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40-8968
RETURN ORIGINAL TO PDR, HQ.

November 29, 1993

Mr. Joel Grimm
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Uranium Field Recovery Office, Region IV
P.O. Box 25325
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Dear Mr. Grimm:

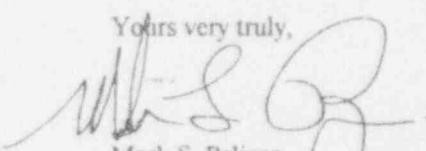
Recently, HRI obtained the results of a uranium in-situ leaching pilot that was conducted on Section 13, two miles west of the proposed HRI Churchrock location, by Teton, a subsidiary of United Nuclear. This pilot was conducted using the same leach solution which is being proposed by HRI at Churchrock within the same interval of the Westwater Canyon Member of the Morrison Formation that HRI has proposed for ISL.

It is important to note that Teton's restoration was successfully completed in three pore volumes; less than the four which is currently forecasted by HRI. In general, all parameters were restored to levels consistent with baseline with the exception of selenium. We do not consider selenium a factor at the Churchrock property because it is absent in HRI's core leach results, and from water samples taken from conventional workings (see attached sheets), at the Churchrock property, where the ground water and formation was subject to extensive oxidation during underground mining. In other words, at Churchrock, selenium is not present.

We feel this information is useful backup for HRI's assumption that restoration will be achieved after four pore volumes of circulation, be it R/O or ground water sweep.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions pertaining to this matter.

Yours very truly,


Mark S. Pelizza
Environmental Manager

MSP/dlg
Encl.

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PDR ADDOCK 04008968
C PDR

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DESIGNATED ORIGINAL
Certified By Mary C. Ward

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THE TETON IN-SITU PILOT SUMMARY REPORT

A pilot test was conducted at HRI's Churchrock/Mancos property by UNC/TETON from June 6 to June 21, 1980. The purpose of the test was to determine if the roll front mineralization in Westwater Canyon (Morrison Formation) sands is amenable to in-situ procedures using a sodium bicarbonate/hydrogen peroxide lixiviant, and to determine successful restoration following the test.

Figure 1 is a location map of the test area. Geologically, the test was conducted within the mineralized Westwater Canyon member of the Jurassic Morrison Formation. The target ore is an extension of the Section 8 and 17 uranium orebody.

Samples were collected before, during, and after the test to; (1) augment baseline data, (2) monitor injected and recovered solutions, and (3) establish chemical restoration of the affected aquifer.

All samples were shipped to Teton's Casper-based laboratory for complete analysis, as well as to confirm field observations. For environmental samples, duplicate splits were sent to independent laboratories.

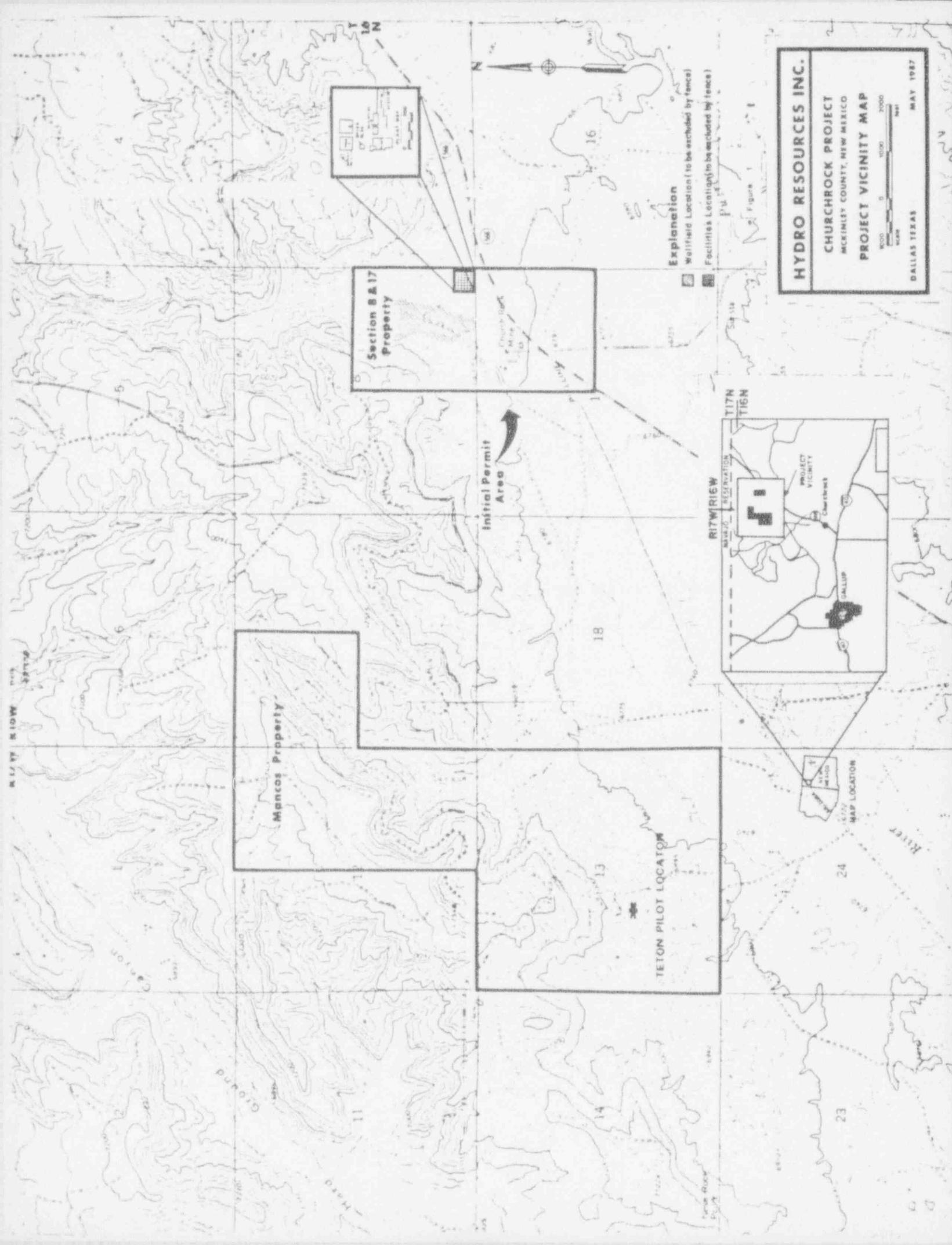
TEST PROCEDURE

To prepare the lixiviant solution for injection, 4,500 gallons of ground water were pumped from well #406 into a holding tank. The baseline sample was collect onstream at this time (Well #608, 6/11/80).

Sufficient NaHCO₃ was added to bring the concentration to 1.0 g/liter, and this resulted in pH = 9.

This solution was injected into well #405 at a rate of 7.5 gal./min. Hydrogen peroxide was metered through a "T" connector into the lixiviant discharge pipe, yielding an average concentration of 0.75 g/liter. A total of 4,500 gallons of lixiviant solution was injected.

The lixiviant solution remained in the aquifer for five days.



Recovery of the first pore volume by pumping was followed by filtration and ion exchange, using two plastic IX columns containing three cubic feet of IRA 430 strong-base resin.

Finally, two additional pore volumes were pumped from well #405 for aquifer restoration by ground water sweep.

RECOVERY CHEMISTRY

Table 1 includes analyses of; (1) baseline water quality, (2) the pregnant solution and (3) an onstream sample taken during recovery after three pore volumes were pumped. Additionally, Appendix A contains plots which show restoration progress for major ions throughout the three pore volumes of ground water sweep. Appendix B contains a group of figures which graphically depict the information from Table 1.

The results of the test show that the uranium mineral is subject to in-situ leaching with the ground water, NaHCO_3 , H_2O_2 leaching solution. The restoration resulted in all parameters being restored to levels consistent with baseline and/or NM WQCC 3.103 standards, with the exception of selenium. The selenium levels, however, are not a concern at the Section 8 and 17 property because, there was no selenium elevated in the Section core studies or in Section 17 mine water samples. Selenium is simply not present in the OCR area.

