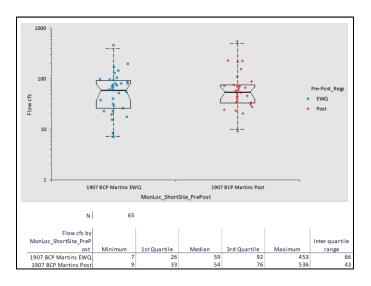
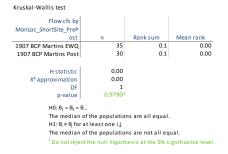


Analysis of flow differences between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods:

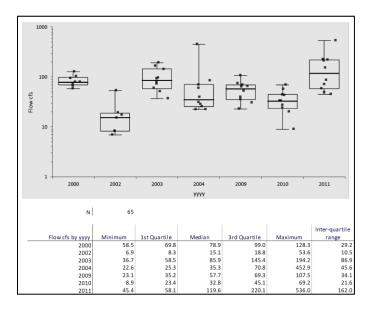


Flow conditions associated with the EWQ and post-EWQ sampling periods were similar. The range of flow conditions sampled was also roughly equal, so water quality comparisons should not be affected by unequal flow conditions.



Martins Creek is a good-quality cold-water creek possessing naturally reproducing trout populations. The watershed was about 38% glaciated, 8% urban, and contains significant agricultural lands. Overall watershed area is about 44.5 square miles, and it is about 55% forested. Only 1.5% of the watershed is covered by carbonate bedrock. In comparison, the neighboring Bushkill Creek watershed is 38% carbonate bedrock, and the Lehigh River watershed contains 16%. So limestone is not a major determinant of water quality here compared with the Bushkill and Lehigh.

Upstream ICP: Delaware River at Belvidere 1978 ICP Downstream ICP: Delaware River at Easton 1838 ICP



There are few dischargers in the Martins Creek watershed. There are no independent data sources available to compare with DRBC results at this site. There is a USGS gage in the watershed, but it is located in the upper portion of the watershed and is too far from the Little Creek Road monitoring site to be of use for flow estimation.

Annual May to September flow statistics associated with water quality measurements are plotted above. These are measurements or estimates associated with the time of each water quality sample. Mean annual flow is about 76 cfs; and harmonic mean flow is about 24 cfs (USGS Stream Stats retrieval, Feb. 2014) which is more typical of summer flow conditions. Among the wide range of flows sampled by DRBC, these data appear to be most representative of harmonic mean to mean annual flow conditions. In the EWQ period, flows were measured using a DRBC-constructed benchmark gage and gage-discharge rating. Because of shifting gravel bars near the Little Creek Road site, it proved too expensive to continue maintenance of the rating curve. Post-EWQ flows corresponding to each water quality sample were estimated using the USGS BaSE model, but still compared with DRBC benchmark gage height measurements. BaSE estimates and rating curve measurements were comparable. DRBC intends to use the BaSE program for future flow estimates.

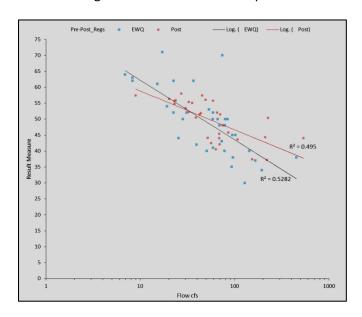
*Stuckey, M.H., Koerkle, E.H., and Ulrich, J.E., 2012, Estimation of baseline daily mean streamflows for ungaged locations on Pennsylvania streams, water years 1960–2008: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2012– 5142, 61 p.)

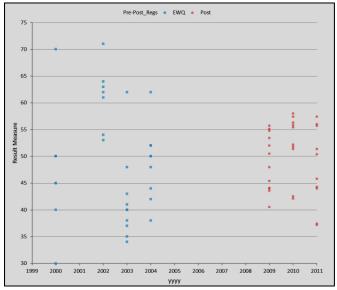
Chapter 20: 1907 BCP Martins Creek, PA

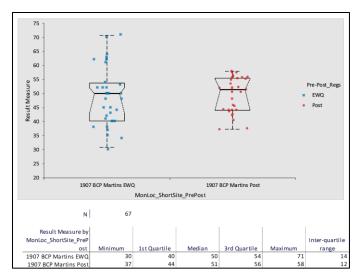
Alkalinity as CaCO3, Total mg/l

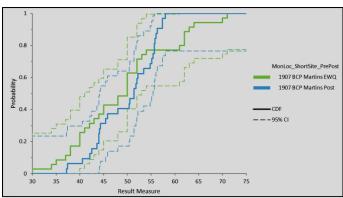
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

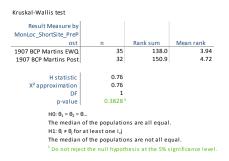
Median 50 mg/l
Lower 95% Confidence Interval 43 mg/l
Upper 95% Confidence Interval 52 mg/l
Defined in regulations as a flow-related parameter











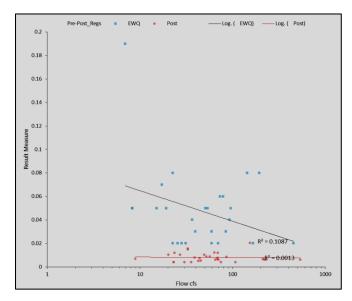
No water quality degradation is evident here. Alkalinity apparently did not measurably change between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts. Alkalinity is inversely related to flow in both data sets. Post-EWQ median alkalinity was within the EWQ 95% confidence intervals. Flow is plotted on a logarithmic scale.

