

1D-00234



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October 22, 1996

Project Number 6884

Mr. James Shafer
Remedial Project Manager
Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop 82
Lester, Pennsylvania 19113

Reference: CLEAN Contract No. N62472-90-D-1298,
Naval Education and Training Center (NETC), Newport, Rhode Island,
Contract Task Order No. 254

Subject: Minutes for EAB Meeting No. 9

Dear Mr. Shafer:

Enclosed are four copies of the minutes to the ninth Ecorisk Advisory Board (EAB) meeting, held on October 16, 1996. A copy of the attendance list, overheads presented, and agenda are attached to the minutes.

If you have any questions about this material, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen S. Parker".

Stephen S. Parker
Project Manager

SSP/gmd

Enclosures

c: B. Wheeler, NETC Newport (w/enc. - 4)
K. Keckler, USEPA (w/enc. - 4)
P. Kulpa, RIDEM (w/enc. - 4)
T. Prior, USF&W (w/enc. - 1)
K. Finkelstein, NOAA (w/enc. - 1)
J. Trepanowski/M. Turco, B&RE (w/enc. - 1)
File 6884-3.2 (w/o enc.)

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH ECORISK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
NAVY INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM
NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTER (NETC)
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND**

October 16, 1996

**BROWN & ROOT ENVIRONMENTAL
CONTRACT NO. N62472-90-D-1298
CONTRACT TASK ORDER NO. 0173**

**Prepared by:
Mr. Stephen S. Parker
Project Manager**

**Prepared for:
Mr. Jim Shafer
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Navy, Northern Division**

MINUTES OF THE NINTH ECORISK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

October 16, 1996

The ninth meeting of the Ecorisk Advisory Board (EAB) for Naval Education and Training Center (NETC) sites was held in Building 1 of the NETC in Newport, Rhode Island, on October 16, 1996. The meeting was held in order to: 1) Review the regulatory comments and preliminary responses on the Draft ecological risk assessment (ERA) report for the former Derecktor Shipyard; 2) Review the proposed responses to the regulatory comments on the Draft Final ERA for McAllister Point Landfill; and 3) Present and discuss the preliminary data from the 1996 (Phase 3) sediment sampling and analysis for the McAllister Point Landfill.

The minutes of the meeting are included below, followed by three attachments: Attachment A presents a list of meeting attendants; Attachment B presents the meeting agenda; and Attachment C presents handouts and overheads from the meeting. The main focus of this meeting minutes is on presenting the items on which consensus was reached after general discussion, without necessarily relating in detail the discussions that lead to the consensus.

I INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

At approximately 1:15 pm, Jim Shafer (Navy) initiated the meeting. Mr. Shafer referred to the meeting agenda and stated the general goals of the meeting.

II FORMER DERECKTOR SHIPYARD (DSY)

The discussion on the regulatory comments for the DSY Draft ERA report began with the RIDEM comments. Discussion of the preliminary responses to the review comments submitted by the EPA would be conducted afterwards to allow for Cornell Rosiu (CDM) to arrive. Jim Shafer (Navy) indicated that the review comments from RIDEM had just recently been received and thus formal responses had not yet been prepared.

Greg Tracey (SAIC) proceeded to briefly identify the main issues in each RIDEM comment, indicating if whether the comment would be addressed or if clarification/discussion on the comment was necessary. In the majority of cases, Mr. Tracey indicated that the RIDEM comment was clear and that it would be addressed. For the remaining RIDEM comments, discussion ensued on the issues for which Mr. Tracey requested clarification from the RIDEM representatives; the text that follows briefly summarizes the agreements reached on these issues (Note: Specific RIDEM comments not identified in the following text needed no discussion/clarification and will be addressed in the report, or their outstanding issues were addressed as part of agreements on other RIDEM or EPA comments). Discussion on RIDEM comments was carried out with the general understanding that proposed responses to the RIDEM comments were yet to be prepared and would be formally submitted to the RIDEM at a later date, and that these responses would reflect the agreements reached at the EAB 9 meeting.

Referring to RIDEM general comment 1, Greg Tracey (SAIC) identified the issue related to endangered species and the issue regarding future site use, as the issues that needed further discussion and clarification. After discussion involving Mr. Tracey and the representatives from RIDEM (Paul Kulpa, Chris Deacutis, and Bob Richardson) and EPA (Kymberlee Keckler and Susan Svirskey), it was agreed that the issue related to the endangered species had been addressed by no longer using Suter's definitions for presenting risk categories within the risk characterization.

Mr. Kulpa said he would look for the bathymetry study by Bob Derektor and, if found, would provide a copy of it to the Navy.

It was agreed that, if RIDEM is able to provide the Navy with a copy of the bathymetry study, then the findings of the study will be mentioned in the ERA report.

In response to RIDEM general comment 10, Greg Tracey (SAIC) and the Navy representatives agreed to provide the RIDEM with an electronic copy of the ERA report once the report becomes a Final document.

Referring to RIDEM comment 11, Greg Tracey (SAIC) agreed to revise the corresponding text in the ERA report to acknowledge the occurrence of low dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations without solely attributing the apparent ecological stress to this condition.