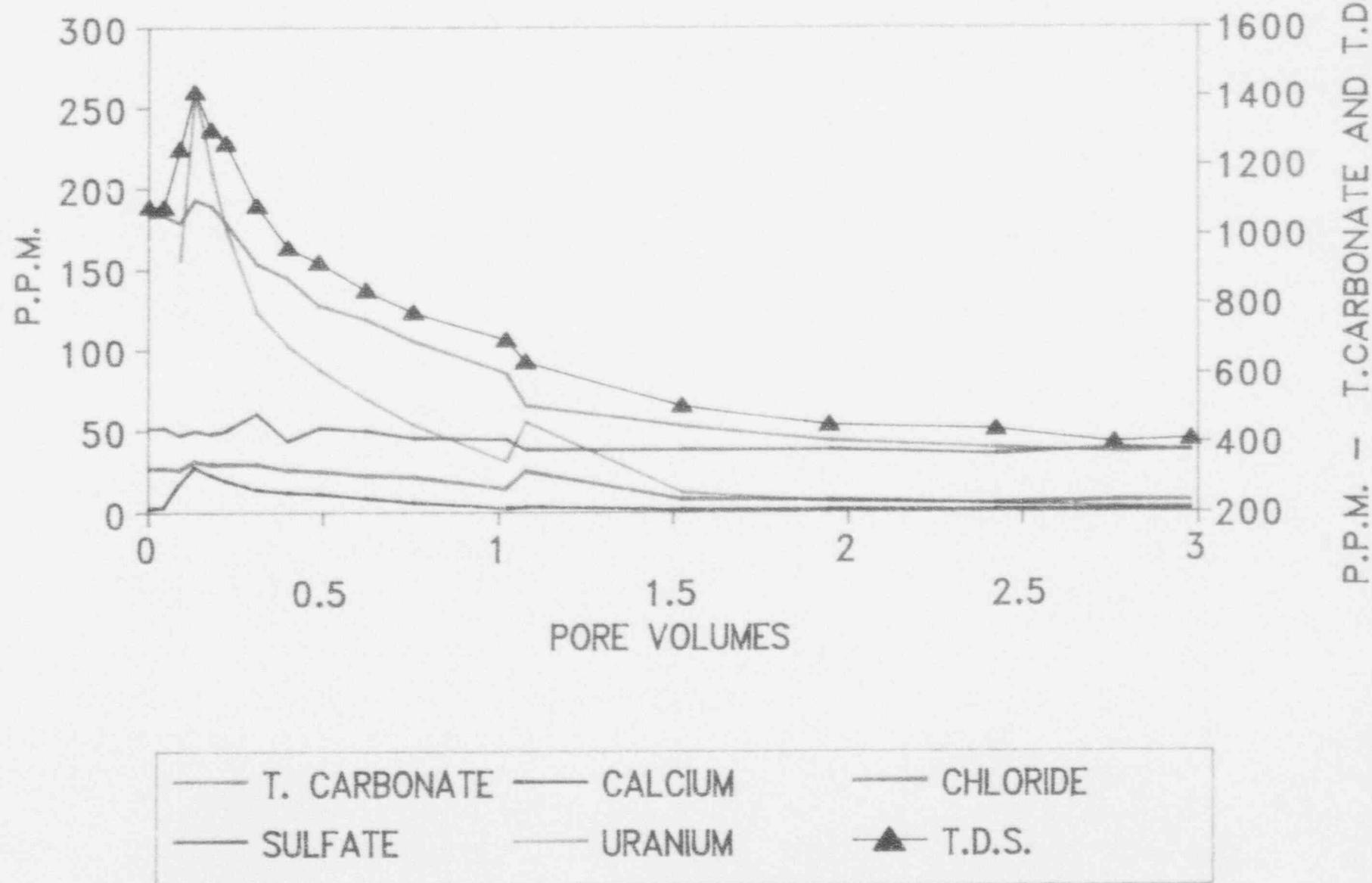
Table 1

TETON PILOT - JUNE 1980
 BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER LEACH
 WATER QUALITY SUMMARY

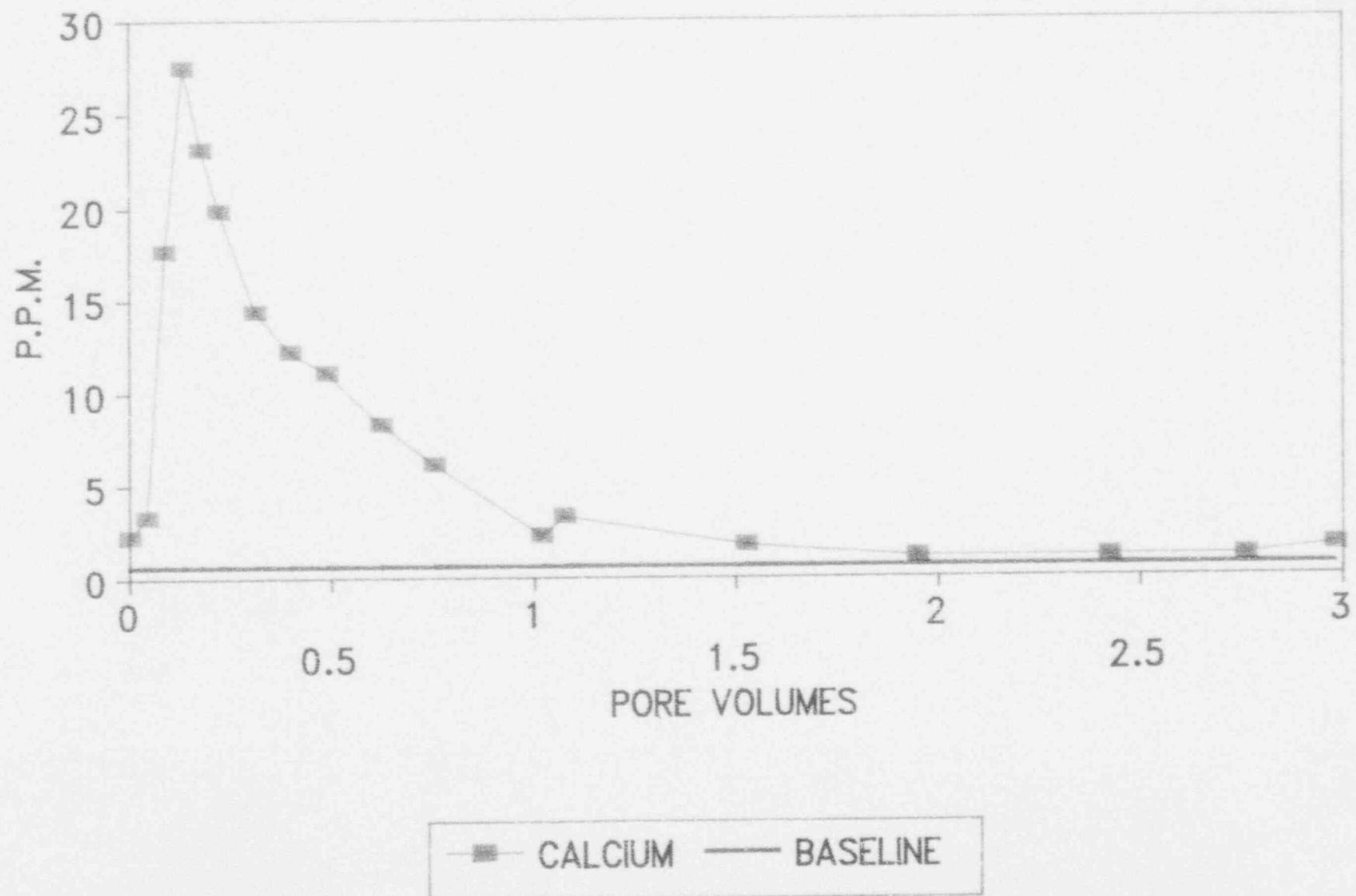
PARAMETER	BASELINE	PREG.LIX.	RESTORED	3-103 STD.
CALCIUM	0.6	9.4	1.1	
MAGNESIUM	0.00	2.70	0.00	
SODIUM	134	300	148	
POTASSIUM	2.50	3.80	2.2	
CARBONATE	41	73	56	
BICARB	277	798	313	
SULFATE	37	43	37	600
CHLORIDE	27.0	26.0	6.0	250.0
NITRATE	0.74	0.30	1.34	10.00
FLUORIDE	0.35	0.37	0.30	1.60
SILICA				
TDS(180)	442	976	426	1000
EC(25C)	630	1281	641	
ALK				
PH	9.20	8.90	9.20	
ARSENIC	0.017	0.830	0.032	0.100
BARIUM	0.16	0.44	0.07	1.00
CADMIUM	<.01	<.01	<.01	0.0100
CHROM.	<.05	<.05	<.05	0.05
COPPER	<.05	<.05	<.05	1.00
IRON	10.90	6.50	0.67	1.00
LEAD	<.05	<.05	<.05	0.050
MANGANESE	0.08	0.10	<.05	0.20
MERCURY	<.001	<.001	<.001	0.0020
MOLY.	<.05	<.05	<.05	
NICKEL	<.05	<.05	<.05	
SELENIUM	<.005	4.150	0.720	0.050
SILVER				0.05
URANIUM	0.120	84.000	2.700	5.00
VANADIUM	<.05	0.24	0.10	
ZINC	0.06	0.09	0.01	5.00
BORON	0.04	0.20	0.12	
AMMONIA	<.1	<.1	<.1	
RA226	3.9	132.9	8.5	30.0

APPENDIX A

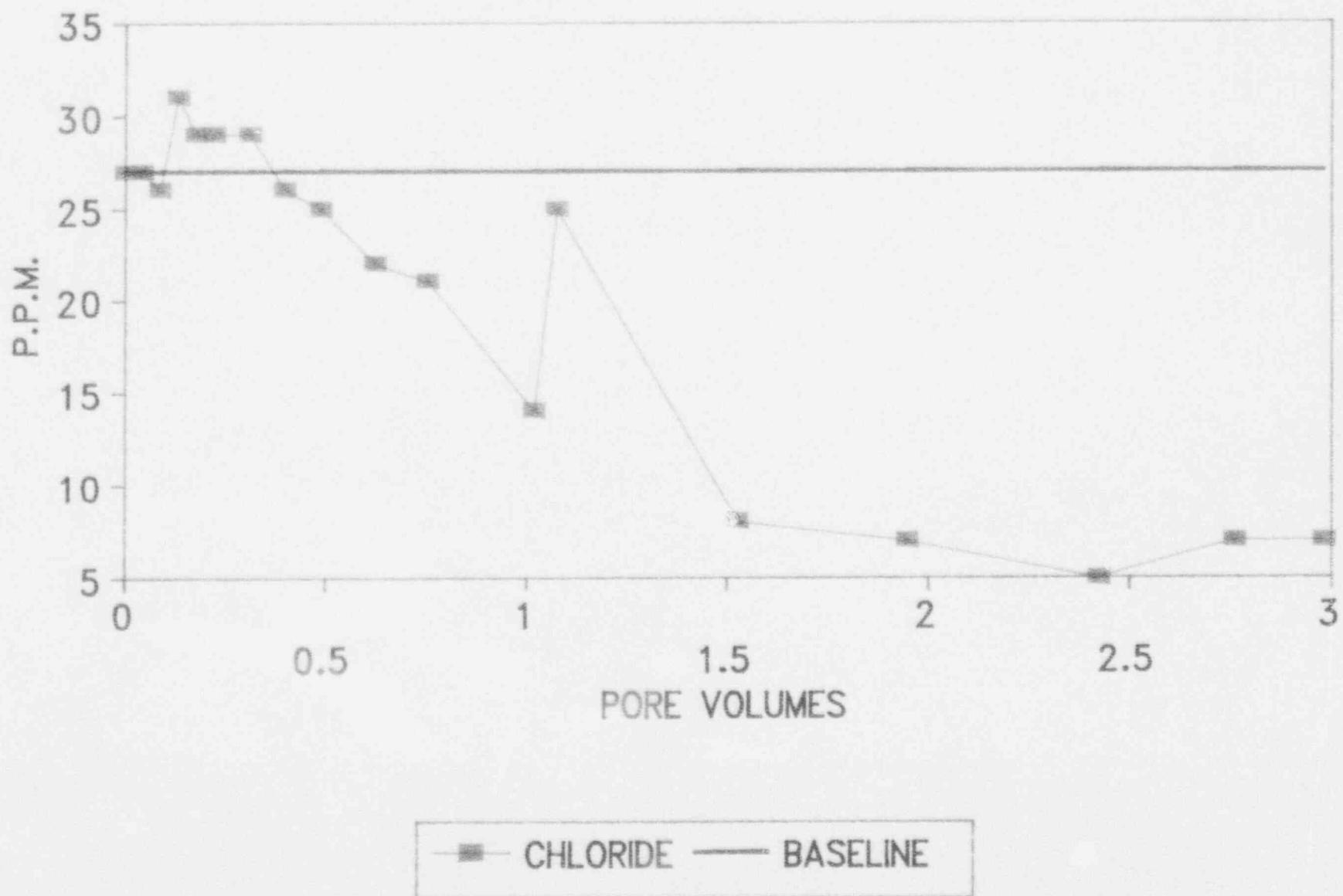
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RESTORATION SUMMARY - MAJOR IONS



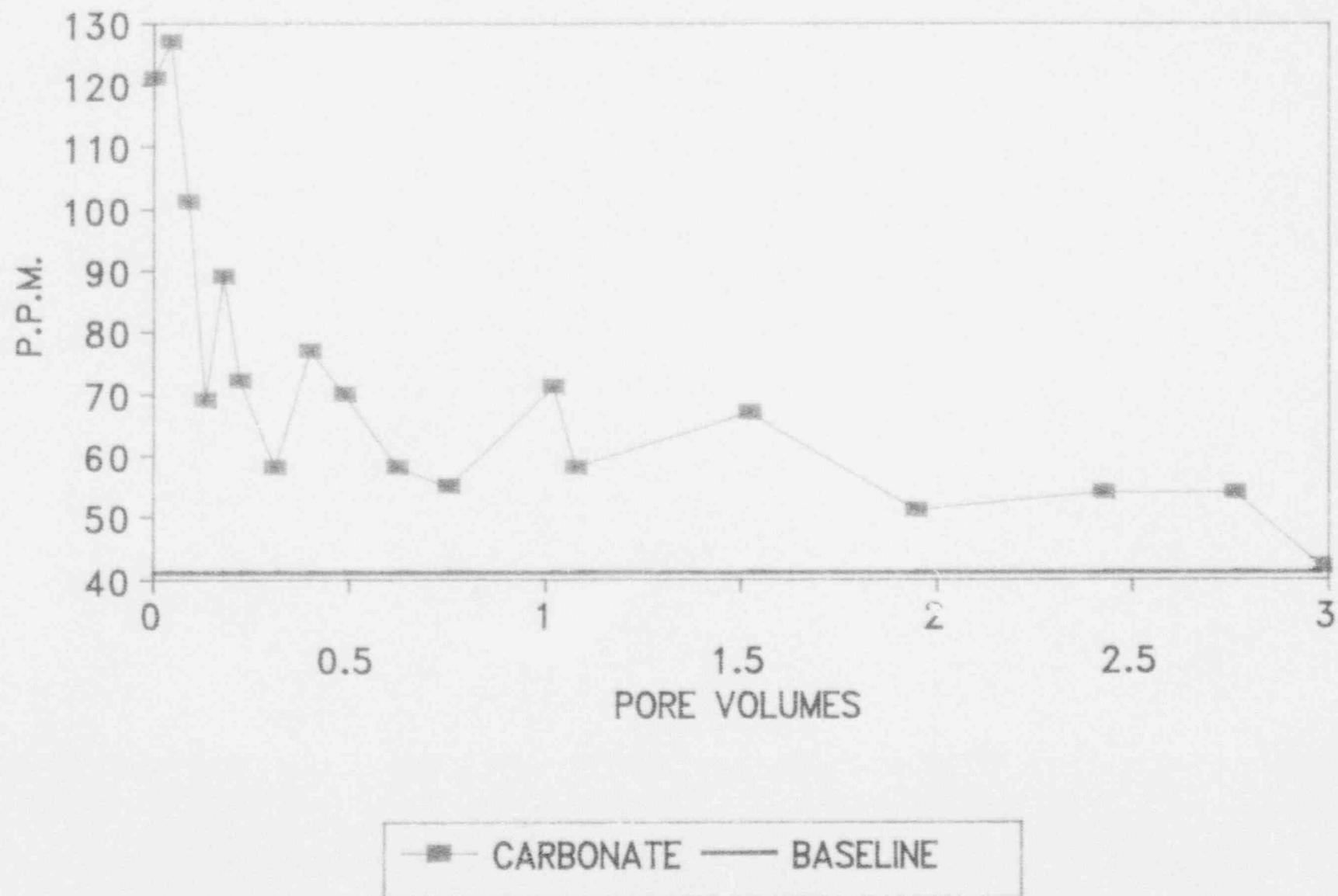
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RESTORATION SUMMARY - CALCIUM



