

Narragansett Bay Commission

Modification of pH Ranges

Kerry M. Britt
Pretreatment Manager
October 21, 2026



Narragansett Bay Commission

Own and operate the two
largest treatment plants in RI

Service 10 Cities & Towns

1,946 Permitted Users

58 SIUs



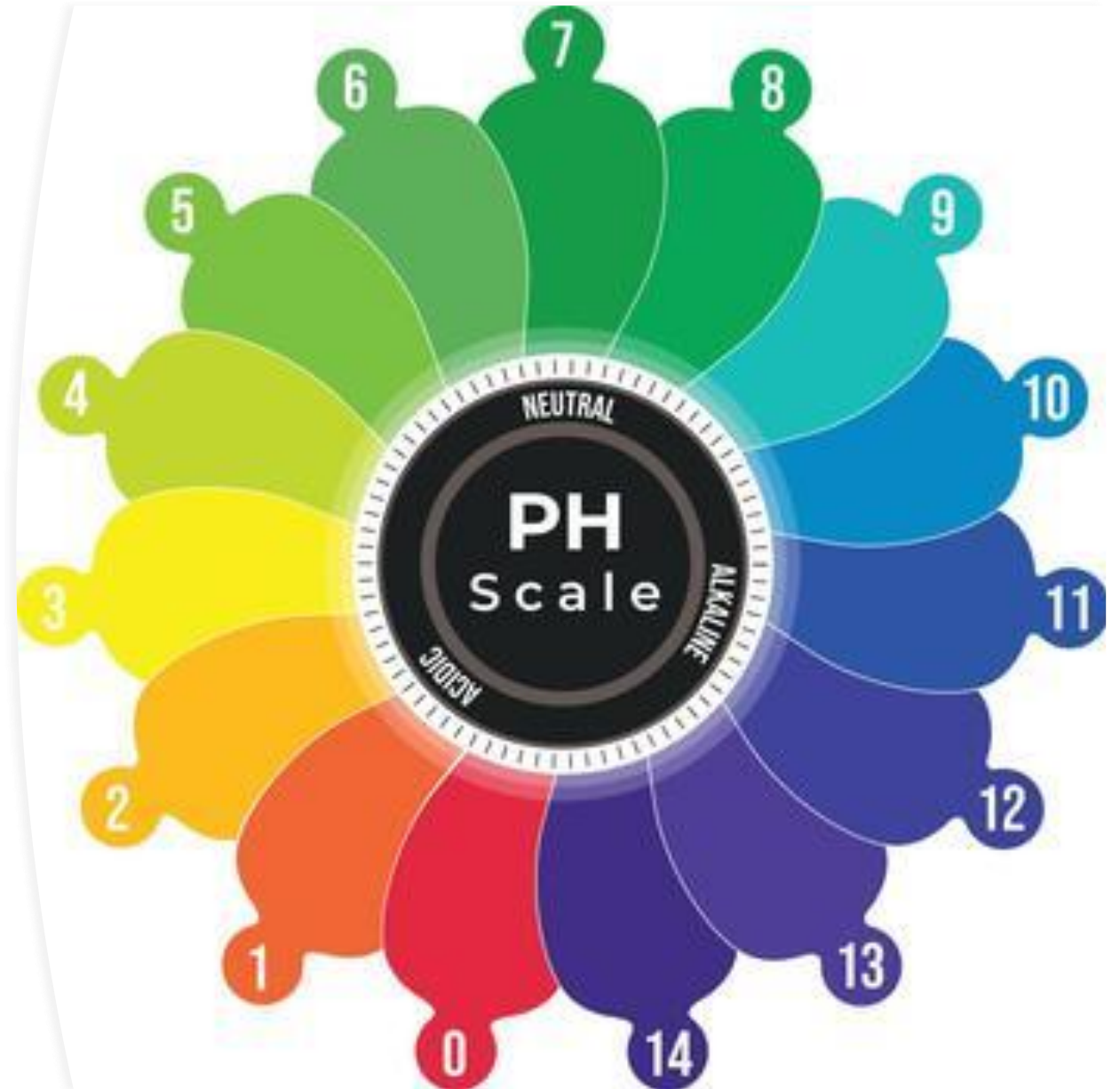
Field's Point
48 MGD



Bucklin Point
22 MGD

Original pH Ranges

- The NBC was created in the late 80's to take over the Field's Point plant
 - pH range was 5.0 su – 10.0 su
- Bucklin Point was acquired in the early 90's
