



LOWER HUNTER AIR QUALITY REVIEW OF
AMBIENT AIR QUALITY DATA

MAY 2014

NSW Environment Protection Authority

25 July 2014

Job Number 13010154A

Prepared by

Todoroski Air Sciences Pty Ltd

Suite 2B, 14 Glen Street

Eastwood, NSW 2122

Phone: (02) 9874 2123

Fax: (02) 9874 2125

Email: info@airsciences.com.au

Lower Hunter Air Quality Review of Ambient Air Quality Data May 2014

Author(s): Aleks Todoroski

Dan Kjellberg

Position: Director

Atmospheric Scientist

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Report Version	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by
DRAFT - 001	26/06/2014	D. Kjellberg	A. Todoroski
FINAL - 001	25/07/2014	D. Kjellberg	

This report has been prepared in accordance with the scope of works between Todoroski Air Sciences Pty Ltd (TAS) and the client. TAS relies on and presumes accurate the information (or lack thereof) made available to it to conduct the work. If this is not the case, the findings of the report may change. TAS has applied the usual care and diligence of the profession prevailing at the time of preparing this report and commensurate with the information available. No other warranty or guarantee is implied in regard to the content and findings of the report. The report has been prepared exclusively for the use of the client, for the stated purpose and must be read in full. No responsibility is accepted for the use of the report or part thereof in any other context or by any third party.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2	PROJECT SCOPE.....	1
3	THE PURPOSE OF AMBIENT MONITORING.....	1
4	AIR QUALITY MONITORING SITES	2
5	AIR QUALITY CRITERIA.....	3
5.1	Particulate matter.....	3
5.1.1	PM _{2.5} concentrations.....	3
5.2	Other air pollutants.....	3
5.3	Summary of applicable criteria for this assessment.....	4
6	METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING DATA.....	5
7	AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA	7
7.1	Preamble.....	7
7.2	Analysis of Monitoring Data	7
7.3	PM ₁₀	7
7.4	PM _{2.5}	8
7.5	Nitrogen dioxide NO ₂	8
7.6	Sulfur dioxide SO ₂	8
7.7	Ammonia NH ₃	9
8	ANALYSIS OF ELEVATED POLLUTANT LEVELS.....	15
8.1	Fullerton St Stockton – 25 May 2014.....	15
8.2	Fullerton St Stockton – 26 May 2014.....	15
9	CONCLUSIONS.....	18
10	REFERENCES	19

LIST OF TABLES

Table 4-1: Monitoring sites	2
Table 5-1: EPA air quality impact assessment criteria.....	3
Table 5-2: Advisory standard for PM _{2.5} concentrations.....	3
Table 5-3: Air quality impact assessment criteria for air pollutants.....	4
Table 5-4: Air quality impact assessment criteria used in this assessment	4
Table 7-1: Maximum pollutant levels - May 2014.....	7

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 4-1: Monitoring site locations	2
Figure 6-1: May Windroses - Beresfield, Wallsend, Newcastle and Stockton.....	6
Figure 7-1: Lower Hunter 24-hour average PM ₁₀ levels – May 2014.....	10
Figure 7-2: Lower Hunter 24-hour average PM _{2.5} levels – May 2014.....	11
Figure 7-3: Lower Hunter 1-hour average NO ₂ levels – May 2014.....	12
Figure 7-4: Lower Hunter 1-hour average SO ₂ levels – May 2014.....	13
Figure 7-5: Lower Hunter 1-hour average NH ₃ levels – May 2014.....	14
Figure 8-1: Analysis of elevated PM ₁₀ levels - Fullerton St Stockton.....	16
Figure 8-2: Analysis of elevated PM ₁₀ levels - Fullerton St Stockton.....	17

LIST OF APPENDICIES

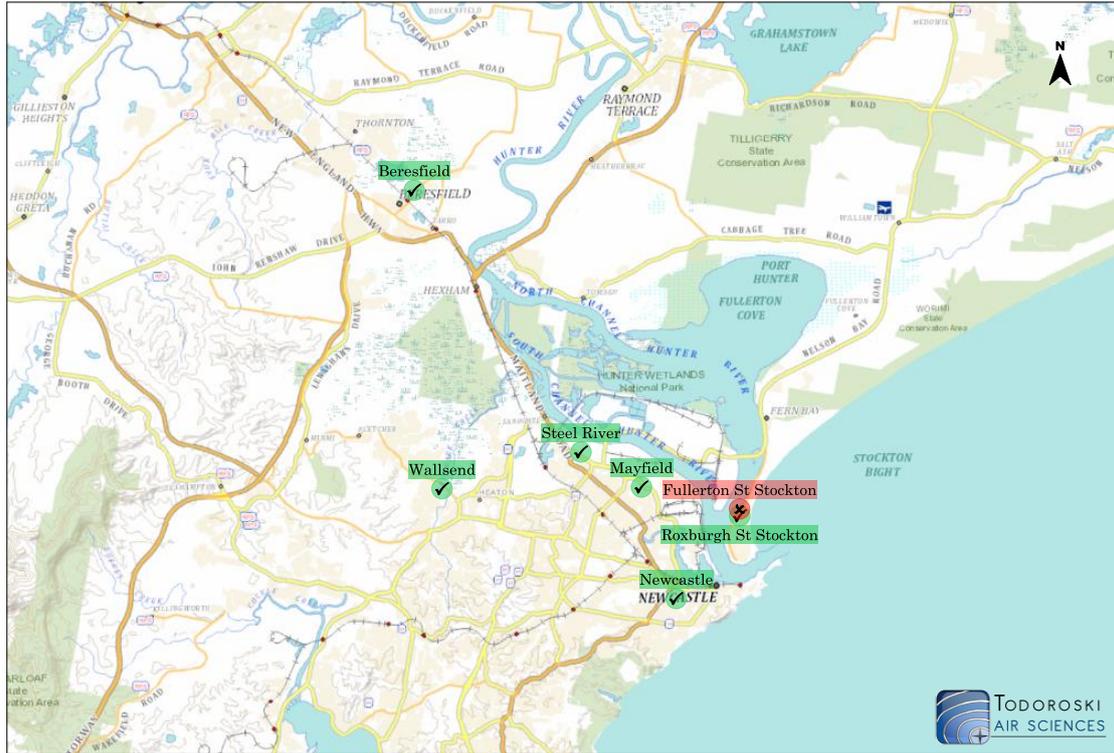
Appendix A – How to read a windrose
Appendix B – Monitoring Data (Graphical)
Appendix C – Monitoring Data (Tabulated)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared by Todoroski Air Sciences for the NSW Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA) and presents ambient air quality monitoring data recorded in the Lower Hunter region for the month of May 2014. The results indicate that the air quality was generally good in the Lower Hunter Region during May.

The data summary (shown below) indicates that in May 2014, the Fullerton St Stockton monitor recorded PM₁₀ levels above the criterion of 50µg/m³. All other data recorded in May were below the applicable criteria. Further details are provided in the report. The full data are provided in the Appendices.

Lower Hunter Air Quality Pictorial Summary - May 2014



Lower Hunter Air Quality Tabular Summary - May 2014

Site	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)	SO ₂ (µg/m ³)	NO ₂ (µg/m ³)	SO ₂ (µg/m ³)	NH ₃ (ppm)
	24-hour average	24-hour average	24-hour average	1-hour average	1-hour average	1-hour average
	Air Quality Impact Criteria					
	50	25*	228	246	570	0.46
Wallsend	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Newcastle	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-
Beresfield	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Fullerton St Stockton	✗	✓	-	✓	-	✓
Roxburgh St Stockton	-	-	-	✓	-	-
Fullerton St Stockton HVAS	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Steel River HVAS	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Mayfield HVAS	✓	-	-	-	-	-

✓ - All data below applicable criteria

✗ - At least one elevated level above applicable criteria

- - Not applicable

HVAS - High Volume Air Sampler

* - Advisory reporting standard for PM_{2.5} concentrations (refer to Section 5.1)

1 INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by Todoroski Air Sciences on behalf of the NSW EPA. It provides a summary and analysis of the available ambient air quality and meteorological data collected in the Lower Hunter region during May 2014.

2 PROJECT SCOPE

The following outlines the scope of work for this project.

- ✦ Provide a monthly report written in plain English to the NSW EPA summarising and analysing available air quality data and meteorological information.
- ✦ The report will be published on the EPA's website and will assess the available data recorded at: Beresfield, Wallsend, Newcastle, Mayfield, Steel River and Stockton.
- ✦ The aim is to provide a simplified report that is accessible and contains results that would be clearly understood by the general public.

The work is for the period of ten months from September 2013 to June 2014.

3 THE PURPOSE OF AMBIENT MONITORING

It is important to note that the data presented in this report are from both EPA and industry monitoring sites. The EPA and the industry sites collect data for different purposes and this needs to be understood when comparing the data to the criteria.

The EPA monitoring sites are specifically designed to measure the likely levels of pollutants that the general population in the area would experience, whereas industry monitoring sites are specifically designed to measure the maximum pollutant levels that may occur due to a particular industry.

Data from the EPA sites can be compared with national air quality standards. Where the levels measured at the EPA monitoring sites are above the national standards on a prolonged and consistent basis, this indicates that some investigation of the potential cause of the issue may be warranted to determine whether any action on a regional level would reduce or better manage the pollutant levels. In the case of PM₁₀, it is noted that the national standards permit five days annually above the criteria to allow for events such as bushfires and dust storms.

Data from industry monitoring sites can be compared with EPA impact assessment criteria. Where the levels measured at industry monitoring sites are above the impact assessment criteria on a prolonged and consistent basis, this indicates that further investigation is warranted to determine whether industry is responsible, and if so whether action to reduce or better manage the pollutant can be taken.

Whether there is any harmful effect on an individual will depend on many additional factors, and not just on the measured level of a pollutant. These factors include the total exposure to the pollutant, individual circumstances (age, health, body mass, levels of pollutants at work), levels of other pollutants in the area, and many other factors.

Where pollutant levels are below the criteria generally, harm would not be expected to occur, but it does not follow that harm automatically occurs when pollutant levels are above the criteria.

The criteria serve to highlight potential issues with the levels of pollutants that may warrant more detailed examination. The criteria may also serve to prioritise action in various areas, for example areas with the highest pollutant levels and highest populations or highest exposure would be expected to receive priority action.

4 AIR QUALITY MONITORING SITES

Figure 4-1 and **Table 4-1** summarise the locations and recorded parameters of the air quality monitoring sites in the Lower Hunter in May 2014.



Figure 4-1: Monitoring site locations

Table 4-1: Monitoring sites

Monitoring Station	Type	Recorded Parameters	Recording Periods
Beresfield	NSW EPA site	PM ₁₀ (TEOM), PM _{2.5} , NO ₂ , SO ₂ , WS, WD	Hourly/Daily
Wallsend	NSW EPA site	PM ₁₀ (TEOM), PM _{2.5} , NO ₂ , SO ₂ , WS, WD	Hourly/Daily
Newcastle	NSW EPA site	PM ₁₀ (TEOM), NO ₂ , SO ₂ , WS, WD	Hourly/Daily
Fullerton St Stockton	Industry site	PM ₁₀ (TEOM), PM _{2.5} , NO ₂ , NH ₃ , WS, WD	Hourly/Daily
Roxburgh St Stockton	Industry site	NO ₂	Hourly
Fullerton St Stockton (HVAS)	Industry site	PM ₁₀ (HVAS)	Every 6th Day
Steel River	Industry site	PM ₁₀ (HVAS)	Every 6th Day
Mayfield	Industry site	PM ₁₀ (HVAS)	Every 6th Day

PM₁₀ - Particulate matter < 10µm

PM_{2.5} - Particulate matter < 2.5µm

TEOM - Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (which samples air continuously)

NO₂ - Nitrogen dioxide

SO₂ - Sulfur dioxide

NH₃ - Ammonia

WS - Wind speed

WD - Wind direction

HVAS - High volume air sampler (which samples for a 24-hour period every 6 days)

5 AIR QUALITY CRITERIA

The sections below identify the key pollutants currently being monitored at the Lower Hunter air quality monitoring sites and the applicable air quality criteria.

5.1 Particulate matter

Particulate matter consists of particles of varying size and composition. The total mass of all particles suspended in air is defined as the Total Suspended Particulate matter (TSP). The upper size range for TSP is nominally taken to be 30 micrometres (μm) as in practice particles larger than 30 to 50 μm will settle out of the atmosphere too quickly to be regarded as air pollutants.

The TSP is defined further into two sub-components. They are PM_{10} particles, particulate matter with aerodynamic diameters of 10 μm or less, and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, particulate matter with aerodynamic diameters of 2.5 μm or less.

Table 5-1 summarises the air quality goals that are relevant to particulate pollutants as outlined in the NSW Environment Protection Agency (EPA) document "*Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW*" (**NSW DEC, 2005**).