General discussion ensued regarding RIDEM comment 13. The discussion involved Greg Tracey (SAIC), Ken Finkelstein (NOAA), Jim Quinn (URI), Paul Kulpa and Chris Deacutis (RIDEM). It was agreed that the issues raised in this comment could be better addressed once the results of the onshore investigation become available, and that this comment was also related to risk management issues.

Susan Svirsky (EPA), referring to RIDEM comment 14, indicated that EPA Region 1 does not want statements of "x times reference values" included in the report, because of the implications this may have on risk management decisions; Ms. Svirsky indicated that only qualitative comparison statements are acceptable. RIDEM representatives then agreed with EPA's position.

Referring to RIDEM comment 15, Greg Tracey (SAIC) agreed that the executive summary would be revised/expanded to identify the value that was used as a sediment "benchmark" for TBT.

Referring to RIDEM comment 18, Stephen Parker (BRE) indicated that the onshore investigative work had thus far not identified any illegal toilet plumbing into the storm drains.

Referring to RIDEM comment 24, John King (URI) explained that aluminum normalization is a standard technique, which in this case was used to try to facilitate the identification of the source of metals in the sediments.

Bob Richardson (RIDEM) indicated that he thinks that aluminum normalization on a dry weight basis may be equivalent to a "double normalization" and may obscure the results.

Mr. King expressed disagreement with Mr. Richardson's argument, and indicated that aluminum normalization is commonly done on a dry weight basis. Mr. King and Greg Tracey (SAIC) indicated that the ERA report will be revised to further explain the nature and rationale of the aluminum normalization procedure.

Referring to RIDEM comment 26, Sheldon Pratt (URI) explained that some of the benthic species present are pollution *tolerant*, but that these species are *not* pollution *indicators*. Mr. Pratt further explained that *Capitella* is a true pollution indicator, which was present in relation to the McAllister Point Landfill but not in relation to DSY. Mr. Pratt agreed that the potential influence of physical parameters on the benthic community would be further acknowledged.

Referring to RIDEM comment 27, Greg Tracey (SAIC) explained that the benthic community endpoint is generally less sensitive to pollution than the other measured endpoints. Mr. Tracey indicated that the Shannon-Weiner index has generally been determined to be somewhat inadequate for benthic community assessments.

Simeon Hahn (Navy) indicated that the Navy would want to include a statement at the end of the ERA report referring to the regulatory process that will follow the culmination of the ERA, acknowledging the risk management decision procedure for identifying the areas that may require possible remedial action.

Kymerlee Keckler and Susan Svirsky (EPA) agreed with the Navy's request, and said the EPA could help develop such a statement for the report. Ms. Svirsky indicated that she may be able to provide some text that could be used as an example.

III McALLISTER POINT LANDFILL (MPLF)

The EPA and NOAA representatives indicated that the analytical and toxicity results from 1996 (i.e., Phase 3) should be included in an attachment to the ERA report for MPLF, and that a revision of the risk characterization section of the report will be necessary to take into consideration the 1996 data.

The Navy representatives agreed with the position expressed by EPA and NOAA.

Jim Quinn (URI) presented the preliminary analytical results for organic contaminants from the Phase 3 sampling and analysis, and emphasized that the data had not yet been finished, finalized or validated. Mr. Quinn pointed out that certain samples were being reanalyzed because the detected concentrations of PCBs and PAHs had been unexpectedly high, relative to internal standards used. These samples will be reanalyzed using an appropriate level of internal standard. Mr. Quinn said there was high variability in results among certain samples and their corresponding "field duplicates." Jim Quinn and John King (URI) explained that field duplicates had been considered to be samples adjacent or in close proximity from each other (co-located samples).

Susan Svirsky (EPA) indicated that field duplicates should be collected from the same sample homogenate (i.e., "same bowl"), and that any future work should be conducted accordingly.

Jim Quinn (URI) indicated that the Phase 3 data would be completed and delivered to B&R for validation November 15, 1996.

Kymerlee Keckler (EPA) commented that the preparation of the data was taking too long, and indicated she had hoped the Phase 3 data had been completed earlier.

Steve Parker (B&R) explained that URI is under contract to provide results from the re-sampling program by November 15. Mr. Parker indicated that the presentation of the data today is the result of the EPAs verbal request to the Navy on September 18.

Jim Quinn (URI) identified the sample stations at which, based on the preliminary analytical results, the Phase 3 concentrations of PCBs and PAHs appear to exceed the concentrations detected during the 1995 sampling and analytical program. Mr. Quinn explained that carbon-normalization of the Phase 3 analytical results was yet to be carried out, and that additional comparisons against the 1995 analytical results would then be prepared.

John King (URI) presented the Phase 3 preliminary results for metals. Mr. King indicated that, in general, the sampled sediments were found to be very gravelly with, in some cases, actual small pieces of metals. Mr. King explained that erosion of the Rhode Island formation material may account for the new high arsenic concentrations detected during Phase 3. Mr. King also explained that apparently new landfill material is now exposed at certain stations, such as NSB-2, which may be compacted incinerator ash; Stephen Parker (BRE) interjected that such material had not been seen in the cores taken from the drilling location at station NSB-2.

Discussion then ensued on the responses to RIDEM comments on the Draft Final ERA report for MPLF.

Paul Kulpa (RIDEM), referring to the response to RIDEM comment 3, asked if the information presented in the response to the comment would be included in the report.

Greg Tracey (SAIC) responded that it would.

