

**JOINT EXPEDITIONARY FORCE BASE  
LITTLE CREEK AND  
CRANEY ISLAND  
HYDROACOUSTIC AND AIRBORNE  
FINAL INTERIM MONITORING  
REPORT**

*Interim Report Prepared by*

**ILLINGWORTH & RODKIN, INC.**  
/// Acoustics • Air Quality ///

505 Petaluma Boulevard South  
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*Under Contract to*

**HDR**

**Environmental, Operations and Construction, Inc.**

**29 August 2013  
4 November 2013 Revised**

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## Interim Summary

This report summarizes the hydroacoustic monitoring results for sheet piles and H-Piles at the Joint Expeditionary Force Base Little Creek and 24-inch concrete pile at Craney Island near Naval Station Norfolk in Norfolk, Virginia. The plan was to measure sheet piles on 28 and 30 May and measure concrete piles driven on 29 May.

Due to scheduling issues with the construction contractor, measurements only included five sheet piles, removal of one H-pile, and the installation of two H-piles on 28 May. The levels from the sheet pile installation and the H-pile installation and removal were not perceivable above the background levels at the distant location which was across the harbor at the end of Pier A in the Little Creek Marina, approximately 197 meters (650 feet) from the pile driving.

On 29 May noise monitoring was completed on one concrete pile driven at two different times at Craney Island. The pile was being driven to check the bearing and was struck 25 blows the first time and was struck 14 blows the second time. The peak, root mean square (RMS), sound exposure level (SEL), and Cumulative SEL were recorded at two locations, 10 meters (33 feet) and approximately 50 meters (164 feet). The piles were driven using an ICE 220 diesel impact hammer.

On 30 May there were six sheet piles installed and a total of nine H-piles either installed or removed. The sheet piles were installed using an ICE-416 vibratory hammer with an eccentric moment of 25.3 kilograms per meter (kg-m) (2,200 inches per pound [in-lb]), the three H-piles were driven using this hammer and two were removed using this hammer. The other four H-piles were installed or removed using a newer and quieter HPSI-250xl vibratory hammer with an eccentric moment of 28.7 kg-m (2,500 in-lb). The distant location meter was moved to the end of Pier 27 on the Joint Expeditionary Force Base Little Creek, a location approximately 190 meters (625 feet) from the work area. Most of the afternoon data at the 190-meter location was not detectable above the background levels. In the morning, when the water was a little calmer and there was less activity on the docks, the sheet pile installation was detectable above the background levels. The RMS levels ranged from around 115 decibels (dB) to 121 dB re: 1 $\mu$ Pa. For the vibratory driving/removal only the root mean square (RMS) are reported. **Table 1** is a Summary Maximum Levels for both the impact and vibratory pile driving measured 28–30 May.

Airborne measurements were also made at a fixed location from the pile driving. On 28 and 30 May the distance to the pile driving ranged from 23 to 35 meters (75–115 feet). The measurement site was the closet safe secure location to place a sound level meter. A Larson Davis 820 sound level meter was used to measure the airborne noise from the pile driving. These measured levels are shown in **Attachment B**.

**Table 1: Data Summary Maximum Levels – dB re: 1 $\mu$ Pa**

Type Pile <sup>A</sup>	Date	Impact/Vib.	Distance (meters)	Peak	RMS	SEL	Cumulative SEL <sup>B</sup>
Sheet Pile	5/28/2013	Vib	11	N/A	149	N/A	N/A
Sheet Pile	5/28/2013	Vib	11	N/A	150	N/A	N/A
Sheet Pile	5/28/2013	Vib	11	N/A	151	N/A	N/A
Sheet Pile	5/28/2013	Vib	9	N/A	163	N/A	N/A
Sheet Pile	5/28/2013	Vib	9	N/A	161	N/A	N/A
H-Pile 1 Removal	5/28/2013	Vib	10	N/A	148	N/A	N/A
H-Pile 2 Installation	5/28/2013	Vib	10	N/A	159	N/A	N/A
24-inch Concrete Pile	5/29/2013	Impact	10	183	169	166	183
24-inch Concrete Pile (Same Pile as Above Less Strikes)	5/29/2013	Impact	10	176	162	153	164
Sheet Pile	5/30/2013	Vib	11	N/A	166	N/A	N/A
Sheet Pile	5/30/2013	Vib	11	N/A	158	N/A	N/A
Sheet Pile	5/30/2013	Vib	11	N/A	162	N/A	N/A
Sheet Pile	5/30/2013	Vib	11	N/A	163	N/A	N/A
Sheet Pile	5/30/2013	Vib	11	N/A	158	N/A	N/A
Sheet Pile	5/30/2013	Vib	11	N/A	166	N/A	N/A
H-Pile 2 Installation	5/30/2013	Vib	13	N/A	160	N/A	N/A
H-Pile 1 Removal	5/30/2013	Vib	13	N/A	164	N/A	N/A
H-Pile 2 Installation	5/30/2013	Vib	19	N/A	154	N/A	N/A
H-Pile 1 Removal	5/30/2013	Vib	21	N/A	158	N/A	N/A
H-Pile 2 Installation	5/30/2013	Vib	15	N/A	160	N/A	N/A

<sup>A</sup> – Sheet piles are typically driven in pairs ( two one-foot piles interlocked together see **Figure 1** below)

<sup>B</sup> - dB re 1 $\mu$ Pa<sup>2</sup>-sec



**Figure 1: One-foot piles that get interlocked during pile driving events.**

## Measurement Equipment

Reson Model TC-4013 and Reson Model TC-4033 hydrophones with PCB in-line charge amplifiers (Model 422E13) were used. For attended systems, the hydrophones were fed through an in-line charge amplifier into Larson Davis Model 831 Precision Sound Level Meters (LDL 831). The LDL 831 then outputs the signal to a Marantz Model PMD660 solid-state digital data recorder (SSR). The output of the LDL 831 can be adjusted. For unmanned systems that involved signal recordings only, PCB Multi-Gain Conditioners (Model 480M122) were used with the hydrophones and in-line charge amplifier. The multi-gain signal conditioner provides the ability to increase the signal strength (i.e., add gain) so that measurements are made within the dynamic range of the instruments used to analyze the signals. Two types of hydrophones were used due to the differences in sensitivity and the availability of equipment for this program.

The TC-4013 hydrophone is about 13 dB less sensitive than the TC-4033 and better suited for measuring higher sound levels without overloading the measurement system. For this reason, the TC-4013 hydrophone was used for the near measurement sites. The TC-4033 hydrophones have a greater sensitivity and are better suited for the measurement of low-level signals, and therefore, were deployed at positions farther from the pile driving where low-amplitude signals were expected.

During impact driving the maximum peak sound pressures ( $LZ_{peak}$ ), impulse RMS sound pressure level ( $LZI_{max}$ ) and the 1-second SEL ( $LZ_{eq}$ ) were measured “live” using the LDL 831. During vibratory driving the maximum peak sound pressures ( $LZ_{peak}$ ) and the fast RMS sound pressure level ( $LZF_{max}$ ) were measured “live” using the LDL 831. The LDL 831 SLM provided measurements of the un-weighted results for each data type, including the one-third octave band spectra for the 1-second  $LZ_{max}$ . Additional analyses of the acoustical impulses were performed using the LDL 831 SLMs as well. The LDL 831 captures the signal and stores the measurement data that is retrieved at the completion of a day of measurements.

Airborne measurements were made using 0.5-inch G.R.A.S. Model 40AQ pre-polarized random-incidence microphones. The signals were fed into LDL 820 SLM. The systems were calibrated with a Larson Davis Model CAL200 Acoustic Calibrator. The microphones were calibrated at the beginning and end of each day. Pre-event and post-event calibration levels were within 0.1 dB.

## Underwater Sound Descriptors

The acoustic monitoring program reports data in several formats, depending on the type of pile driving and the type of acoustic measurement. Impact pile driving produces pulse-type sounds, while vibratory pile installation produces a more continuous type of sound.

For impact pile driving, data provided include the peak pressure, RMS, and single-strike, cumulative SELs, and the  $L_{max}$  one-third octave band frequency spectrum, average of eight pile strikes. For vibratory driving, data reporting includes the RMS sound pressure level and the  $L_{max}$  average one-third octave band frequency spectrum over the entire pile-driving event.

## Airborne Sound Descriptors

A-weighted airborne data were collected for both impact and vibratory driving. During data collection 1-second and 1-minute intervals were used for measuring airborne data. The airborne data shown on the various time history charts represents the one second “fast” A-weighted RMS ( $L_{\max}$ ). The tables shown in **Attachment B** show the 1-minute data including the one-minute  $L_{\text{eq}}$ , 1-minute SEL and 1-minute  $L_{\max}$ , and the peak sound pressure level.

## Underwater Sound Measurement Data Management

Data were collected from hydrophones in two ways: (1) measurement of peak, RMS, and SEL sound pressures for each second; and (2) digital audio recording of the sounds for subsequent signal analysis. Each day of measurements, digital data captured by the sound level meters (SLMs) were downloaded to computer systems. The SLMs were primarily used to provide accurate live readings. These readings were recorded in field notebooks from time to time. Digital audio recordings were analyzed for selected impact pile driving events.

## Quality Control

The measurement system was calibrated prior to use in the field with a G.R.A.S. Type 42AA pistonphone and hydrophone coupler. The pistonphone, when used with the hydrophone coupler, produces a continuous 136.4 or 145.3 dB (referenced to one microPascal) tone at 250 hertz. The SLM is calibrated to this tone prior to use in the field. The tone is then measured by the SLM and is recorded onto the beginning of the digital audiotapes that were used in the field. The system calibration status was checked at the end of the measurement event by both measuring the calibration tone and recording the post-measurement tone on tape. Signal analysis included the measurement of the calibration tone at the beginning and end of tape recording events. All systems were found to be within 0.5 dB of the calibration levels. The pistonphone output has been certified at an independent facility.

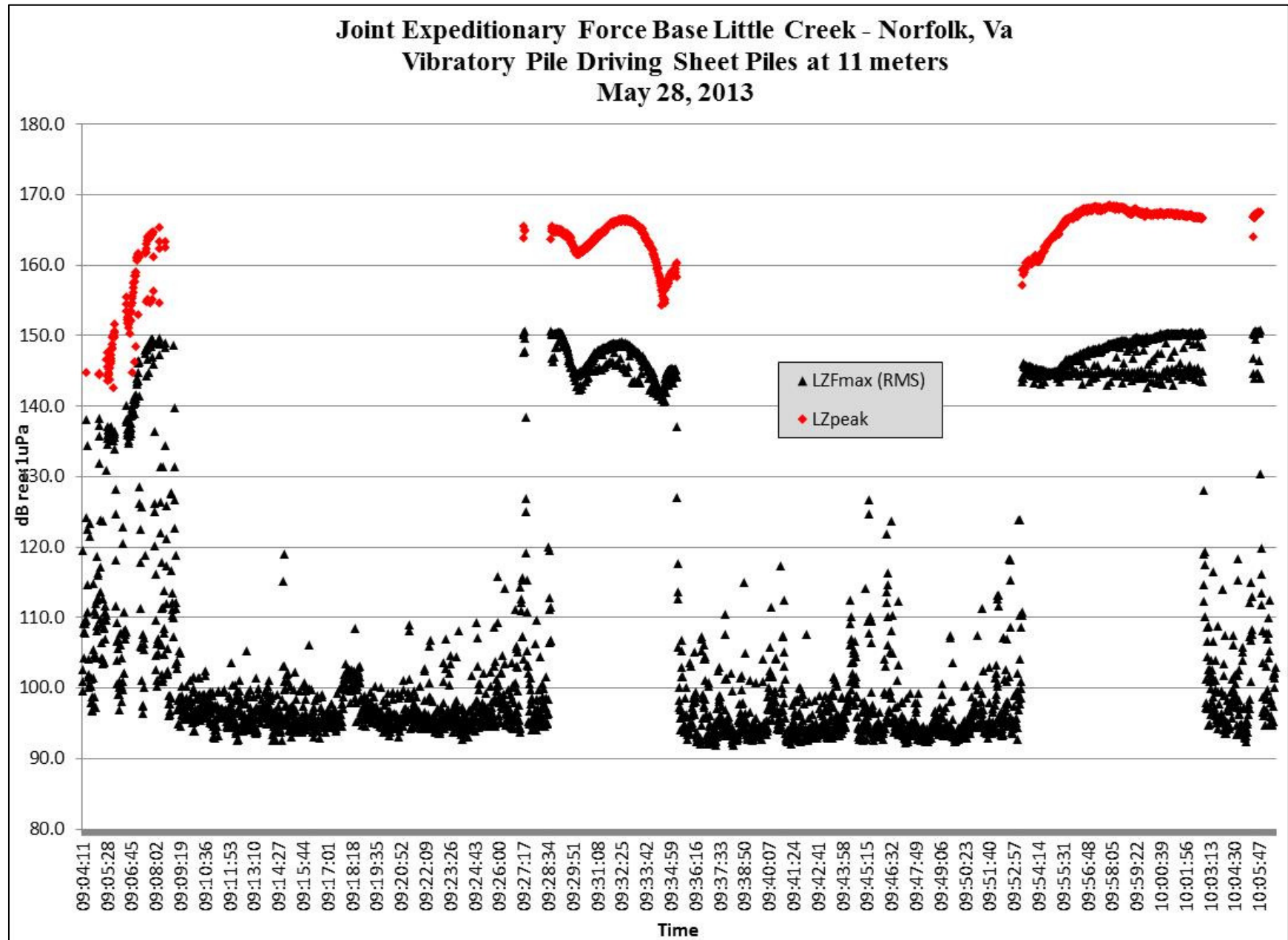
All field notes were recorded in water-resistant field notebooks. Such notebook entries include calibration notes, measurement positions (i.e., distance from source, depth of sensor), system gain settings, and the equipment used to make each measurement. Notebook entries were copied after each measurement day and filed for safekeeping. Recorded media were labeled and stored for subsequent analysis.

