

# Things You Can Do to Make GC Systems Stay Up Longer to Analyze More POPs Samples

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# The Main Problems with GC-MS

- GC inlet

- Liner
- Seal



- GC column

- Guard column
- Analytical column



- Dirty samples contaminate liner wool and bottom seal

- Poor compound transfer
- Compound degradation



- Dirty samples contaminate front of column system

- Poor compound transfer
- Compound degradation



Both issues lead to poor data quality and downtime for maintenance...

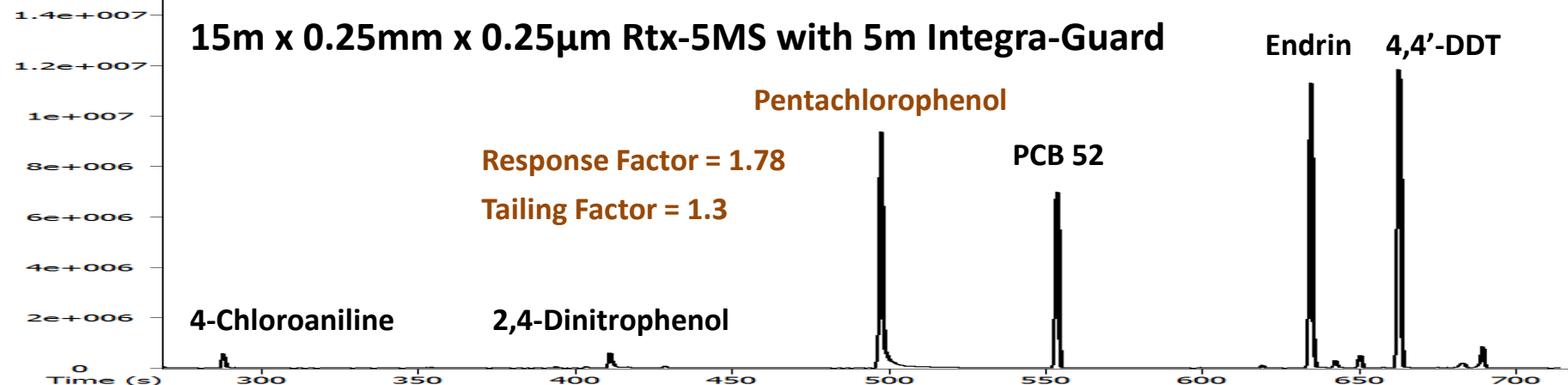
Splitless injection

27 × Used Motor Oil  
50,000  $\mu\text{g/mL}$

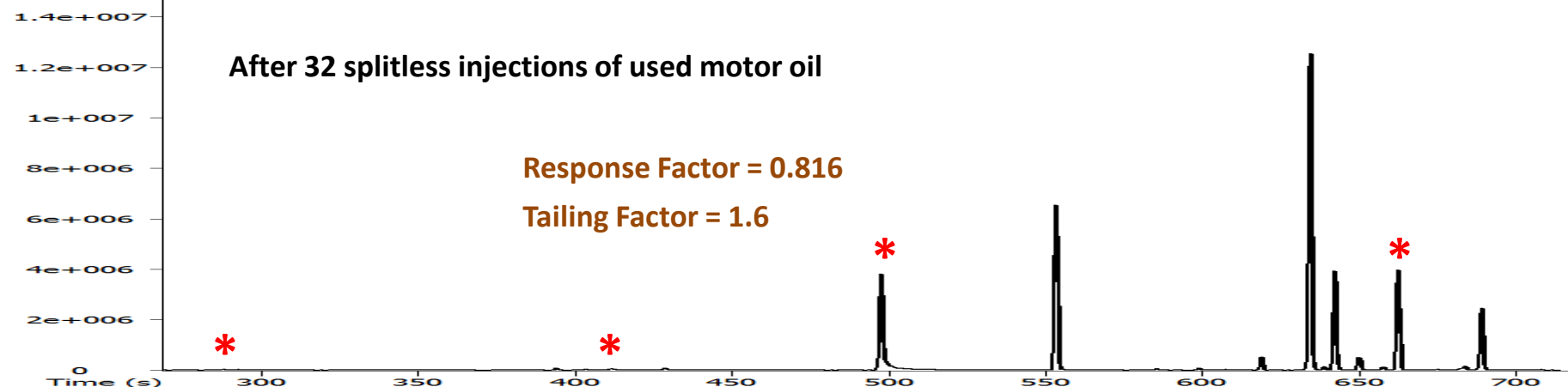


39 × Sediment Extract  
(no dilution)