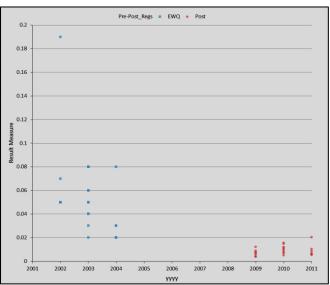
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Ammonia Nitrogen as N, Total mg/l

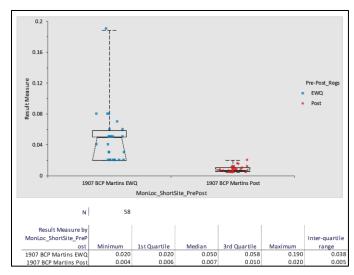
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

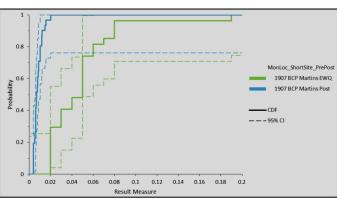
Median <0.05 mg/l
Lower 95% Confidence Interval 0.02* mg/l
Upper 95% Confidence Interval 0.05 mg/l
*based on estimated values below detection limit

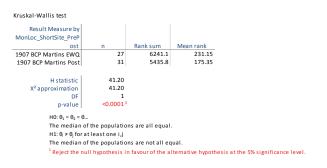




No water quality degradation is evident here. Ammonia concentrations appear to have declined significantly. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts and detection limit differences.







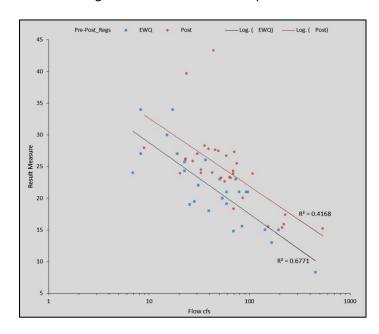
Post-EWQ median ammonia concentration was below the EWQ lower 95% confidence interval. There were no independent data available for comparison with DRBC results. Ammonia is unrelated to flow in both data sets. Flow is plotted on a logarithmic scale. EWQ data contained 18 undetected results out of 27 tests. EWQ results above the detection limit were highly variable. Under 2009-2011 lower detection levels there were still 12/31 undetected results. Post-EWQ results above detection levels were less variable — no result was higher than 0.02 mg/l. True ammonia concentrations are now measurable in this high-quality stream.

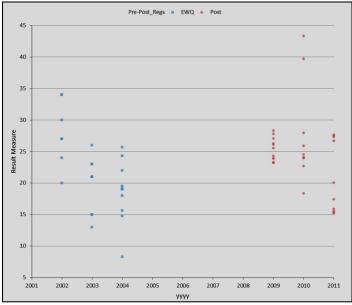
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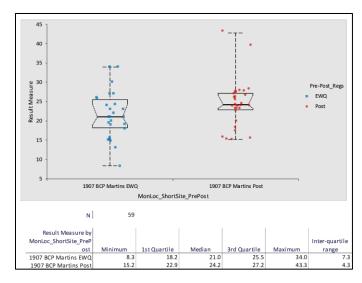
Chloride, Total mg/l

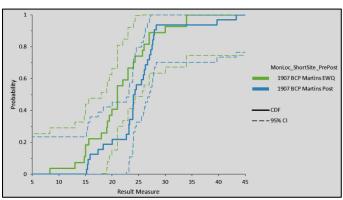
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

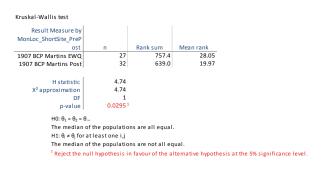
Median 21.0 mg/l
Lower 95% Confidence Interval 19.0 mg/l
Upper 95% Confidence Interval 24.3 mg/l
Defined in regulations as a flow-related parameter











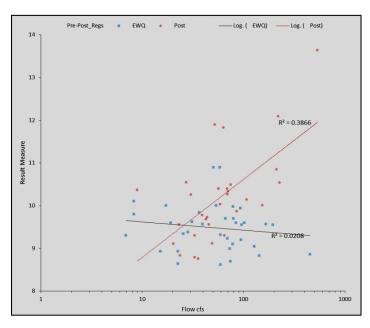
There is evidence of water quality degradation here. Chloride concentrations apparently rose by about 3 mg/l between the two periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts. Post-EWQ median concentration rose to the EWQ upper 95% confidence interval. Chloride concentration is inversely related to flow in both data sets. Note that flow is plotted on a logarithmic scale. No independent data were available for comparison with DRBC results.

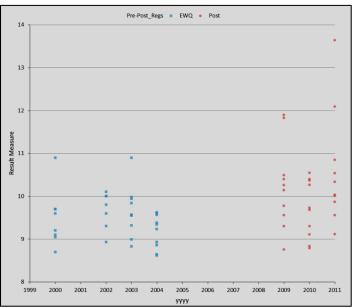
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Dissolved Oxygen (DO) mg/l

Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

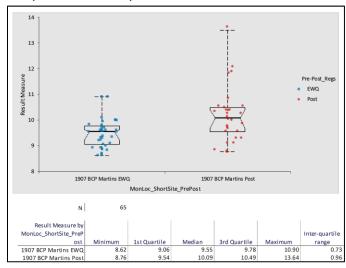
Median 9.55 mg/l Lower 95% Confidence Interval 9.23 mg/l Upper 95% Confidence Interval 9.62 mg/l

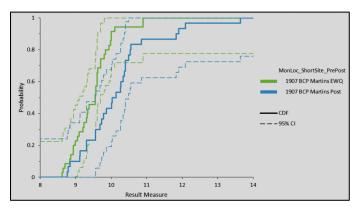


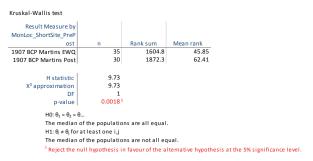


No water quality degradation is evident here. Dissolved oxygen concentrations increased between the EWQ and Post-EWQ periods. There were no known sources of

analytical uncertainty in these data.







