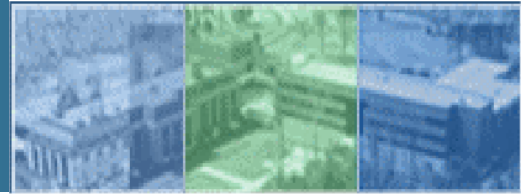


## Modification of Asphalt Binders with Phosphoric Acid Binder Tests

Federal Highway Administration  
The Office of Research, Development, and Technology (RD&T)  
Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center (TFHRC)  
McLean, VA

PPA Workshop Minneapolis April 7-8 2009

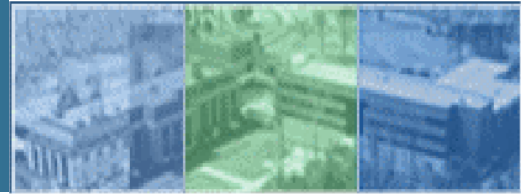




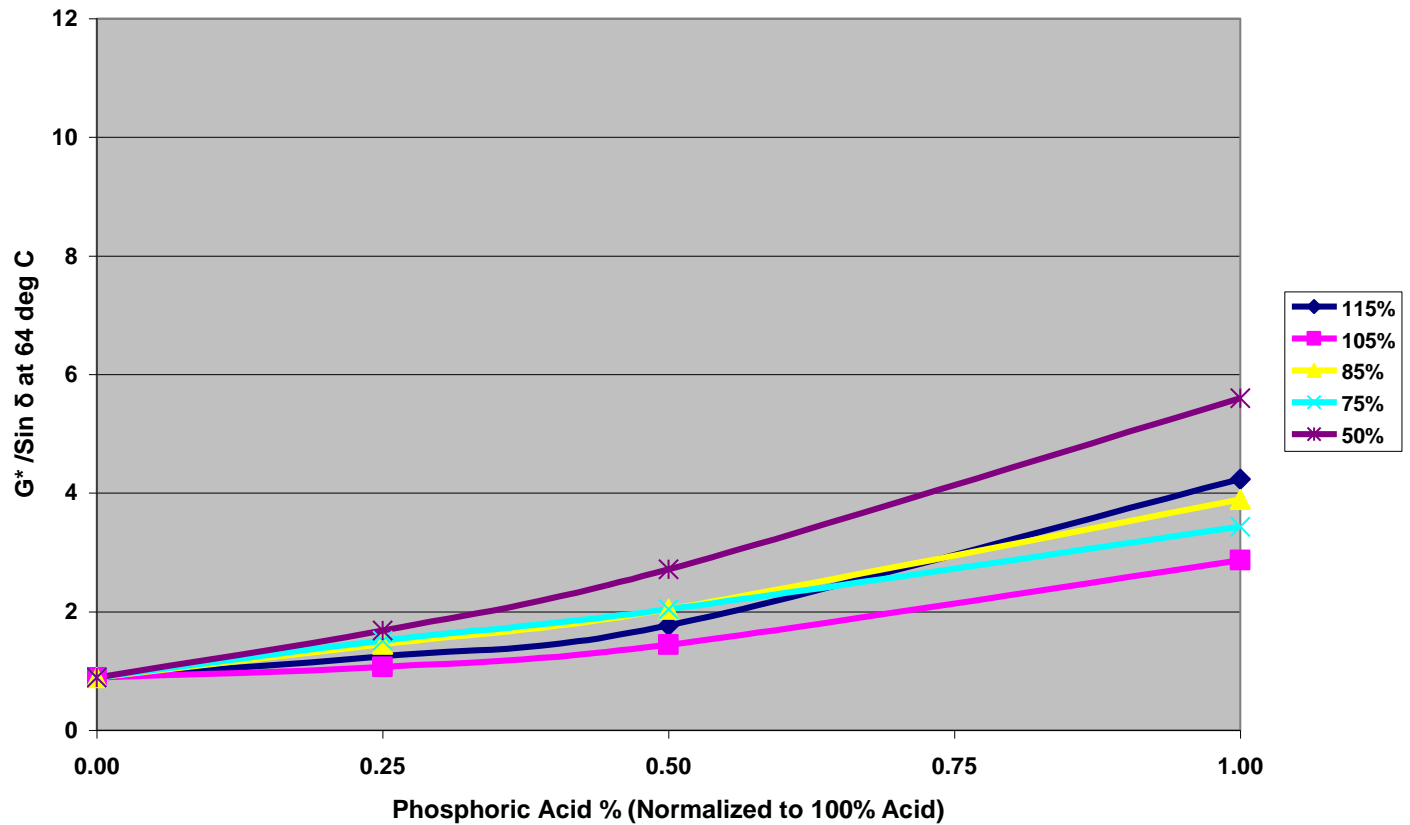
## **Preconceptions and Concerns about Polyphosphoric Acid**

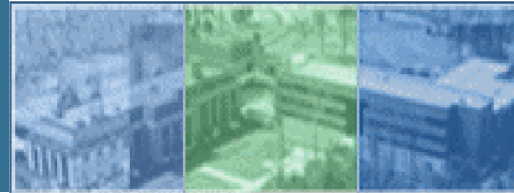
- **Grade of Acid - Any grade can be used**
- **Type of Asphalt – Stiffening Effect is Asphalt Dependent**
- **Moisture Resistance was not found to be an issue at low acid levels <0.75%**