 - pH range was 5.5su – 9.5 su
- Issued NOV's for low pH violations
- NOV's not issued for exceedances of upper limit due potable water pH



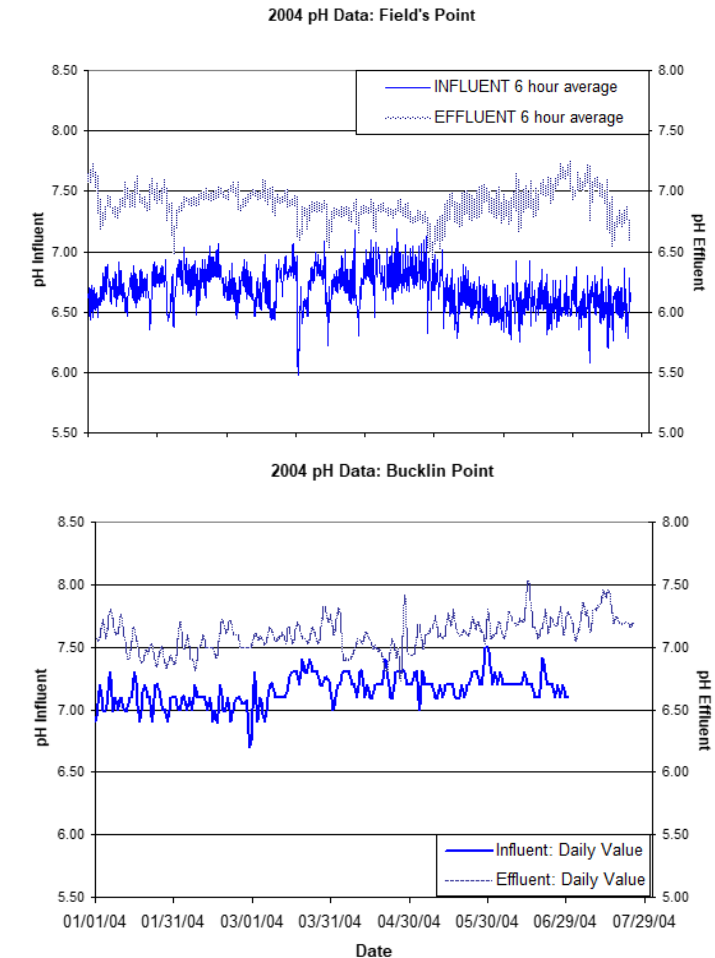
Decision to Modify pH Ranges

- 1996 RI DEM PCI
- DEM noted NOV's not being issued for upper pH violations
- In response a potable water was proposed
- Impact of raising the upper limit on plants
- Water Providers
 - Providence Water Supply Board - all of FP and 25% of BP
 - Pawtucket Water Supply – 75% of BP