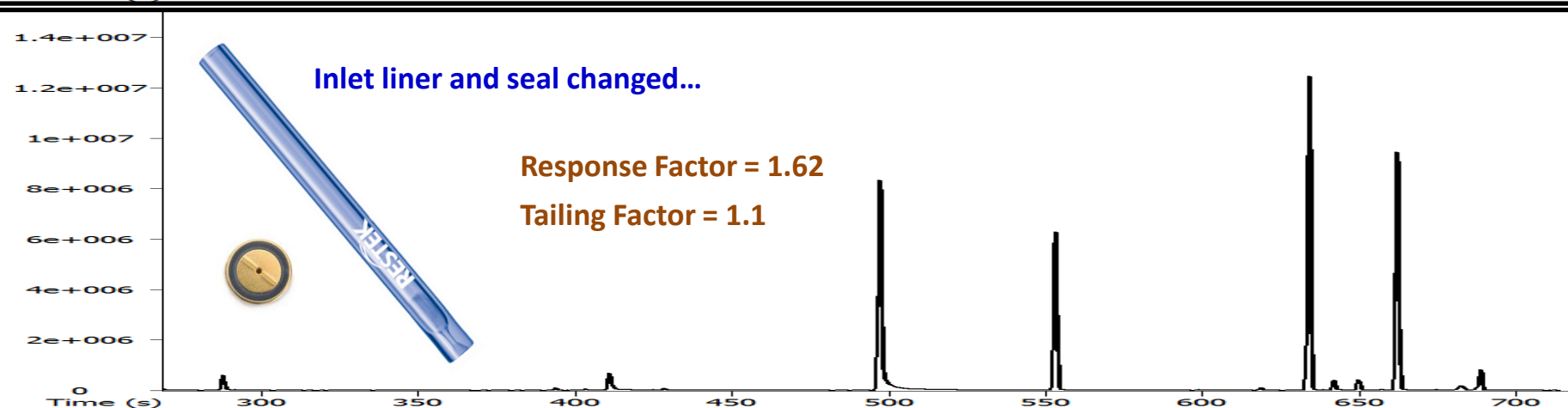
# 15m x 0.25mm x 0.25µm Rtx-5MS with 5m Integra-Guard



## After 32 splitless injections of used motor oil



## Inlet liner and seal changed...



What about wool-  
packed versus non-  
wool-packed liners?



Standards analyzed after 39 sediment extracts,  
then liner and seal changes...

Pentachlorophenol

Splitless injections

PCB 52

Endrin

4,4'-DDT



RESTEK

Time (s)

Simple liner change did not restore performance...



Endrin

4,4'-DDD

4,4'-DDT



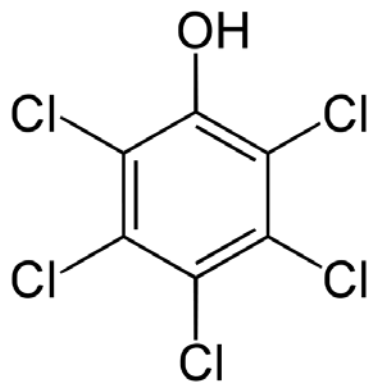
RESTEK

Time (s)

# A Better Way?



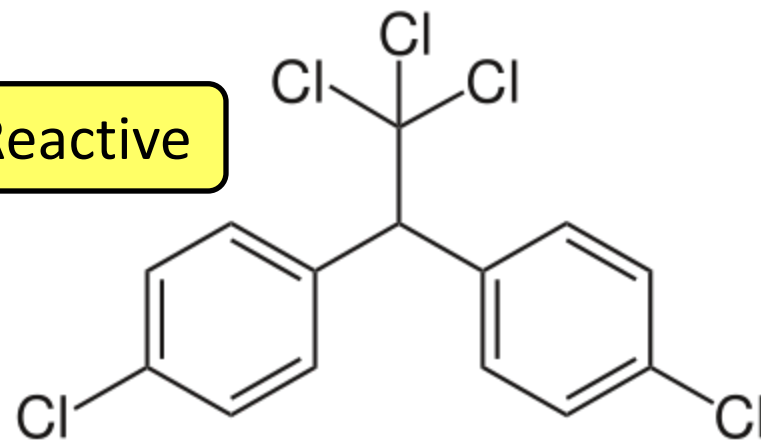
- Analyte Protectants
  - GC system active site masking compounds
  - Improve compound transfer from GC inlet
  - Allow better peak shape from GC column
- Split injection (shoot-and-dilute)
  - High GC inlet flow improves compound transfer
  - Less “dirt” on GC column improves peak shapes
  - System stays up longer