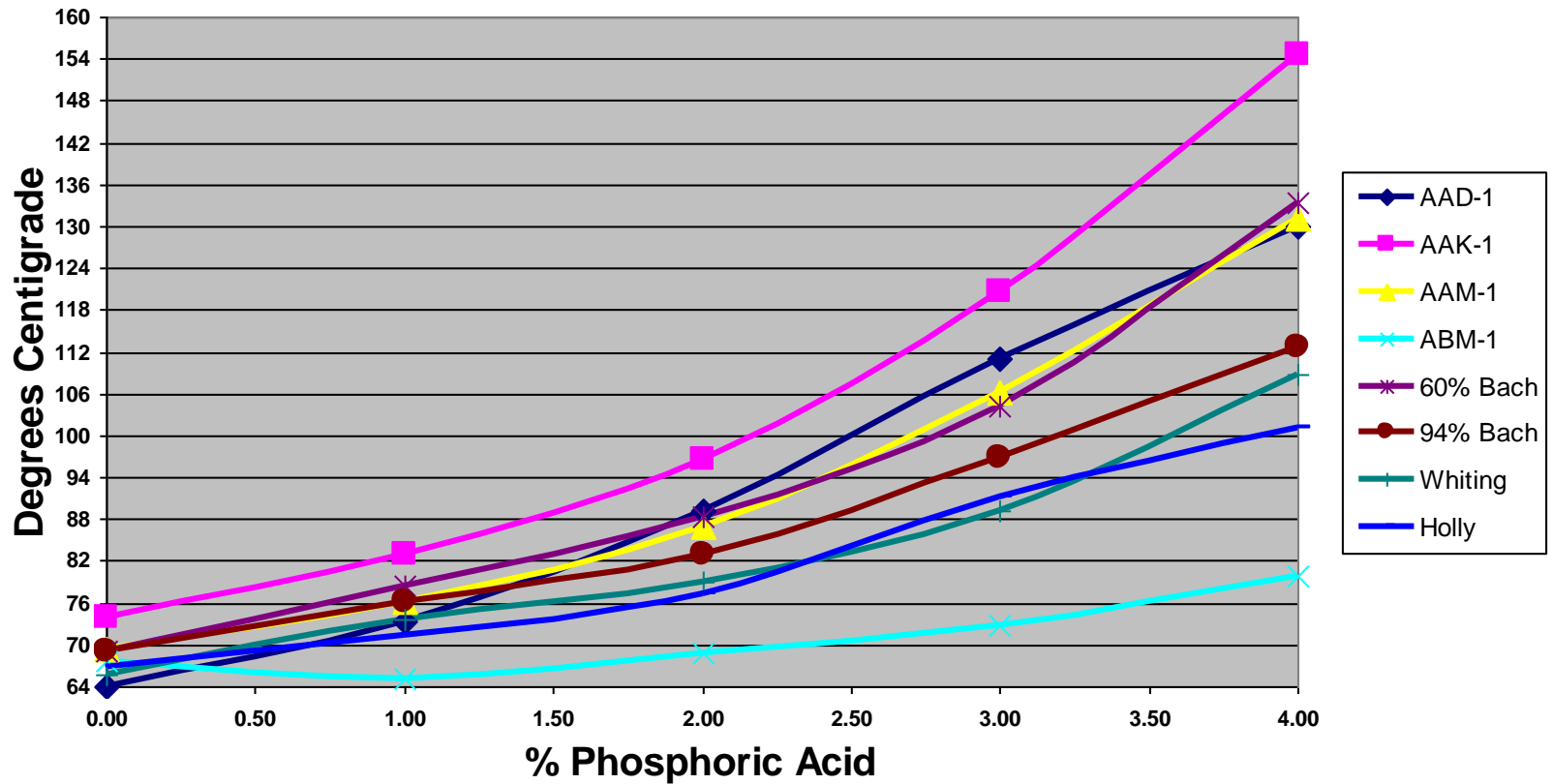


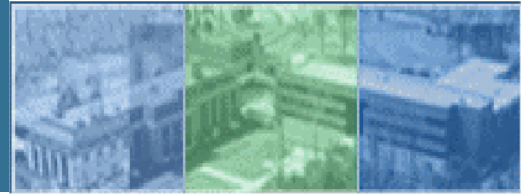
## Effect of Acid Grade - AAD-1





## Effect of 115% PPA Acid Modification on Original PG Grade

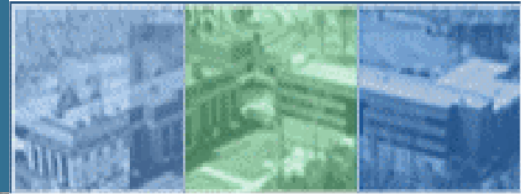




# How Much PPA to Increase one PG Grade?

|                       | <b>PG-70</b> | <b>PG-76</b> | <b>PG-82</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>AAK-1</b>          | <b>0</b>     | <b>0.25%</b> | <b>0.9%</b>  |
| <b>60% Bachequero</b> | <b>0.1%</b>  | <b>0.75%</b> | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>94% Bachequero</b> | <b>0.1%</b>  | <b>1.0%</b>  | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>AAM-1</b>          | <b>0.1%</b>  | <b>1.0%</b>  | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>Whiting</b>        | <b>0.5%</b>  | <b>1.5%</b>  | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>AAD-1</b>          | <b>0.7%</b>  | <b>1.2%</b>  | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>Holly</b>          | <b>0.7%</b>  | <b>1.8%</b>  | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>ABM-1</b>          | <b>2.4%</b>  | <b>3.4%</b>  | <b>-</b>     |