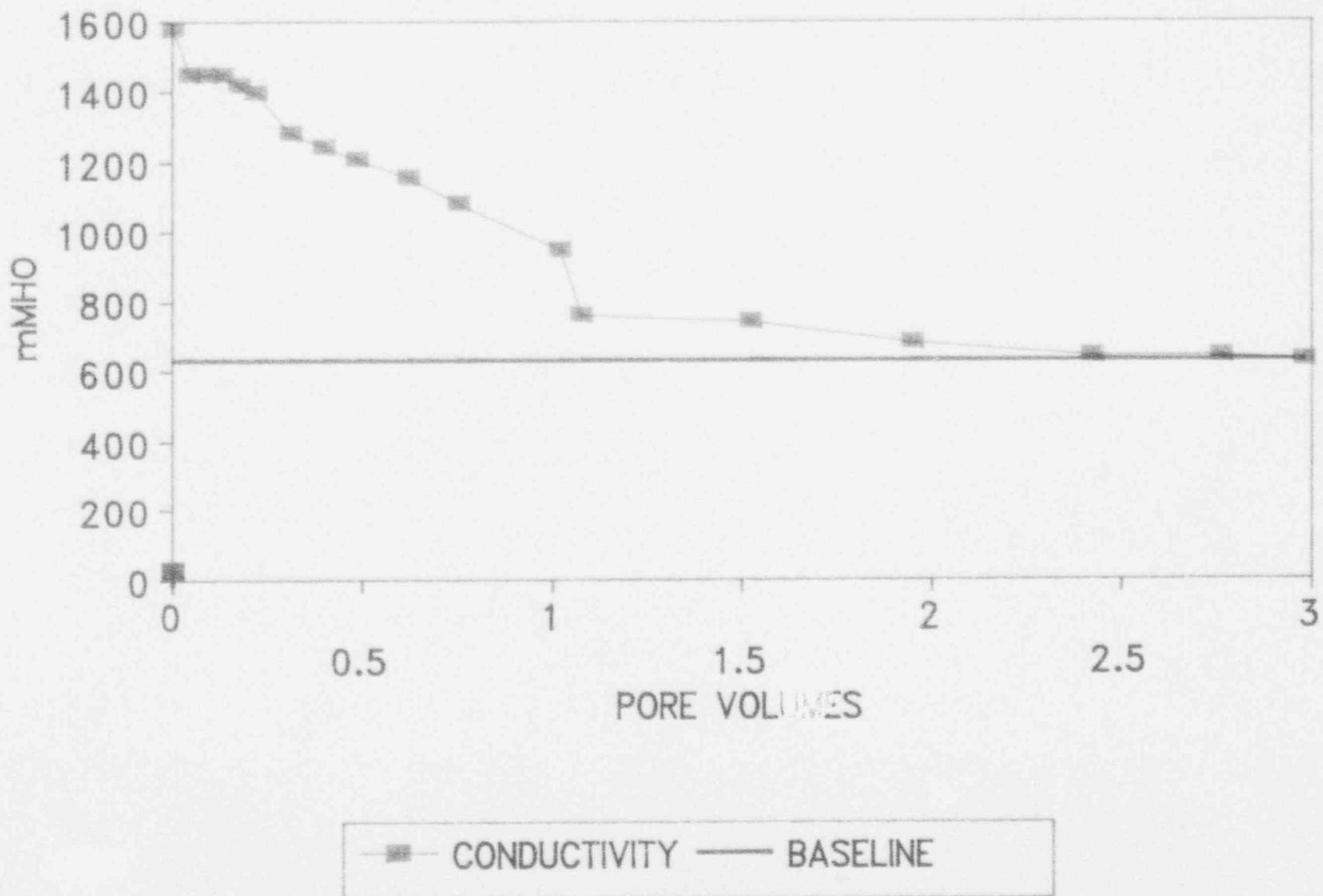
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RESTORATION SUMMARY - CHLORIDE



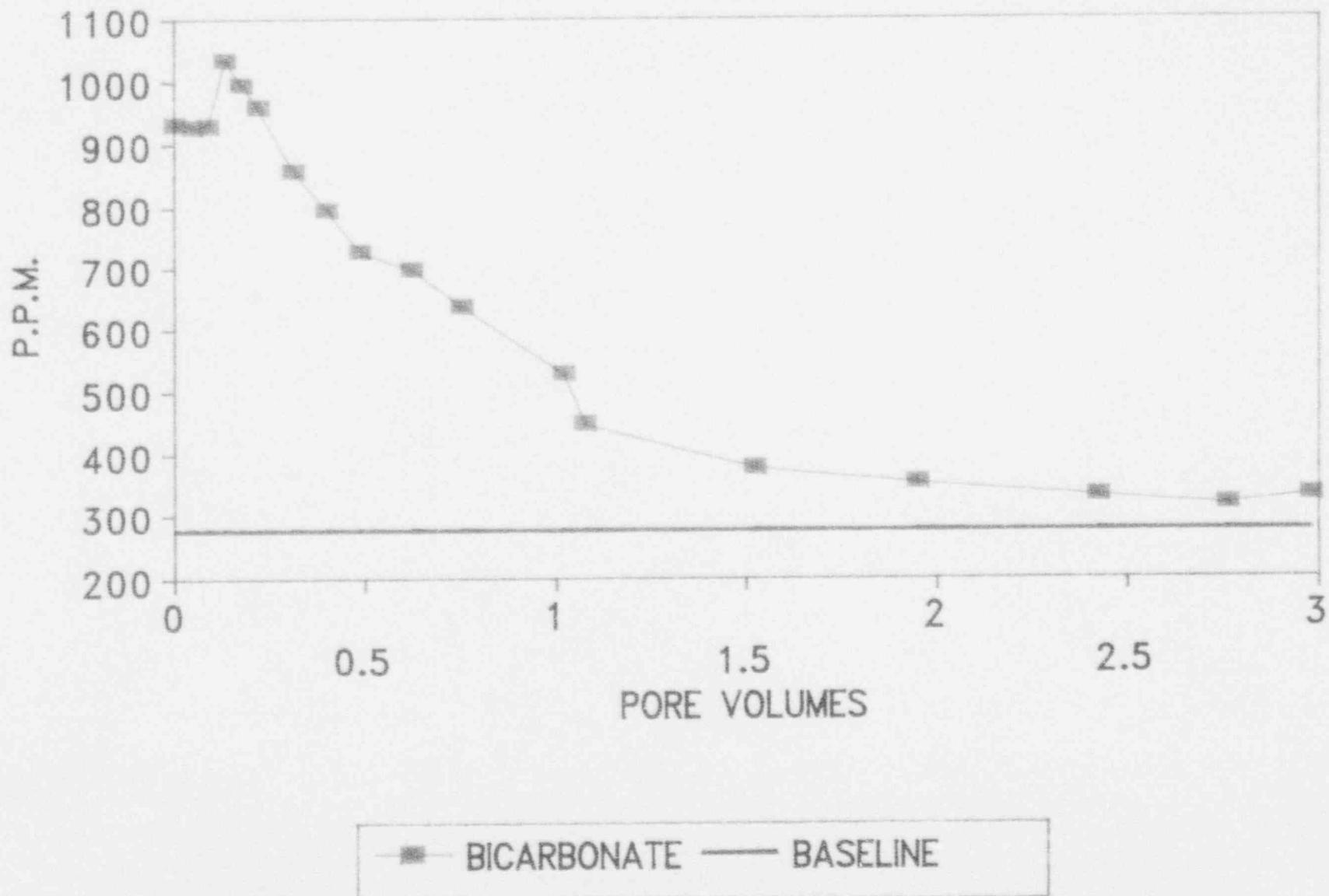
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RESTORATION SUMMARY - CARBONATE



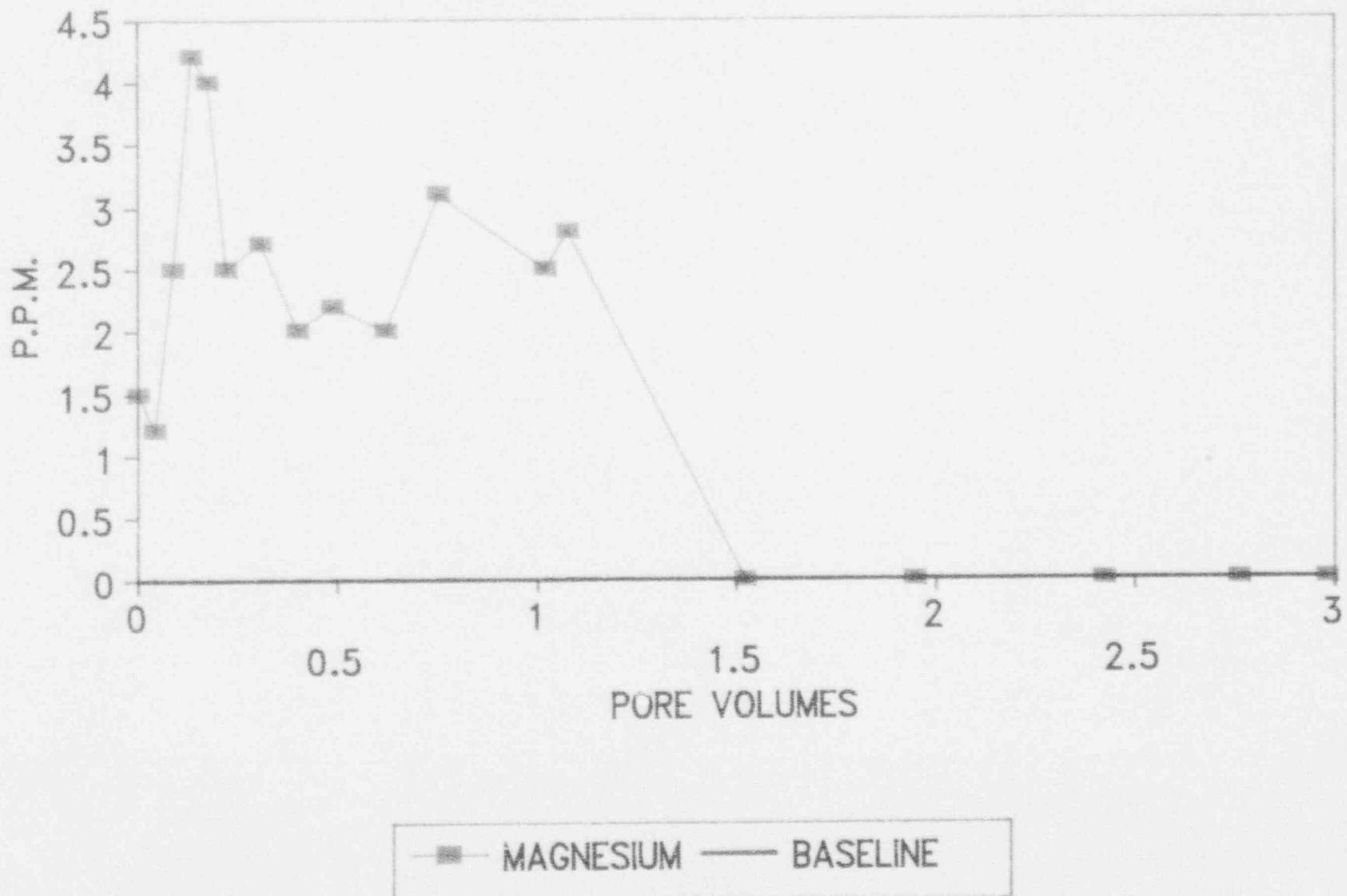
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RESTORATION SUMMARY - CONDUCTIVITY



