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Bloomfield Colliery
Quarterly Noise Monitoring
and Compliance Assessment September 2015

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Ashtonfield NSW 2323

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Quarterly Noise Monitoring

and Compliance Assessment September 2015

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1 INTRODUCTION

Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd (Bloomfield) has commissioned SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) to conduct daytime, evening and night-time noise monitoring for the Bloomfield Colliery in accordance with the Project Approval requirements set by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I). This noise monitoring has been conducted in conjunction with the September 2015 quarterly monitoring for Abel and Donaldson Coal Mines (refer SLR Report Q59 630.01053-R1).

The objectives of the noise monitoring survey for this quarter were as follows:

- Measure the ambient noise levels at five (5) noise sensitive locations surrounding the colliery during the daytime, evening and night-time period. Noise surveys comprising of both unattended, continuous noise monitoring and operator attended monitoring were conducted.
- Qualify all sources of noise within each of the attended surveys, including estimated contribution or maximum level of the individual noise sources.
- Assess the noise emissions of Bloomfield Colliery and determine compliance with respect to the Consent Conditions contained in the Project Approval.

1.1 Acoustic Terminology

The following report uses specialist acoustic terminology. An explanation of common terms is provided in **Appendix A**.

2 PROJECT APPROVAL AND CONSENT CONDITIONS

Bloomfield Colliery Project Approval 07_0087

Project Approval was granted on 3 September 2009 for the Bloomfield Project (PA 07_0087). On 16 May 2011, the approval was granted for a modification to the Approval in accordance with Section 75W of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Approved Operations

PA 07_0087 allows Bloomfield to:

- Extract up to 1.3 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of run-of-mine (ROM) coal for 12 years.
- Transport this coal to the existing Bloomfield Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP).
- Progressively rehabilitate the site.

The 2011 modified approval subsequently allows Bloomfield to:

- Relocate the mine's power supply infrastructure.
- Establish a new haul road.
- Manage the mine's out-of-pit overburden emplacement requirements and improve on-site rehabilitation outcomes.

It is noted that the Bloomfield CHPP is consented under the Abel Coal Mine Project Approval.

Consent Conditions

The relevant conditions relating to noise from the PA 07_0087 are reproduced below.

Schedule 3 NOISE

Noise Impact Assessment Criteria

The Proponent shall ensure that the noise generated by the project does not exceed the noise impact assessment criteria in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Operator Noise Impact Assessment Criteria

<i>Morning Shoulder</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Evening</i>	<i>Night</i>	<i>Location and Locality</i>	
<i>L_{Aeq}(15min)</i>	<i>L_{Aeq}(15min)</i>	<i>L_{Aeq}(15min)</i>	<i>L_{Aeq}(15min)</i>	<i>L_{A1}(1min)</i>	
40	35	35	35	45	E Browns Road, Black Hill
42	35	35	35	45	F Black Hill Road, Black Hill
43	39	42	37	45	G Buchanan Road, Buchanan
35	35	35	35	45	H Mt Vincent Road, Louth Park
35	35	35	35	45	L Kilshanny Avenue, Ashtonfield
48	39	39	37	46	M John Renshaw Drive, Buttai
43	42	42	35	46	N Lings Road, Buttai

Notes

- To interpret the locations in Table 1, see Appendix 2.
- The limits in Table 1 are to apply under meteorological conditions of up to 3 m/s at 10 m above ground level, excluding F and G class inversions as described in the NSW Industrial Noise Policy.

However, if the Proponent has a written negotiated noise agreement with the landowner of any land, and a copy of this agreement has been forwarded to the Department and DECC, then the Proponent may exceed the noise limits in Table 1 on that land in accordance with the negotiated noise agreement.

Cumulative Noise Criteria

2. The Proponent shall take all reasonable and feasible measures to ensure that the noise generated by the project combined with the noise generated by other mines does not exceed the following amenity criteria at any residence on, or on more than 25 percent of, any privately owned land:

- L_{Aeq}(11 hour) 50 dB(A) – Day;
- L_{Aeq}(4 hour) 45 dB(A) – Evening; and
- L_{Aeq}(9 hour) 40 dB(A) – Night.

Continuous Improvement

3. The Proponent shall:

- implement all reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures;
- investigate ways to reduce the noise generated by the project; and
- report on these investigations and the implementation and effectiveness of these measures in the AEMR, to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

Monitoring

4. *The Proponent shall prepare and implement a Noise Monitoring Program for the project to the satisfaction of the Director-General.*

The Program must:

(a) be prepared in consultation with DECC and be submitted to the Director-General for approval within 6 months of the date of this approval; and

(b) include:

- a combination of unattended and attended monitoring measures; and*
- a noise monitoring protocol for evaluating compliance with the noise impact assessment criteria in this approval.*

Statement of Commitments

11. Noise Management and Monitoring

A Noise Management Plan shall be prepared and implemented for the project. The Plan will include mitigation and monitoring requirements for the project.

3 NOISE MONITORING METHODOLOGY

3.1 General Requirements

The operational noise monitoring program was conducted with reference to PA 07_0087, and in accordance with SLR Report 630.01573-R3R1 dated 16 September 2011 (*Bloomfield Coal Project Noise Monitoring Program*) and AS 1055:1997 *Acoustics - Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise*.

3.2 Monitoring Locations

Significant noise modelling and monitoring has been conducted for the seven (7) locations identified within **Table 1** of the consent conditions. With the experience of this previous work, five (5) noise monitoring locations have been identified to represent the potentially most affected receivers of noise emissions from Bloomfield Colliery operations. The details of the monitoring locations are given in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Noise Monitoring Locations

Noise Monitoring Location	Description
F	Lot 684 Black Hill Road, Black Hill
G	156 Buchanan Road, Buchanan
L	Kilshanny Avenue, Ashtonfield
M	John Renshaw Drive, Buttai
N	Lings Road, Buttai

A site map identifying the assessment and noise monitoring locations is presented in **Appendix B**.

3.3 Unattended Continuous Noise Monitoring

An environmental noise logger was deployed for a minimum of a seven (7) day period between 7 September 2015 and 14 September 2015 at each of the five (5) nominated locations given in **Table 2**. All unattended monitoring equipment was programmed to continuously record statistical noise level indices in 15 minute intervals including the L_{Amax}, L_{A1}, L_{A10}, L_{A90}, L_{A99}, L_{Amin} and L_{Aeq}. The statistical noise exceedance levels (LAN) are the levels exceeded for N% of the 15 minute interval. The L_{A90} represents the level exceeded for 90% of the interval period and is referred to as the average minimum or background noise level. The L_{A10} is the level exceeded for 10% of the time and is usually referred to as the average maximum noise level. The L_{Aeq} is the equivalent continuous sound pressure level and represents the steady sound level which is equal in energy to the fluctuating level over the interval period. The L_{Amax} is the maximum noise level recorded over the interval.

Instrument calibration was conducted before and after each measurement survey, with the variation in calibrated levels not exceeding ± 0.5 dB.

3.4 Operator Attended Noise Monitoring

Operator attended noise surveys were conducted at each of the five (5) noise monitoring locations during the day, evening and night-time periods to identify and quantify sources of noise that contributed to the overall ambient noise level. The measurements were conducted over a 15 minute period using an integrating sound level meter.

4 OPERATOR ATTENDED NOISE MONITORING

4.1 Equipment Location

Table 3 provides the operations log during the attended noise monitoring period and the locations of the plant operating on the Bloomfield open cut mine are shown in **Figure 1**.

Table 3 Operations Log

DATE	DIGGER			DUMPING		
	Day shift	Afternoon shift	Night shift	Day shift	Afternoon shift	Night shift
7/09/2015	SH12	SH12	SH12	D/S	A/S	N/S
8/09/2015	SH12	SH12	SH12	SH10	SH10	SH10

Figure 1 Bloomfield Operating Locations



4.2 Results of Operator Attended Noise Monitoring

Operator attended noise measurements were conducted during the daytime, evening and night on 7 September 2015. All operator attended noise surveys were conducted using a Brüel & Kjær 2250L Type 1, integrating sound level meter (s/n: 3005908).

The results of the operator attended noise measurements are given in **Table 4** to **Table 8**.

Ambient noise levels given in the tables include all noise sources such as traffic, insects, birds, and mine operations as well as any other industrial operations.

The tables provide the following information:

- Monitoring location.
- Date and start time.
- Wind velocity (m/s) and Temperature (°C) at the measurement location.
- Typical maximum (L_{Amax}) and contributed noise levels.

Mine contributions listed in the tables are from Bloomfield Colliery and are stated only when a contribution could be quantified.

Table 4 Location F, Lot 684 Black Hill Road, Black Hill

Date/Start Time/Weather	Measurement Description	Primary Noise Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)					Description of Noise Emission and Typical Maximum Levels LAmax – dBA
		LAmax	LA1	LA10	LA90	LAeq	
7/08/2015 13:04 PM W = 4.5 m/s WNW Temp = 22.5 °C Cloud cover = 0/8	Daytime Ambient	82	73	63	52	62	John Renshaw Drive 56 to 68 dBA Local Road Traffic 63 to 82 dBA Birds 57 to 60 dBA Trees in wind 50 dBA Bloomfield Colliery not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery LAeq(15min) contribution <42 dBA ¹							
7/08/2015 18:21 PM W = <1 m/s N Temp = 20.6 °C Cloud cover = 1/8	Evening Ambient	85	74	61	54	62	John Renshaw Drive 59 to 61 dBA Local Road Traffic 59 to 85 dBA Insects/frogs 51 to 55 dBA Bloomfield Colliery not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery LAeq(15min) contribution <44 dBA ¹							
7/08/2015 22:20 PM W = <1.5 m/s NW Temp = 14.9 °C Cloud cover = 0/8	Night-time Ambient	66	57	52	49	51	John Renshaw Drive 50 to 66 dBA Birds 52 to 53 dBA Insects/frogs 50 to 52 dBA Trees in wind 40 to 45 dBA Bloomfield Colliery not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery LAeq(15min) contribution <39 dBA ¹ LA1(1min) contribution <39 dBA ¹							

Note 1: Mine operation remained inaudible during operator attended noise measurement suggesting that any contribution would be at least 10 dB below the overall LA90 noise level.

Table 5 Location G, Buchannan Road, Buchannan

Date/Start Time/Weather	Measurement Description	Primary Noise Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)					Description of Noise Emission and Typical Maximum Levels LAmax – dBA
		LAmax	LA1	LA10	LA90	LAeq	
7/08/2015 14:43 PM W = <2.7 m/s NW Temp = 24 °C Cloud cover = 3/8	Daytime Ambient	71	47	42	38	42	Distant road traffic noise 38 to 40 dBA Dog barking 51 to 71 dBA Birds 42 to 44 dBA Trees in wind 41 to 46 dBA Aircraft flyover 45 to 50 dBA Bloomfield Colliery not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery LAeq(15min) contribution <30 dBA ¹							
7/08/2015 19:25 PM W = Calm Temp = 18 °C Cloud cover = 0/8	Evening Ambient	52	49	46	41	44	Distant road traffic noise 44 to 49 dBA Aircraft flyover 46 to 52 dBA Insects 40 to 42 dBA Air conditioner compressor 30 to 31 dBA Bloomfield Colliery not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery LAeq(15min) contribution <31 dBA ¹							
7/08/2015 23:23 PM W = <1 m/s WNW Temp = 14.1 °C Cloud cover = 0/8	Night-time Ambient	52	44	40	32	37	Distant road traffic noise 32 to 52 dBA Tree in wind 35 to 36 dBA Insects 33 to 36 dBA Bloomfield Colliery not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery LAeq(15min) contribution <30 dBA ¹ LA1(1min) contribution <30 dBA ¹							

Note 1: Mine operation remained inaudible during operator attended noise measurement suggesting that any contribution would be at least 10 dB below the overall LA90 noise level.

Table 6 Location L, 17 Kilshanny Ave, Ashtonfield

Date/Start Time/Weather	Measurement Description	Primary Noise Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)					Description of Noise Emission and Typical Maximum Levels L _{Amax} – dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{A1}	L _{A10}	L _{A90}	L _{Aeq}	
7/08/2015 15:17 PM W = <2.6 m/s NW Temp = 23.6 °C Cloud cover = 3/8	Daytime Ambient	90	72	56	38	60	Local Road Traffic 56 to 90 dBA Trees in wind 40 to 48 dBA Birds 44 to 67 dBA Distant road traffic 38 to 48 dBA Bloomfield Colliery not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery L _{Aeq} (15min) contribution <30 dBA ¹							
7/08/2015 19:55 PM W = Calm Temp = 16.9 °C Cloud cover = 0/8	Evening Ambient	81	59	46	34	51	Insects 36 to 38 dBA Aircraft flyover 40 to 42 dBA Local road traffic 45 to 81 dBA Nearby residences talking 50 to 55 dBA Abel Mine audible 30 dBA CHPP Bloomfield Colliery not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery L _{Aeq} (15min) contribution <30 dBA ¹							
7/08/2015 23:50 PM W = 1 m/s W Temp = 12.9 °C Cloud cover = 0/8	Night-time Ambient	52	40	36	31	34	Distant road traffic noise 28 to 52 dBA Air-Conditioning Plant 30 to 31 dBA Trees in wind 37 to 43 dBA Abel Mine audible 33 to 35 dBA CHPP Bloomfield Colliery not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery L _{Aeq} (15min) contribution <30 dBA ¹ LA1(1min) contribution <30 dBA ¹							

Note1: Mine operation remained inaudible during operator attended noise measurement suggesting that any contribution would be at least 10 dB below the overall L_{A90} noise level.

Table 7 Location M, John Renshaw Drive, Buttai

Date/Start Time/Weather	Measurement Description	Primary Noise Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)					Description of Noise Emission and Typical Maximum Levels L _{Amax} – dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{A1}	L _{A10}	L _{A90}	L _{Aeq}	
7/08/2015 13:33 PM W = 4.1 m/s NW Temp = 23.3 °C Cloud cover = 1/8	Daytime Ambient	65	60	58	51	55	John Renshaw Drive 52 to 65 dBA Trees in wind 50 to 60 dBA Birds 56 dBA Insects 35 to 36 dBA Bloomfield Mine not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery L _{Aeq} (15min) contribution <41 dBA ¹							
7/08/2015 18:40 PM W = <1 m/s N Temp = 17.6 °C Cloud cover = 1/8	Evening Ambient	72	66	60	48	57	John Renshaw Drive 58 to 72 dBA Insects 50 to 51 dBA Bloomfield Mine audible 35 to 40 dBA Haul trucks and material dump 47 dBA
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery L _{Aeq} (15min) contribution 38 dBA							
7/08/2015 22:40 PM W = 1 m/s W Temp = 14.3 °C Cloud cover = 0/8	Night-time Ambient	65	59	53	41	49	John Renshaw Drive 50 to 65 dBA Insects 38 to 41 dBA Trees in wind 41 to 43 dBA Bloomfield Colliery audible 36 to 48 dBA Haul trucks
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery L _{Aeq} (15min) contribution 37 dBA LA1(1min) contribution <45 dBA							

Note 1: Bloomfield remained inaudible during operator attended noise measurement suggesting that any contribution would be at least 10 dB below the overall L_{A90} noise level.

Table 8 Location N, Lings Road, Buttai

Date/Start Time/Weather	Measurement Description	Primary Noise Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)					Description of Noise Emission and Typical Maximum Levels LAmax – dBA
		LAmax	LA1	LA10	LA90	LAeq	
7/08/2015 14:12 PM W = 2.64 m/s WNW Temp = 23.2 °C Cloud cover = 2/8	Daytime Ambient	93	82	75	55	72	John Renshaw Drive 77 to 93 dBA Insect/frogs 38 to 43 dBA Lings road 76 dBA Birds 58 dBA Bloomfield Colliery not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery LAeq(15min) contribution <45 dBA ¹							
7/08/2015 19:00 PM W = <1 m/s N Temp = 17.6 °C Cloud cover = 0/8	Evening Ambient	85	79	70	48	67	John Renshaw Drive 67 to 85 dBA Insects 44 to 51 dBA Bloomfield Colliery not audible
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery LAeq(15min) contribution <38 dBA ¹							
7/08/2015 22:59 PM W = 1 m/s W Temp = 14.3 °C Cloud cover = 0/8	Night-time Ambient	88	81	67	40	67	John Renshaw Drive 74 to 88 dBA Insects 36 to 38 dBA Wind in trees 40 to 43 dBA Bloomfield Colliery audible 32 to 34 dBA Haul trucks
Estimated Bloomfield Colliery LAeq(15min) contribution <32 dBA LA1(1min) contribution <34 dBA							

Note 1: Bloomfield remained inaudible during operator attended noise measurement suggesting that any contribution would be at least 10 dB below the overall LA90 noise level.

4.3 Operator Attended Noise Monitoring Summary

4.3.1 Location F – Black Hill Road, Black Hill

Noise levels at Location F, were dominated by local traffic on Black Hill Road and distant traffic on John Renshaw Drive. Evening and night-time noise levels were also dominated by insect noise.

Bloomfield Colliery operations remained inaudible during all operator attended noise measurements suggesting that any contribution would be at least 10 dB below the overall LA90 noise level.

The estimated Bloomfield LAeq contribution was less than 42 dBA during the daytime, less than 44 dBA during the evening and less than 39 dBA during the night-time noise survey.

The estimated LA1(1minute) contribution of Bloomfield operations at Location F was less than 39 dBA during the night-time noise monitoring period.

4.3.2 Location G – Buchanan Road, Buchanan

Noise levels at Location G were dominated by bird and insect noise during the daytime, evening and night-time operator attended noise surveys. Distant road traffic on Buchanan Road and John Renshaw Drive also contributed to the overall ambient noise environment.

Bloomfield Colliery operations remained inaudible during the daytime, evening and night-time operator attended noise measurements. The estimated Bloomfield LAeq contribution less than 30 dBA during the daytime, less than 31 dBA during the evening and less than 30 dBA during the night-time.

The estimated LA1(1min) contribution of Bloomfield operations at Location G was less than 30 dBA during the night-time noise monitoring period.

4.3.3 Location L – Killshanny Avenue, Ashtonfield

Noise levels at Location L were dominated by road traffic on Kilshanny Avenue and neighbouring roads as well as insect and birds. Bloomfield Colliery operations were inaudible during all operator attended noise measurements suggesting that any contribution would be at least 10 dB below the overall LA90 noise level.

The estimated Bloomfield LAeq contribution was less than 30 dBA during the daytime, less than 30 dBA during the evening and less than 30 dBA during the night-time noise survey.

The estimated LA1(1min) contribution of Bloomfield operations at Location L was less than 30 dBA during the night-time noise monitoring period.

4.3.4 Location M – John Renshaw Drive, Buttai

Noise levels at Location M, were dominated by distant traffic on John Renshaw Drive as well as insect, birds.

Bloomfield Colliery operations remained inaudible during daytime operator attended noise measurements suggesting that any contribution would be at least 10 dB below the overall LA90 noise level. The estimated Bloomfield LAeq contribution was less than 41 dBA during the evening.

The Bloomfield Colliery was audible during the evening and night-time noise survey with an estimated LAeq contribution less than 38 dBA during the evening and 37 dBA during the night-time due to the operation of mobile plant.

The estimated LA1(1min) contribution of Bloomfield operations at location M was less than 45 dBA during the night-time noise monitoring period.

4.3.5 Location N – Lings Road, Buttai

Noise levels at location N were dominated by traffic noise from John Renshaw Drive as well as traffic from Lings Road and insects.

Bloomfield Colliery operations remained inaudible during daytime and evening operator attended noise measurement suggesting that any contribution would be at least 10 dB below the overall LA90 noise level. The estimated Bloomfield LAeq contribution was less than 45 dBA during the daytime and less than 38 dBA during the evening.

The Bloomfield Colliery was audible during the night-time noise survey with an estimated LAeq contribution 32 dBA.

The estimated LA1(1min) contribution of Bloomfield operations at location N was less than 34 dBA during the night-time noise monitoring period.

4.4 Compliance Assessment and Discussion of Results

4.4.1 Operations

Results of the operational noise compliance assessment are given in **Table 9**.