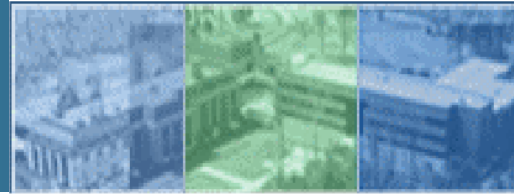




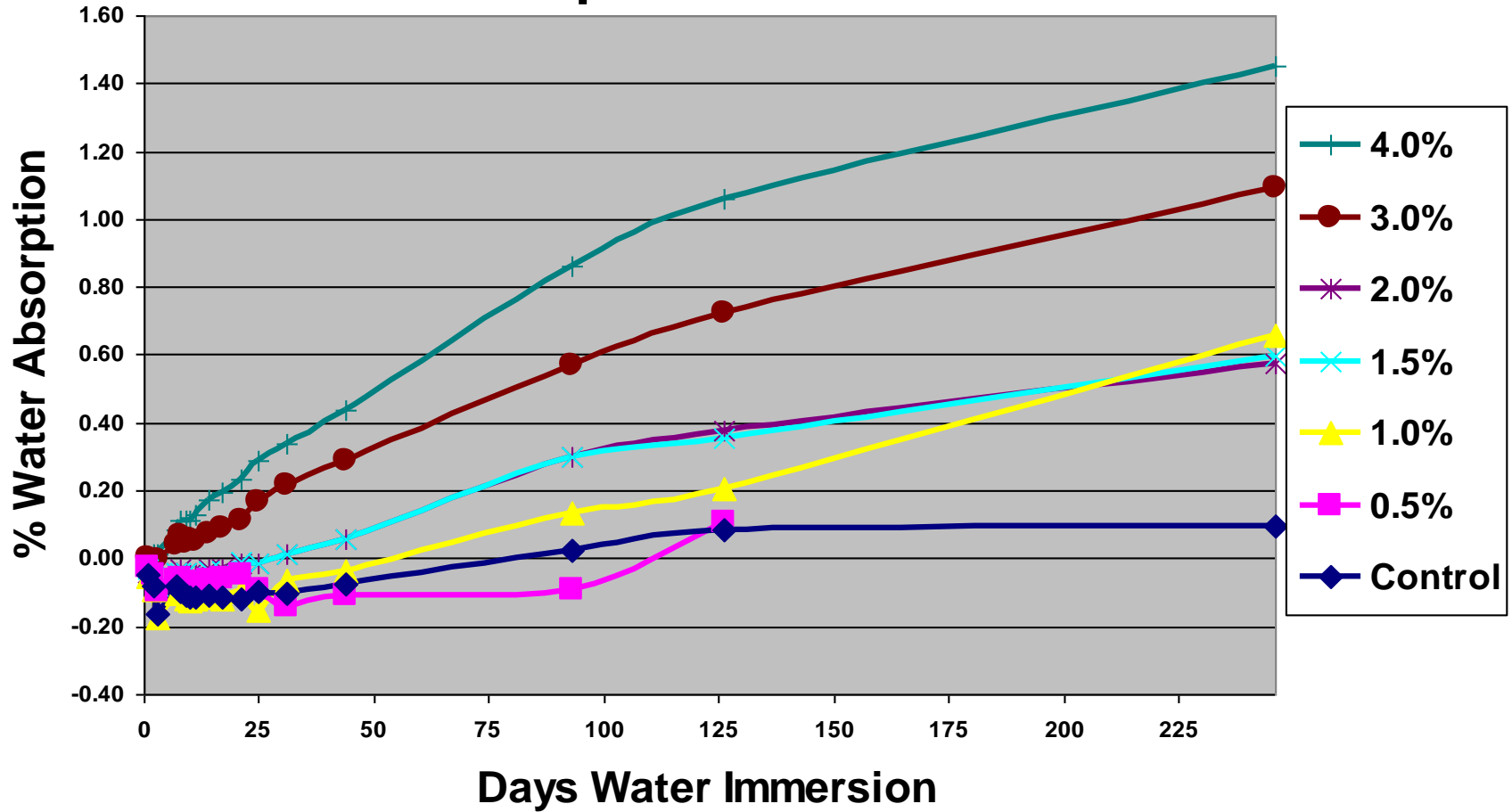
# Moisture Sensitivity

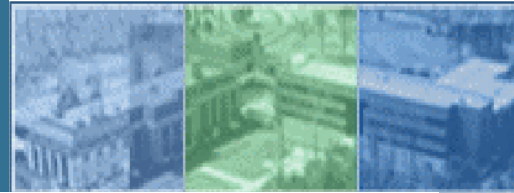
**Does adding a hydrophilic material like phosphoric acid impart moisture sensitivity to the binder?**