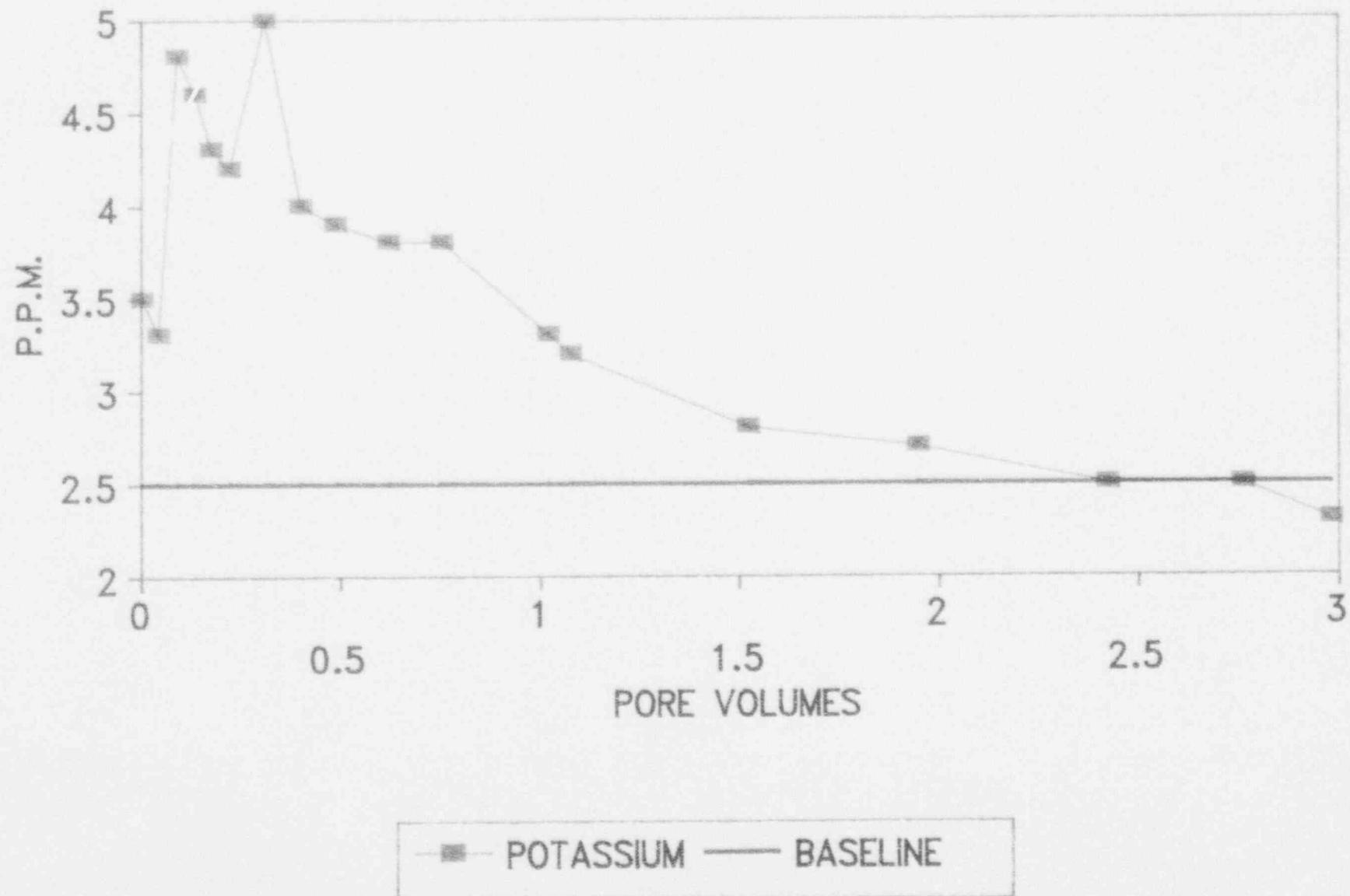
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RESTORATION SUMMARY - BICARBONATE



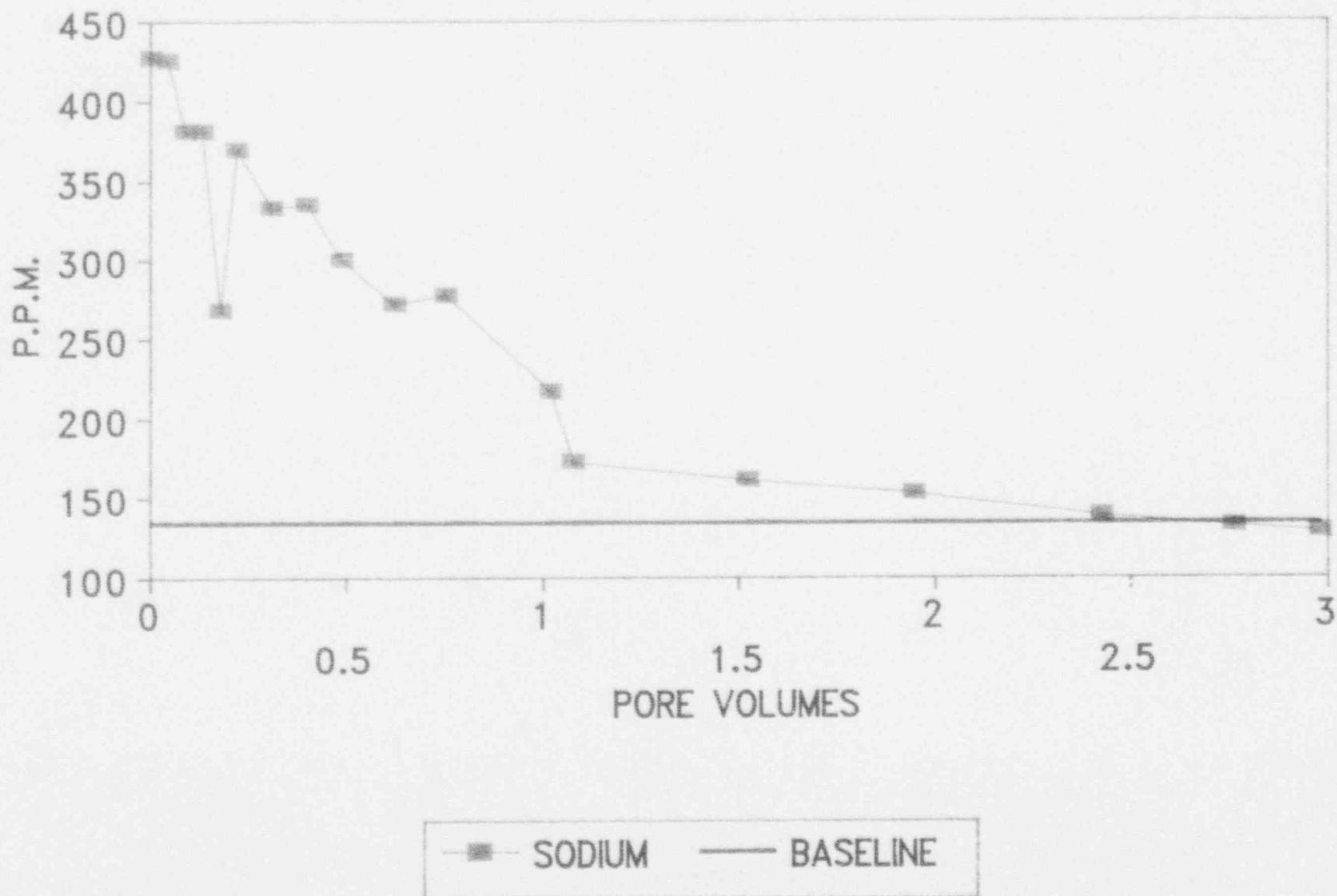
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RESTORATION SUMMARY - MAGNESIUM



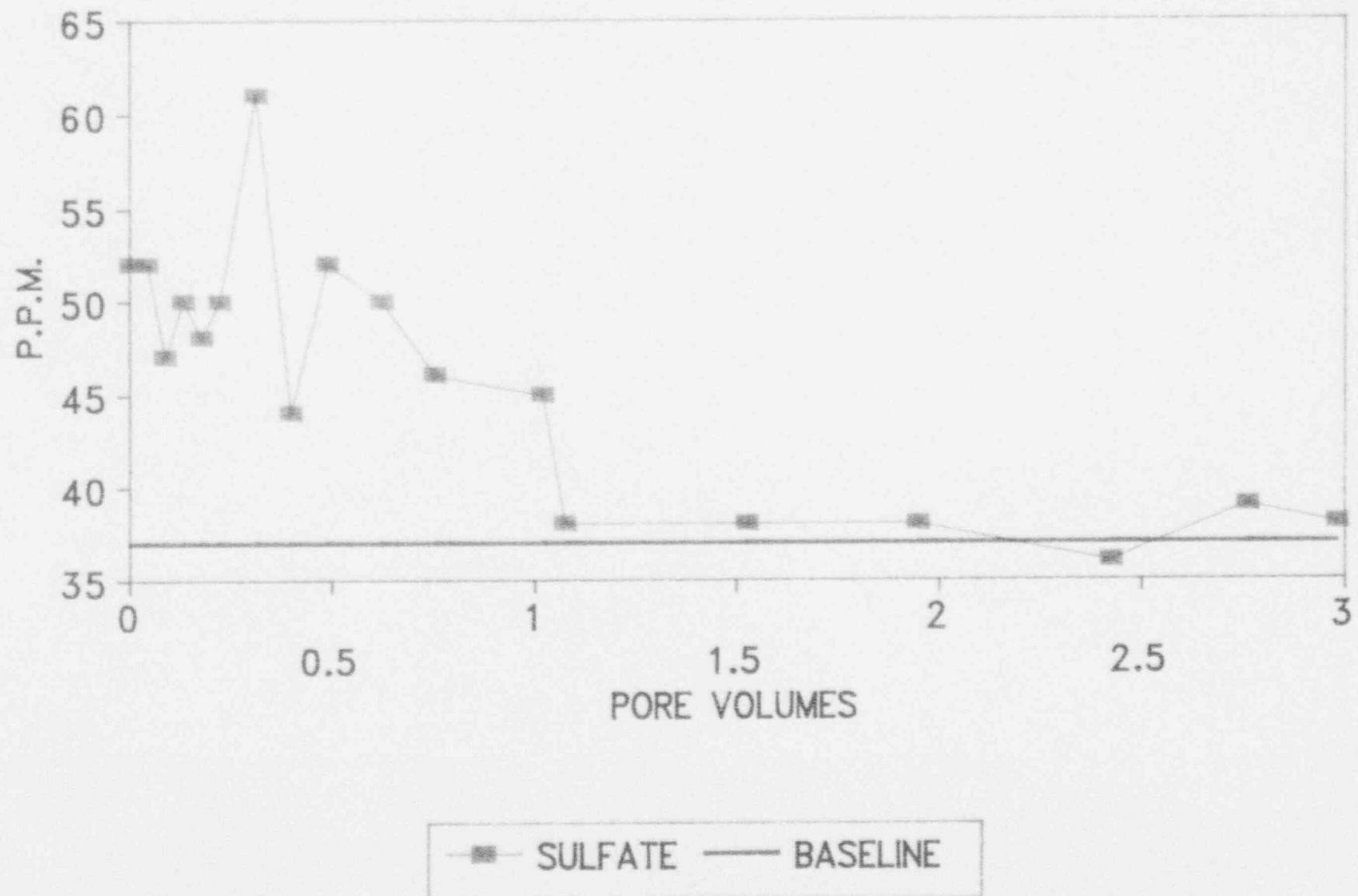
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RESTORATION SUMMARY - POTASSIUM



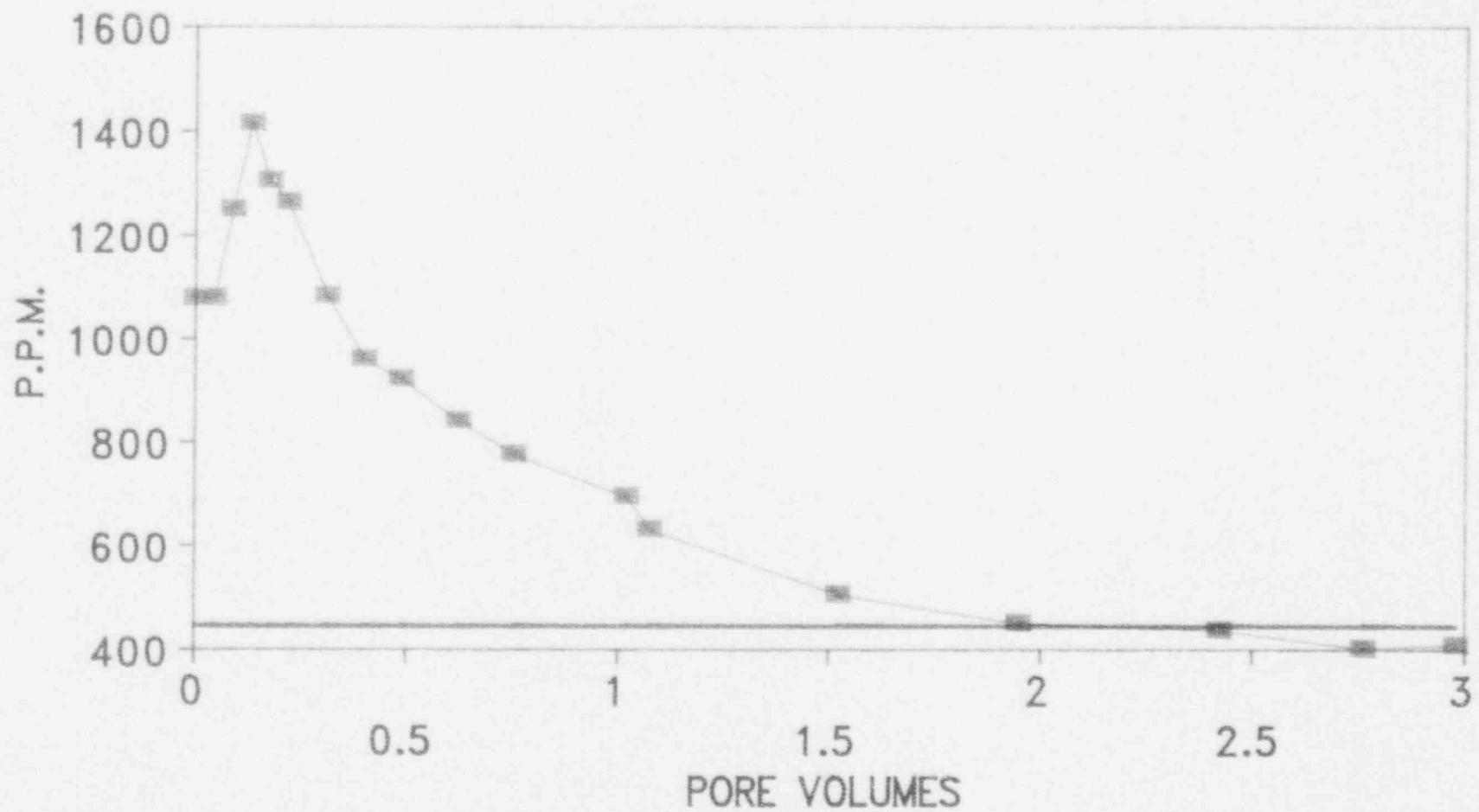
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RESTORATION SUMMARY - SODIUM



TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RESTORATION SUMMARY - SULFATE



TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RESTORATION SUMMARY - TDS

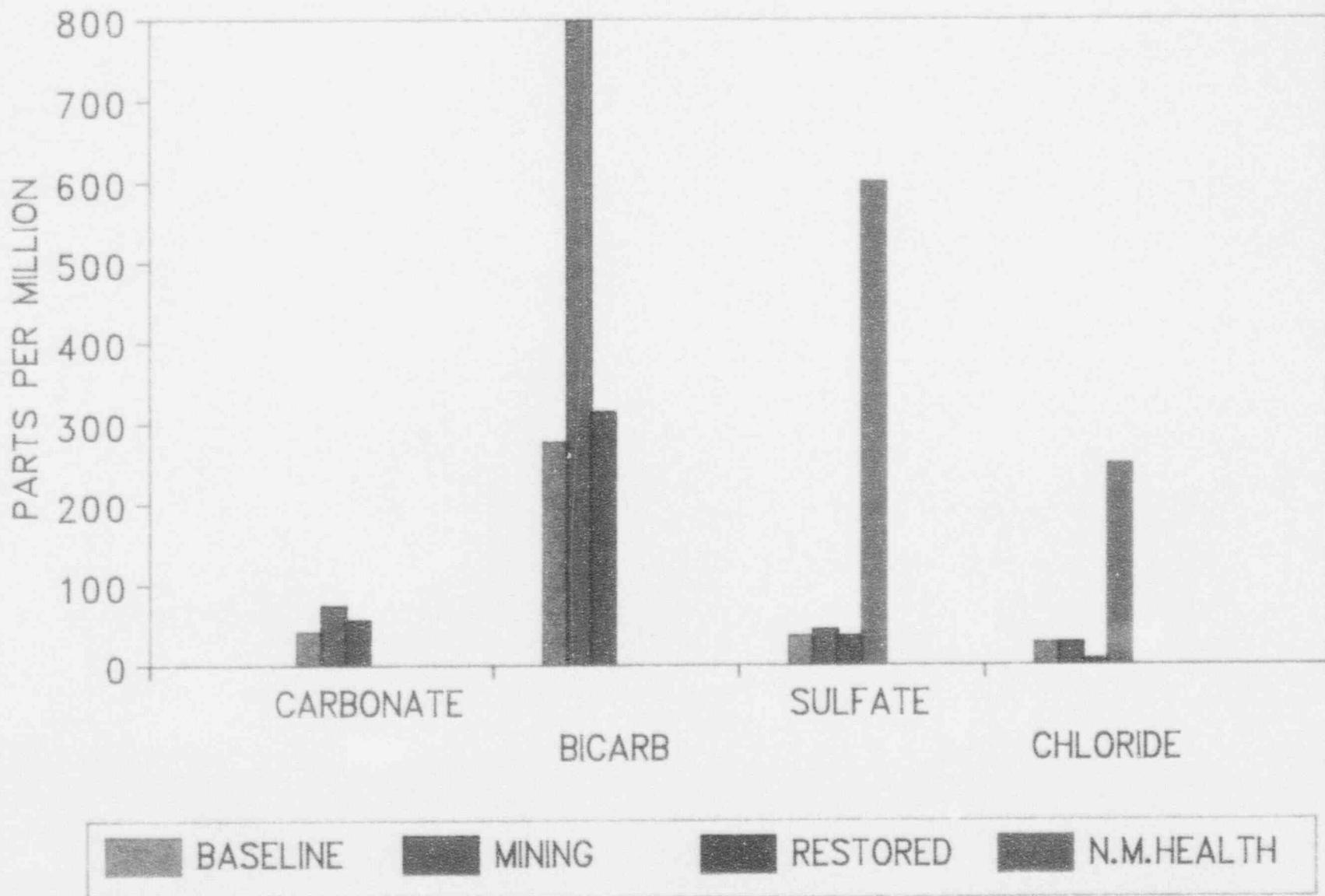


■ T. DISSOLVED SOLIDS — BASELINE

APPENDIX B

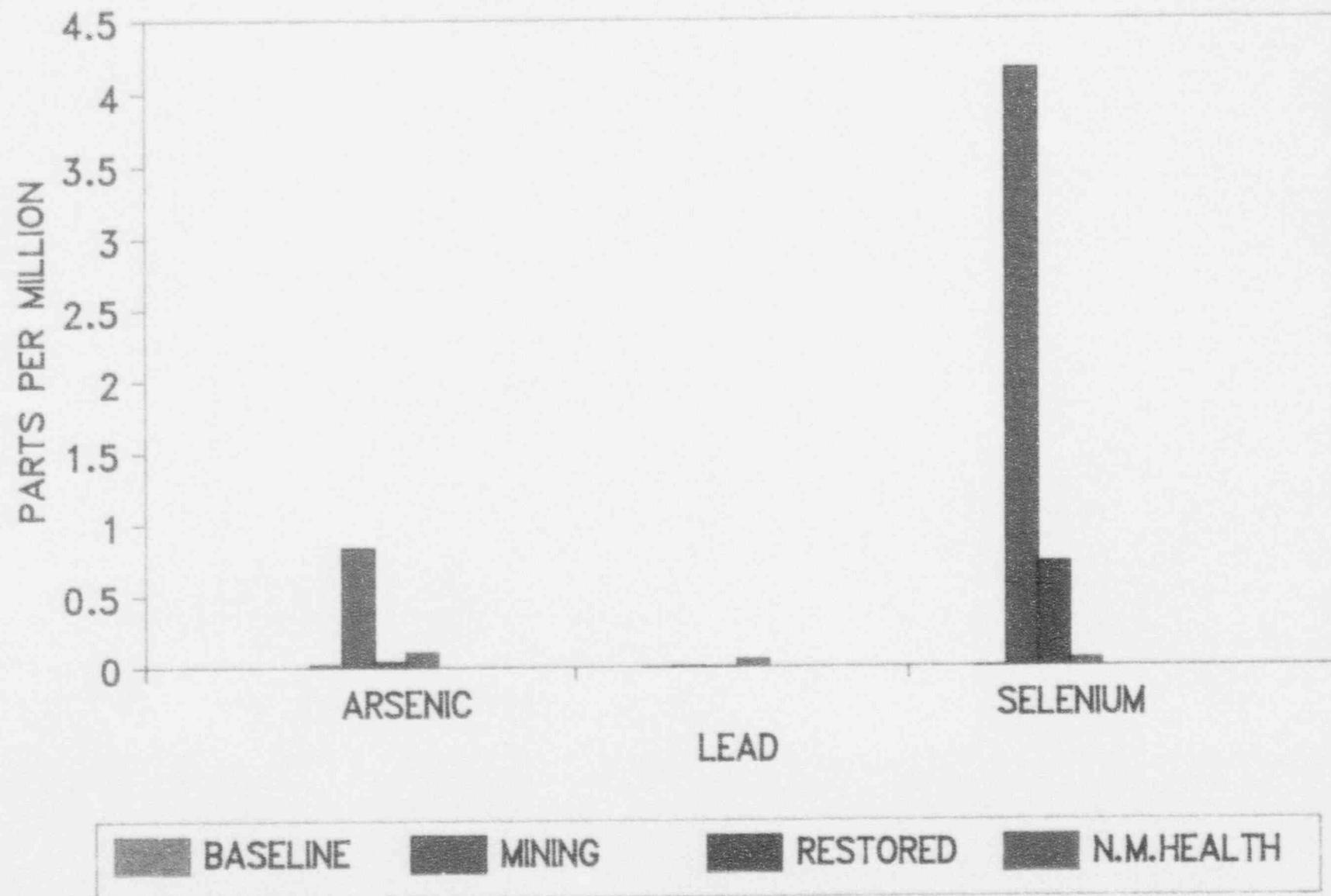
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980

