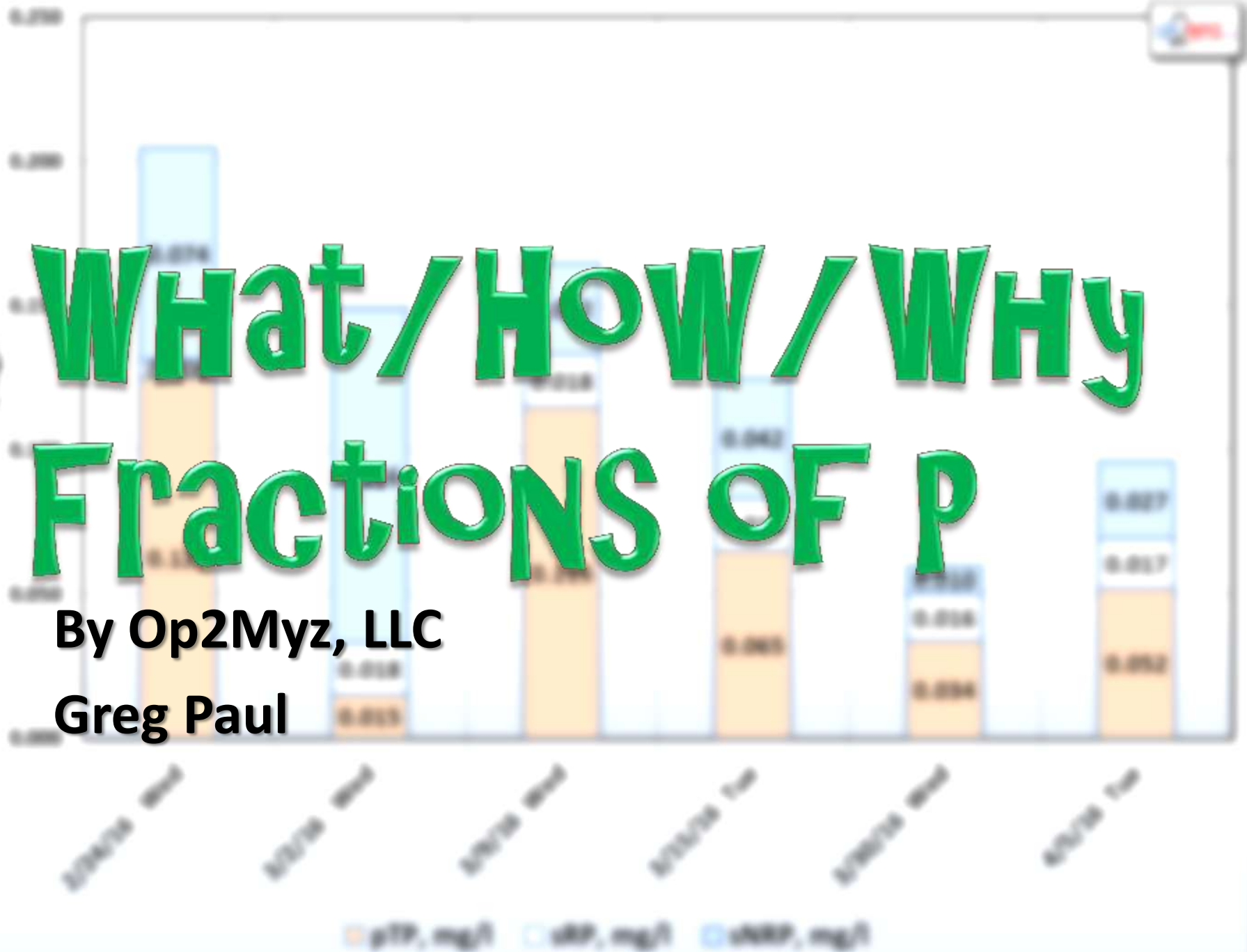


# What / How / Why Fractions of P

By Op2Myz, LLC

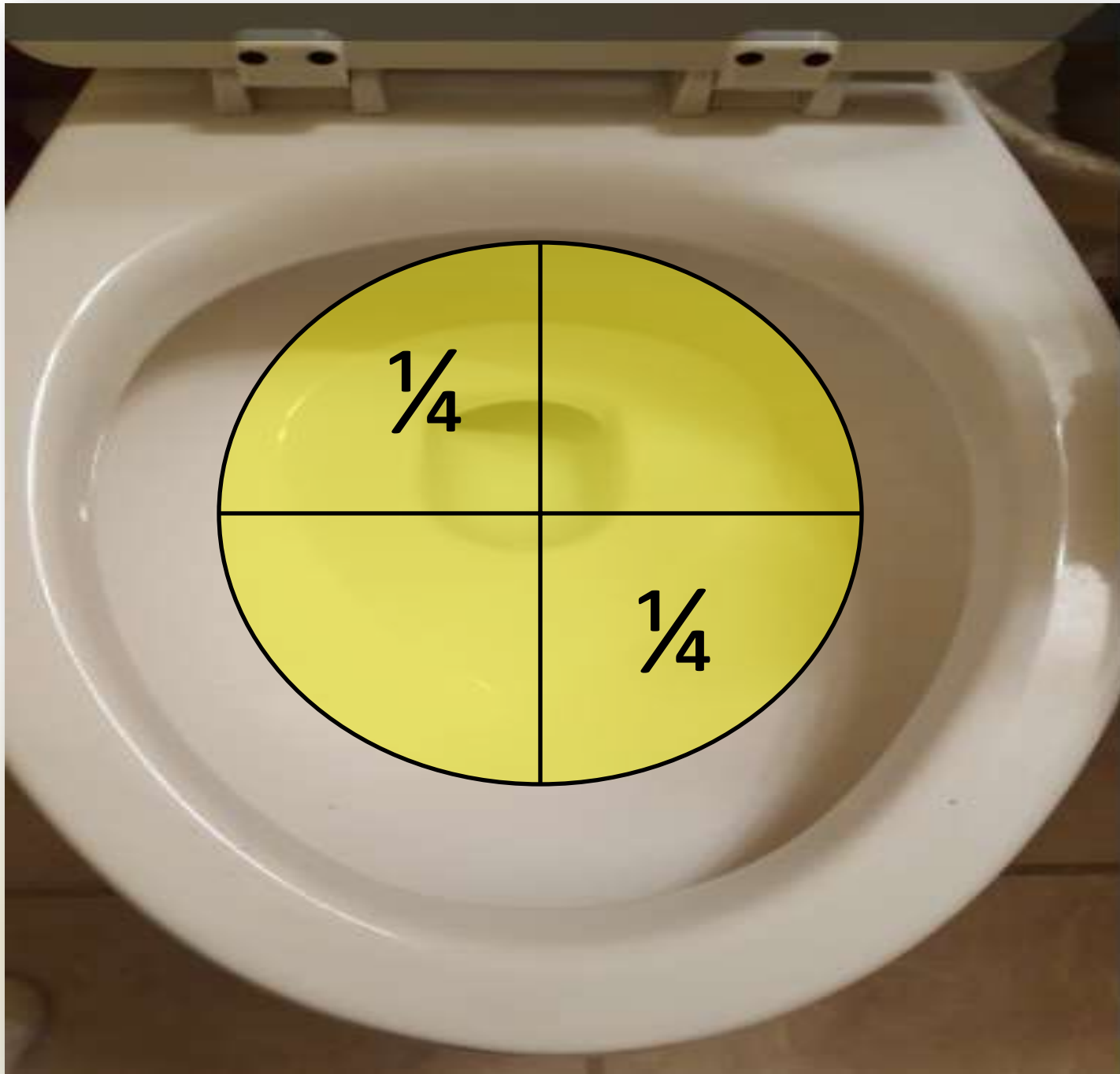
Greg Paul



What

ARE

FRACTIONS OF P ????



# Fractions of P

# Fractions of “Phosphorus”

*OF Course*

Everything is ABOUT  
Phosphorus These Days

# What are the Fractions P ?

- What are Fractions of P - Sometimes called P “species”?

Total Phosphorus is just that →

- The **total** OF the **DIFFERENT** Phosphorus FRACTIONS or SPECIES
- There are numerous DIFFERENT type of Phosphorus which all together make up TOTAL PHOSPHORUS

# FOUR Ways to CHARACTERIZE P

- **Reactive Phosphorus**
- **Non-Reactive Phosphorus**
- **Soluble Phosphorus**
- **Particulate Phosphorus**
- **5<sup>th</sup> – Acid Hydrolysable (dissolve in acid) – part of more complex fractions**

# Simpler Fractions of P

- Total Phosphorus can be fractionalized into 4 **basic** parts,
  - 2 of the fractions come directly from analysis **sTP** & **sRP**
  - The other two, **pTP** & **sNRP**, are calculated using the results of 3 different analyses, **sTP**, **sRP** and **TP**

Putting it All  
Together



# Simpler Fractions of P

- Total Phosphorus (**TP**)
- Total Soluble Phosphorus (**sTP**)
  - Filtered TP
- Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (**sRP**)
  - Filtered ortho-P
- Soluble Non-Reactive Phosphorus (**sNRP**)
  - sTP minus sRP
- Particulate Total Phosphorus (**pTP**)
  - TP minus sTP