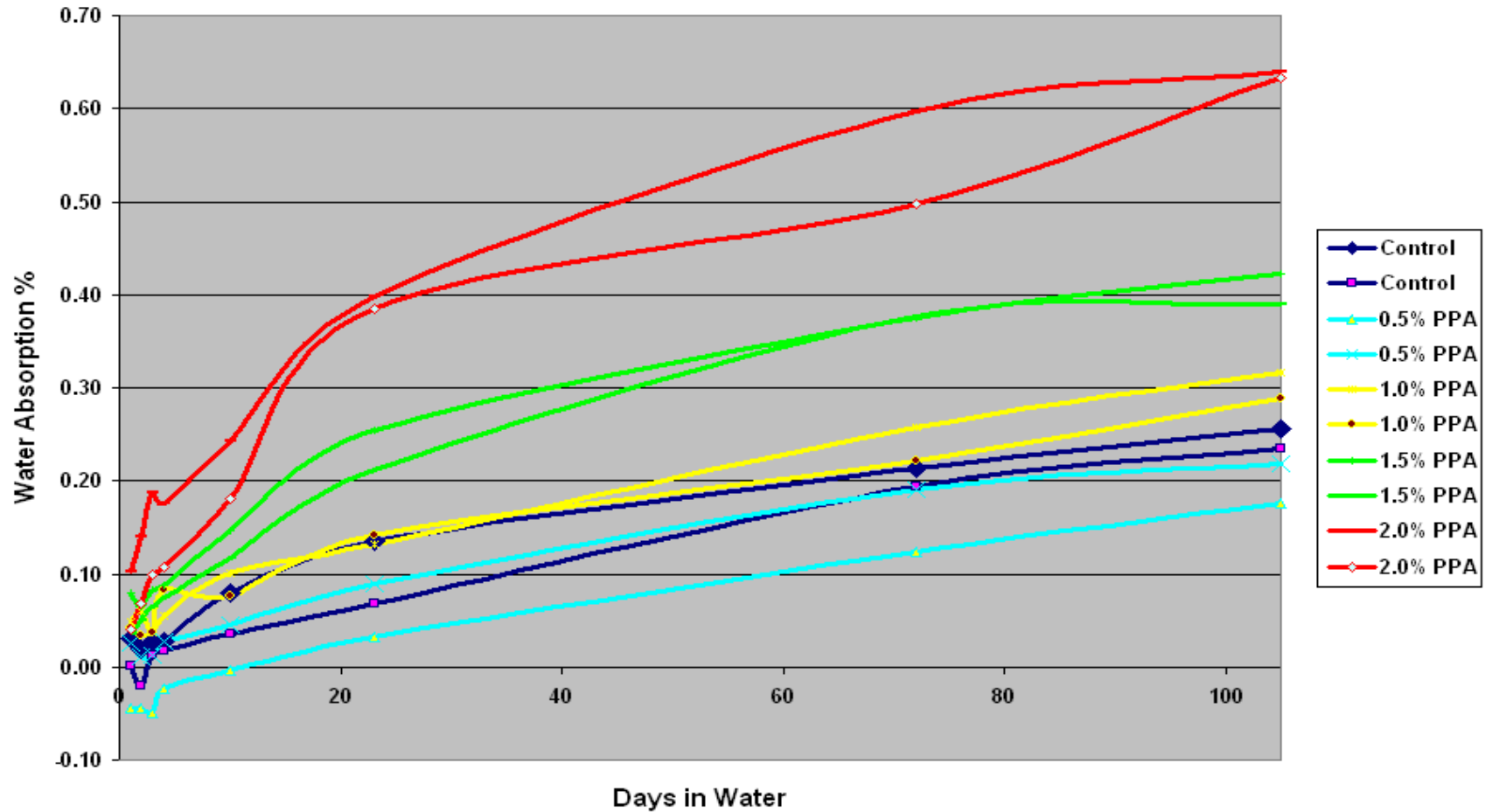


## CITGO Asphalt Beams with PPA

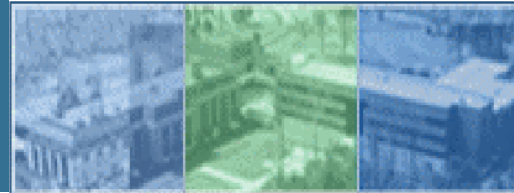




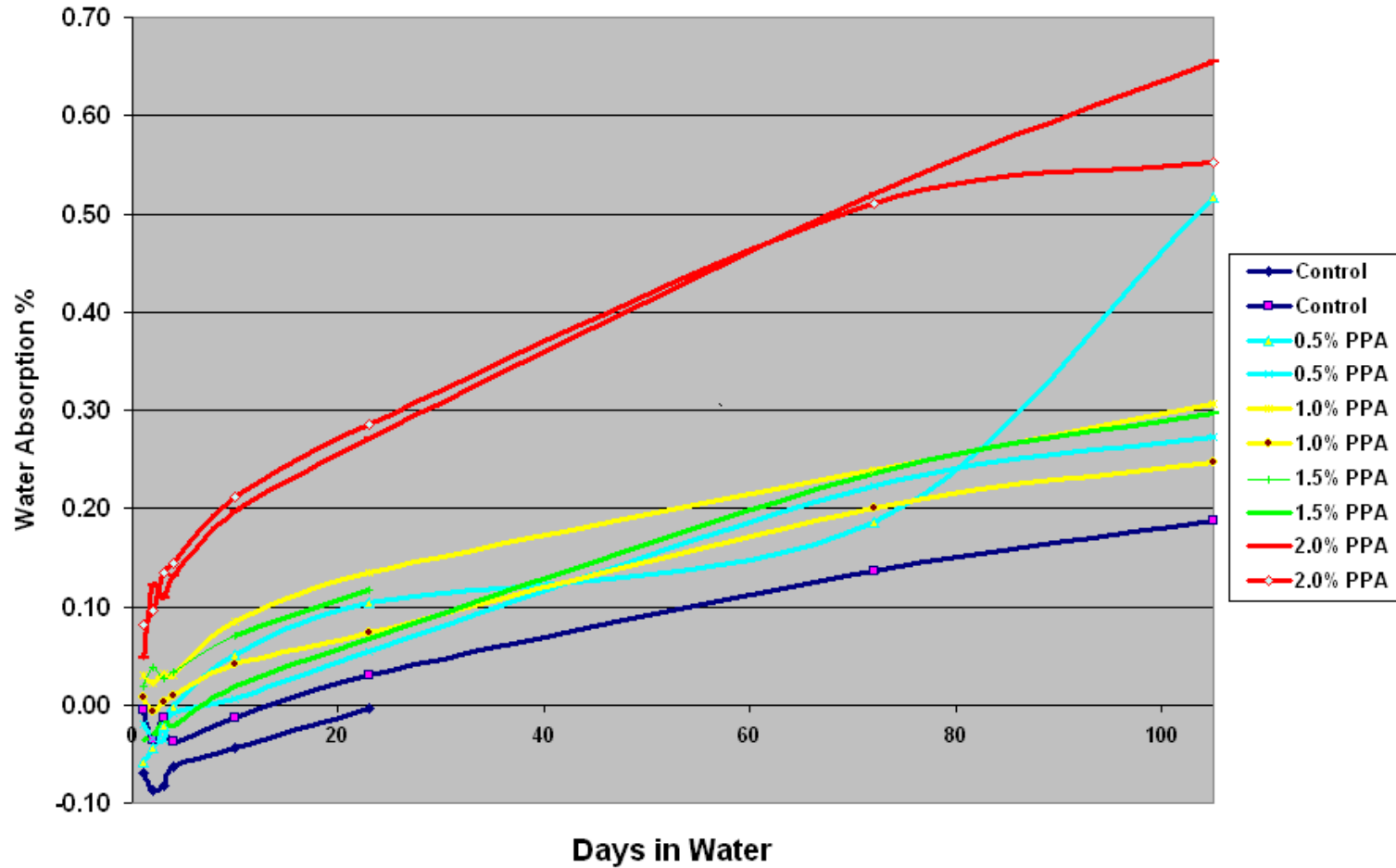
## Water Immersion Citgo Asphalt + 50% Diabase