Paul Kulpa (RIDEM) asked to Sheldon Pratt (URI) how, in general, the benthic community at the MPLF nearshore stations compared to the rest of Narragansett Bay.

Sheldon Pratt (URI) indicated that the north nearshore stations are very comparable to the rest of the bay. Mr. Pratt then explained that the southern stations are shallow and are specifically comparable to mid harbor estuarine areas. The south stations have pockets of sand, gravel and rocks, providing diverse strata and habitat for a complex food chain associated with a high diversity of benthic species. Mr. Pratt explained that, because of high variability of the physical conditions within a small area, the higher numbers of pollution-tolerant species at certain nearshore stations cannot really be attributed to pollution. Mr. Pratt indicated that the oligochaete community that formerly existed at some of the nearshore stations has now disappeared probably as a result of the revetment construction. Mr. Pratt explained that this community was not one of opportunistic species, but rather a well established community developed through years of successional stages.

Regarding the responses to NOAA comments on the Draft Final ERA report for MPLF, Susan Svirsky (EPA) requested that Greg Tracey (SAIC) confirm with Ken Finkelstein (NOAA), who had already left the meeting, if he was in agreement with the response to NOAA comment 1. Ms. Svirsky said she thought the responses to the other NOAA comments were appropriate.

Greg Tracey (SAIC) said he had already talked with Ken Finkelstein (NOAA) about the response to NOAA comment 1, but that he would confirm his approval.

Cornell Rosiu (CDM) commented that the Phase 3 re-sampling program seemed adequate, and that he would want the "anecdotal" information presented by John King (URI) at the meeting to be integrated into the Final ERA report.

John King (URI) agreed with Mr. Rosiu's suggestion. Stephen Parker (BRE) indicated that cross-section diagrams will be included in the Final ERA report.

IV CLOSING REMARKS

Susan Svirsky (EPA) commented that redeposition of sediments at the nearshore MPLF stations is likely to occur in the spring, and asked what would be the approach to deal with this event and how will this affect the use of the Phase 3 data. Kymberlee Keckler (EPA) and Ms. Svirsky commented that knowledge of the physical baseline condition of the nearshore was necessary in case the final decision for the site was "no action", and a long-term monitoring program on the physical condition of the nearshore was established.

John King (URI) indicated that sediment redeposition is likely to occur in the southern side but not in the northern side where the slope is greater. General discussion ensued on whether acquisition of photo-bathymetry data would be useful; John King (URI) commented that, if such data is to be acquired to establish a baseline, then it should be done in the very proximate future before nearshore conditions change any further. The possibility of extending the revetment was also discussed in general terms. Steve Parker interjected that a baseline topographic survey was being done now, which can be repeated at any time.

ATTACHMENT A
LIST OF MEETING ATTENDANTS

Attendance, EAB Meeting No. 9
October 16, 1996

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Simeon Hahn	NORTHDIV	610 595 0567 x 190
Susan Swirsky	USEPA	(617) 573-9649
Ken Finkelstein	NOAA	617 223-5537
GREG TRACEY	SAIL	401 782-1960
Hester Laquette	BRE	508 658-7899
Steve Parker	BRE	508 658-7899
JIM SHAFER	NORTHDIV	610 595 0567 x 271
Ray Roberge	NETC	(401) 841-3735
Paul Rupp	RIDEM	401 277-3872
Bob Richardson	RIDEM	401-277-6519 ext 7240
Jim Quinn	GSO/URI	401-874-6219
Chris Kincaid	GSO/URI	401-874-6571
John Pratt	GSO/URI	401-874-6699
John King	GSO/URI	401-874-6594
Steve Parker	B & R Env.	508-658-7899
Kymberlee Teckler	USEPA	617.573.5777
Rayo Bhungara	Gannett Fleming	(617) 380-7750
Jennifer Hayes	Gannett Fleming	(717) 763-7311 ext 2888
Bob Wheel	NETC	(401) 841-3735
Cornea Rosin	COM	617/252-8000
Chris Deacutus	RIDEM	401/277-3961 x 7276

ATTACHMENT B
MEETING AGENDA

MEETING AGENDA

**Ecorisk Advisory Board Meeting No. 9
Building 1, NETC Newport
October 16, 1996**

CONVENE 1:00

- 1. Introductory Remarks**

- 2. Review of Comments, Draft ERA for Derecktor Shipyard**
 - Discussion of preliminary responses to EPA and NOAA comments
 - Discussion of DEM comments