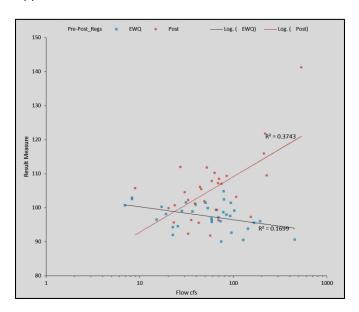
Post-EWQ median DO concentration was above the upper EWQ 95% confidence interval. Such an increase constitutes a water quality improvement. DO concentration is unrelated to flow in the EWQ data set. DO is positively related to flow in the post-EWQ data, apparently driven by a few high measurements taken in 2009 and 2011. Unless there was a change in water temperatures (none) or increased algal activity (possible), the relationship may not be real. Flow is plotted on a logarithmic scale. No independent data were available for comparison with DRBC results.

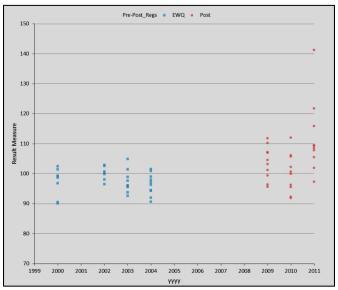
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Dissolved Oxygen Saturation %

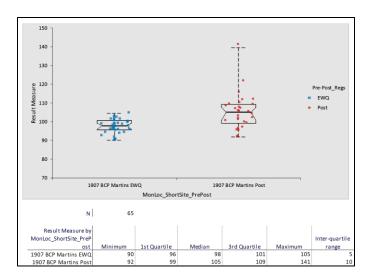
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

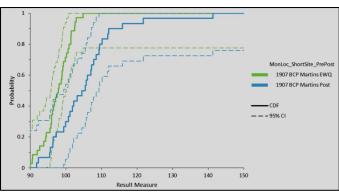
Median 98% Lower 95% Confidence Interval 96% Upper 95% Confidence Interval 99%

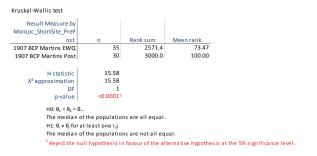




No water quality degradation is evident here. Dissolved oxygen saturation increased between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. There were no known sources of analytical uncertainty in these data. Post-EWQ median DO saturation rose above the upper EWQ 95% confidence interval.







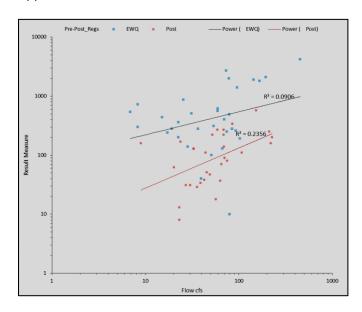
Flow is plotted on a logarithmic scale. DO saturation is not usually flow-related, but there is a weakly positively relationship in the post-EWQ data that was not shown in the baseline EWQ data (see DO discussion above). There were no measurements below 80%, so there is no concern about an excess of oxygen-reducing material. However, there are two values over 120% which indicated super-saturation conditions that are often associated with high algal production. As a rule of thumb, 80-120% is considered "normal"; in that range a balance exists between oxygen demand and supply. No independent data were available to confirm results.

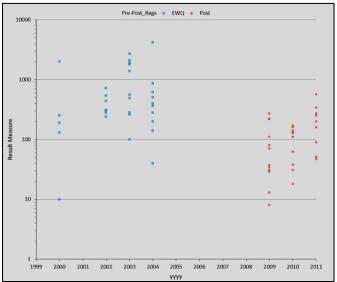
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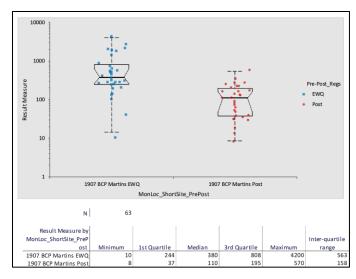
Enterococcus colonies/100 ml

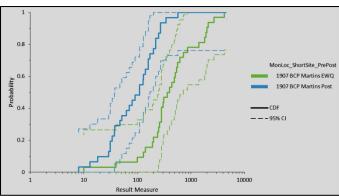
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

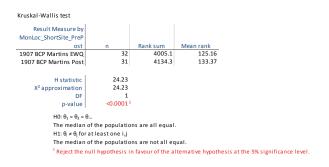
Median 380/100 ml Lower 95% Confidence Interval 260/100 ml Upper 95% Confidence Interval 620/100 ml











No water quality degradation is evident here.

Enterococci apparently declined between the EWQ and Post-EWQ periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts. There was no truncation of high values in post-EWQ data.

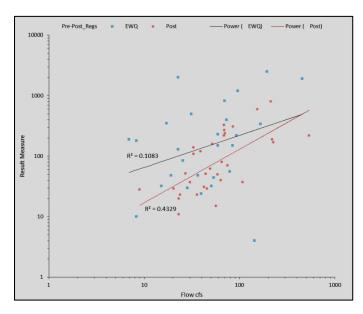
Enterococcus concentrations are unrelated to flow in both data sets. Concentrations and flows are plotted on logarithmic scale, and regressions are power relationships. Post-EWQ median enterococcus concentrations fell below the lower EWQ 95% confidence interval.