Table 5-1: EPA air quality impact assessment criteria

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Criterion
Total suspended particulates (TSP)	Annual	90 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Particulate Matter < 10 μm (PM_{10})	Annual	30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
	24-hour	50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Source: **NSW DEC, 2005**

5.1.1 $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations

The NSW EPA currently do not have impact assessment criteria for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations, however the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) has released a variation to the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) (**NEPC, 2003**) to include advisory reporting standards for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ (see **Table 5-2**). As with the NEPM goals, the advisory reporting standards apply to the average, or general exposure of a population, rather than to "hot spot" locations such as industry monitoring sites.

Table 5-2: Advisory standard for $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Concentration
Particulate Matter < 2.5 μm ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$)	24-hour	25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
	Annual	8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Source: **NEPC, 2003**

5.2 Other air pollutants

Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) is reddish-brown in colour (at high concentrations) with a characteristic odour and can irritate the lungs and lower resistance to respiratory infections such as influenza. NO_2 belongs to a family of reactive gases called nitrogen oxides (NO_x). These gases form when fuel is burned at high temperatures, and mainly originates from motor vehicles, power generators and industrial boilers (**USEPA, 2013**). NO_x may also be generated by blasting activities. It is important to note that when formed, NO_2 is generally a small fraction of the total NO_x generated.

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) is a colourless, toxic gas with a pungent and irritating smell. It commonly arises in industrial emissions due to the sulfur content of the fuel. SO₂ can have impacts upon human health and the habitability of the environment for flora and fauna. SO₂ emissions are a precursor to acid rain, which can be an issue in the northern hemisphere; however it is not known to be an issue in NSW.

Ammonia (NH₃) is a colourless gas with a pungent smell familiar to most people because ammonia is used in smelling salts and household cleaners such as bleach and window cleaning products. It also occurs naturally in air, soil and water and is found in fertilisers. Ammonia is a corrosive substance and the main toxic effects are restricted to the sites of direct contact with ammonia (i.e., skin, eyes, respiratory tract). For example, if you spilt a bottle of concentrated ammonia on the floor, you would smell a strong ammonia odour; you might cough, and your eyes might water because of irritation. If you were exposed to very high levels of ammonia, you would experience more harmful effects. For example, if you walked into a dense cloud of ammonia or if your skin comes in contact with concentrated ammonia, your skin, eyes, throat, or lungs may be severely burned (ATSDR, 2004).

Table 5-3 summarises the air quality goals for NO₂, SO₂ and NH₃.

Table 5-3: Air quality impact assessment criteria for air pollutants

Pollutant	Averaging period	Criterion
NO ₂	1-hour	246µg/m ³
	Annual	62µg/m ³
SO ₂	10-minute	712µg/m ³
	1-hour	570µg/m ³
	24-hour	228µg/m ³
	Annual	60µg/m ³
NH ₃	1-hour	0.46ppm

Source: NSW DEC, 2005

5.3 Summary of applicable criteria for this assessment

The particulate and gaseous pollutants monitored in the Lower Hunter have air quality criteria which are averaged over short and long time periods. Annually averaged criteria require a full year of data.

As this report only looks at one month of ambient air quality data, the annually averaged criteria are not applicable. The SO₂ 10-minute average criterion was not included as 10-minute monitoring data are not available. Therefore the criteria relevant to this assessment are those averaged over the shorter time periods (1-hour and 24-hours).

Table 5-4 summarises the applicable air quality criteria for this assessment.

Table 5-4: Air quality impact assessment criteria used in this assessment

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Type	Concentration
Particulate Matter < 10µm (PM ₁₀)	24-hour	Criterion	50µg/m ³
Particulate Matter < 2.5µm (PM _{2.5})	24-hour	Advisory Reporting Standard	25µg/m ³
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	1-hour	Criterion	246µg/m ³
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	1-hour	Criterion	570µg/m ³
	24-hour	Criterion	228µg/m ³
Ammonia (NH ₃)	1-hour	Criterion	0.46ppm

13010154A_LHAQ_May_140725.docx

6 METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING DATA

Representative wind speed and direction data have been obtained from the Beresfield, Wallsend, Newcastle and Stockton air quality monitoring stations. The data are presented as a series of windroses. For an example of how to read a windrose, refer to **Figure A-1** in **Appendix A**.

Figure 6-1 presents the May 2014 windroses for Beresfield, Wallsend, Newcastle and Stockton.

The Beresfield weather station recorded a predominance of west-northwest and northwest wind directions during May.

The Wallsend weather station recorded a high proportion of winds from the south-southwest during May. The station also recorded winds from the north-westerly quadrant. The wind speeds recorded at Wallsend were typically lower than those recorded at other monitors. The low wind speeds from the south-southwest indicate potential valley drainage flows influenced by the local terrain features.

The Newcastle weather station recorded predominant wind directions from the northwest and north-northwest.

The Stockton weather station recorded a high proportion of west-northwest wind directions, with wind speeds which were generally higher than the other stations. The higher wind speeds at the Stockton weather station are to be expected as it is located in a relatively unsheltered coastal location.

Figure 6-1 shows some differences between the distributions of winds at the four meteorological stations. The variation in localised winds is clear to see, however the four locations also display a similar underlying trend in the wind distribution patterns, with the common winds tending to originate from the Hunter Valley.

The prevailing wind patterns indicate that emissions from industry and urban sources are likely to be recorded more frequently at the Stockton and Newcastle stations in May. However as wind speeds are also generally high at Stockton, there is also likely to be some increased level of dilution or dispersion of air emissions in the ambient air.



Figure 6-1: May Windroses - Beresfield, Wallsend, Newcastle and Stockton

7 AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA

7.1 Preamble

The monitoring data in this report are presented in raw form as provided to Todoroski Air Sciences by the NSW EPA.

The 24-hour average data presented in this report have been averaged using the 1-hour average readings. Days which contain less than 75% data (less than 18 hours of 1-hour average data) have not been included in this report.

All of the monitoring data provided to Todoroski Air Sciences are presented in graphical format in **Appendix B** and tabulated format in **Appendix C**.

7.2 Analysis of Monitoring Data

Table 7-1 presents a summary of the maximum pollutant levels occurring during May 2014. The results indicate that air quality was generally good in the Lower Hunter area during May.

The Fullerton St Stockton monitor recorded 24-hour average PM₁₀ levels above the relevant criterion of 50µg/m³. The ambient air concentrations recorded by all other monitors were below the relevant criteria during May 2014.

Table 7-1: Maximum pollutant levels - May 2014

	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)	SO ₂ (µg/m ³)	NO ₂ (µg/m ³)	SO ₂ (µg/m ³)
	24-hour average	24-hour average	24-hour average	1-hour average	1-hour average
	Air Quality Impact Criteria				
	50	25*	228	246	570
Wallsend	22.8	13.3	14.1	54.5	52.4
Newcastle	42.4	-	14.5	67.7	78.6
Beresfield	39.9	12.9	17.8	56.4	52.4
Fullerton St Stockton	55.5	21.4	-	67.5	-
Roxburgh St Stockton	-	-	-	108.5	-
Fullerton St Stockton HVAS	39.0	-	-	-	-
Steel River HVAS	27.6	-	-	-	-
Mayfield HVAS	29.0	-	-	-	-

* Advisory reporting standard for PM_{2.5} concentrations (refer to Section 5.1)

- Not applicable

7.3 PM₁₀

Figure 7-1 presents all of the 24-hour average PM₁₀ monitoring results recorded in the Lower Hunter region in May 2014.

Relative to the Air Quality Index, as shown by the coloured bands in the figure, PM₁₀ levels were generally very good or good in May. The Newcastle and Fullerton St Stockton TEOM monitors recorded

fair levels on two days and the Beresfield and Fullerton St Stockton HVAS monitors recorded fair levels on one day.

The Fullerton St Stockton monitor recorded poor levels with 24-hour average PM₁₀ concentrations above the relevant criterion of 50µg/m³ on 25 and 26 May.

All other data recorded at the Lower Hunter monitoring sites were below the 24-hour average PM₁₀ criterion level of 50µg/m³.

Figure B-1 to Figure B-4 in Appendix B present the 1-hour average PM₁₀ data in graphical form for each individual site. There is no criterion that applies to 1-hour average PM₁₀ levels and these 1-hour results are not intended to be compared with the PM₁₀ criterion. It is a normal occurrence, and it is expected that in the normal environment, 1-hour average PM₁₀ levels will fluctuate more significantly than 24-hour average PM₁₀ levels.

7.4 PM_{2.5}

Figure 7-2 presents all of the 24-hour average PM_{2.5} monitoring data recorded in the Lower Hunter region in May 2014.

Relative to the Air Quality Index, as shown by the coloured bands in the figure, the data indicate that PM_{2.5} levels were very good to good at all locations at all times except Fullerton St Stockton which experienced fair levels on three days.

All data were below the advisory reporting standard on all days.

Figure B-5 to Figure B-7 in Appendix B present the 1-hour average PM_{2.5} data in graphical form for each individual site. There is no criterion that applies to 1-hour average PM_{2.5} levels and these 1-hour results are not intended to be compared with the PM_{2.5} advisory reporting standard. It is a normal occurrence, and it is expected that in the normal environment 1-hour average PM_{2.5} levels will fluctuate more significantly than 24-hour average PM_{2.5} levels.

7.5 Nitrogen dioxide NO₂

Figure 7-3 presents the 1-hour average NO₂ monitoring data recorded in the Lower Hunter region in May 2014.

Relative to the Air Quality Index, as shown by the coloured bands in the figure, the data indicate the NO₂ levels were very good at all monitors at all times except the Roxburgh St Stockton monitor which recorded 13 1-hour average concentrations with good levels.

All data were below the applicable criterion on all days.

7.6 Sulfur dioxide SO₂

Figure 7-4 presents the 1-hour average SO₂ monitoring data recorded in the Lower Hunter region in May 2014.

Relative to the Air Quality Index, as shown by the coloured bands in the figure, the data indicate the SO₂ levels were very good all of the time at all of the monitors.



All data were below the applicable criterion on all days.

Figure B-8 to **Figure B-10** in **Appendix B** present the 24-hour average SO₂ data in graphical form for each individual station.

7.7 Ammonia NH₃

Figure 7-5 presents the 1-hour average NH₃ monitoring data recorded at the Fullerton St Stockton monitor in May 2014.

The data indicate that the measured levels of NH₃ were below the applicable criterion on all days.

Figure 7-5 also presents the 1-hour average wind direction data recorded at the Fullerton St Stockton monitor in May 2014.

The figure shows that NH₃ levels above 0.1ppm were generally associated with winds from the west and west-northwest.



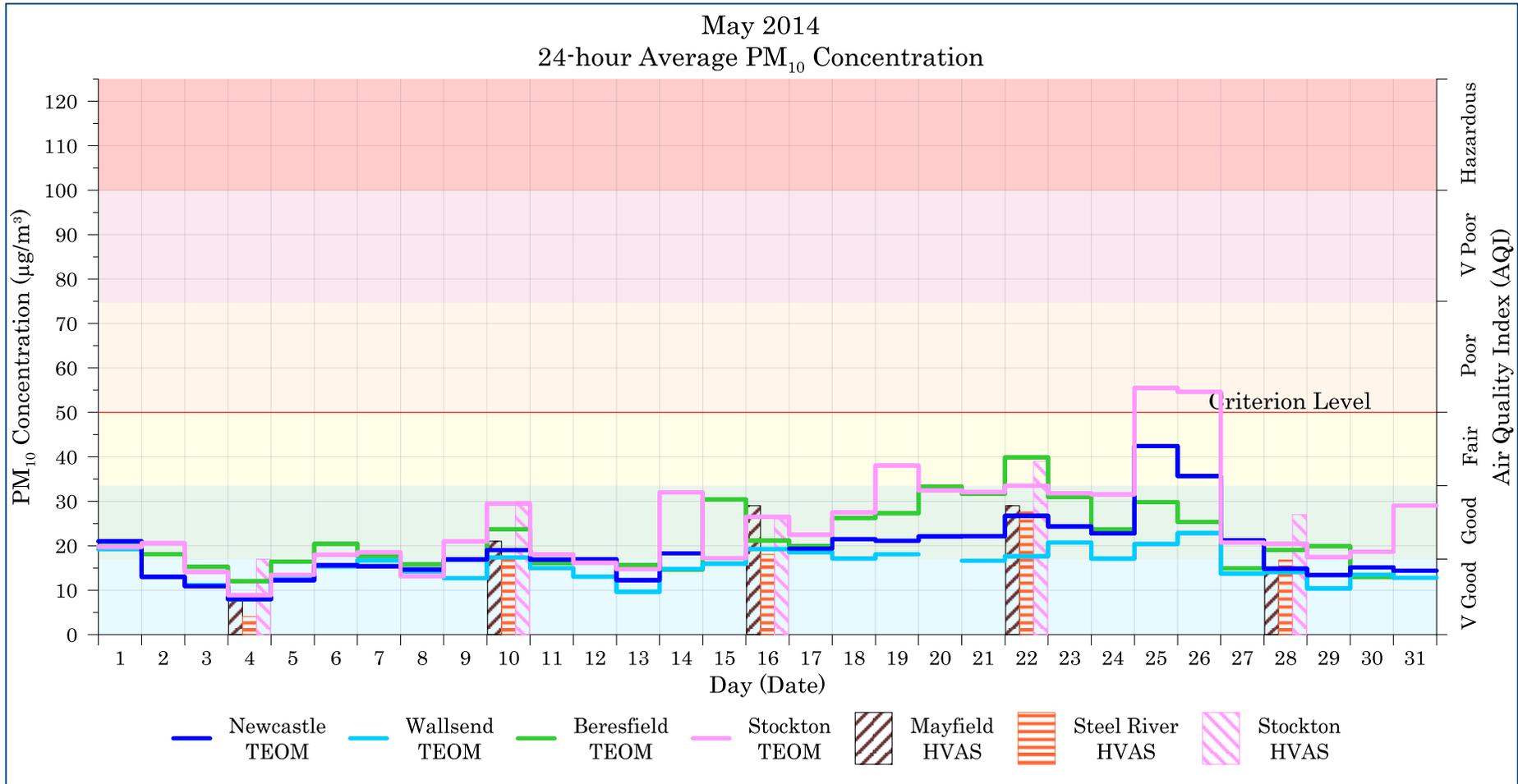


Figure 7-1: Lower Hunter 24-hour average PM₁₀ levels – May 2014

PM₁₀ levels were generally very good or good in May. The Newcastle and Fullerton St Stockton TEOM monitors recorded fair levels on two days and the Beresfield and Fullerton St Stockton HVAS monitors recorded fair levels on one day. The Fullerton St Stockton TEOM monitor also recorded poor levels with two 24-hour average concentrations above the relevant criterion of 50µg/m³ on 25 and 26 May.