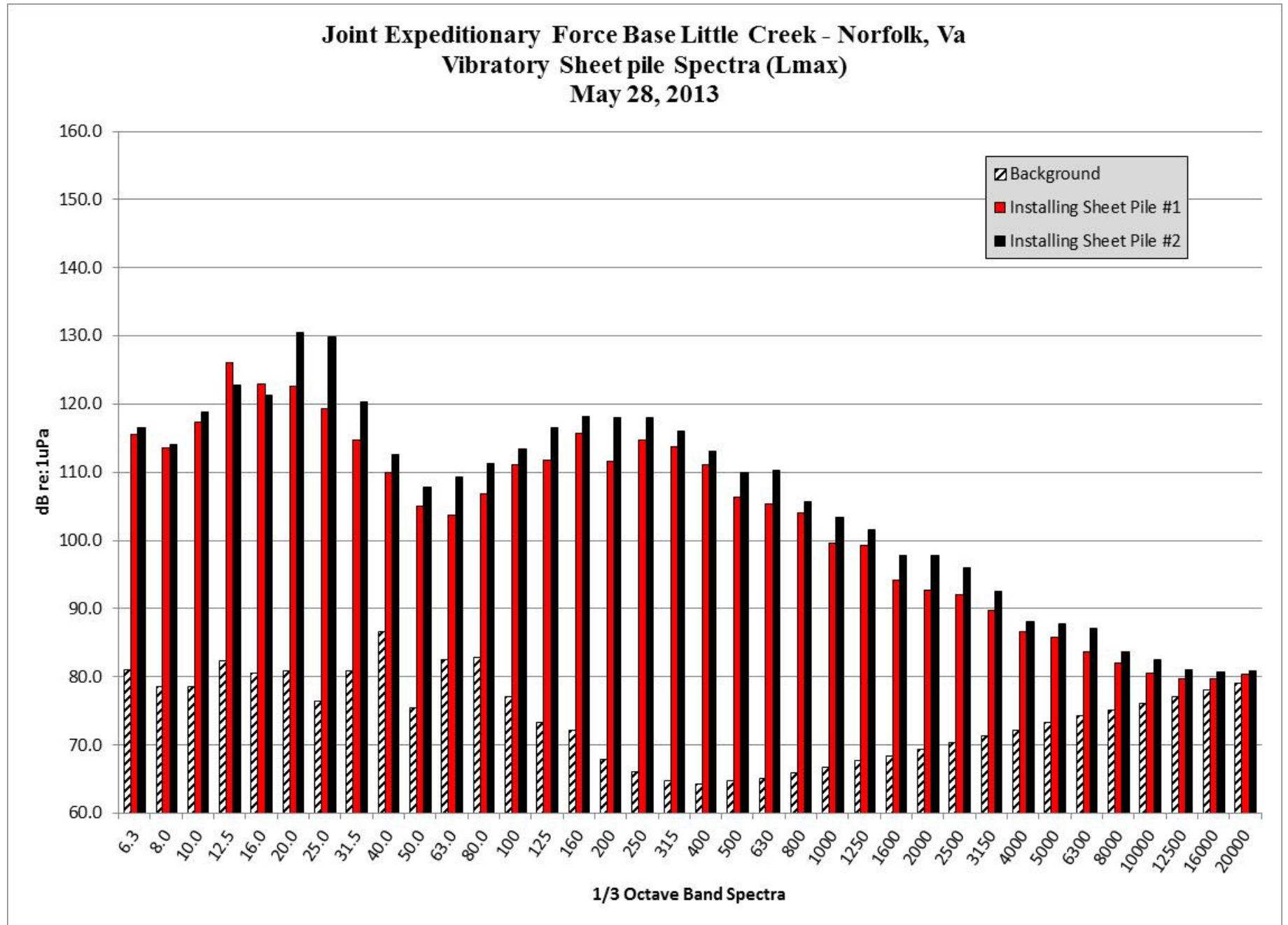


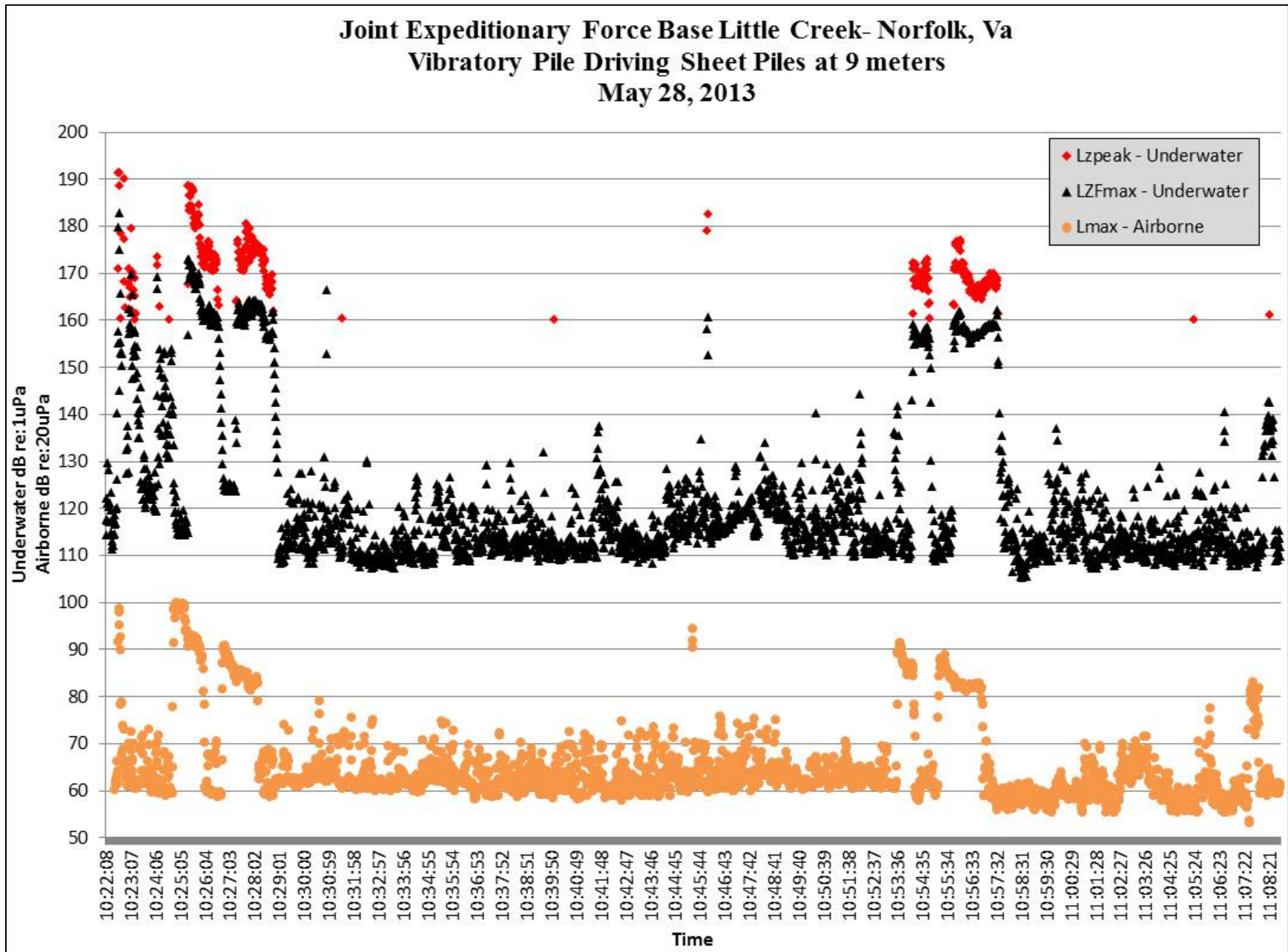
## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **TIME HISTORY OF PILE DRIVING AND 1/3 OCTAVE BAND SPECTRA**

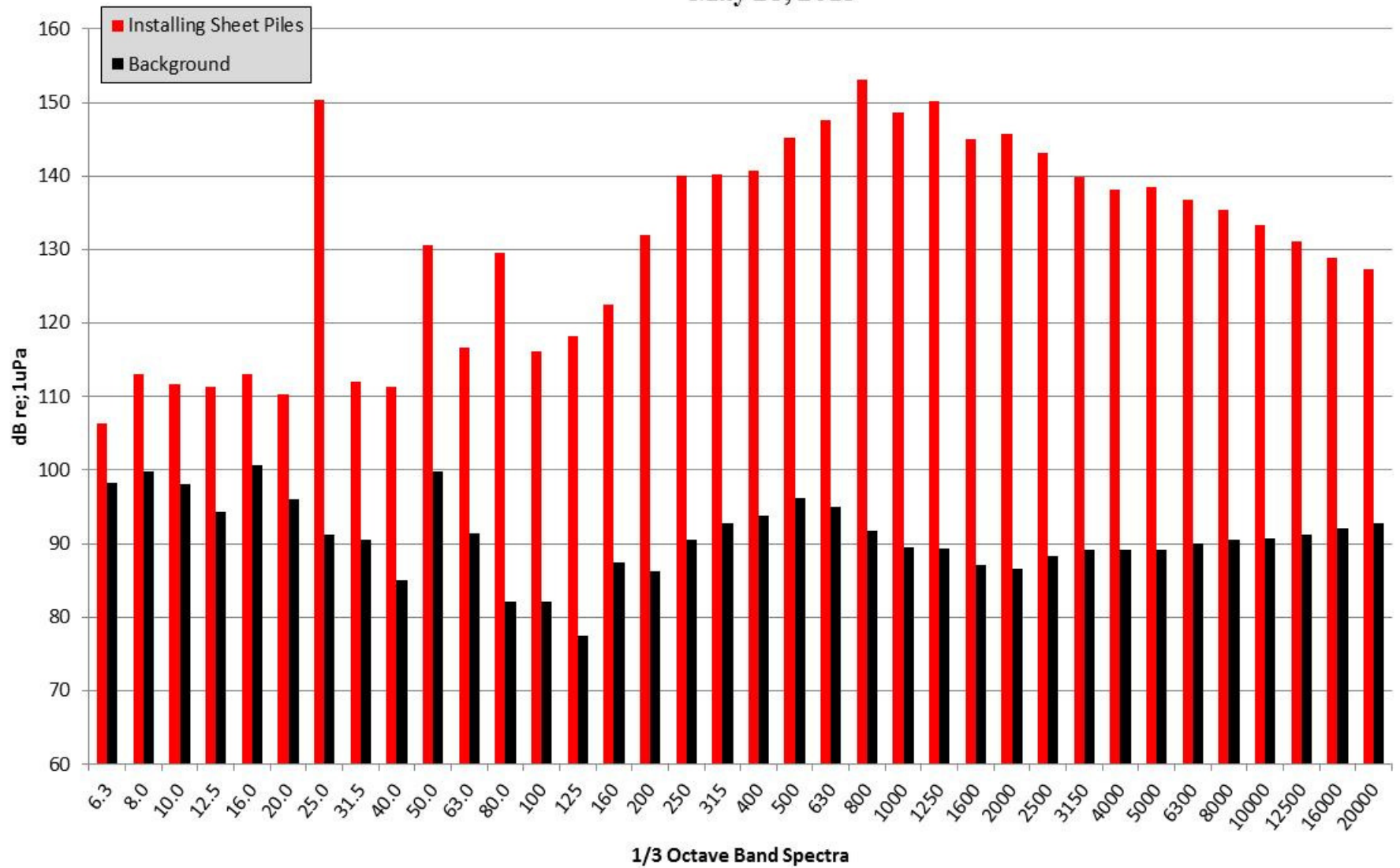
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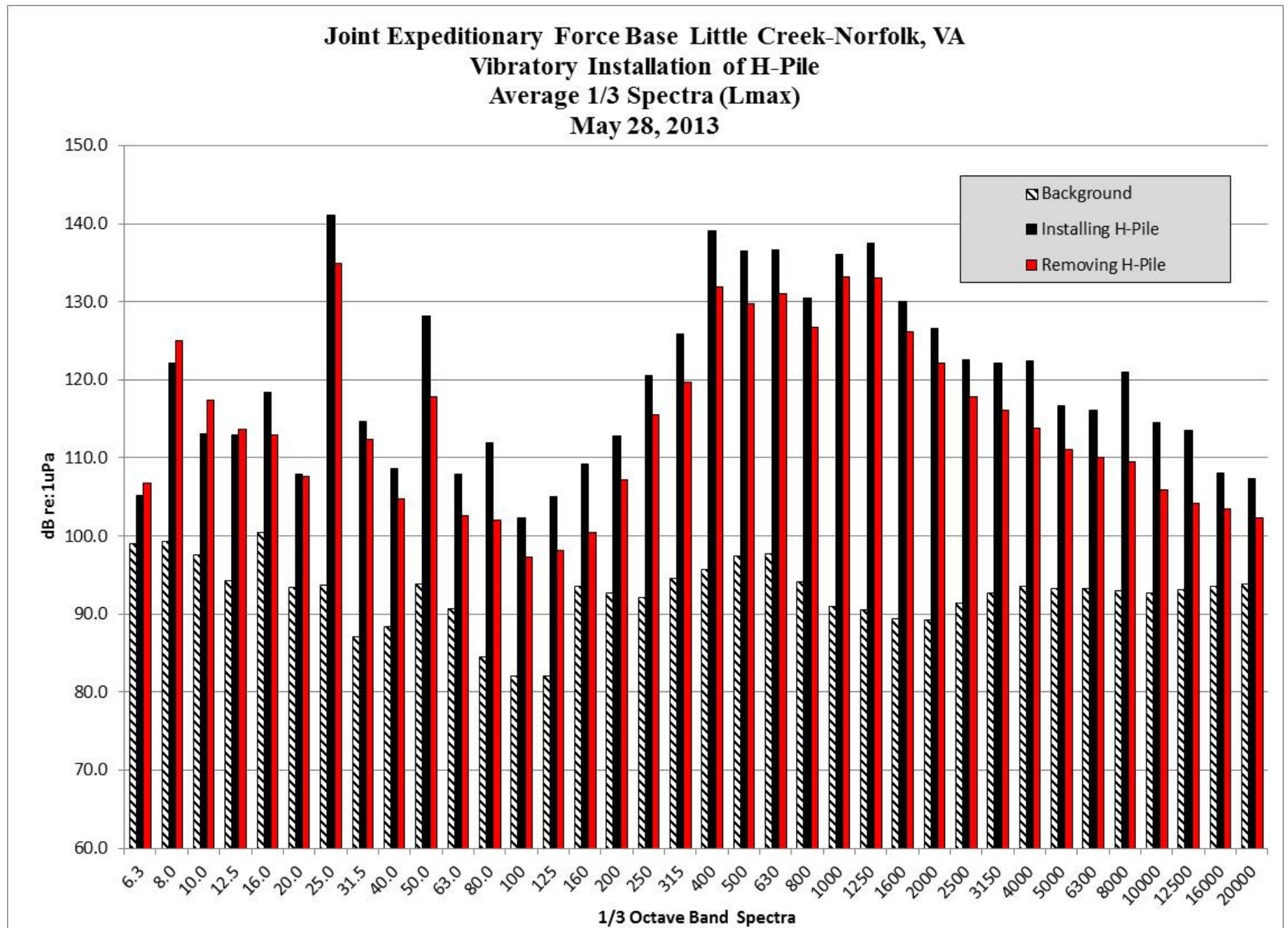