Pentachlorophenol

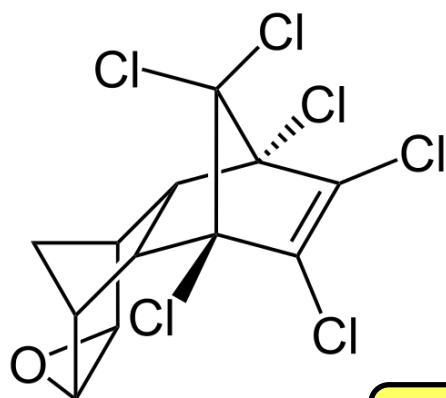
Active

Reactive



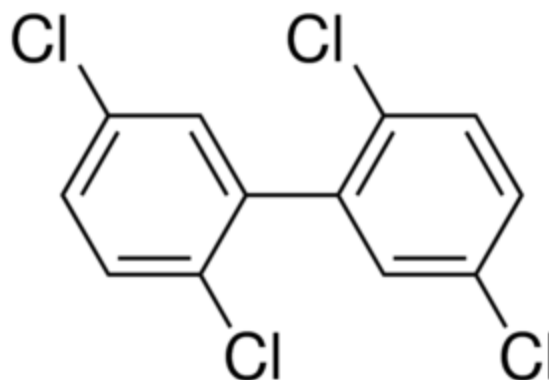
4,4'-DDT

Internal standard

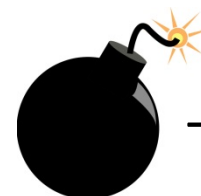


Endrin

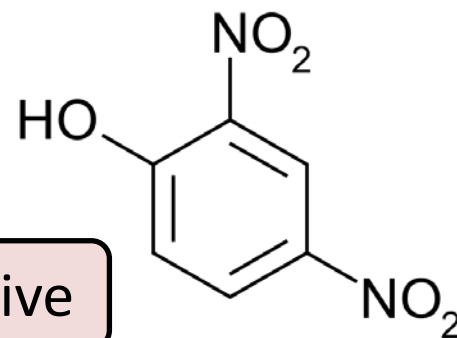
Reactive



PCB 52



- Proof



2,4-Dinitrophenol

Active



UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/10/Add.1

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Original: English



## **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee**  
**Tenth meeting**  
Rome, 27–30 October 2014

### **Report of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its tenth meeting**

#### **Addendum**

#### **Risk management evaluation on pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters**

By its decision POPRC-10/1, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee adopted a risk management evaluation for pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters on the basis of the draft contained in the note by the secretariat (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/2). The text of the risk management evaluation, as amended, is set out in the annex to the present addendum. It has not been formally edited.

## Executive Summary

1. Pentachlorophenol (PCP) and its salts and esters (sodium pentachlorophenate (Na-PCP), a PCP salt and; pentachlorophenyl laurate (PCP-L), a PCP ester) were proposed as a POPs candidate by the European Commission in 2011. At its eighth meeting, the POPs Review Committee concluded that while the PCP molecule does not meet all the screening criteria specified in Annex D, taking into account its transformation product pentachloroanisole (PCA), PCP and its salts and esters do meet the screening criteria. This led to the POPs Review Committee at its ninth meeting to decide that PCP, its salts and esters, are likely, including consideration of the transformation product, PCA, as a result of their long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and environmental effects such that global action is warranted (Decision POPRC-9/3).

2. PCP has had multiple uses in the past (biocide, insecticide, fungicide, disinfectant, defoliant, anti-sapstain agent, anti-microbial agent and wood preservative) which have now been phased out with the remaining key use being wood preservation, particularly for use in utility poles and cross-arms, with minor uses for railway ties (cross ties or 'sleepers') and outdoor construction materials (UNECE 2010). PCP has also been used to produce the ester PCP-L, which was used in textiles, but there is no evidence of continued use. Its salt, Na-PCP, is used for similar purposes to PCP and readily dissociates to PCP. PCA is not used as a commercial chemical or pesticide and is not intentionally released directly into the environment.

8. The risk profile concluded that PCP and its related compounds are likely to lead to significant adverse human health and environmental effects. In addition, the manufacturing and use of PCP-treated wood is a source of dioxins and furans. Therefore, the implementation of further control measures would reduce potential risks from exposure to humans and the environment from PCP and PCA. In addition it will reduce the potential exposure to dioxins and furans present as impurities from in-service PCP-treated wood, which is not covered by the listing of dioxins in Annex C (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/13/Add.3).

## Executive Summary

1. Pentachlorophenol by itself  
8. did not meet all screening  
criteria for a POP (persistence,  
bio-accumulation, potential  
for long-range environmental  
transport, adverse effects),  
but significant adverse human  
health and environmental  
effects, and its transformation  
product, pentachloroanisole,  
get it in the club...





# GC-ECD Method

- Sky 4mm single taper liner
  - With quartz wool
  - 1  $\mu$ L, 250°C, splitless valve time 1.5 min
- 15m x 0.25mm x 0.25 $\mu$ m Rtx-5MS
  - 5m Integra-Guard
  - Helium carrier at 1.4 mL/min constant flow
  - 70°C (1.5 min), 20°C/min to 330°C (1.5 min)
- Electron capture detector
  - 350°C, 50 mL/min N<sub>2</sub> makeup, 10 Hz



Toluene

Used Motor Oil  
50,000  $\mu\text{g/mL}$

Sediment  
Extract  
1 to 4

Sediment  
Extract  
1 to 2

Sediment  
Extract  
1 to 1



Used Motor Oil is an excellent “dirty sample” surrogate.

The Sediment Extract, which contained priority pollutants such as PAHs, was analyzed dilute and straight to create stress on the GC inlet liner and GC column.