How do  
get the Simpler

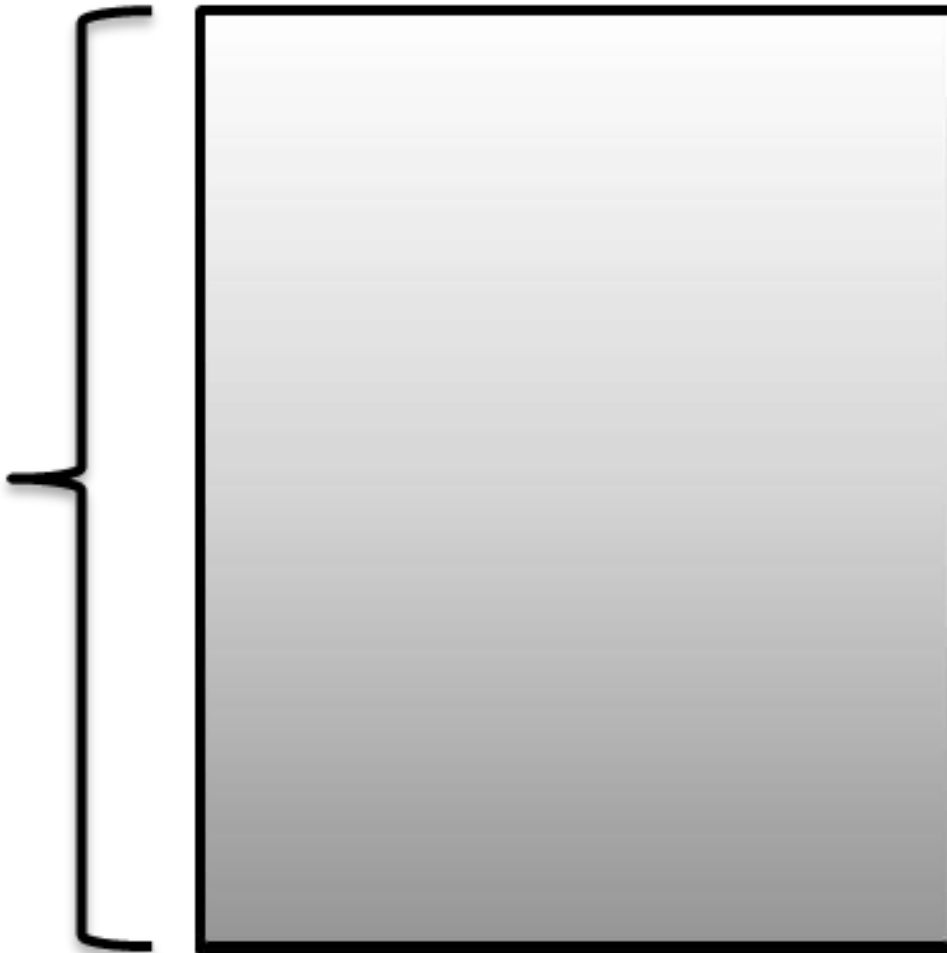
**FRACTIONS OF P ????**

# Total Phosphorus

Persulfate Digestion

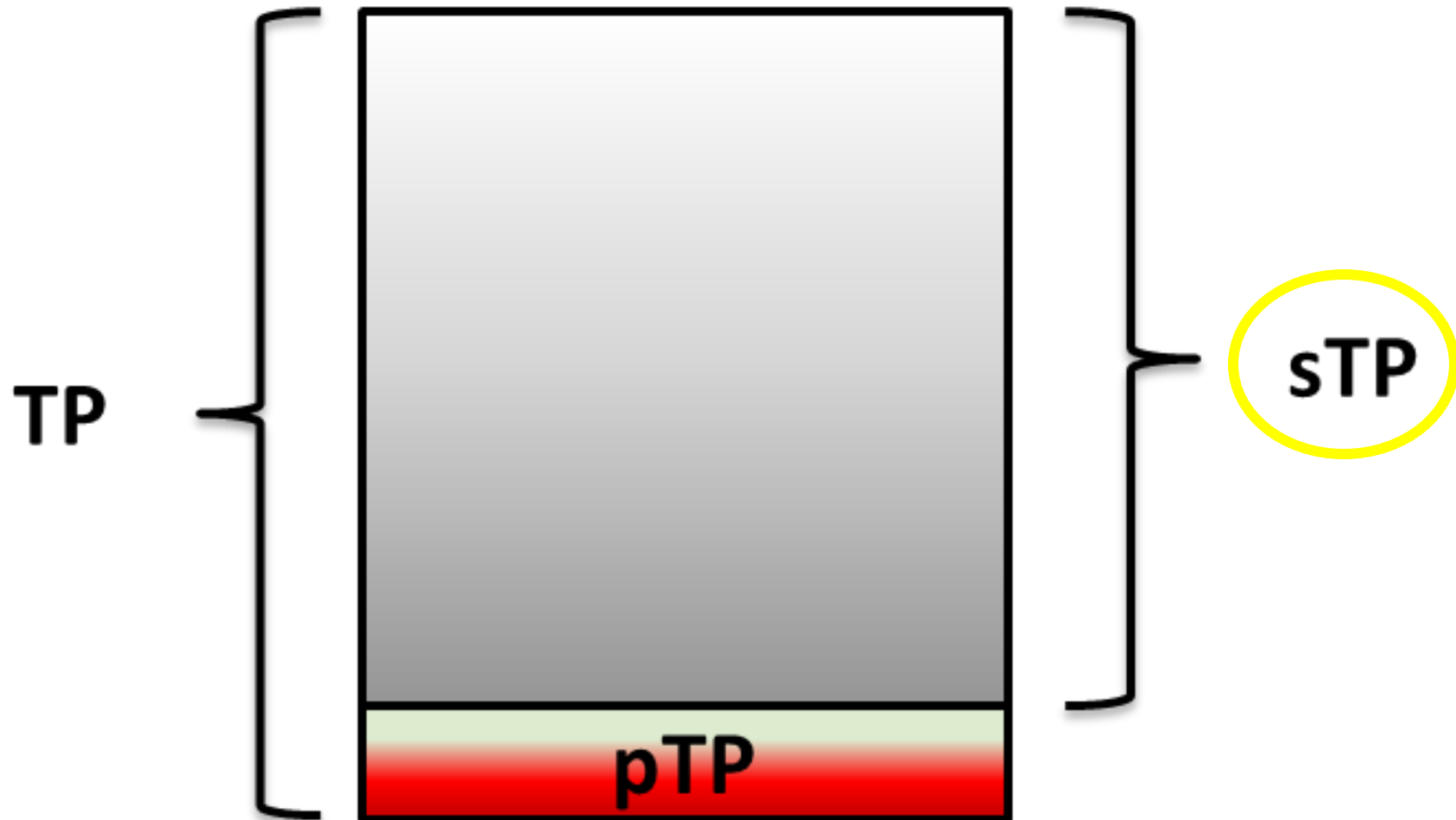
Direct Colorimetric Method

TP



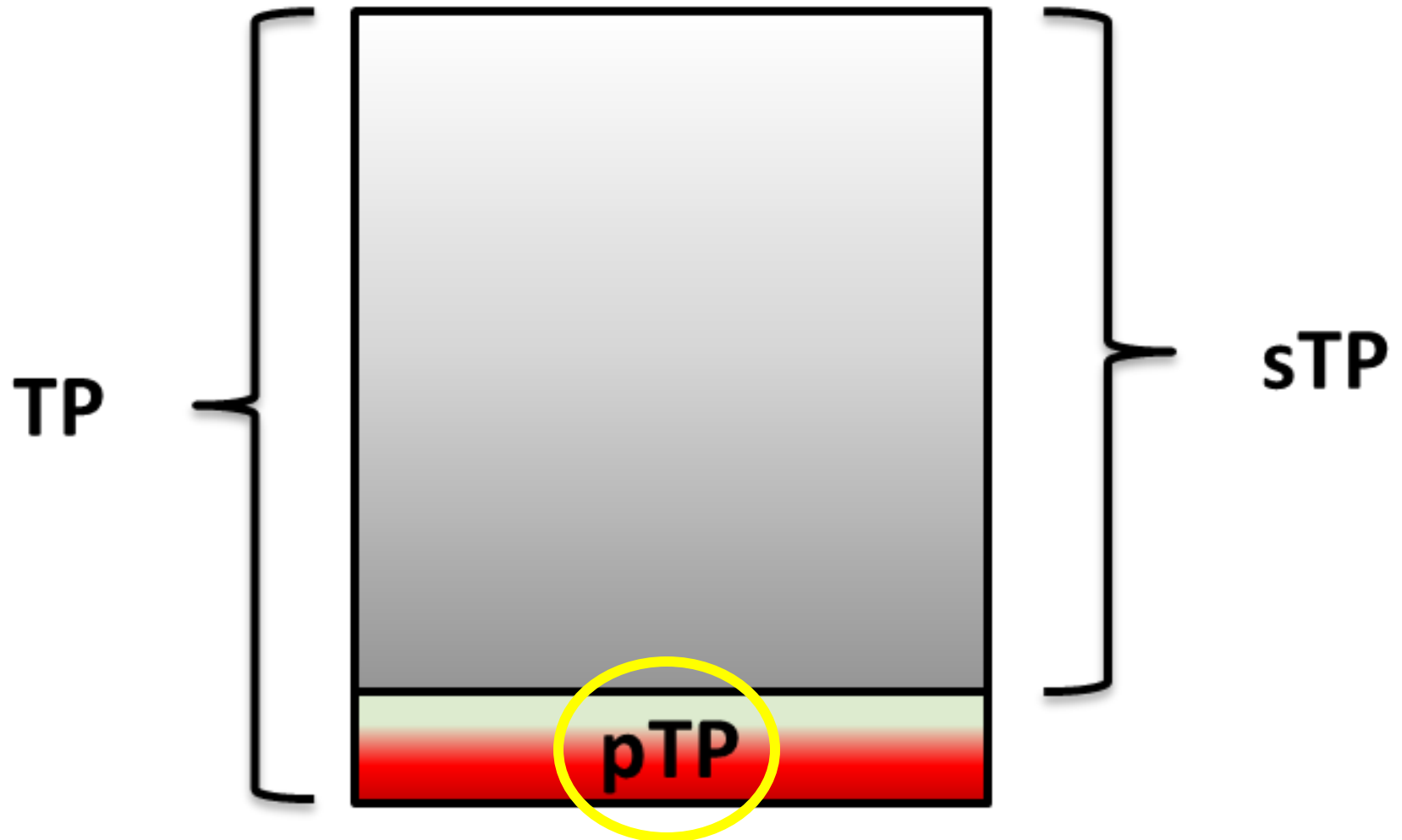
# Total Soluble Phosphorus

Filter (0.45 Micron)/Persulfate Digestion  
Direct Colorimetric Method



# Total Particulate Phosphorus

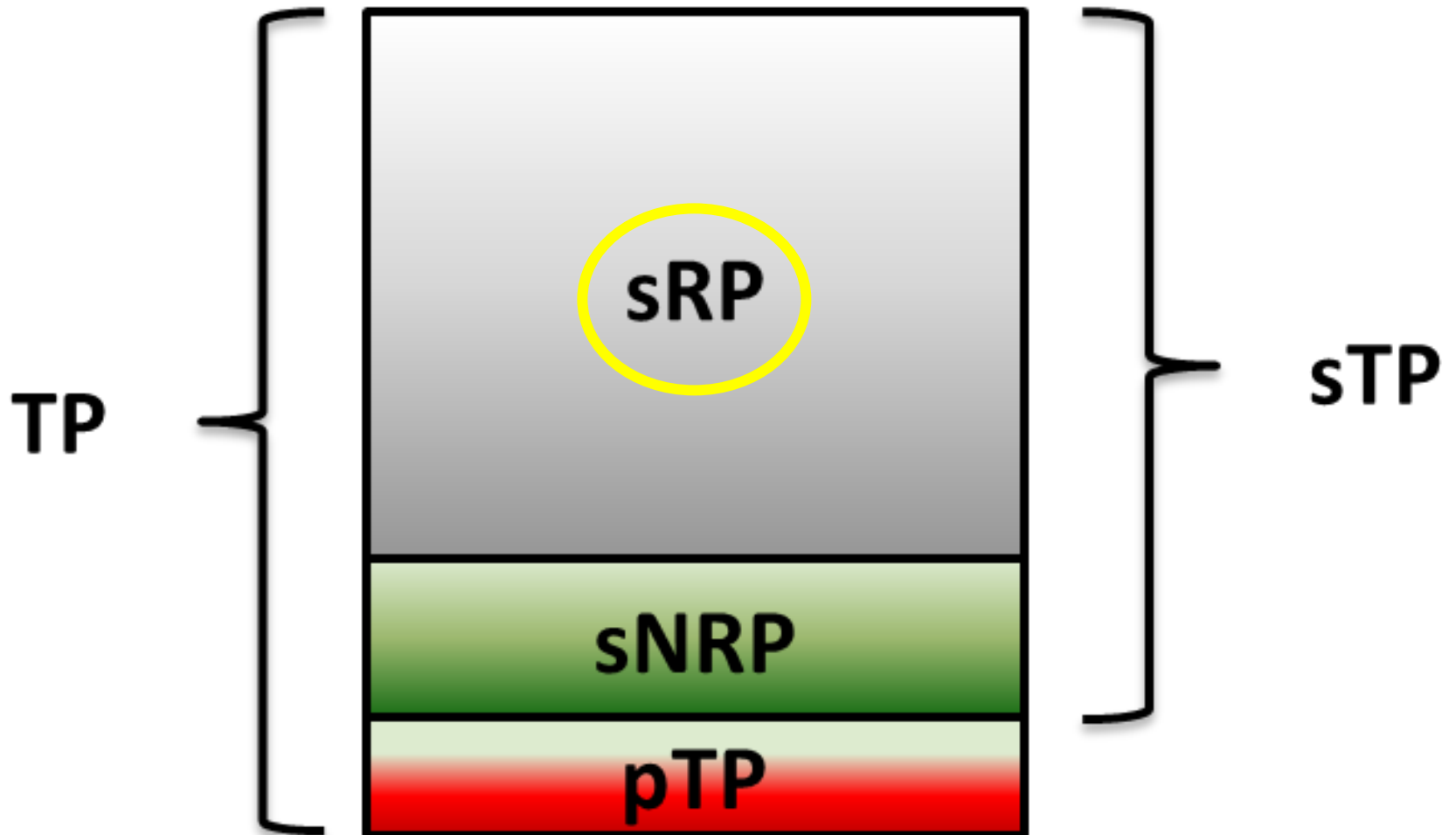
TP minus sTP



# Soluble Reactive Phosphorus

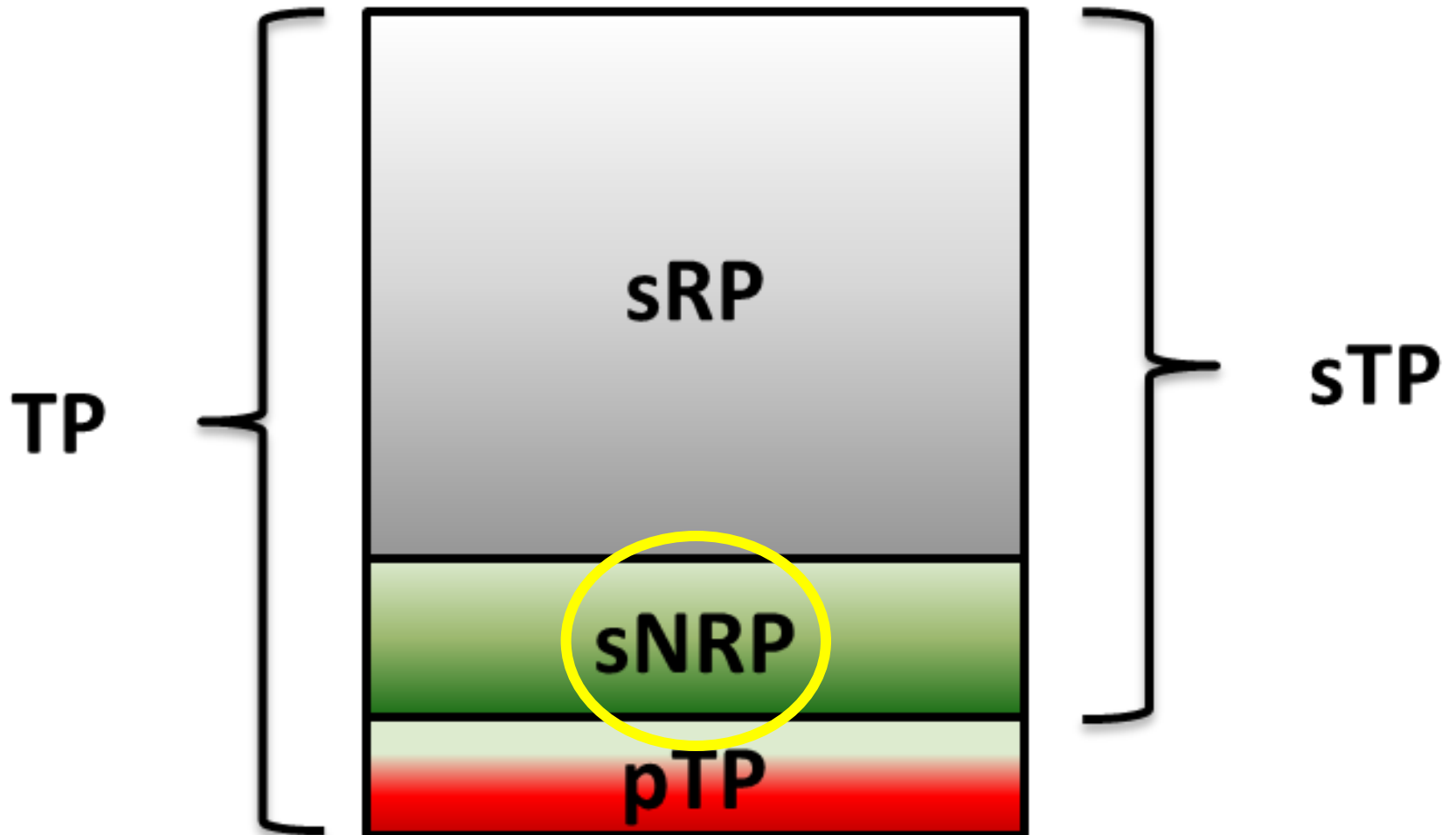
Filter (0.45 Micron)

Direct Colorimetric Method



# Soluble Non-Reactive Phosphorus

sTP minus sRP



# Additional Fractionation

- Gets a More Complete Picture
- Helps to Understand Treatability



# Advanced – More Fractions of P

- Total Phosphorus can be divided into a total of 17 fractions or species
  - 5 of the fractions are **directly** from **analyses tRP, tAHP, sTP, sAHP & sRP**
  - The **other 12** are **calculated** using the results of 6 different analyses



# List of Fractions of P

Fraction of P	Abbrev.	Source
Total Phosphorus	TP	Analyze
Total Reactive Phosphorus	tRP	Analyze
Total Acid Hydrolysable Phosphorus	tAHP	Analyze
Total Non Reactive Phosphorus	tNRP	TP - tRP
Total Polymerized Phosphorus	tPoly	tAHP - tRP
Total Organic Phosphorus	tOP	TP - tAHP
Total Particulate Phosphorus	pTP	TP - sTP
Particulate Reactive Phosphorus	pRP	tRP - sRP
Particulate Organic Phosphorus	pOP	tOP - sOP
Particulate Non Reactive Phosphorus	pNRP	tNRP - sNRP
Particulate Polymerized Phosphorus	pPoly	tPoly - sPoly
Particulate Acid Hydrolysable Phosphorus	pAHP	tAHP - sAHP
Total Soluble Phosphorus	sTP	Analyze after 0.45 um filter
Soluble Acid Hydrolysable Phosphorus	sAHP	Analyze after 0.45 um filter
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus	sRP	Analyze after 0.45 um filter
Soluble Organic Phosphorus	sOP	sTP - sAHP
Soluble Non Reactive Phosphorus	sNRP	sTP - sRP
Soluble Polymerized Phosphorus	sPoly	sAHP - sRP

# BeWare !!!

## TWO DIFFERENT PATHWAYS -----

- As part of analyzing for fractions of P:
- There are two totally different procedures/pathways to arrive at the various analyzed fractions of P
  - Pathway (1) **TP** - Persulfate digestion followed by colorimetry
  - Pathway (2) **Acid hydrolyzable** - Acid hydrolysis followed by digestion and then colorimetry.

# BeWare !!!

## TWO DIFFERENT PATHWAYS -----

- These two different procedures may result in an issue where all of the analyzed and calculated fractions of P do not add up EXACTLY the TOTAL PHOSPHORUS value.
- See following 2 slides

# From Hach Method for ACID HYDROLYZABLE PHOSPHORUS (AHP)

“The procedure uses acid and heat to hydrolyze the sample. Organic phosphates are not converted to orthophosphate by this process, ***but a very small fraction may be unavoidably included in the result.***”

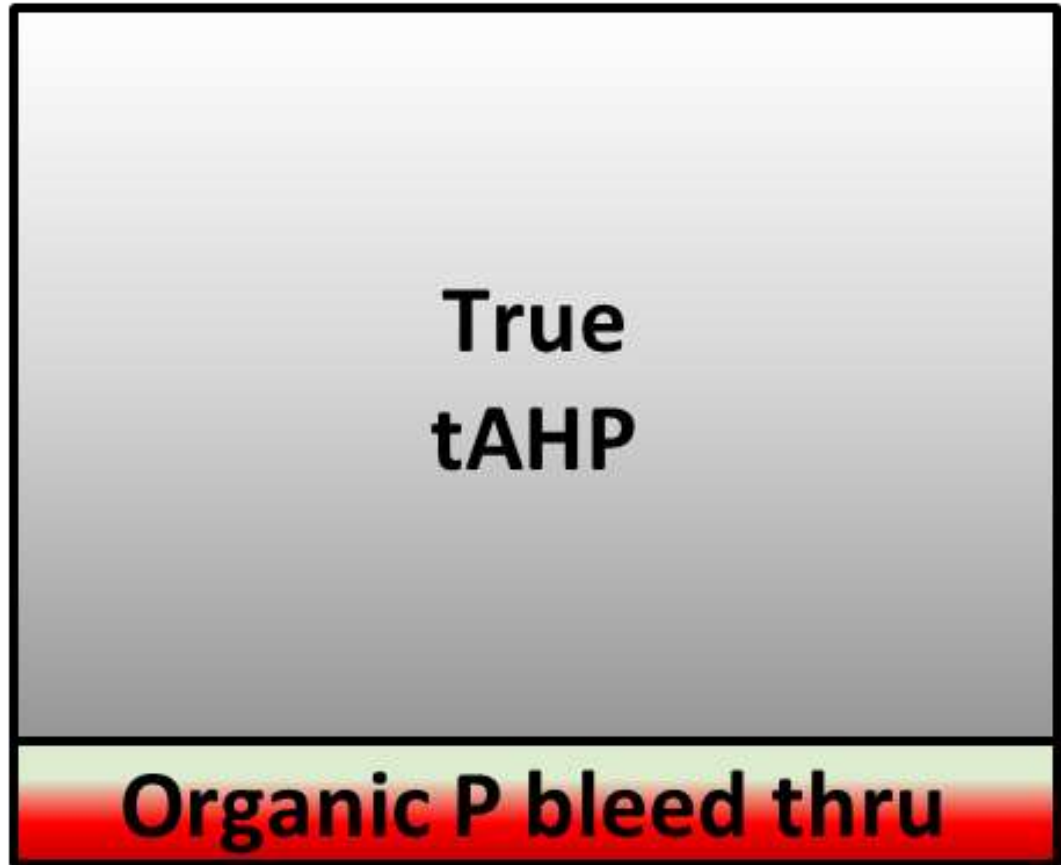
# Troubles with Analysis

- **STEP 1** - AHP analysis uses **ACID** & **HEAT** to convert condensed (polymerized) Phosphorus to **orthophosphate**
- NOTE --- Organic P does convert to orthophosphate in STEP 1
- **STEP 2** – Once condensed P is converted to ortho-P a simple color based orthophosphate test is used to measure P levels
- **BUT** - ***small amount of ORGANIC P may in fact bleed through and be converted to orthophosphate in STEP 1***
- May shows up as part of the tAHP & sAHP results

# Possible Organic P Bleed Thru

Could  
Happen  
with SAHP  
Too

**tAHP**



# Be Aware

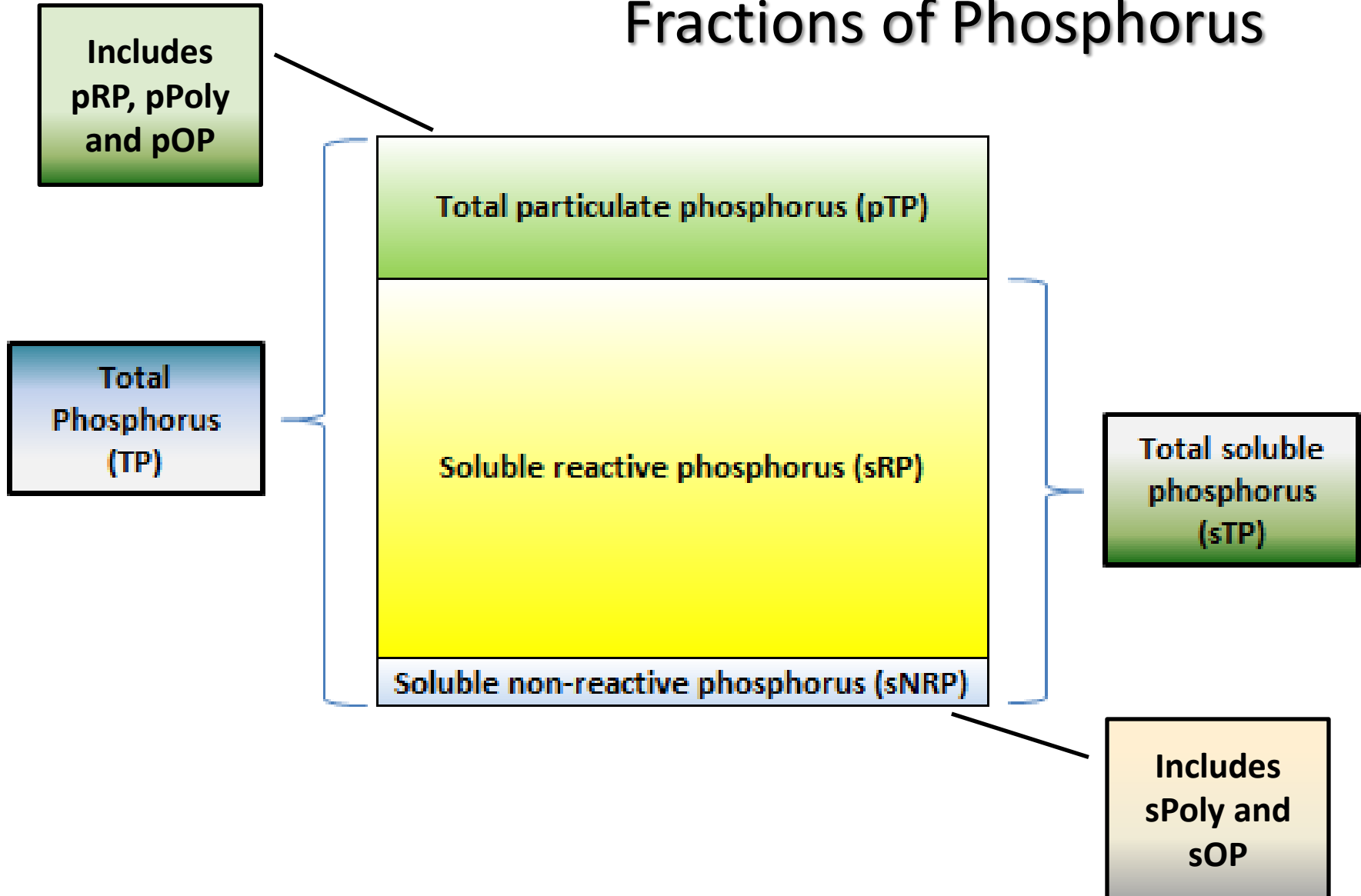
- Filter samples right away after collecting so any P within solids don't end up dissolving into the liquid phase
- Run Soluble & Total Reactive Phosphorus analyses right away



How do  
get the More Complex  
**FRACTIONS OF P ???**

**NOW:**  
**Here's ALL the**  
**Fractions**

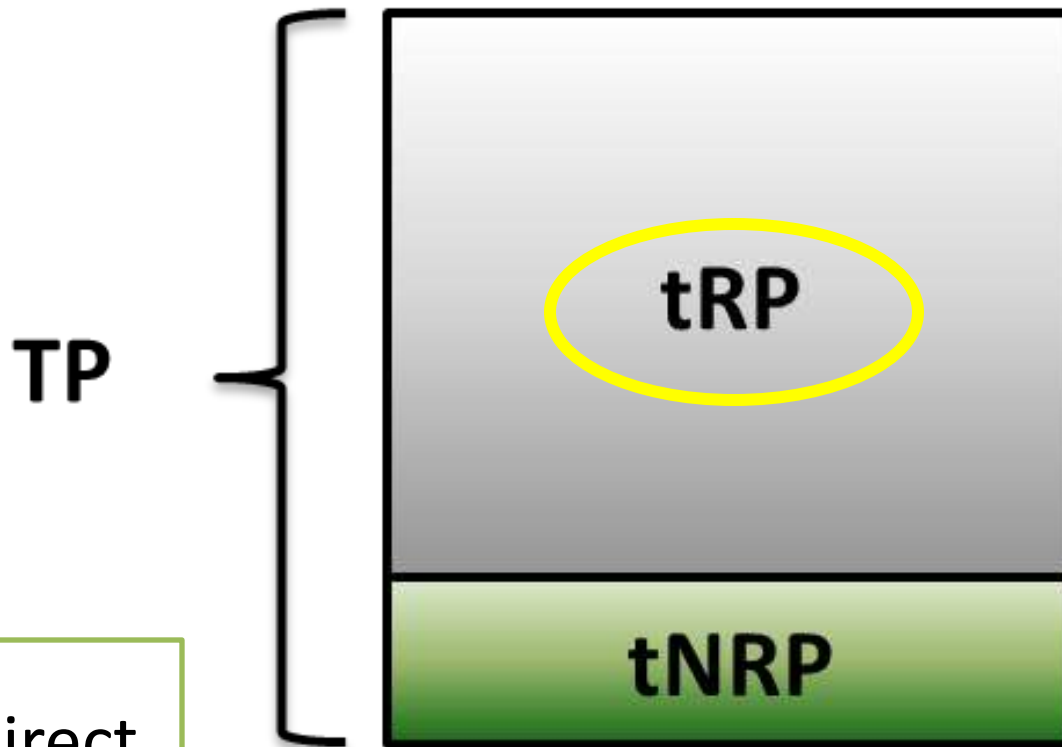
# Summary of (p, Poly & s) Fractions of Phosphorus