Table 9 Compliance Noise Assessment – Operations

Location	Estimated Bloomfield LAeq(15minute) Contribution			Consent Conditions LAeq(15minute)			Compliance		
	Day	Eve	Night	Day	Eve	Night	Day	Eve	Night
F – Black Hill Road, Black Hill	<42	<44	<39	35	35	35	N/A ^{1,2,3}	N/A ^{1,2,3}	Yes ^{1,2,3}
G – Buchanan Road, Buchanan	<30	<31	<30	39	42	37	Yes ^{1,2}	Yes	Yes ^{1,2}
L – Kilshanny Ave, Ashtonfield	<30	<30	<30	35	35	35	Yes ^{1,2}	Yes ^{1,2}	Yes ^{1,2}
M – John Renshaw Drive, Buttai	<41	38	37	39	39	37	Yes ^{1,2}	Yes	Yes
N – Lings Road, Buttai	<45	<38	<32	42	42	35	Yes ^{1,2}	Yes ^{1,2}	Yes

- 1 – Bloomfield operations inaudible/not measurable.
2 – Estimated contribution equals LA90 minus 10 dB.
3 – Mine owned Property

Results presented in **Table 9** indicate that compliance with the consent conditions was achieved at all attended noise monitoring locations during all periods with the exception of location F, M, and N.

The 'estimated Bloomfield LAeq(15minute) contributions' for locations F (Day, Evening and Night), M (day period) and N (day period) shown in **Table 9** do not indicate non-compliance with the site specific noise conditions. In this case, the LAeq descriptor does not adequately describe the likely noise source contribution - inaudible and immeasurable. The 'estimated' contribution aims to numerically express in lay terms that any site contribution is acoustically insignificant (no contributory pressure) to the measured ambient noise at the monitoring locations. For comparison, **Table 13** predicts the Bloomfield Colliery contribution at Location N during the day period as 36 dBA, within compliance by 6 dBA.

4.4.2 Sleep Disturbance

Results of the sleep disturbance compliance assessment are given in **Table 10**.

Table 10 Compliance Noise Assessment – Sleep Disturbance

Location	Estimated Bloomfield LA1(1minute) Contribution	Consent Conditions LA1(1minute)	Compliance
F – Black Hill Road, Black Hill	<39	45	Yes ^{1,2,3}
G – Buchanan Road, Buchanan	<30	45	Yes ^{1,2}
L – Kilshanny Ave, Ashtonfield	<30	45	Yes ^{1,2}
M – John Renshaw Drive, Buttai	<45	46	Yes

N – Lings Road, Buttai	<34	46	Yes
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- 1 – Bloomfield operations inaudible/not measurable.
- 2 – Estimated contribution equals LA90 minus 10 dB.
- 3 – Mine owned Property

Results presented in **Table 10** indicate that compliance with the sleep disturbance consent conditions was achieved at all locations during the night-time noise surveys.

5 UNATTENDED CONTINUOUS NOISE MONITORING

5.1 Results of Unattended Continuous Monitoring

Unattended continuous noise monitoring was conducted between 7 September 2015 and 25 September 2015 at each of the five (5) nominated locations given in **Table 2**. Details of the noise loggers used for the unattended continuous noise monitoring are given in **Table 11**.

As Location N is predominately dominated by road traffic along John Renshaw Drive, an alternate noise logger location was selected closer to Bloomfield operations. The alternative logger location allows a Bloomfield noise contribution to be measured at this location and a Bloomfield contribution to be calculated at Location N.

Table 11 Noise Logger and Noise Monitoring Locations

Location	Noise Logger Serial Number	Date of Logging
F – Black Hill Road, Black Hill	ARL EL- 316 16-203-508	7/09/2015-14/09/2015
G – Buchanan Road, Buchanan	ARL EL- 316 16-004-033	7/09/2015-14/09/2015
L – Kilshanny Ave, Kilshanny	ARL EL- 316 16-103-494	7/09/2015-14/09/2015
M – John Renshaw Drive, Buttai	Brüel & Kjær 2250-L 3003632	7/09/2015-14/09/2015
N – Alternative Logger Location 669 John Renshaw Drive, Buttai	ARL EL-316 16-203-508	15/09/2015-25/09/2015

The unattended ambient noise logger data from each monitoring location have been presented graphically on a daily basis and are attached as **Appendix C1 to C5**. A summary of the results of the unattended continuous noise monitoring is given in **Table 12**. The ambient noise level data quantifies the overall noise level at a given location independent of its source or character.

The measured ambient noise levels were divided into three periods representing day, evening and night as designated in the NSW Industrial Noise Policy (INP).

Precautions were taken to minimise influences from extraneous noise sources (eg optimum placement of the loggers away from creeks, trees, houses, etc), however, not all these sources or their effects can be eliminated. This is particularly the case during the warmer times of year when noise from insects, frogs, birds and other animals can become quite prevalent.

Weather data for the subject area during the noise monitoring period was obtained from the weather station located on the Bloomfield project site. Noise data during periods of any rainfall and/or wind speeds in excess of 5 m/s (approximately 9 knots) were discarded in accordance with INP weather affected data exclusion methodology.

Table 12 Unattended Continuous Monitoring Ambient Noise Levels (dBA Re 20 µPa)

Location	Period	LA1	LA10	LA90	LAeq
F - Lot 684 Black Hill Road, Black Hill	Daytime	69	58	42	60
	Evening	62	55	48	54
	Night	60	52	41	52
G -156 Buchanan Road, Buchanan	Daytime	49	44	35	42
	Evening	46	43	38	42
	Night	41	38	30	42
L – Kilshanny Avenue, Ashtonfield	Daytime	63	50	31	54
	Evening	57	42	33	51
	Night	44	36	27	44
M - John Renshaw Drive, Buttai	Daytime	57	52	43	52
	Evening	59	54	44	52
	Night	59	54	34	52
N – Alternative Logger Location 669 John Renshaw Drive	Daytime	55	52	44	52
	Evening	54	51	41	49
	Night	54	51	39	49

Note: EPA periods used for the INP are defined as Daytime - 7.00 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Saturday, 8.00 am to 6.00 pm Sunday; Evening - 6.00 pm 10.00 pm; Night - 10.00 pm to 7.00 am pm Monday to Saturday, 10.00 pm to 8.00 am Sunday.

5.2 Discussion

As discussed in **Section 4**, Bloomfield Colliery operations were audible during the evening and night at location M, and during the night at location N. All contributions from Bloomfield Colliery were measured to comply with the development consent noise levels at all monitoring locations.

Bloomfield Colliery operations remained inaudible during all other operator attended surveys.

Given observations made during the operator attended noise surveys, it is likely that noise levels at Locations F and M were dominated by road traffic noise from John Renshaw Drive and Black Hill Road as well as crickets, insects and bird noise during the evening and night-time periods.

Noise levels at Location G were dominated by natural noises, such as insects and psithurism, while at Location L noise levels were dominated by insects, local traffic and residential noise.

Noise levels at the alternative logger location N were dominated by Bloomfield operations. Taking into account distance and barrier attenuation from the pit wall, the noise levels at the logger location have been used to calculate the likely Bloomfield contribution at the residential receiver at location N.

The calculated Bloomfield Colliery contribution at Location N is presented in **Table 13**.

Table 13 Calculated Bloomfield Colliery Contribution at Location N

Location	Period	LA1	LA10	LA90	LAeq
Location N	Daytime	39	36	<30	36
	Evening	38	35	<30	33
	Night	38	35	<30	33

Based on the calculated noise levels presented in **Table 13** and observations made during the operator attended noise surveys it is likely that Bloomfield operations were compliant with the consent conditions at location N during the daytime, evening and night-time periods.

6 CONCLUSION

SLR was engaged by Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd to conduct operator attended and unattended noise monitoring for Bloomfield Colliery in accordance with the Project Approval requirements set by the DP&I.

Results of noise monitoring have indicated compliance with the consent conditions at all monitoring locations during the September 2015 monitoring period.

1 Sound Level or Noise Level

The terms “sound” and “noise” are almost interchangeable, except that in common usage “noise” is often used to refer to unwanted sound.

Sound (or noise) consists of minute fluctuations in atmospheric pressure capable of evoking the sense of hearing. The human ear responds to changes in sound pressure over a very wide range. The loudest sound pressure to which the human ear responds is ten million times greater than the softest. The decibel (abbreviated as dB) scale reduces this ratio to a more manageable size by the use of logarithms.

The symbols SPL, L or L_p are commonly used to represent Sound Pressure Level. The symbol LA represents A-weighted Sound Pressure Level. The standard reference unit for Sound Pressure Levels expressed in decibels is 2E-5 Pa.

2 “A” Weighted Sound Pressure Level

The overall level of a sound is usually expressed in terms of dBA, which is measured using a sound level meter with an “A-weighting” filter. This is an electronic filter having a frequency response corresponding approximately to that of human hearing.

People’s hearing is most sensitive to sounds at mid frequencies (500 Hz to 4000 Hz), and less sensitive at lower and higher frequencies. Thus, the level of a sound in dBA is a good measure of the loudness of that sound. Different sources having the same dBA level generally sound about equally loud.

A change of 1 dBA or 2 dBA in the level of a sound is difficult for most people to detect, whilst a 3 dBA to 5 dBA change corresponds to a small but noticeable change in loudness. A 10 dBA change corresponds to an approximate doubling or halving in loudness. The table below lists examples of typical noise levels

Sound Pressure Level (dBA)	Typical Source	Subjective Evaluation
130	Threshold of pain	Intolerable
120 110	Heavy rock concert Grinding on steel	Extremely noisy
100 90	Loud car horn at 3 m Construction site with pneumatic hammering	Very noisy
80 70	Kerbside of busy street Loud radio or television	Loud
60 50	Department store General Office	Moderate to quiet
40 30	Inside private office Inside bedroom	Quiet to very quiet
20	Unoccupied recording studio	Almost silent

Other weightings (eg B, C and D) are less commonly used than A-weighting. Sound Levels measured without any weighting are referred to as “linear”, and the units are expressed as dB(lin) or dB.

3 Sound Power Level

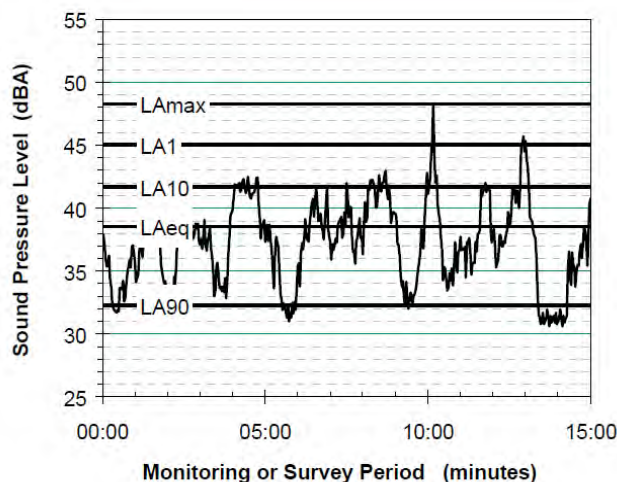
The Sound Power of a source is the rate at which it emits acoustic energy. As with Sound Pressure Levels, Sound Power Levels are expressed in decibel units (dB or dBA), but may be identified by the symbols SWL or LW, or by the reference unit 1E-12 W.

The relationship between Sound Power and Sound Pressure may be likened to an electric radiator, which is characterised by a power rating, but has an effect on the surrounding environment that can be measured in terms of a different parameter, temperature.

4 Statistical Noise Levels

Sounds that vary in level over time, such as road traffic noise and most community noise, are commonly described in terms of the statistical exceedance levels L_{AN}, where L_{AN} is the A-weighted sound pressure level exceeded for N% of a given measurement period. For example, the L_{A1} is the noise level exceeded for 1% of the time, L_{A10} the noise level exceeded for 10% of the time, and so on.

The following figure presents a hypothetical 15 minute noise survey, illustrating various common statistical indices of interest.



Of particular relevance, are:

- L_{A1} The noise level exceeded for 1% of the 15 minute interval.
- L_{A10} The noise level exceeded for 10% of the 15 minute interval. This is commonly referred to as the average maximum noise level.
- L_{A90} The noise level exceeded for 90% of the sample period. This noise level is described as the average minimum background sound level (in the absence of the source under consideration), or simply the background level.
- L_{Aeq} The A-weighted equivalent noise level (basically the average noise level). It is defined as the steady sound level that contains the same amount of acoustical energy as the corresponding time-varying sound.

When dealing with numerous days of statistical noise data, it is sometimes necessary to define the typical noise levels at a given monitoring location for a particular time of day. A standardised method is available for determining these representative levels.

This method produces a level representing the “repeatable minimum” L_{A90} noise level over the daytime and night-time measurement periods, as required by the EPA. In addition the method produces mean or “average” levels representative of the other descriptors (L_{Aeq}, L_{A10}, etc).

5 Tonality

Tonal noise contains one or more prominent tones (ie distinct frequency components), and is normally regarded as more offensive than “broad band” noise.

6 Impulsiveness

An impulsive noise is characterised by one or more short sharp peaks in the time domain, such as occurs during hammering.

7 Frequency Analysis

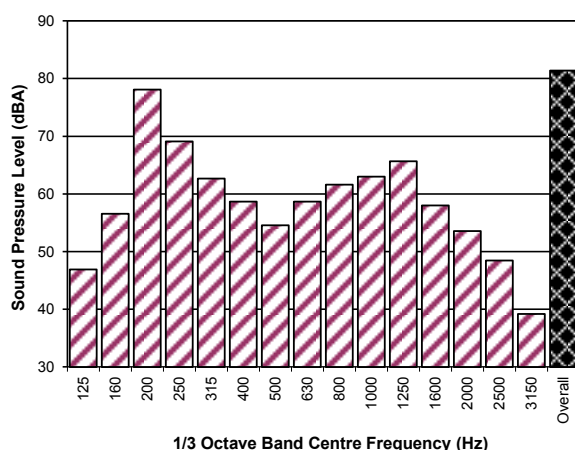
Frequency analysis is the process used to examine the tones (or frequency components) which make up the overall noise or vibration signal. This analysis was traditionally carried out using analogue electronic filters, but is now normally carried out using Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) analysers.

The units for frequency are Hertz (Hz), which represent the number of cycles per second.

Frequency analysis can be in:

- Octave bands (where the centre frequency and width of each band is double the previous band)
- 1/3 octave bands (3 bands in each octave band)
- Narrow band (where the spectrum is divided into 400 or more bands of equal width)

The following figure shows a 1/3 octave band frequency analysis where the noise is dominated by the 200 Hz band. Note that the indicated level of each individual band is less than the overall level, which is the logarithmic sum of the bands.



8 Vibration

Vibration may be defined as cyclic or transient motion. This motion can be measured in terms of its displacement, velocity or acceleration. Most assessments of human response to vibration or the risk of damage to buildings use measurements of vibration velocity. These may be expressed in terms of “peak” velocity or “rms” velocity.

The former is the maximum instantaneous velocity, without any averaging, and is sometimes referred to as “peak particle velocity”, or PPV. The latter incorporates “root mean squared” averaging over some defined time period.

Vibration measurements may be carried out in a single axis or alternatively as triaxial measurements. Where triaxial measurements are used, the axes are commonly designated vertical, longitudinal (aligned toward the source) and transverse.

The common units for velocity are millimetres per second (mm/s). As with noise, decibel units can also be used, in which case the reference level should always be stated. A vibration level V , expressed in mm/s can be converted to decibels by the formula $20 \log (V/V_0)$, where V_0 is the reference level (1E-6 mm/s). Care is required in this regard, as other reference levels are used by some organizations.

9 Human Perception of Vibration

People are able to “feel” vibration at levels lower than those required to cause even superficial damage to the most susceptible classes of building (even though they may not be disturbed by the motion). An individual's perception of motion or response to vibration depends very strongly on previous experience and expectations, and on other connotations associated with the perceived source of the vibration. For example, the vibration that a person responds to as “normal” in a car, bus or train is considerably higher than what is perceived as “normal” in a shop, office or dwelling.

10 Over-Pressure

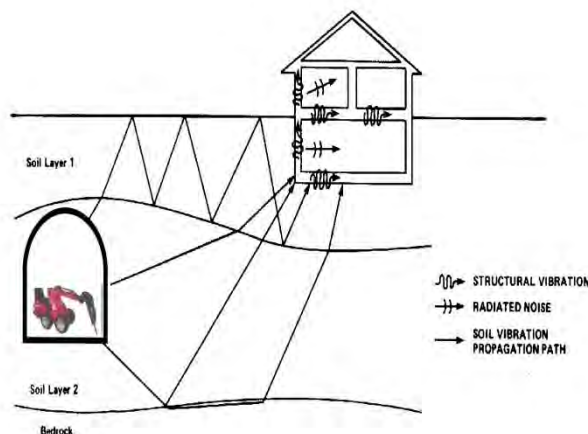
The term “over-pressure” is used to describe the air pressure pulse emitted during blasting or similar events. The peak level of an event is normally measured using a microphone in the same manner as linear noise (ie unweighted), at frequencies both in and below the audible range.

11 Regenerated Noise

Noise that propagates through a structure as vibration and is radiated by vibrating wall and floor surfaces is termed “regenerated noise”, “structure-borne noise”, or sometimes “ground-borne noise”. Regenerated noise originates as vibration and propagates between the source and receiver through the ground and/or building structural elements, rather than through the air.

Typical sources of regenerated noise include tunnelling works, underground railways, excavation plant (eg rockbreakers), and building services plant (eg fans, compressors and generators).

The following figure presents the various paths by which vibration and regenerated noise may be transmitted between a source and receiver for construction activities occurring within a tunnel.



The term “regenerated noise” is also used to describe other types of noise that are emitted from the primary source as a different form of energy. One example would be a fan with a silencer, where the fan is the energy source and primary noise source. The silencer may effectively reduce the fan noise, but some additional noise may be created by the aerodynamic effect of the silencer in the airstream. This “secondary” noise may be referred to as regenerated noise.