## Used Motor Oil Composite Standard

Prepared from an equal-volume blend from five gasoline-powered vehicles (belonging to Restek employees). After blending, a precisely weighed amount of the composite is added to a volumetric flask to produce the standard.

Restek Offers a Full  
Line of Certified  
Reference Materials



## Used Motor Oil Composite Standard

Prepared from an equal-volume blend from five gasoline-powered vehicles (belonging to Restek employees). After blending, a precisely weighed amount of the composite is added to a volumetric flask to produce the standard.

### Selected Product

Compound: used motor oil composite  
CAS #: 64742-65-0  
Conc. In Solvent and Volume: 50,000 µg/mL in methylene chloride, 1 mL/ampul

Cat. #: 31465

List Price: \$34.00

Unit: Qty:

ea. 

# METHOD 8270D

## SEMIVOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS BY GAS CHROMATOGRAPHY/MASS SPECTROMETRY (GC/MS)



11.3.1.3 The GC/MS tuning standard solution should also be used to assess GC column performance and injection port inertness. Degradation of DDT to DDE and DDD should not exceed 20%. (See Method 8081 for the percent breakdown calculation.) Benzidine and pentachlorophenol should be present at their normal responses, and should not exceed a tailing factor of 2 given by the following equation:

$$\text{TailingFactor} = \frac{BC}{AB}$$

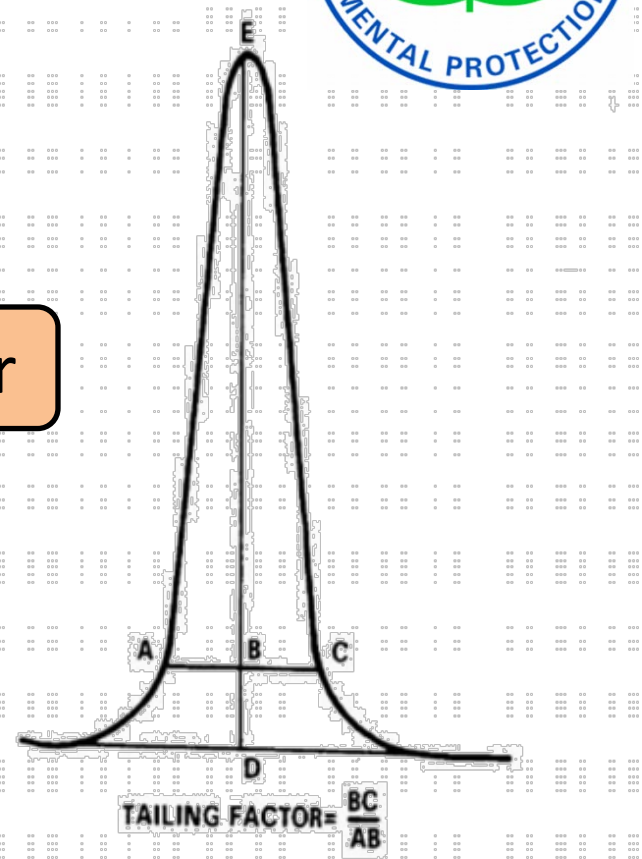
Tailing Factor

Where the peak is defined as follows: AC is the width at 10% height; DE is the height of peak and B is the height at 10% of DE. This equation compares the width of the back half of the peak to the width of the front half of the peak at 10% of the height. (See Figure 1 for an example tailing factor calculation.)

11.3.1.4 If degradation is excessive and/or poor chromatography is noted, the injection port may require cleaning. It may also be necessary to break off the first 6 to 12 in. of the capillary column. The use of a guard column (Sec. 6.1.6) between the injection port and the analytical column may help prolong analytical column performance life.

### GC inlet inertness and GC column performance...

Benzidine and pentachlorophenol should be present at their normal responses, and should not exceed a tailing factor of 2...



Example calculation: Peak Height = DE = 100 mm

10% Peak Height = BD = 10 mm

Peak Width at 10% Peak Height = AC = 23 mm

AB = 11 mm

BC = 12 mm

Therefore: Tailing Factor =  $\frac{12}{11} = 1.1$

15m x 0.25mm x 0.25 $\mu$ m Rtx-5MS with 5m Integra-Guard

0.5 ng/ $\mu$ L each compound  
1 $\mu$ L splitless injection

Tailing Factor = 1.3

Pentachlorophenol

PCB 52

Endrin

4,4'-DDT

Tailing Factor = 2.0

4-Chloroaniline

2,4-Dinitrophenol

Time (s)

300 350 400 450 500 550 600 650 700







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Journal of Chromatography A, 1015 (2003) 163–184

JOURNAL OF  
CHROMATOGRAPHY A

[www.elsevier.com/locate/chroma](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/chroma)

## Evaluation of analyte protectants to improve gas chromatographic analysis of pesticides<sup>☆</sup>

Michelangelo Anastassiades<sup>1</sup>, Kateřina Maštovská, Steven J. Lehotay\*

*US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Eastern Regional Research Center,  
600 East Mermaid Lane; Wyndmoor, PA 19038, USA*

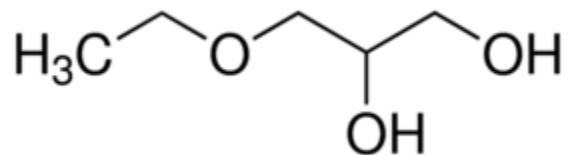
Received 9 August 2002; received in revised form 3 February 2003; accepted 4 February 2003

Significant peak quality improvements obtained when matrix components are present to fill active sites and reduce analyte interactions.