ANION COMPARISON



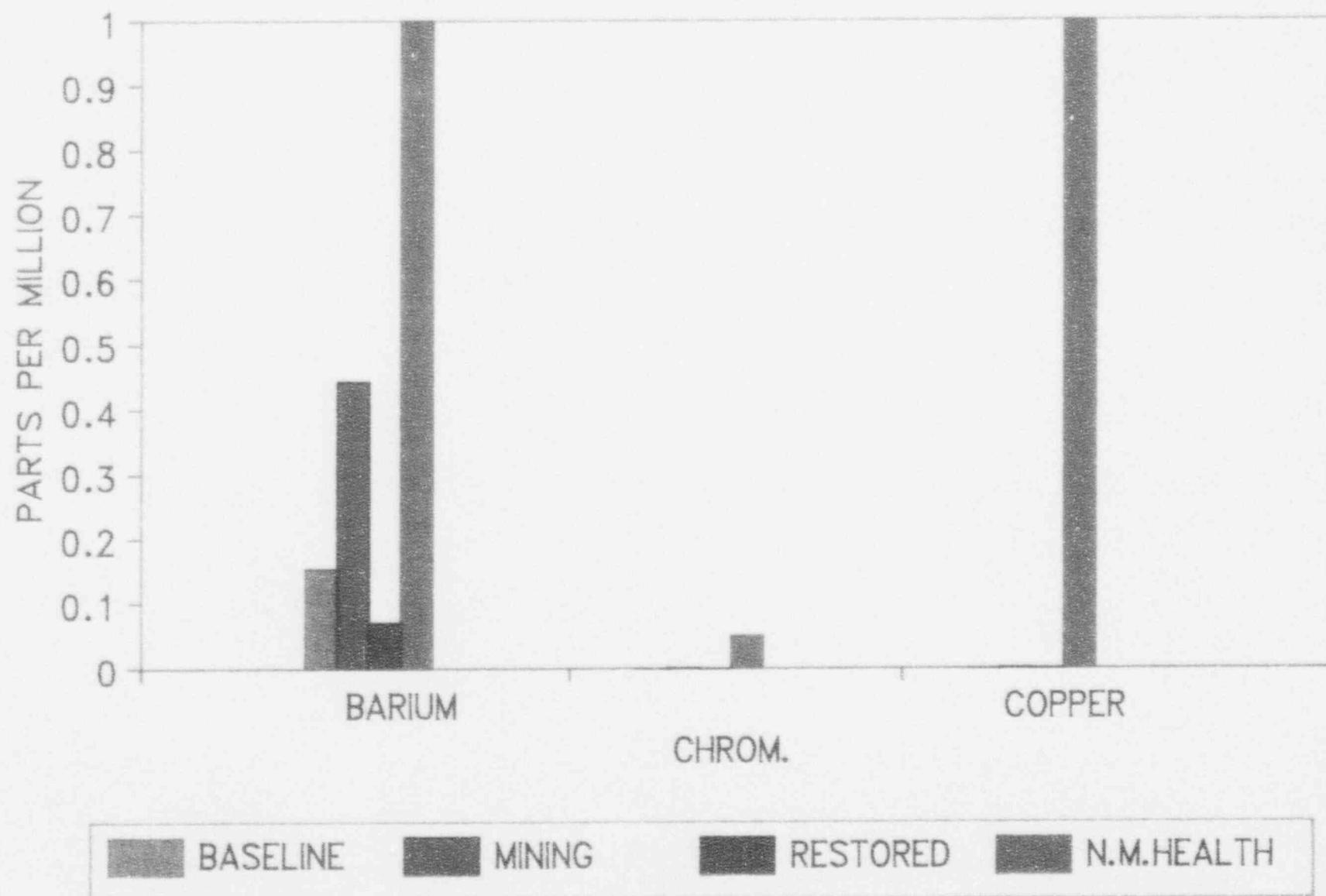
TETON PILOT – JUNE, 1980

ARSENIC, LEAD & SELENIUM



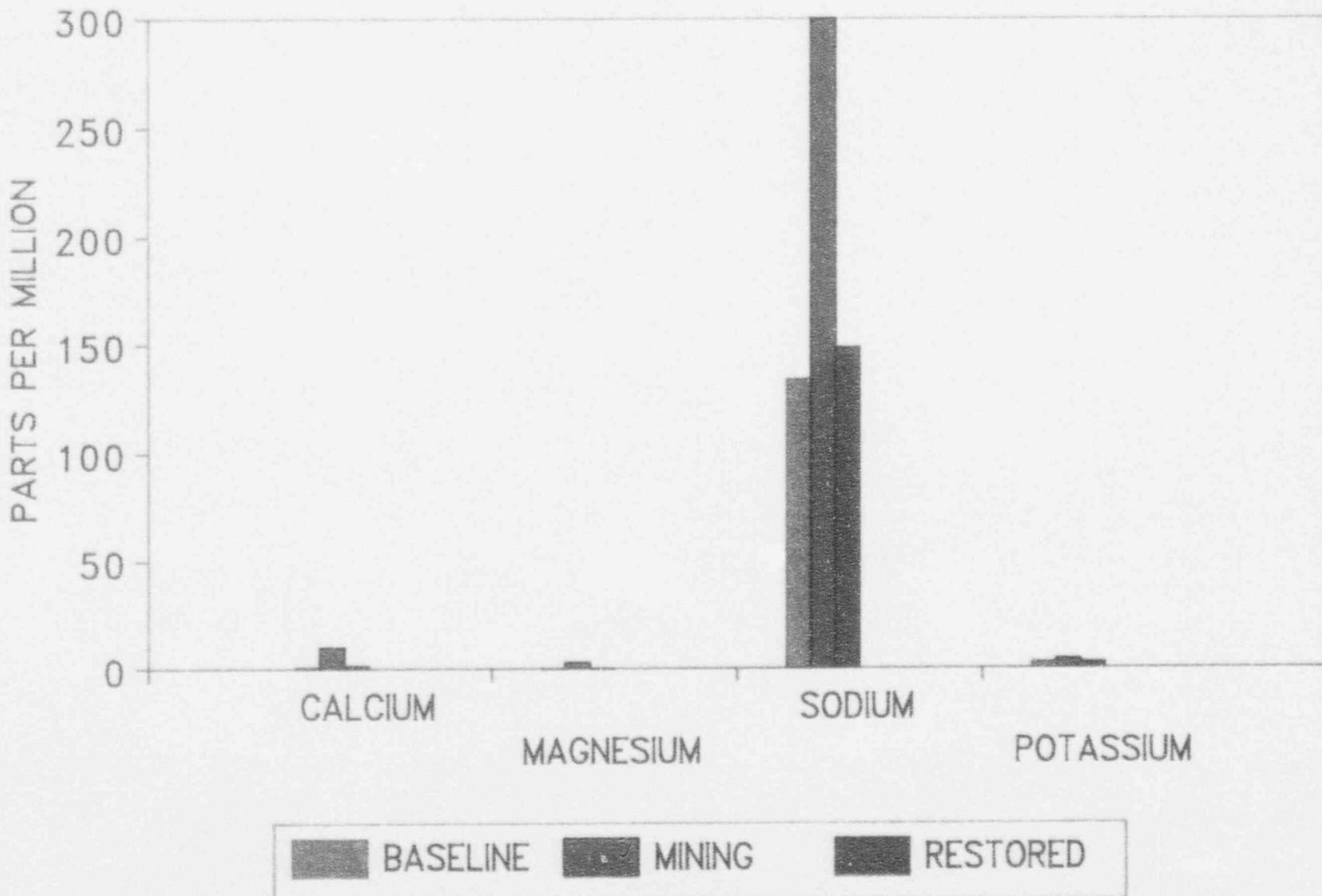
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980