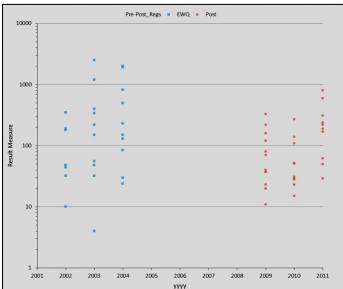
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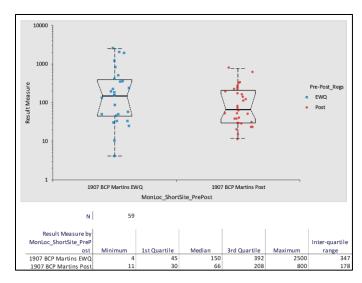
Escherichia coli colonies/100 ml

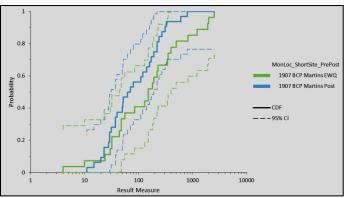
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

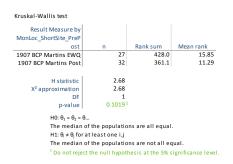
Median 150/100 ml Lower 95% Confidence Interval 48/100 ml Upper 95% Confidence Interval 350/100 ml











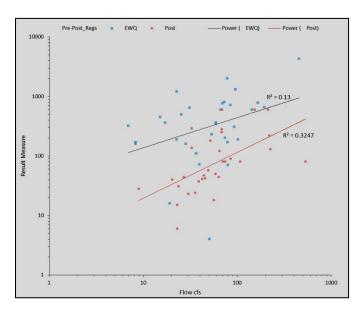
No water quality degradation is evident here. E. coli concentrations apparently did not measurably change between the two periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts, though there was no truncation of high values in post-EWQ data. Post-EWQ median E. coli fell within EWQ 95% confidence intervals. Flows and concentrations are plotted on logarithmic scale, and regressions are power relationships. E. coli was unrelated to flow in EWQ data, but positively related to flow in post-EWQ data. No independent data were available to validate DRBC results.

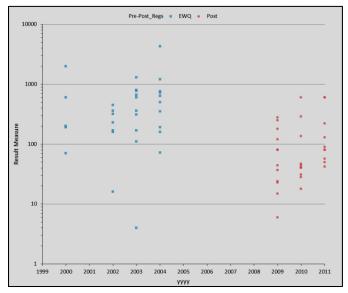
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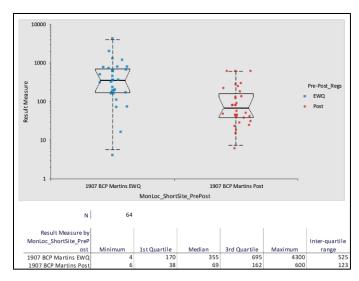
Fecal coliform colonies/100 ml

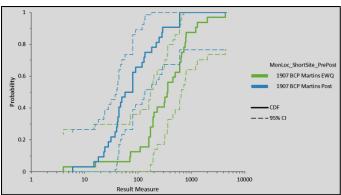
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

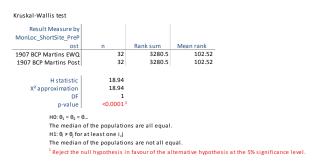
Median 355/100 ml Lower 95% Confidence Interval 190/100 ml Upper 95% Confidence Interval 640/100 ml











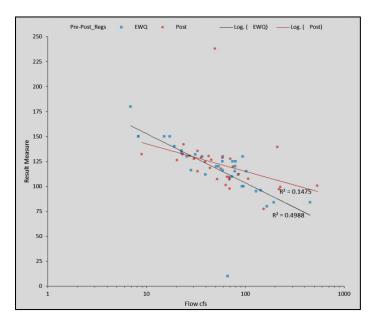
No water quality degradation is evident here. Fecal coliform concentrations apparently declined between the two periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by laboratory artifacts. Fecal coliform concentrations are unrelated to flow in EWQ data, but weakly related in post-EWQ data. Post-EWQ median concentrations fell below the lower EWQ 95% confidence interval. Concentrations and flows are plotted on logarithmic scale, and regressions are power relationships. There were no independent data to confirm results.

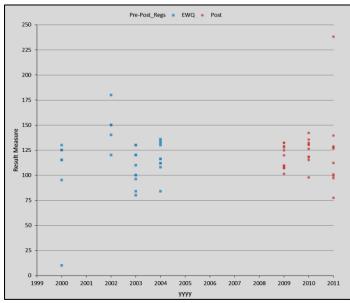
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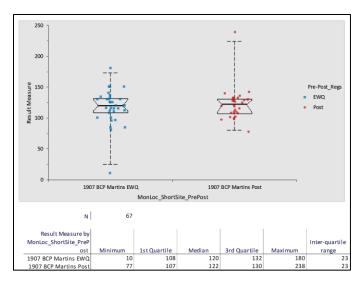
Hardness as CaCO3, Total mg/l

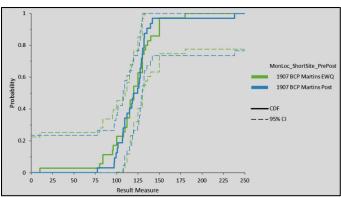
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

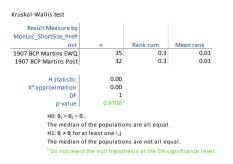
Median 120 mg/l
Lower 95% Confidence Interval 112 mg/l
Upper 95% Confidence Interval 130 mg/l
Defined in regulations as a flow-related parameter











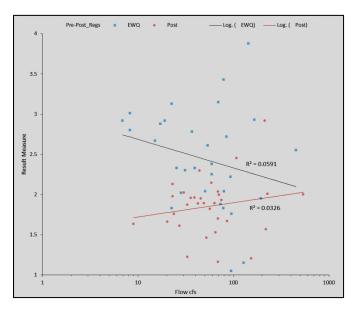
No water quality degradation is evident here. Hardness apparently did not measurably change between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts. Hardness is inversely related to flow in the EWQ data set, but unrelated to flow in the post-EWQ data set. Post-EWQ median hardness was within the EWQ 95% confidence intervals. Flow is plotted on a logarithmic scale. No independent data were available for comparison with DRBC results.