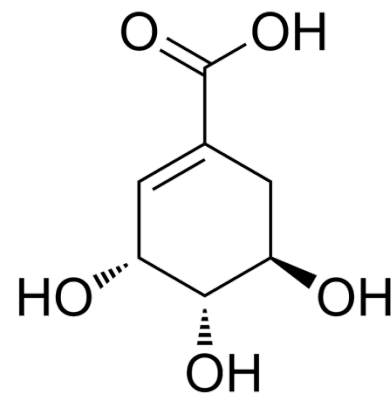
“Matrix-induced chromatographic response enhancement”.

Addition of “analyte protectants” (e.g. sugars, acids, etc.) to standards and samples.

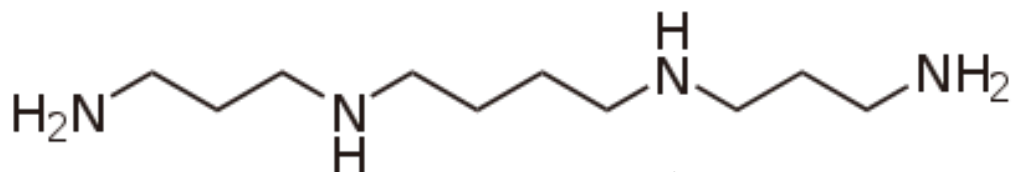
Provides chromatographic enhancement effect for analytes in a very dirty GC system.



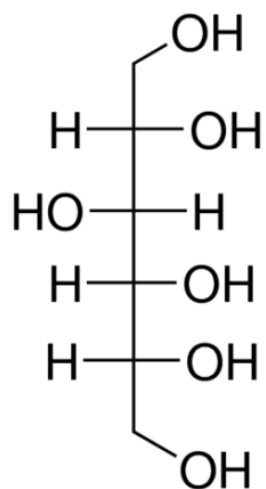
3-Ethoxy-1,2-propanediol



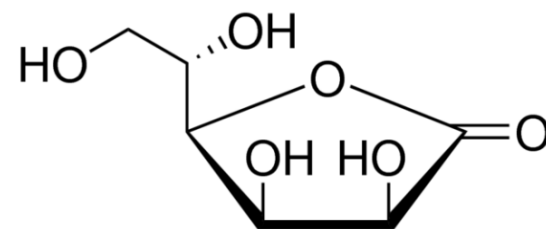
Shikimic acid



Spermine



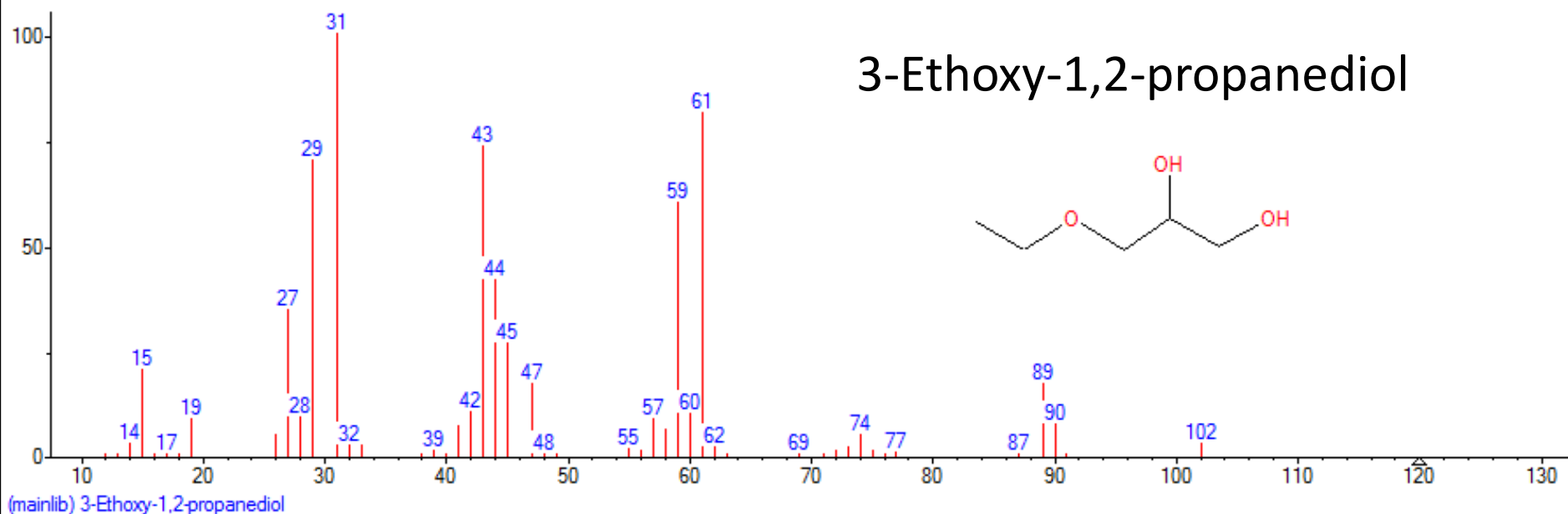
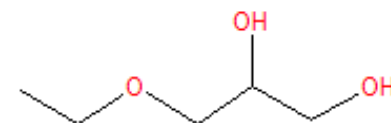
D-sorbitol