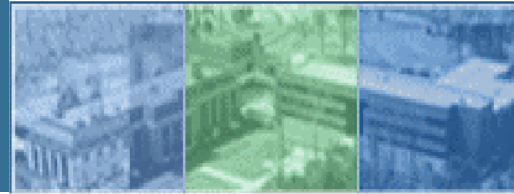




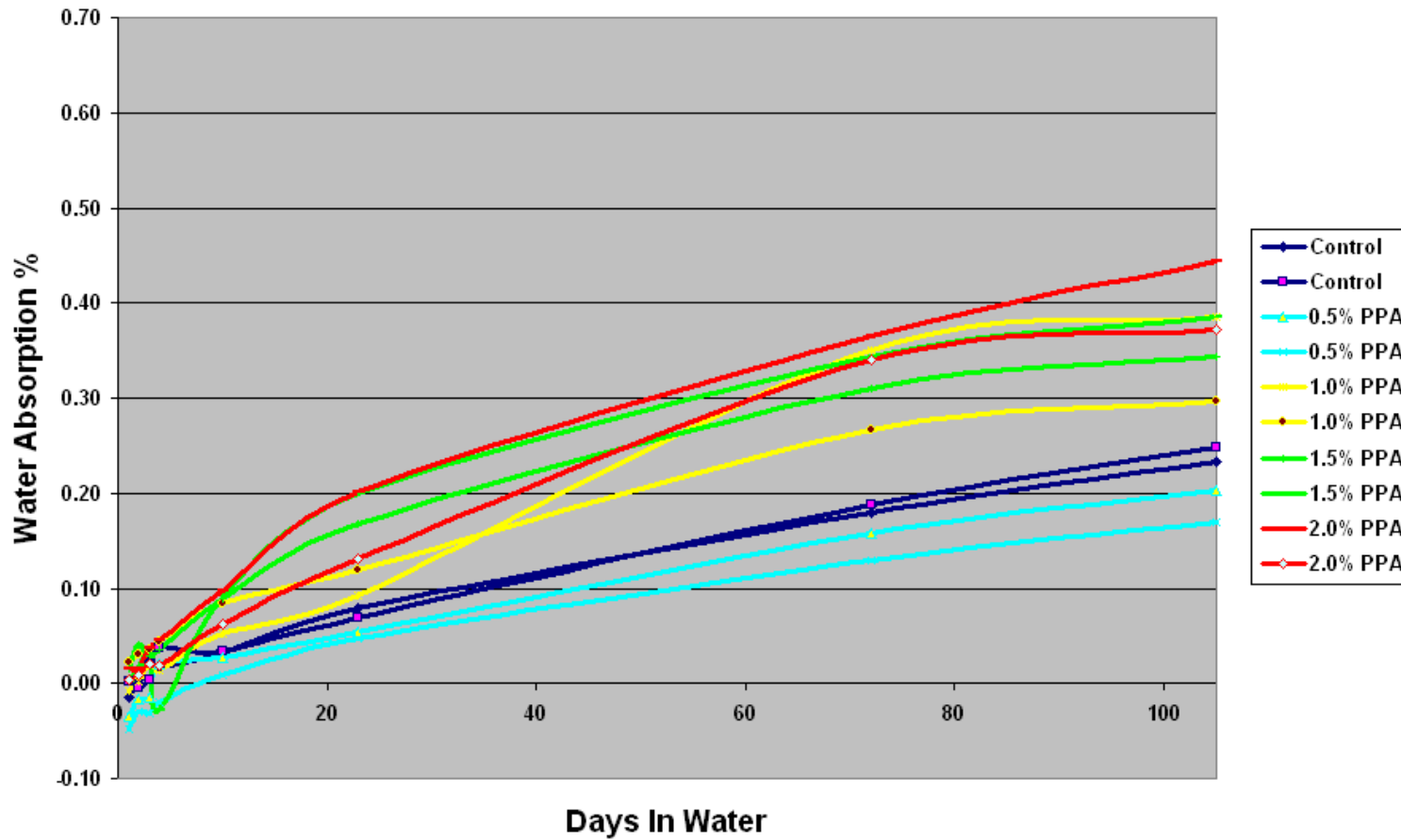


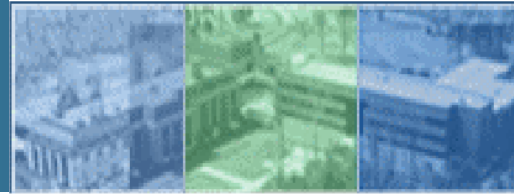
## Water Immersion Citgo Asphalt + 50% Gravel