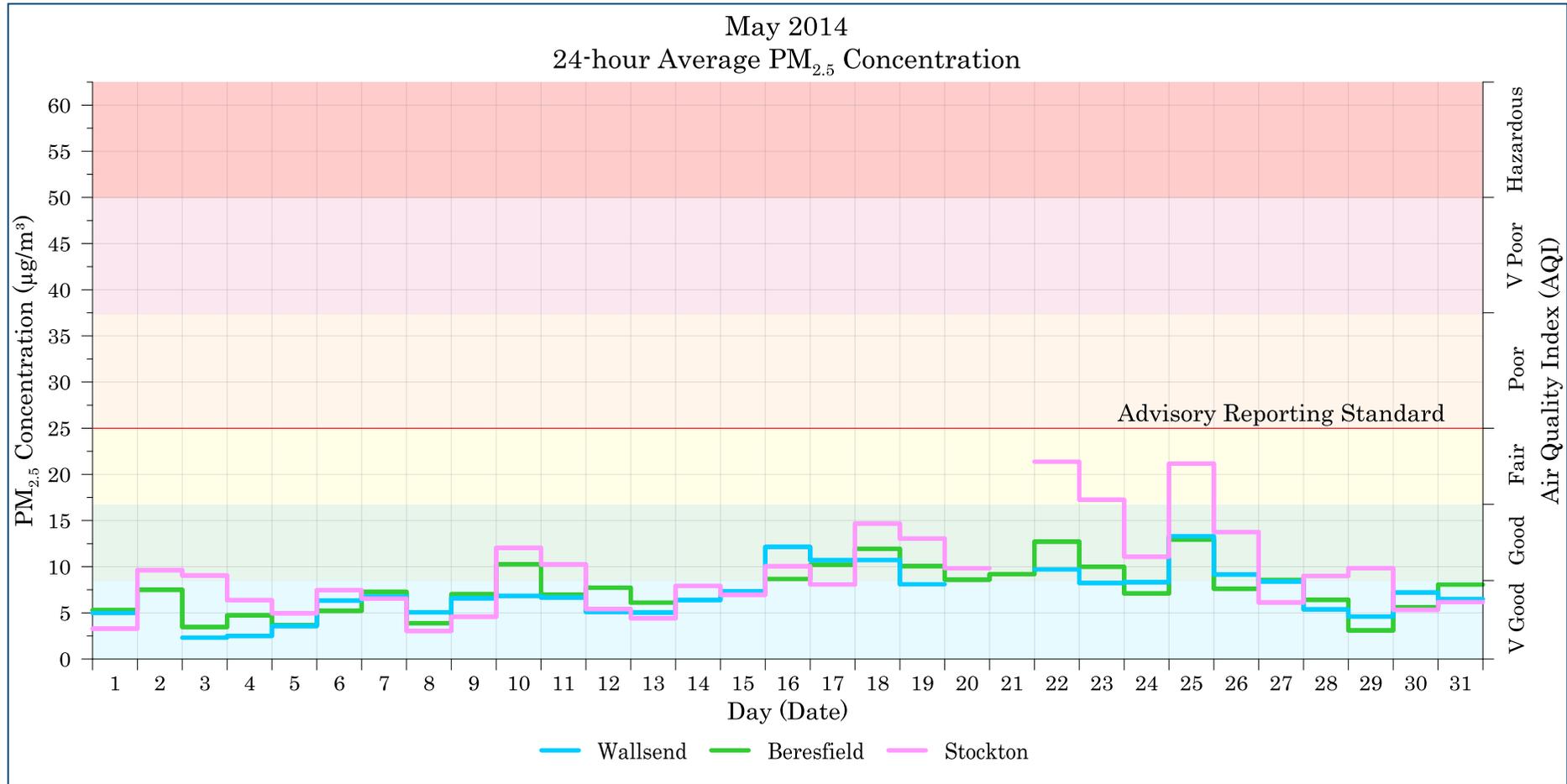


Figure 7-2: Lower Hunter 24-hour average PM_{2.5} levels – May 2014

PM_{2.5} levels were very good to good at all locations at all times except Fullerton St Stockton which experienced fair levels on three days. All data recorded at the Lower Hunter monitoring sites during May were below the 24-hour average PM_{2.5} advisory reporting standard of 25µg/m³.

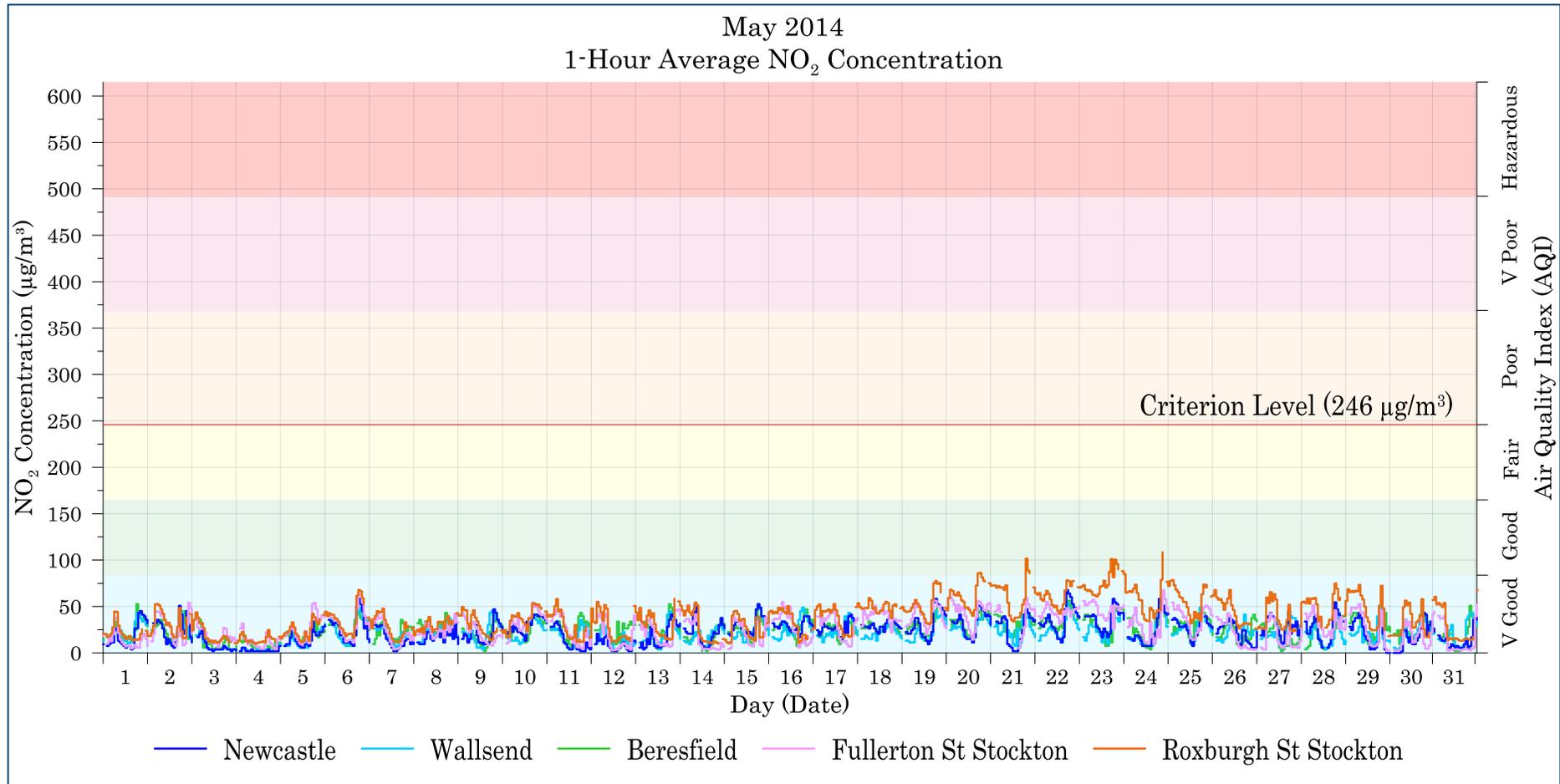


Figure 7-3: Lower Hunter 1-hour average NO₂ levels – May 2014

All data recorded at the Lower Hunter monitoring sites were below the 1-hour average NO₂ criterion level of 246µg/m³ during May. Measured levels of NO₂ were very good at all monitors at all times except the Roxburgh St Stockton monitor which recorded 13 1-hour average concentrations with good levels.

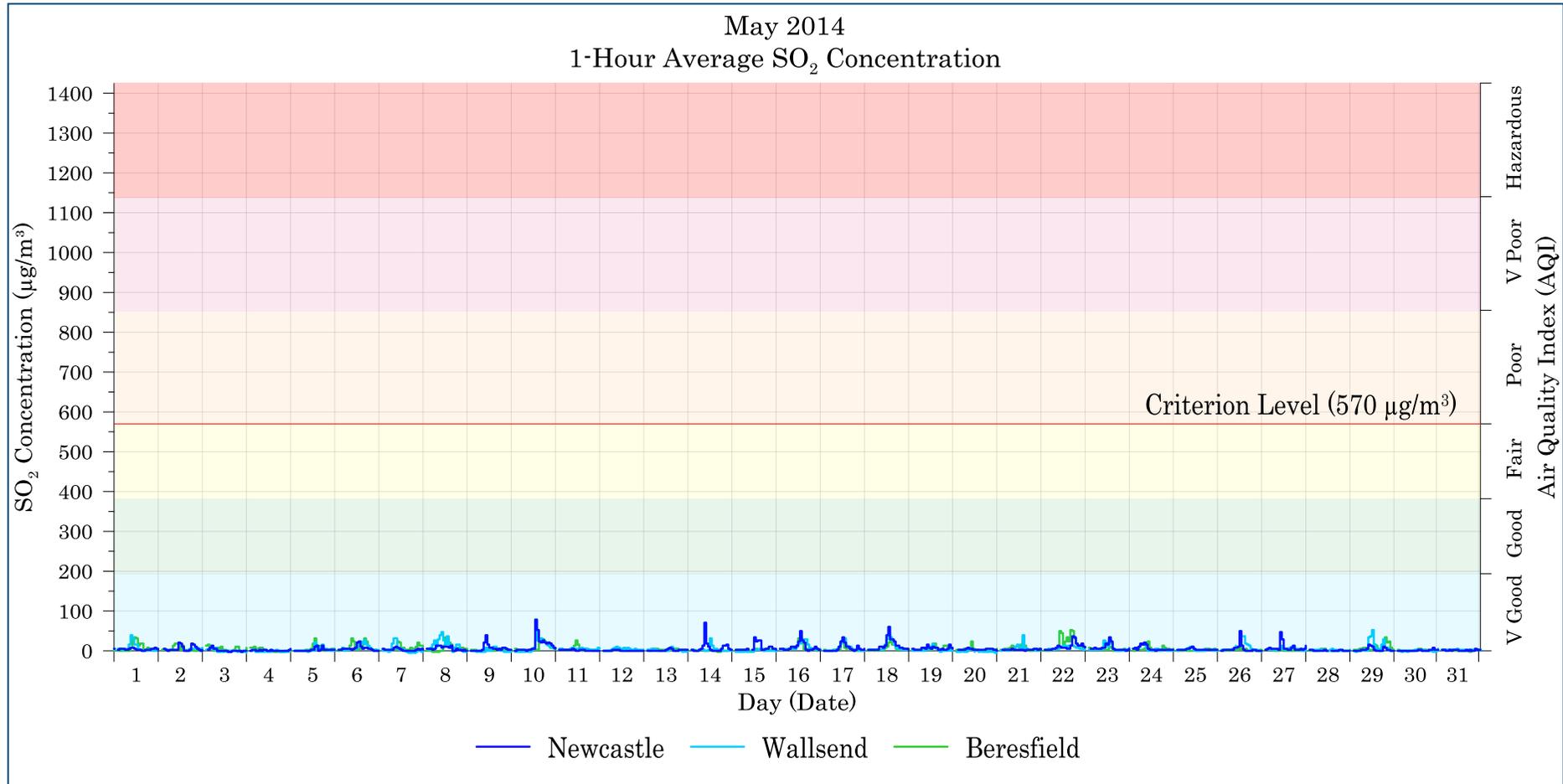


Figure 7-4: Lower Hunter 1-hour average SO₂ levels – May 2014

All data recorded at the Lower Hunter monitoring sites were below the 1-hour average SO₂ criterion level of 570µg/m³ during May. Measured levels of SO₂ were very good at all monitors at all times.