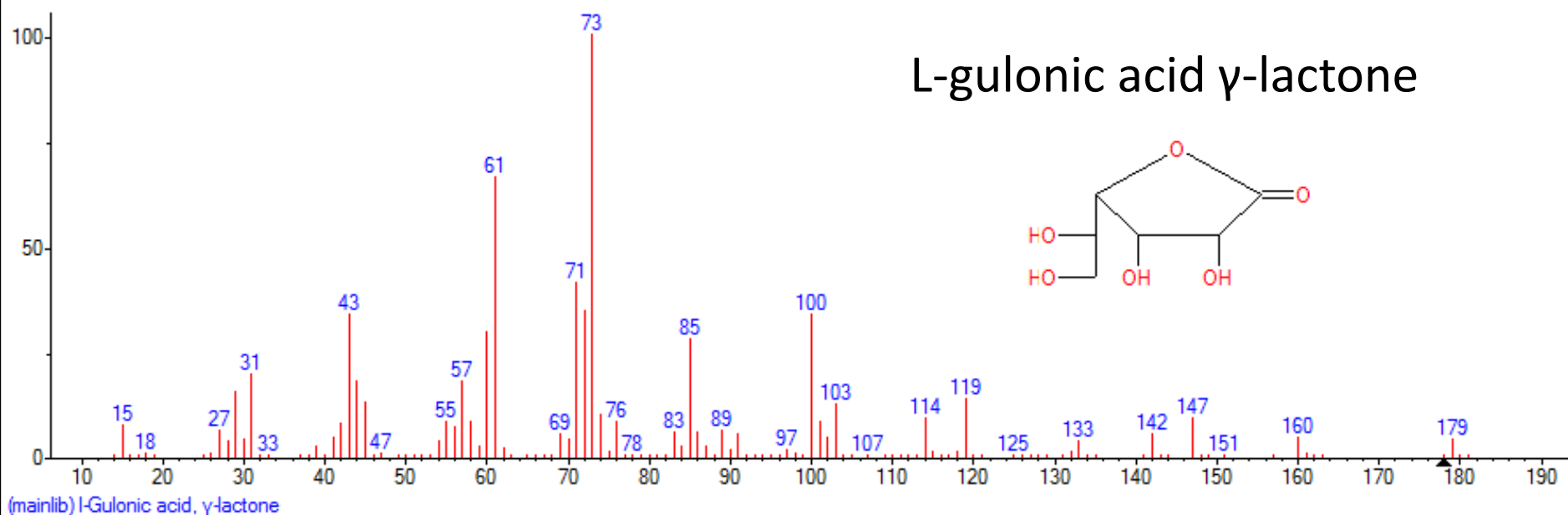
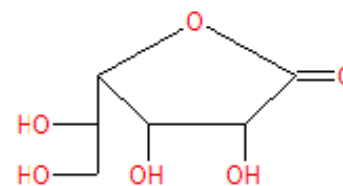
L-gulonic acid  $\gamma$ -lactone

Analyte protectants

## 3-Ethoxy-1,2-propanediol

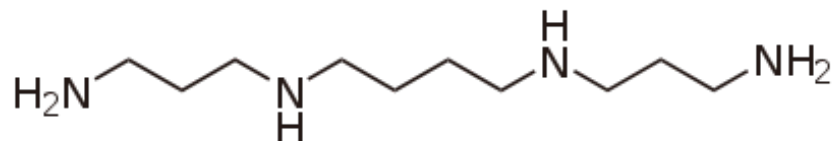
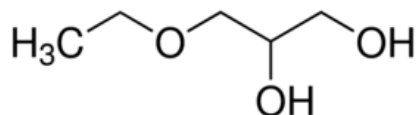


## L-gulonic acid $\gamma$ -lactone



# Analyte Protectant Criteria

- Rich in hydroxys/amino groups to deactivate systems
- Volatile so they gas chromatograph
- Several may perform better than one
- Volatility range similar to compounds analyzed
- Added in high concentration
- Low m/z ions to avoid quantification bias
- Inexpensive
- Injected with each standard and sample



15m x 0.25mm x 0.25µm Rtx-5MS with 5m Integra-Guard

Pentachlorophenol

Standard 10 µg/µL AP

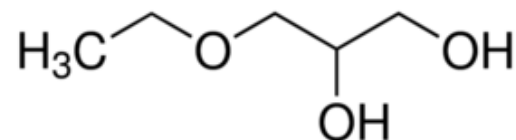
Standard 2.5 µg/µL AP

Standard 0.5 µg/µL AP

Standard No AP

Tailing Factor = 1.1

Tailing Factor = 2.1



3-Ethoxy-1,2-propanediol

PCB 52

Analyzed after one injection of used motor oil...