BARIUM, CHROM. & COPPER



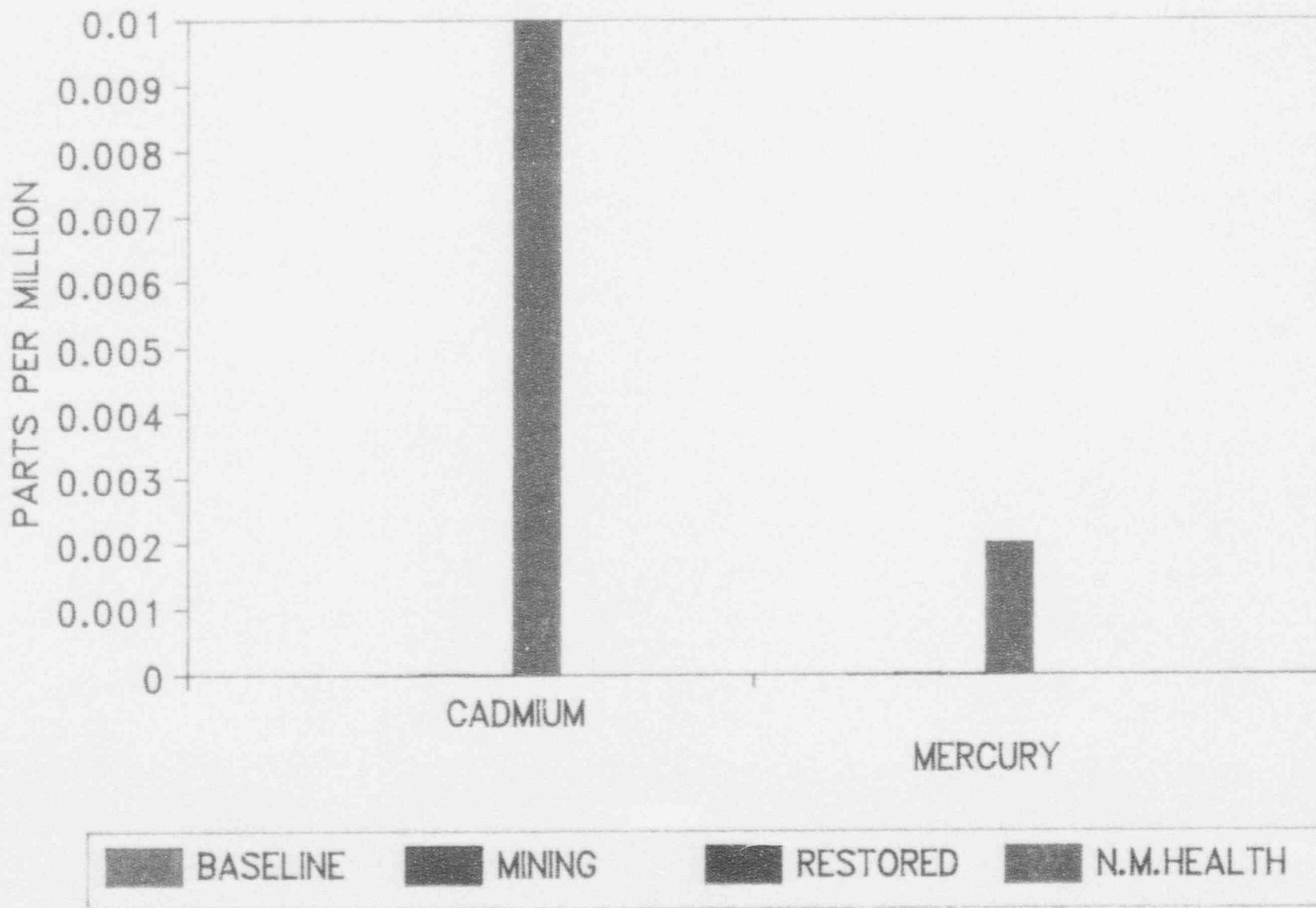
TETON PILOT – JUNE, 1980

CATION COMPARISON

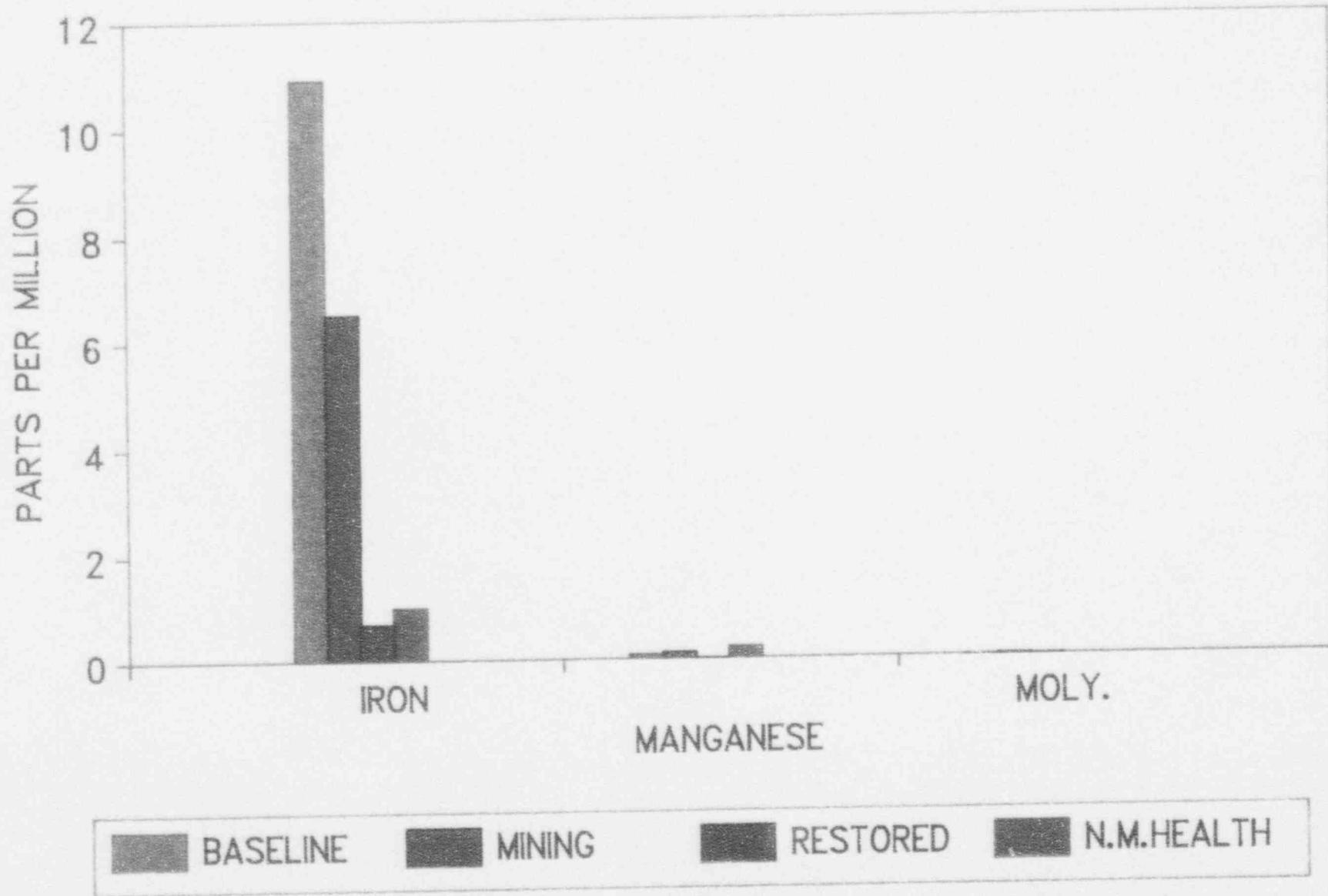


TETON PILOT – JUNE, 1980

CADMUM & MERCURY

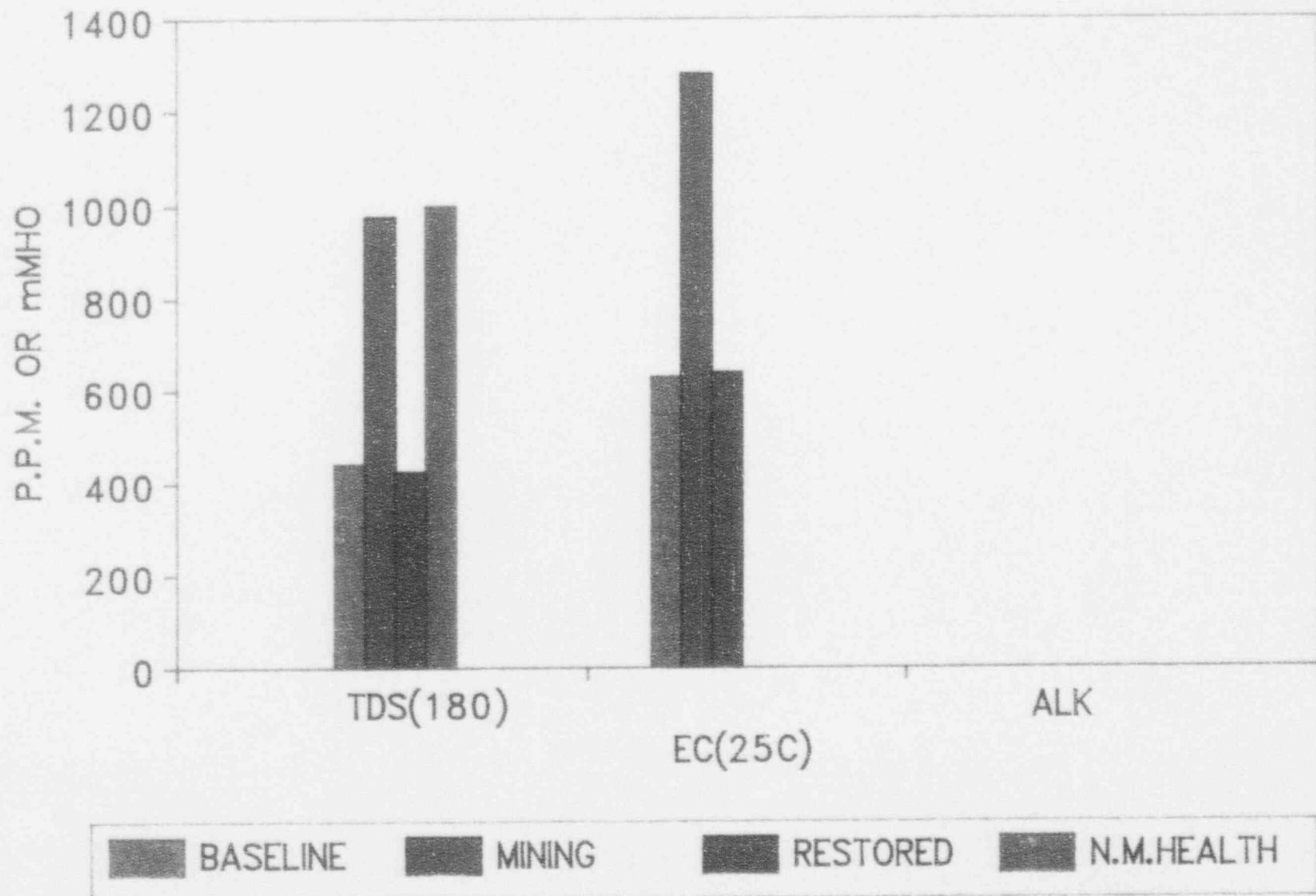


TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
IRON, MANGANESE & MOLY.