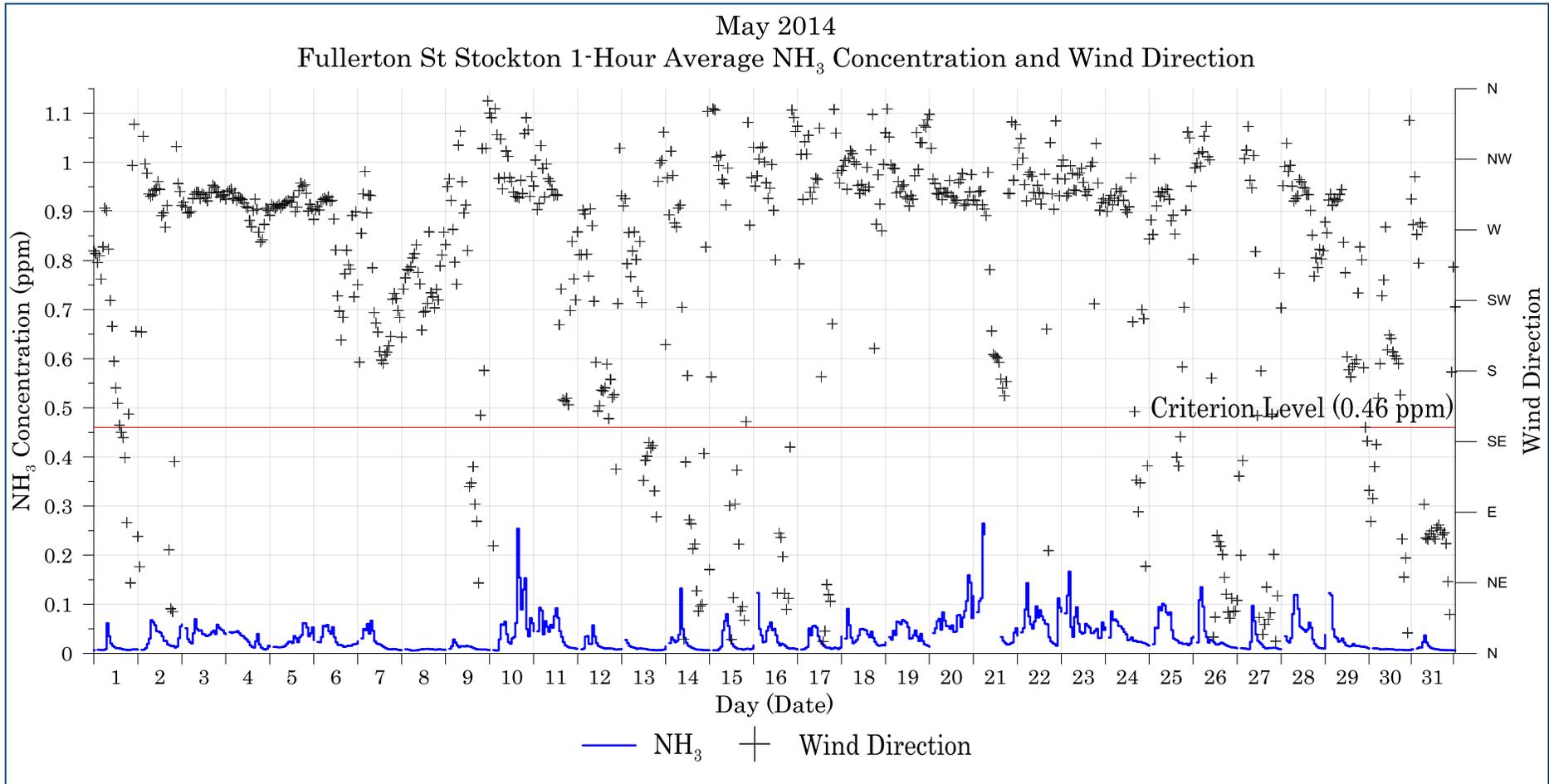


Figure 7-5: Lower Hunter 1-hour average NH₃ levels – May 2014

All NH₃ data recorded at the Fullerton St Stockton monitor were below the 1-hour average criterion of 0.46ppm. NH₃ levels above 0.1ppm were generally associated with winds from the west and west-northwest.

8 ANALYSIS OF ELEVATED POLLUTANT LEVELS

8.1 Fullerton St Stockton – 25 May 2014

- + 24-hour average PM₁₀ level of 55.5µg/m³ on 25 May 2014

Figure 8-1 presents a plot of the 1-hour average PM₁₀, wind speed and wind direction data recorded at Fullerton St Stockton on 25 May 2014. The 1-hour average PM₁₀ levels recorded at Newcastle, Wallsend and Beresfield have also been included.

The data presented in **Figure 8-1** show that the Fullerton St Stockton and Newcastle monitors recorded elevated PM₁₀ levels at 6pm, after a shift in wind direction from a north-westerly to a south-easterly. The elevated levels at the Fullerton St Stockton monitor continued until midnight, whereas the Newcastle monitor returned to levels similar to those recorded at Beresfield and Wallsend by 9pm.

The elevated PM₁₀ levels at Newcastle and Fullerton St Stockton may have occurred due to the change in wind direction and the drop in wind speed reducing air dispersion. The source of the high levels is unlikely to be industry, but may be dust from urban areas of Newcastle and Stockton and also salt in the air arising from the action of relatively large waves.

8.2 Fullerton St Stockton – 26 May 2014

- + 24-hour average PM₁₀ level of 54.6µg/m³ on 26 May 2014

Figure 8-2 presents a plot of the 1-hour average PM₁₀, wind speed and wind direction data recorded at Fullerton St Stockton on 26 May 2014. The 1-hour average PM₁₀ levels recorded at Newcastle, Beresfield and Wallsend have also been included.

The data presented in **Figure 8-2** show that the Fullerton St Stockton monitor recorded elevated PM₁₀ levels in the evening during periods of relatively light winds from the northeast. The Newcastle monitor generally showed a similar trend in recorded levels at this time, however the levels were lower than those recorded at Fullerton St Stockton.

Given the wind direction and the location of the Fullerton St Stockton TEOM monitor in relation to Stockton Beach, it is likely that the elevated PM₁₀ levels recorded at the monitors during these wind conditions were impacted by salt laden air or particulates blowing from the northeast along the surf break of Stockton Beach. It is also possible that the elevated levels recorded by the monitors were impacted by a localised source.

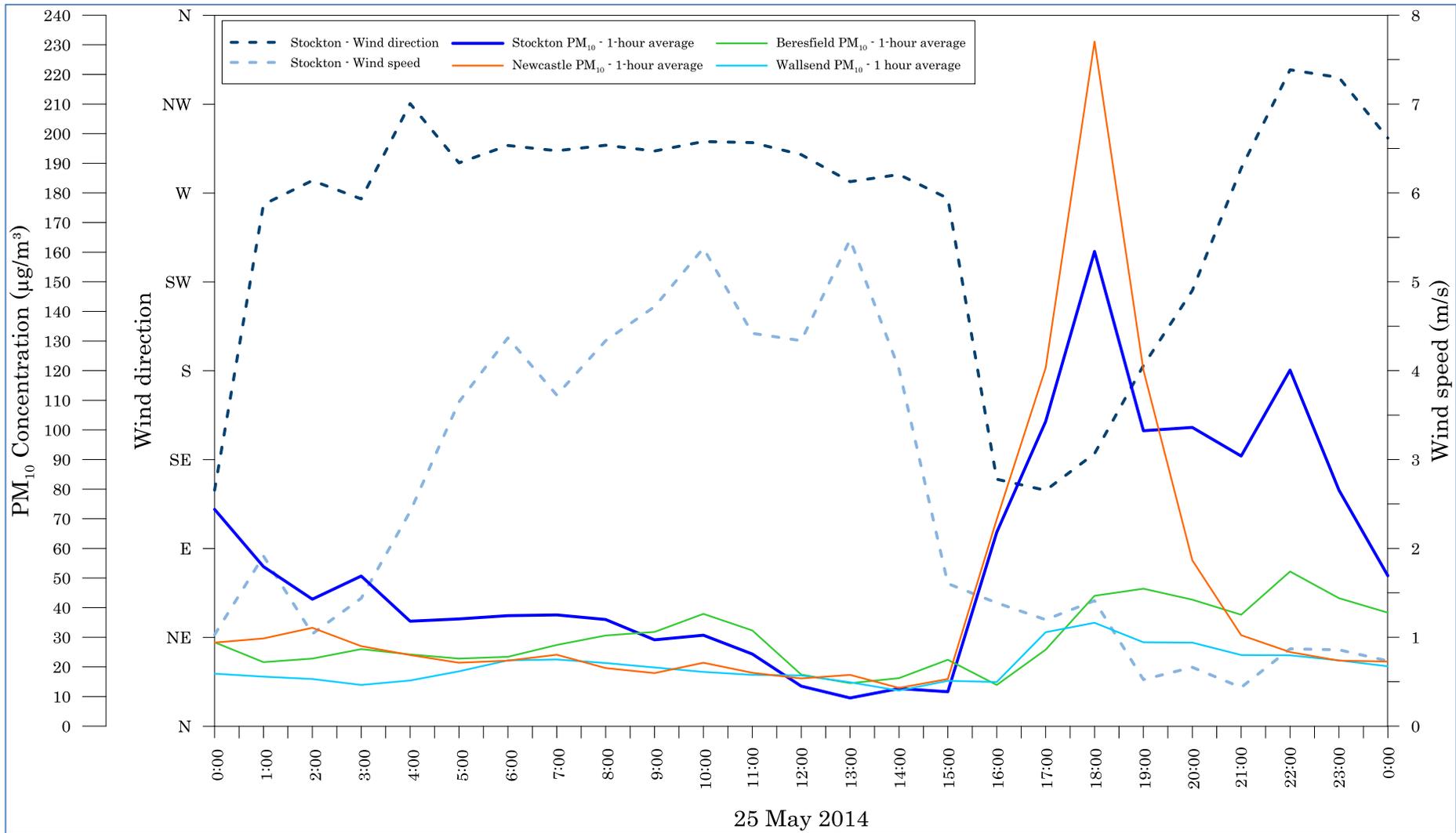


Figure 8-1: Analysis of elevated PM₁₀ levels on 25 May - Fullerton St Stockton

Fullerton St Stockton and Newcastle monitors recorded elevated PM₁₀ levels after a shift in wind direction from a north-westerly to a south-easterly.