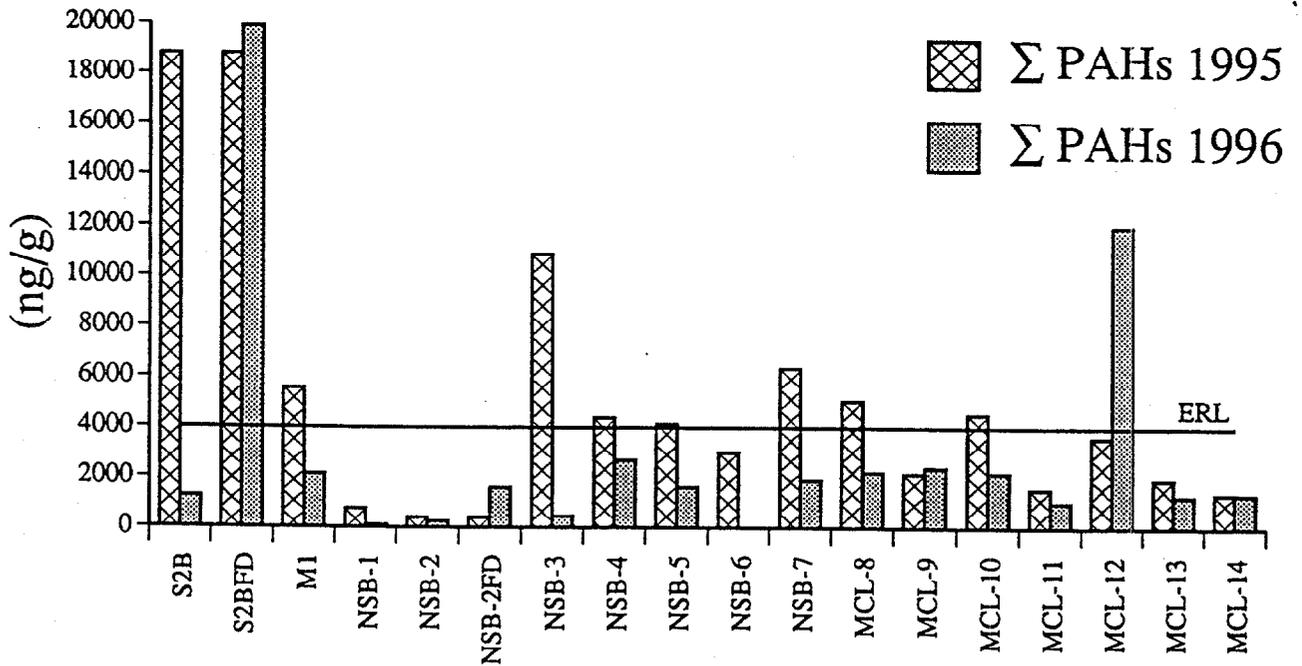
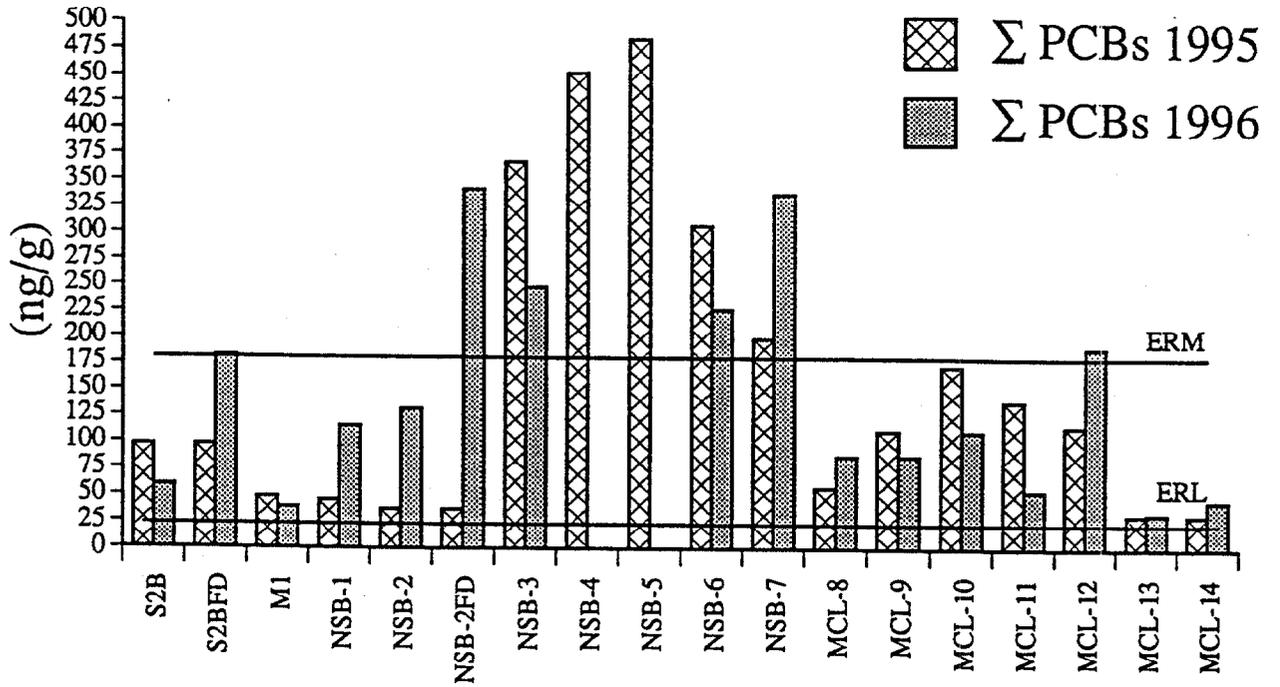
- 3. Review of Responses to Comments, Draft Final ERA for McAllister Point**