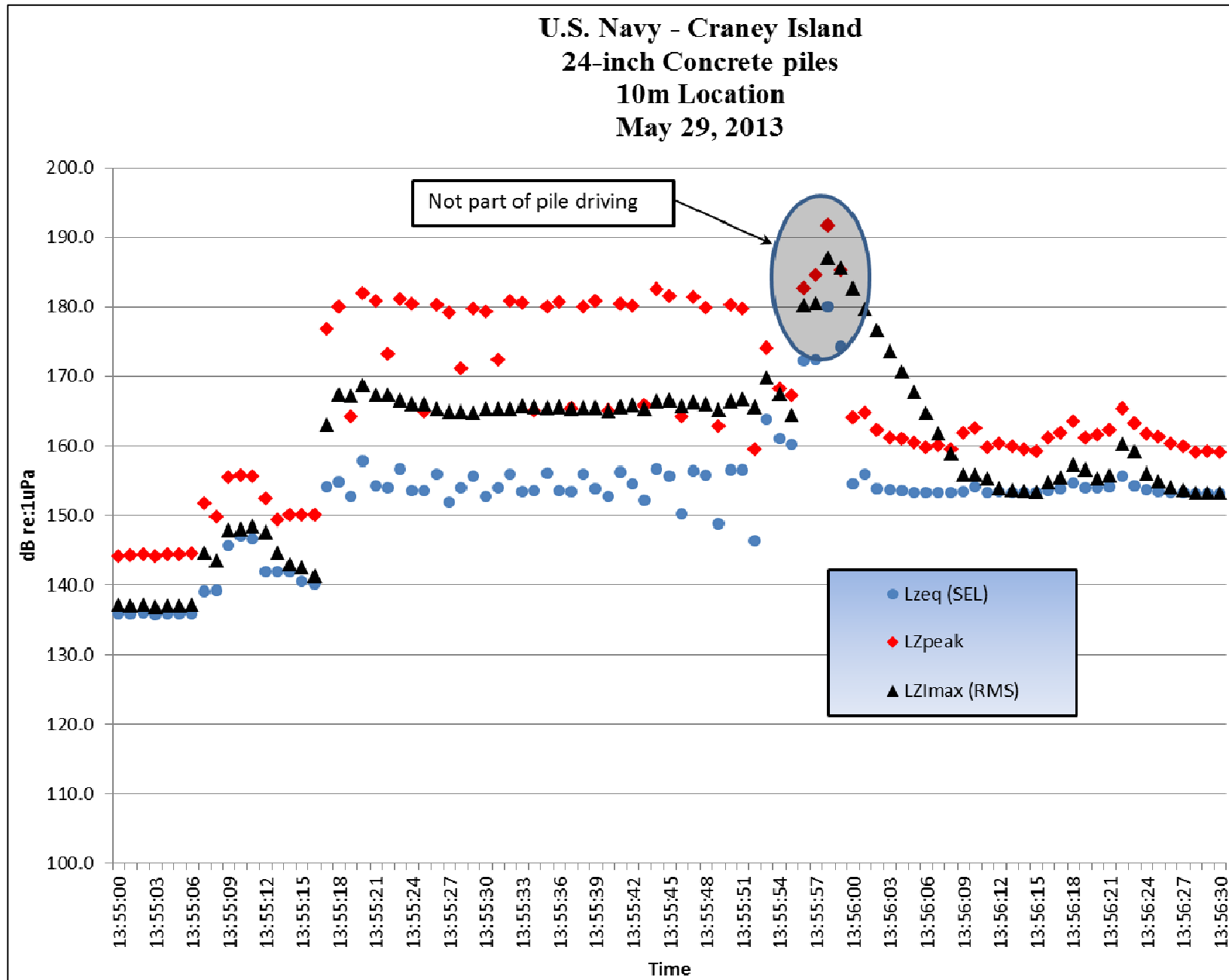




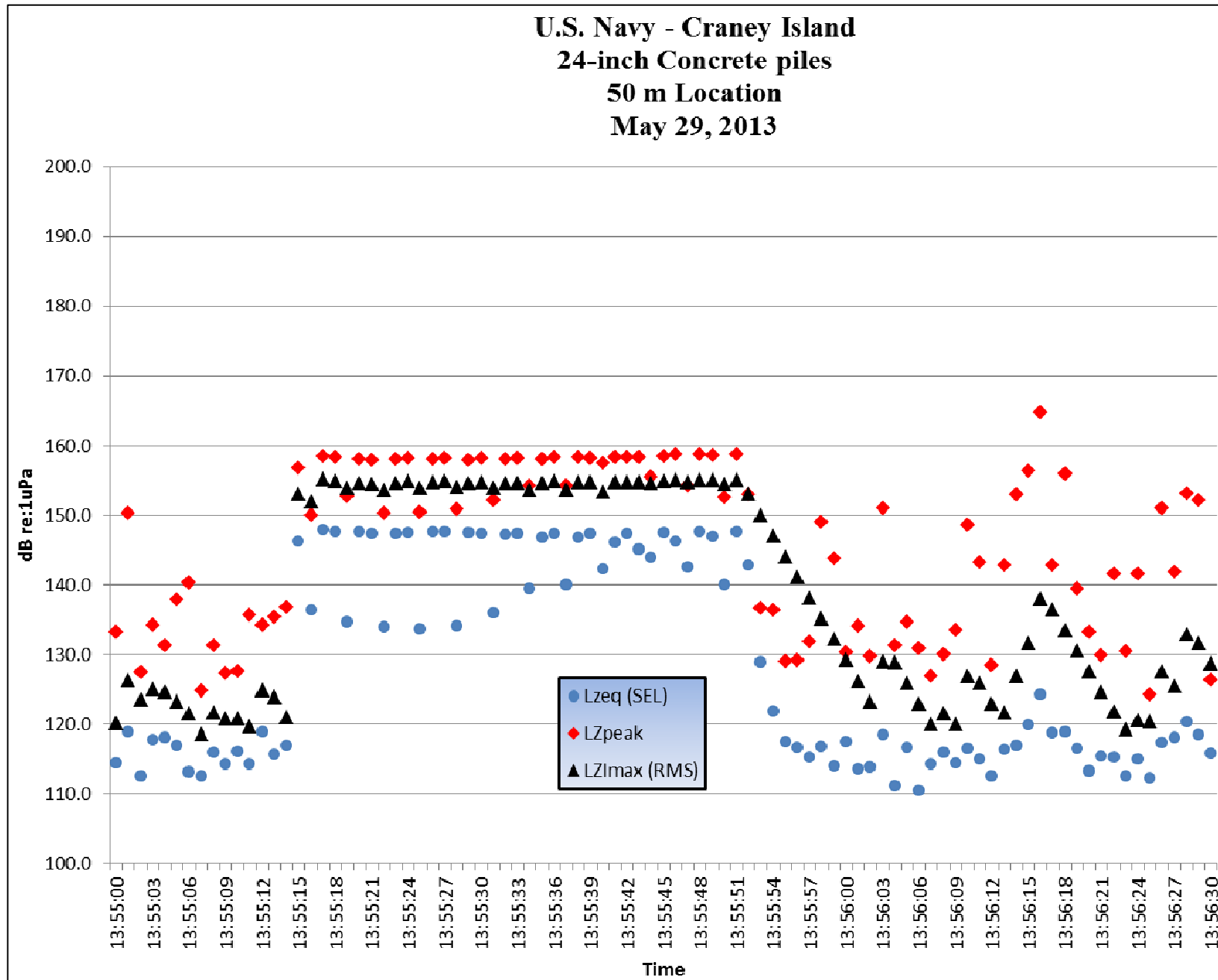
**Joint Expeditionary Force Base Little Creek - Norfolk, Va  
Vibratory Installation of Sheet Pile  
Average 1/3 Spectra (Lmax)  
May 28, 2013**