Appendix B

Noise Monitoring Location Map

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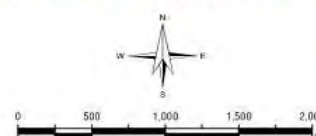


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LEGEND

Noise Monitoring Locations



Donaldson Coal

Noise Monitoring

Noise Monitoring Locations

APPENDIX A

Appendix C1

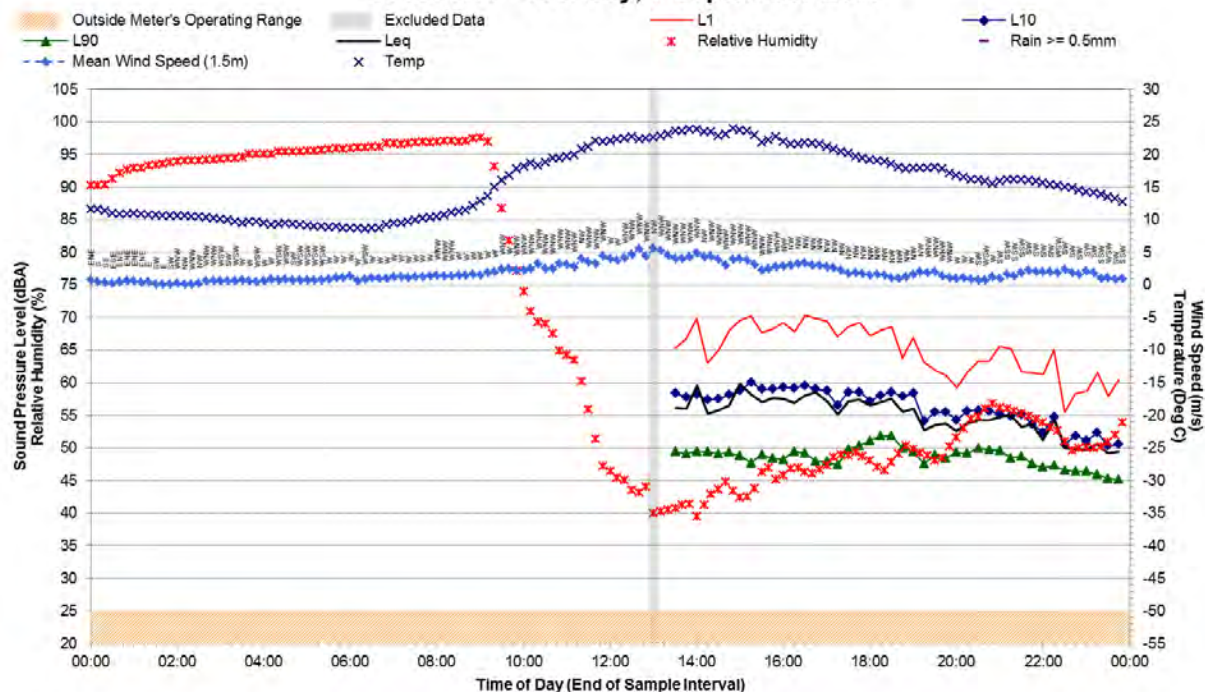
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location F

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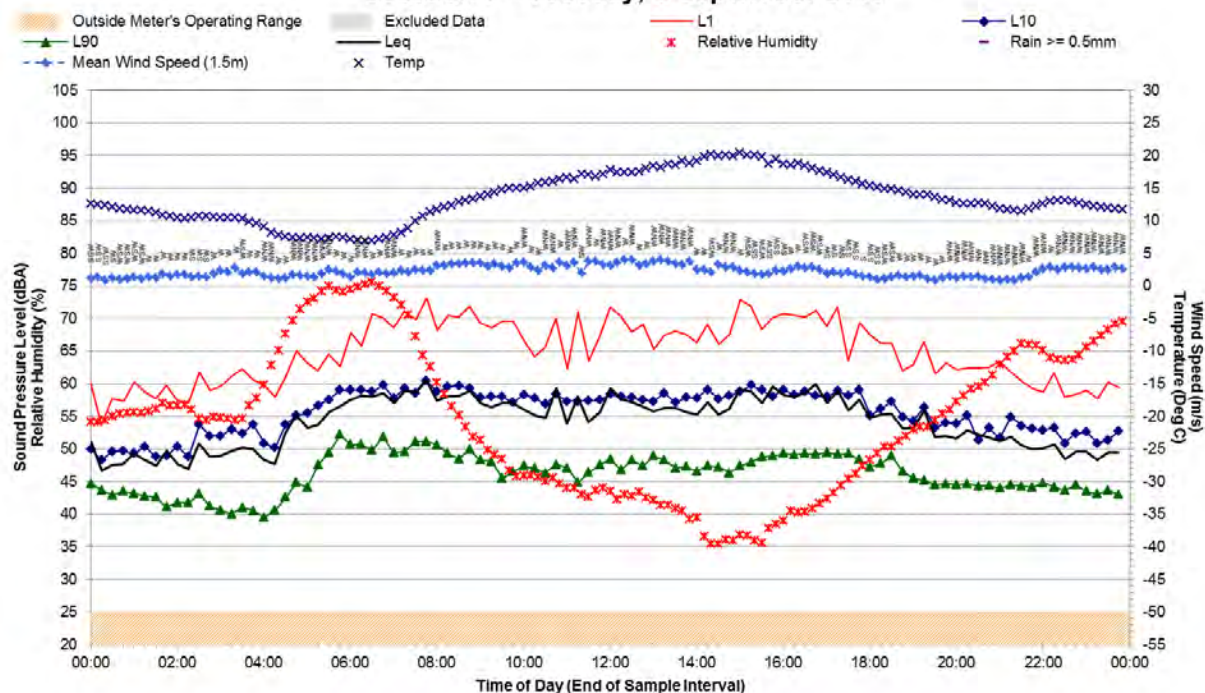
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location F - Monday, 7 September 2015



Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location F - Tuesday, 8 September 2015

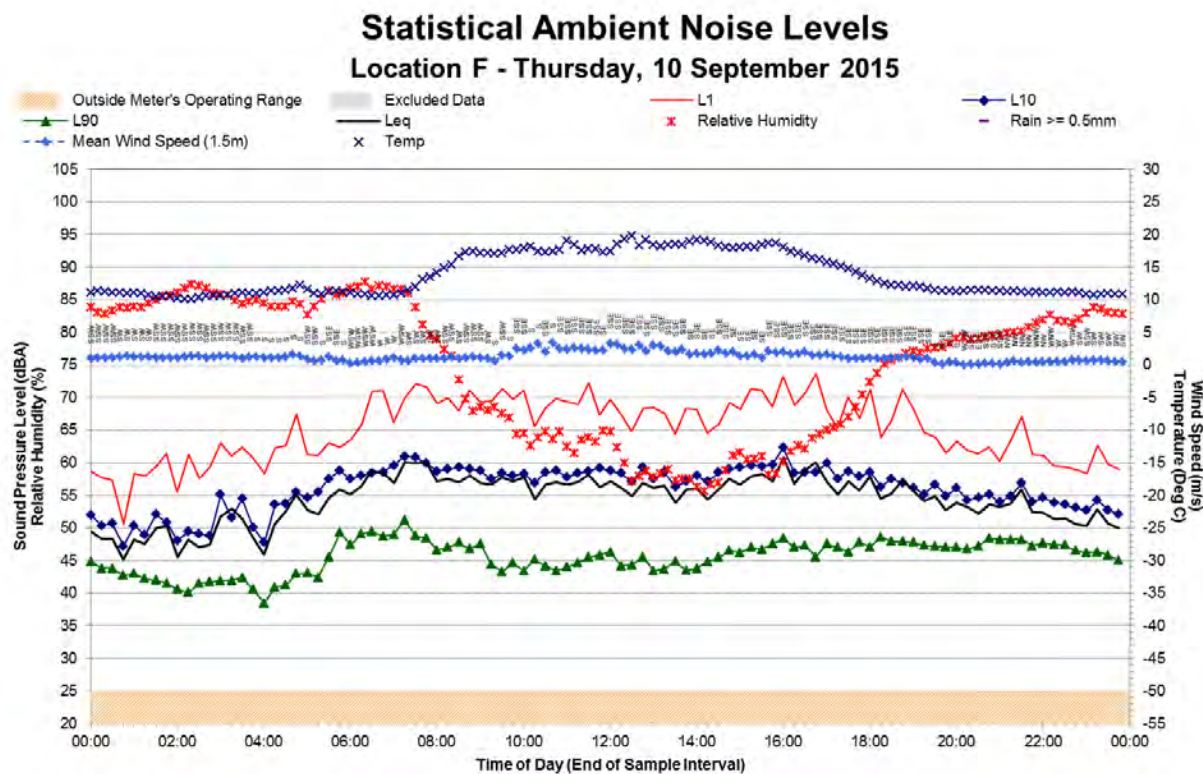
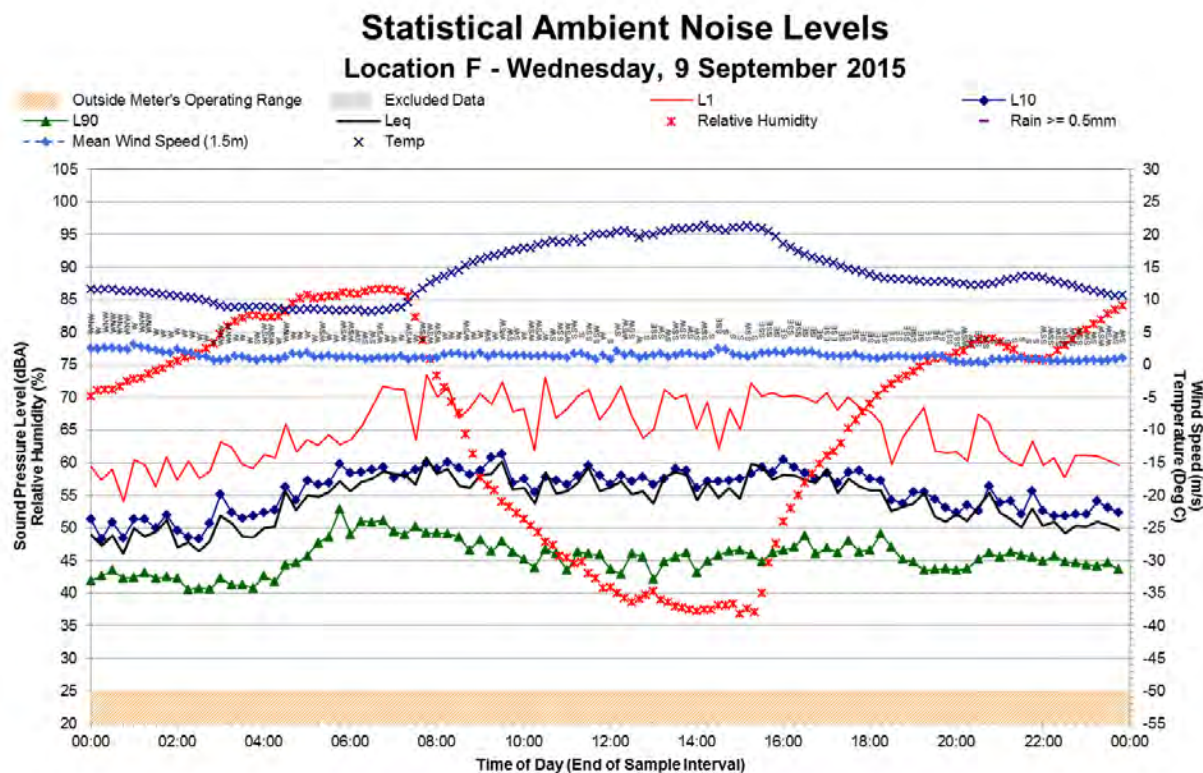


Appendix C1

Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location F

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Appendix C1

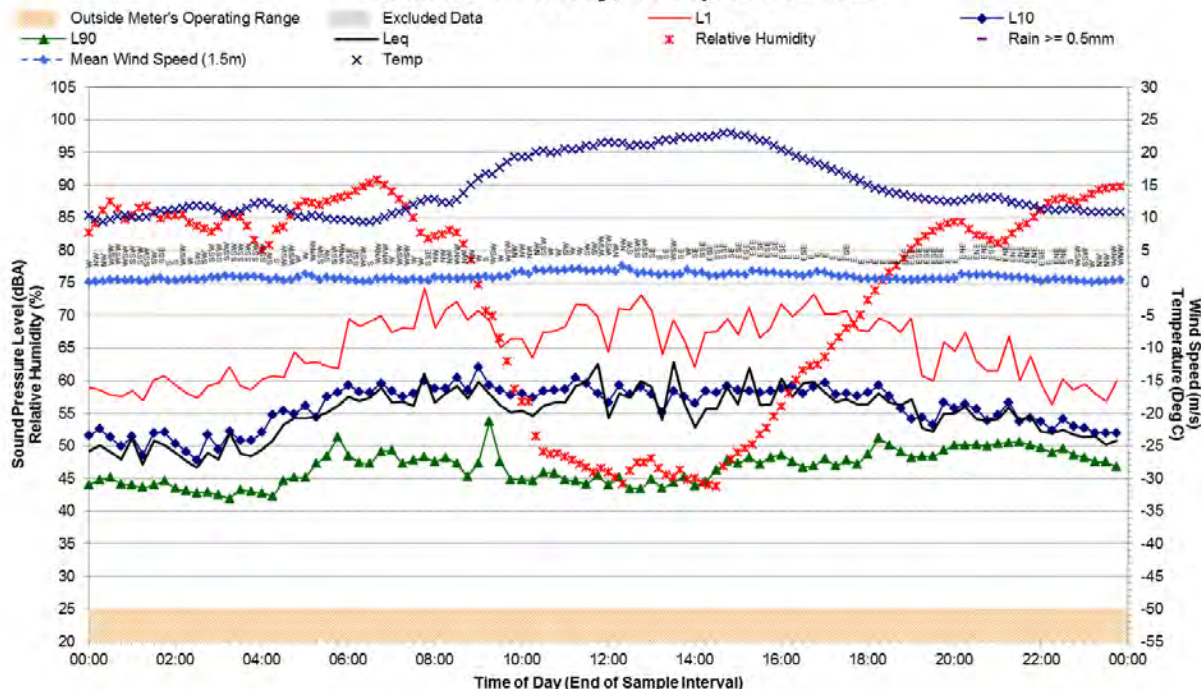
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location F

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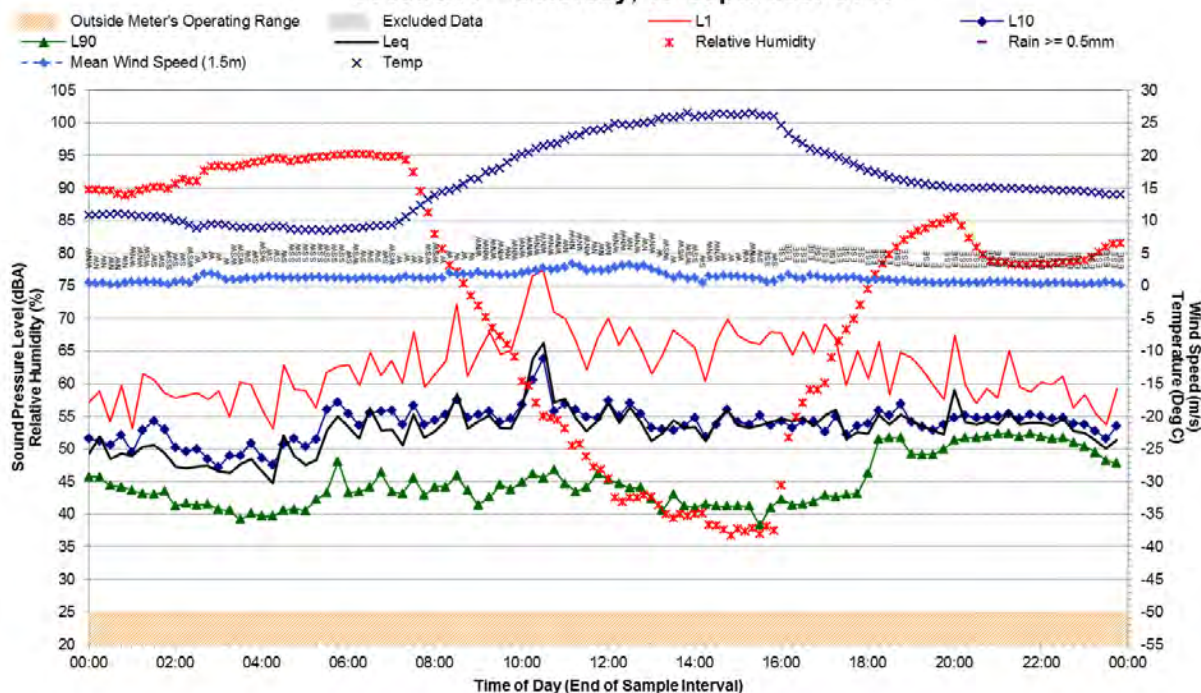
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location F - Friday, 11 September 2015



Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location F - Saturday, 12 September 2015



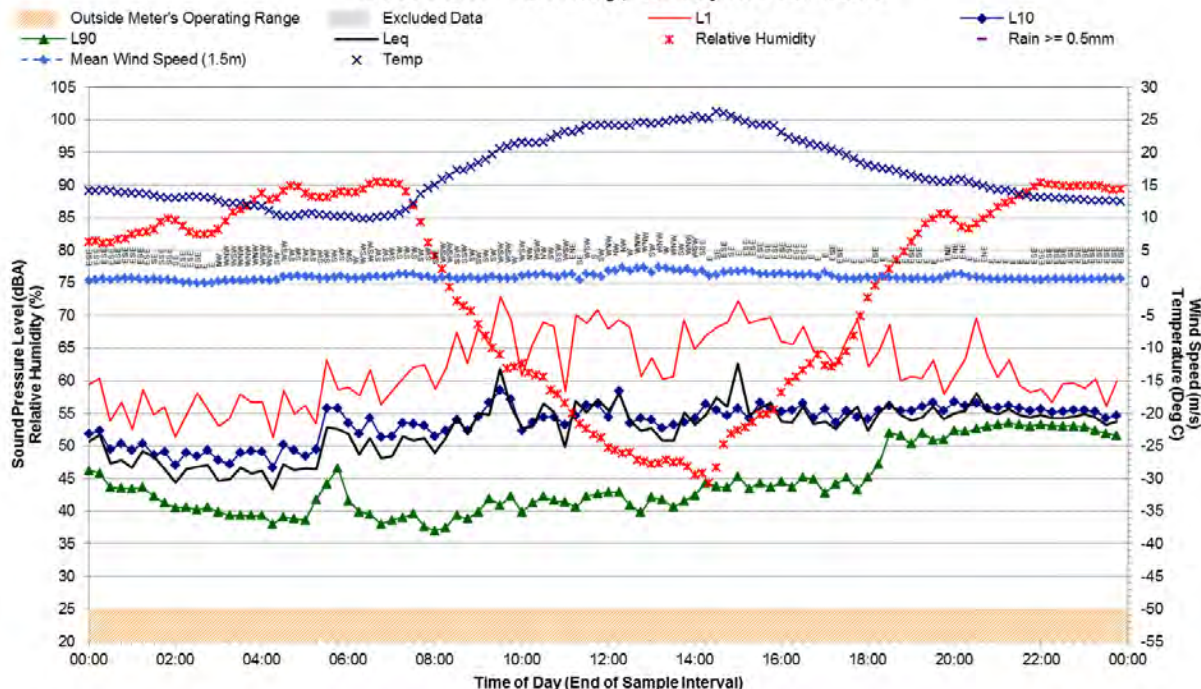
Appendix C1

Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location F

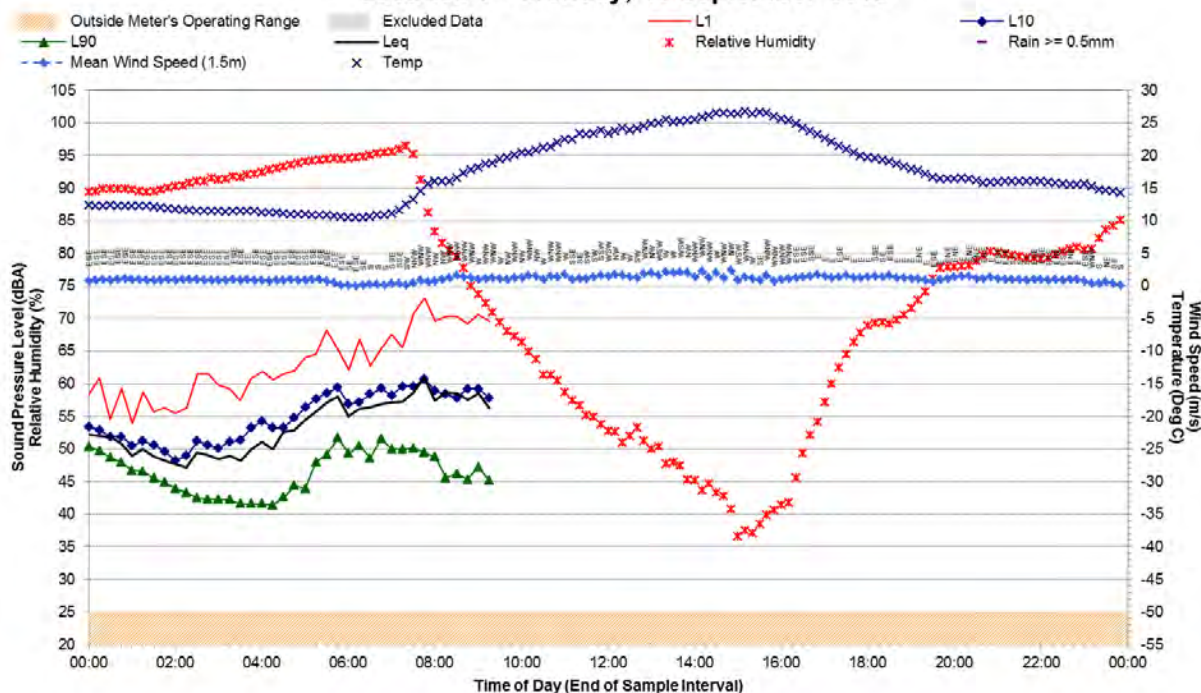
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Statistical Ambient Noise Levels Location F - Sunday, 13 September 2015