# Fractions of TOTAL(t) P

# Total Reactive Phosphorus (tRP)

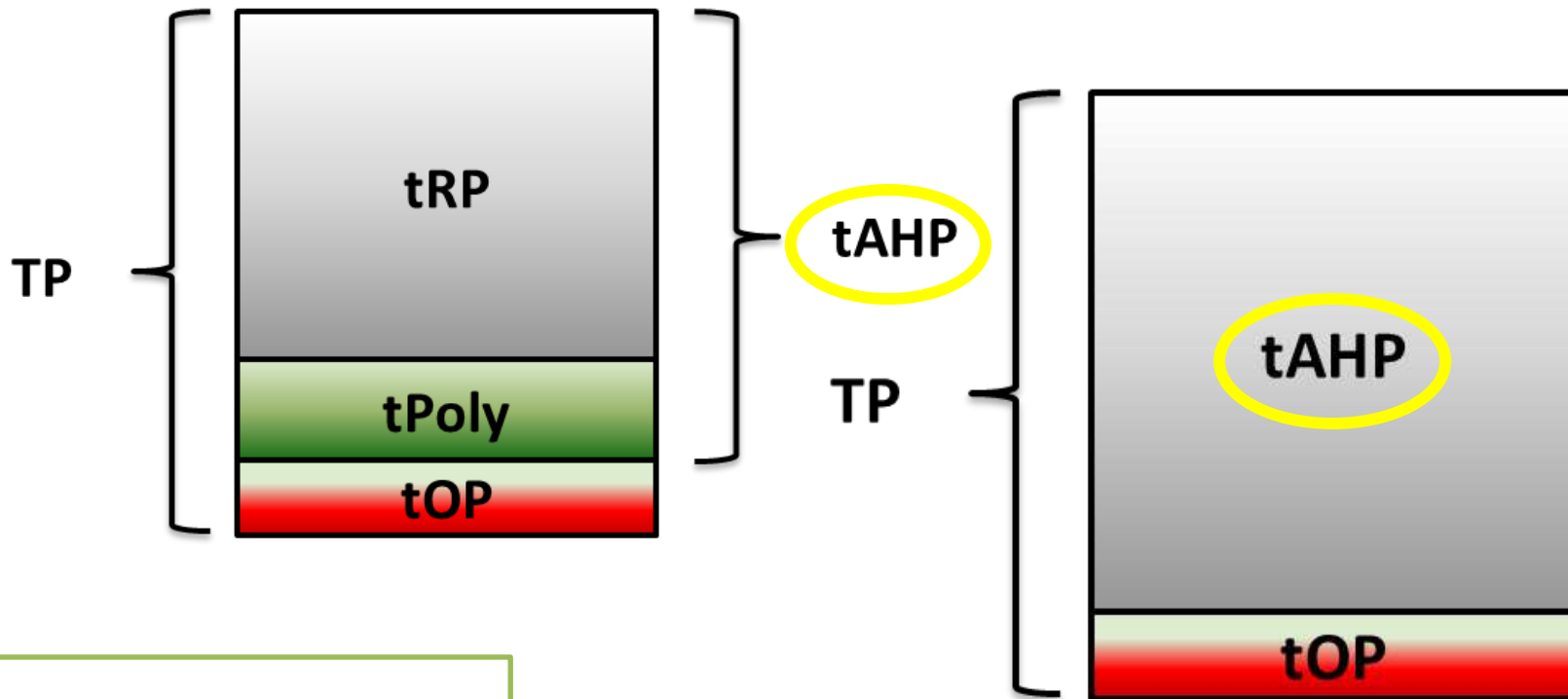
## Direct Analysis



tRP is direct analysis

# Total Acid Hydrolysable Phosphorus (tAHP)

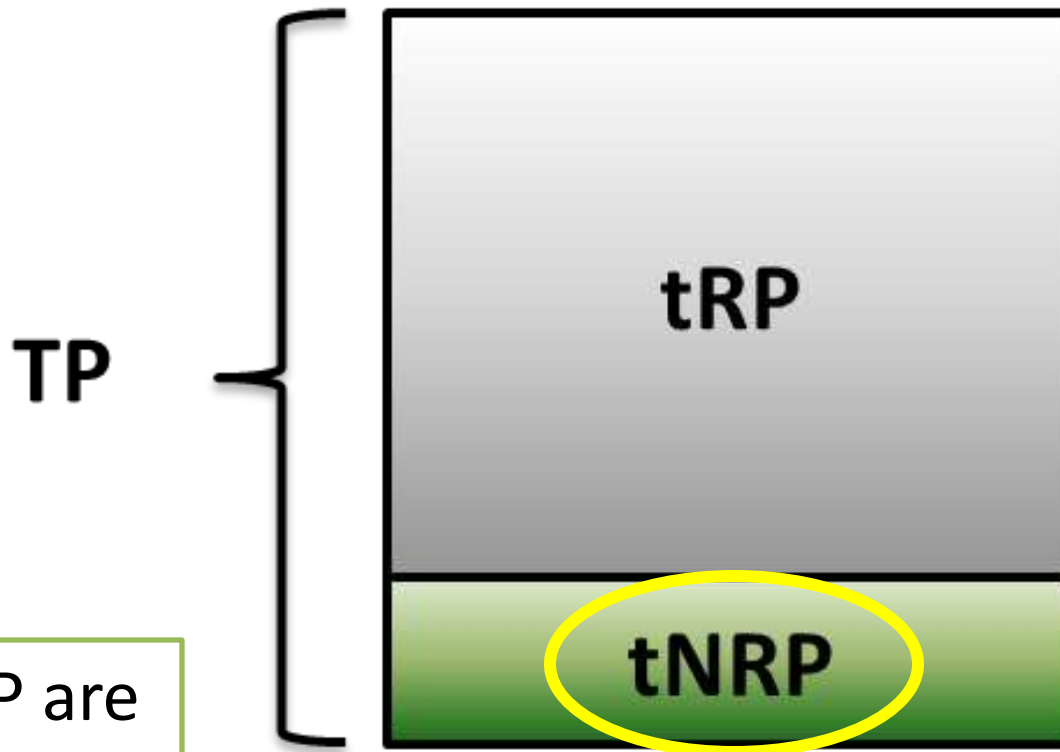
## Direct Analysis



tAHP is direct analysis

# Total Non-Reactive Phosphorus (tNRP)

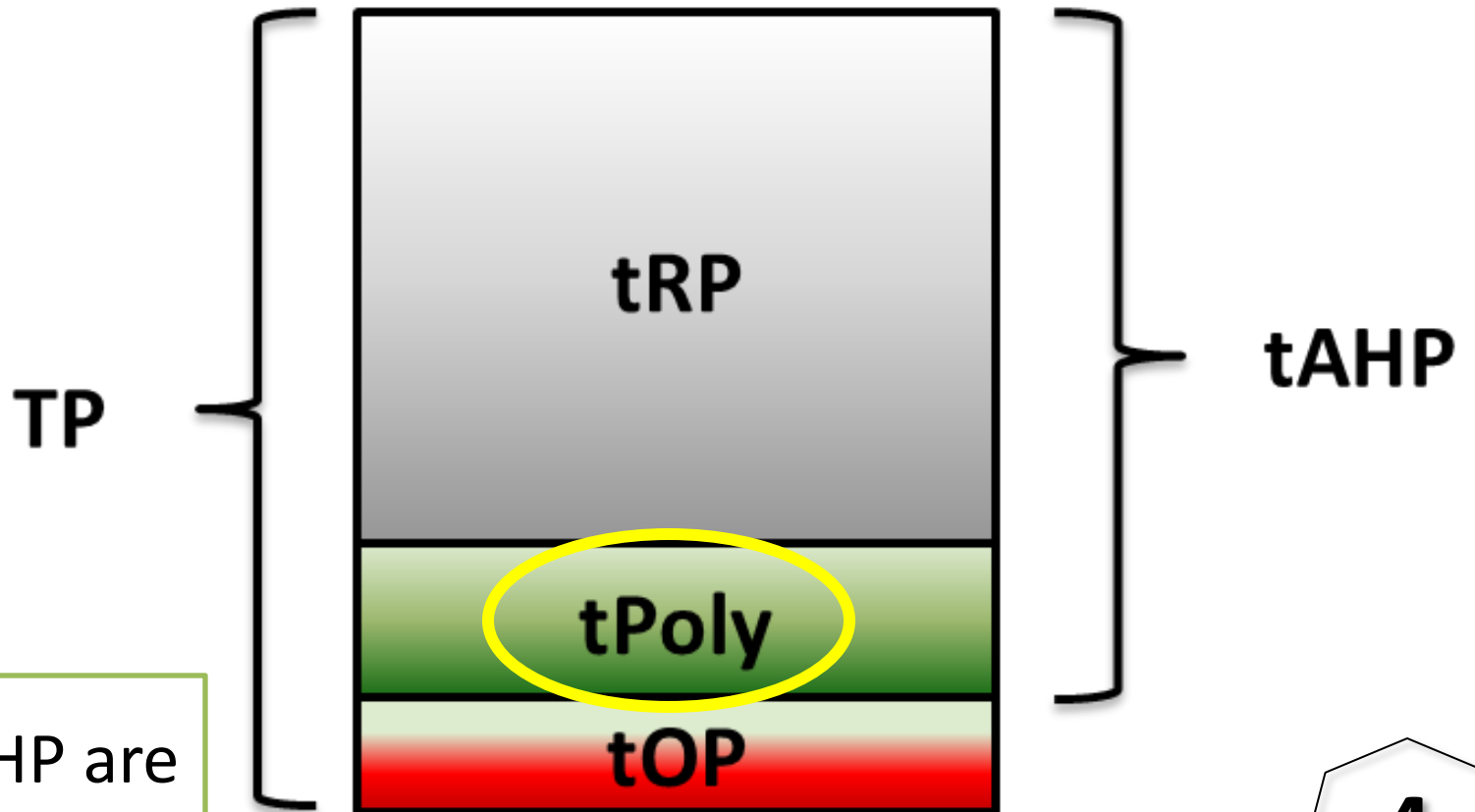
TP - tRP



TP & tRP are  
direct  
analysis

# Total Polymerized Phosphorus (tPoly)

$$tAHP - tRP$$

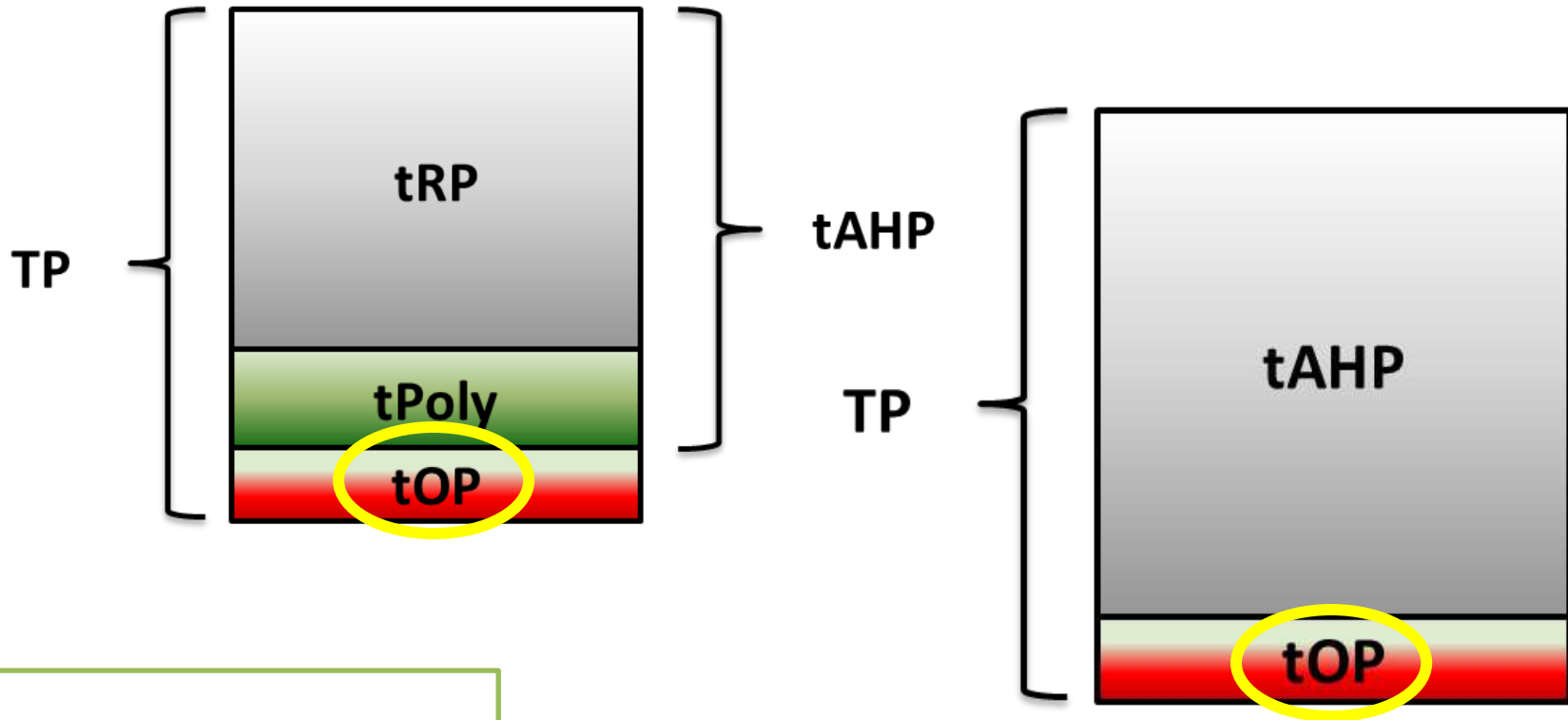


tRP & tAHP are direct analysis



# Total Organic Phosphorus (tOP)

TP - tAHP

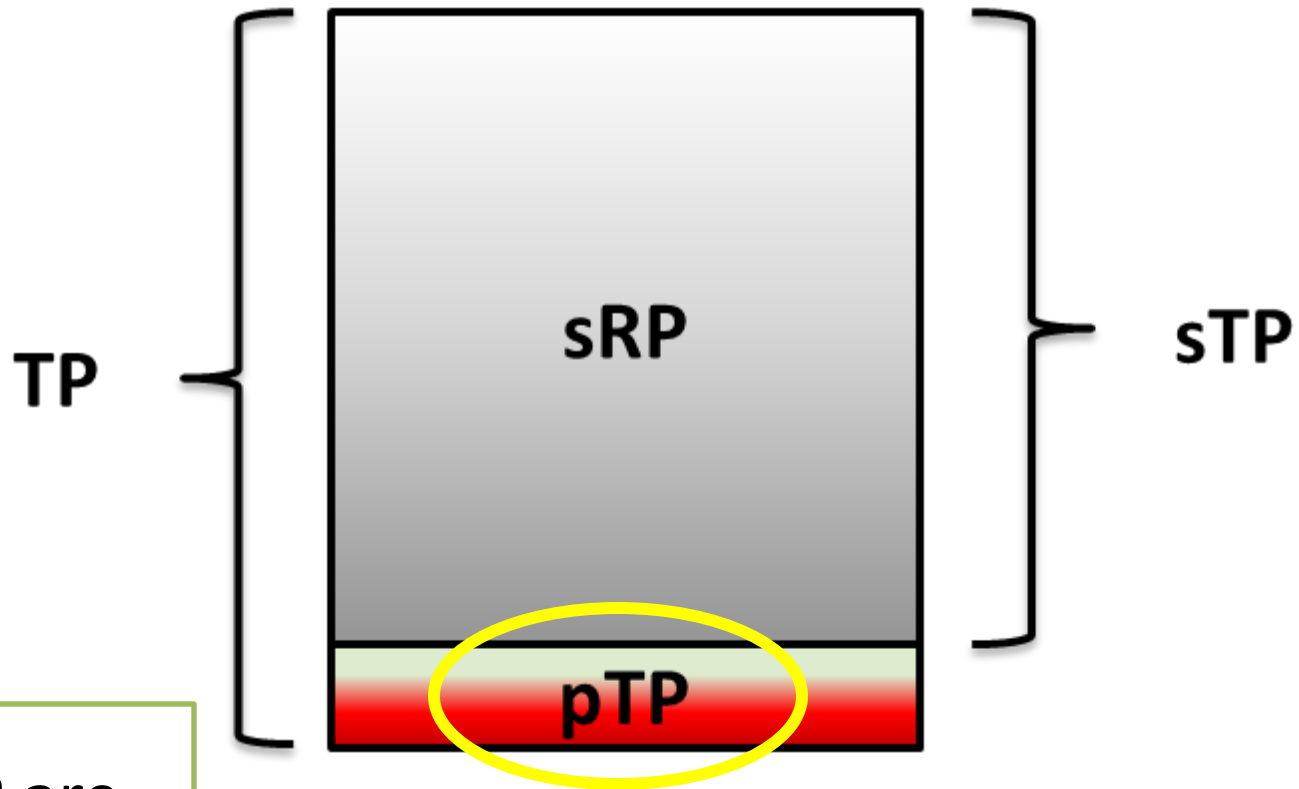


TP & tAHP are direct analysis

# Fractions of PARTICULATE (p) P

# Total Particulate Phosphorus (pTP)

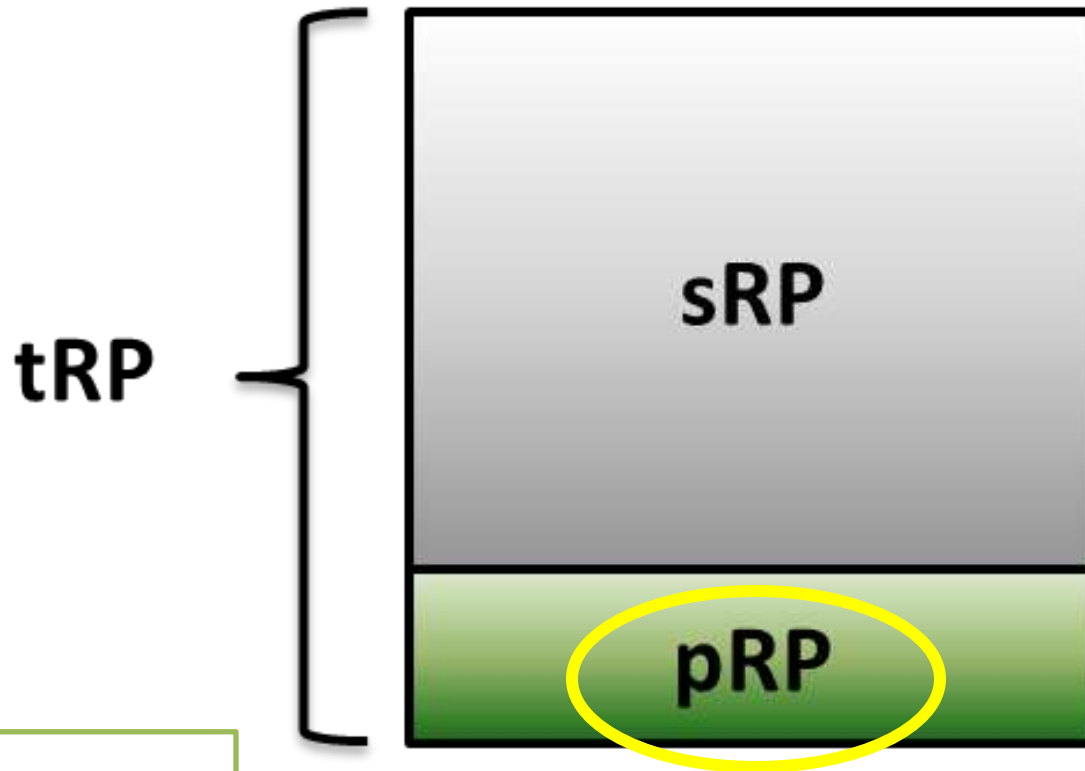
$$TP - sTP$$



TP & sTP are direct analysis

# Particulate Reactive Phosphorus (pRP)

tRP - sRP



tRP & sRP are  
direct analysis

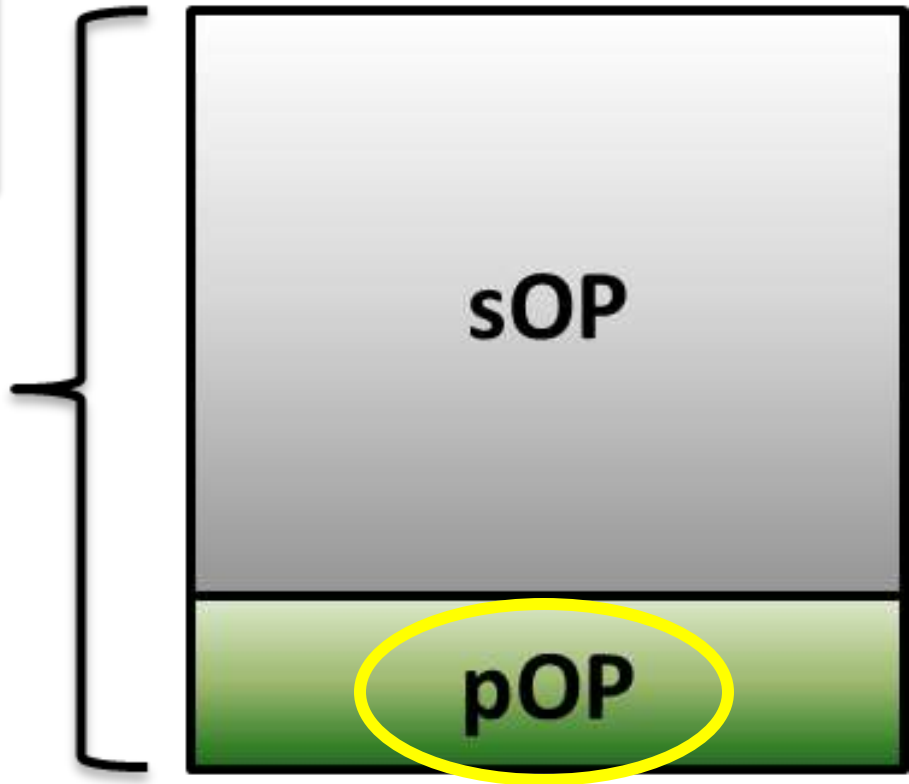
# Particulate Organic Phosphorus (pOP)

$$tOP - sOP$$

$$tOP = TP - tAHP$$

$$sOP = sTP - sAHP$$

tOP



TP, tAHP, sTP & sAHP are all direct analysis

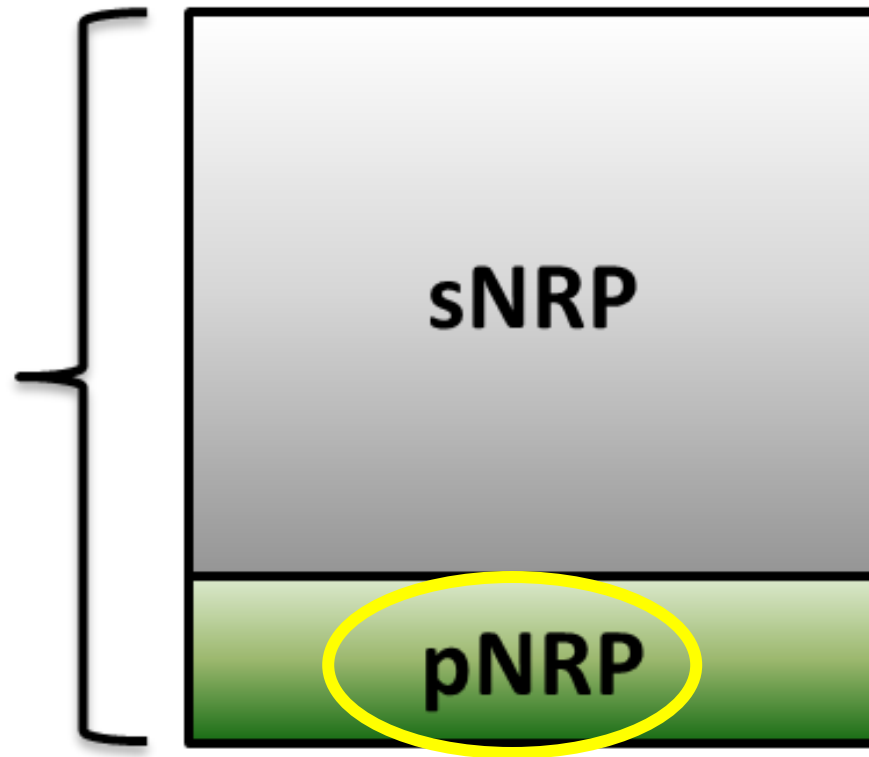
# Particulate Non-Reactive Phosphorus (pNRP)

tNRP - sNRP

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tNRP} &= \text{TP} - \text{tRP} \\ \text{sNRP} &= \text{sTP} - \text{sRP} \end{aligned}$$