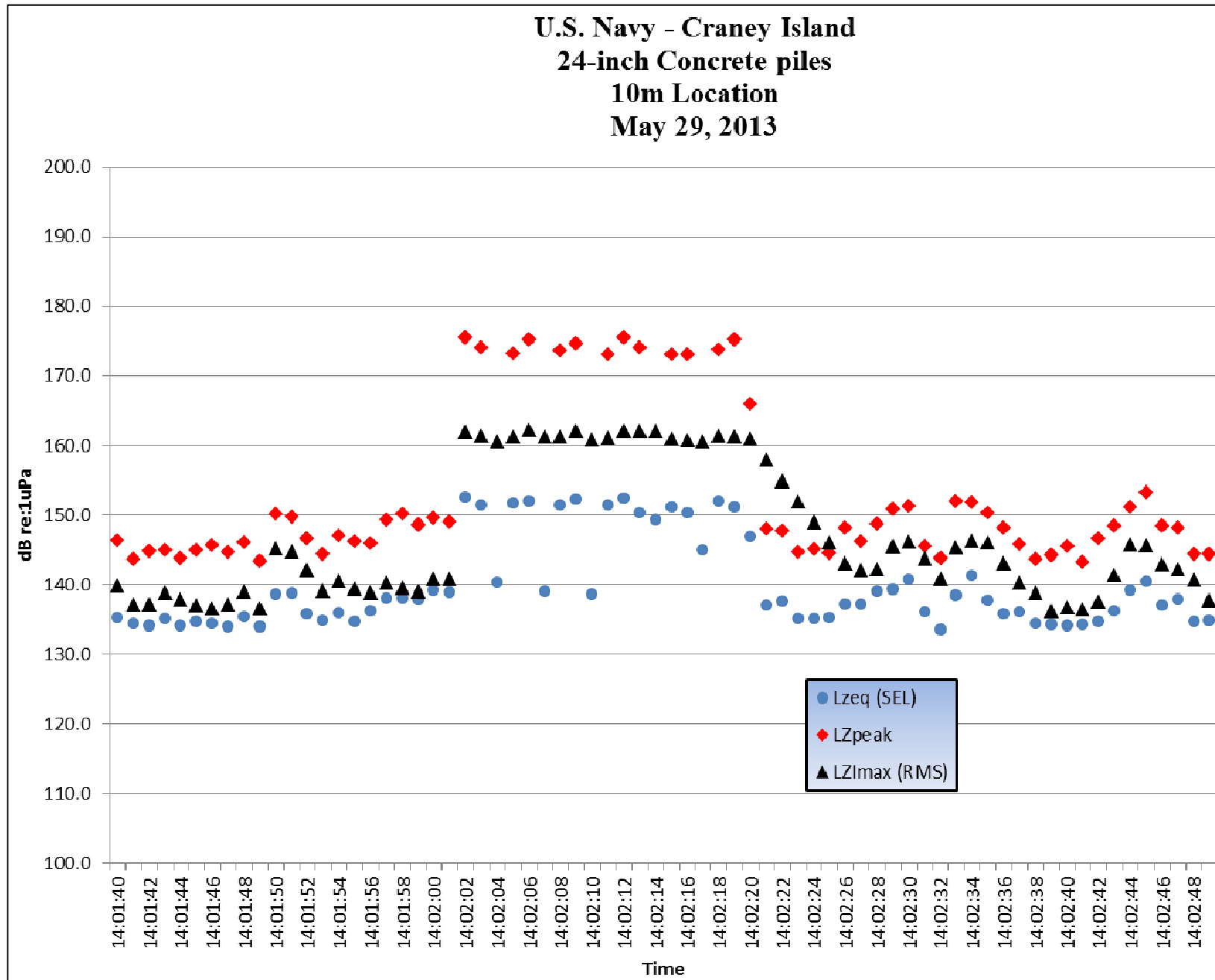


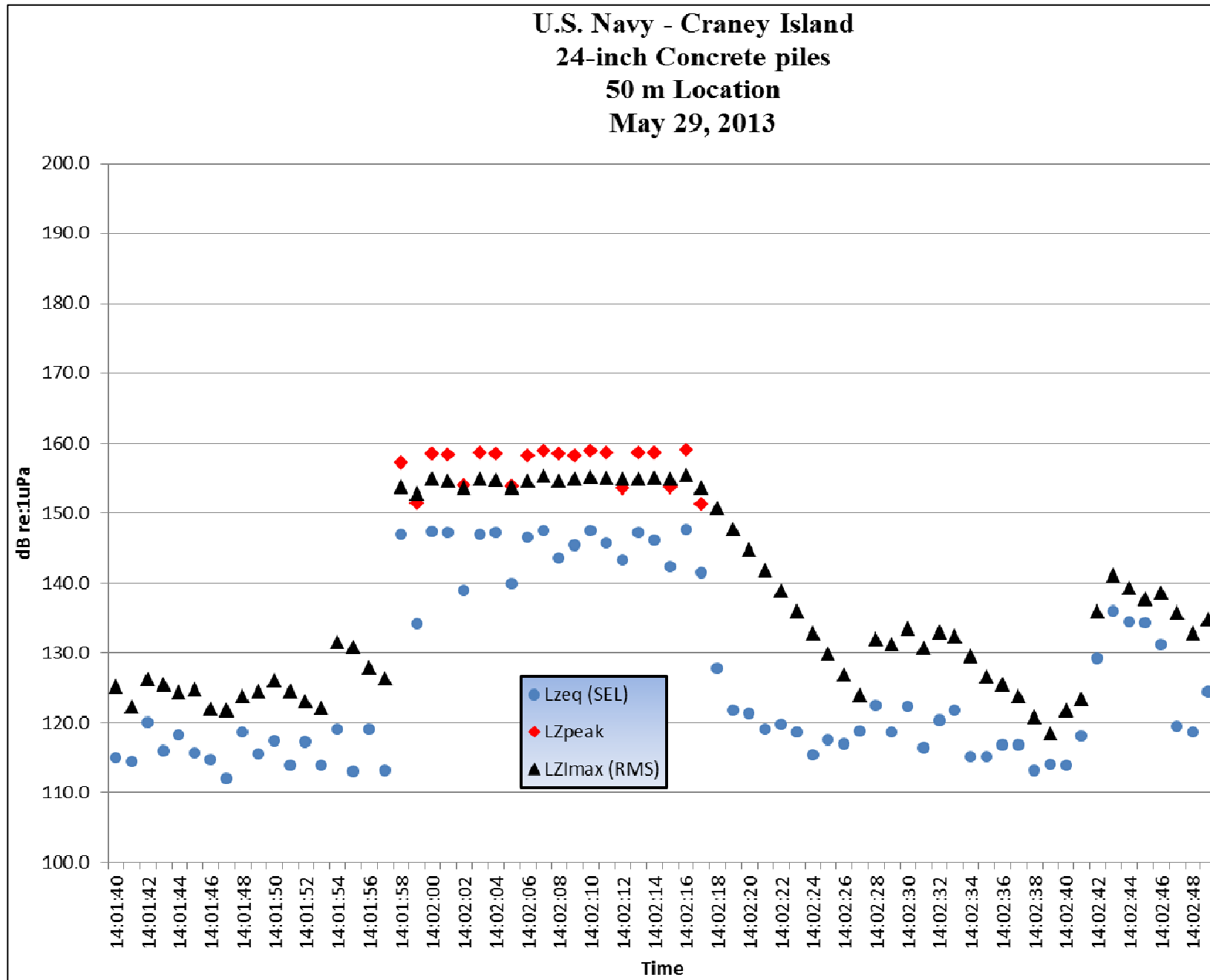




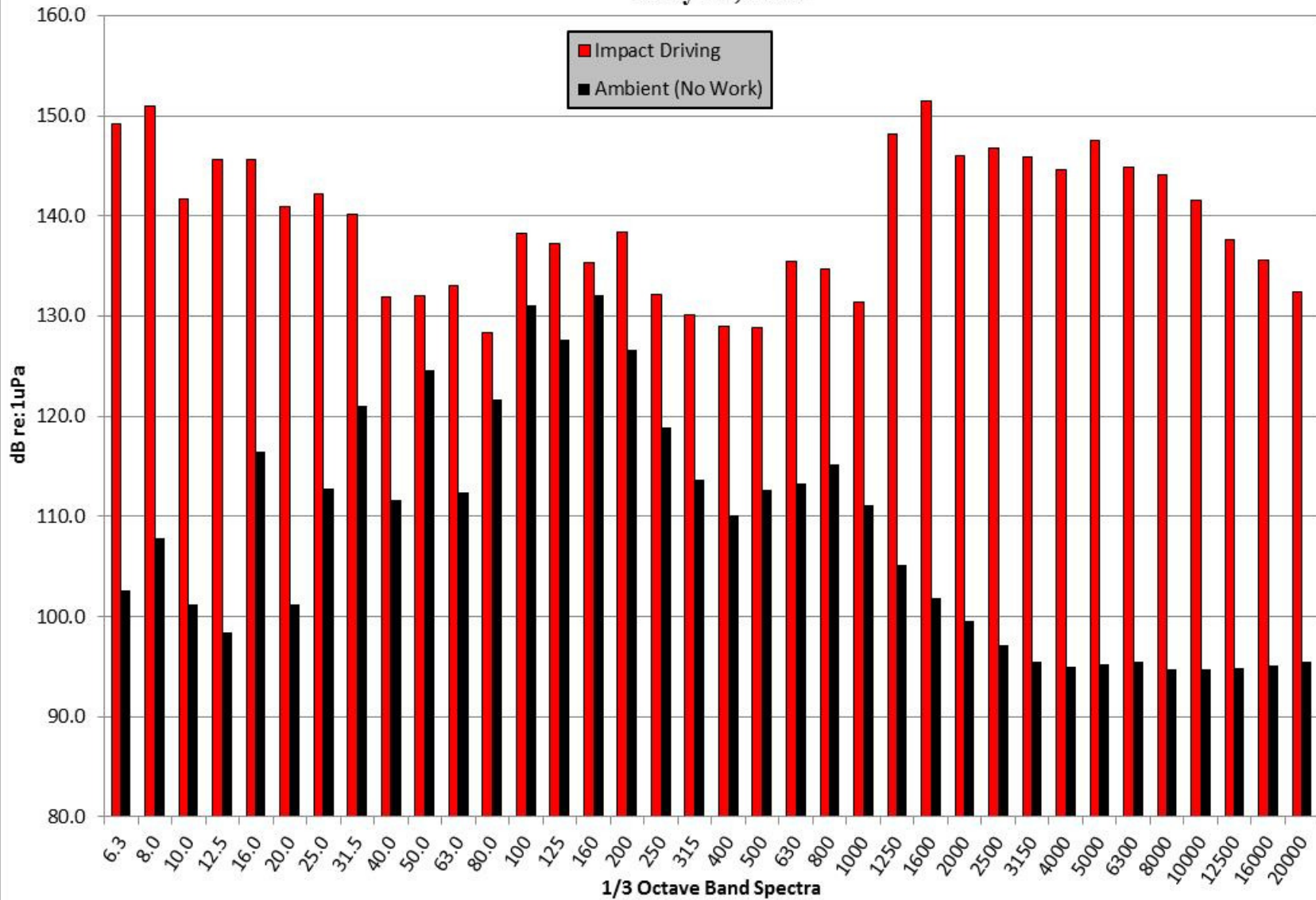


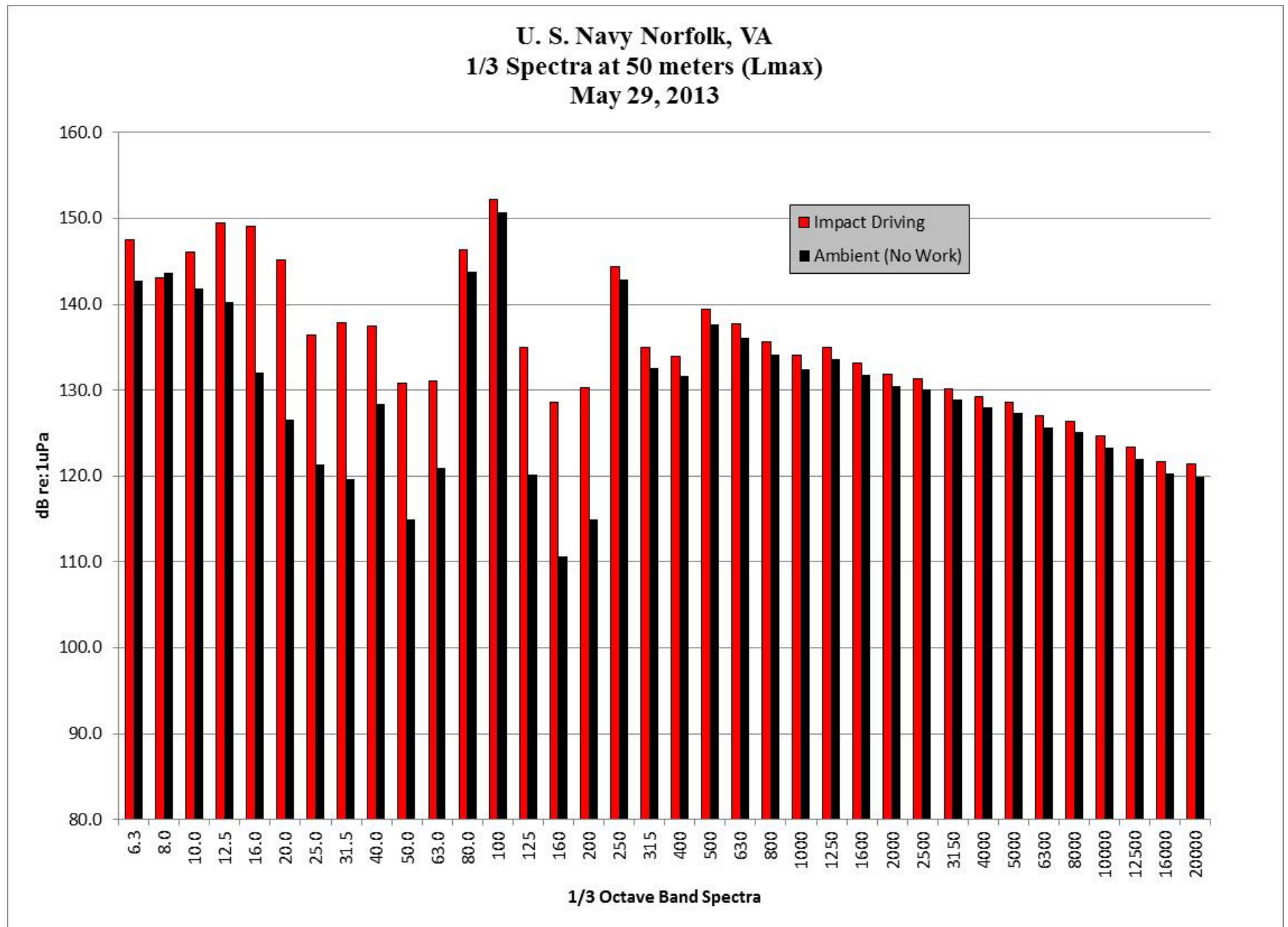




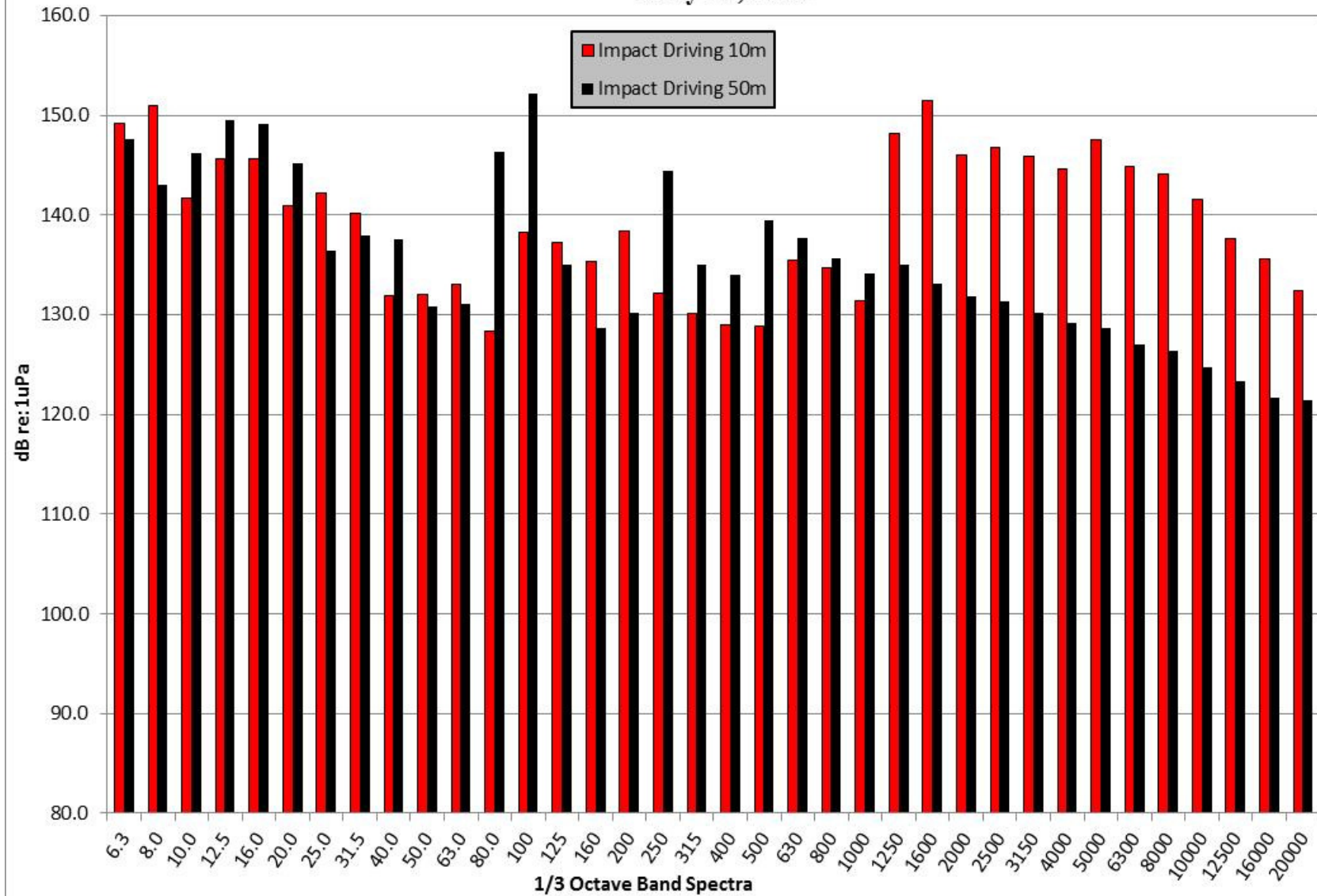


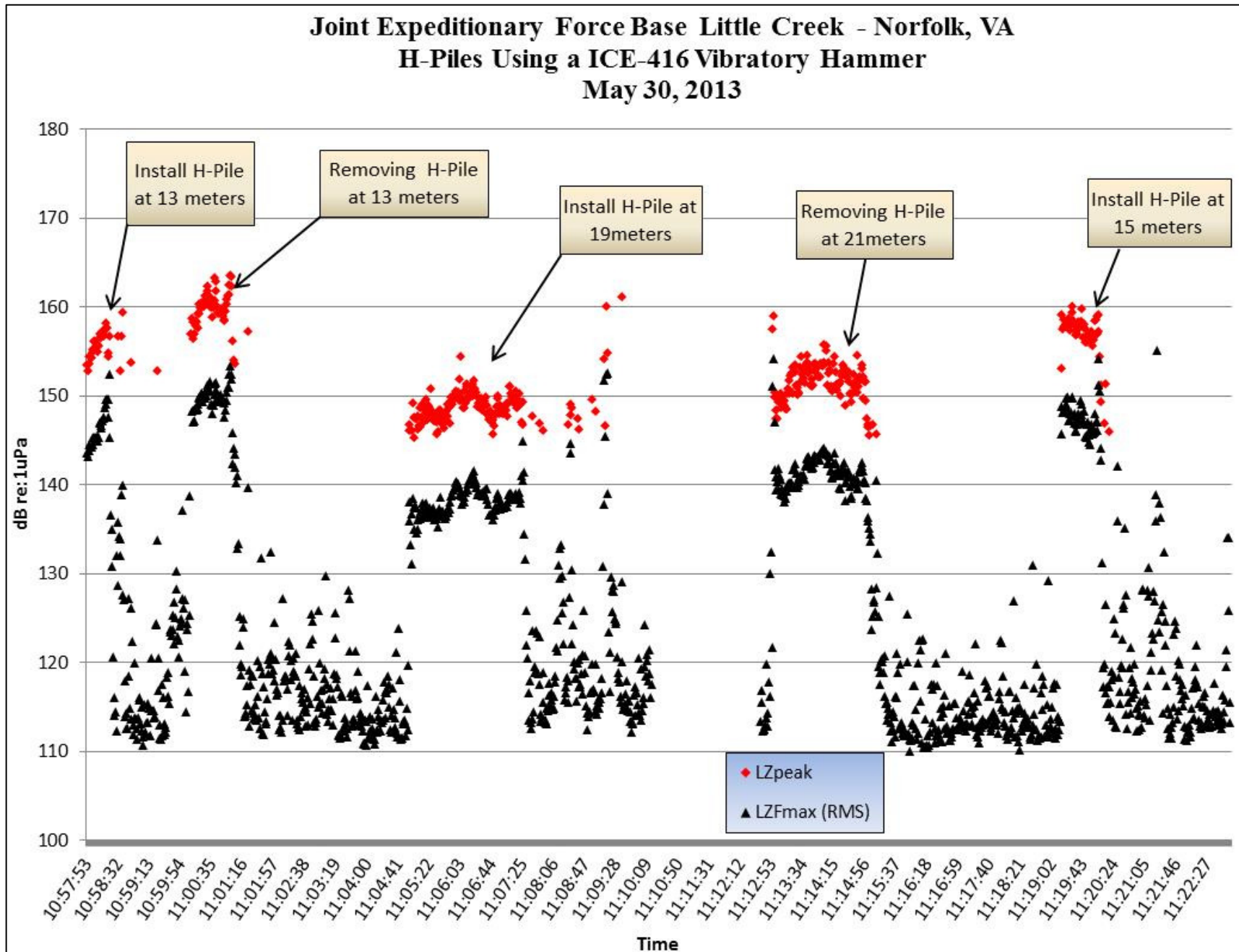