Statistical Ambient Noise Levels Location F - Monday, 14 September 2015



Appendix C2

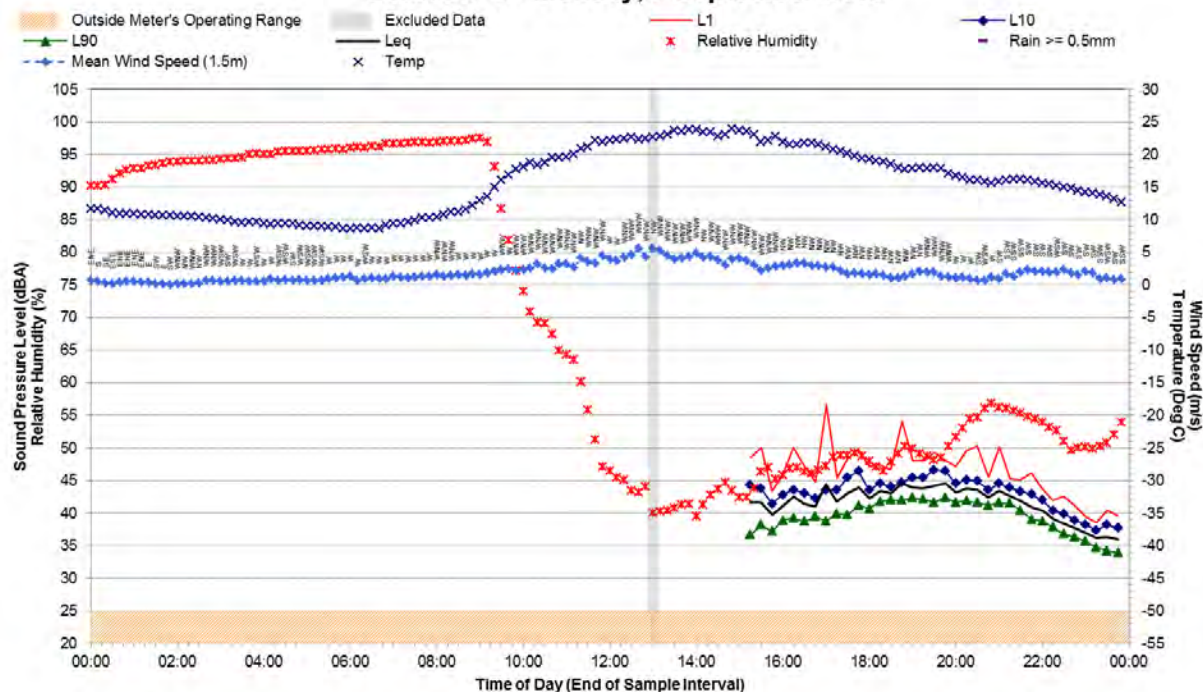
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location G

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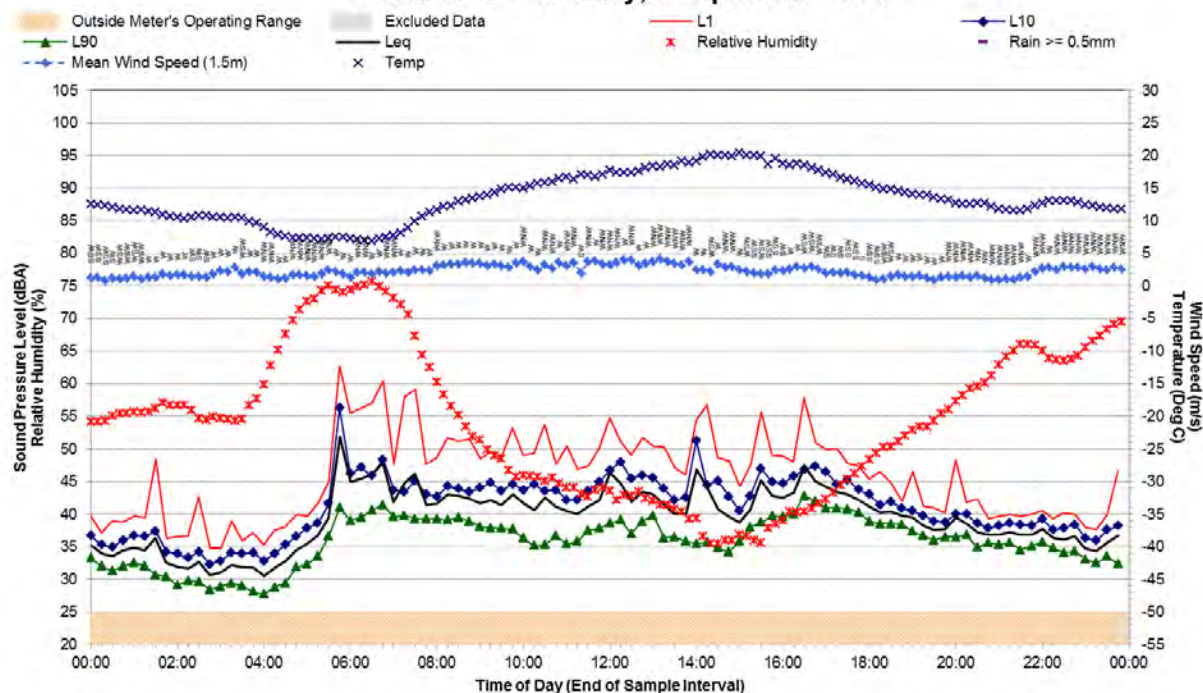
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location G - Monday, 7 September 2015



Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location G - Tuesday, 8 September 2015

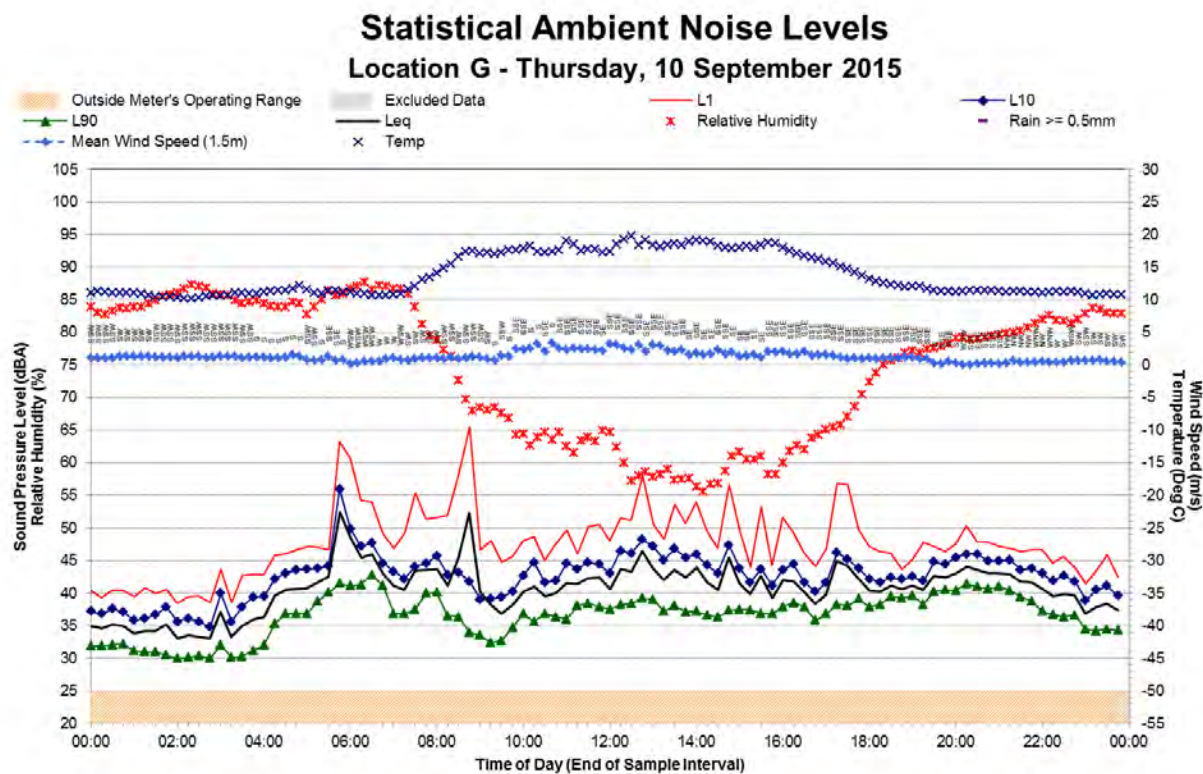
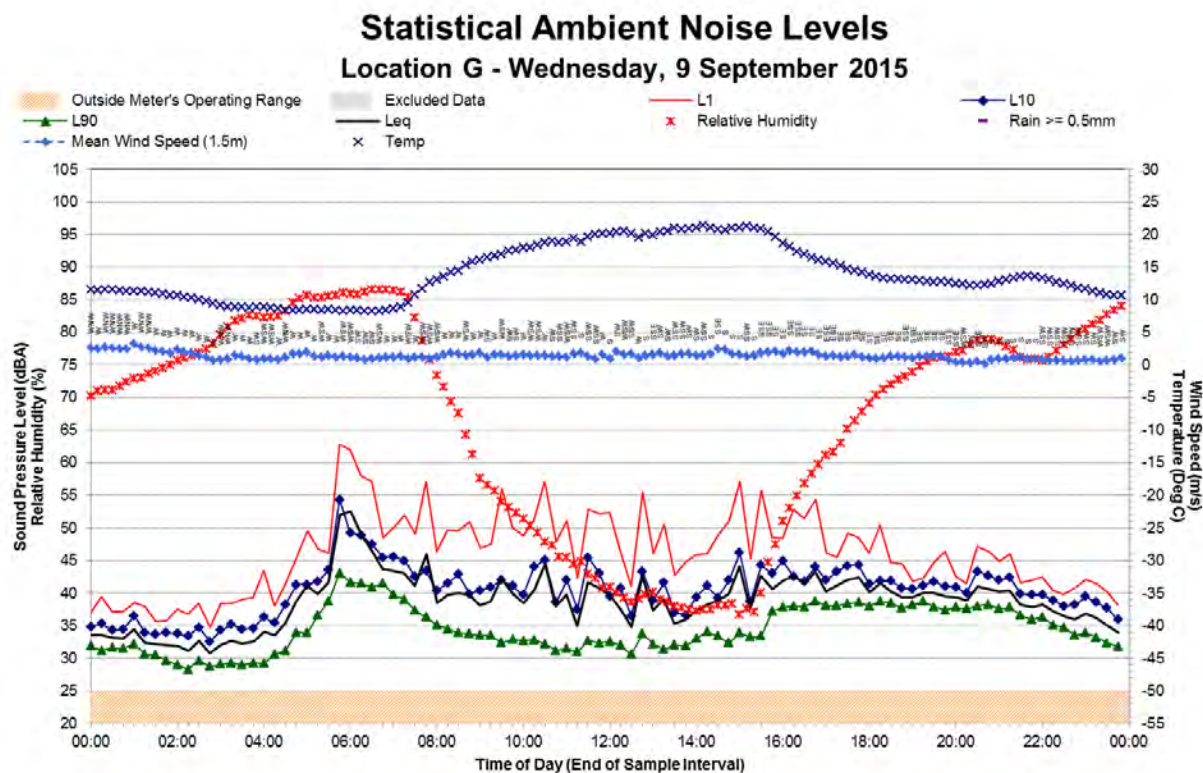


Appendix C2

Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location G

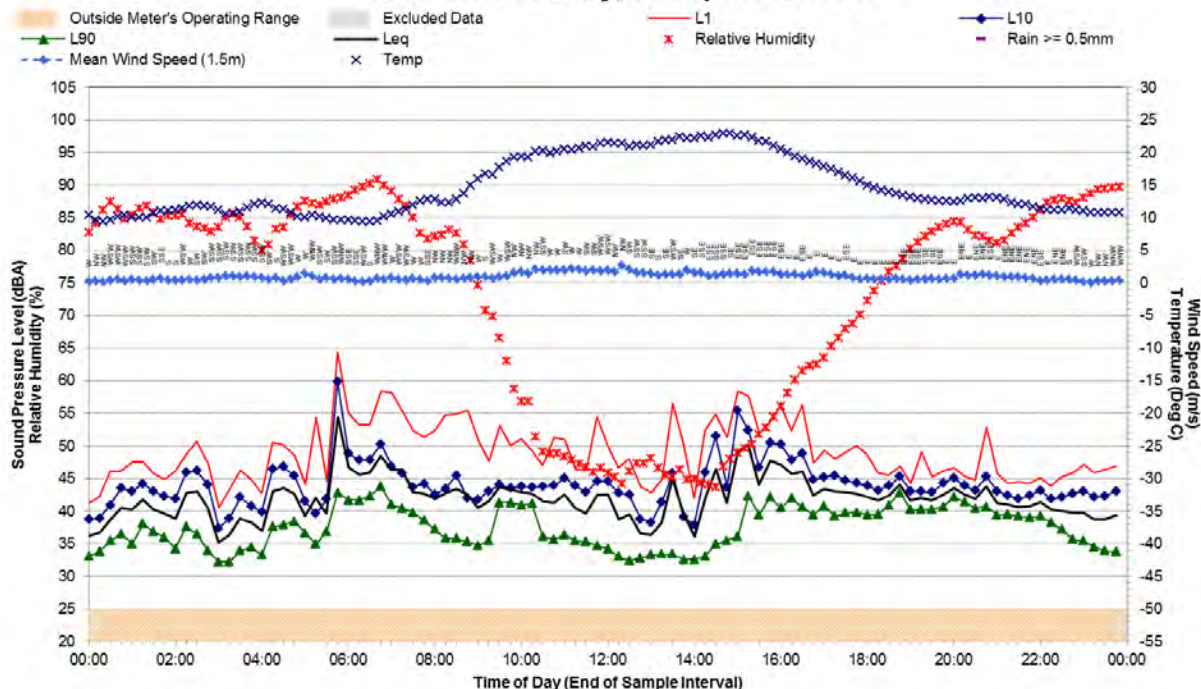
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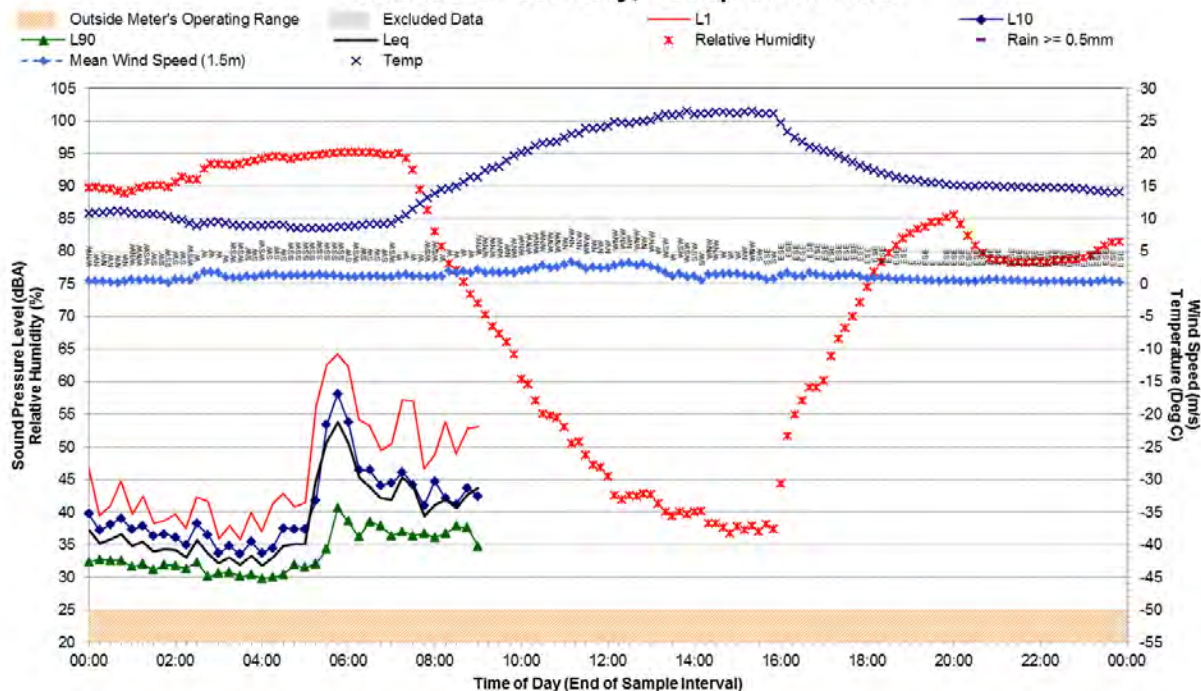
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location G - Friday, 11 September 2015



Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location G - Saturday, 12 September 2015



Appendix C3

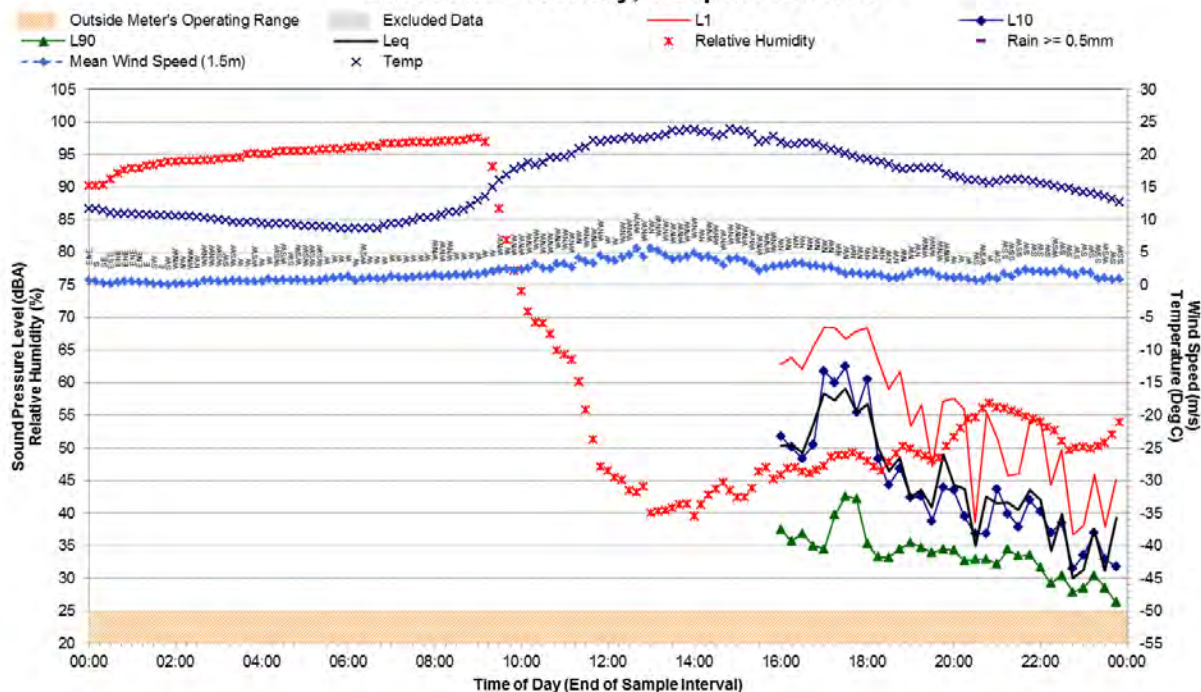
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location L

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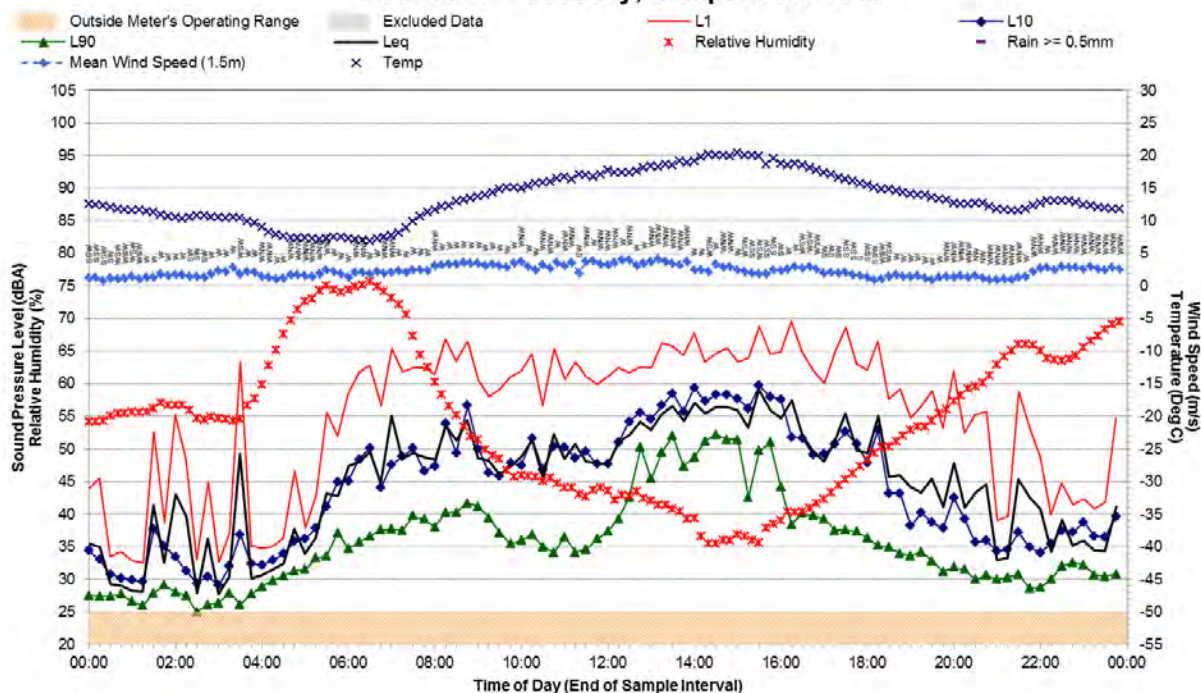
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location L - Monday, 7 September 2015

