.) COMPOSITE SAMPLE ANALYTICAL RESULTS - NON-METALS

Sampling Point		Number	Date	
Raw Sewage		1		
Final Effluent		2	(Pre-chlorination)	
Chlorinated Final Effluent		3		
Analytical Parameter		Sampling Point	August 11	August 12
TR	mg/l	1	1000	1000
		2	970	930
		3	940	940
CN	mg/l	1	<0.03	<0.03
		2	0.08	0.07
		3	0.08	0.08
Phenol	mg/l	1	<0.02	0.044
		2	<0.02	<0.02
		3	<0.02	<0.02
Oil & Grease	mg/l	1	27	27
		2	<5	<5
		3	<5	<5
PCB	ppb	1	0.059	0.044
		2	0.007	<0.005
		3	0.006	<0.005

APPENDIX 1 WILLIAMS LAKE SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS
COMPOSITE SAMPLE ANALYTICAL RESULTS - METALS

<u>Sampling Point</u>		<u>Number</u>			
Raw Sewage		1			
Final Effluent		2 (Pre-chlorination)			
Chlorinated Final Effluent		3			

Analytical Parameter	Units	Sampling Point	<u>Date</u>	
			August 11	August 12
Hg Total	µg/l	1	0.20	<0.20
		2	<0.20	<0.20
		3	<0.20	<0.20
Cu Total	mg/l	1	0.08	0.06
		2	0.02	0.04
		3	0.01	0.01
Cu Dissolved	mg/l	1	0.02	0.02
		2	0.02	0.03
		3	0.02	0.02
Fe Total	mg/l	1	0.74	0.48
		2	0.09	0.14
		3	0.11	0.06
Fe Dissolved	mg/l	1	0.10	0.09
		2	0.04	<0.03
		3	0.05	0.08
Ni Total	mg/l	1	<0.05	<0.05
		2	<0.05	<0.05
		3	<0.05	<0.05
Ni Dissolved	mg/l	1	<0.05	<0.05
		2	<0.05	<0.05
		3	<0.05	<0.05
Pb Total	mg/l	1	0.02	0.02
		2	<0.02	<0.02
		3	<0.02	<0.02
Pb Dissolved	mg/l	1	<0.02	<0.02
		2	<0.02	<0.02
		3	<0.02	<0.02
Zn Total	mg/l	1	0.19	0.16
		2	0.04	0.10
		3	0.07	0.04
Zn Dissolved	mg/l	1	0.23	+
		2	0.12	+
		3	0.10	+

+ - Data Unreliable

APPENDIX 1 WILLIAMS LAKE SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS
(Cont'd.) COMPOSITE SAMPLE ANALYTICAL RESULTS - METALS

<u>Sampling Point</u>		<u>Number</u>			
Raw Sewage		1			
Final Effluent		2 (Pre-chlorination)			
Chlorinated Final Effluent		3			

Analytical Parameter	Units	Sampling Point	<u>Date</u>	
			August 11	August 12
Al Total	mg/l	1	0.5	<0.3
		2	<0.3	<0.3
		3	<0.3	<0.3
Al Dissolved	mg/l	1	<0.3	<0.3
		2	<0.3	<0.3
		3	<0.3	<0.3
Cd Total	mg/l	1	<0.01	0.01
		2	<0.01	<0.01
		3	<0.01	<0.01
Cd Dissolved	mg/l	1	<0.01	<0.01
		2	<0.01	<0.01
		3	<0.01	<0.01
Cr Total	mg/l	1	<0.02	<0.02
		2	<0.02	<0.02
		3	<0.02	<0.02
Cr Dissolved	mg/l	1	<0.02	<0.02
		2	<0.02	<0.02
		3	<0.02	<0.02
Mn Total	mg/l	1	0.15	0.14
		2	<0.03	<0.03
		3	<0.03	<0.03
Mn Dissolved	mg/l	1	0.14	0.10
		2	<0.03	<0.03
		3	<0.03	<0.03

APPENDIX II

12 HOUR GRAB SAMPLING PROGRAM

ANALYTICAL RESULTS

	Page
Clinton	35
Williams Lake	36

APPENDIX II CLINTON SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOON 12 HOUR GRAB
SAMPLING ANALYTICAL RESULTS - RAW SEWAGE