**tNRP**

TP, tRP, sTP, &  
sRP are all  
direct analysis

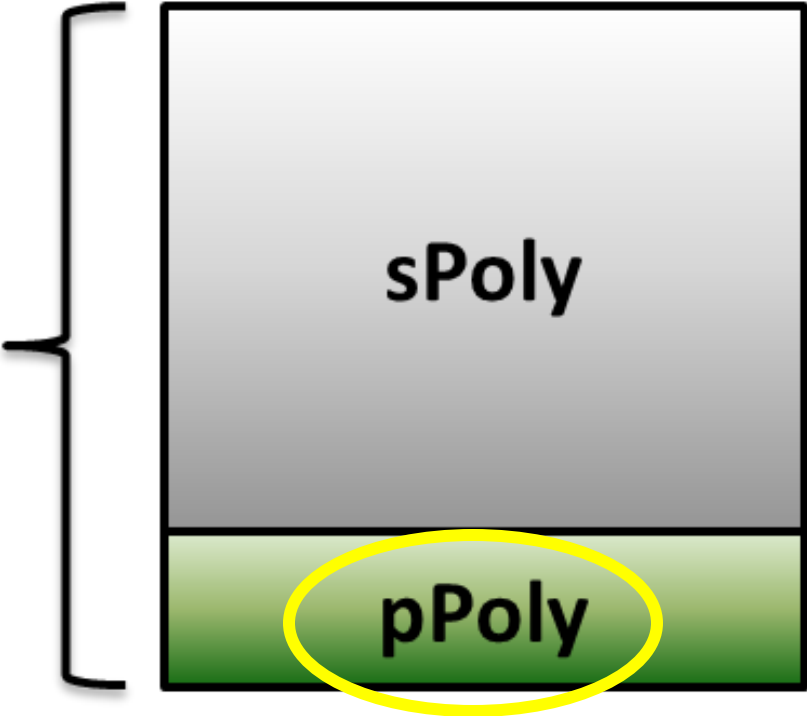


# Particulate Polymerized Phosphorus (pPoly)

tPoly - sPoly

tPoly = tAHP - tRP  
 sPoly = sAHP - sRP

tPoly

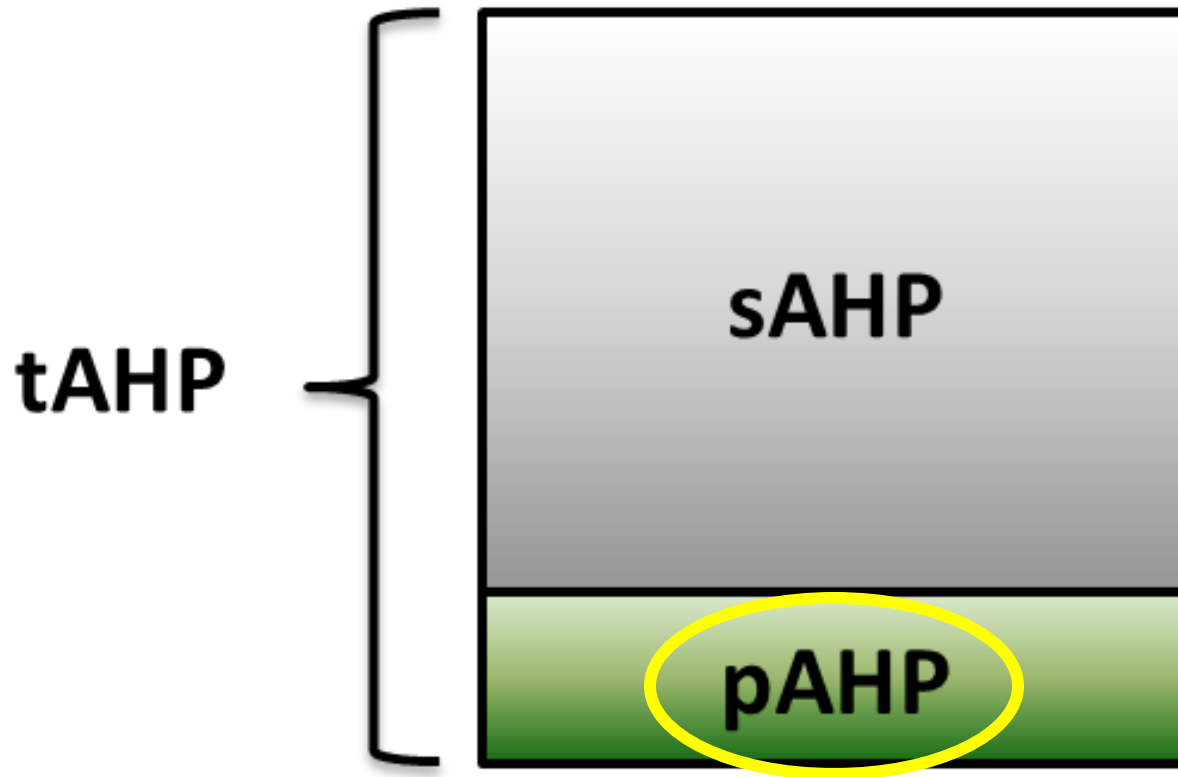


tAHP, tRP, sAHP & sRP are all direct analysis

tAHP & sAHP  
are direct  
analysis

**pAHP**

tAHP - sAHP

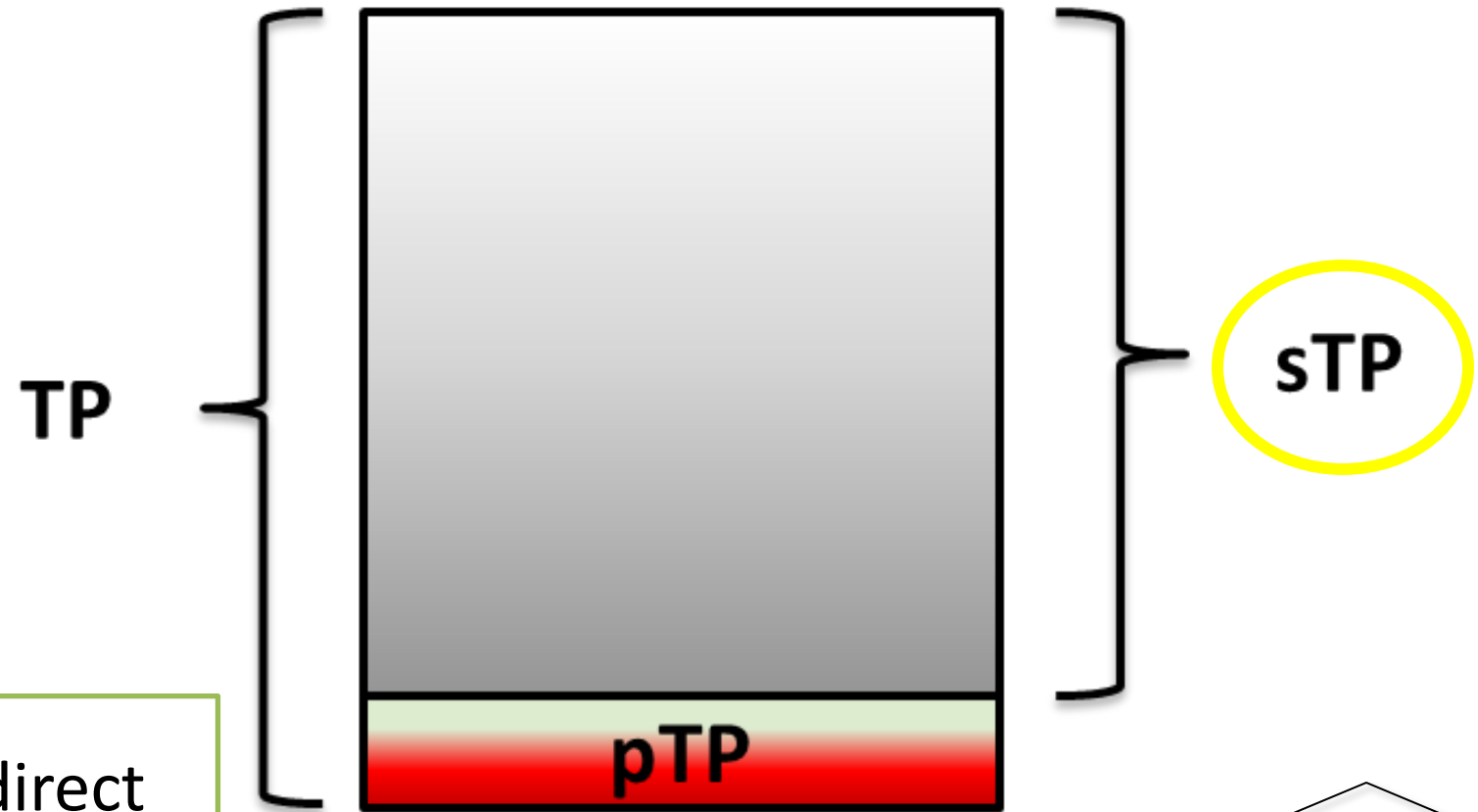




# Fractions of SOLUBLE (S) P

# Total Soluble Phosphorus (sTP)

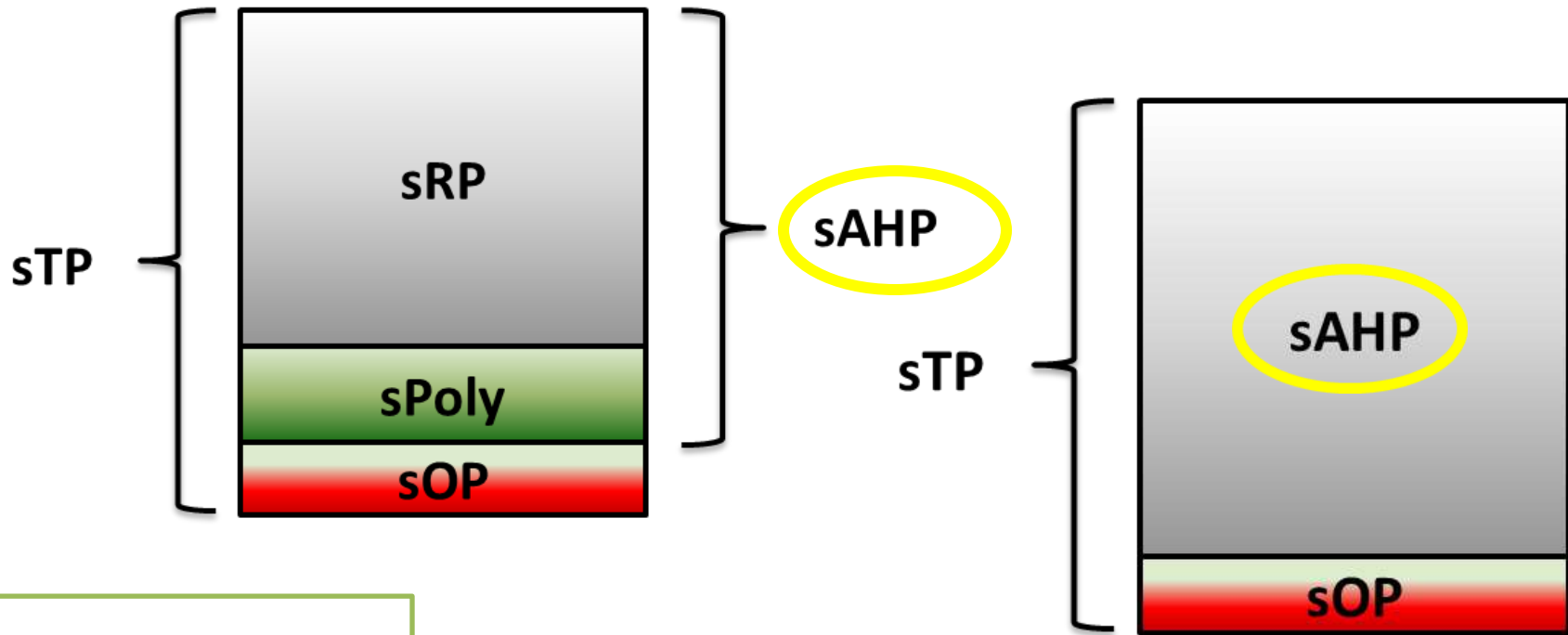
## Direct Analysis



sTP is a direct analysis

# Soluble Acid Hydrolysable Phosphorus (sAHP)

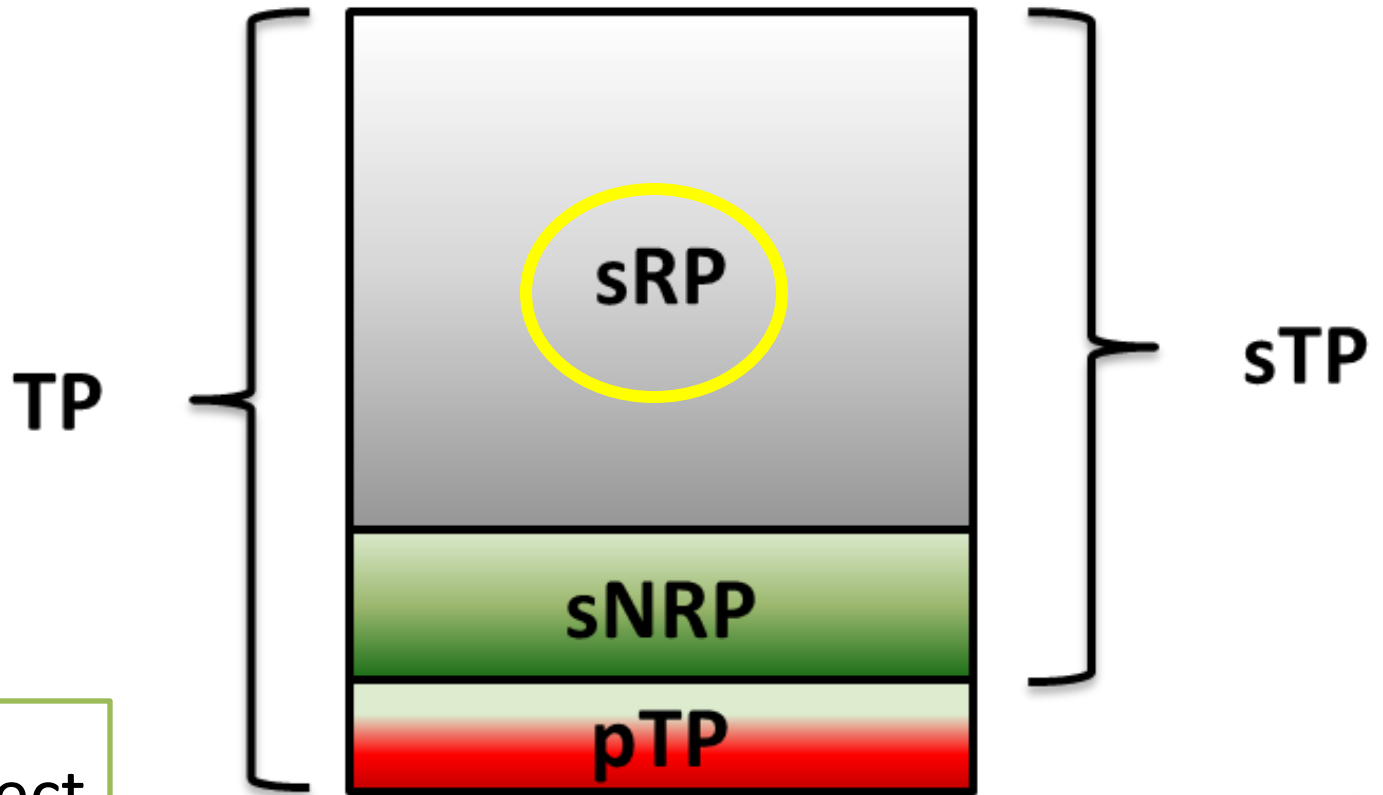
## Direct Analysis



sAHP is a direct analysis

# Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (sRP)