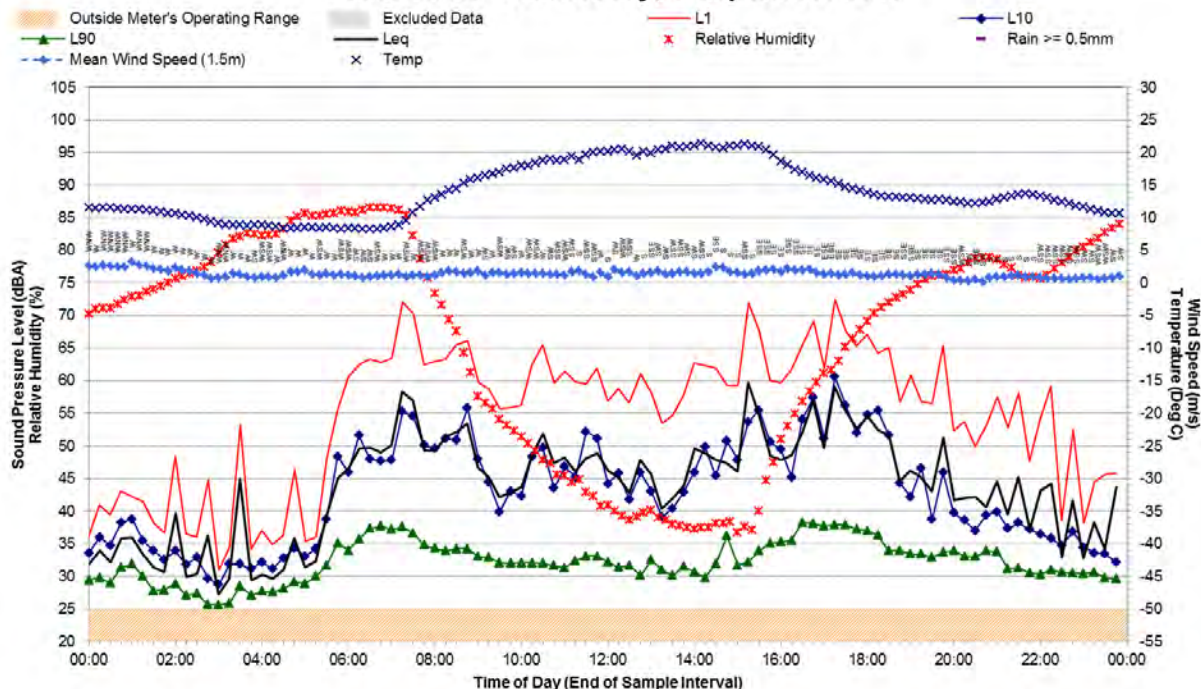


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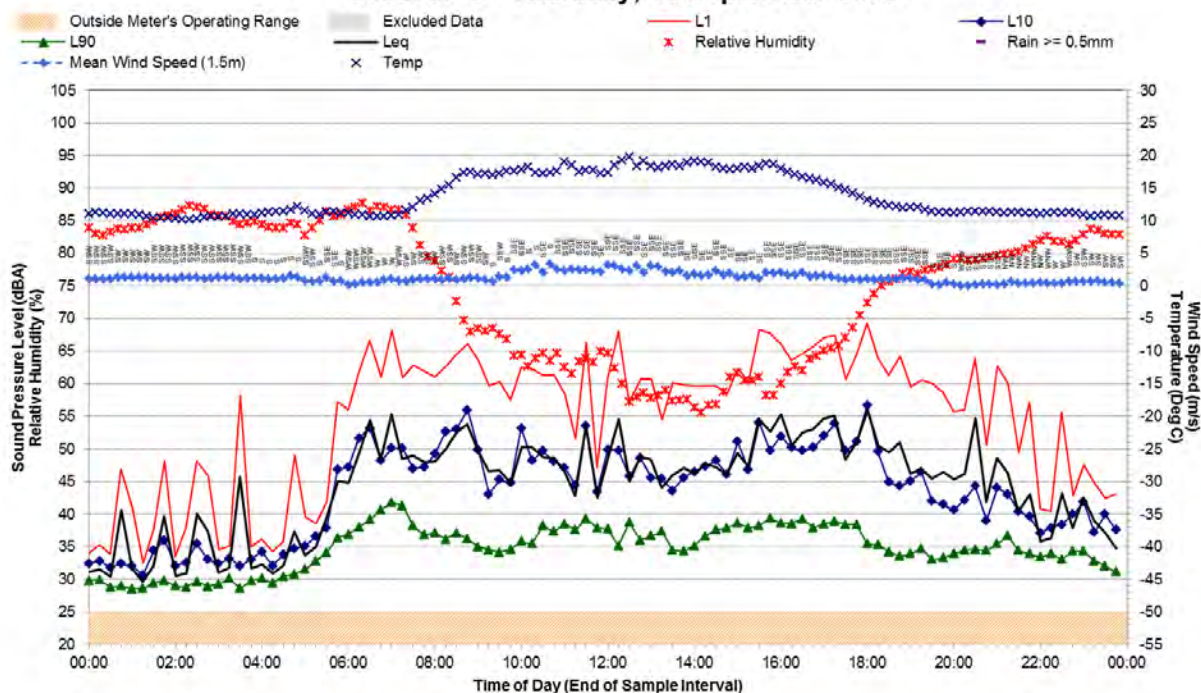
Location L - Tuesday, 8 September 2015



Statistical Ambient Noise Levels Location L - Wednesday, 9 September 2015

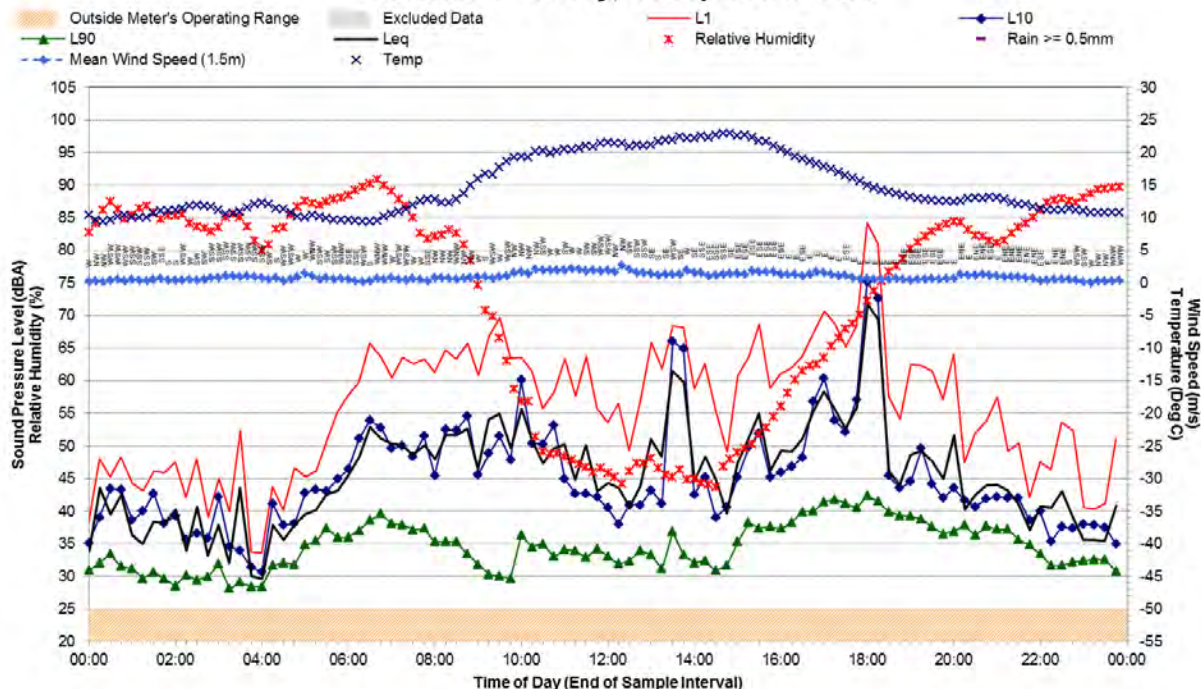


Statistical Ambient Noise Levels Location L - Thursday, 10 September 2015



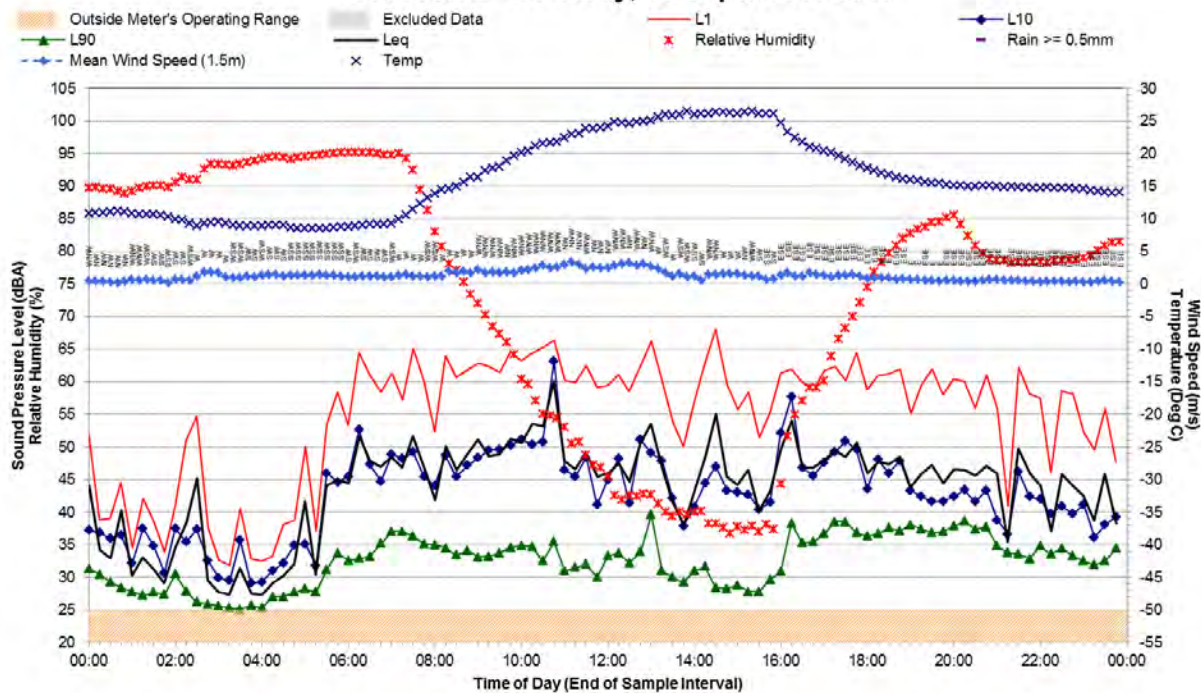
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Location L - Friday, 11 September 2015



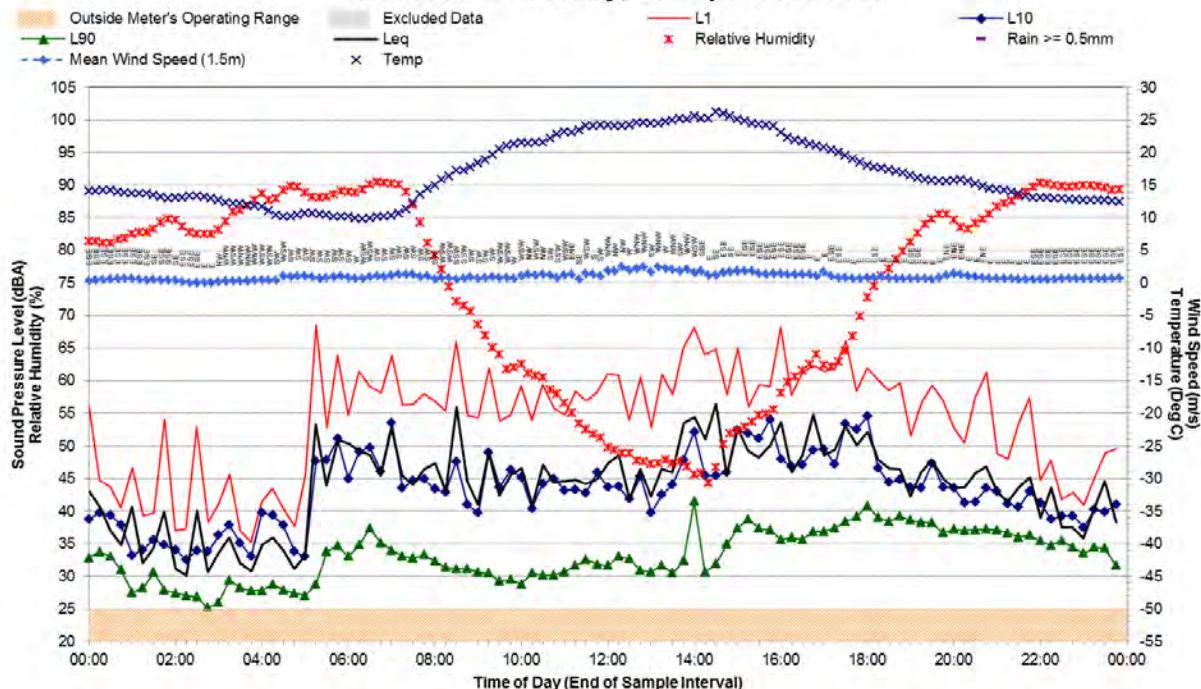
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location L - Saturday, 12 September 2015



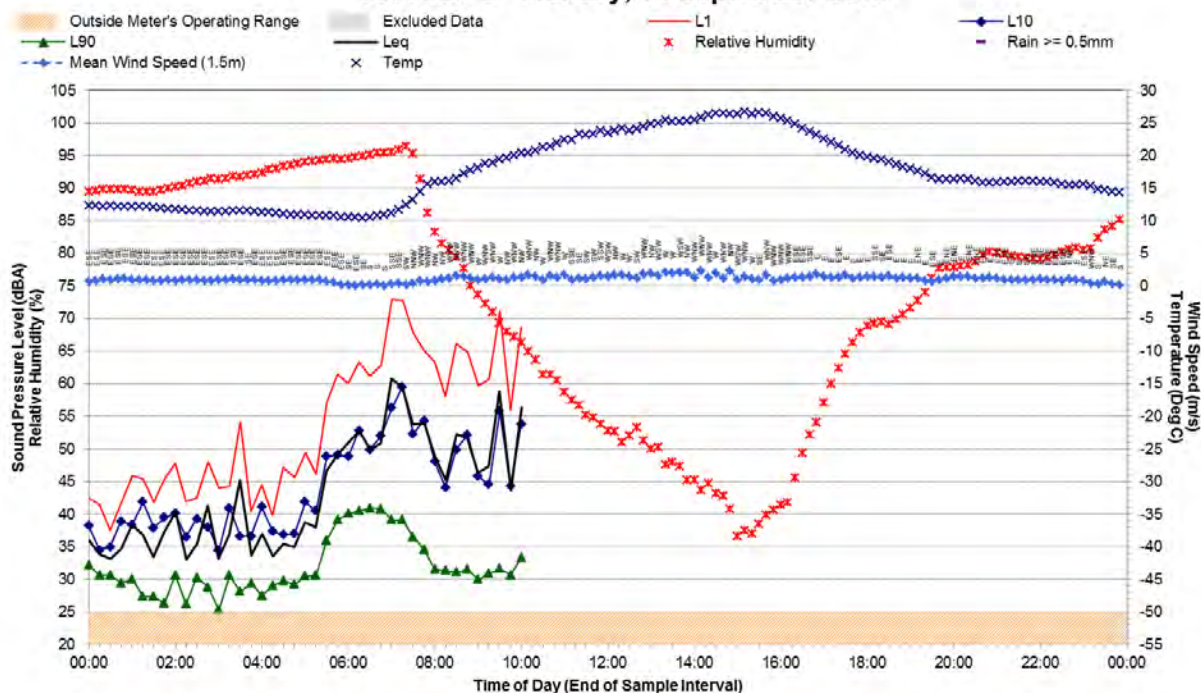
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Location L - Sunday, 13 September 2015



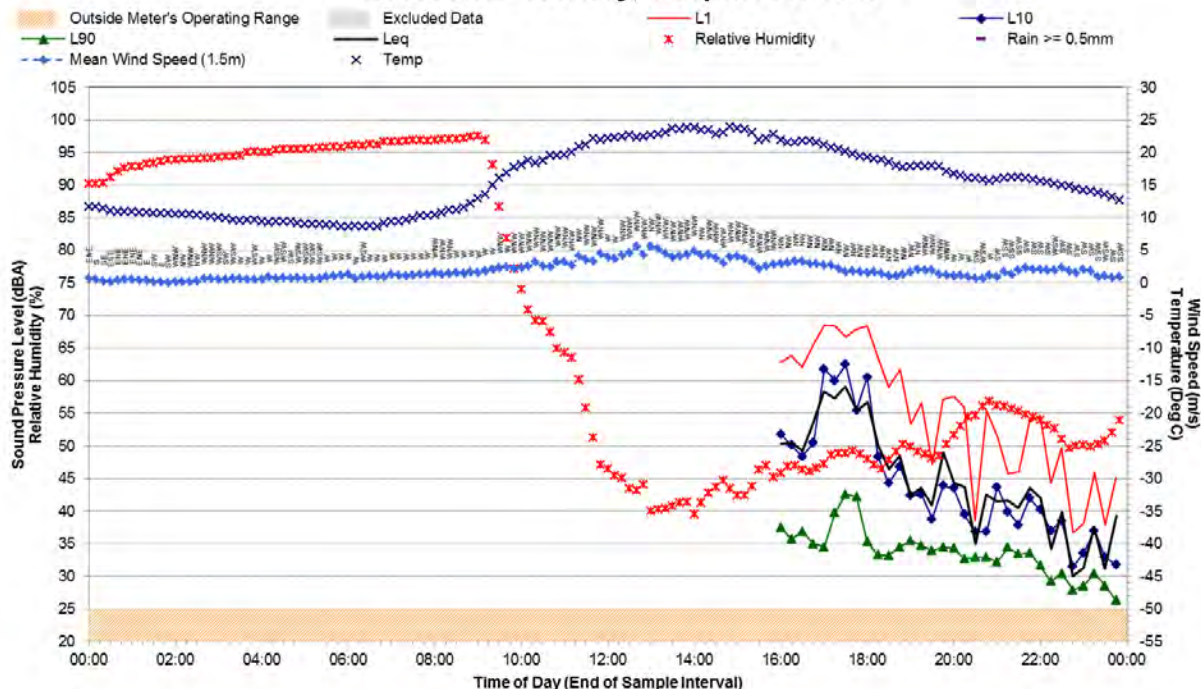
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location L - Monday, 14 September 2015