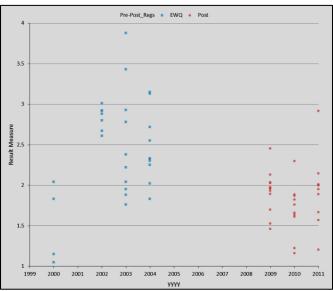
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Nitrate + Nitrite as N, Total mg/l

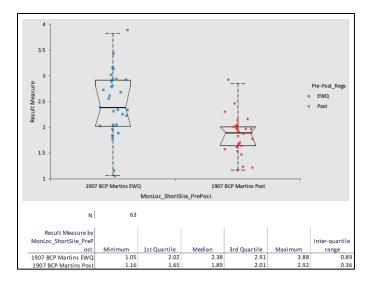
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G, as Nitrate only):

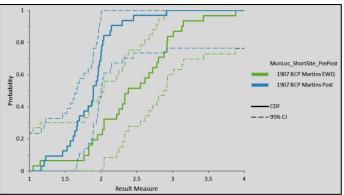
Median 2.38 mg/l Lower 95% Confidence Interval 2.04 mg/l Upper 95% Confidence Interval 2.80 mg/l

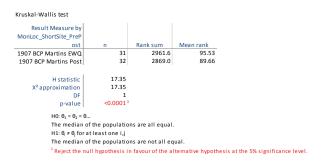




No water quality degradation is evident here. Nitrate concentrations apparently declined between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts. Nitrate is unrelated to flow in both data sets.







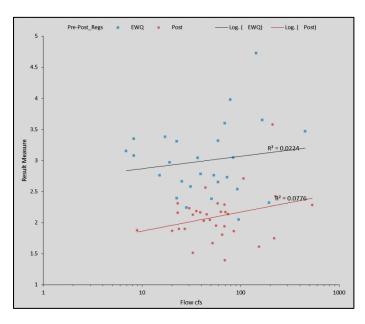
Post-EWQ median concentrations fell below the lower EWQ 95% confidence interval. Post-EWQ nitrate + nitrite results were assumed equivalent with EWQ nitrate results since EWQ nitrite results were never detected. No independent data were available to compare with DRBC results. At other sites where concentrations are lower, there was a problem interpreting the data due to changing detection limits. Concentrations are sufficiently high in Martins Creek that problems with interpretation did not arise. There were no undetected results in either data set.

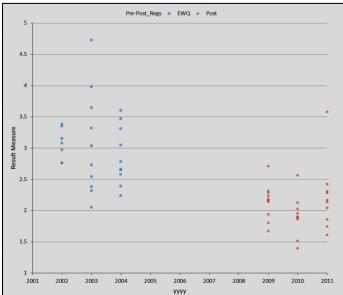
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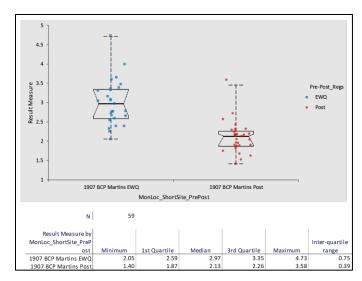
Nitrogen as N, Total (TN) mg/l

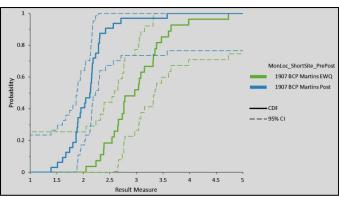
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

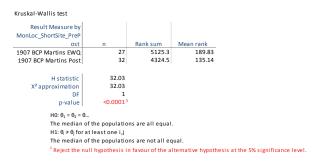
Median 2.95 mg/l Lower 95% Confidence Interval 2.65 mg/l Upper 95% Confidence Interval 3.32 mg/l











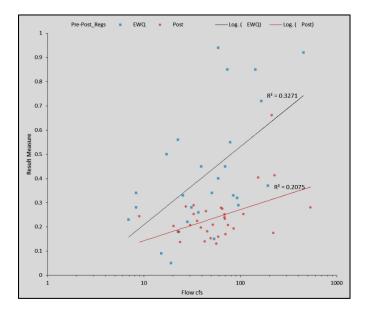
No water quality degradation is evident here. Total Nitrogen concentrations apparently declined between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts. TN is unrelated to flow in both data sets. No independent data were available to compare with DRBC results. Post-EWQ median TN concentration fell below the lower EWQ 95% confidence interval. Even though TN apparently declined (unless the decline is actually a laboratory artifact), concentrations are still fairly high.

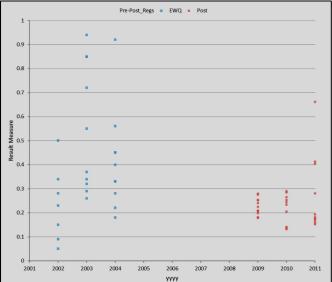
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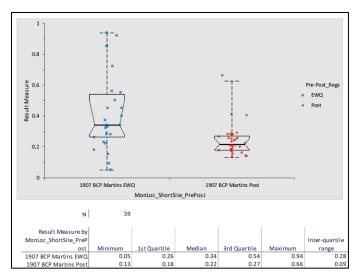
Nitrogen, Kjeldahl as N, Total (TKN) mg/l

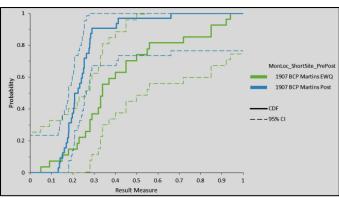
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

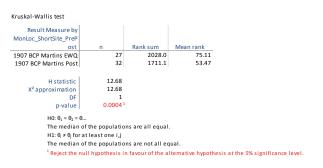
Median 0.34 mg/l
Lower 95% Confidence Interval 0.28 mg/l
Upper 95% Confidence Interval 0.50 mg/l
Defined in regulations as a flow-related parameter