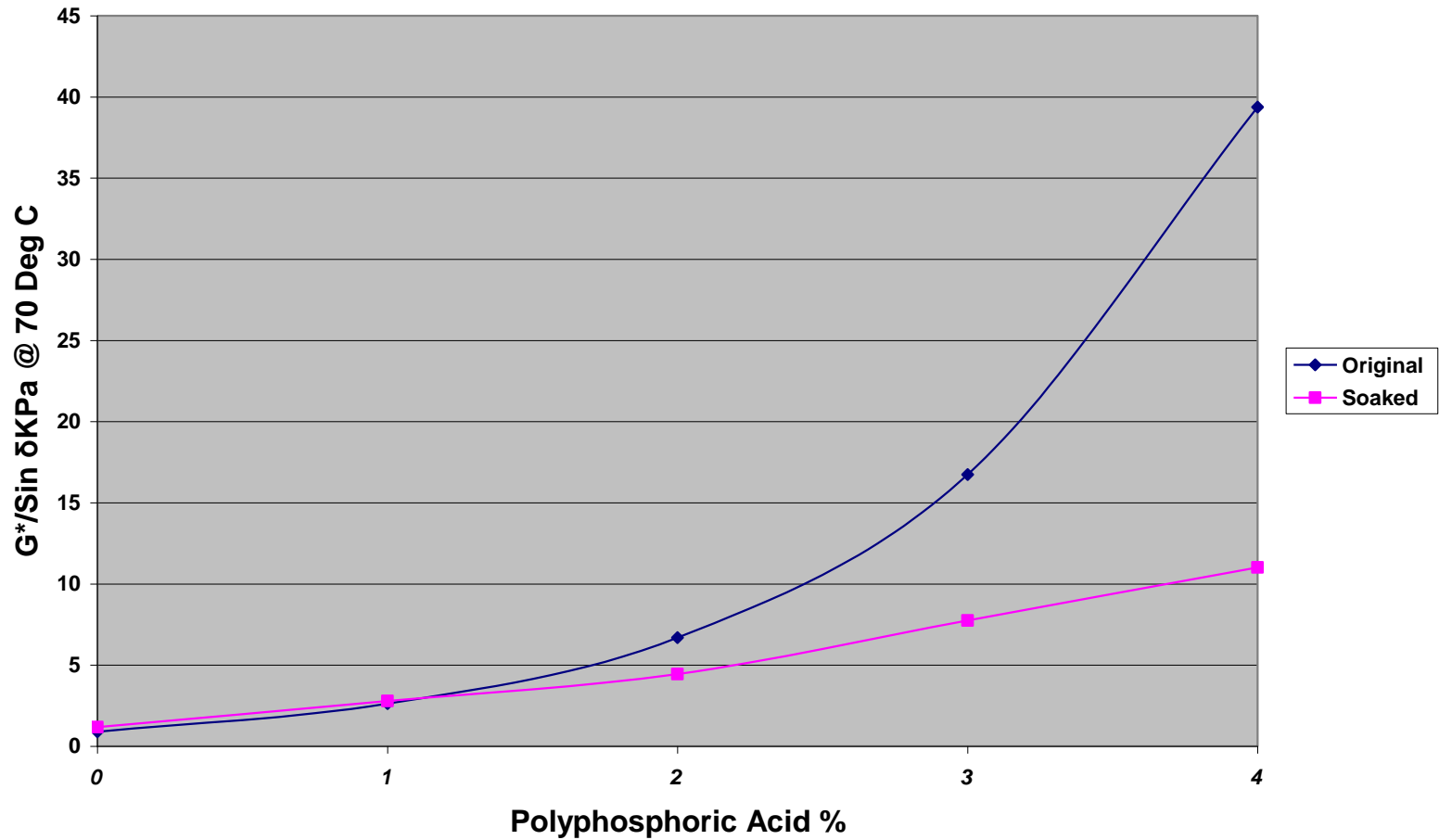


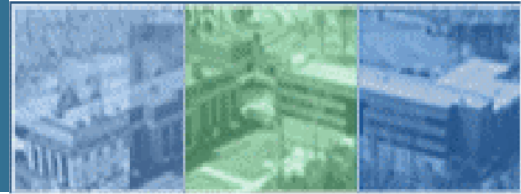
## Water Immersion Citgo Asphalt + 50% Sand





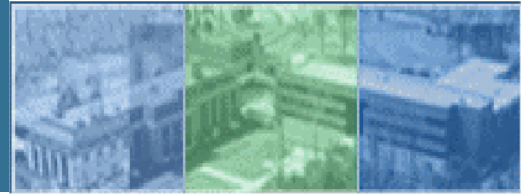
## Effect of 245 Days 44 degF Water Soaking Citgo Asphalt





# **Does the Binder Contain Phosphoric Acid?**

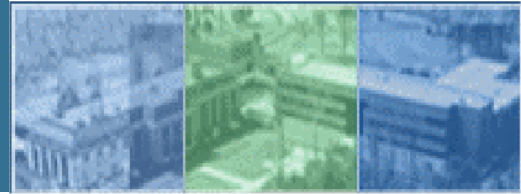




## Test for Phosphate in Asphalt

- No special equipment or expertise needed
- Requires a few inexpensive chemicals
- Test is rapid and simple
- A blue color is developed after 5 minutes
- Test can detect 0.1% PPA in asphalt
- Details available on TFHRC Website:  
<http://www.tfhrc.gov/>