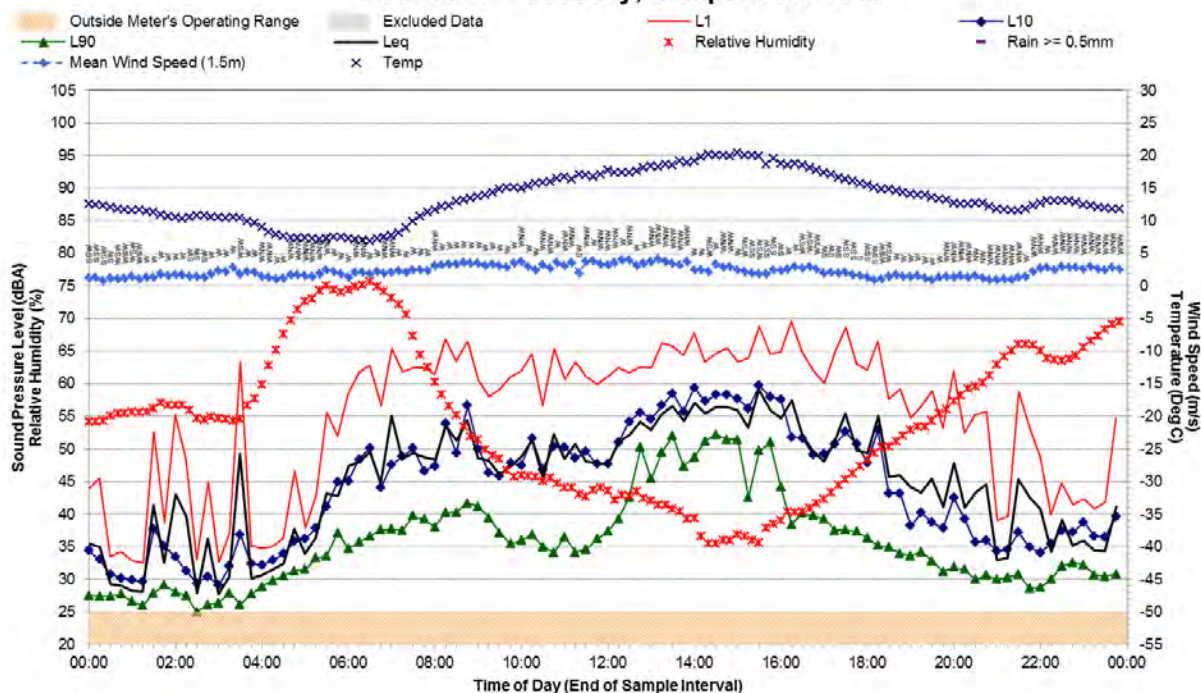
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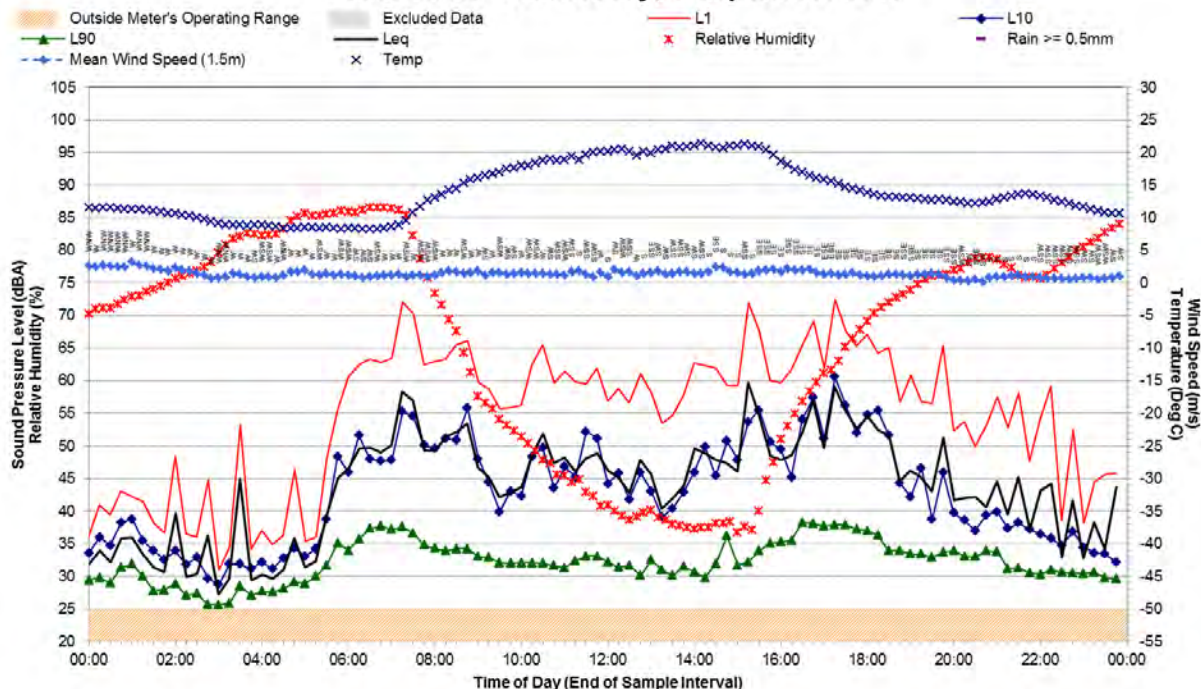


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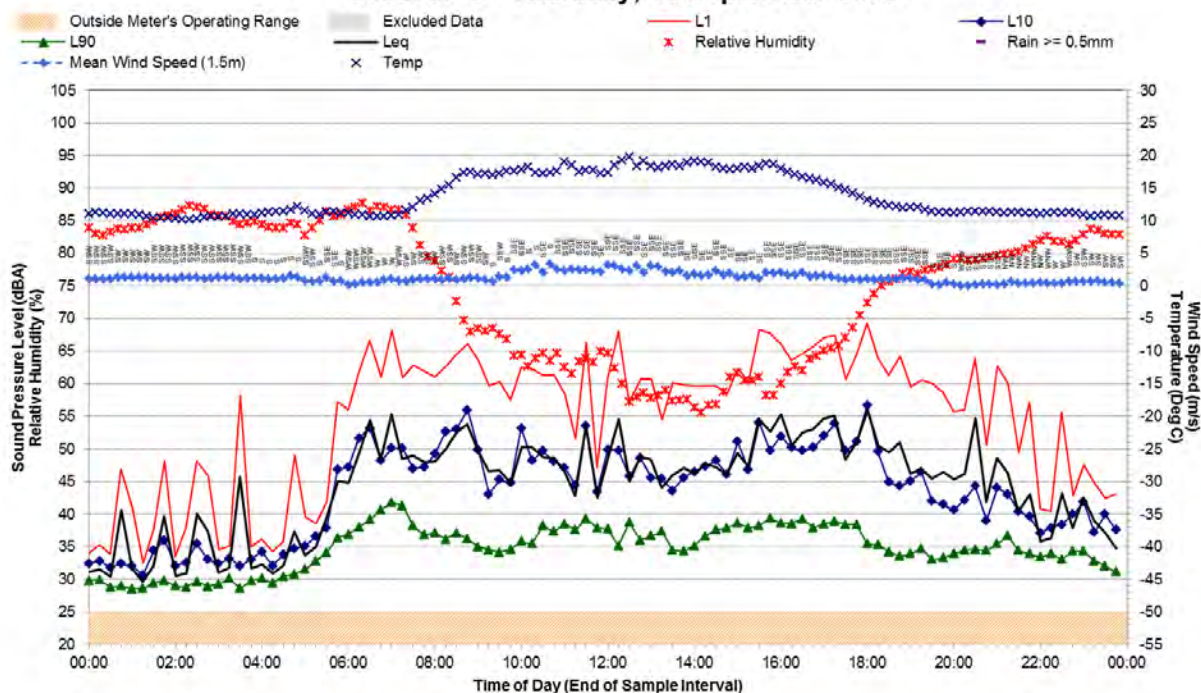
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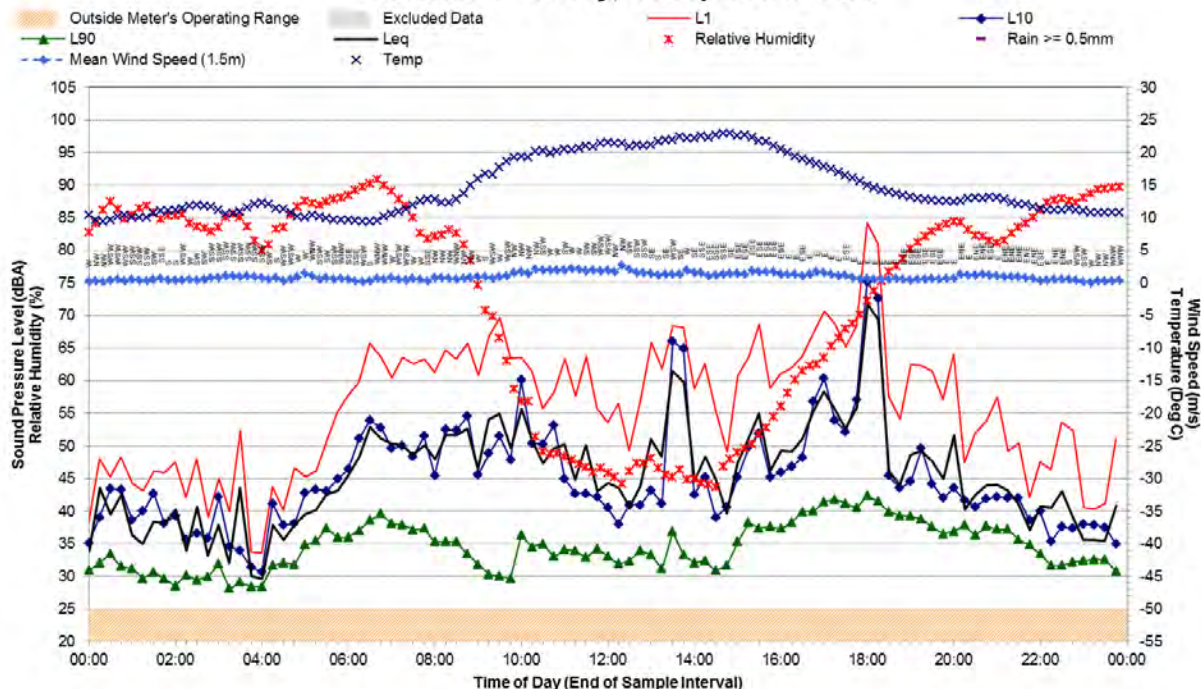


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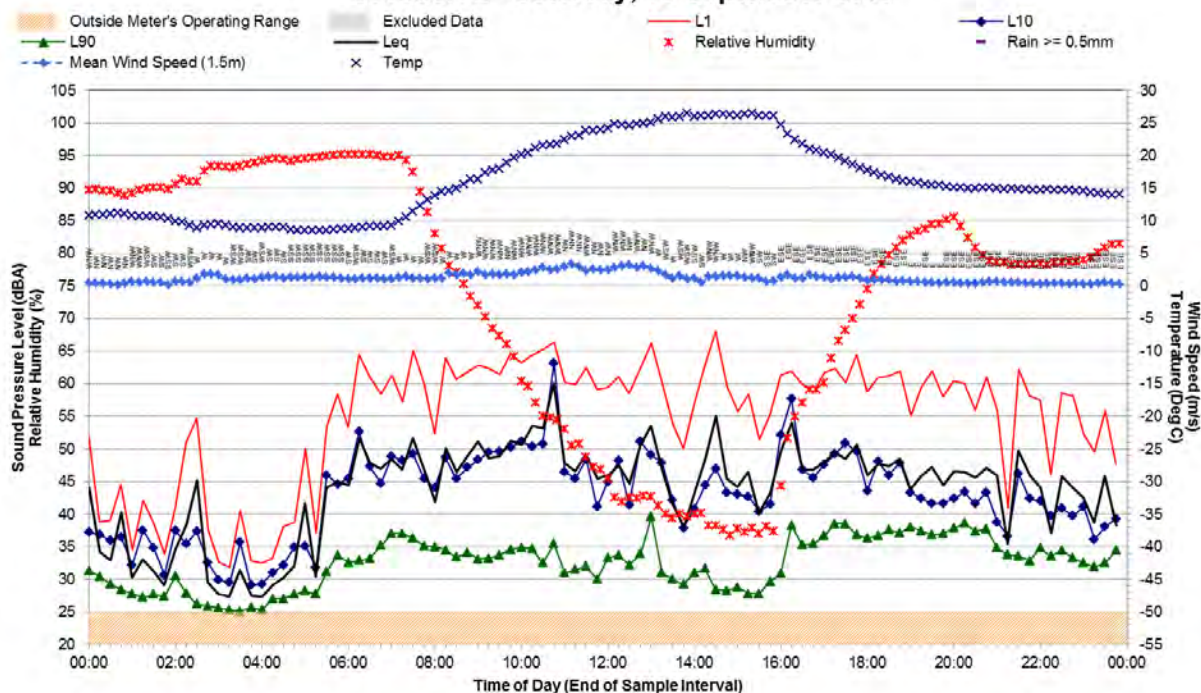
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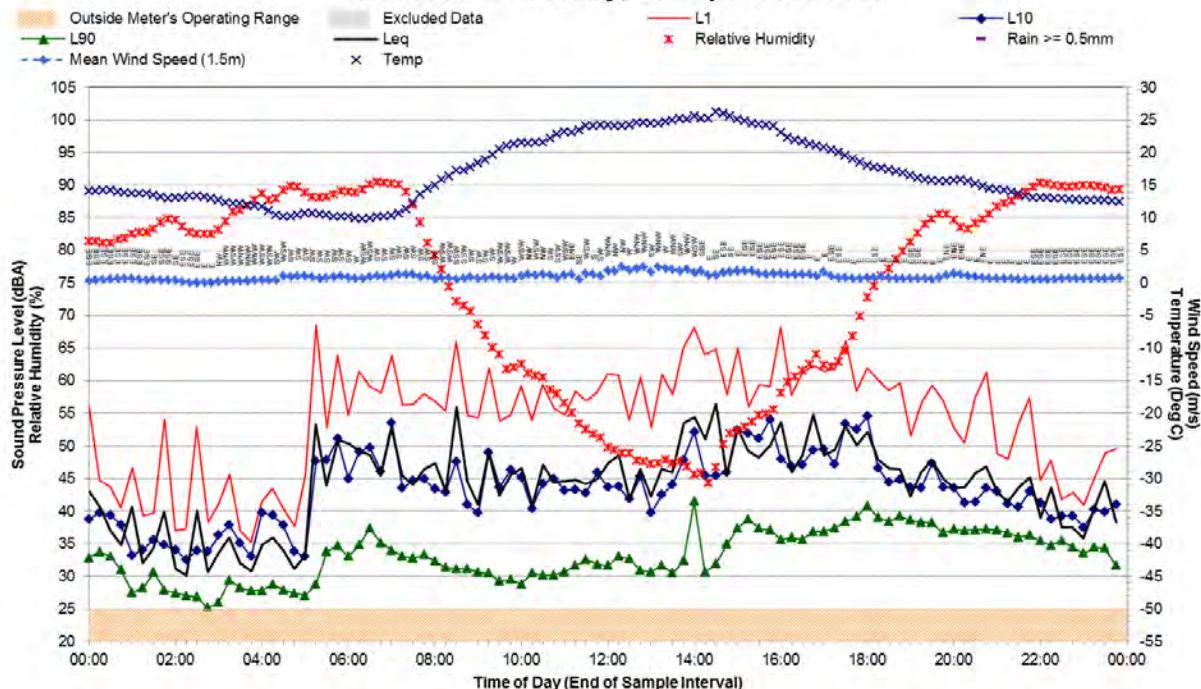
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location L - Saturday, 12 September 2015



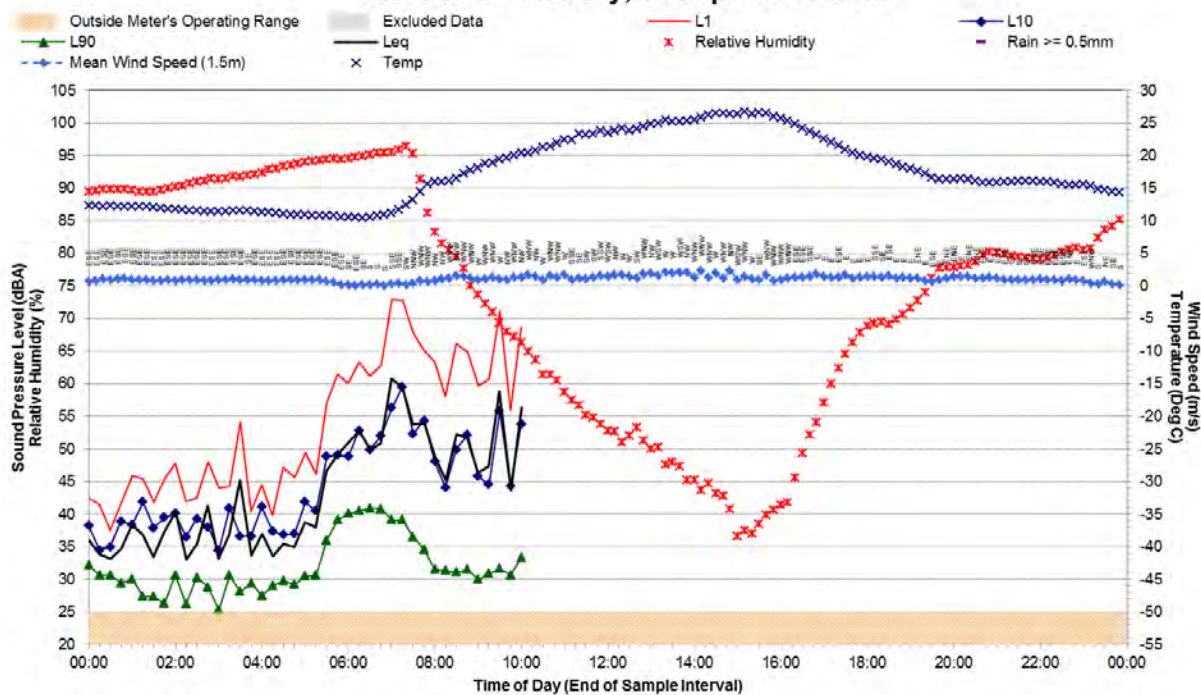
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location L - Sunday, 13 September 2015



Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location L - Monday, 14 September 2015