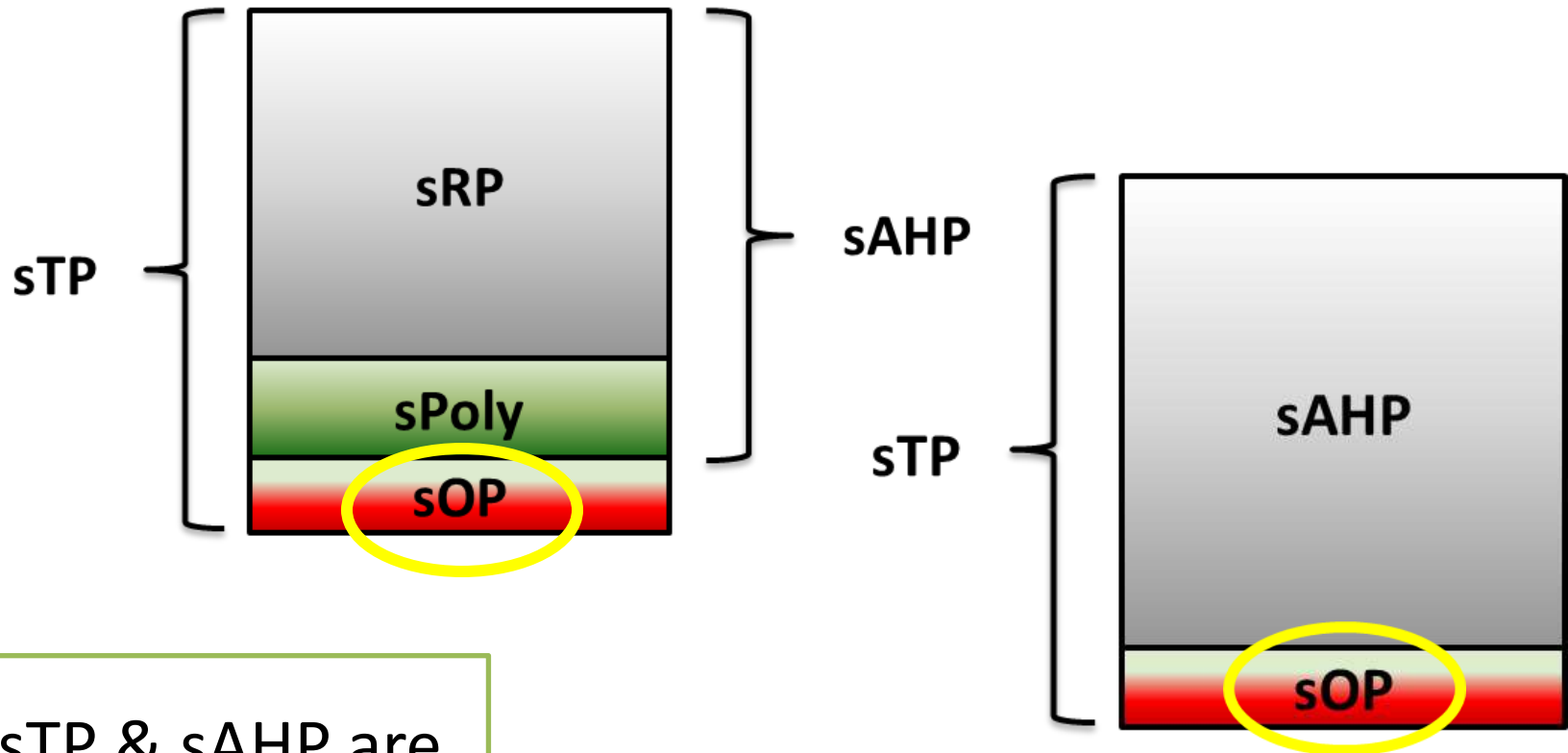
## Direct Analysis



sRP is a direct analysis

# Soluble Organic Phosphorus (sOP)

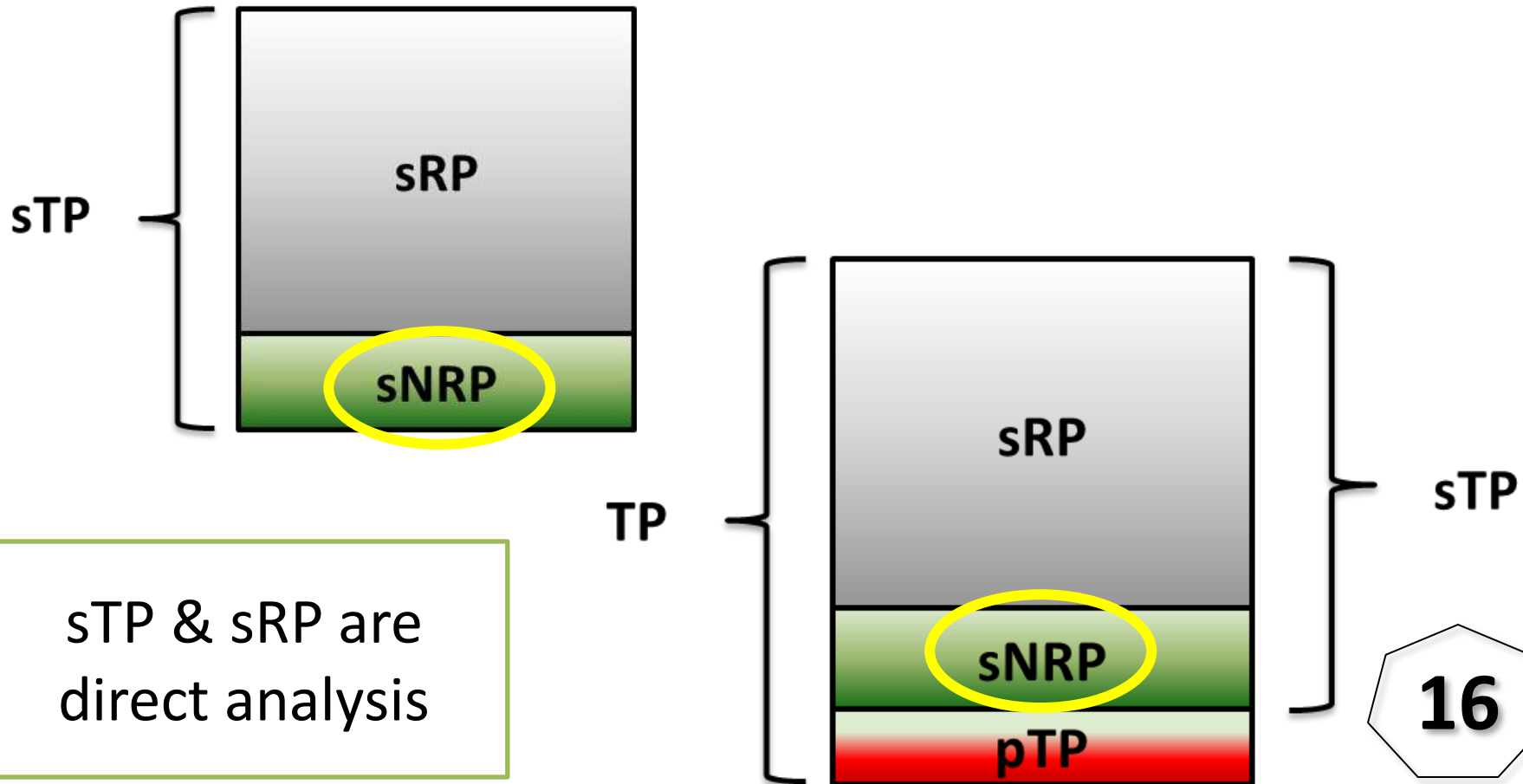
sTP - sAHP



sTP & sAHP are direct analysis

# Soluble Non-Reactive Phosphorus (sNRP)

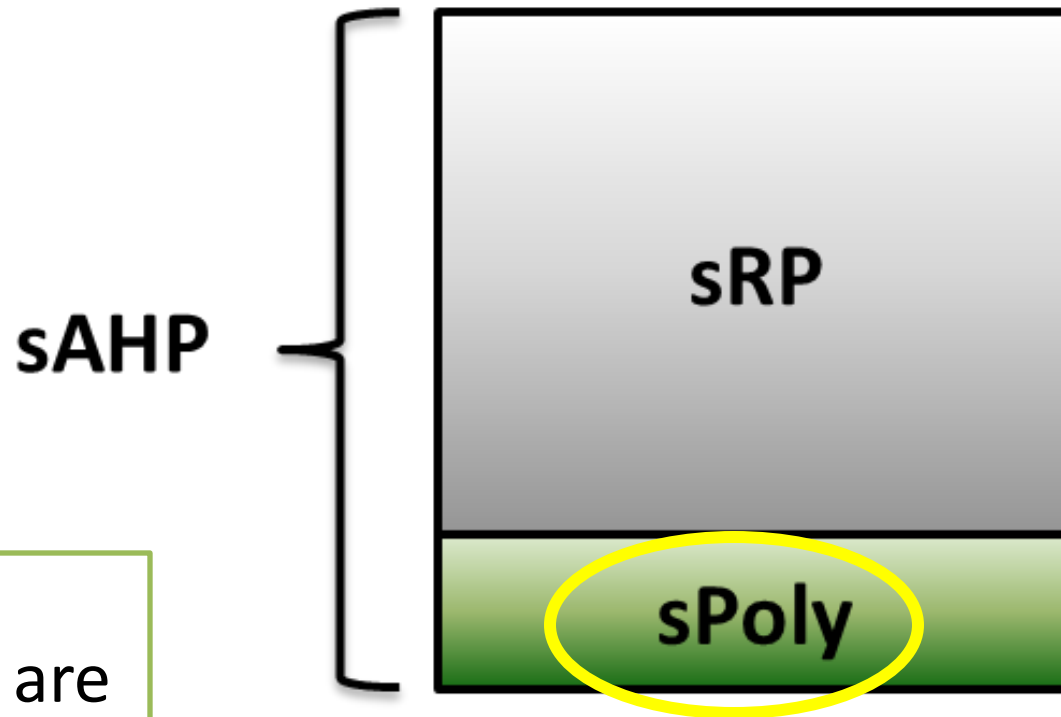
sTP - sRP



sTP & sRP are direct analysis

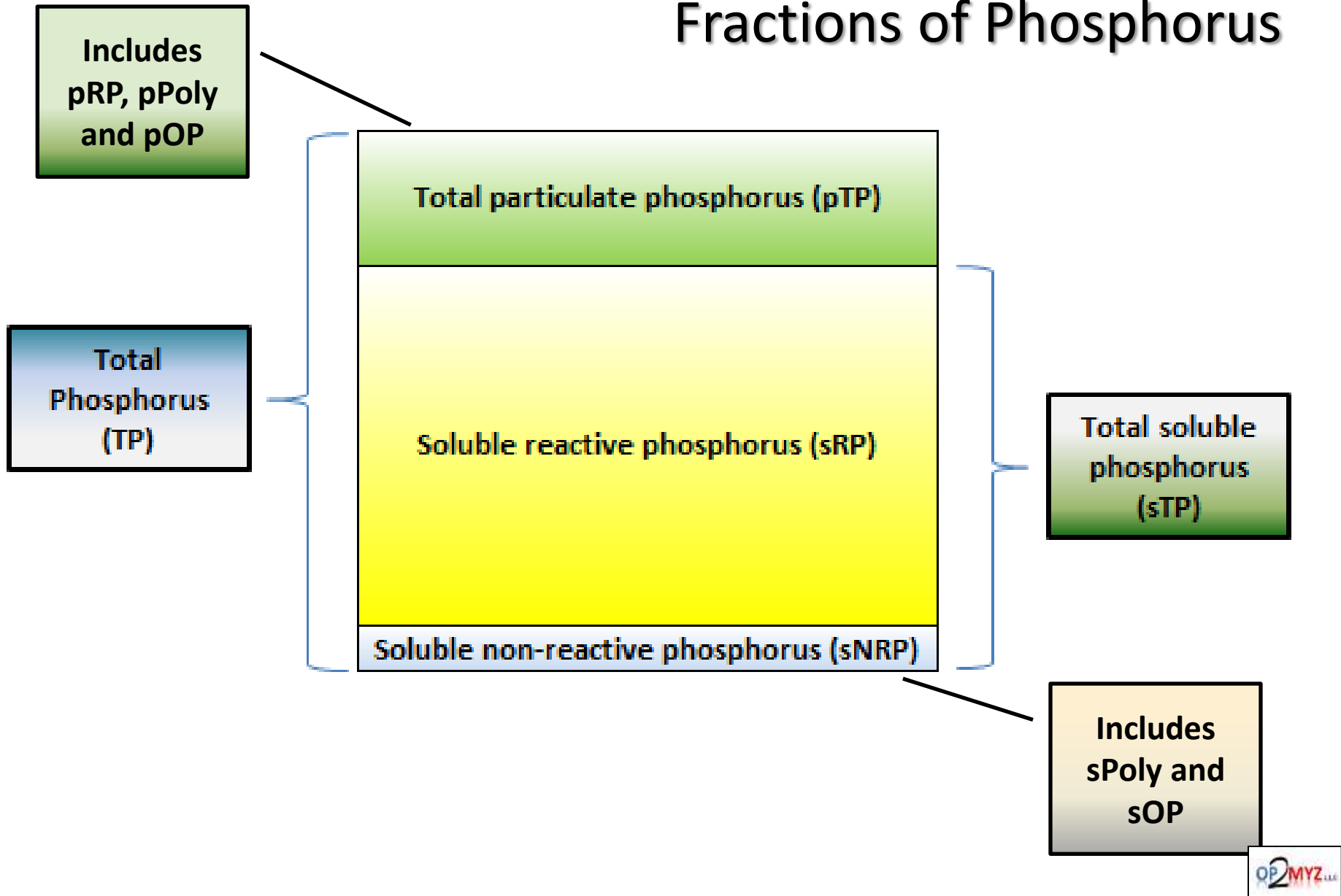
# Soluble Polymerized Phosphorus (sPoly)

sAHP - sRP



sRP & sAHP are  
direct analysis

# Summary of (p, Poly & s) Fractions of Phosphorus



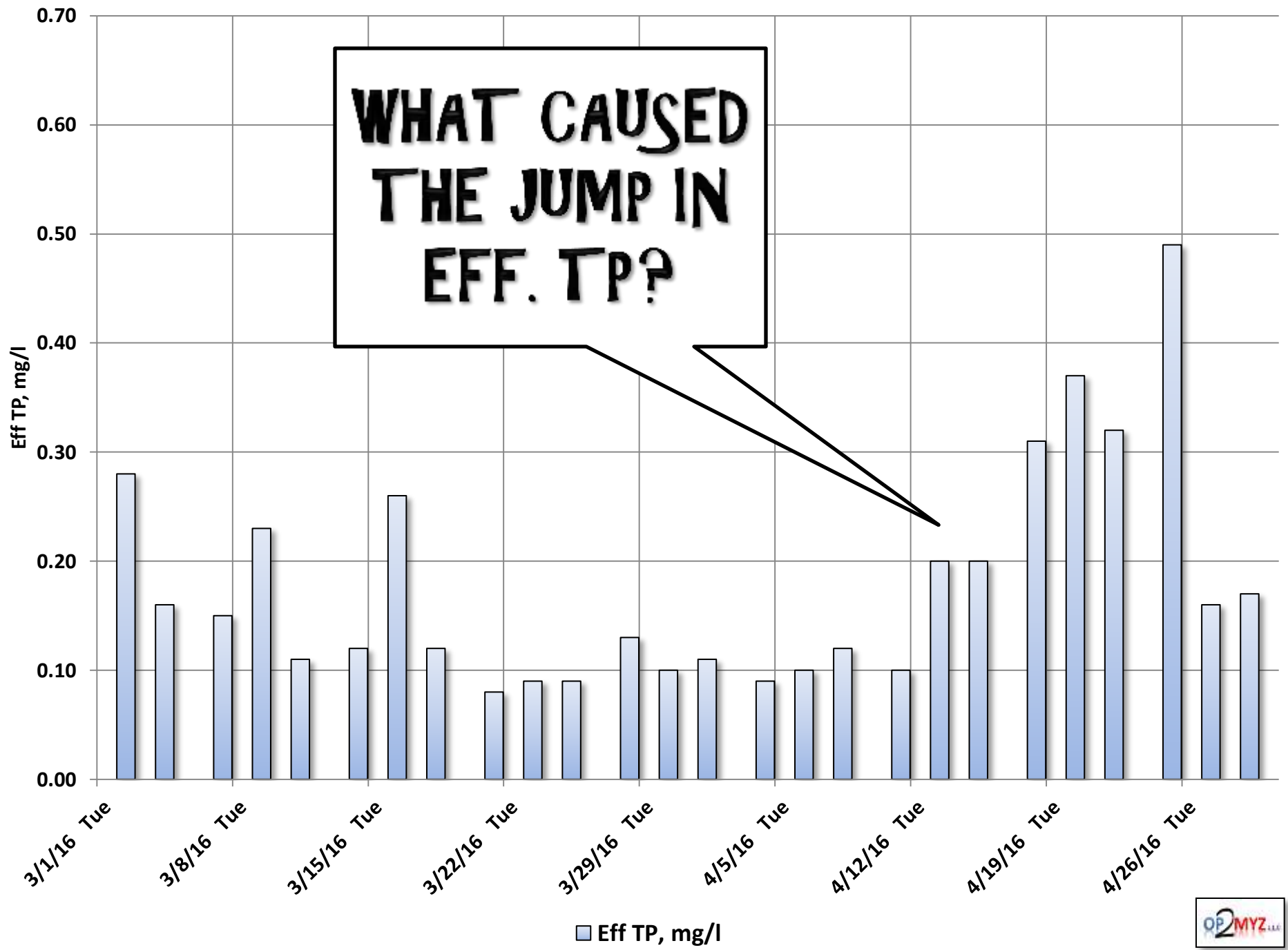


Why Bother  
with the

**FRACTIONS OF P ???**

# *Why Fractionalize P ?*

- We want to understand how to approach phosphorus treatment
- Best way is to understand each fraction and its make up
- Once known, treatment options become more clear




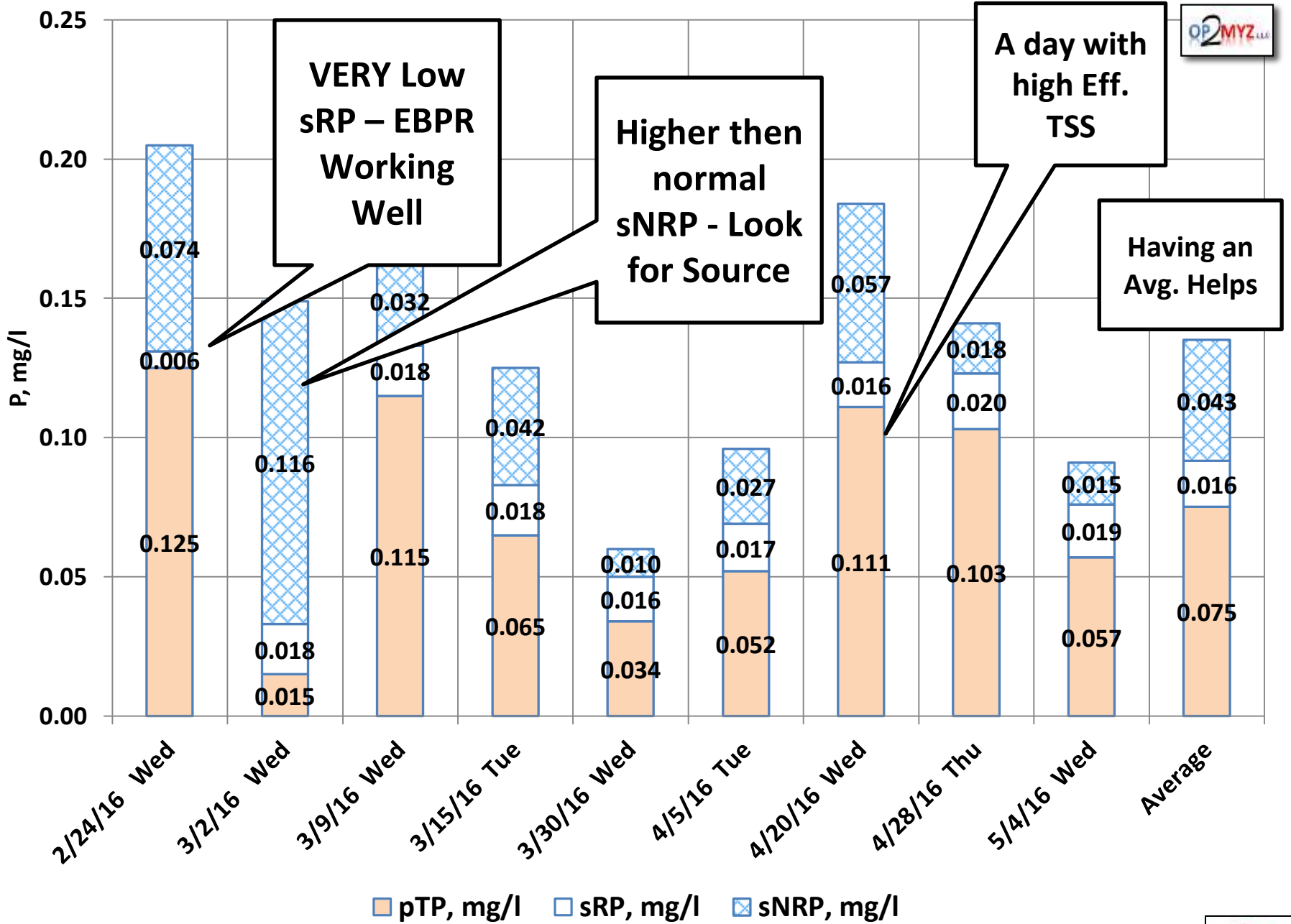
**WHAT CAUSED  
THE JUMP IN  
EFF. TP?**

■ Eff TP, mg/l



# WHAT CAUSED THE JUMP IN EFF. TP?

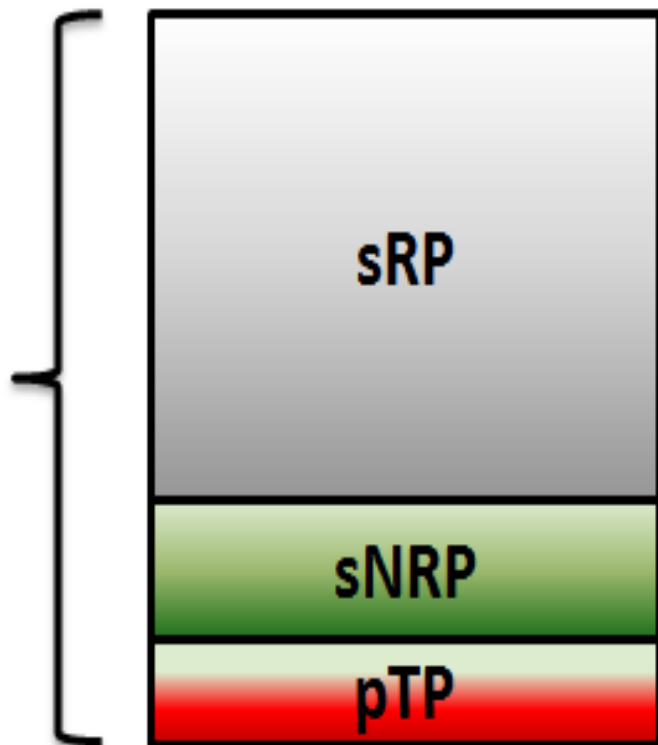
- Analyze → basic fractions then;
  - You  what makes up TP
  - Adjust appropriate treatment to reduce species
  - Reduce source
  - Work better with engineers to design a fitting and efficient processes for P removal



# 3 Main Basic Fractions of P and Their General Treatment Pathway

- Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (**sRP**)
  - **CHeMical & BPR**
- Soluble Non-Reactive Phosphorus (**sNRP**) which does not react well
  - **MOST diFFiCULT to reMove**
- Total Particulate (**pTP**) which is the phosphorus in the solids
  - **ENHANCED SettLING & Filtration**

TP



Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (**sRP**)  
**Treatment:** Chemical & EBPR

Soluble Non-Reactive Phosphorus (**sNRP**)  
**Treatment:** Limited removal with  
Chemical & EBPR - Does NOT React Well,  
Most Difficult to Remove

Total Particulate Phosphorus (**pTP**)  
**Treatment:** Enhanced Settling &  
Filtration