- 4. Preliminary Data, Phase 3 Sediment Sampling, McAllister Point**

ADJOURN 4:00

ATTACHMENT C
HANDOUT AND OVERHEADS

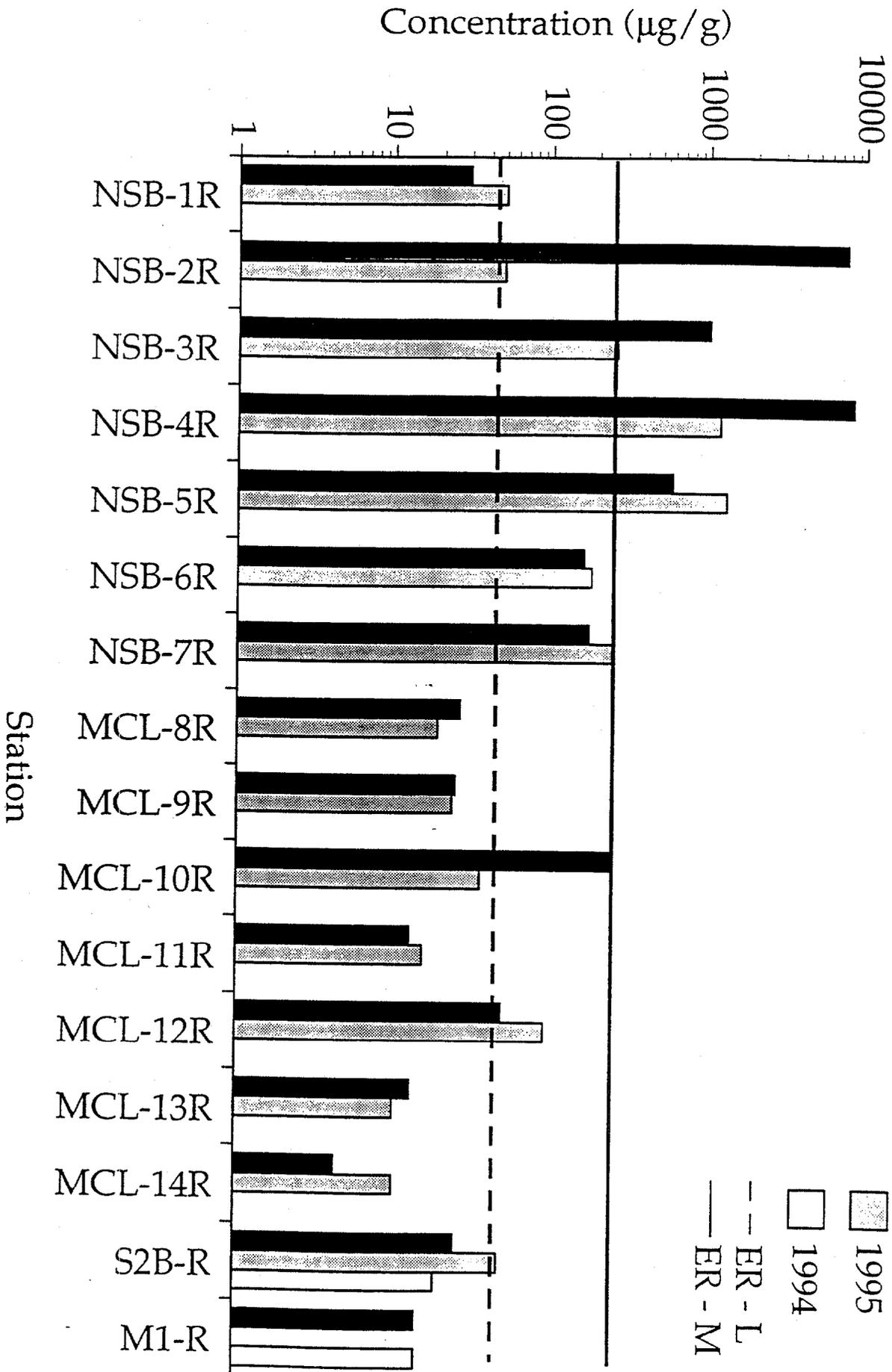
Concentration



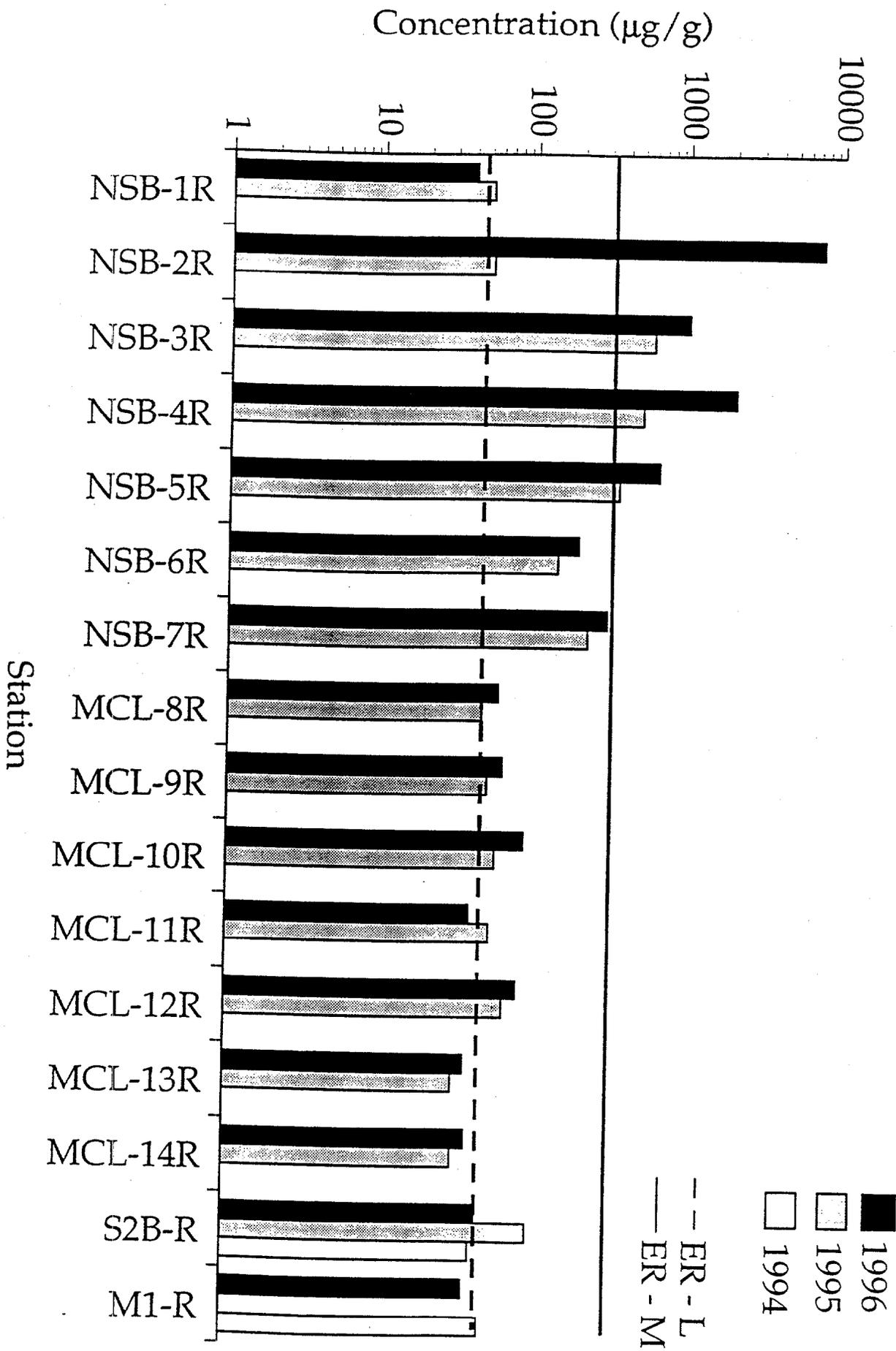
Site

McAllister Point phase 3. Concentration (ng/g dry weight sediment) of organic contaminants in surface sediments from the McAllister Point study area. The sample depth at sites NSB- 1 through NSB- 7 is 0- 6cm. The depth at all other sites is 0- 2cm. The horizontal lines are the ERL and ERM guidelines (Long et al., 1995).