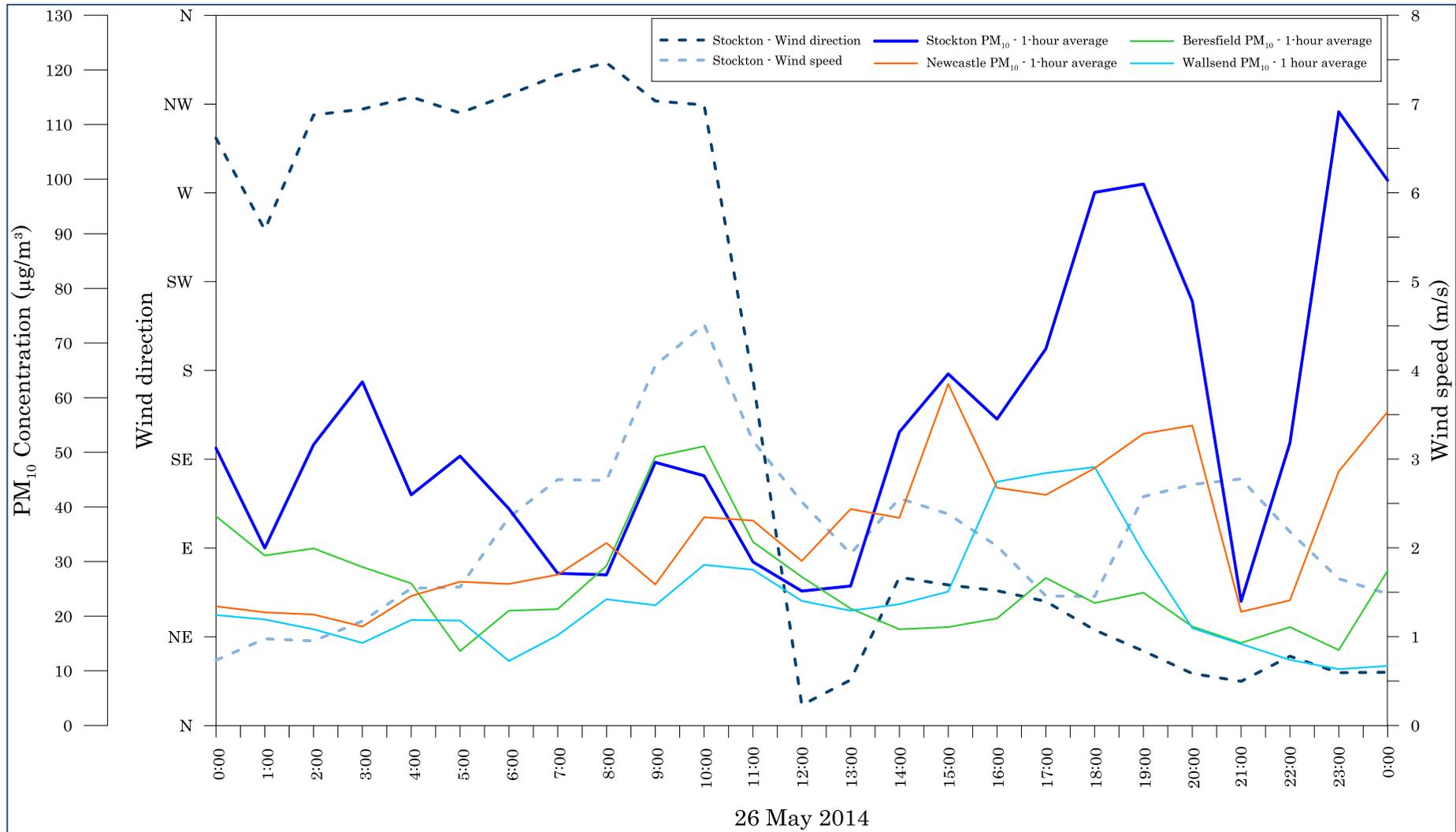


Figure 8-2: Analysis of elevated PM₁₀ levels on 26 May - Fullerton St Stockton

Fullerton St Stockton recorded elevated PM₁₀ levels associated with light winds from the northeast.

9 CONCLUSIONS

The results indicate that the monitoring stations recorded good air quality for the majority of the time in May.

The Fullerton St Stockton monitor recorded 24-hour average PM₁₀ levels above the relevant criterion of 50µg/m³ on 25 and 26 May.

Relative to the Air Quality Index:

- ✦ The measured levels of NO₂ were very good at all monitors at all times except the Roxburgh St Stockton monitor which recorded 13 1-hour average concentrations with good levels;
- ✦ The measured levels of SO₂ were very good at all monitors at all times;
- ✦ The measured levels of PM_{2.5} were very good to good at all locations at all times except Fullerton St Stockton which experienced fair levels on three days; and,
- ✦ The measured PM₁₀ levels were generally very good or good in May. The Newcastle and Fullerton St Stockton TEOM monitors recorded fair levels on two days, and the Beresfield and Fullerton St Stockton HVAS monitors recorded fair levels on one day. The Fullerton St Stockton TEOM monitor also recorded two days with poor levels.

On this basis it can be concluded that the air quality in the Lower Hunter was generally good during May 2014.

10 REFERENCES

ATSDR (2004)

"Public Health Statement for Ammonia", Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
September 2004.

NEPC (2003)

"Variation to the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure for Particles
as PM_{2.5}", National Environment Protection Council, May 2003.

NSW DEC (2005)

"Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW", Department
of Environment and Conservation (NSW), August 2005.

USEPA (2013)

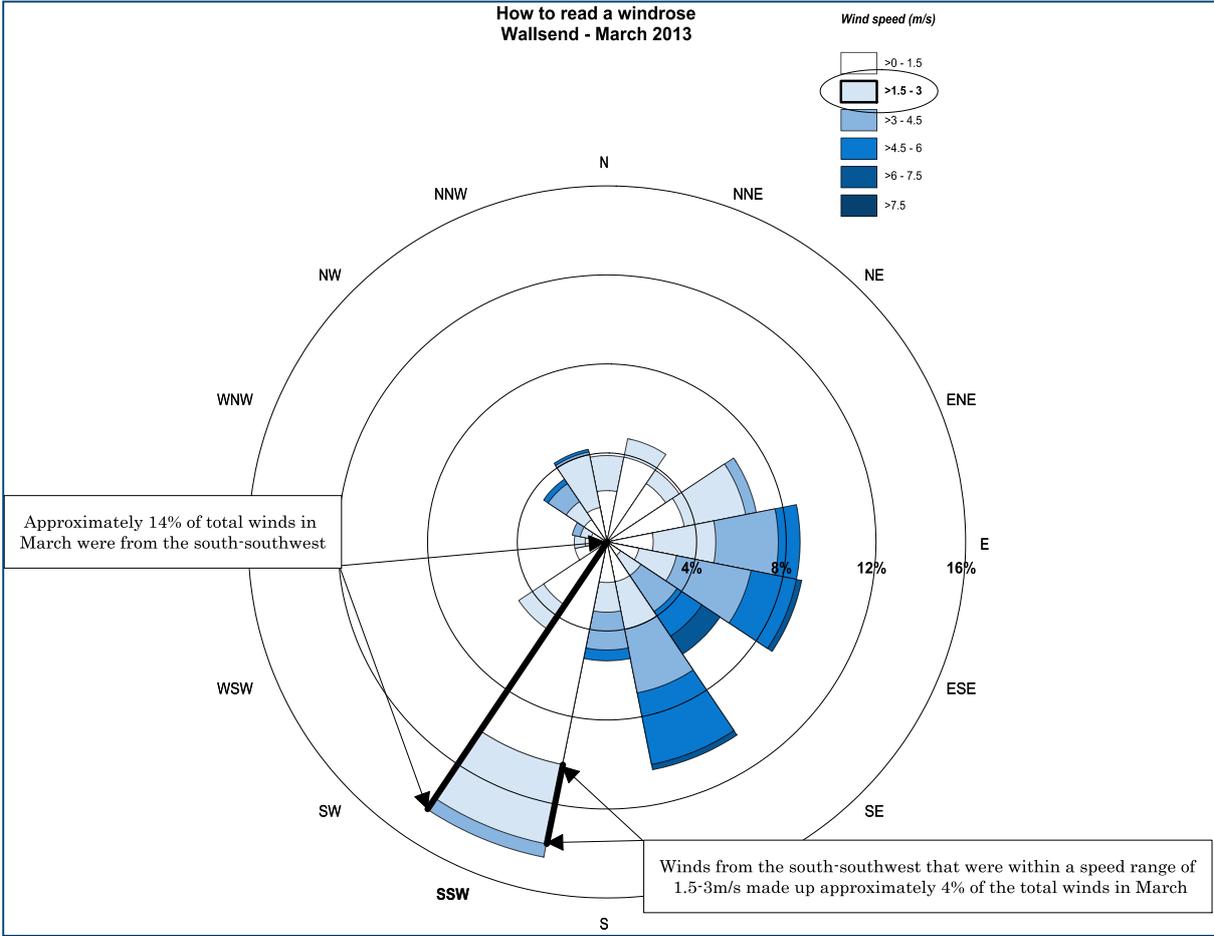
Health Effects of Pollution, United States Environmental Protection Agency website,
<<http://www.epa.gov/region07/air/quality/health.htm>>, accessed May 2013.



Appendix A

How to read a windrose





Appendix B
Monitoring Data (Graphical)