# Example of Reactive vs. Non-Reactive & Soluble NRP vs. Particulate NRP

## Removing the Fractions

Fraction	Removal Mechanism	Ease
sRP	React with something to make a particle, or react with a particle	1
sNRP	Adsorption to a particle (Sticks to the particle surface without a chemical reaction)	4
pRP	Reaction with other particles, adsorption, coagulation, flocculation	2
pNRP	Adsorption, coagulation, flocculation	3

Chemical Phosphorus Removal with the Actiflo® Process  
 2015 ORWEF Short School, Clackamas Community College  
 Chris Maher, Operations Analyst  
 Rock Creek AWTF



# Fractions of P

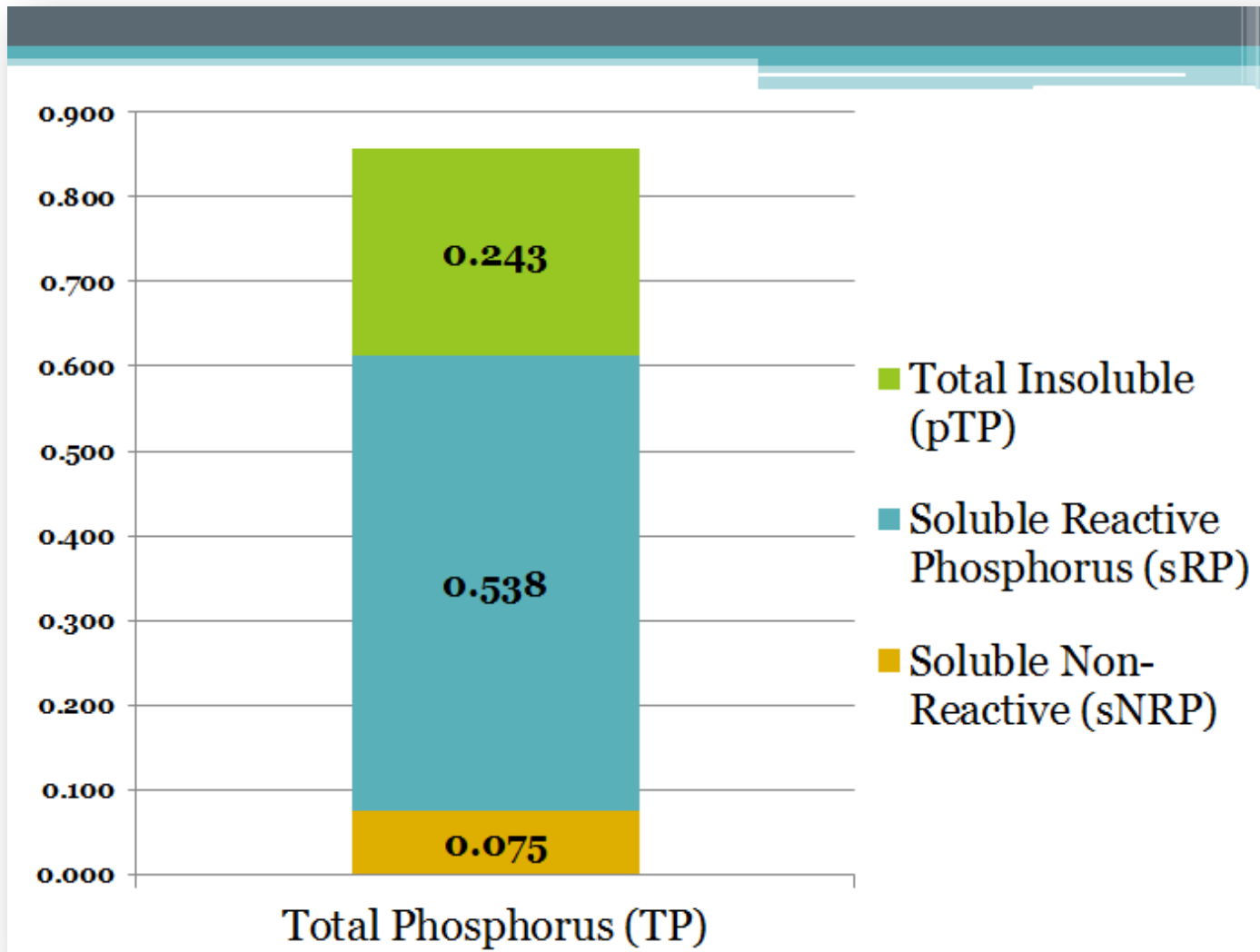
## Odds & ENds

# Various Ways to Fractionize P

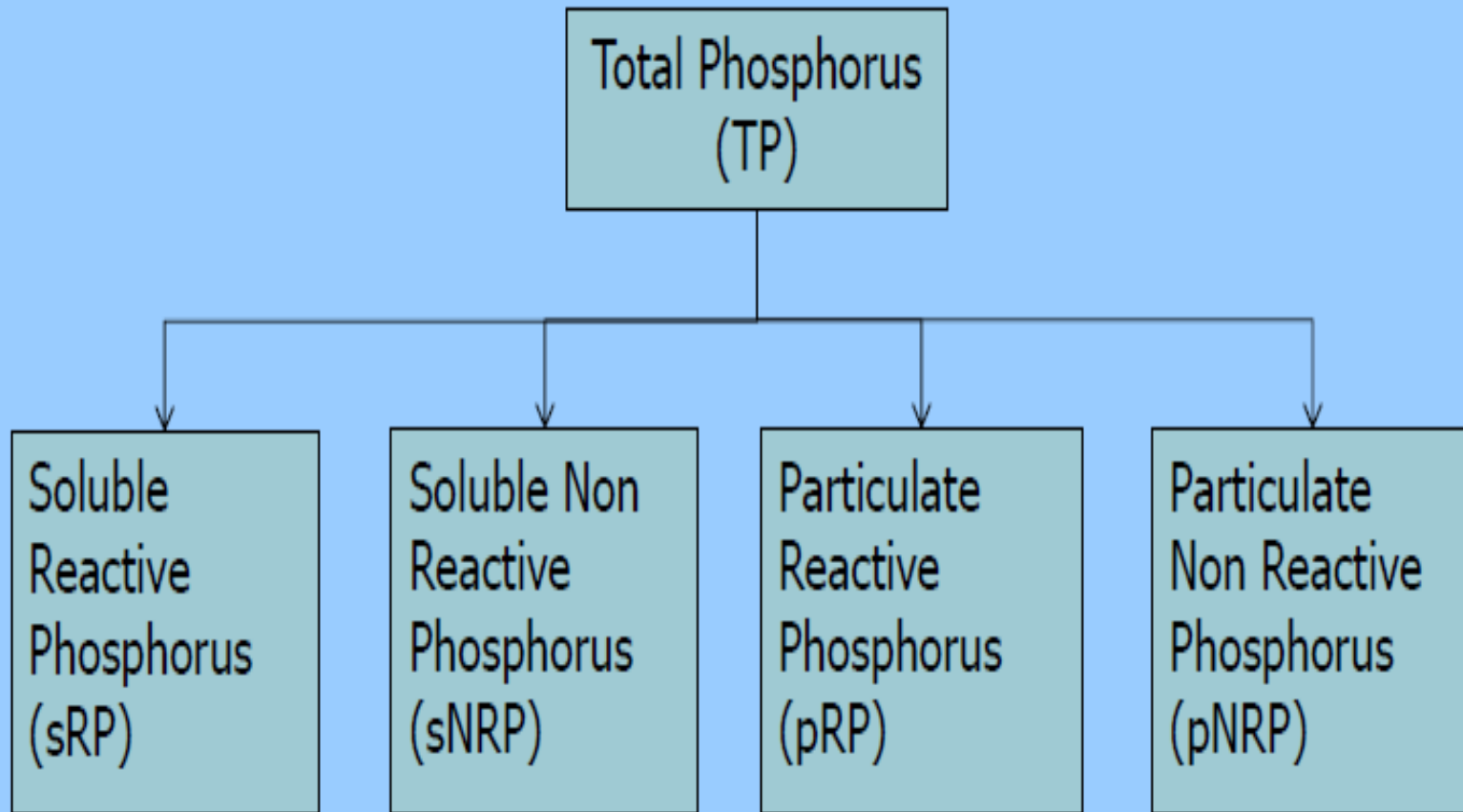
- **Inorganic** vs. **organic**
  - Requires two different digestion methods
  - **Chemical Treatment** has real problems removing certain fractions of organic P
- Soluble vs. Insoluble (Particulate)
  - Filtered & unfiltered results
- Reactive vs. Non-Reactive
- Soluble NRP vs. Particulate NRP
  - All calculated values
- **BIOAVAILABLE P**

# Soluble vs. Insoluble (Particulate)

## Filtered & unfiltered results

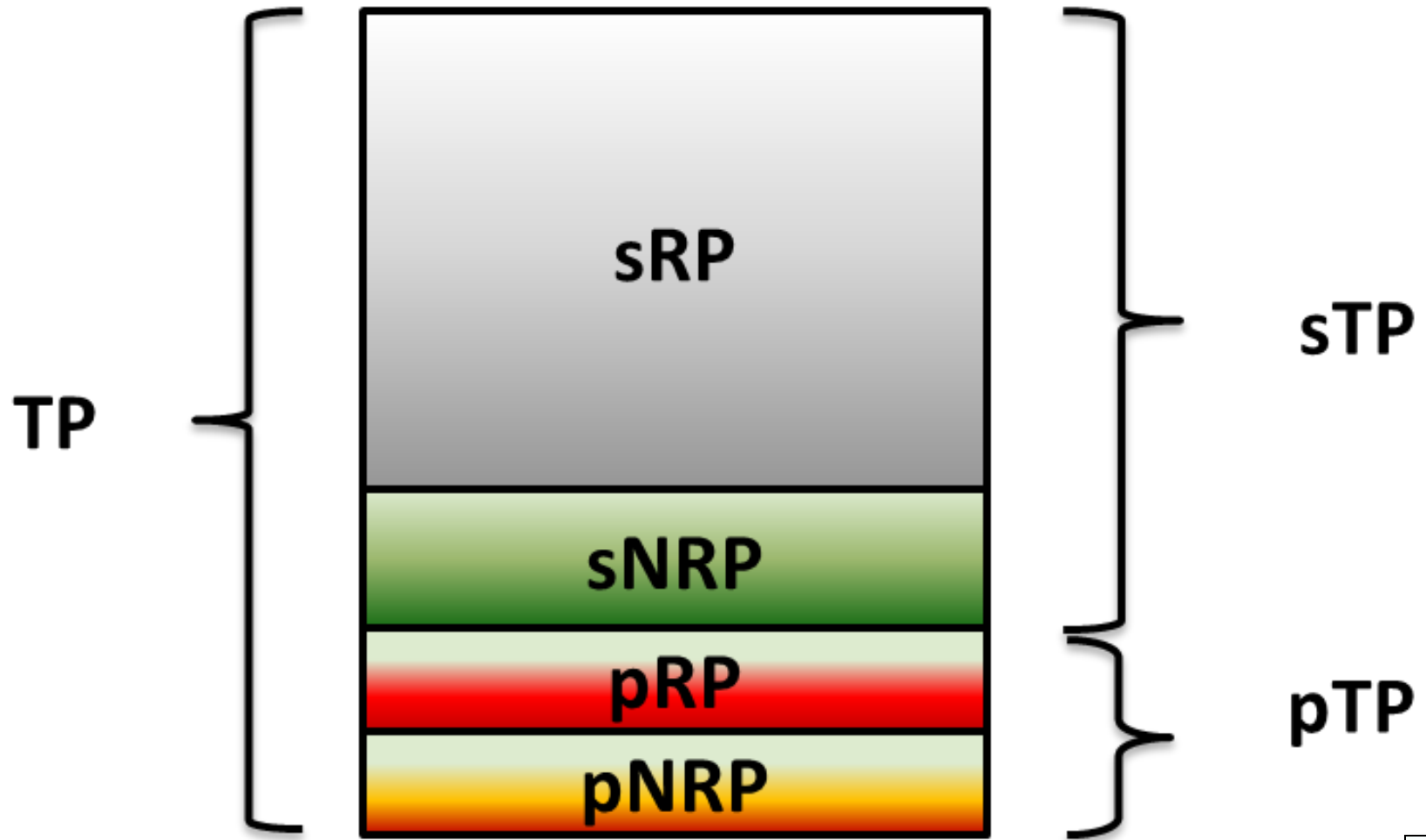


# Soluble vs. Particulate (Reactive & Non-Reactive)



Chemical Phosphorus Removal with the Actiflo® Process  
 2015 ORWEF Short School, Clackamas Community College  
 Chris Maher, Operations Analyst  
 Rock Creek AWTF

# SAME AS THIS

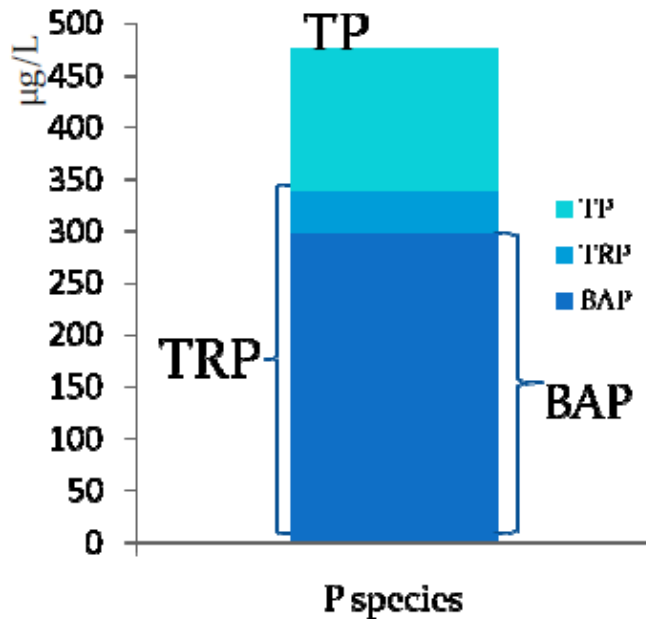


# BioAvailable P – What is It?

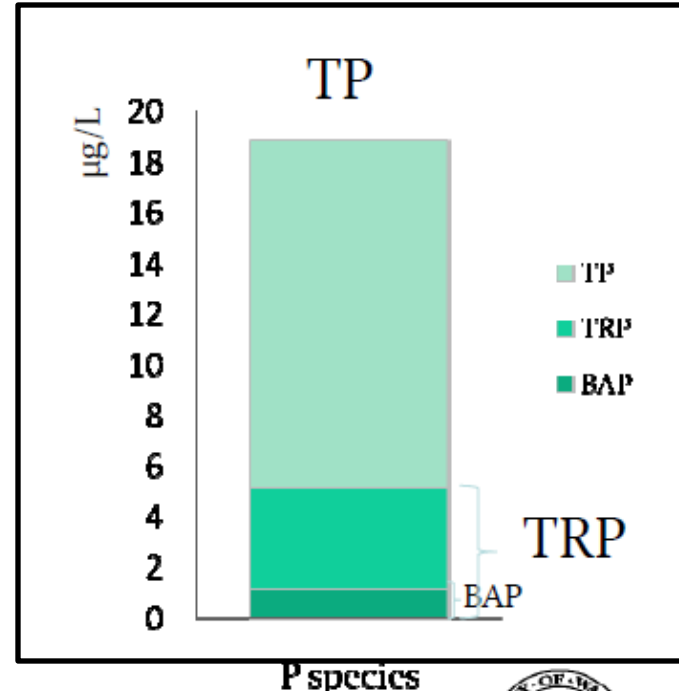
- Algal available or **BIOAVAILABLE** phosphorus is P that is estimated to be available to organisms like algae that are present in a lake or river.
- This is usually estimated by a chemical test which is designed to measure the **soluble P** & the **particulate P** that are **EASILY AVAILABLE**.
- Measure of the P → immediate concern to water quality.

# Example Material Where Bioavailable P is being Evaluated

Bioavailable P (BAP) vs TP and TRP



Plant Influent (n=4)

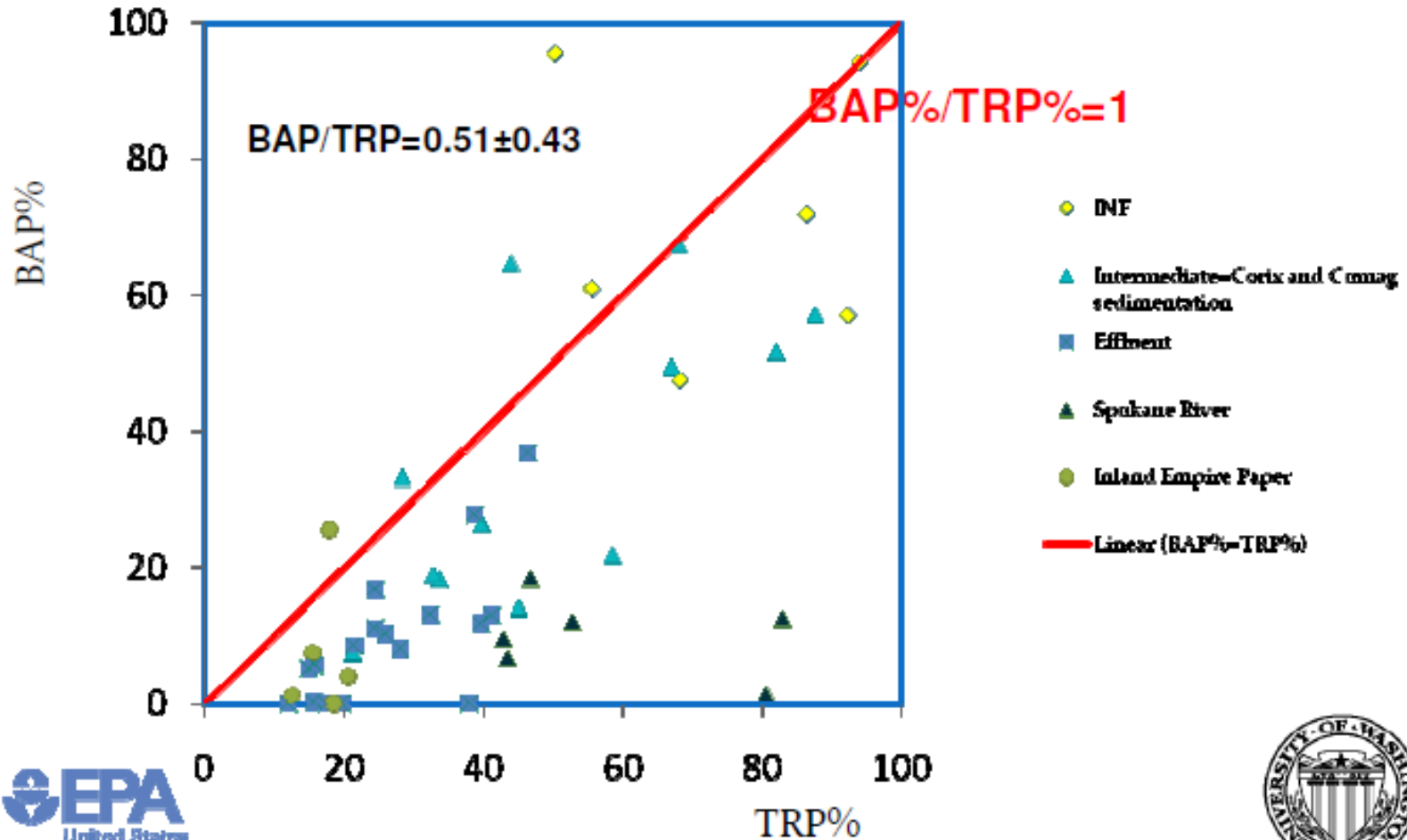


Filtered Effluent (n=4)



Study found Bioavailable P is LESS than Total Reactive Phosphorus

# BAP is less than TRP





# So Many Different Names !!!

Fraction of P	Abbrev.	Other names
Total Phosphorus	TP	
Total Reactive Phosphorus	tRP	Total Ortho-P, Total Orthophosphate as P, Total PO <sub>4</sub> -P
Total Acid Hydrolysable Phosphorus	tAHP	
Total Non Reactive Phosphorus	tNRP	
Total Polymerized Phosphorus	tPoly	
Total Organic Phosphorus	tOP	
Total Particulate Phosphorus	pTP	
Particulate Reactive Phosphorus	pRP	Particulate Orthophosphorus, Particulate Orthophosphate as P
Particulate Organic Phosphorus	pOP	
Particulate Non Reactive Phosphorus	pNRP	
Particulate Polymerized Phosphorus	pPoly	
Particulate Acid Hydrolysable Phosphorus	pAHP	
Total Soluble Phosphorus	sTP	Total Dissolved Phosphorus
Soluble Acid Hydrolysable Phosphorus	sAHP	
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus	sRP	Soluble Orthophosphorus, Soluble Orthophosphate as P, Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus, Dissolved Orthophosphate as P, Dissolved Orthophosphorus, Dissolved PO <sub>4</sub> -P, Soluble PO <sub>4</sub> -P
Soluble Organic Phosphorus	sOP	Dissolved Organic Phosphorus, DOP
Soluble Non Reactive Phosphorus	sNRP	Dissolve Non-Reactive Phosphorus
Soluble Polymerized Phosphorus	sPoly	