Analytical Parameter	Units	Time (hr)						
		0600	0800	1000	1200	1400	1600	1800
TPO ₄	mg/l P	4.0	5.0	6.7	6.4	6.5	6.8	6.5
NH ₃	mg/l N	5.6	7.0	18	9.8	5.0	11.0	9.8
NO ₃	mg/l N	0.84	0.65	0.55	0.40	0.41	0.44	0.53
NO ₂	mg/l N	0.025	0.059	0.078	0.098	0.024	0.060	0.074
NFR	mg/l	49	36	67	90	+	100	88
COD	mg/l	69	130	200	260	190	280	290
Anionic Surfactants	mg/l LAS	2.1	+	2.0	6.25	10.8	13.3	13
TR	mg/l	530	450	490	540	490	660	650
TOC	mg/l C	30	70	49	70	68	108	86

+ - Data unreliable

APPENDIX II WILLIAMS LAKE SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS
GRAB SAMPLING ANALYTICAL RESULTS, AUGUST 11, 1976

Sampling Point		Number							
Raw Sewage		1							
Final Chlorinated Effluent		3							
Analytical Parameter	Sampling Point	Time (hr)							
		0600	0800	1000	1200	1400	1600	1800	
TPO ₄ mg/l P	1	1.60	3.80	9.25	10.8	11.8	10.0	8.50	
	3	7.50	7.00	6.75	6.50	6.50	6.75	6.75	
NH ₃ mg/l N	1	11.0	22.0	30.0	17.0	18.0	21.0	17.0	
	3	0.46	+	+	+	+	+	+	
NO ₃ mg/l N	1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
	3	10.0	11.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	
NO ₂ mg/l N	1	0.16	0.35	0.011	0.014	0.011	0.016	0.012	
	3	0.42	0.46	0.46	0.32	0.46	0.46	0.40	
NFR mg/l	1	24	53	155	150	120	130	120	
	3	24	26	35	18	17	10	15	
COD mg/l	1	96	140	370	410	340	390	330	
	3	120	96	100	130	92	110	360	
Anionic Surfactants mg/l LAS	1	1.2	1.0	2.5	9.0	11.8	15.3	10.3	
	3	0.15	0.13	0.11	0.19	0.18	0.19	+ ¹	
TR mg/l	1	1200	1200	1100	1200	980	1200	980	
	3	910	930	930	800	900	910	940	
TOC mg/l C	1	12	32	96	106	114	104	104	
	3	18	17	22	17	18	17	16	

+ Results obtained deemed unreliable due to interference

APPENDIX III

LAGOON CONTENTS GRAB SAMPLING RESULTS

	Page
Clinton	38
Williams Lake	39

APPENDIX III

CLINTON SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS

RESULTS OF LAGOON CONTENTS GRAB SAMPLING

	Date	TR mg/l	NFR mg/l	pH	TPO ₄ mg/l P	NH ₃ mg/l N	NO ₃ mg/l N	NO ₂ mg/l N	DO mg/l O ₂
Primary Lagoon (Anaerobic)	Aug.4	520	110	7.1	6.6	5.0	<.01	.011	0.0
	Aug.5	490	79		4.3	5.4	<.01	.020	
Seconday Lagoon (Facultative)	Aug.4	460	35	7.4	3.4	2.2	.033	.067	3.4
	Aug.5	510	29		3.5	1.6	.023	.066	
Final Lagoon (Aerobic)	Aug.4	560	-	6.8	4.2	0.7	.41	.49	9.4
	Aug.5	740	<10		2.5	0.8	.25	.65	

APPENDIX III

WILLIAMS LAKE SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS
RESULTS OF LAGOON CONTENTS GRAB SAMPLING
AUGUST 11, 1976

	TR mg/l	TVR mg/l	NFR mg/l	NH ₃ mg/l N	NO ₃ mg/l N	NO ₂ mg/l N	TPO ₄ mg/l P
Primary Lagoon (Anaerobic)	996	360	42	17	<.01	.024	8.5
Secondary Lagoon (Aerated)	966	320	29	0.07	13	0.76	8.6
Final Lagoon (Settling)	940	310	40*	0.33	9.3	0.72	10.0

*High algal concentration

APPENDIX IV

WILLIAMS LAKE SEWAGE TREATMENT LAGOONS
DAILY FLOWS, CHLORINE DOSAGES AND PRECIPITATION

August 1, 1975 to July 31, 1976