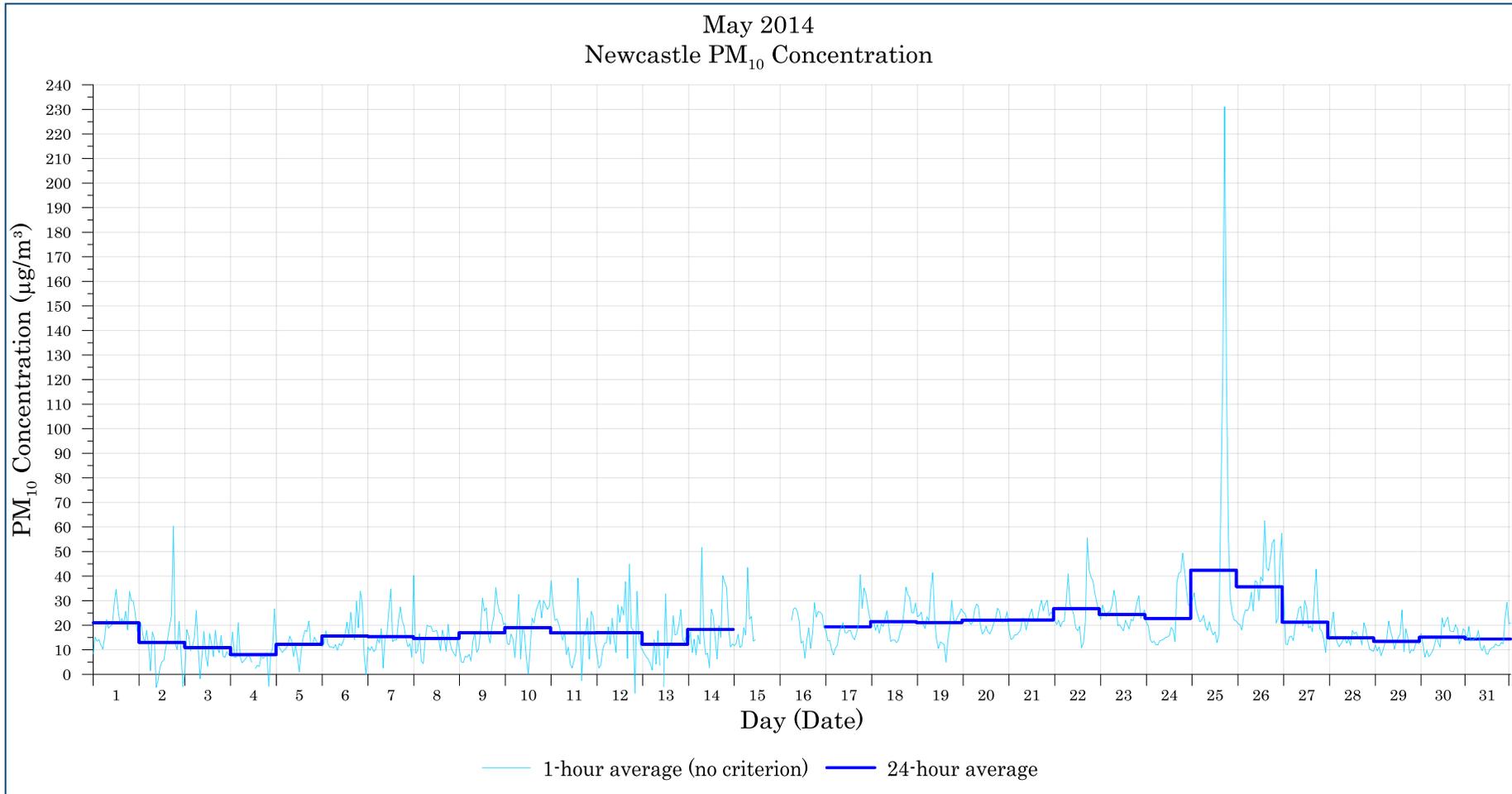


Figure B-1: Newcastle PM₁₀ concentration - May

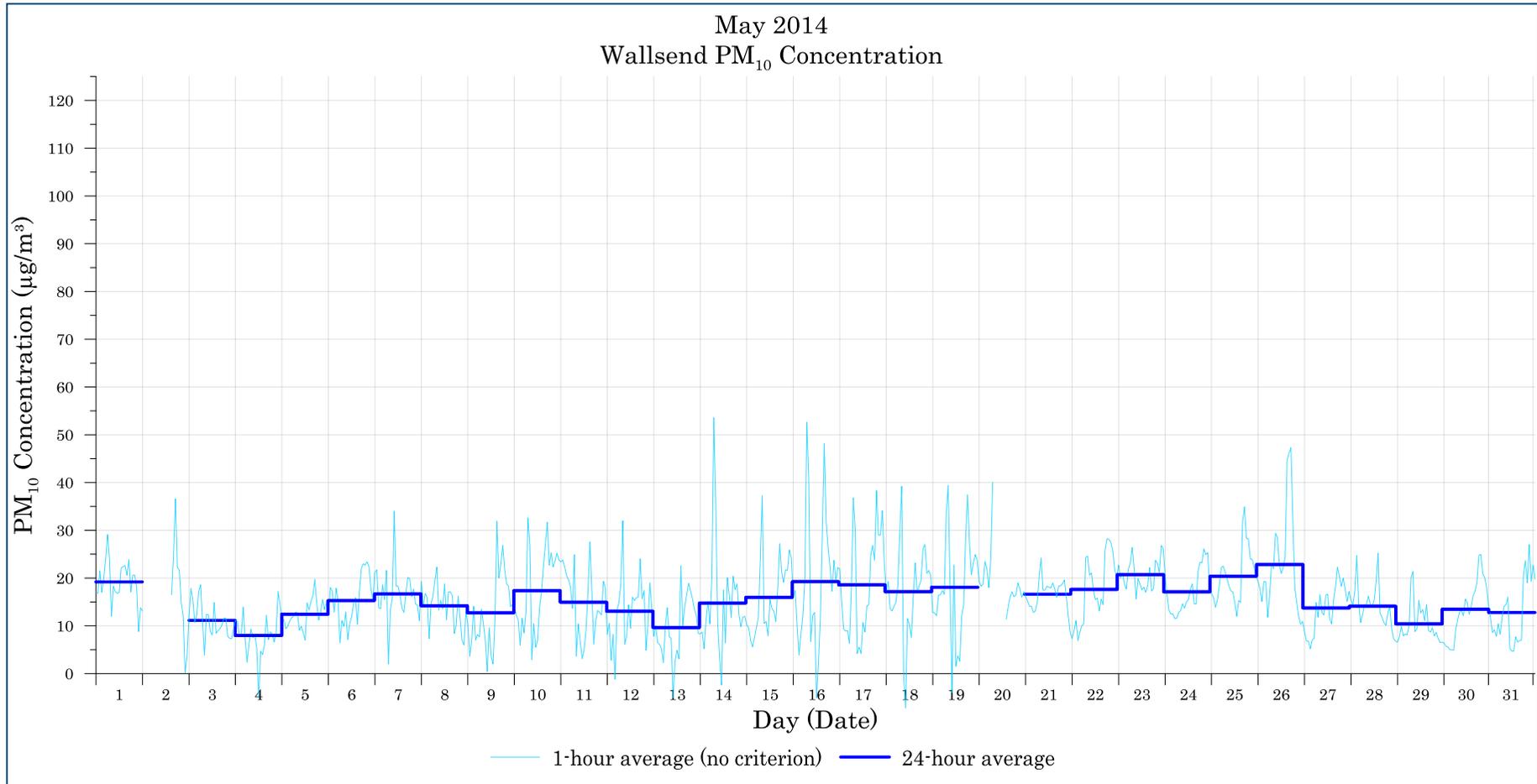


Figure B-2: Wallsend PM₁₀ concentration - May

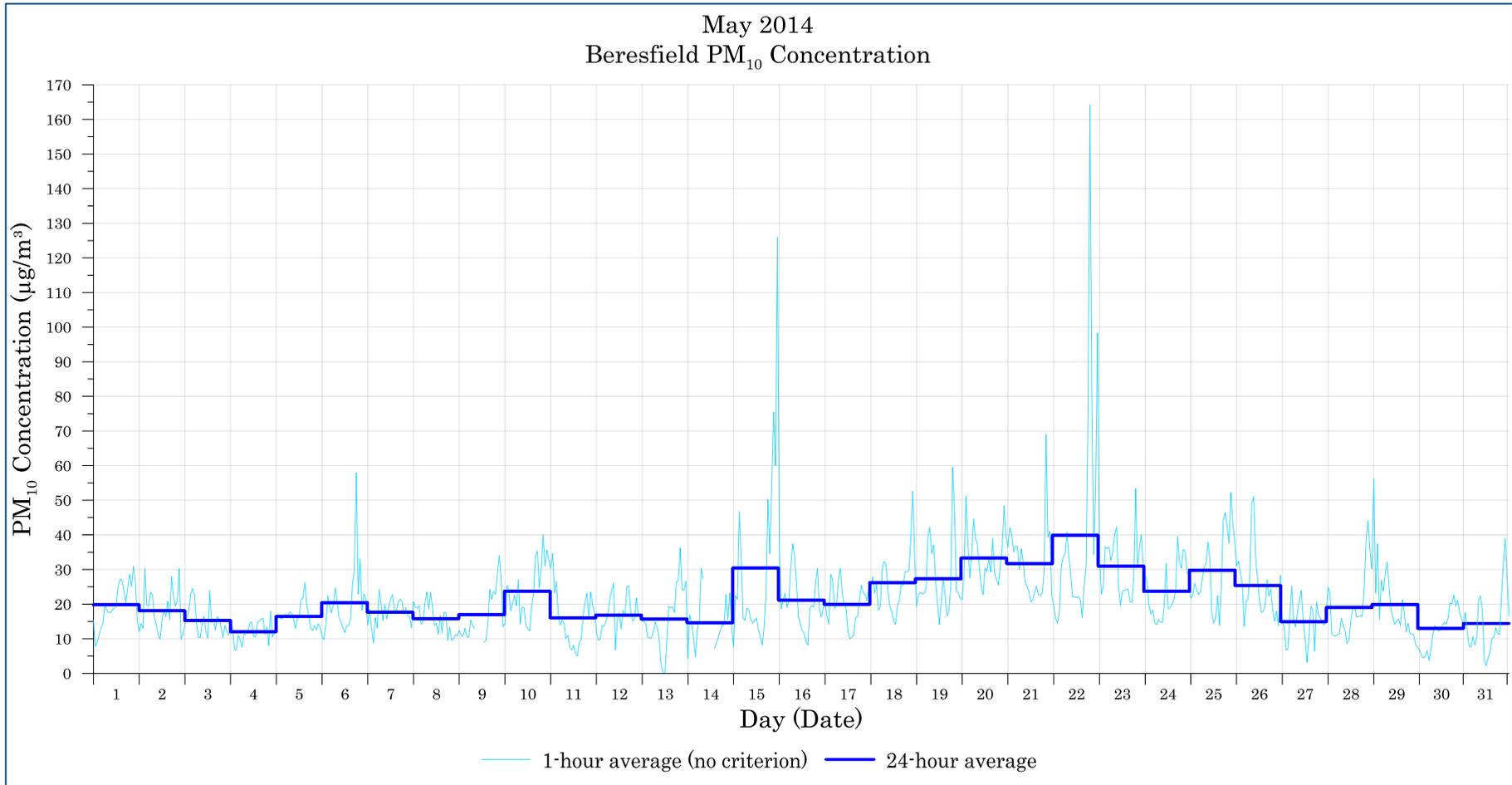


Figure B-3: Beresfield PM₁₀ concentration - May

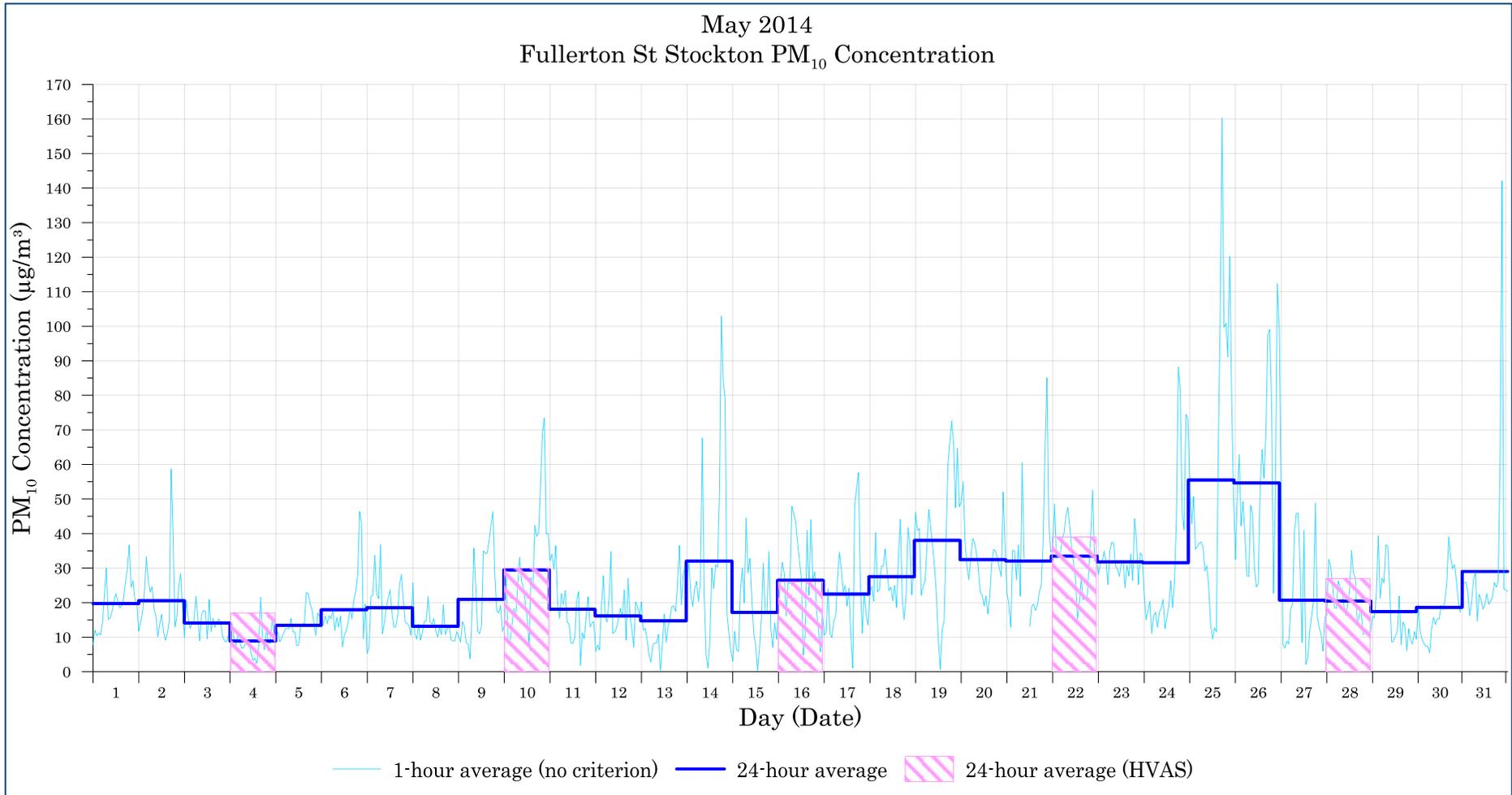


Figure B-4: Stockton PM₁₀ concentration - May

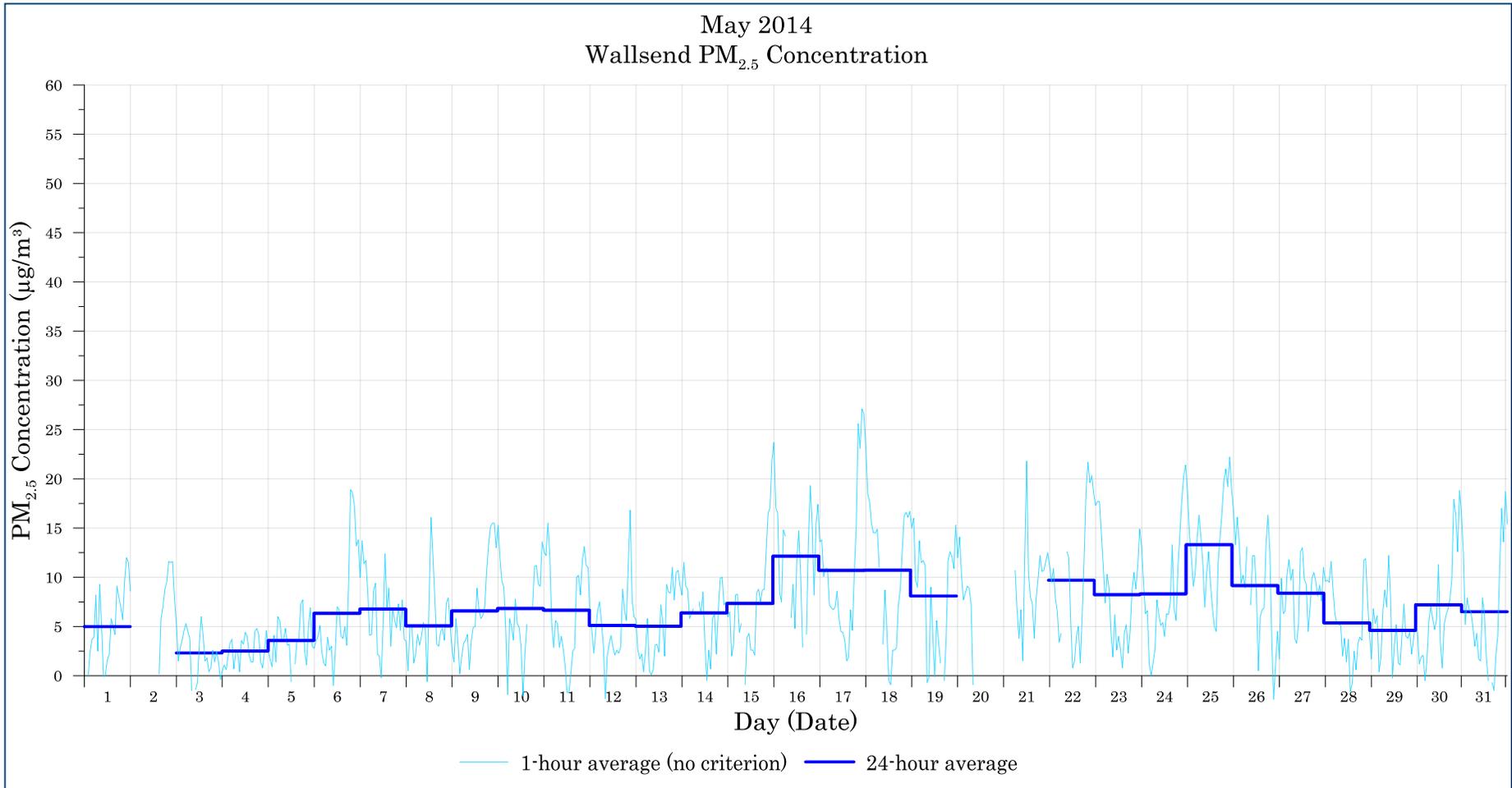


Figure B-5: Wallsend PM_{2.5} concentration - May

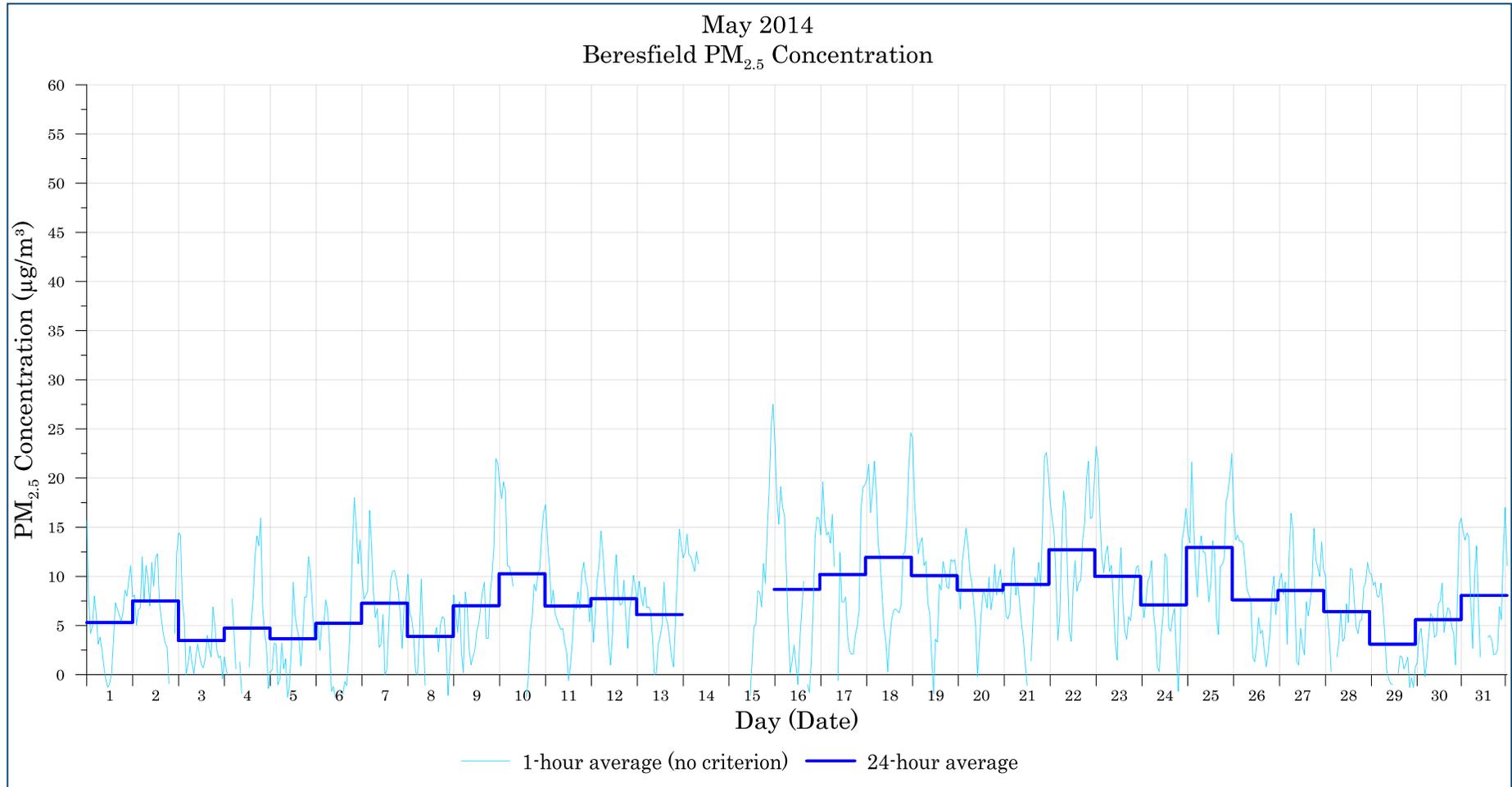


Figure B-6: Beresfield PM_{2.5} concentration - May

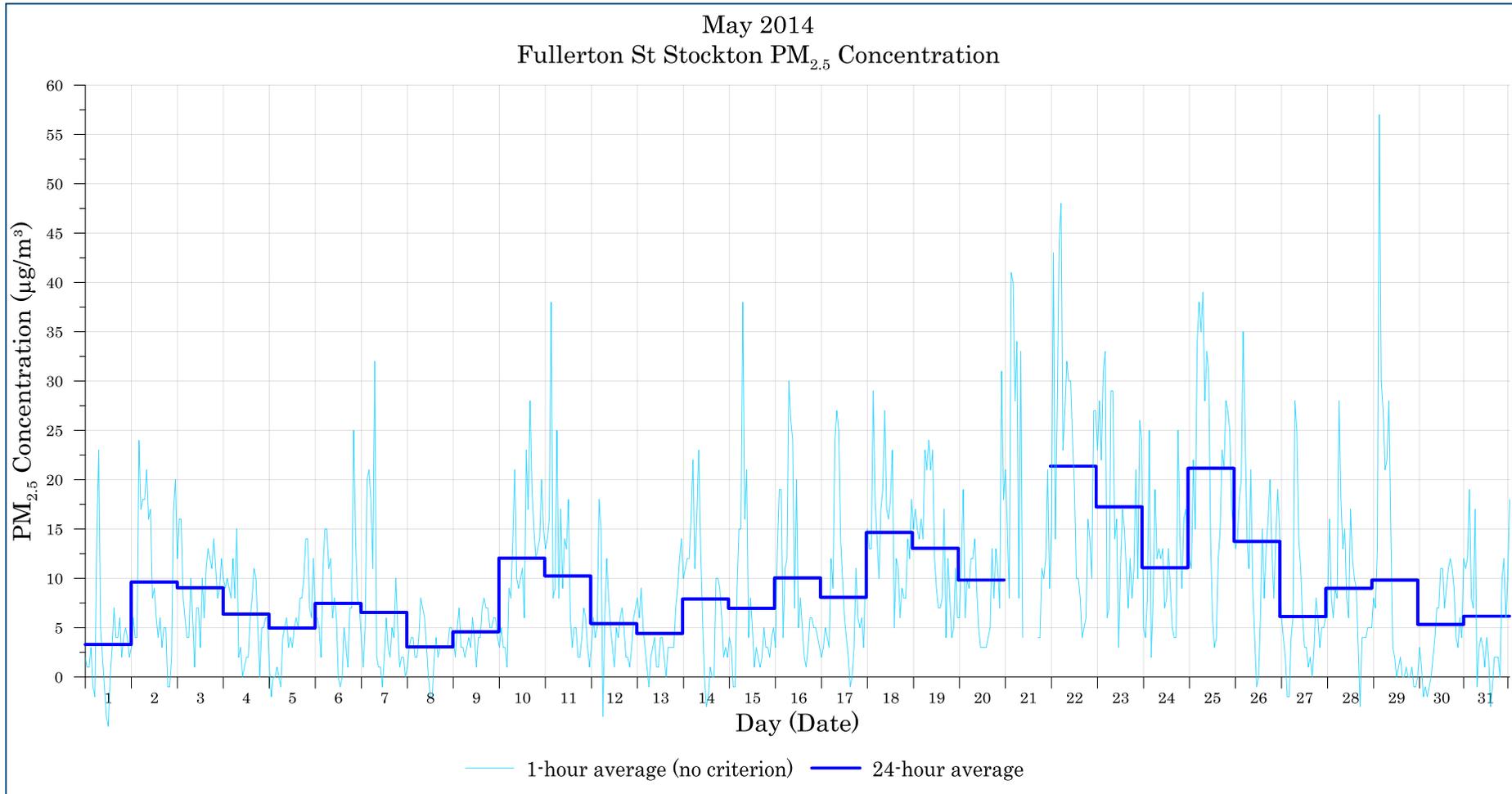


Figure B-7: Stockton PM_{2.5} concentration - May

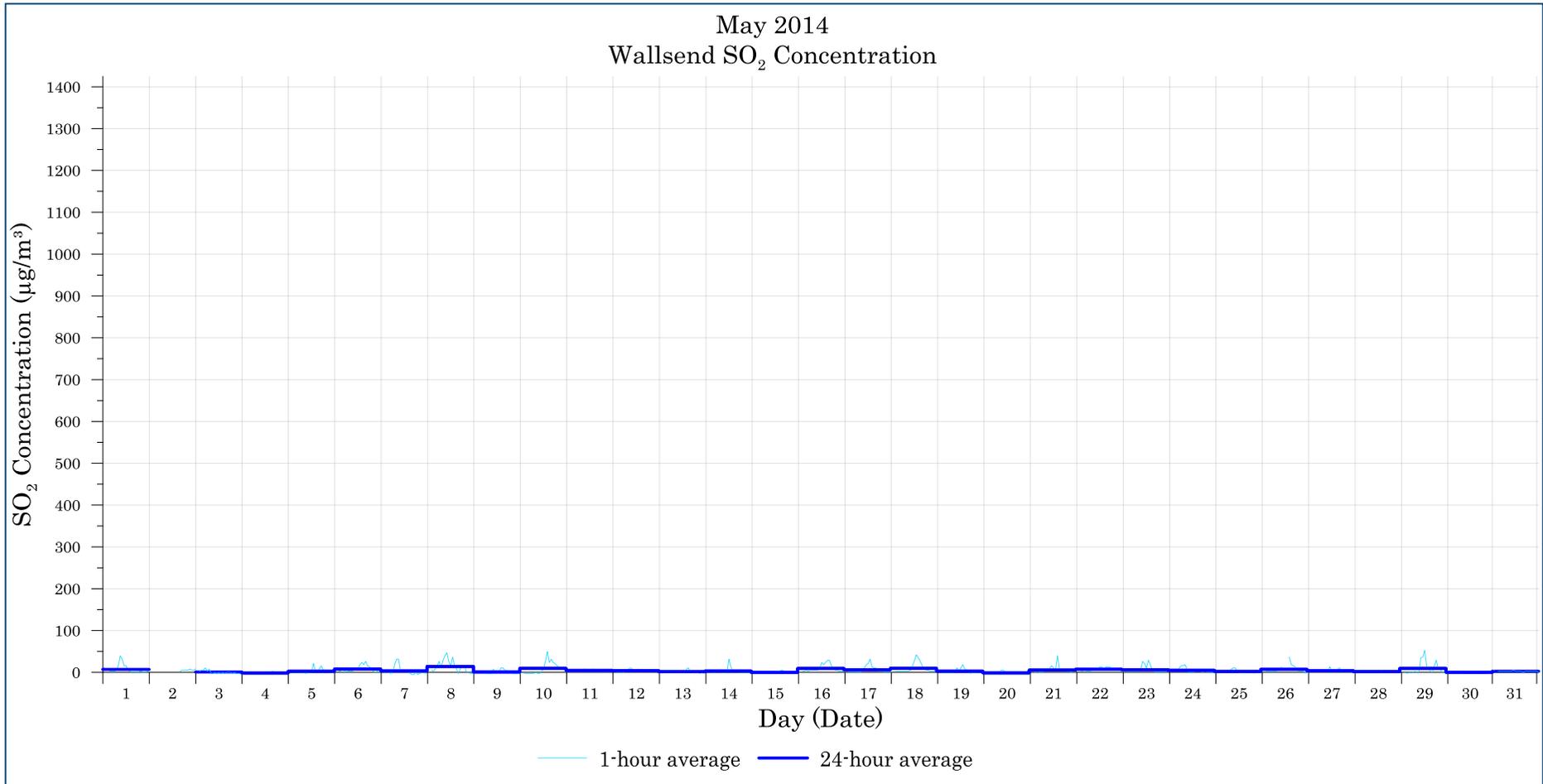


Figure B-8: Wallsend SO₂ concentration - May

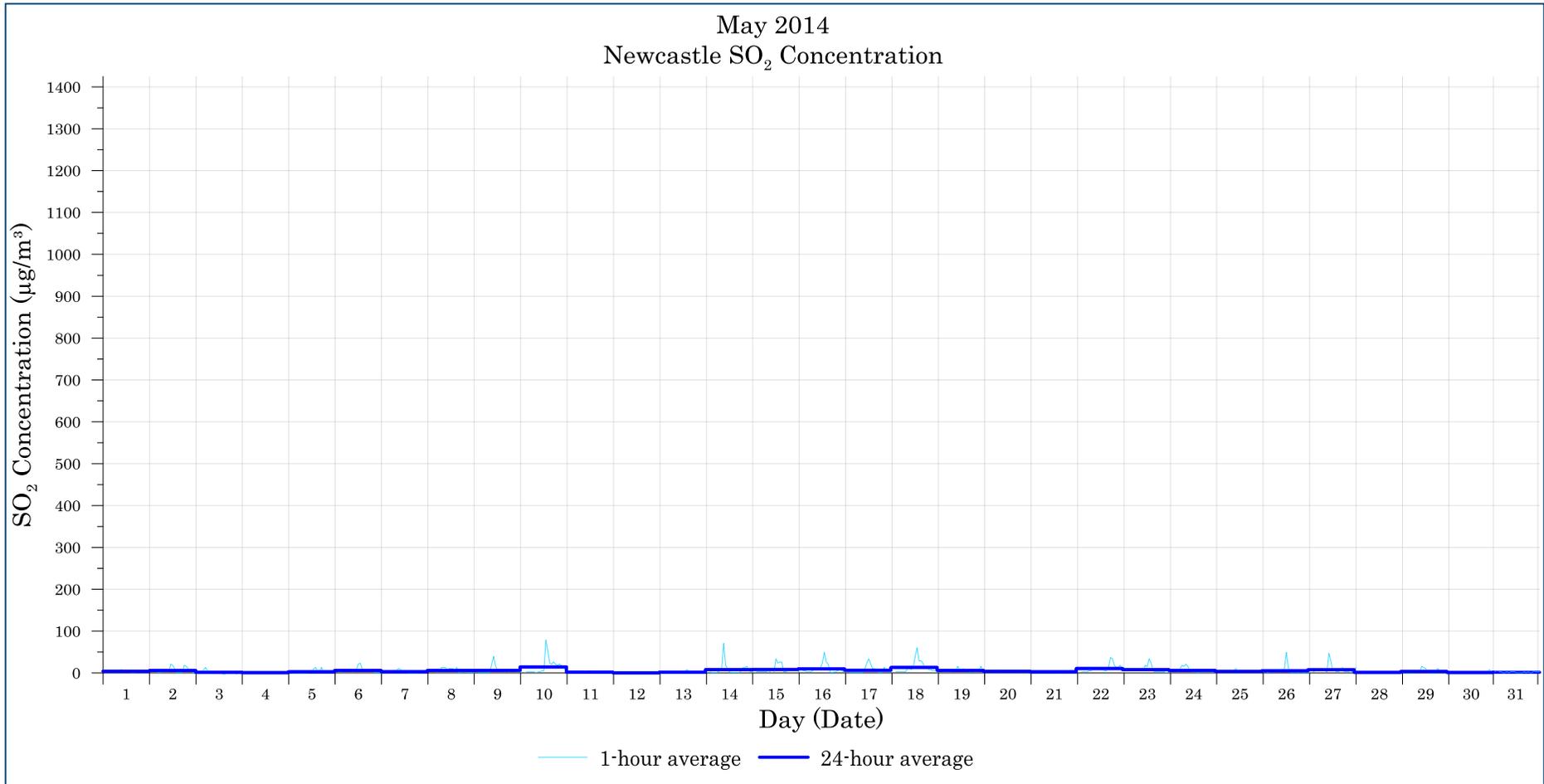


Figure B-9: Newcastle SO₂ concentration - May

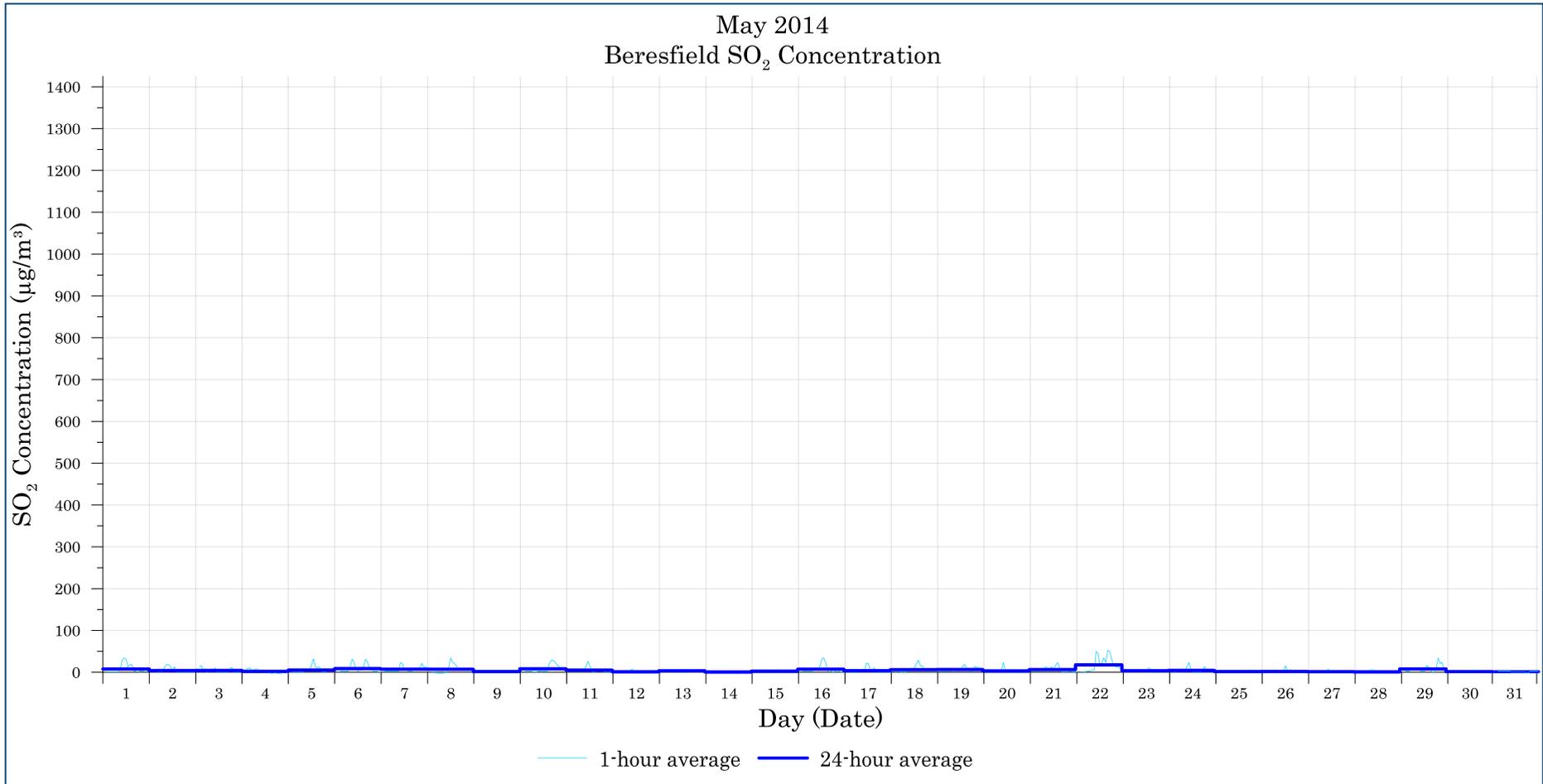


Figure B-10: Beresfield SO₂ concentration - May

Appendix C
Monitoring Data (Tabulated)

Table C-1: May 24-hour average monitoring data