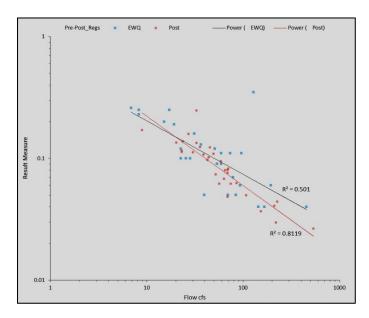
No water quality degradation is evident here. TKN concentrations apparently declined between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts. The post-EWQ range was far narrower and all concentrations except one were less than 0.42 mg/l. TKN concentration is weakly related to flow in both data sets. Post-EWQ median TKN fell below the lower EWQ 95% confidence interval. The TKN decline contributed to the apparent improvement in total nitrogen concentrations. There were no additional data to confirm DRBC results.

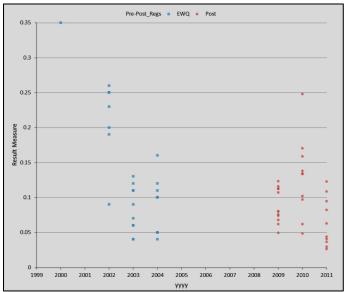
Chapter 20: 1907 BCP Martins Creek, PA

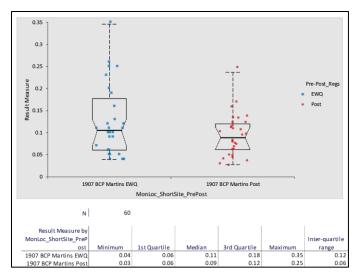
Orthophosphate as P, Total mg/I (OP)

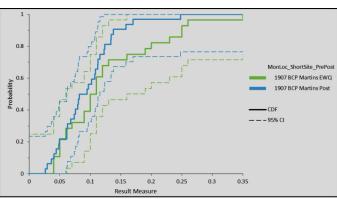
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

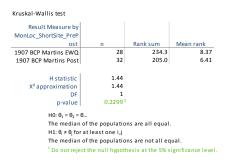
Median 0.11 mg/l Lower 95% Confidence Interval 0.07 mg/l Upper 95% Confidence Interval 0.13 mg/l Should have been designated in rules as flow-related











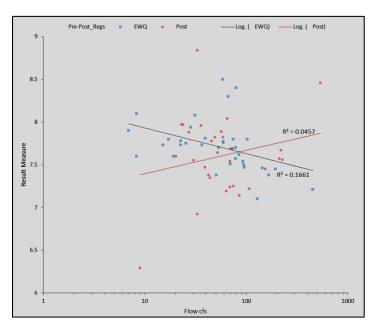
No water quality degradation is evident here. OP concentrations apparently did not measurably change between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts. OP is inversely related to flow in both data sets, and should have been designated as such in DRBC water quality rules. Post-EWQ median orthophosphate fell within the EWQ 95% confidence intervals. There was no interference by detection limits in either data set, as concentrations are well-above detection levels. There were no independent data available for comparison with DRBC results.

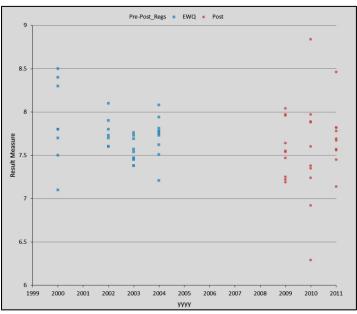
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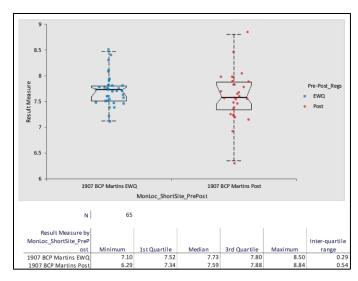
рН

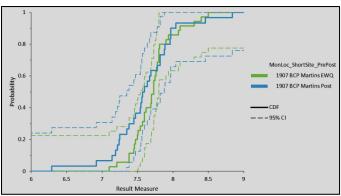
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

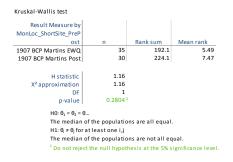
Median 7.73 standard units Lower 95% Confidence Interval 7.60 standard units Upper 95% Confidence Interval 7.78 standard units











No water quality degradation is evident here. pH did not measurably change between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. There were no known sources of analytical uncertainty in these data. pH is unrelated to flow in both data sets. Post-EWQ median pH was just below the lower EWQ 95% confidence interval, but the decline was not significant. The result below pH 6.5 taken in 2010 was probably a probe malfunction. There are no independent data available for comparison with DRBC results.

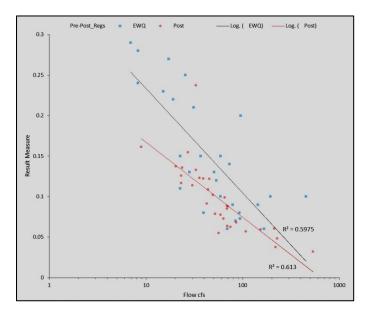
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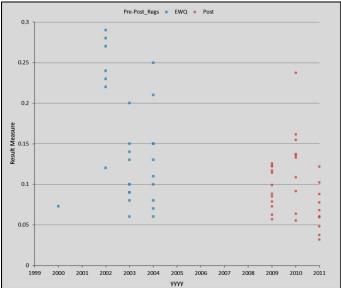
Phosphorus as P, Total (TP) mg/l