**U.S. Navy Norfolk, VA  
Craney Island Impact Driving 24-inch Concrete Piles  
10 meter Location (Lmax)  
May 29, 2013**



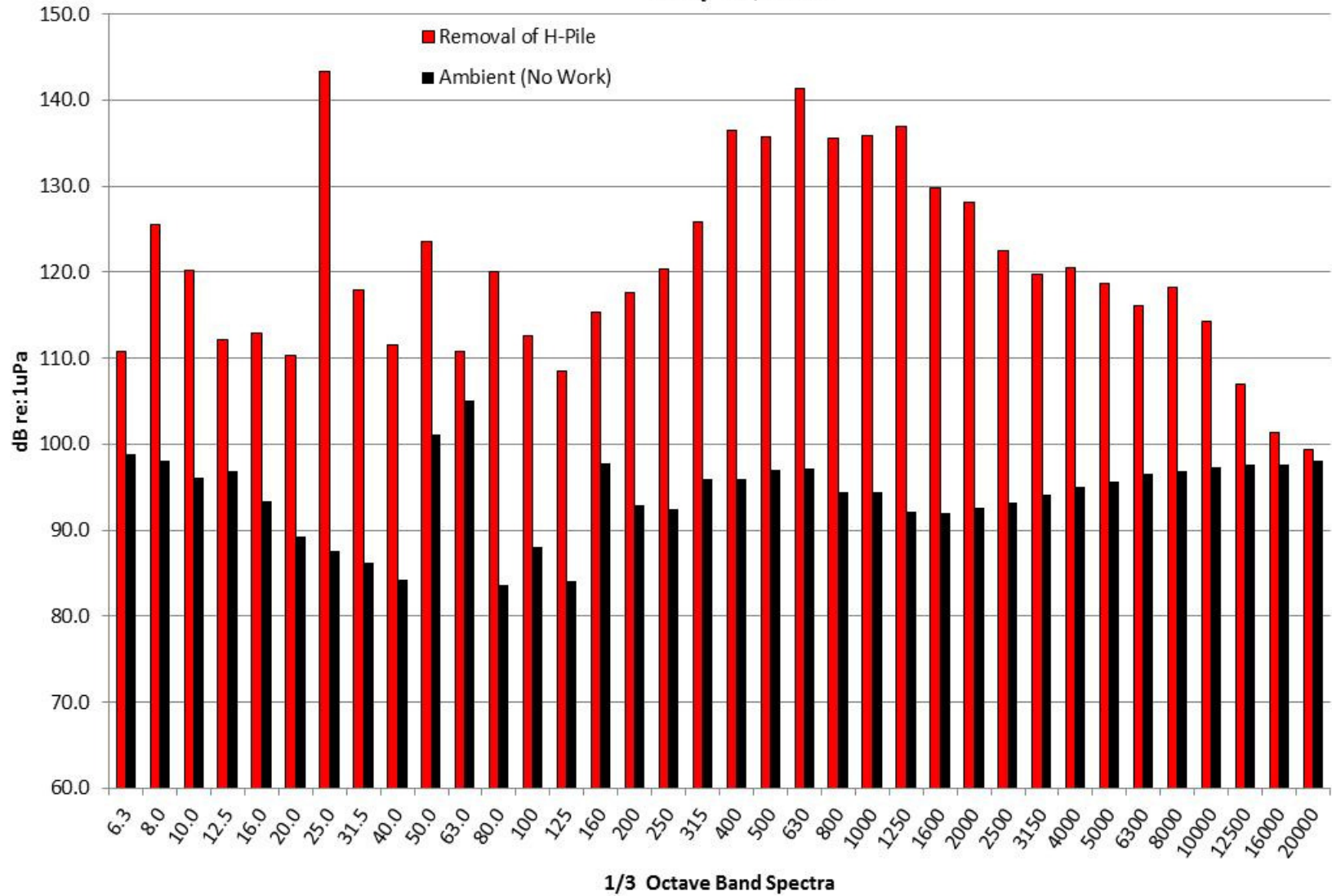


**U.S. Navy Norfolk, VA  
Craney Island Impact Driving 24-inch Concrete Piles  
Comparison of 10m and 50m Spectra (Lmax)  
May 29, 2013**