Date	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)			PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)			SO ₂ (µg/m ³)			
	Walls end	Newcastle	Beresfield	Fullerton St Stockton	Wallsend	Beresfield	Fullerton St Stockton	Wallsend	Newcastle	Beresfield
01/05/2014	19.2	21.0	19.8	19.7	5.0	5.3	3.3	6.9	4.1	7.9
02/05/2014	-	13.0	18.1	20.6	-	7.5	9.6	-	5.8	4.2
03/05/2014	11.1	10.9	15.3	14.1	2.3	3.5	9.0	0.8	1.3	4.3
04/05/2014	8.0	8.0	12.0	8.9	2.5	4.7	6.4	-1.5	0.8	2.3
05/05/2014	12.4	12.2	16.4	13.5	3.6	3.7	5.0	2.6	2.8	5.0
06/05/2014	15.3	15.6	20.4	18.0	6.3	5.2	7.5	7.7	6.0	8.7
07/05/2014	16.7	15.4	17.7	18.5	6.8	7.3	6.5	3.2	3.0	7.1
08/05/2014	14.2	14.6	15.8	13.1	5.1	3.9	3.0	14.1	6.0	6.9
09/05/2014	12.7	16.9	16.9	21.0	6.6	7.0	4.6	0.8	6.2	1.6
10/05/2014	17.4	19.0	23.7	29.5	6.8	10.3	12.0	9.3	14.5	8.3
11/05/2014	15.0	16.9	16.1	18.1	6.7	7.0	10.3	4.6	1.7	4.9
12/05/2014	13.1	17.0	16.8	16.1	5.1	7.7	5.4	4.2	0.5	0.9
13/05/2014	9.6	12.2	15.7	14.7	5.0	6.1	4.4	1.6	1.5	3.3
14/05/2014	14.8	18.3	14.6	32.0	6.4	-	7.9	3.0	8.0	0.6
15/05/2014	16.0	-	30.4	17.2	7.3	-	7.0	-0.2	8.5	2.5
16/05/2014	19.2	-	21.2	26.5	12.1	8.7	10.0	9.2	9.6	7.1