1.4e+007  
1.2e+007  
1e+007  
8e+006  
6e+006  
4e+006  
2e+006  
0

Time (s)

490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560

# 15m x 0.25mm x 0.25µm Rtx-5MS with 5m Integra-Guard

Response Factor = 1.60

Tailing Factor = 2.1

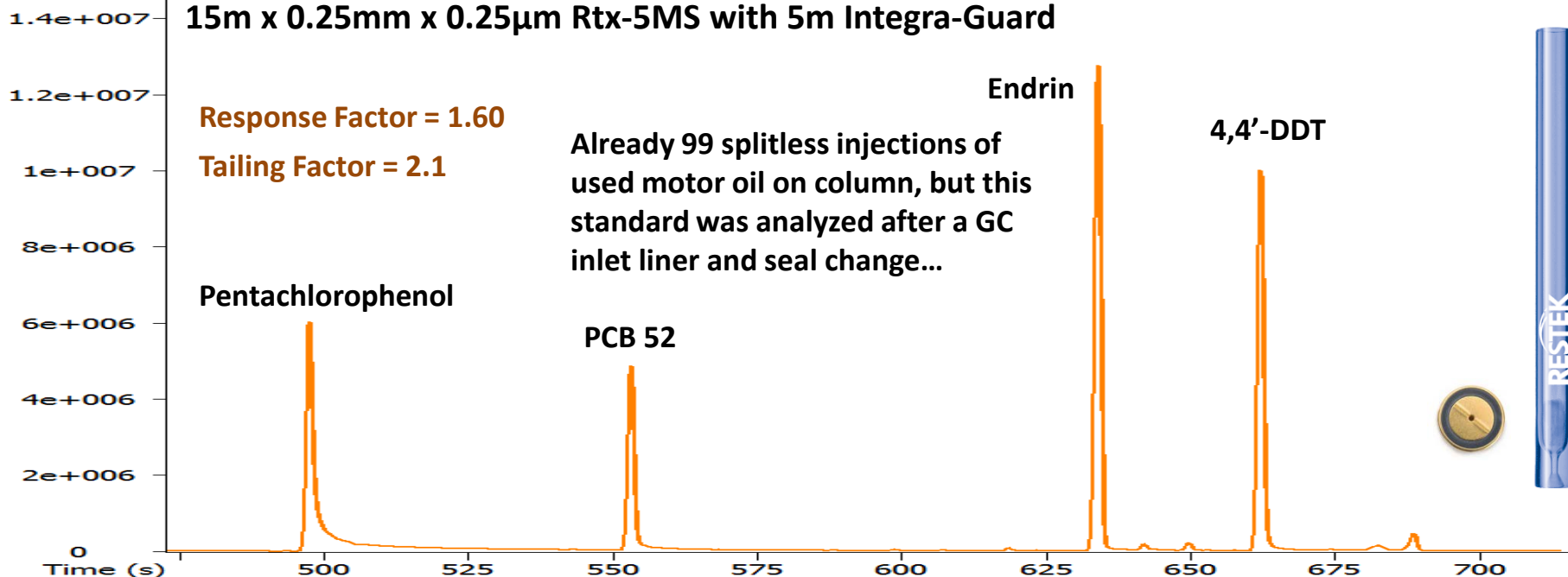
Already 99 splitless injections of used motor oil on column, but this standard was analyzed after a GC inlet liner and seal change...