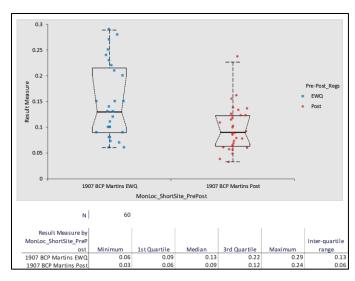
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

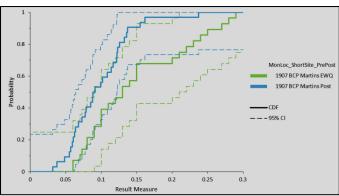
Median 0.13 mg/l Lower 95% Confidence Interval 0.10 mg/l Upper 95% Confidence Interval 0.20 mg/l

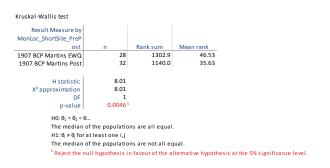
TP should have been designated in rules as flow-related











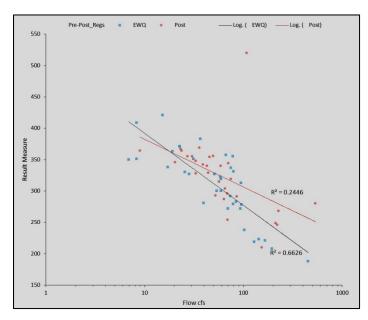
No water quality degradation is evident here. Total Phosphorus (TP) concentrations apparently declined between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts. Post-EWQ median total phosphorus fell below the EWQ lower 95% confidence interval. TP is inversely related to flow in both data sets. No additional data were available to confirm DRBC results. There were no undetected results in either data set.

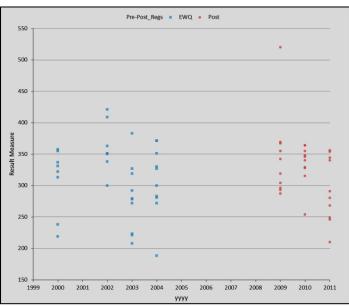
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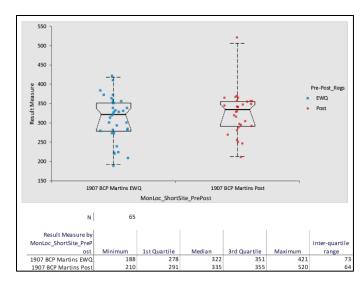
Specific Conductance µmho/cm

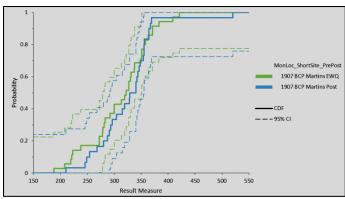
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

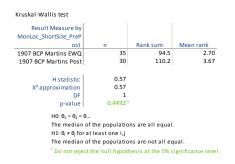
Median 322 μmho/cm Lower 95% Confidence Interval 283 μmho/cm Upper 95% Confidence Interval 338 μmho/cm Defined in regulations as a flow-related parameter











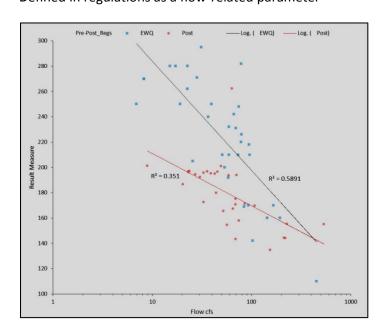
Some evidence of water quality degradation was found here. Specific conductance increased, but not above the EWQ upper 95% confidence interval. Specific conductance is inversely related to flow in both data sets. The rise in specific conductance may be partially attributable to the concurrent rise in chloride concentrations. Median specific conductance increased from 322 to 335 μ mho/cm; a 4% rise that was not as severe as other Lower Delaware watersheds. No data were available to confirm DRBC results.

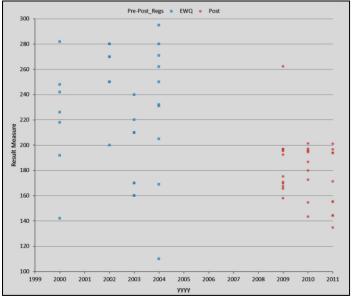
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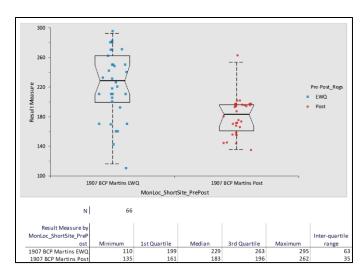
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) mg/l

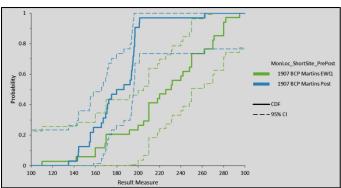
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

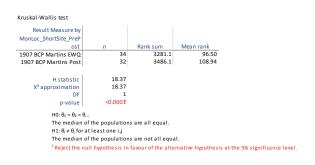
Median 229 mg/l
Lower 95% Confidence Interval 210 mg/l
Upper 95% Confidence Interval 250 mg/l
Defined in regulations as a flow-related parameter











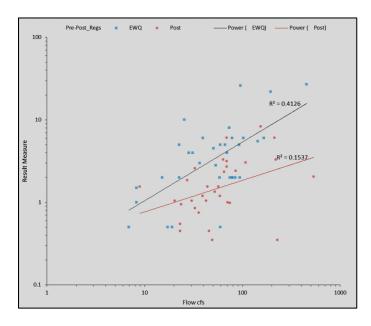
No water quality degradation is evident here. TDS apparently declined between the two periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts. TDS is inversely related to flow in both data sets. Post-EWQ median TDS fell below the EWQ lower 95% lower confidence interval, and was less variable than the baseline samples as well. Post-EWQ detection limits were lower than EWQ detection limits, though there were no non-detect results at any time.

