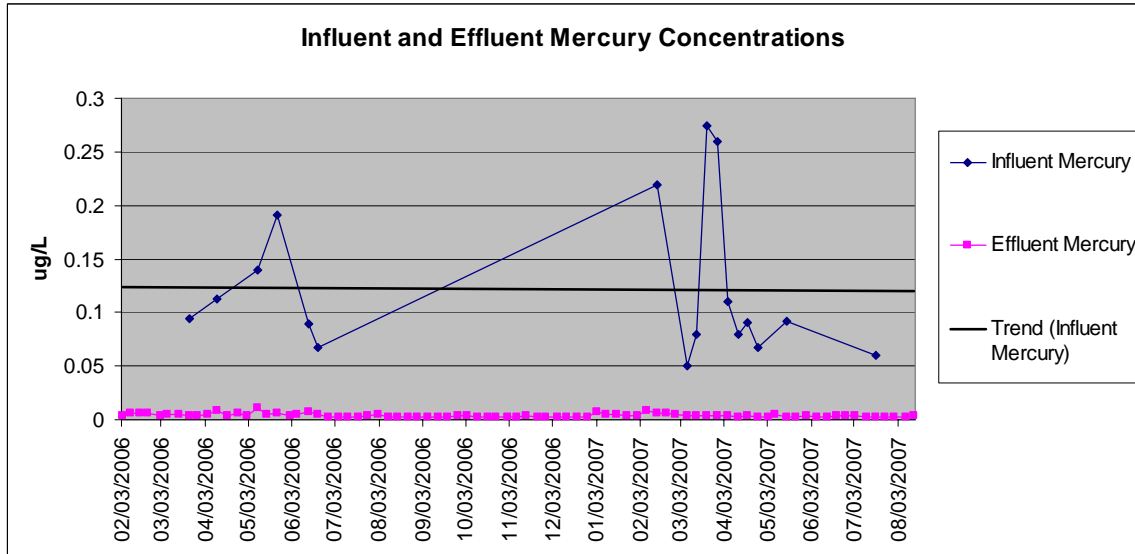


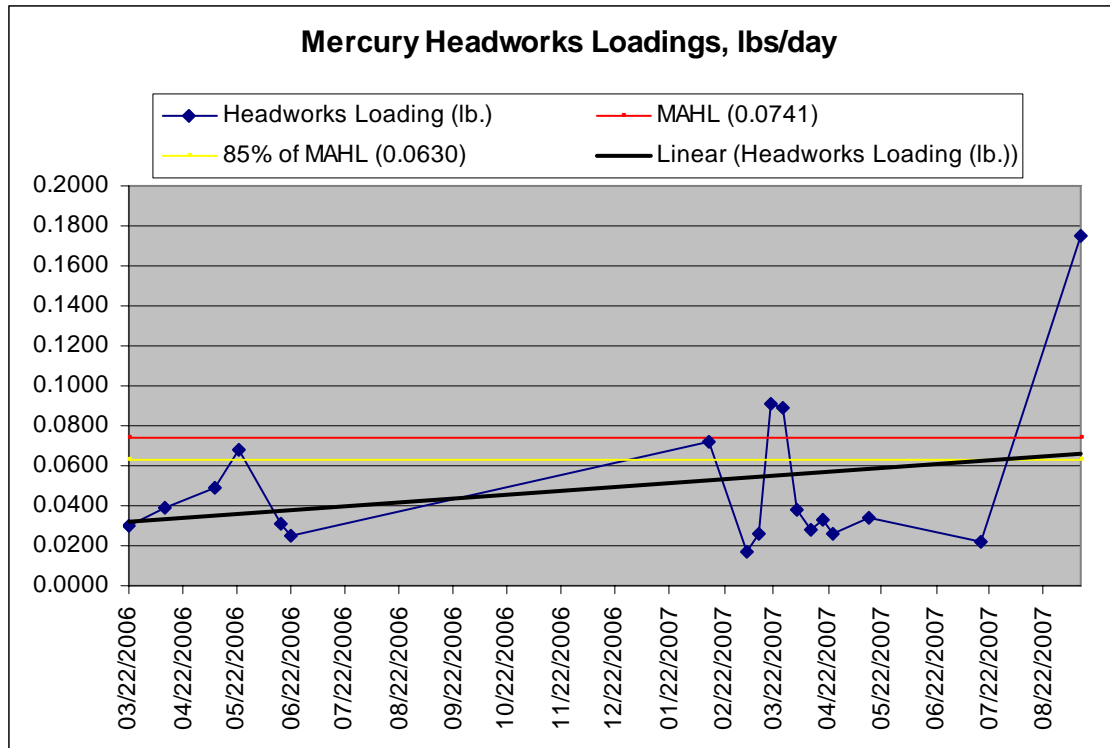
## Mercury Loading at the Wastewater Treatment Facility

Colorado Springs Utilities' Las Vegas Street Wastewater Treatment Facility has experienced some erratic mercury loading in the facility's influent since the Mercury Control Program began last year. Historically, mercury concentrations appeared to be decreasing, despite occasional spikes of mercury. The black line on Graph 1 below shows a slightly decreasing trend in influent mercury concentrations. Also, at the bottom of the graph you can see the effluent results (i.e. what concentrations of mercury are discharged to Fountain Creek). As you can see, the treatment plant is able to treat/remove nearly all of the mercury coming into the plant.



Graph 1 – March 2006 to July 2007 Influent and Effluent Mercury Concentrations at the Las Vegas Wastewater Treatment Facility in Colorado Springs, CO.

However, the facility began its second accelerated monitoring program in September 2007, due to a recent 488 ng/L spike of mercury. Typically, the facility sees influent mercury concentrations in the range of 50 ng/L to 200 ng/L. This spike, alone, was enough to change the decreasing trend into an increasing trend (as shown by the black line in Graph 2).



Graph 2 – March 2006 to September 2007 Influent Mercury Loading (in pounds) at the Las Vegas Wastewater Treatment Facility in Colorado Springs, CO.

Interpreting all of the mercury monitoring results is a difficult task. At first glance, the recent spike appears to indicate an increasing trend in mercury loading. However, prior to the last spike, concentrations and loading exhibited a decreasing trend. Therefore, rather than a constantly increasing level of mercury, the spikes appear to indicate that there are specific times when a relatively large concentration of mercury is discharged into our system. We have not yet identified any particular source of these spikes.

The good news is that the wastewater treatment facility is performing well. So far, it has been able to remove enough mercury that our future effluent limits at the facility can be met.

There is more work to do in controlling mercury, though. We encourage everyone in the community to dispose of mercury in an appropriate manner, especially through mercury recycling, rather than by dumping it down the drain. In addition, if your business has implemented Best Management Practices to control mercury (for example, by installing a mercury trap) we encourage you to check the device frequently. The mercury must be disposed of by an approved method OTHER than down the drain, such as recycling through certified vendors. Also, if you own or manage a business with a mercury trap in place, please ensure that your staff and cleaning crews know that when the trap is full, it is NOT to be emptied down the drain. This would defeat the entire purpose of having a trap.

Currently, our program is designed around public participation on a voluntary basis. However, if continued spikes occur, we may be required to make the program mandatory. We are working to identify possible sources of the spikes.

For more information on mercury management and how you can help keep mercury out of our wastewater system, and therefore out of our local streams, see our online program information or contact us at 719-448-4800 and ask for a member of the Industrial Pretreatment Program.