# Phosphorus Speciation

---

Same as Dividing  
Phosphorus into Different  
Fractions of P

*P species*



*Same as Fractions of P*

# EXAMPLES OF VARIOUS WWTP EXPERIENCES RESULTS

# Fond du Lac Experience

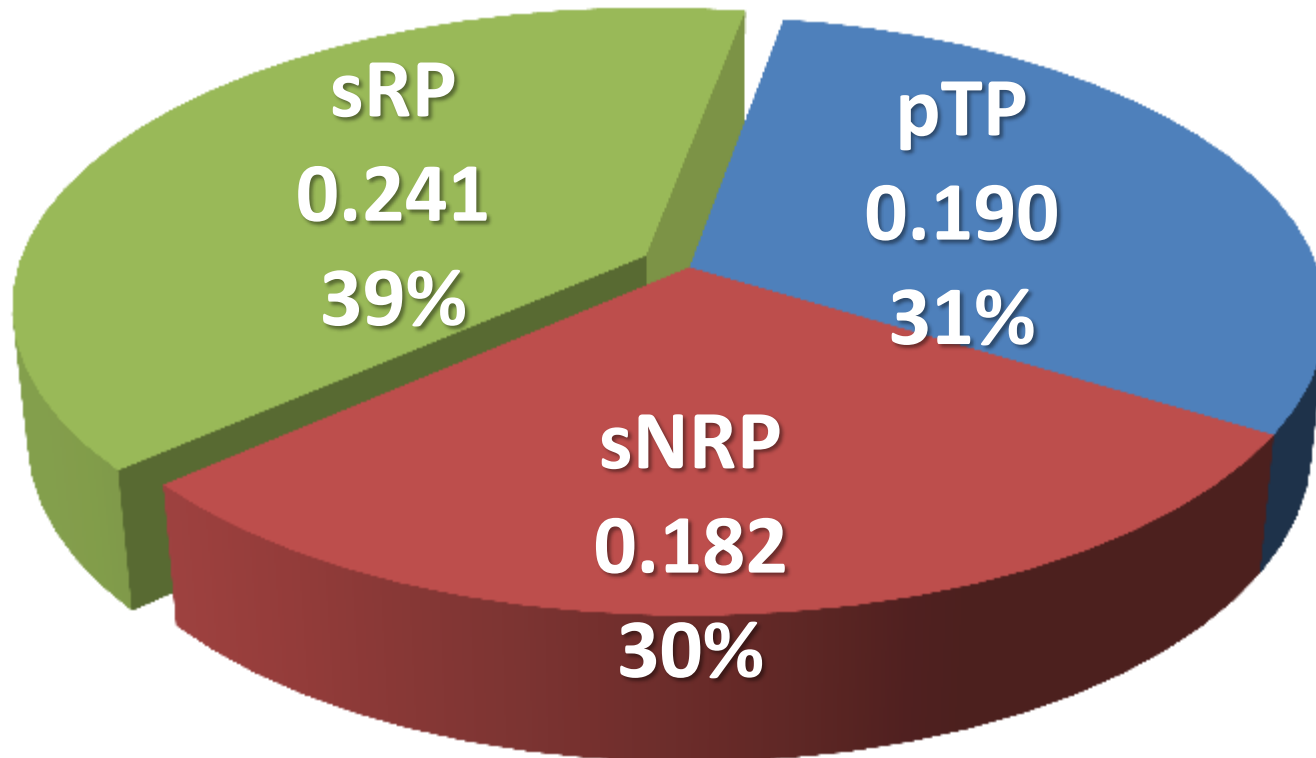
- Collected Data says.....
- Future WQBEL TP limit - **0.04** mg/l.
- Discovered Eff. sNRP fraction is **0.108** mg/l which is **0.068** mg/l **over the limit**
- sNRP is **NOT EASILY REMOVED** by chemical and/or EBPR
- Now studying smaller particles/solids are referred to as **colloidal solids**

USiNg Fort AtKiNSON  
EFF. P Data  
What HappENS IF?

# Fort Atkinson - Fraction of Phosphorus in WWTP Effluent

Data from Fall of 2011

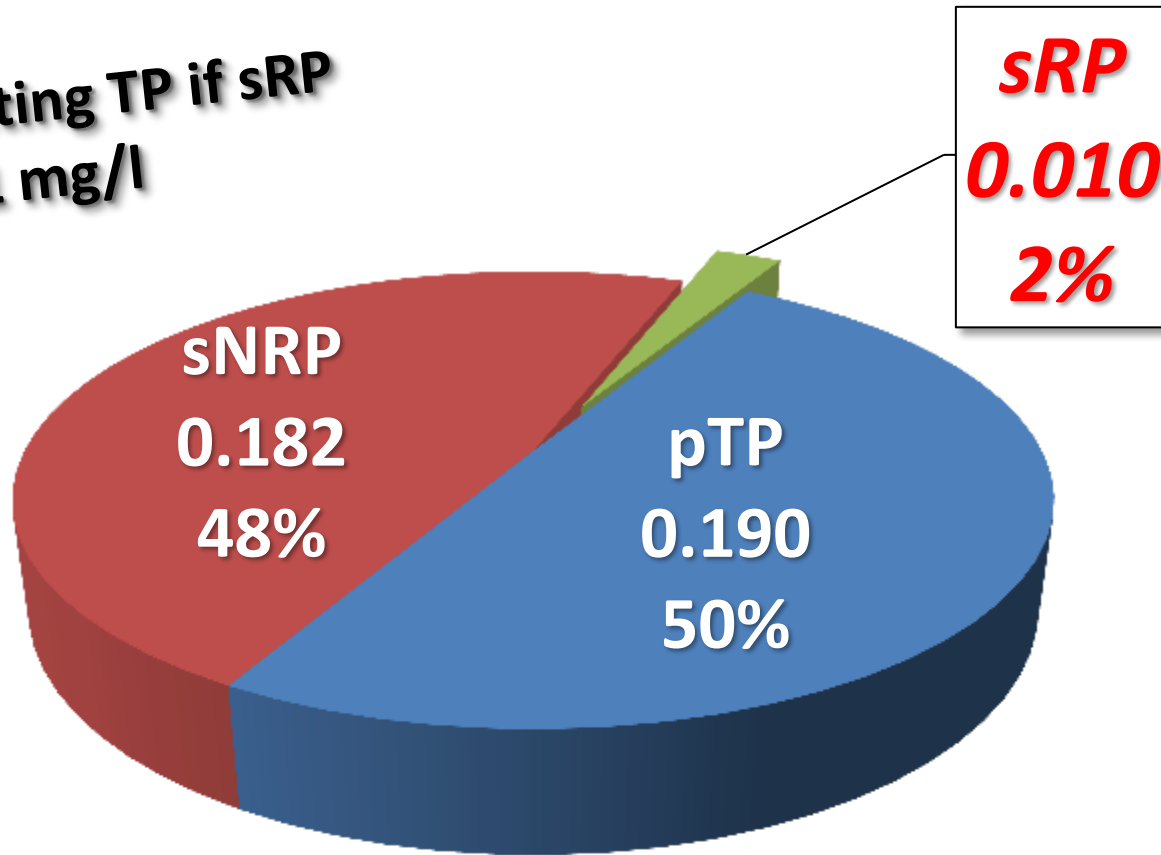
TP - 0.613 mg/l



Aug thru Oct 2011 - Average based on actual data

# Fort Atkinson - Most Reactive P Removed by BNR

Estimating TP if sRP  
at 0.01 mg/l

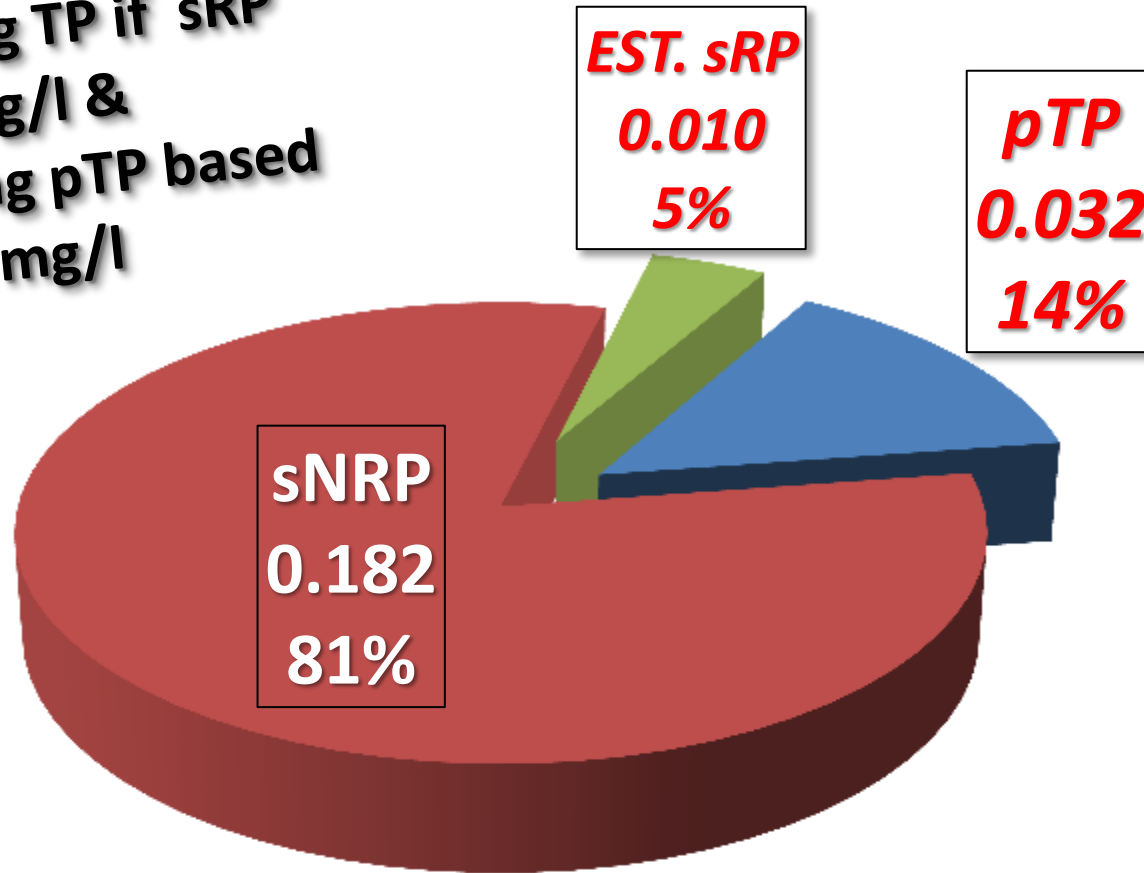


Estimated TP, mg/l - 0.382



# Fort Atkinson - Most Reactive P Removed by BNR and Effluent TSS Filtration

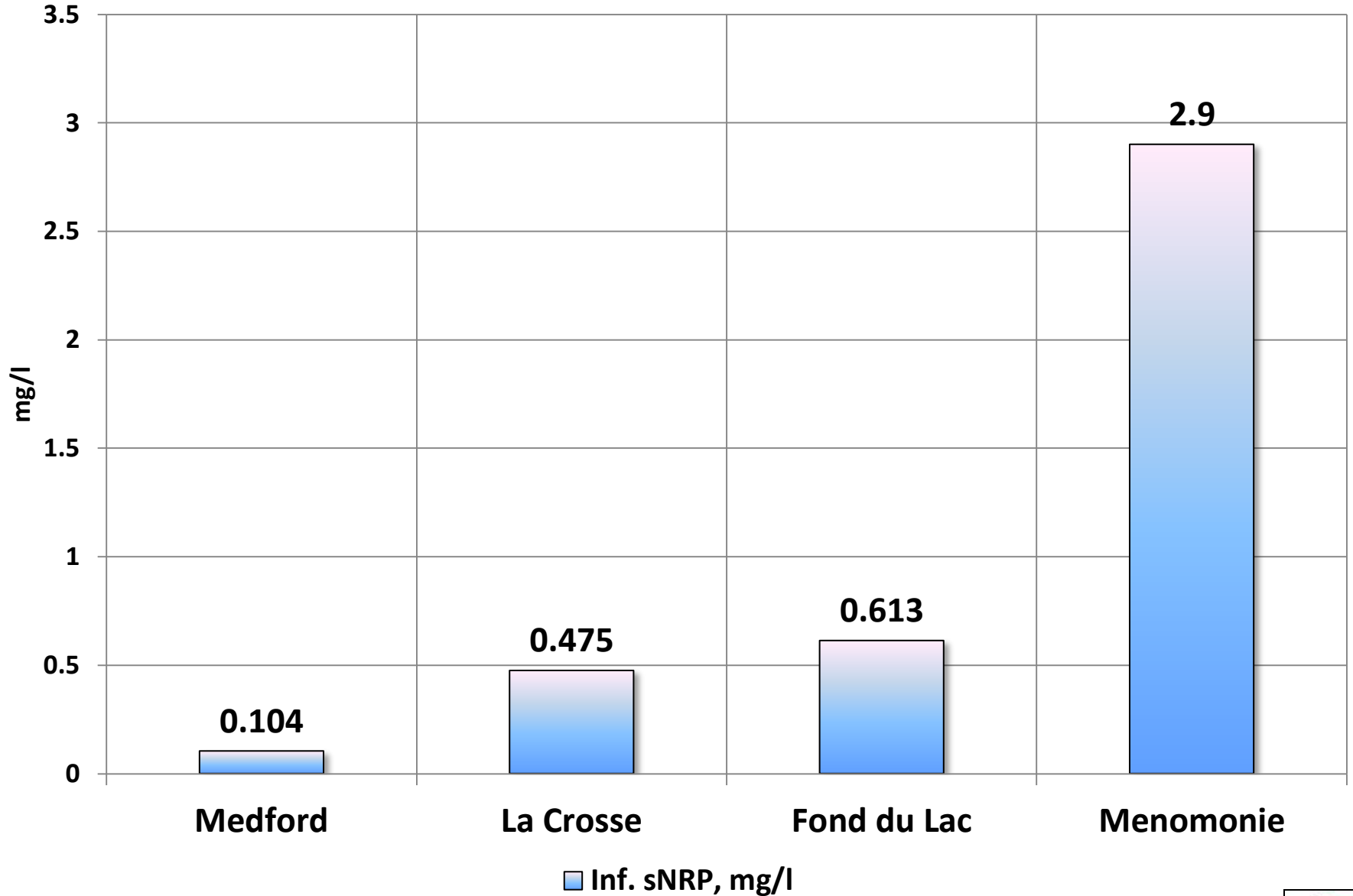
Estimating TP if sRP at 0.01 mg/l & Estimating pTP based on TSS 1 mg/l