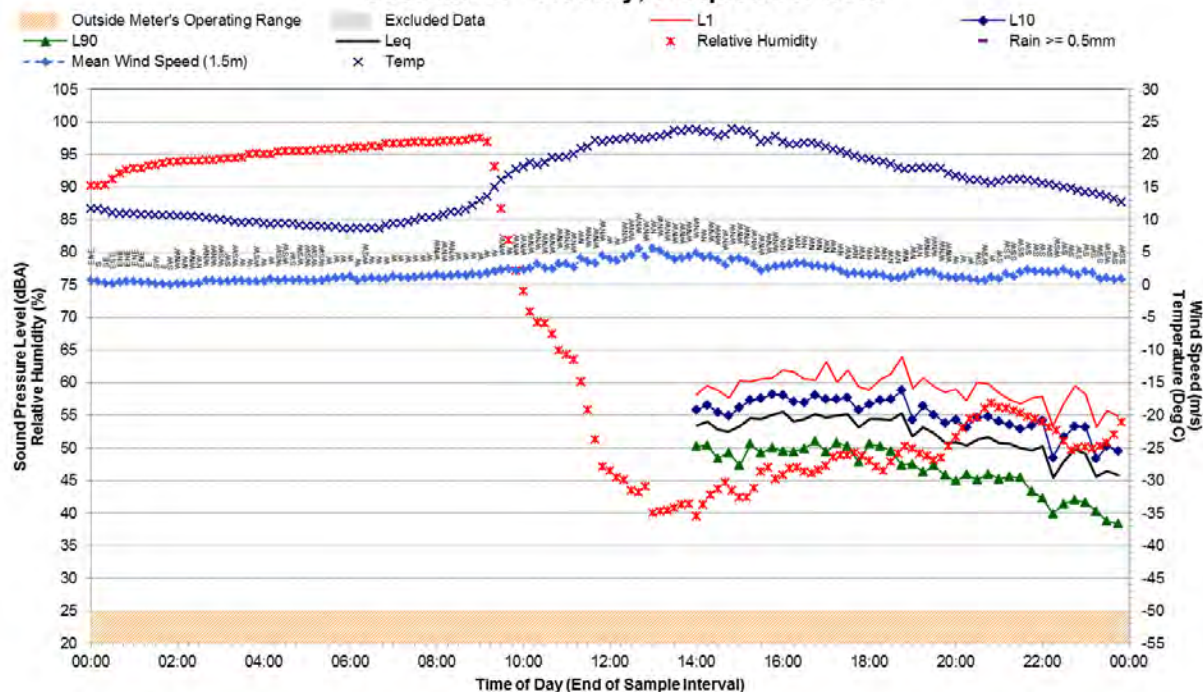
Appendix C4

Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location M

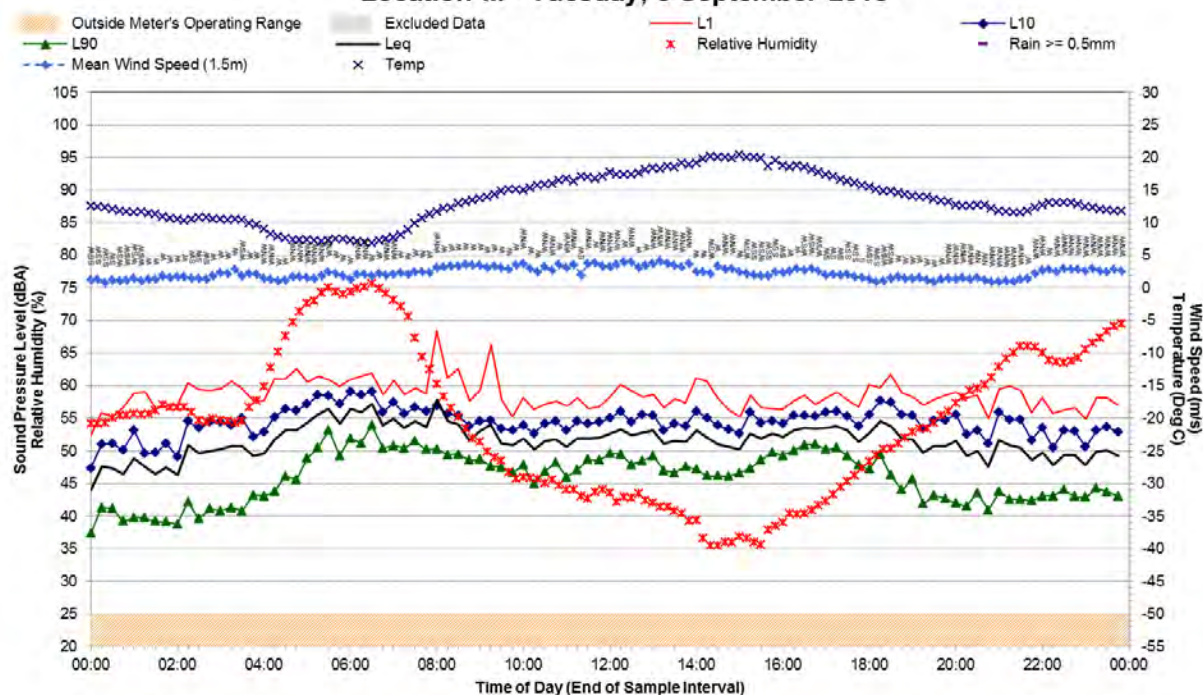
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Statistical Ambient Noise Levels Location M - Monday, 7 September 2015



Statistical Ambient Noise Levels Location M - Tuesday, 8 September 2015

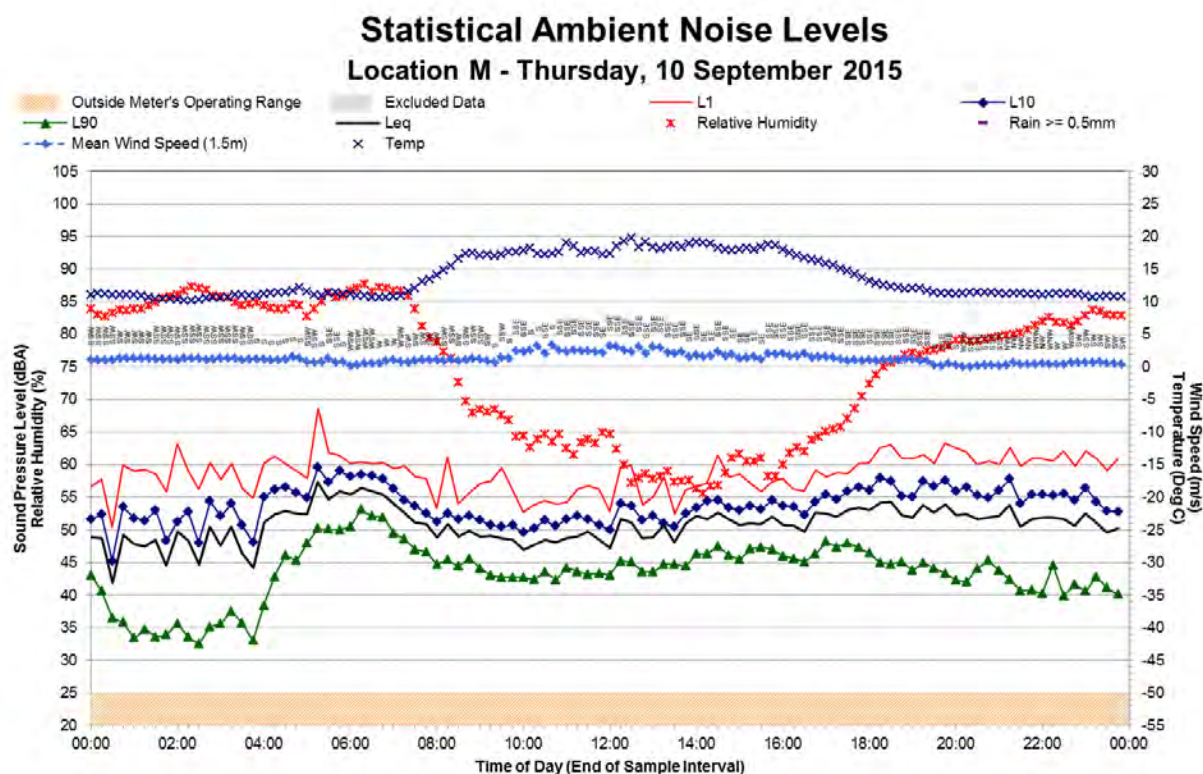
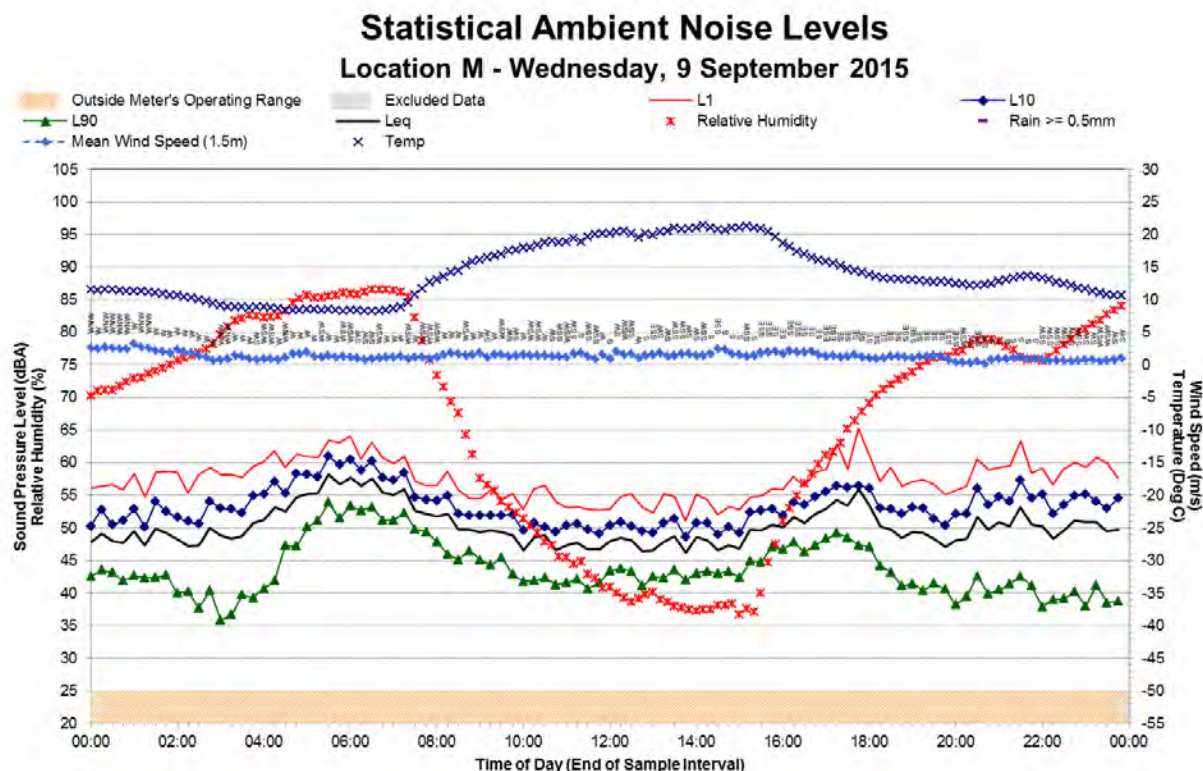


Appendix C4

Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location M

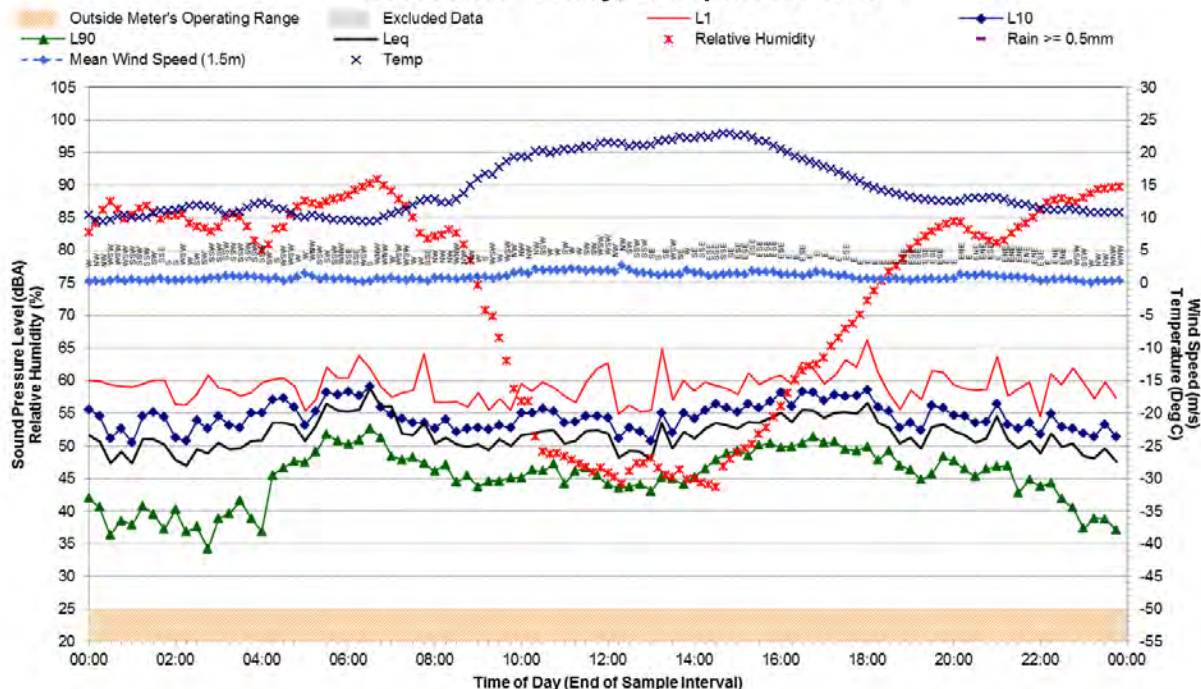
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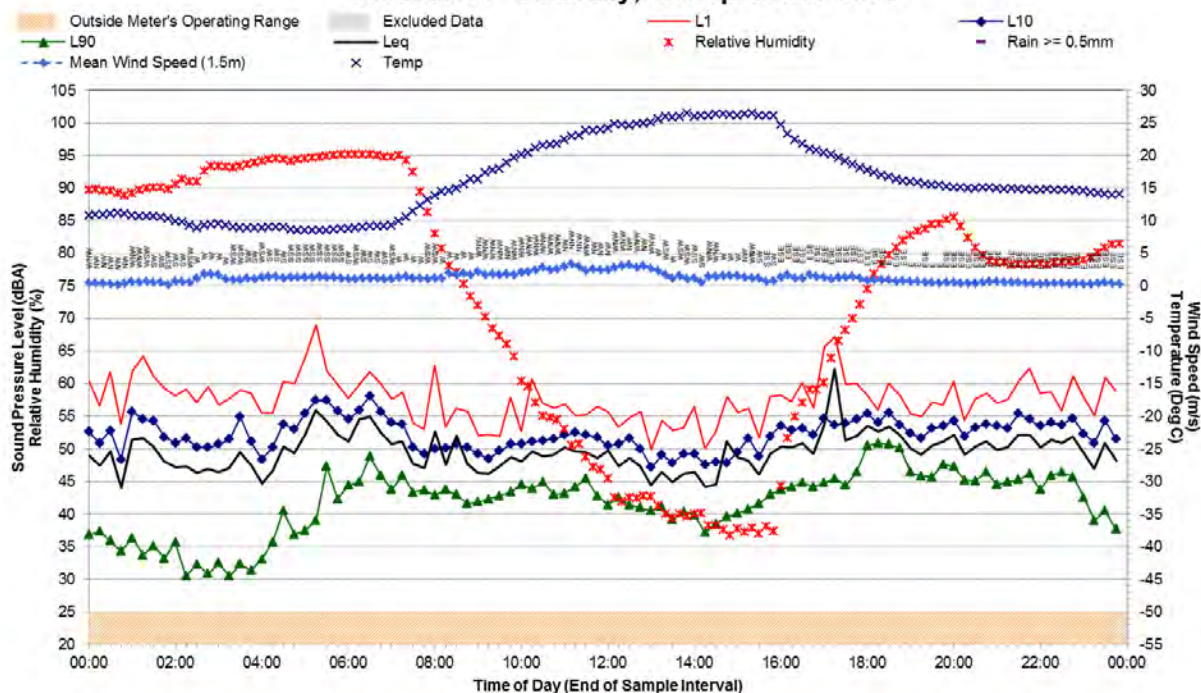
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location M - Friday, 11 September 2015



Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

Location M - Saturday, 12 September 2015



Appendix C4

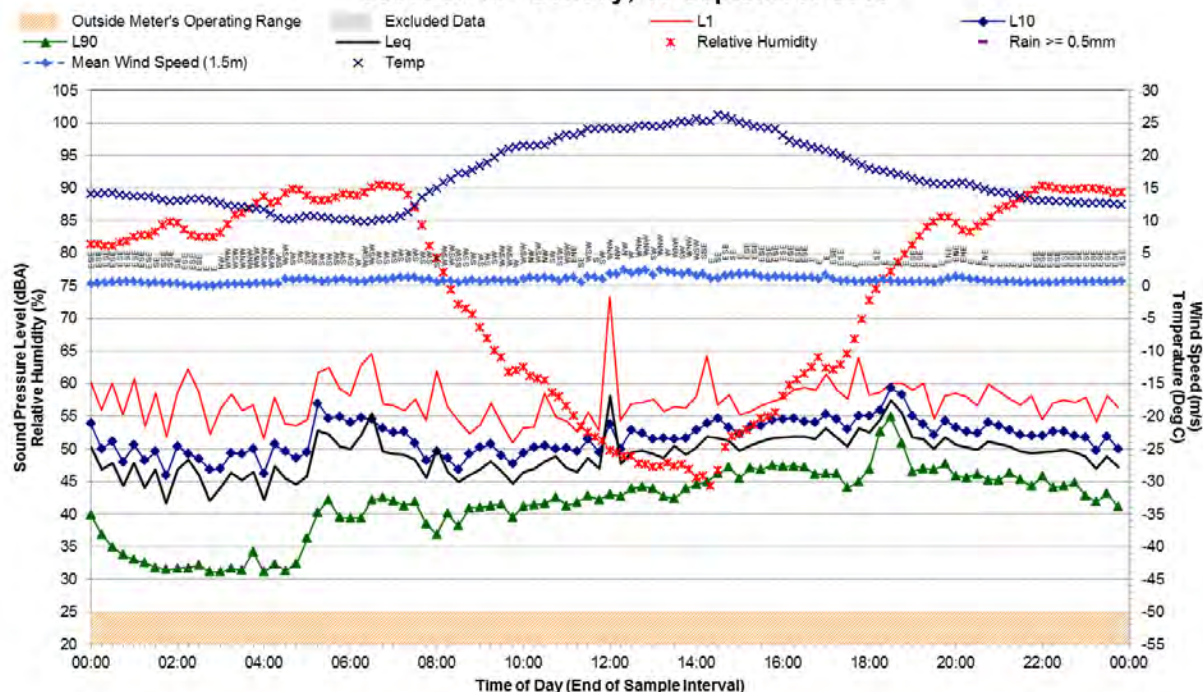
Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location M

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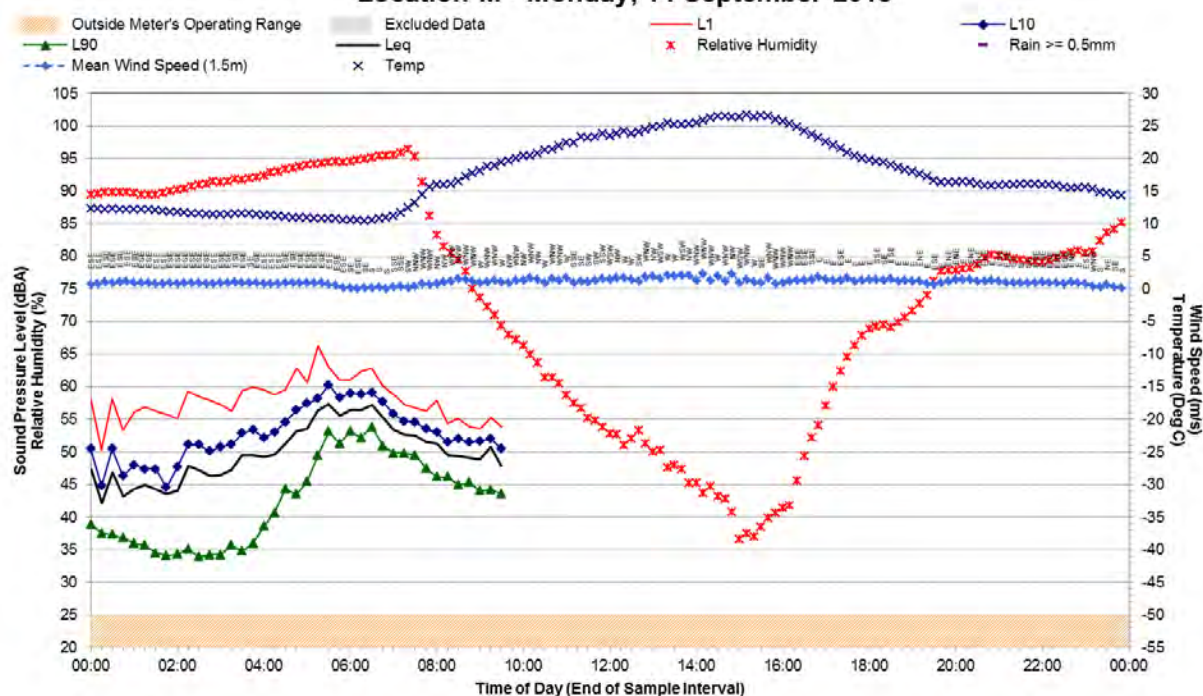
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Location M - Sunday, 13 September 2015