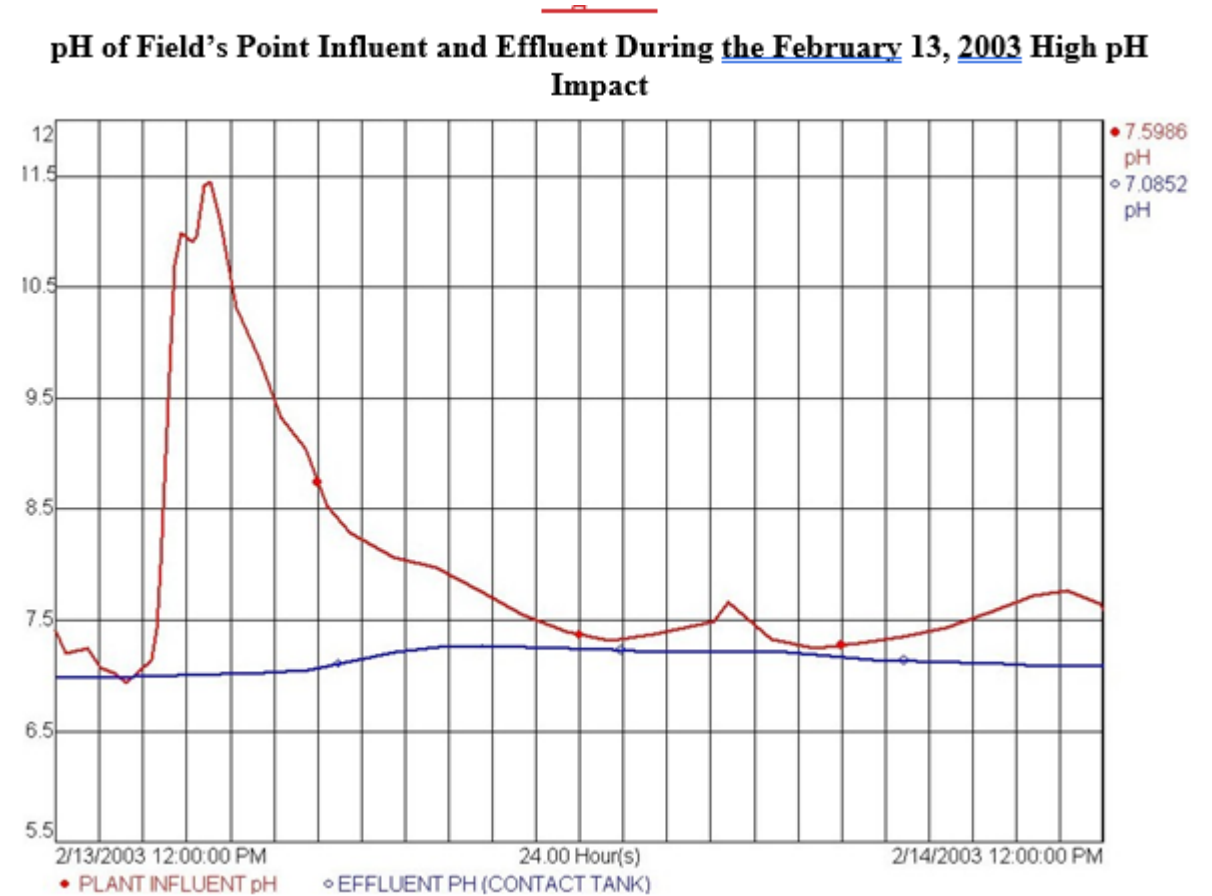
Potable Water Study 1997 - 2003

- pH Measurements of potable water from
- Industries from sanitary sinks – 1,803 data points
- FP – 789 of 1,617 (48.8%) > 10.0 su (4.7% > 10.5 su)
- BP – 42 of 186 (22.6%) > 9.5 su
- Manholes
- Both districts pH readings 7.0 su – 8.0 su
- FP influent 6.0 su – 8.3 su
- BP influent 6.4 su – 7.1 su



Other Contributions to the Study

- February 13, 2003 FP influent pH elevated over 11.0 su
- Source metal finisher located ~2 miles from plant
- Effluent pH not impacted



Findings



Not raising the limit companies would have to adjust pH of potable water



Raising the upper pH limit to 11.0 su would not adversely impact operations at either plant



Lowering the lower pH limit to 5.0 su at BP would not impact the plant

Requested a
modification to
the approved IPP

pH range at both facilities 5.0 su – 11.0 su



RI DEM approved
the request as a
minor
modification



Kerry M. Britt
Pretreatment Manager
Narragansett Bay Commission
401.461.8848 ext. 490
kbritt@narrabay.com