17/05/2014	18.6	19.3	20.0	22.5	10.7	10.2	8.1	6.2	6.5	4.0
18/05/2014	17.1	21.5	26.2	27.5	10.7	11.9	14.7	9.5	13.1	6.3
19/05/2014	18.1	21.1	27.3	38.0	8.1	10.1	13.0	2.7	6.0	6.5
20/05/2014	-	22.1	33.3	32.4	-	8.6	9.8	-1.3	3.8	3.0
21/05/2014	16.6	22.1	31.7	32.1	-	9.2	-	5.4	2.9	6.4
22/05/2014	17.6	26.7	39.9	33.5	9.7	12.7	21.4	7.2	10.7	17.8
23/05/2014	20.7	24.3	31.0	31.8	8.2	10.0	17.3	6.3	7.9	3.5
24/05/2014	17.1	22.8	23.7	31.5	8.3	7.1	11.1	4.8	6.0	4.4
25/05/2014	20.4	42.4	29.8	55.5	13.3	12.9	21.2	2.4	3.5	1.7
26/05/2014	22.8	35.7	25.3	54.6	9.2	7.6	13.8	7.1	5.0	2.1
27/05/2014	13.7	21.2	14.9	20.7	8.4	8.6	6.1	3.8	7.5	1.1
28/05/2014	14.1	14.8	19.1	20.4	5.4	6.4	9.0	1.8	1.2	0.8
29/05/2014	10.4	13.4	19.9	17.4	4.6	3.1	9.8	9.2	3.4	8.1
30/05/2014	13.5	15.1	13.0	18.6	7.2	5.6	5.3	0.1	1.0	1.3
31/05/2014	12.8	14.4	14.4	29.0	6.5	8.1	6.2	2.6	1.6	1.3

- Not applicable

Table C-2: May 24-hour average HVAAS monitoring data

Date	PM ₁₀ (HVAAS) (µg/m ³)		
	Steel River	Mayfield	Fullerton St Stockton
04/05/2014	4	8	17
10/05/2014	17	21	30
16/05/2014	18	29	26
22/05/2014	28	29	39
28/05/2014	17	14	27