Statistical Ambient Noise Levels

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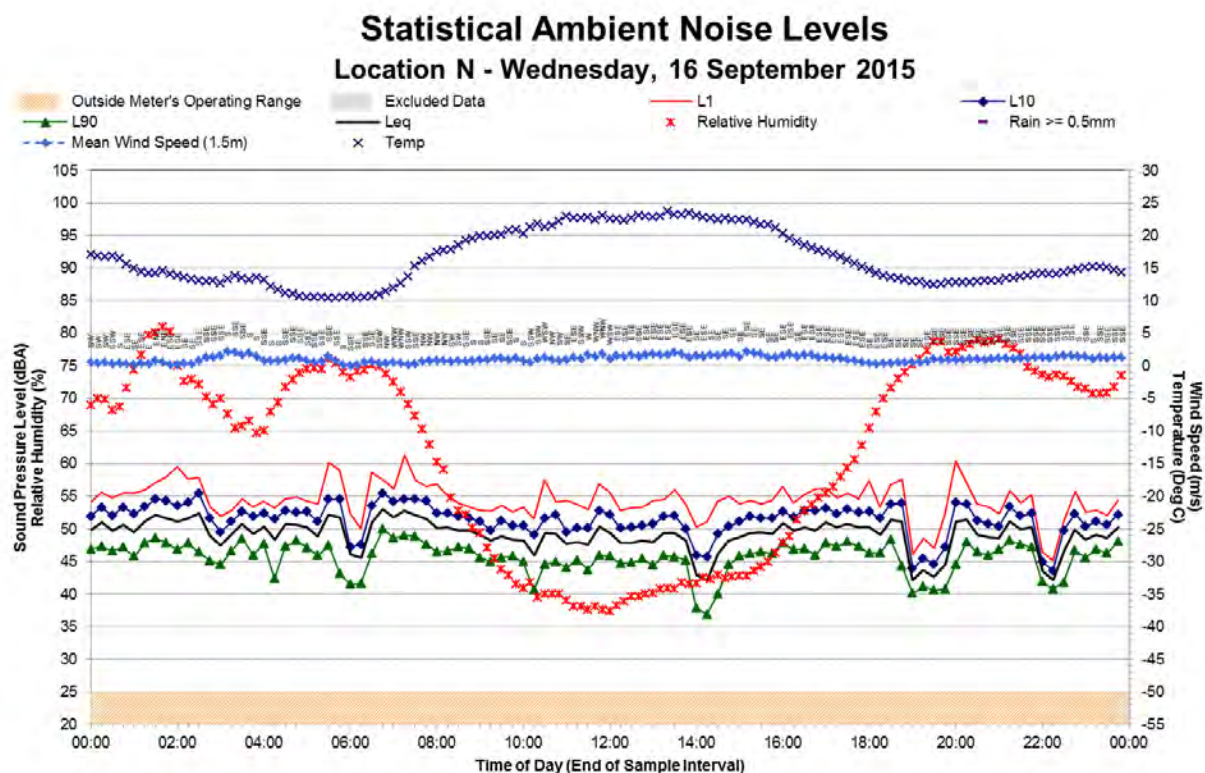
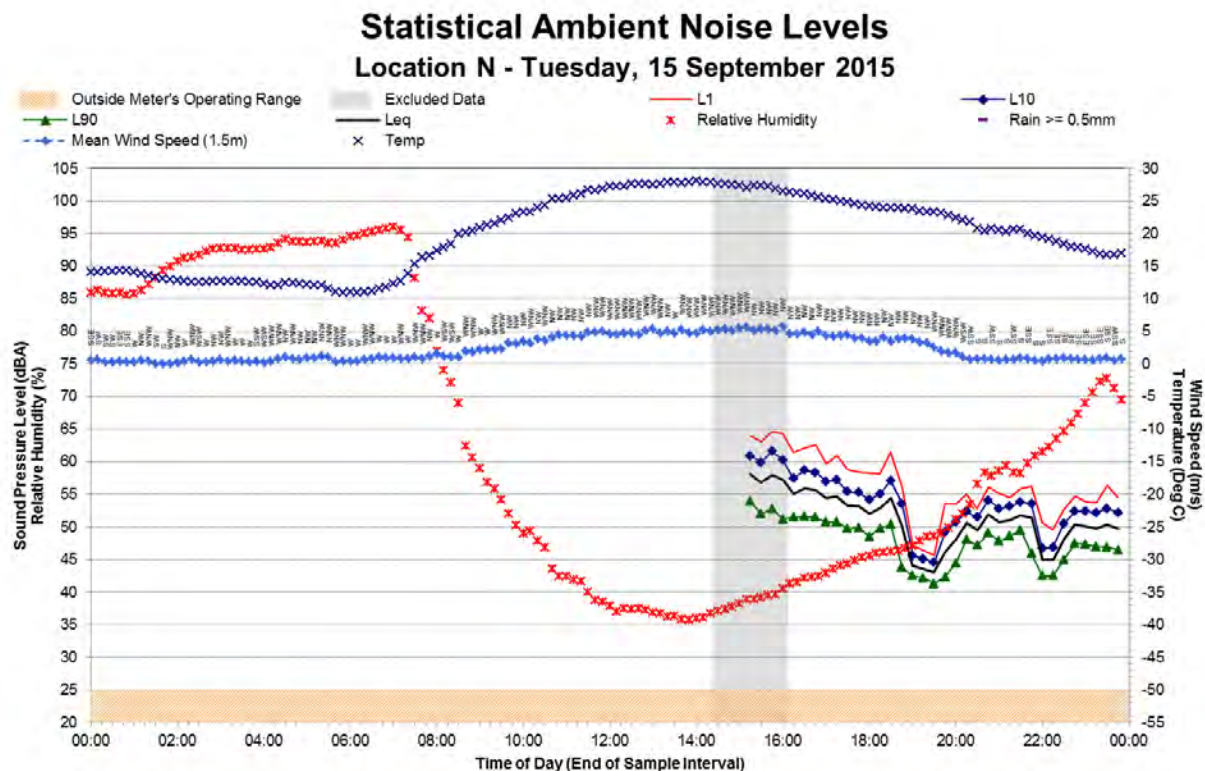


Appendix C5

Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location N

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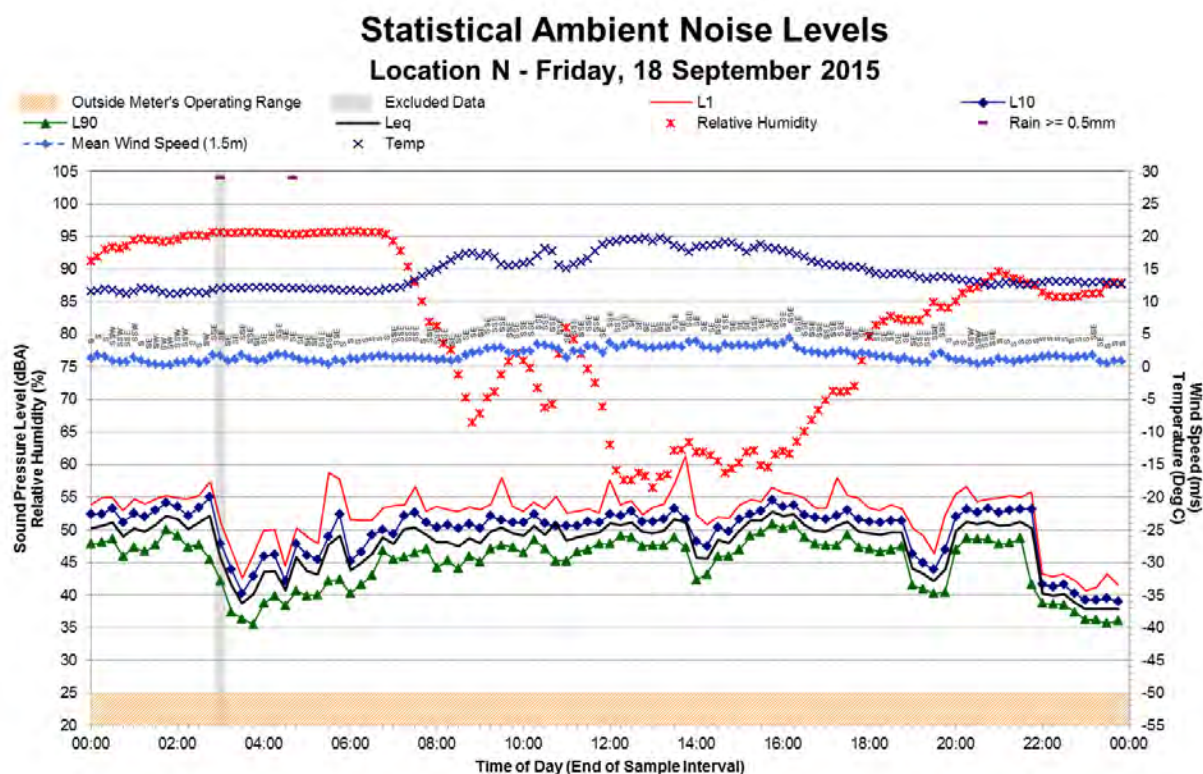
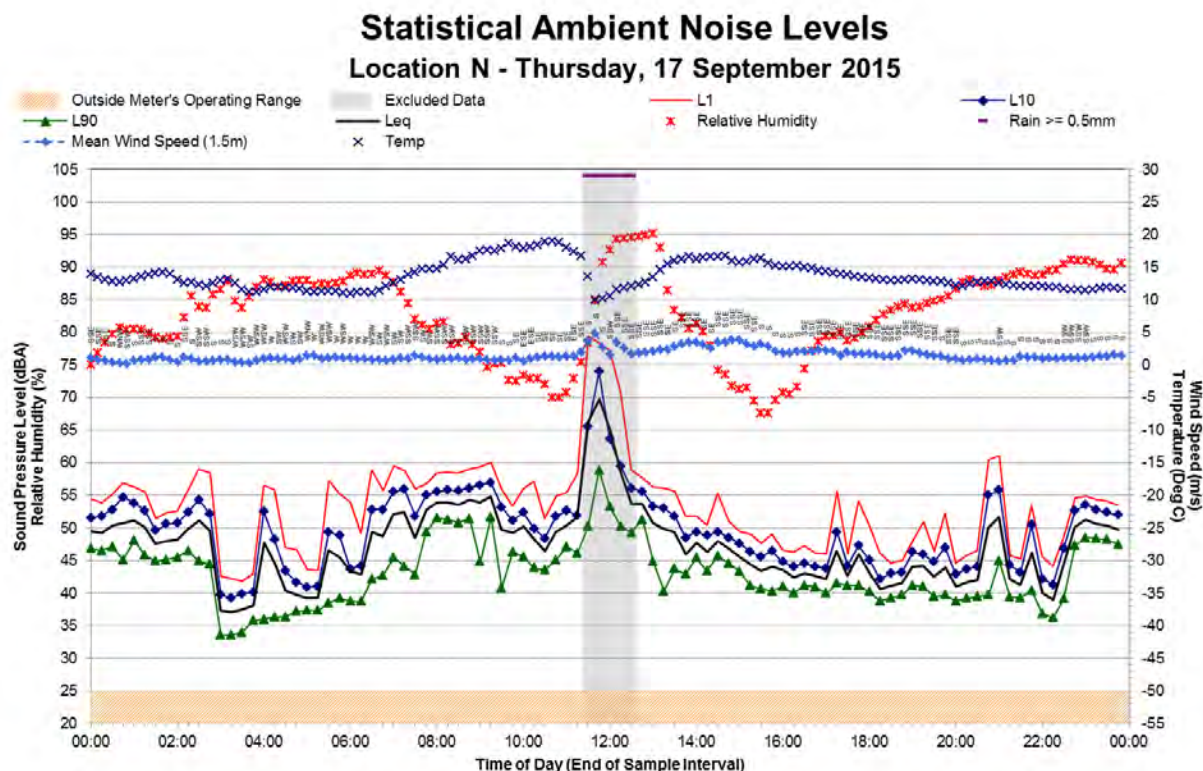


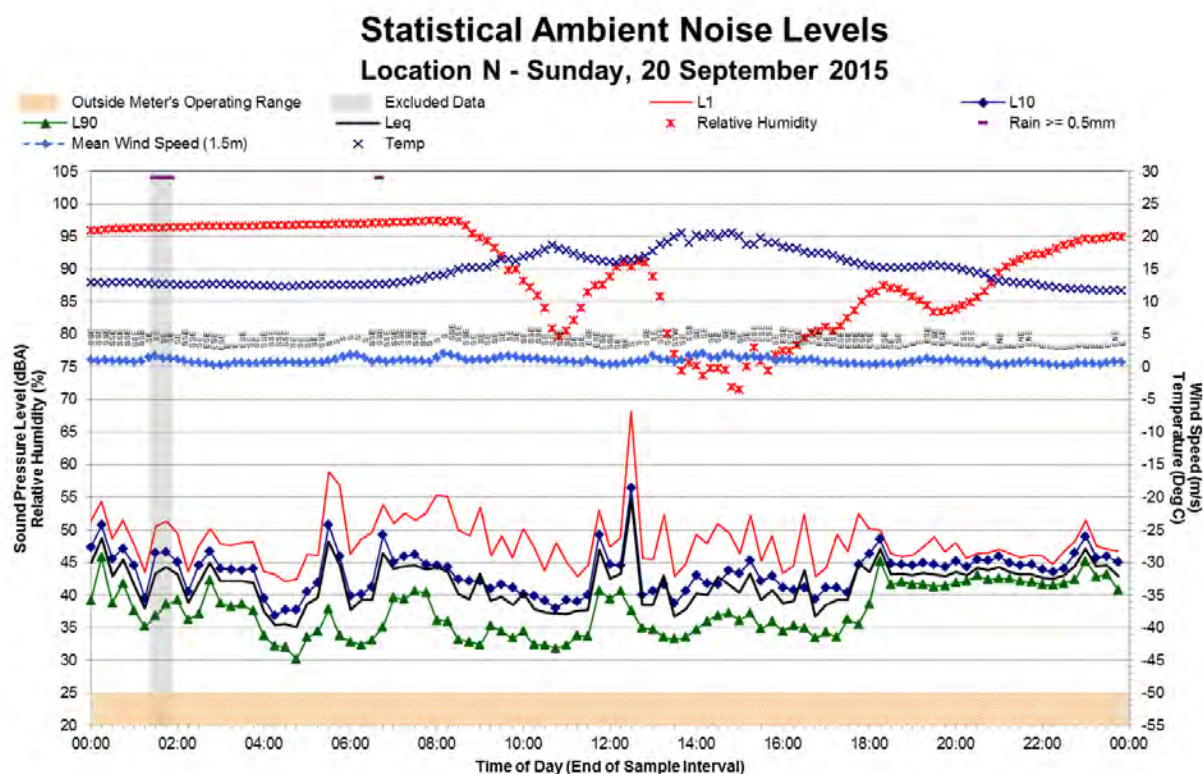
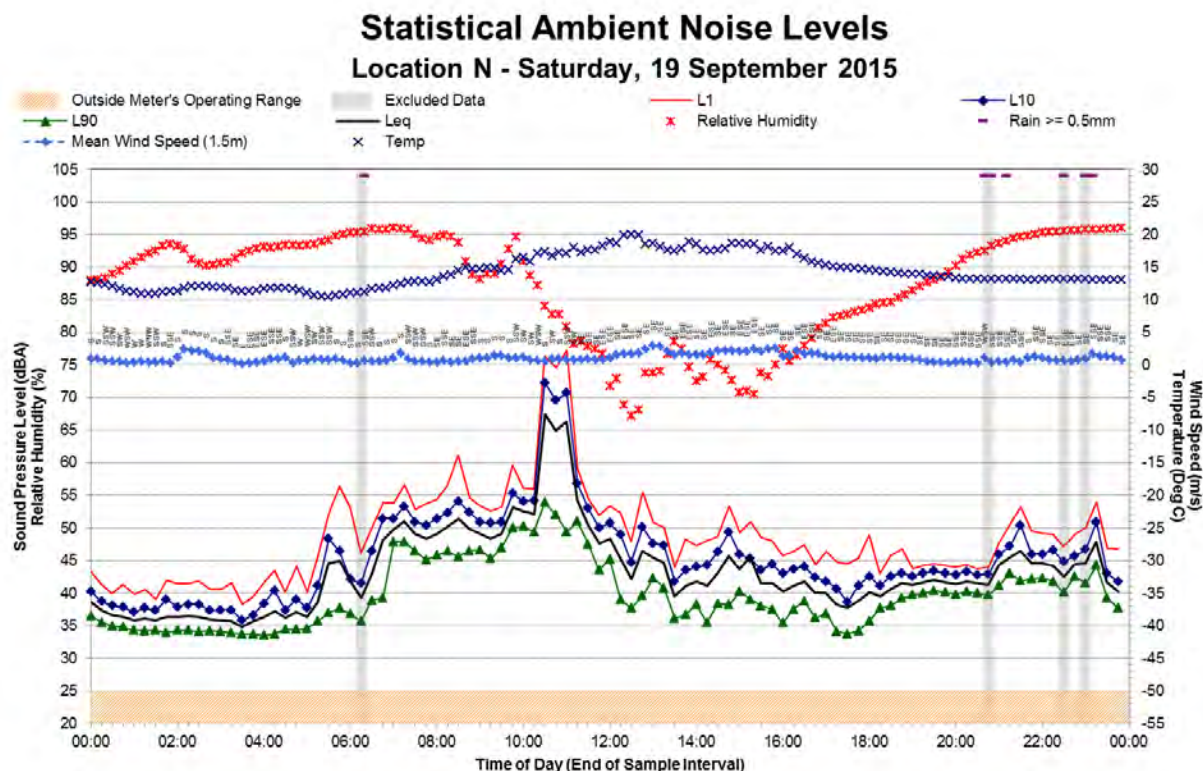
Appendix C5

Statistical Ambient Noise Levels – Location N

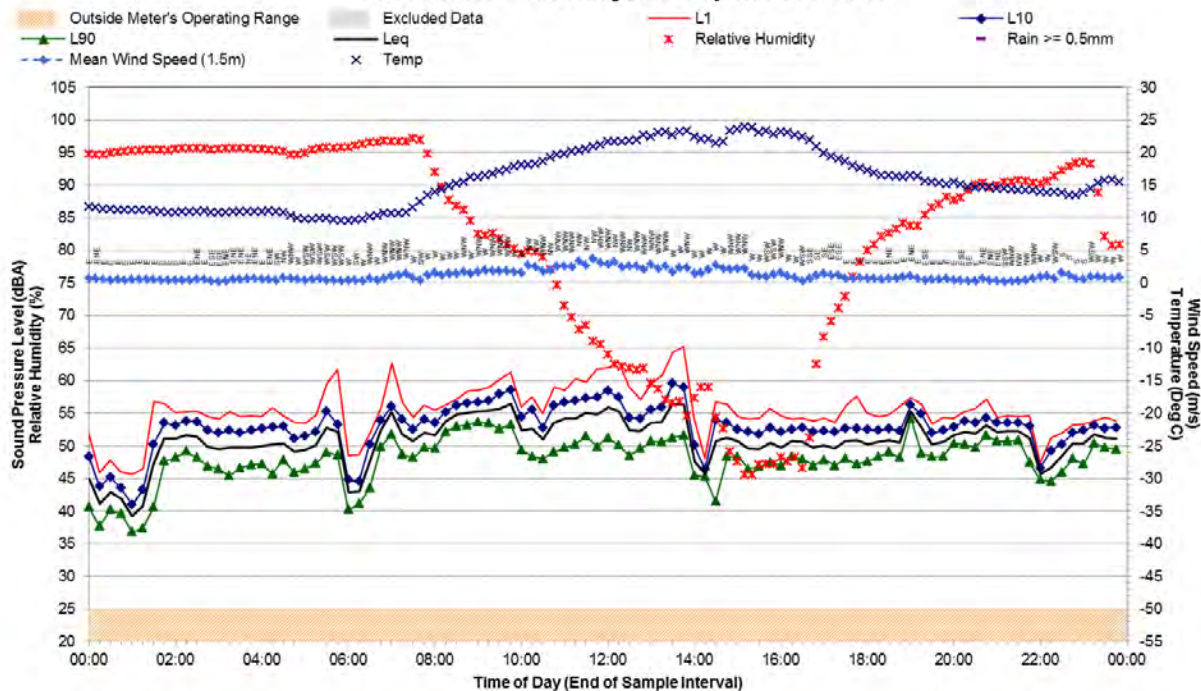
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Statistical Ambient Noise Levels Location N - Monday, 21 September 2015



Statistical Ambient Noise Levels Location N - Tuesday, 22 September 2015