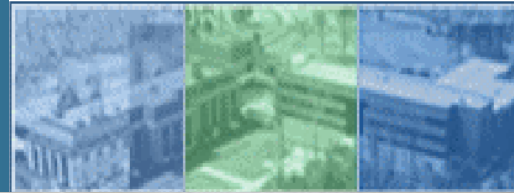




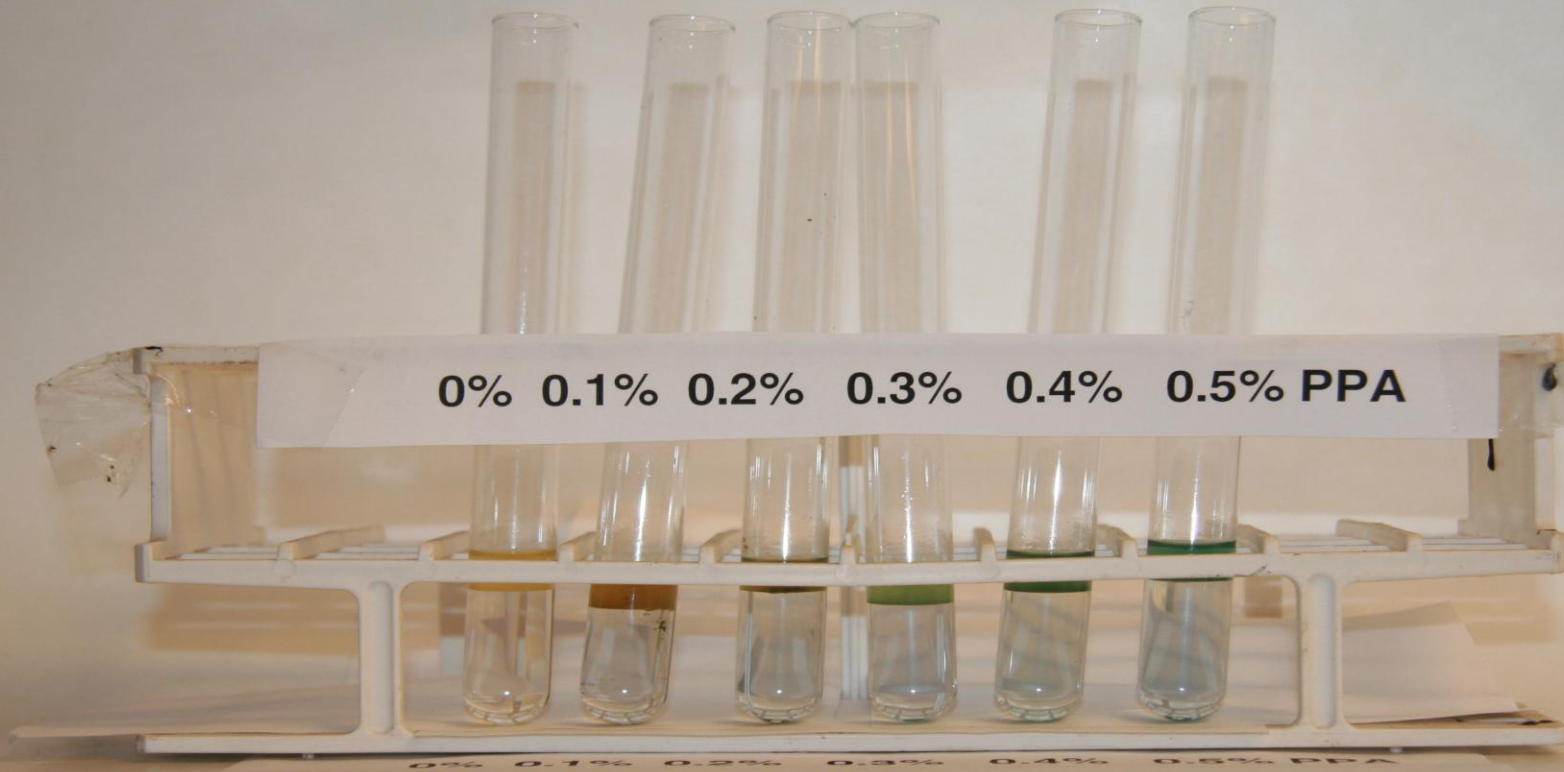
## **Test for Phosphate in Asphalt**

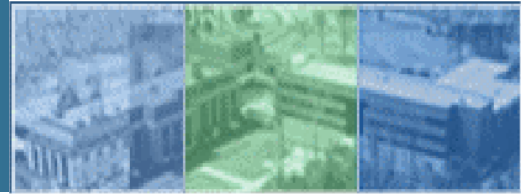
- Quantities are not critical
- Put 1 gram of hot asphalt into a 1oz can
- Add 1ml of n-butanol and swirl/stir in the can
- Add 2mls water
- Add 1 ml of ascorbic acid/ammonium molybdate solution
- A blue color is developed in the water phase within a few minutes.





# Test for Phosphate in Asphalt



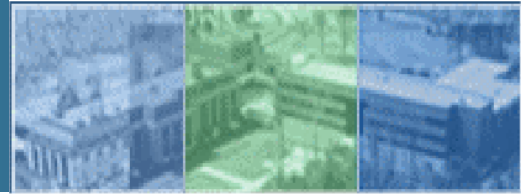


# X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry

- Quantitative test has been developed by Mathy Technology & Engineering Services Inc.
- Beware – Just because the binder contains Phosphorous it does not mean it has been modified with phosphoric acid.