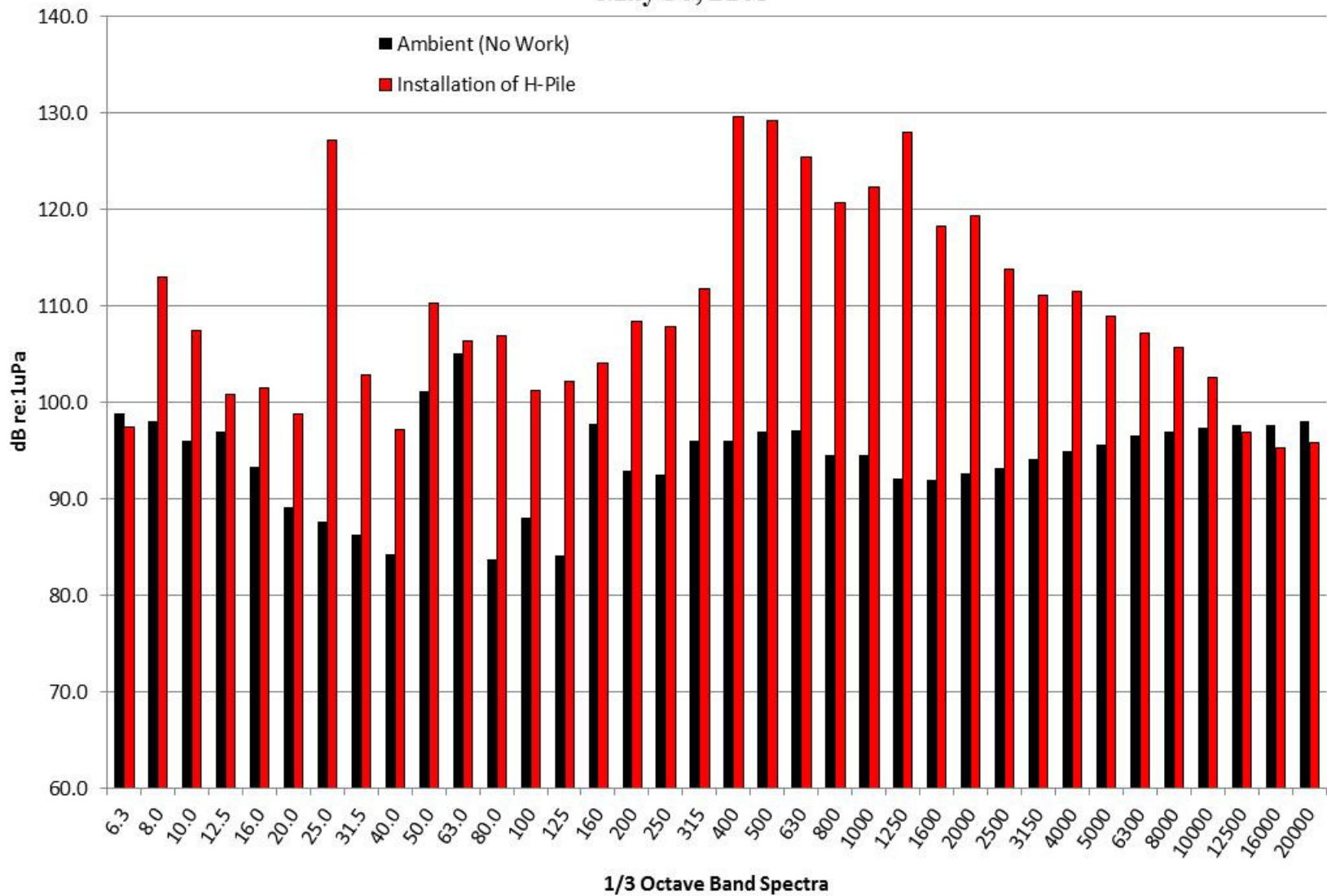


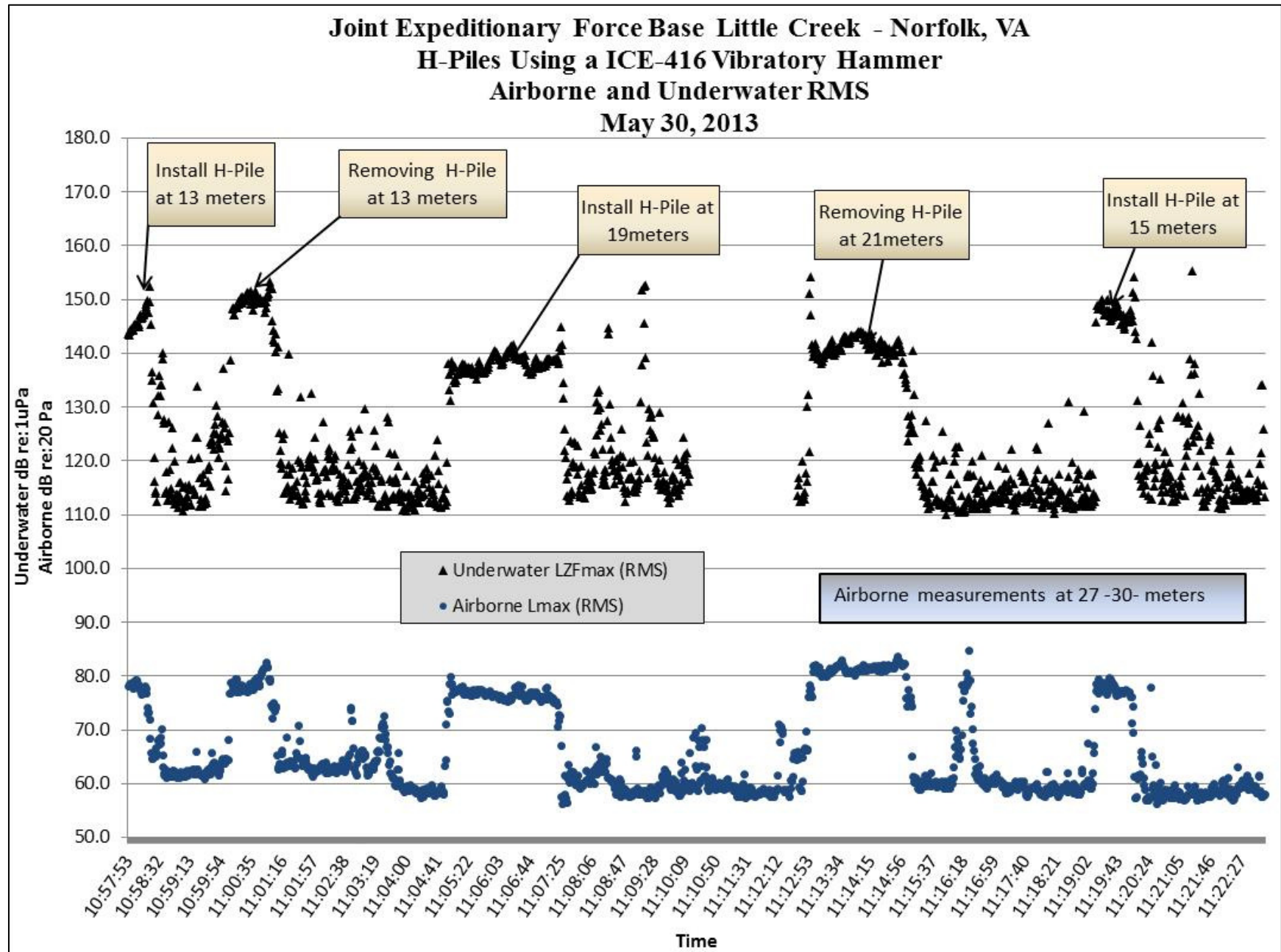
**Joint Expeditionary Force Base Little Creek - Norfolk, VA  
 Vibratory H-Pile - Removal  
 1/3 Spectra (Lmax)  
 May 30, 2103**

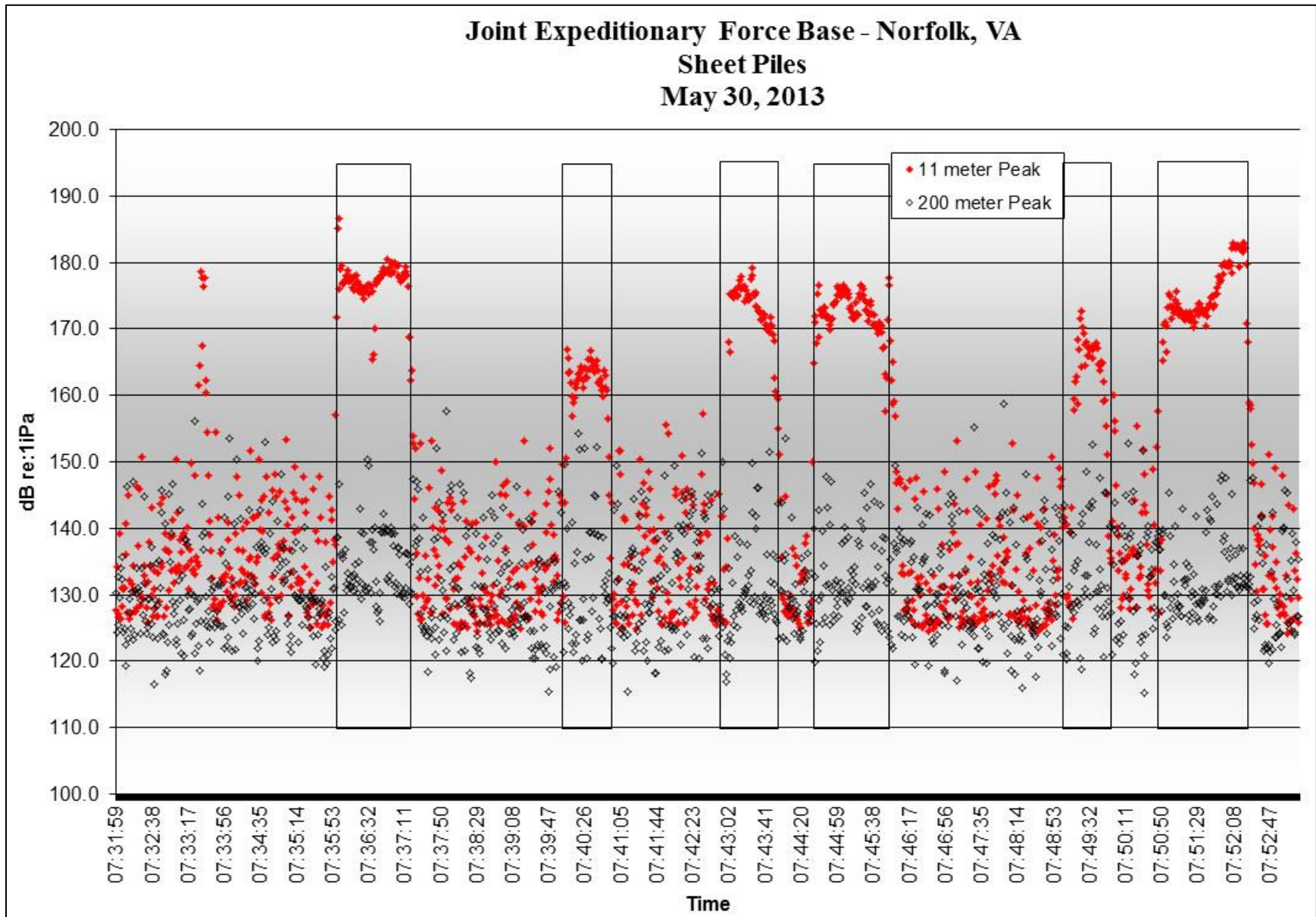


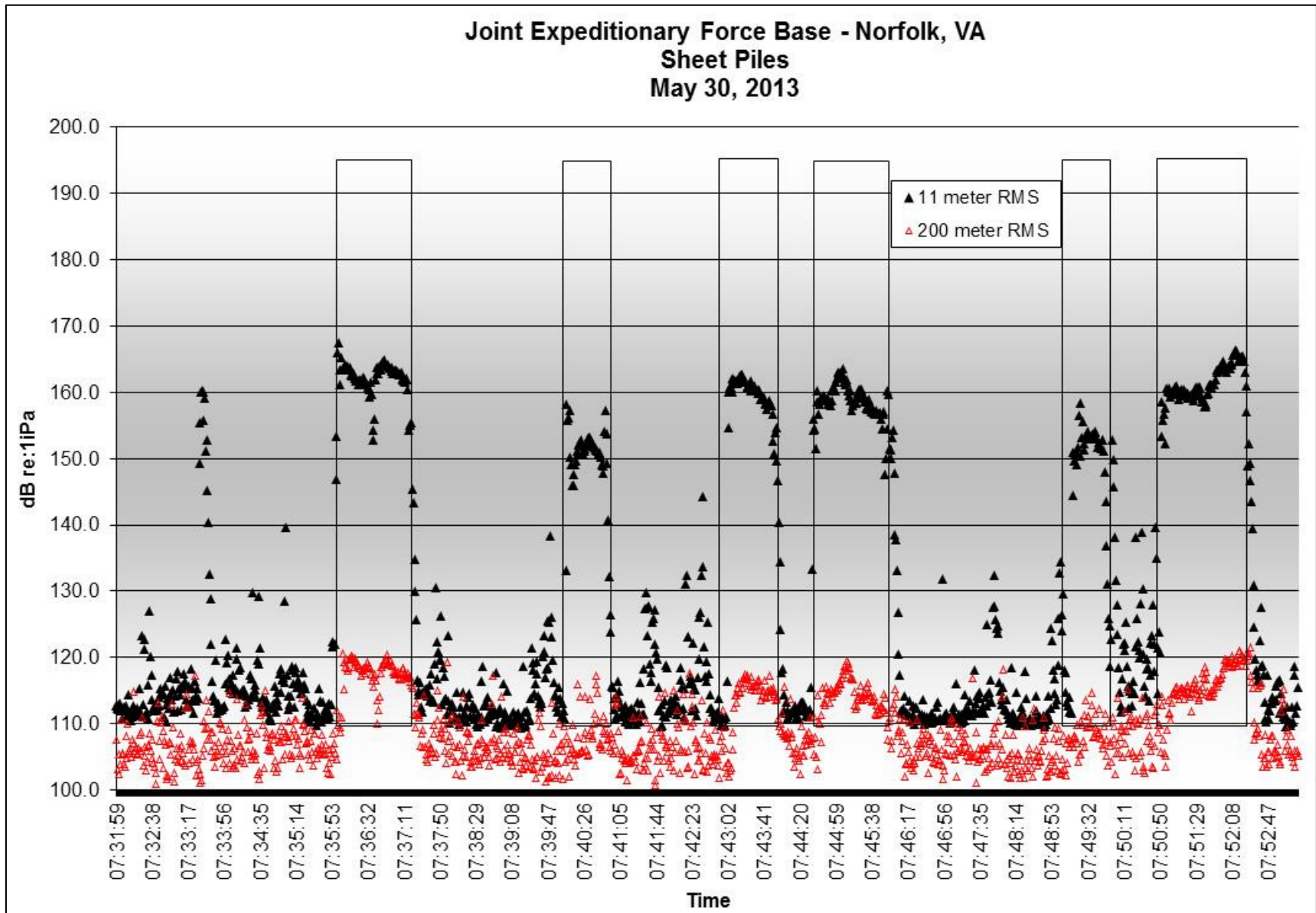


**Joint Expeditionary Force Base Little Creek - Norfolk, VA  
Vibratory H-Pile Installation  
1/3 Spectra (Lmax)  
May 30, 2103**