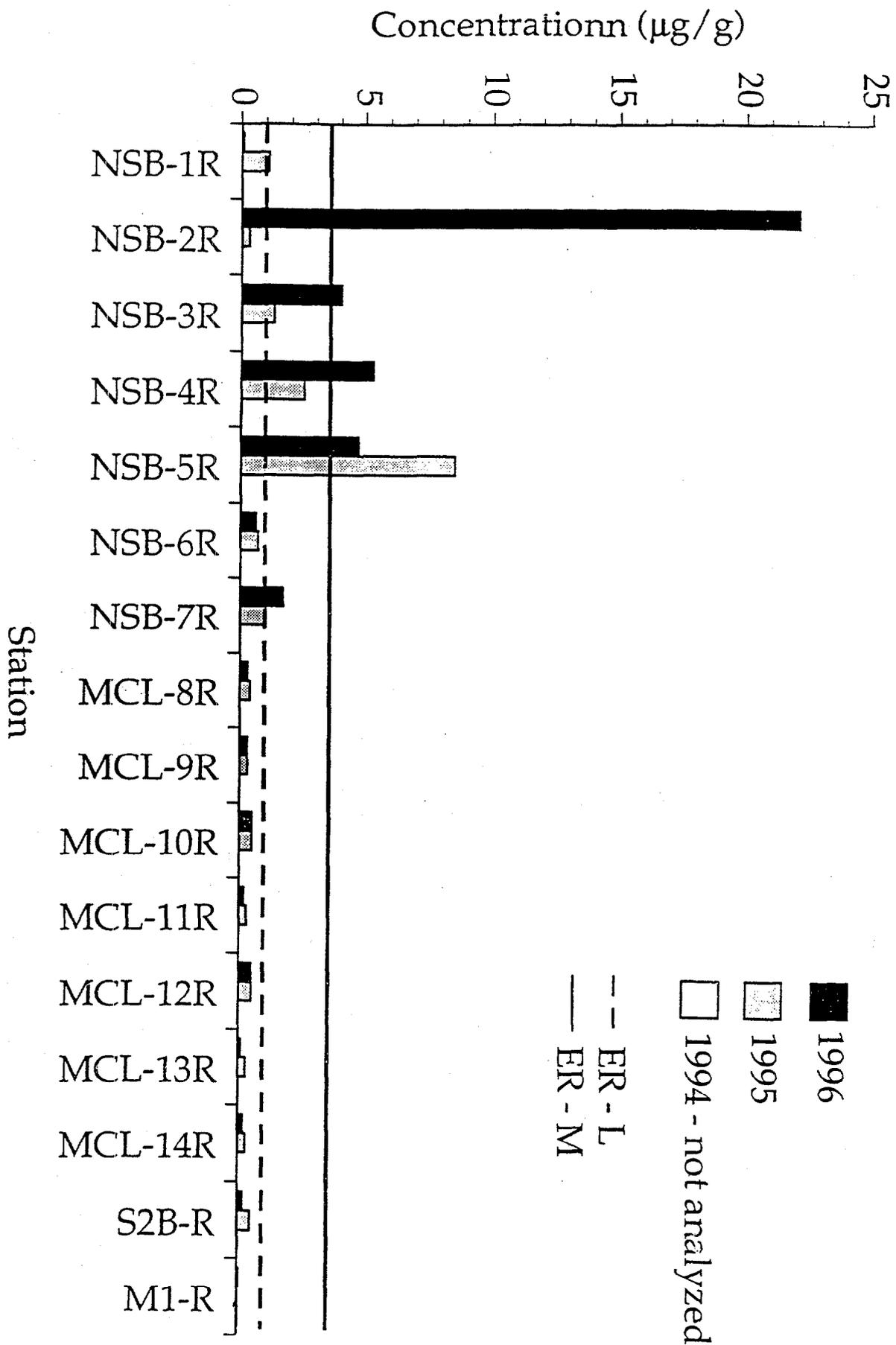
COPPER



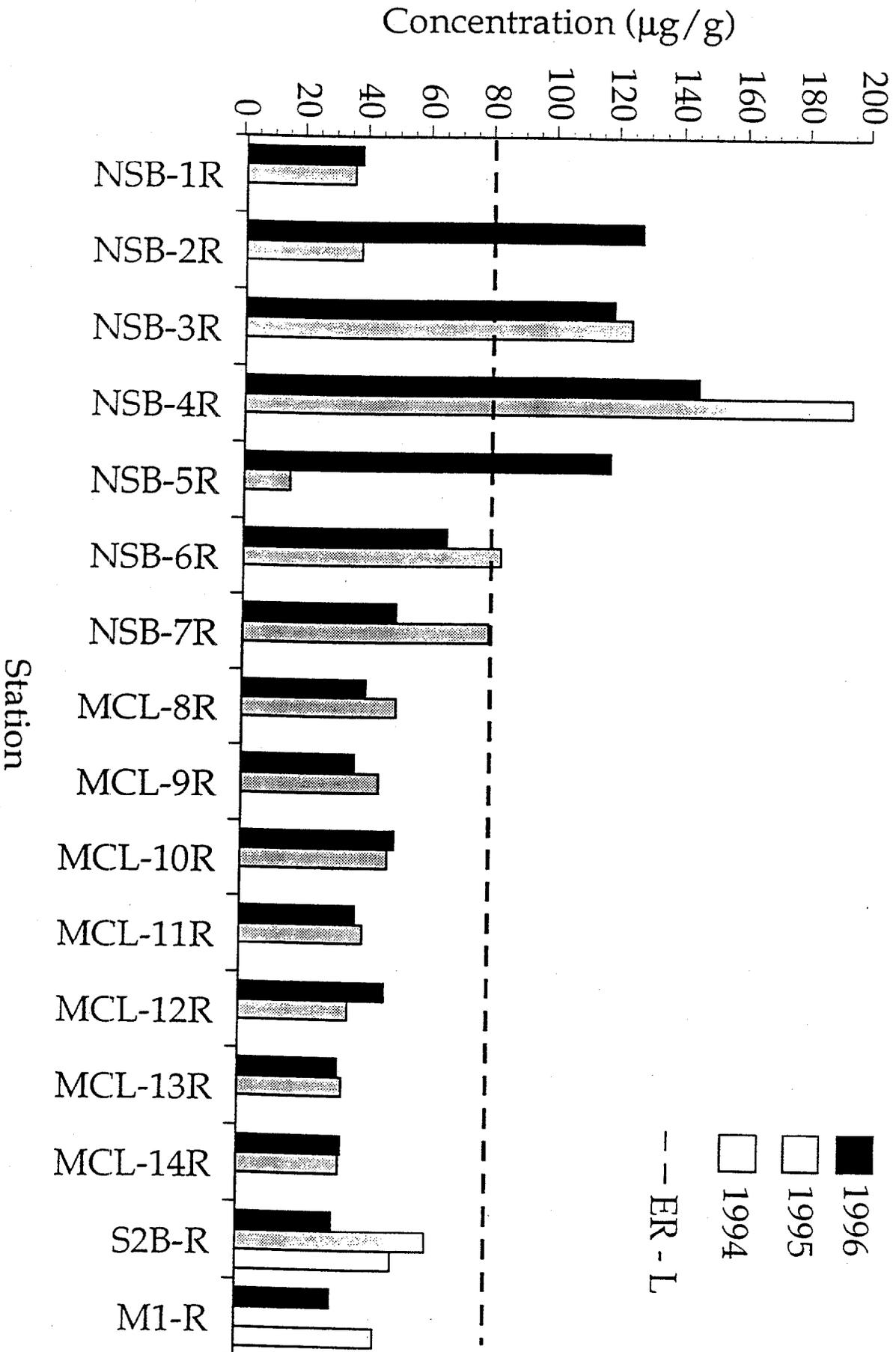
LEAD



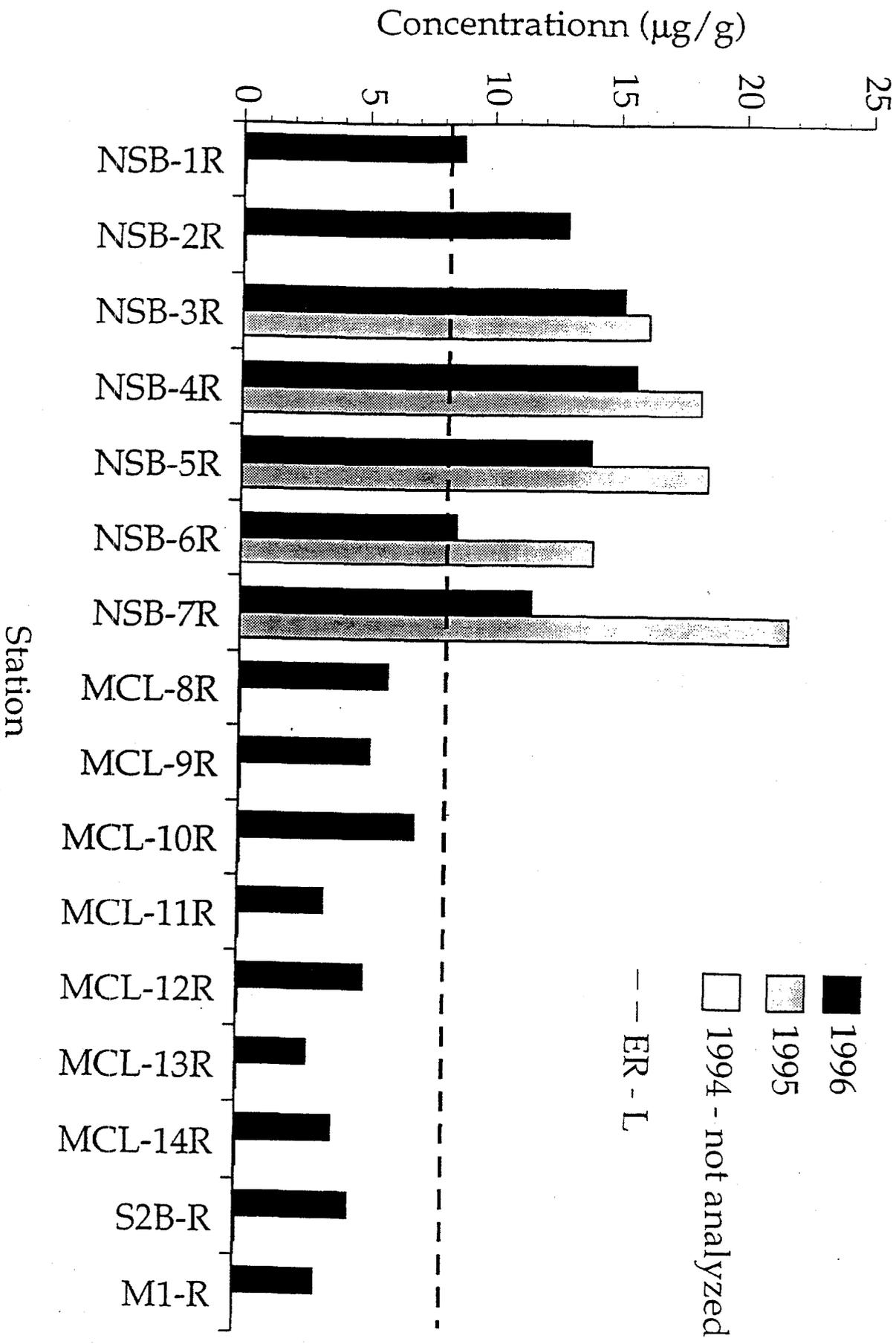
SILVER



CHROMIUM



ARSENIC



Sediment toxicity results using the amphipod (*Ampelisca abdita*) comparing pre- and post-revetment construction sediments for the McAllister Point Landfill study area.

Pre-Revetment			Post-Revetment		
Station	Amphipod Survival		Station	Amphipod Survival	
	% of Control	Comment		% of Control	Comment
S2B	71	*+	S2B-R	98	
			S2B-FD	92	
SDA-M1	101		M1-R	93	
NSB-1	53	***	NSB-1R	91	
NSB-2	80	***	NSB-2R	15	***
NSB-3	79	*+	NSB-3R	NA	
NSB-4	49	***	NSB-4R	24	***
NSB-5	0	***	NSB-5R	37	***
NSB-6	75	*+	NSB-6R	91	
NSB-7	78	*+	NSB-7R	63	*+
MCL-8	103		MCL-8-R	98	
MCL-9	99		MCL-9-R	93	
MCL-10	93		MCL-10-R	92	
MCL-11	101		MCL-11-R	98	
MCL-12	96		MCL-12-R	95	
MCL-13	92	*	MCL-13-R	93	
MCL-14	96		MCL-14-R	90	

* = Significantly lower than control.

*+ = *** and Survival between 60- 80% of control

*** = *** and Survival less than 60% of control