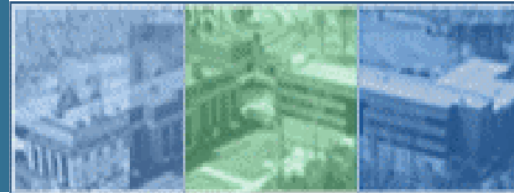




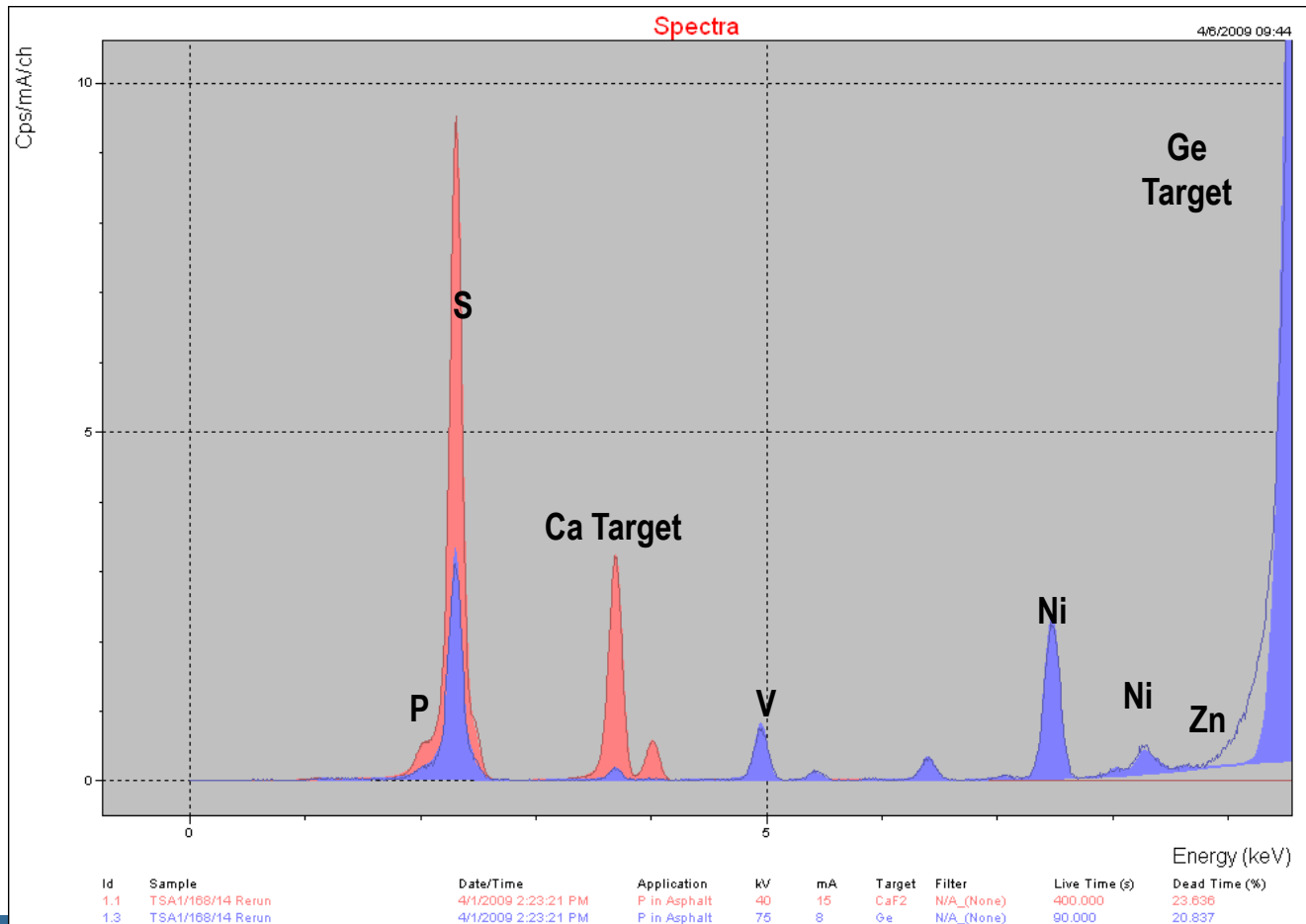
# Engine Oil Additives

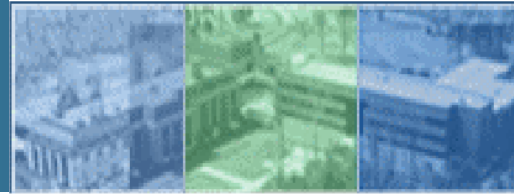
- There are many oil additives used
- Zincdioctyldithiophosphate - a heat stabilizer
- $C_{32}H_{68}P_2ZnS_4O_4$
- Contains 8% Phosphorous, 8.5% Zinc



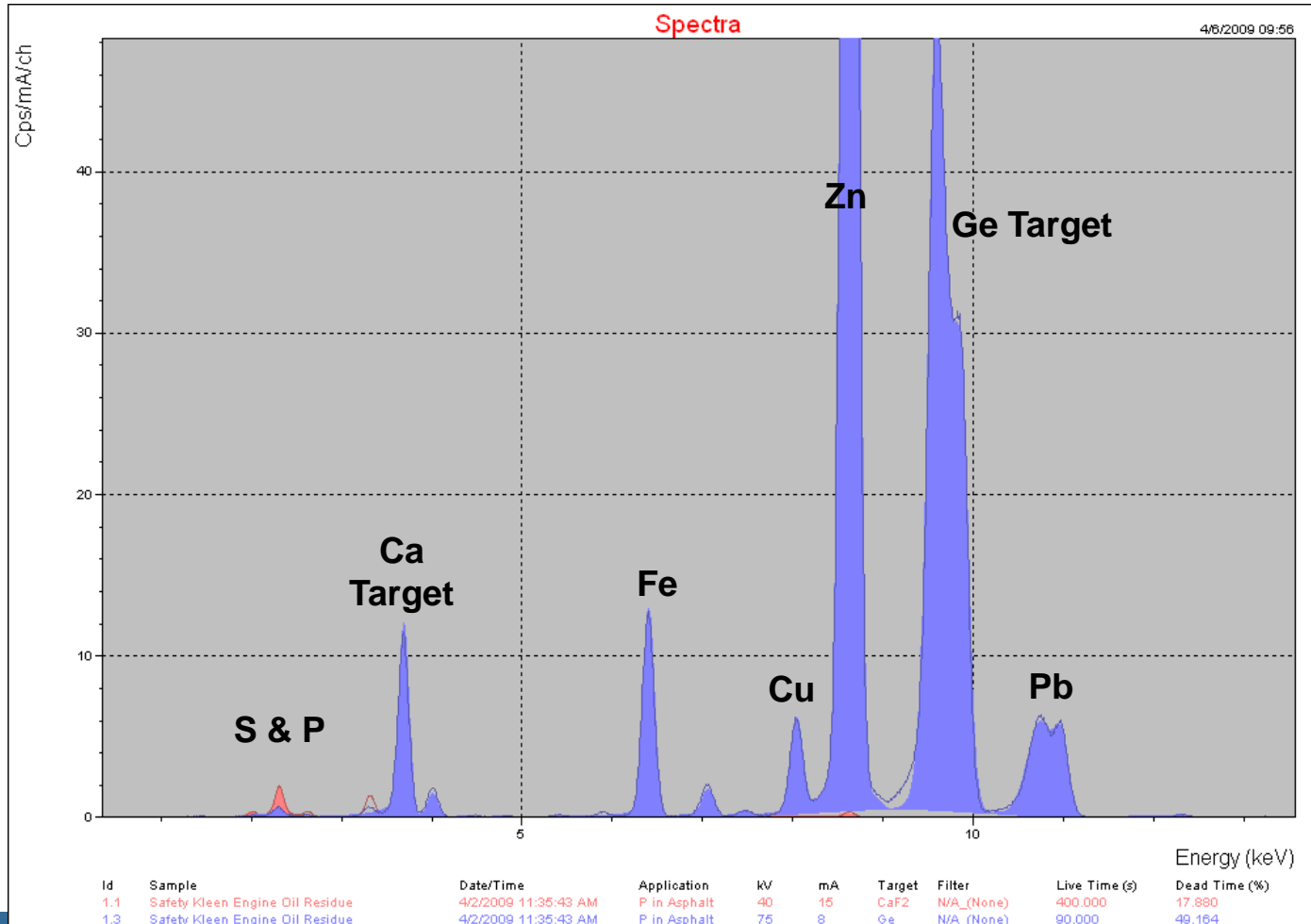


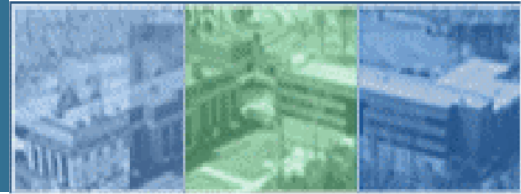
## Asphalt Containing 1% Phosphoric Acid





## Engine Oil Residue



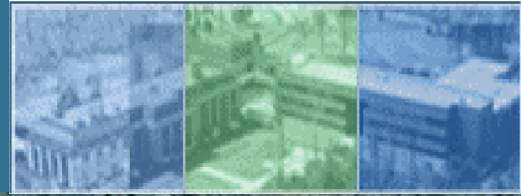


# Conclusions

- Any grade of Phosphoric Acid can be used
- Stiffening effect is asphalt dependent
- Binder (Citgo 64-28) showed water sensitivity at modification levels above about 0.75%
- Water sensitivity increased with increasing levels of modification
- Presence of phosphorous does not necessarily mean the asphalt was modified with Phosphoric Acid



# TURNER-FAIRBANK HIGHWAY RESEARCH CENTER



# Thank You