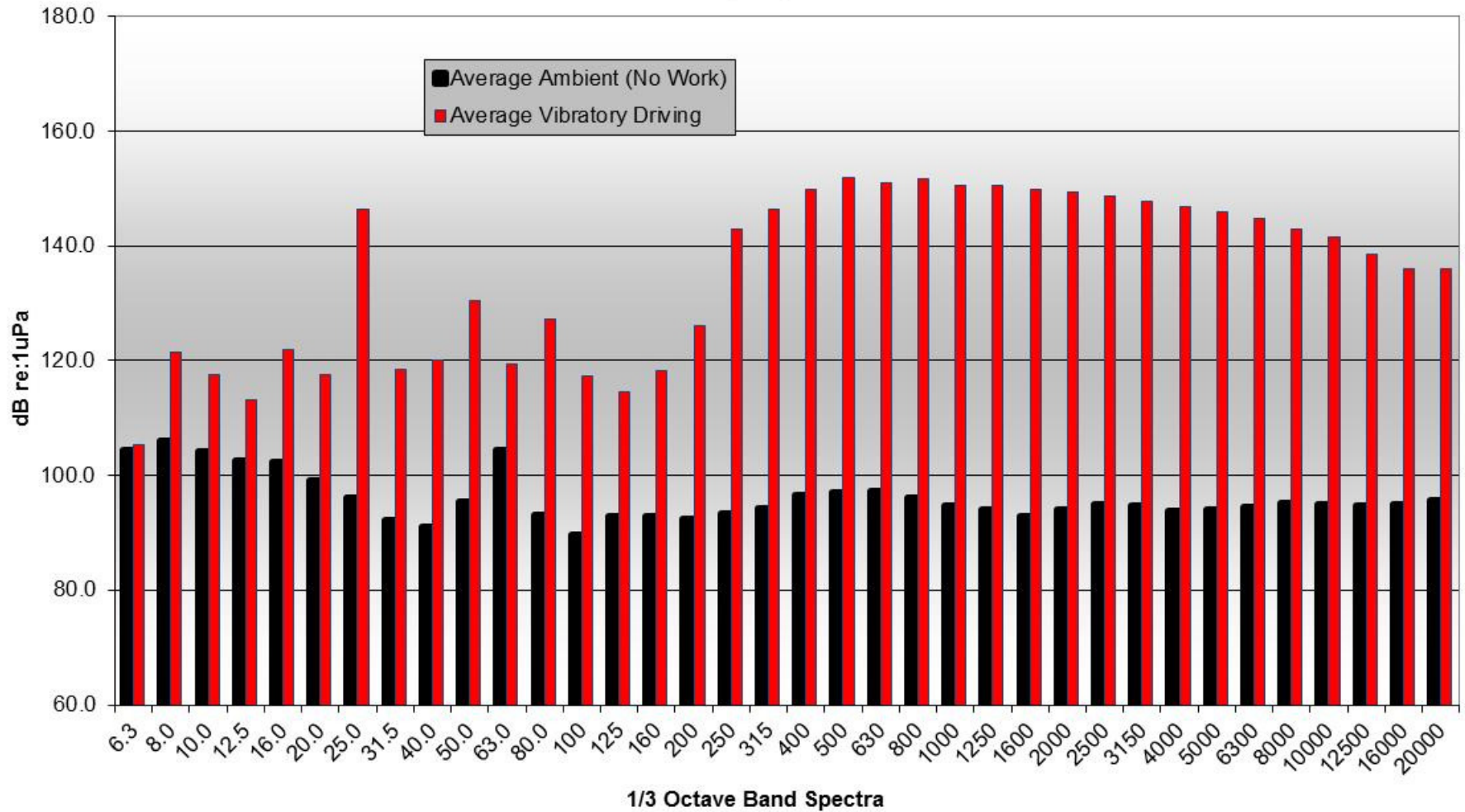




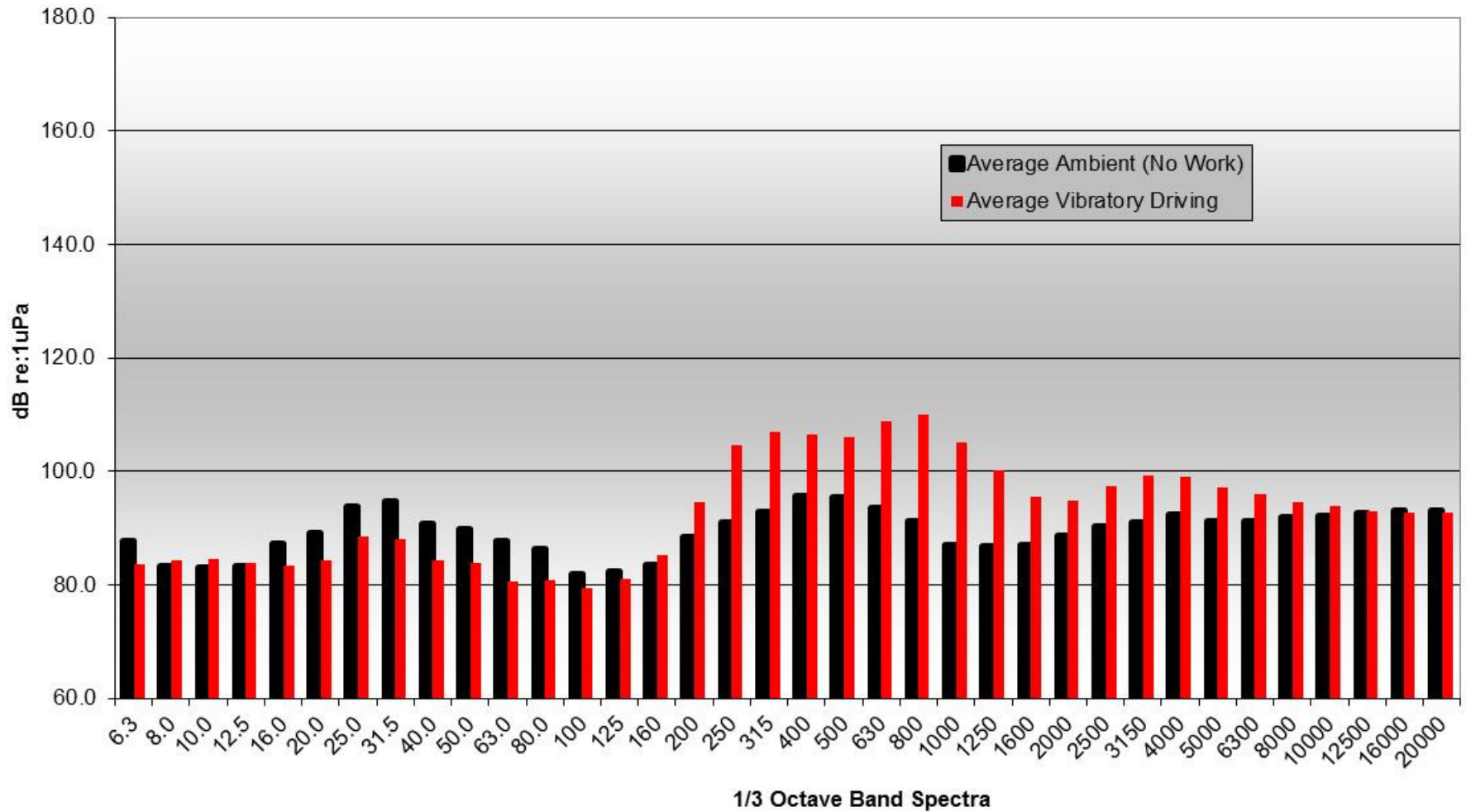




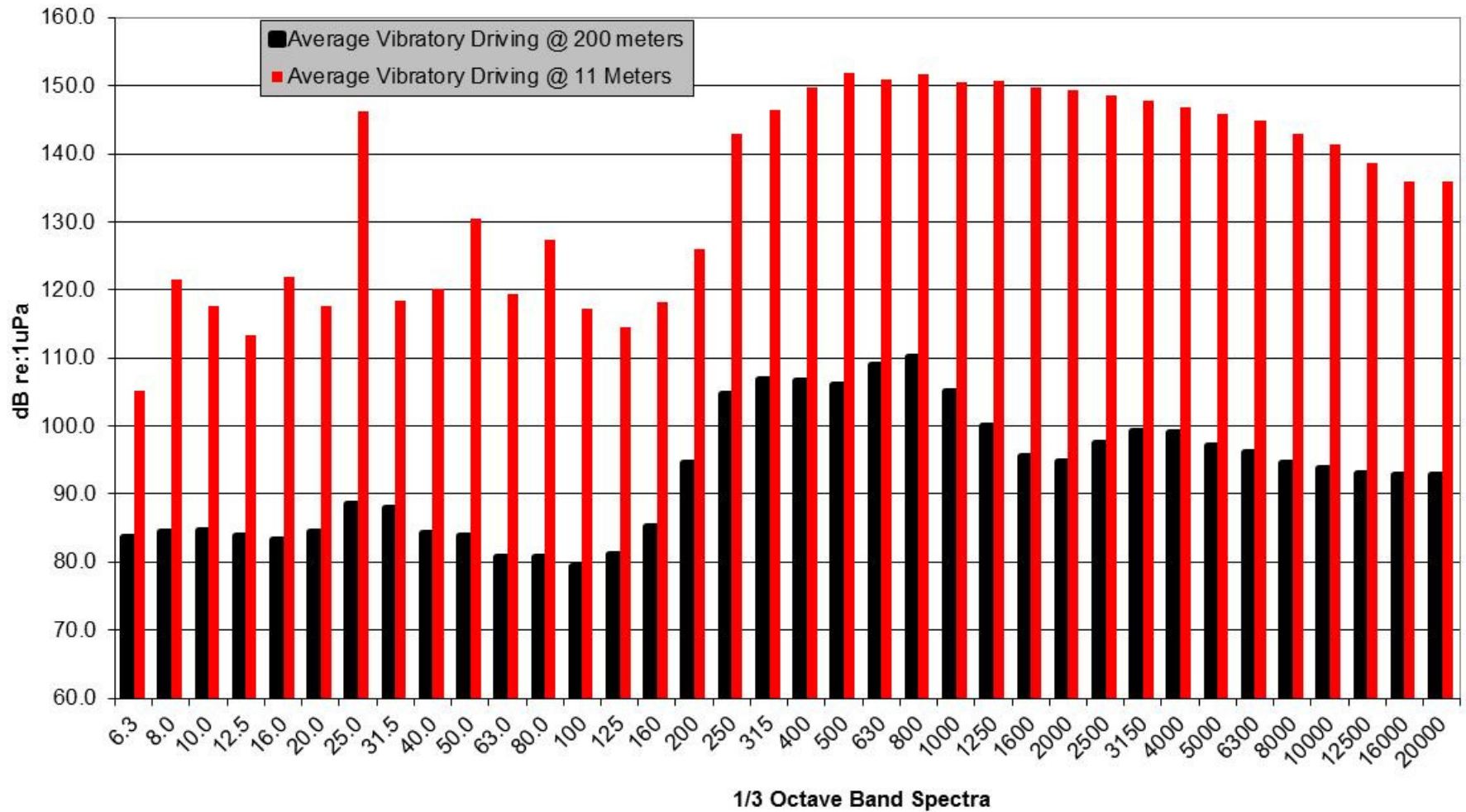
**Joint Expeditionary Force Base Little Creek - Norfolk, VA  
 Vibratory Pile Driving Sheet Piles  
 1/3 Spectra at 11 meters (Lmax)  
 May 30, 2013**

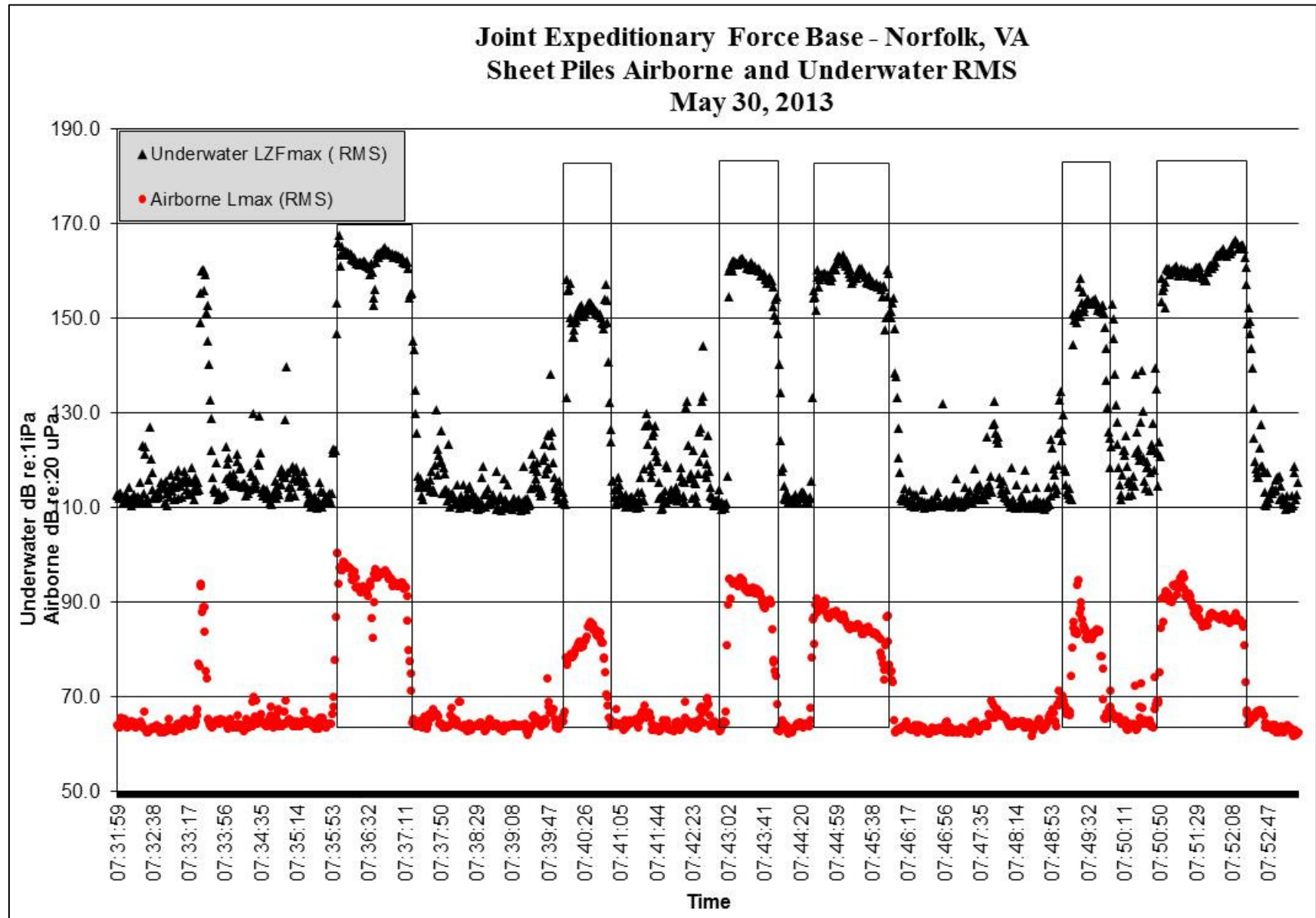


**Joint Expeditionary Force Base Little Creek - Norfolk, VA  
 Vibratory Pile Driving Sheet Piles  
 1/3 Spectra at 200 meters (Lmax)  
 May 30, 2013**