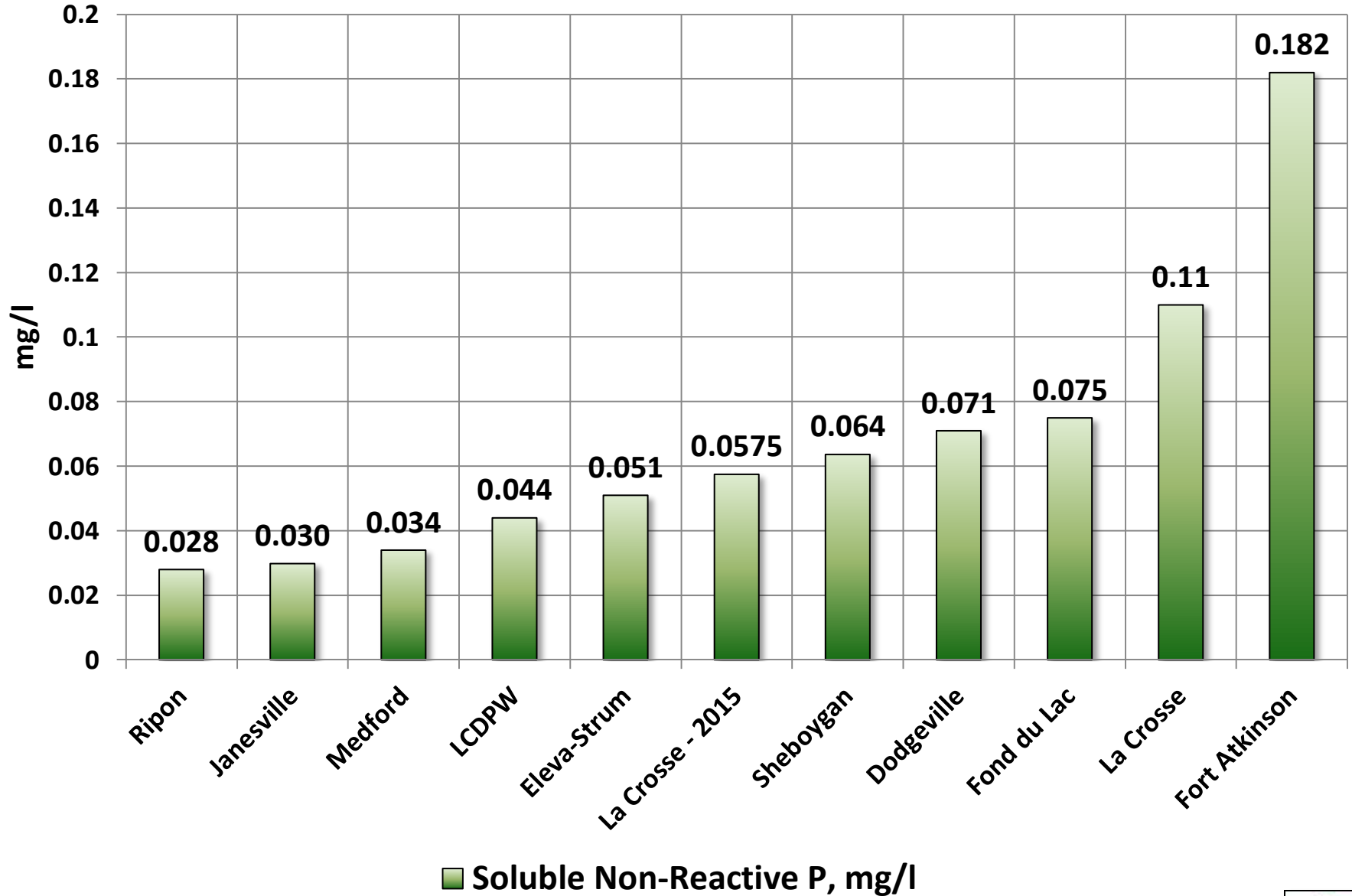
Before all Changes: TP - 0.613 mg/l

**Estimated TP, mg/l - 0.224**

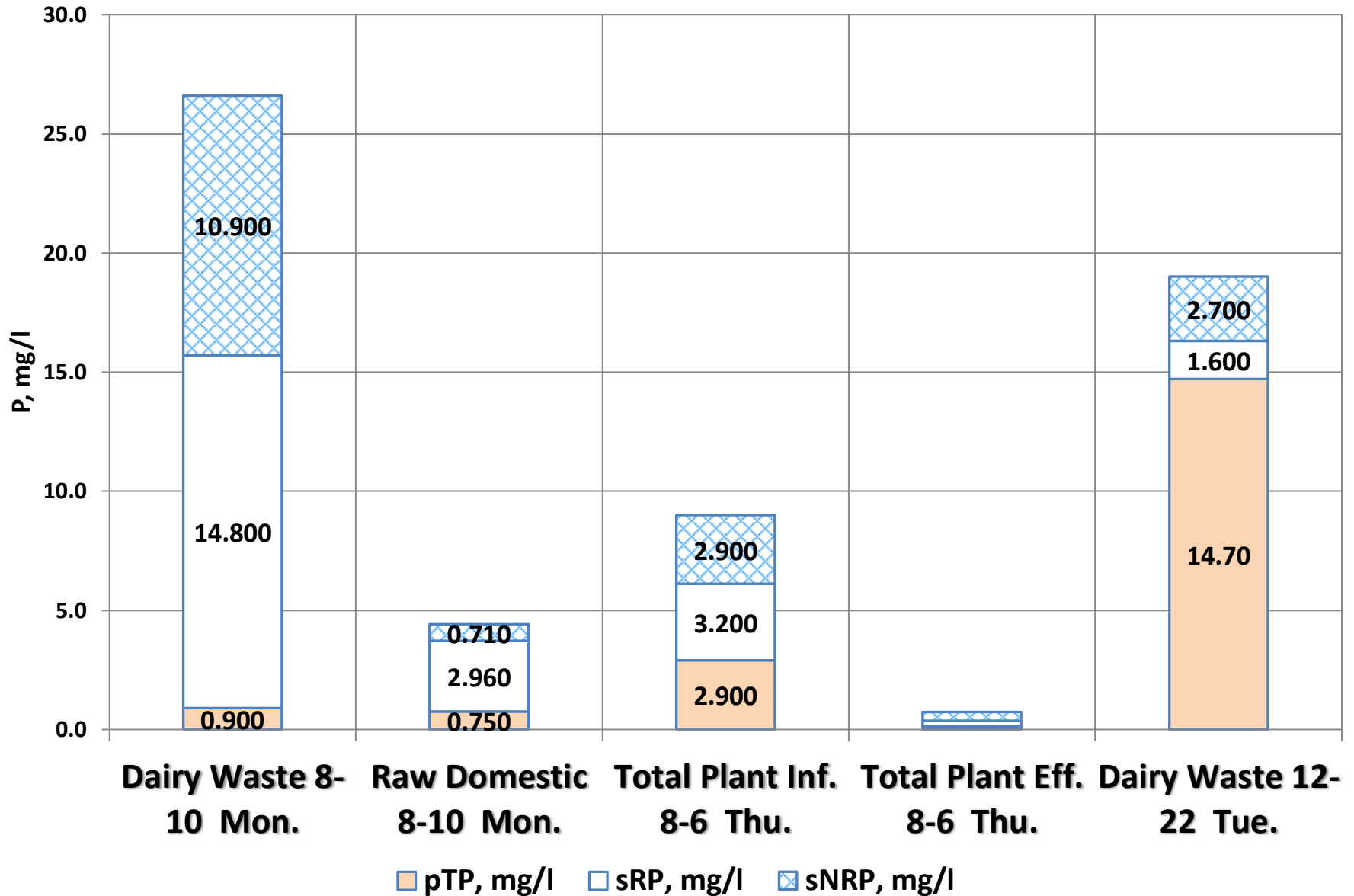
# Inf. sNRP Survey



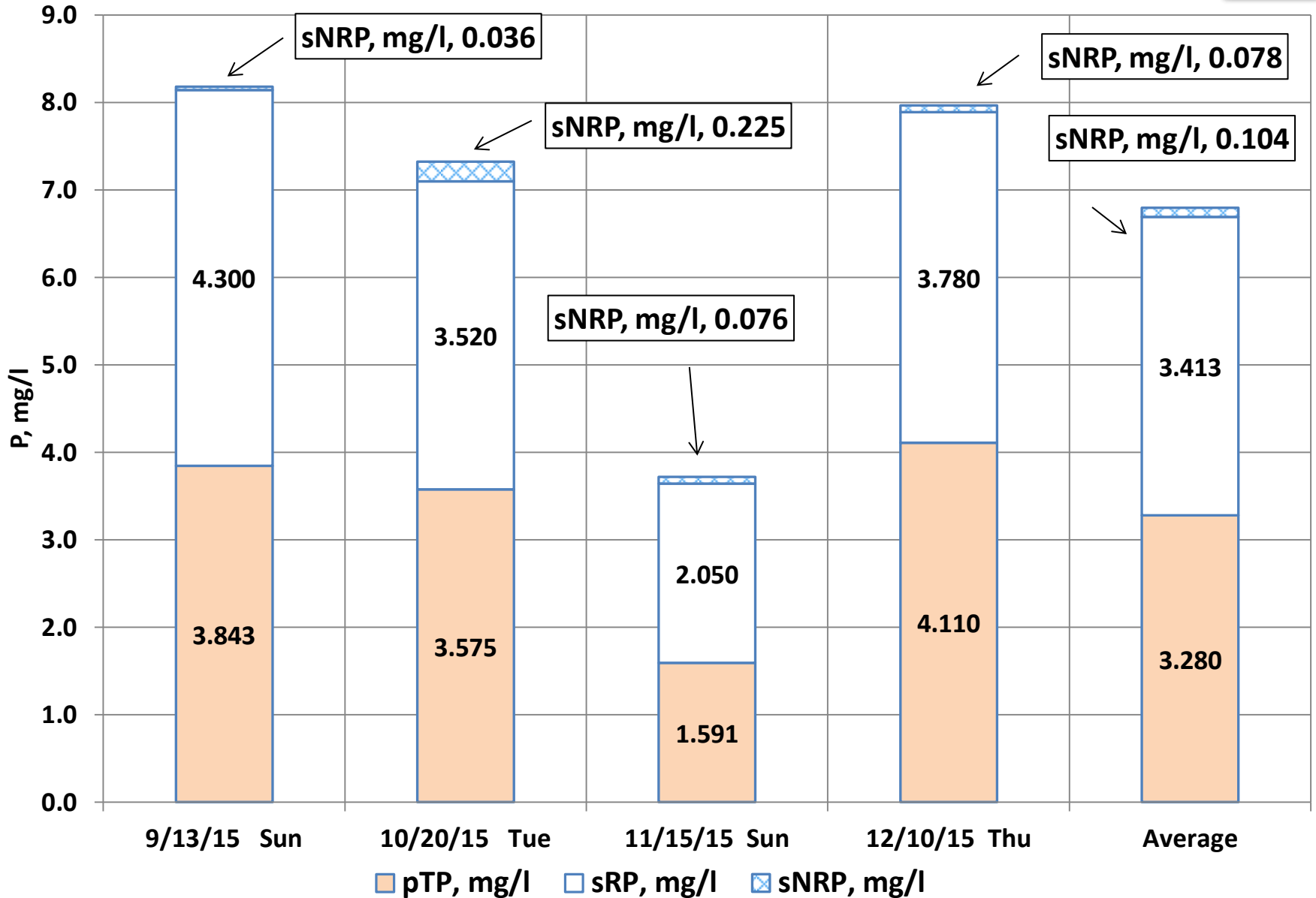
# Eff - Soluble Non-Reactive P (sNRP) Survey



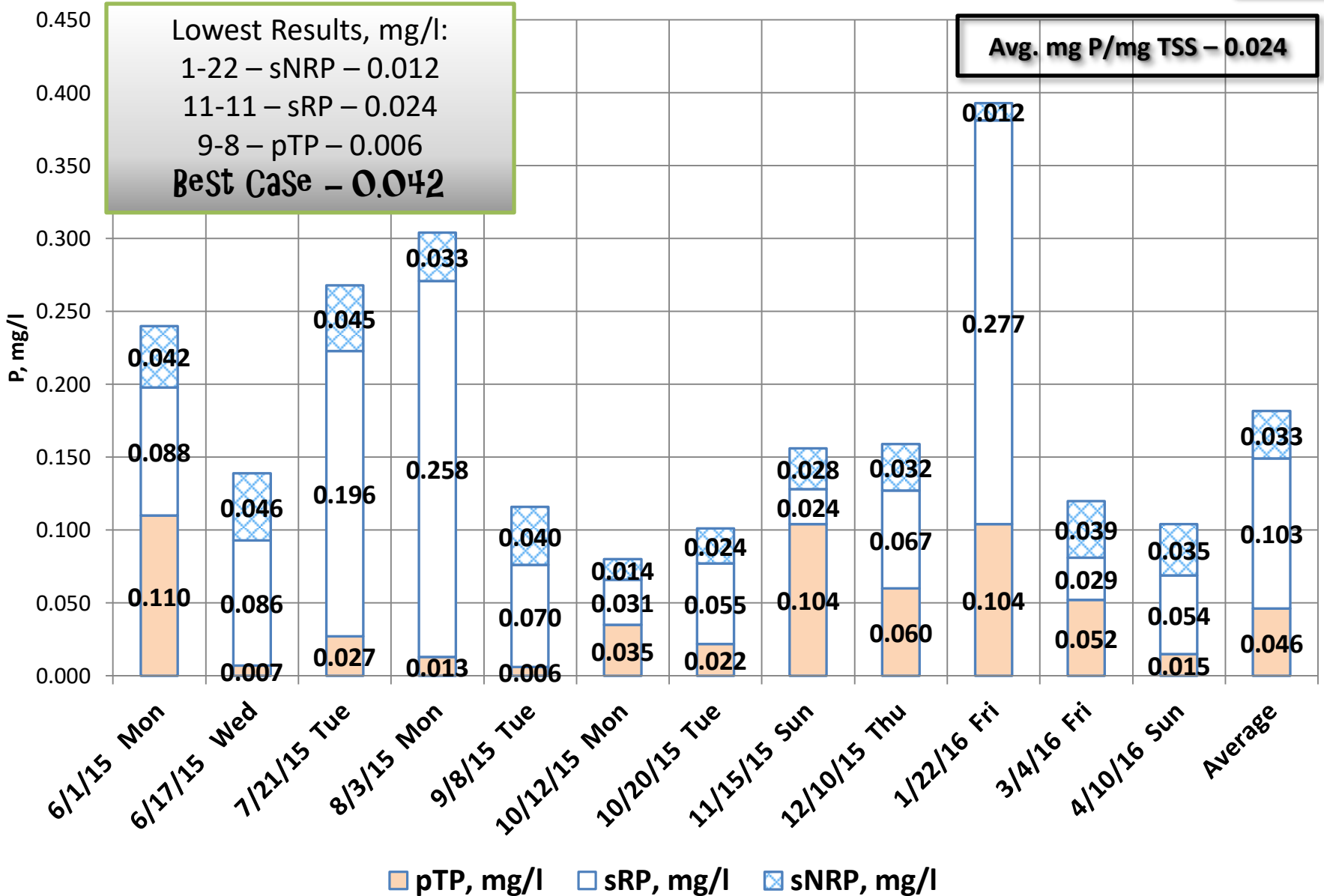
# Menomonie WWTP Inf./Eff. - Fractions of P



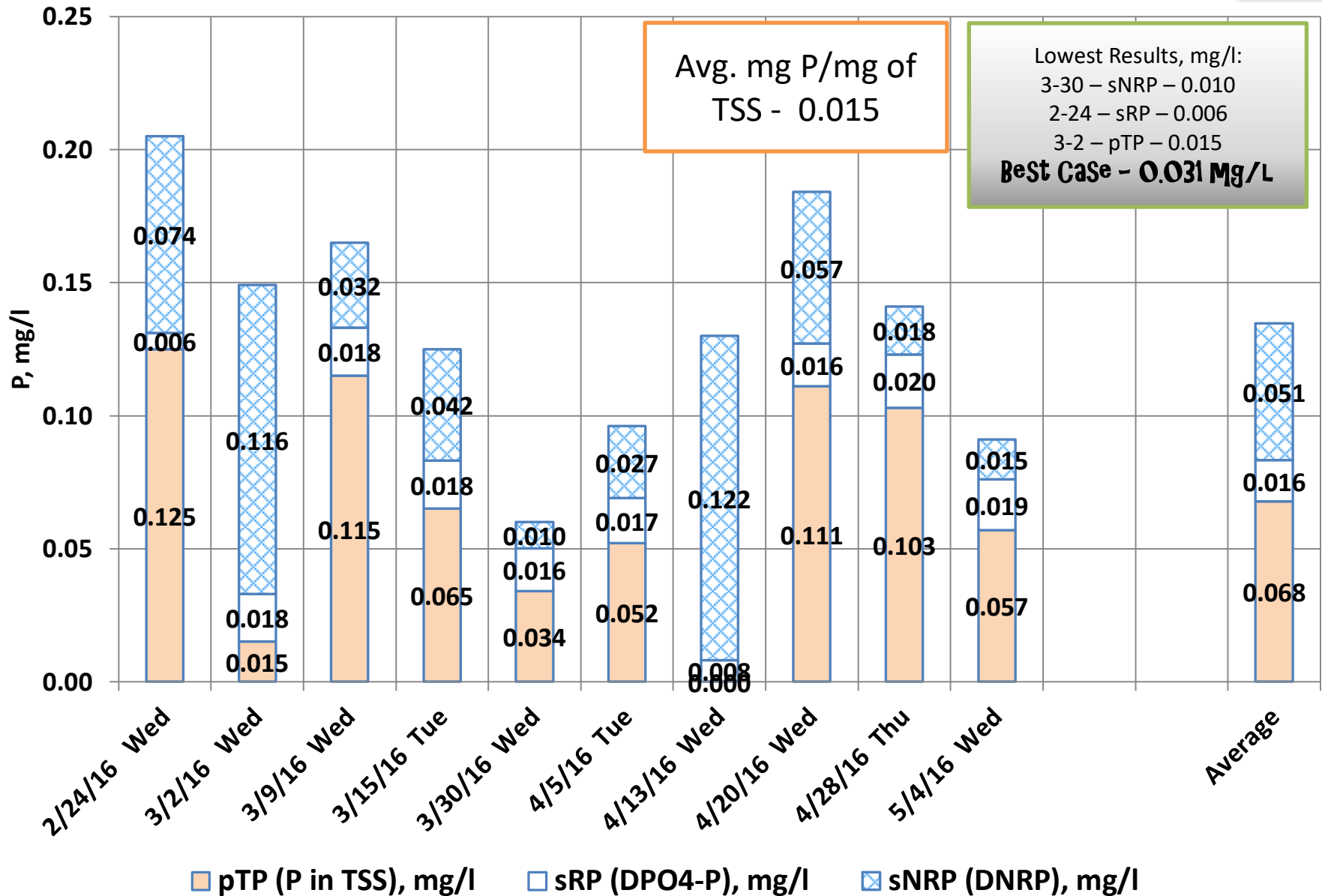
# Medford WWTP Influent - Fractions of P



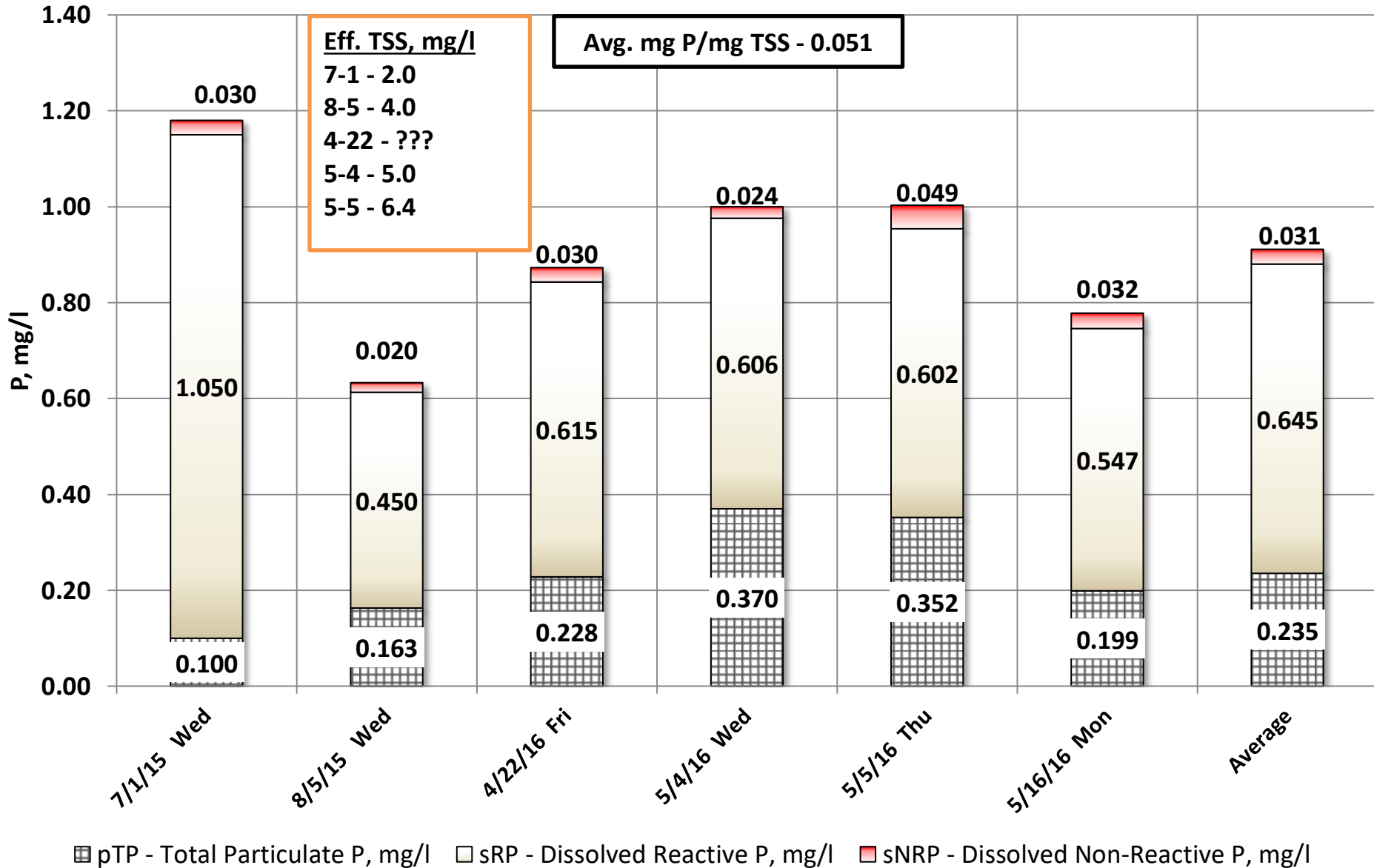
# Medford WWTP Effluent - Fractions of P



# Eleva-Strum WWTP Effluent - Fractions of P

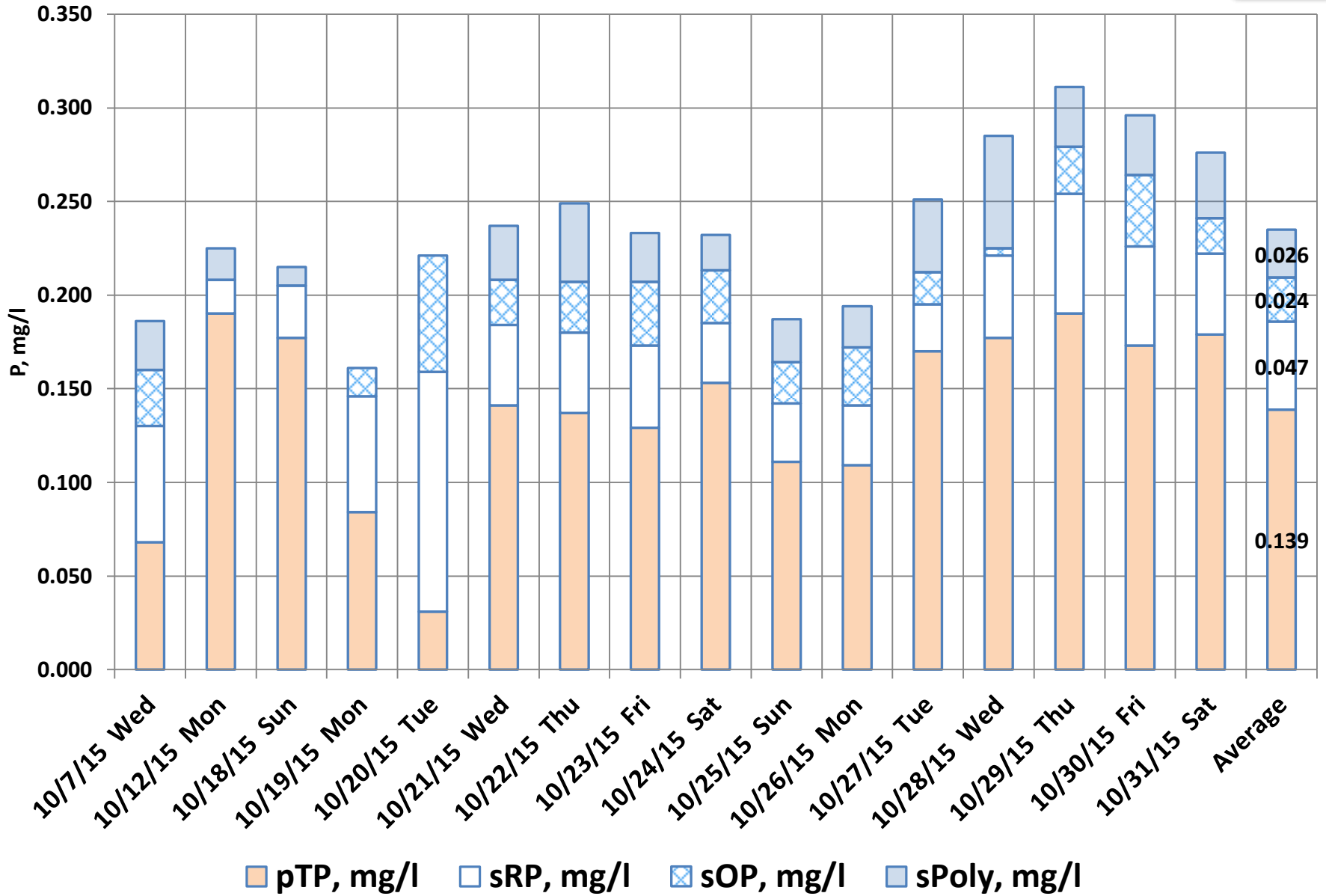


# Antioch Eff. Fractions of P





# La Crosse WWTP - Effluent Fractions of P



# Sources of Info

- WEFTEC 2010: Comparison of Phosphorus Fractionation in Effluents from Different Wastewater Treatment Processes
- Water Science & Technology 2011: Treatability and fate of various phosphorus fractions in different wastewater treatment process
- WEFTEC 2008: Not so fat! The impact of recalcitrant phosphorus on the ability to meet low phosphorus limits
- 2010 EPA Technology Transfer Seminar
- 2015 ORWEF Short School, Clackamas Community College, Chris Maher
- Phosphorus Speciation by Autumn Fischer, Fond du Lac, WI
- From Hach Method for ACID HYDROLYZABLE PHOSPHORUS
- Data from Medford, Fort Atkinson, La Crosse, Eleva-Strum, Fond du Lac, Menomonie & Antioch (IL) WWTPs

# THANK YOU

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