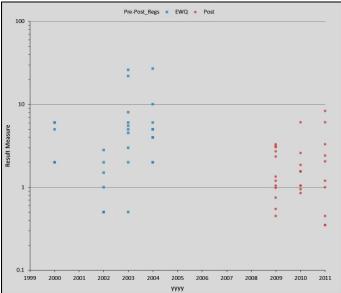
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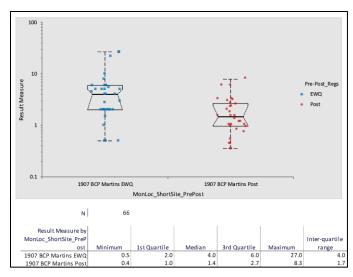
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) mg/l

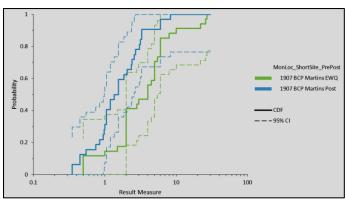
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

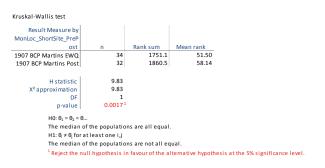
Median 4.0 mg/l
Lower 95% Confidence Interval 2.0 mg/l
Upper 95% Confidence Interval 5.0 mg/l
Should have been designated in rules as flow-related











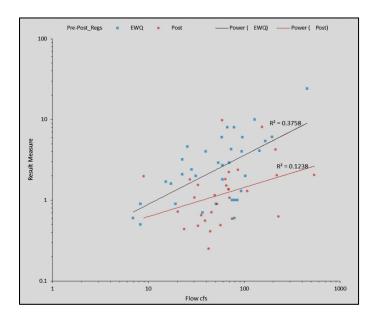
No water quality degradation is evident here. TSS concentrations apparently declined between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. However, analytical uncertainty was introduced by potential laboratory artifacts. TSS is positively but weakly related to flow in both data sets, and should have been designated as flow-related in DRBC water quality rules. Post-EWQ median TSS fell below the EWQ lower 95% confidence interval. Flows and concentrations are plotted on logarithmic scale, and regressions are power relationships. There were no independent data available to confirm DRBC results.

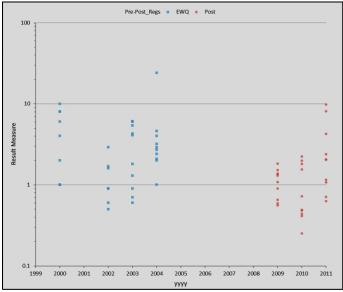
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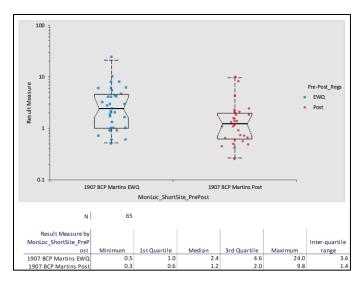
Turbidity NTU

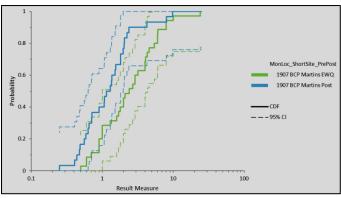
Existing Water Quality (Table 2G):

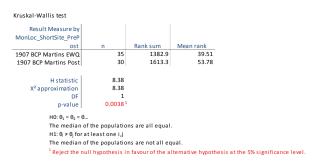
Median 2.4 NTU
Lower 95% Confidence Interval 1.6 NTU
Upper 95% Confidence Interval 4.0 NTU
Defined in regulations as a flow-related parameter









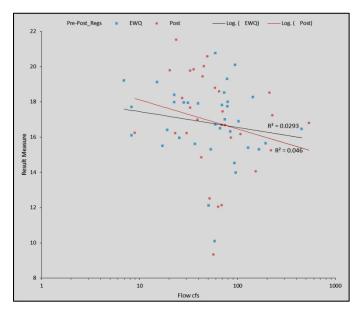


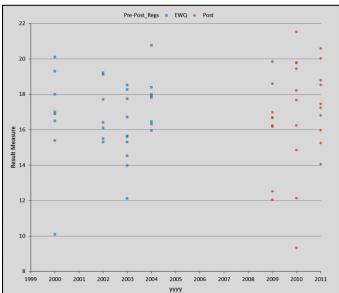
No water quality degradation is evident here. Turbidity measurably declined between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. There were no known sources of analytical uncertainty in these results. The post-EWQ median turbidity fell below the lower EWQ 95% confidence interval. Turbidity is positively but weakly related to flow in both data sets. Concentrations and flows are represented on logarithmic scale, and regressions are power relationships. There were no additional data available for comparison with DRBC results.

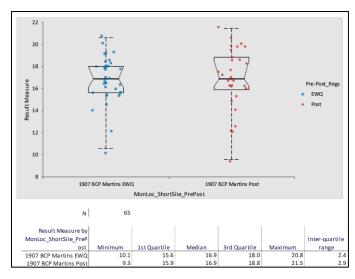
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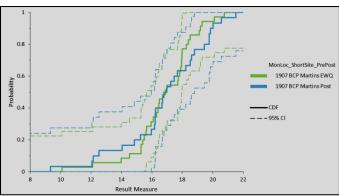
Water Temperature, degrees C

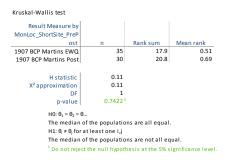
Not included in DRBC Existing Water Quality rules











No water quality degradation is evident here. Water temperature was nearly identical between the EWQ and post-EWQ periods. There were no known sources of analytical uncertainty in these results. Water temperature is unrelated to flow in both data sets. Note that flows are plotted on a logarithmic scale. No independent data were available to confirm DRBC results.