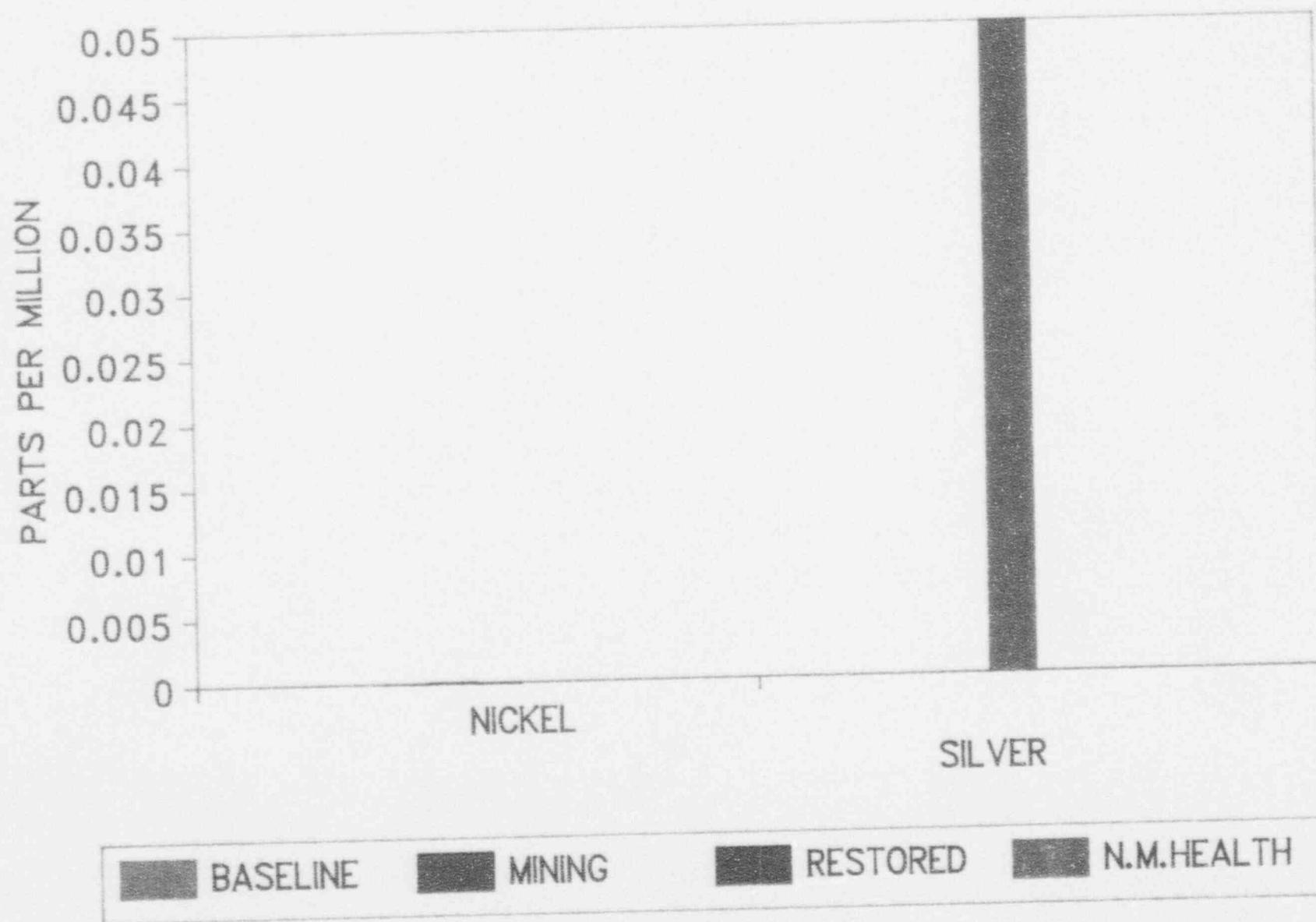


TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980

MAJOR INDICATOR COMPARISON

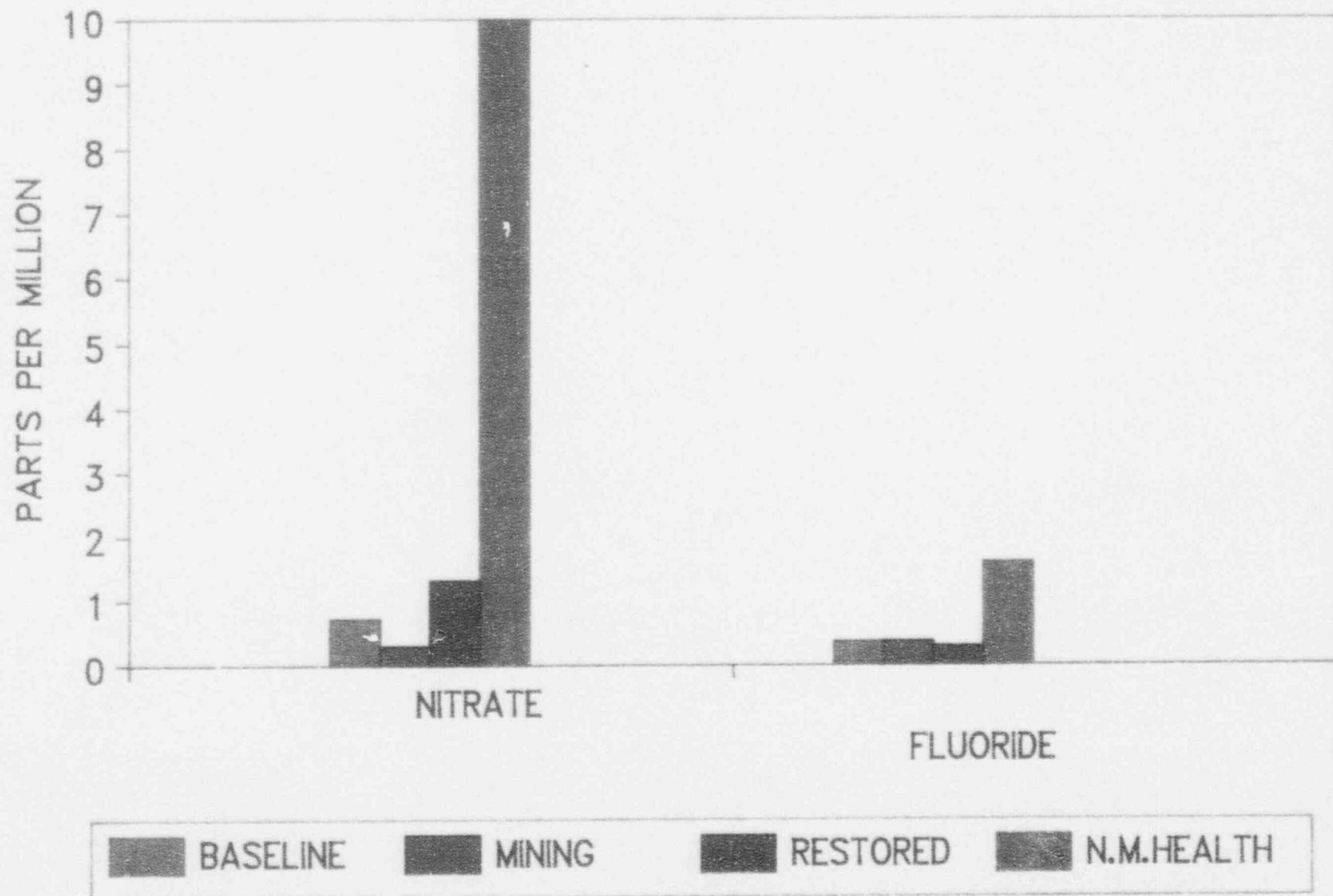


TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
NICKEL & SILVER

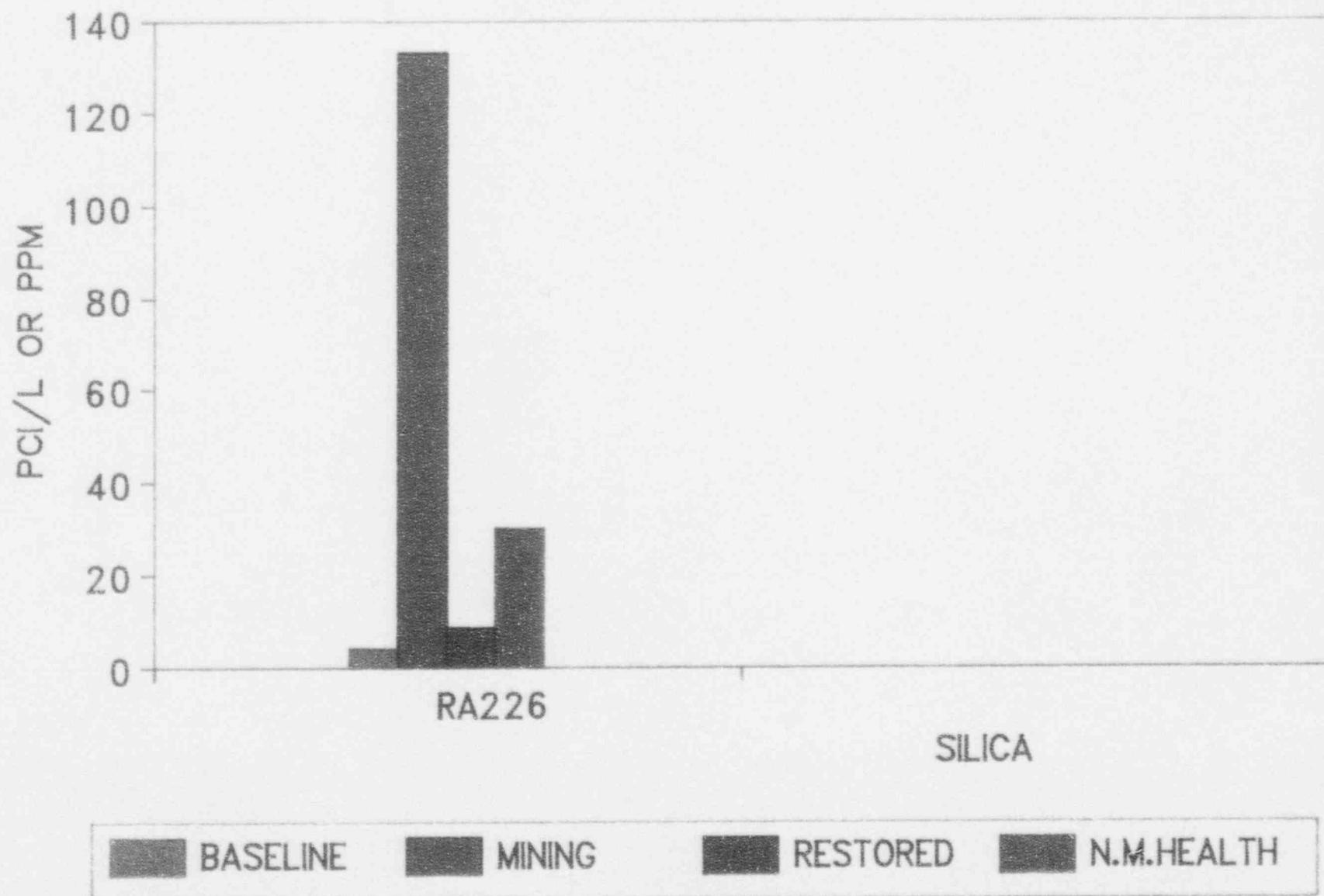


TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980

NITRATE AND FLUORIDE COMPARISON

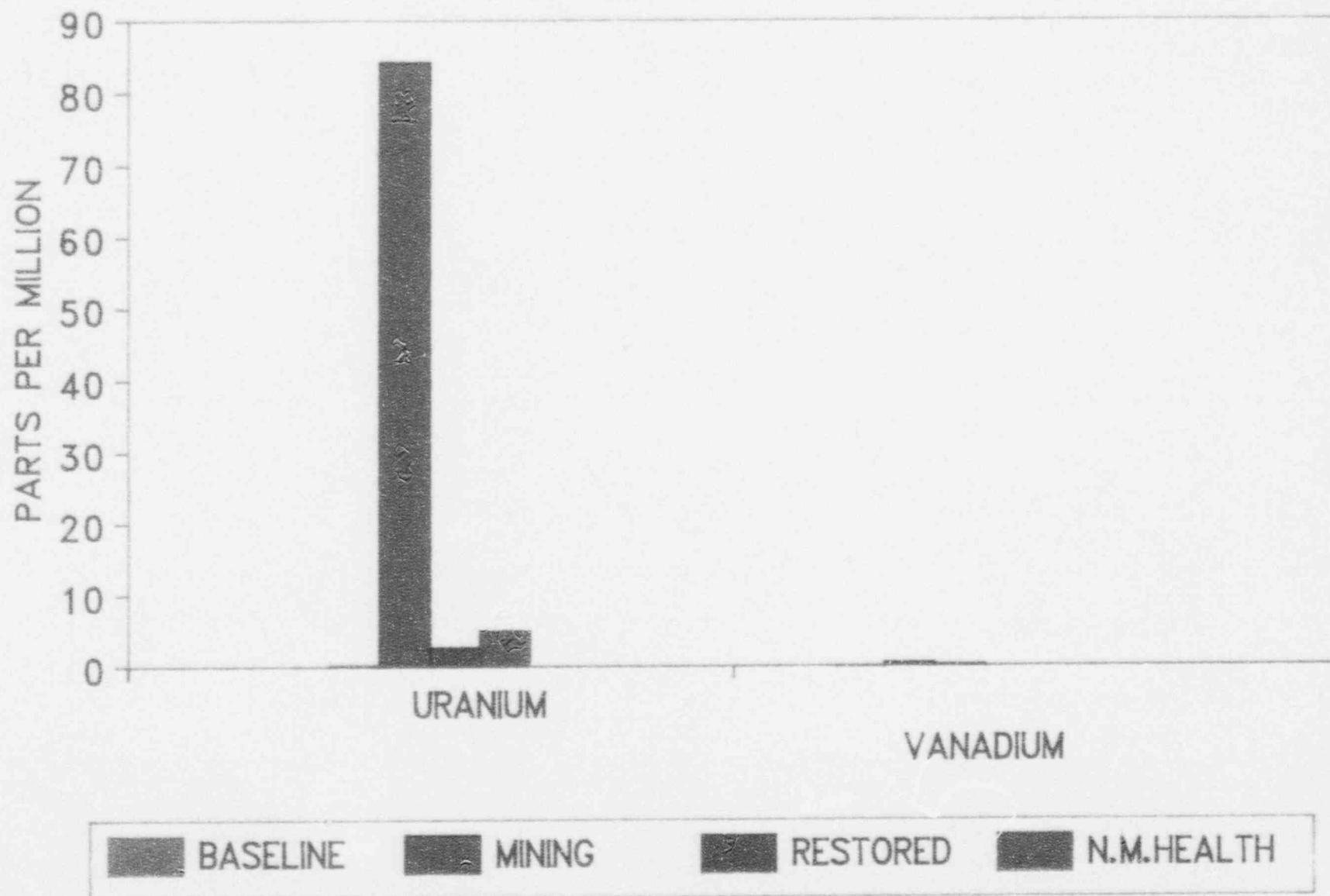


TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980
RADIUM & SILICA



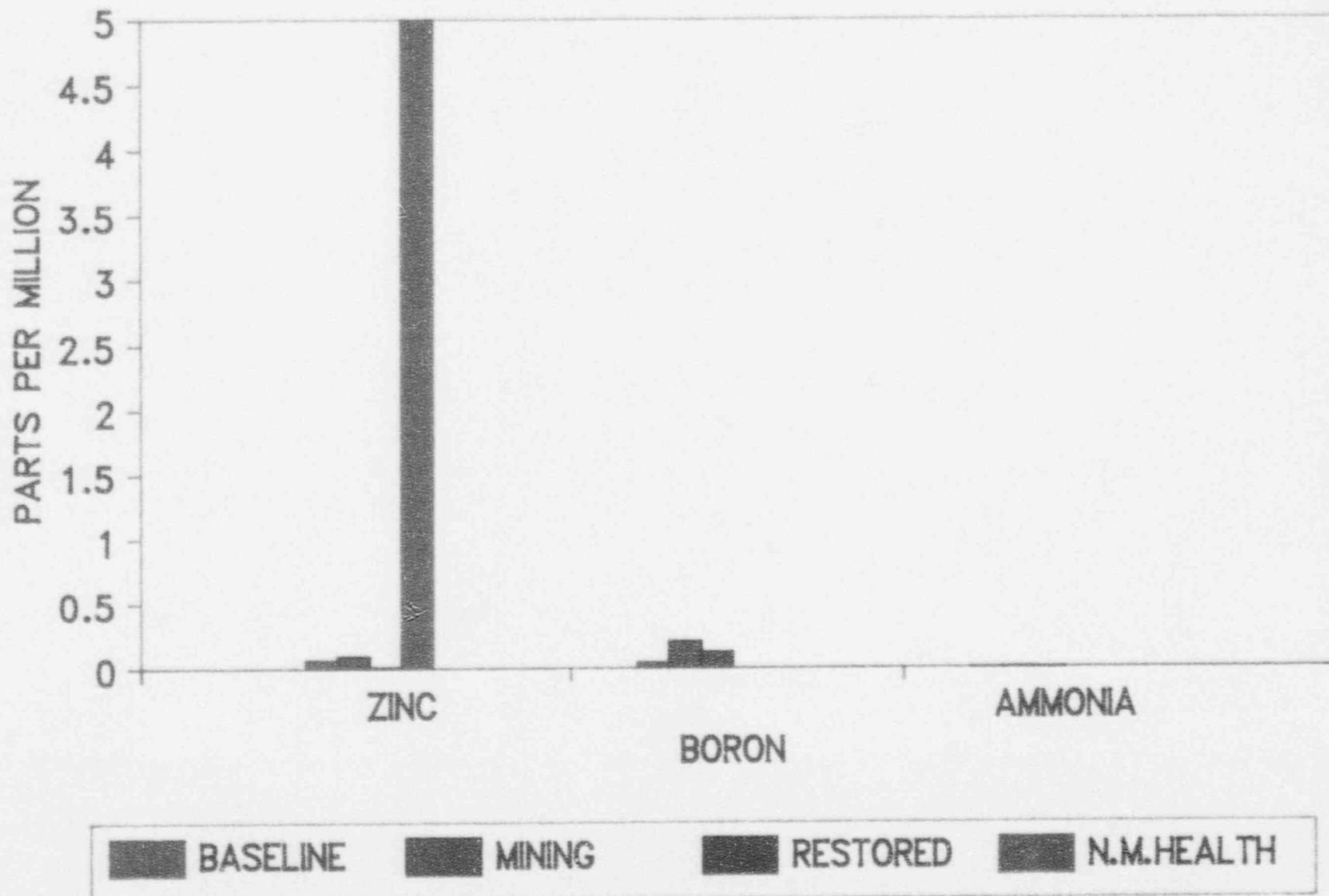
TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980

URANIUM & VANADIUM



TETON PILOT - JUNE, 1980

ZINC, BORON & AMMONIA



OLD CHURCHROCK AND CHURCHROCK NORTH EAST WATER QUALITY
SAMPLES OBTAINED SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM CONVENTIONAL MINE WORKINGS

SAMPLE DATE	MAIN 9-15	GRAVEL 9-15	VH1 9-15	VH2 9-15	NEVH1 9-14	NEVH2 9-14	NESH1 9-9	NEVH3 9-7	NEVH8 9-7	NEVH10 9-7
CALCIUM	44	4.3	45	44	46	32	48	47	24	33
MAGNESIUM	17	11	17	17	17	6.5	15	21	7.3	12
SODIUM	405	367	395	404	420	275	430	454	420	459
POTASSIUM	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.4	4.7	5.2	5.7	34.0	5.8
CARBONATE	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0
BICARB	492	298	494	492	375	333	381	354	310	355
SULFATE	625	526	622	622	756	429	757	867	659	780
CHLORIDE	13	12	13	14	19	9	17	22	67	24
NITRATE	0.76	0.02	0.10	0.06	<.01	<.01	0.01	0.22	0.04	0.24
FLUORIDE	0.93	0.42	0.89	0.93	0.42	0.33	0.42	0.37	0.32	0.37
SILICA	10	1	8	9	11	10	11	13	11	11
TDS(180)	1,300	1,070	1,290	1,320	1,400	890	1,550	1,660	1,420	1,540
EC(25C)	2,000	1,730	1,990	1,990	2,100	1,400	2,120	2,290	2,050	2,160
ALK	403	318	405	403	307	273	312	290	272	291
PH	8.23	9.17	8.21	8.23	7.83	7.69	8.01	7.40	8.55	8.27
ARSENIC	0.001	<0.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
BARIUM	0.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03
CADMIUM	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	0.0002	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
CHROM.	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01
COPPER	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
IRON	0.01	0.01	<.01	0.01	<.01	<.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
LEAD	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	0.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
MANGANESE	0.16	0.02	0.18	0.18	0.31	0.17	0.1	0.33	0.01	0.06
MERCURY	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
MOLY.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.03
NICKEL	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01
SELENIUM	0.001	<.001	<.001	0.001	<.001	0.005	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
SILVER	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01
URANIUM	3.07	0.041	3.550	3.41	1.630	1.510	2.82	0.846	0.434	1.34
VANADIUM	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01	<.01
ZINC	0.01	<.01	0.01	0.03	<.01	<.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02
BORON	0.4	0.24	0.39	0.38	0.16	0.11	0.19	0.18	0.15	0.17
AMMONIA	0.03	0.13	0.10	0.06	0.22	0.25	0.29	0.21	0.36	1.1
RA226	55	7.4	47.0	44	4.4	20.0	5.2	3.2	8.4	2.4

EXPLANATION

- MAIN - SECTION 17 OR OLD CHURCHROCK MINE MAIN SHAFT
- GRAVEL - SECTION 17 OR OLD CHURCHROCK MINE GRAVEL SHAFT
- VH1 - SECTION 17 OR OLD CHURCHROCK MINE VENT HOLE #1
- VH2 - SECTION 17 OR OLD CHURCHROCK MINE VENT HOLE #2
- NESH1 - NORTH EAST CHURCHROCK MINE MAIN SHAFT
- NEVH1 - NORTH EAST CHURCHROCK MINE VENT HOLE #1
- NEVH2 - NORTH EAST CHURCHROCK MINE VENT HOLE #2
- NEVH3 - NORTH EAST CHURCHROCK MINE VENT HOLE #3
- NEVH8 - NORTH EAST CHURCHROCK MINE VENT HOLE #8
- NEVH10 - NORTH EAST CHURCHROCK MINE VENT HOLE #10

*** ALL UNITS ARE P.P.M. EXCEPT: EC mMHO; pH S.U.; RA 226 pCi/L

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94-0098