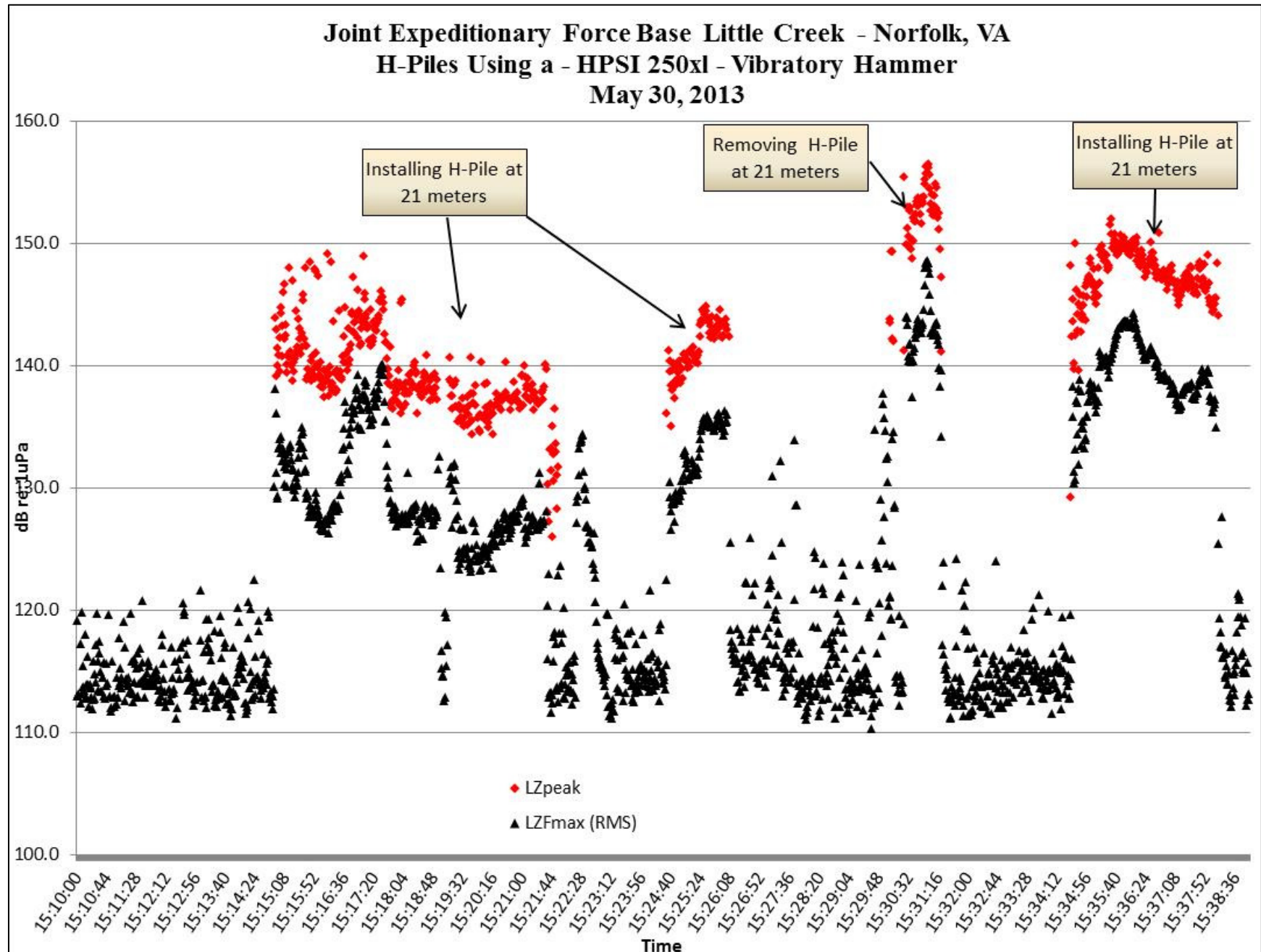


**Joint Expeditionary Force Base Little Creek - Norfolk, VA  
 Vibratory Pile Driving Sheet Piles  
 1/3 Spectra at 11 meters and 200 meters (Lmax)  
 May 30, 2013**









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**ATTACHMENT B**  
**ONE-MINUTE AIRBORNE DATA**

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**Table B-1. One Minute Airborne Data**

Date	Time	Leq	SEL	Lmax	Peak	
28-May-13	10:23:00	62.4	80.2	73.1	92.4	
28-May-13	10:24:00	90	107.8	99.9	111.5	Installing Sheet Pile
28-May-13	10:25:00	94.8	112.5	99.7	111.5	
28-May-13	10:26:00	81.8	99.6	90.9	103.6	
28-May-13	10:27:00	84.7	102.5	88.9	101.1	
28-May-13	10:28:00	75.8	93.5	84.2	96.5	
28-May-13	10:29:00	62.2	80	73.9	92.4	
28-May-13	10:30:00	64.1	81.9	79.1	90.5	
28-May-13	10:51:00	63	80.8	70.4	87	
28-May-13	10:52:00	61.9	79.6	66.3	81.4	
28-May-13	10:53:00	84	101.7	91.4	103.4	Installing Sheet Pile
28-May-13	10:54:00	79.1	96.8	87.2	99	
28-May-13	10:55:00	83.5	101.3	88.8	100	
28-May-13	10:56:00	81.5	99.3	83	95.1	
28-May-13	10:57:00	60.3	78	70.4	85.6	
28-May-13	10:58:00	58.2	75.9	61.8	78.5	
28-May-13	10:59:00	57.2	75	62.6	80.7	
28-May-13	13:50:00	62.5	80.3	72.7	91.3	
28-May-13	13:51:00	61.9	79.6	75.4	92.6	
28-May-13	13:52:00	69.2	87	80.9	93.4	Removing H-Pile
28-May-13	13:53:00	80.5	98.3	82.4	94.2	
28-May-13	13:54:00	79.6	97.4	83.2	95.8	
28-May-13	13:55:00	64	81.8	70.7	82.2	
28-May-13	13:58:00	59.5	77.3	65.9	78.3	
28-May-13	13:59:00	61.2	78.9	66	77.8	
28-May-13	14:00:00	72.5	90.3	83.2	94.1	Installing H-Pile
28-May-13	14:01:00	76.3	94.1	81.7	95.6	
28-May-13	14:02:00	77.7	95.5	84.3	96.6	
28-May-13	14:03:00	79	96.8	84.4	95.6	
28-May-13	14:04:00	62.8	80.6	74.7	93.7	
28-May-13	14:05:00	70.6	88.4	83.5	94.7	
28-May-13	14:06:00	77	94.8	84.7	95.7	Installing H-Pile
28-May-13	14:07:00	78.9	96.7	83.3	93.2	
28-May-13	14:08:00	78.2	96	81	94.1	
28-May-13	14:09:00	76.7	94.5	81.9	94.6	
28-May-13	14:10:00	73.3	91	81.4	93.2	
28-May-13	14:11:00	64.9	82.7	71.9	83.7	
28-May-13	14:12:00	62.1	79.8	66.2	82.7	
28-May-13	14:13:00	60.2	78	68.1	87.2	
28-May-13	14:14:00	58.3	76.1	65.3	76.5	
28-May-13	14:19:00	57.9	75.6	75.6	93.6	

**Table B-1. One Minute Airborne Data (cont.)**

Date	Time	Leq	SEL	Lmax	Peak	
30-May-13	7:33:00	78.2	95.9	93.8	104.8	
30-May-13	7:34:00	63.9	81.7	70	85.4	
30-May-13	7:35:00	82.7	100.5	100.4	113.3	Installing Sheet Pile
30-May-13	7:36:00	94.6	112.4	98.5	110.4	
30-May-13	7:37:00	87.2	105	94.3	106.4	
30-May-13	7:38:00	63.6	81.4	69	83.9	
30-May-13	7:39:00	64.2	82	73.9	86.3	
30-May-13	7:40:00	80	97.8	85.8	98.6	Installing Sheet Pile
30-May-13	7:41:00	64.3	82	68.3	80.4	
30-May-13	7:42:00	64.3	82.1	69.7	82.5	
30-May-13	7:43:00	91.1	108.9	95.3	107.4	Installing Sheet Pile
30-May-13	7:44:00	84.1	101.8	90.9	102.5	
30-May-13	7:45:00	84	101.8	87.9	99.2	
30-May-13	7:46:00	63.8	81.6	73.6	89.5	
30-May-13	7:47:00	63.8	81.6	69.2	82.5	
30-May-13	7:48:00	64.1	81.9	67.4	78.5	
30-May-13	7:49:00	82.2	100	94.7	105.8	Installing Sheet Pile Two Sheet Piles
30-May-13	7:50:00	81.1	98.8	92.3	104.3	
30-May-13	7:51:00	89.7	107.4	95.9	107.5	
30-May-13	7:52:00	81.7	99.5	87.6	99.6	
30-May-13	7:53:00	69.3	86.2	84.5	103.4	
30-May-13	10:57:00	78	95.8	80.2	91.9	Install H-Pile
30-May-13	10:58:00	72.8	90.6	79.2	92.3	
30-May-13	10:59:00	61.7	79.5	66	86.7	
30-May-13	11:00:00	77.7	95.5	82.4	92.5	Removing H-Pile
30-May-13	11:01:00	68.2	86	79.4	93.4	
30-May-13	11:02:00	63.8	81.6	74.2	86.5	
30-May-13	11:03:00	64.6	82.3	72.5	85	
30-May-13	11:04:00	63.4	81.2	76.5	89.3	
30-May-13	11:05:00	76.6	94.3	79.9	90.9	Install H-Pile
30-May-13	11:06:00	75.9	93.7	78.3	90.3	
30-May-13	11:07:00	71.4	89.2	77.9	91.4	
30-May-13	11:08:00	60.2	78	66.7	78.8	
30-May-13	11:11:00	58.2	76	61.8	79.7	
30-May-13	11:12:00	67.2	85	78.4	93.6	
30-May-13	11:13:00	80.5	98.2	83	94.1	Removing H-Pile
30-May-13	11:14:00	81.2	99	83.5	94.6	
30-May-13	11:15:00	71.3	89.1	82.3	93.8	
30-May-13	11:16:00	70	87.8	84.8	102.6	

**Table B-1. One Minute Airborne Data (cont.)**

Date	Time	SEL	Lmax	Peak	
30-May-13	11:17:00	76.7	61.8	76.7	
30-May-13	11:18:00	76.1	62.6	75.1	
30-May-13	11:19:00	93.5	79.7	91.2	Install H-Pile
30-May-13	11:20:00	83.1	77.8	97.2	
30-May-13	11:21:00	75.2	59.9	73.8	
30-May-13	15:12:00	79.8	64.5	77.3	
30-May-13	15:13:00	79.4	64.1	79.7	
30-May-13	15:14:00	81.8	74.3	89.7	Installing H-Pile
30-May-13	15:15:00	86.3	71.9	86.7	
30-May-13	15:16:00	86.9	70.6	85.7	
30-May-13	15:17:00	87.5	71	85.7	
30-May-13	15:18:00	88.3	74.4	89.4	
30-May-13	15:19:00	86.4	73.7	87.3	
30-May-13	15:20:00	89	79.6	90.3	
30-May-13	15:21:00	86.1	75.2	88.8	
30-May-13	15:22:00	79.6	64.1	76.2	
30-May-13	15:23:00	78.7	65.5	77.9	
30-May-13	15:24:00	86.9	73.9	90.1	Installing H-Pile
30-May-13	15:25:00	91.3	75.3	89.1	
30-May-13	15:26:00	85.1	79.9	92.4	
30-May-13	15:27:00	81.6	74.8	90.8	
30-May-13	15:28:00	79.7	65.4	79.2	
30-May-13	15:29:00	80.3	69.5	92.2	
30-May-13	15:30:00	89.2	75.7	89.7	Removing H-Pile
30-May-13	15:31:00	87.4	75.9	89.1	
30-May-13	15:32:00	81.5	68.1	79.9	
30-May-13	15:33:00	79.4	63.6	78.2	
30-May-13	15:34:00	86.9	74	89.9	Installing H-Pile
30-May-13	15:35:00	90.6	74	87.9	
30-May-13	15:36:00	91	74.6	88	
30-May-13	15:37:00	91.1	74.5	87.6	
30-May-13	15:38:00	85.4	78.7	90.5	
30-May-13	15:39:00	82.3	71.5	83.5	
30-May-13	15:40:00	80.1	65.2	77.4	
30-May-13	15:41:00	82.2	71.6	82.1	
30-May-13	15:42:00	83.8	71.7	84	
30-May-13	15:43:00	86.8	81.9	94.3	
30-May-13	15:44:00	80.4	70.7	83.9	
30-May-13	15:45:00	77.7	68.9	91.8	

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