Pentachlorophenol

PCB 52

Endrin

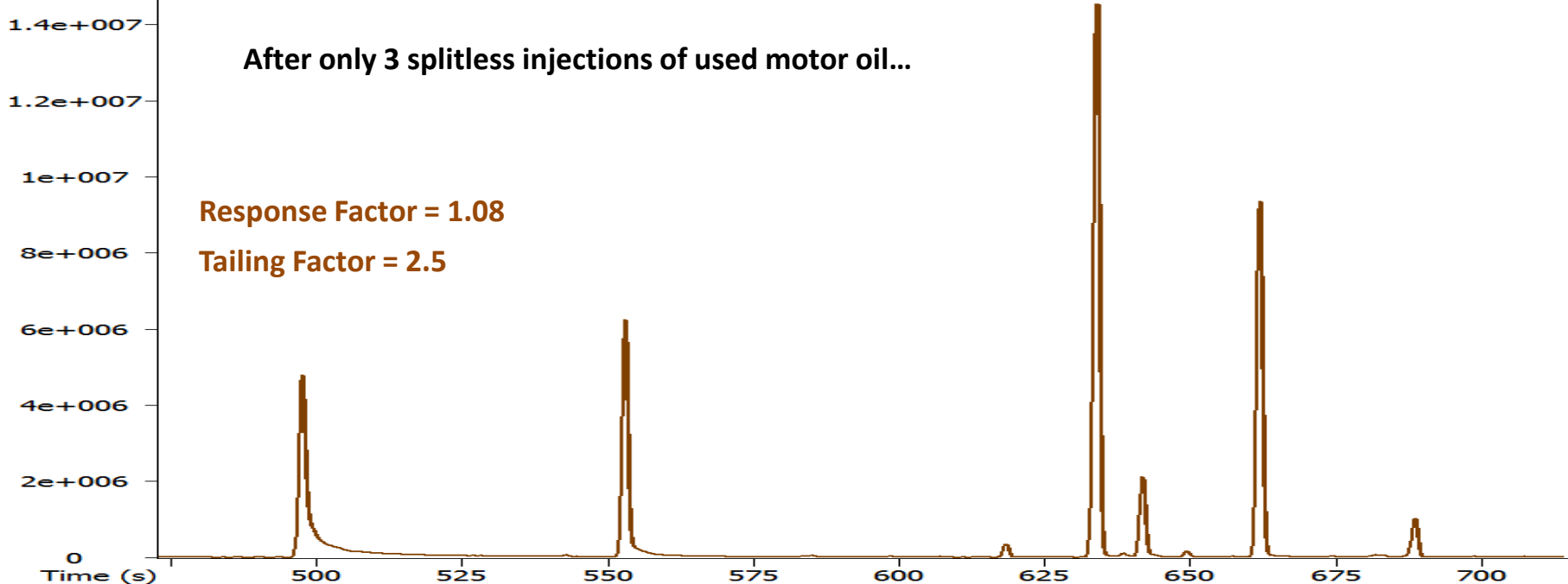
4,4'-DDT

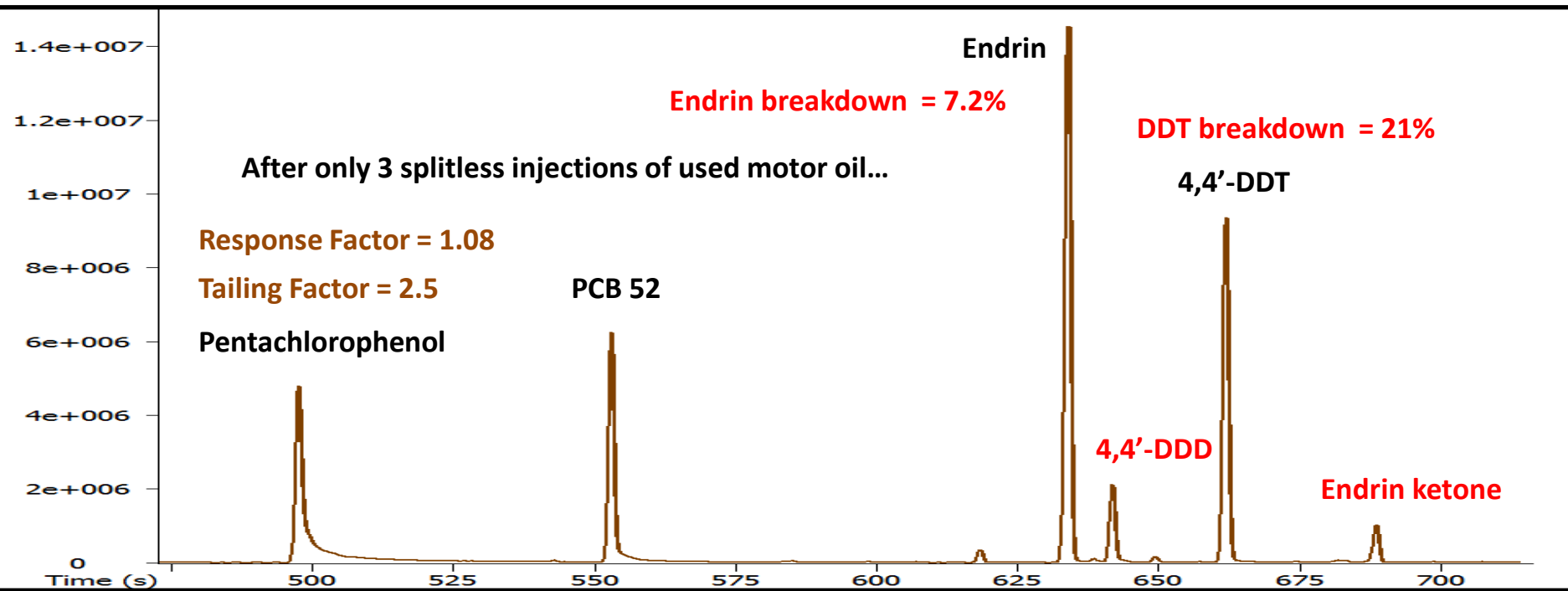
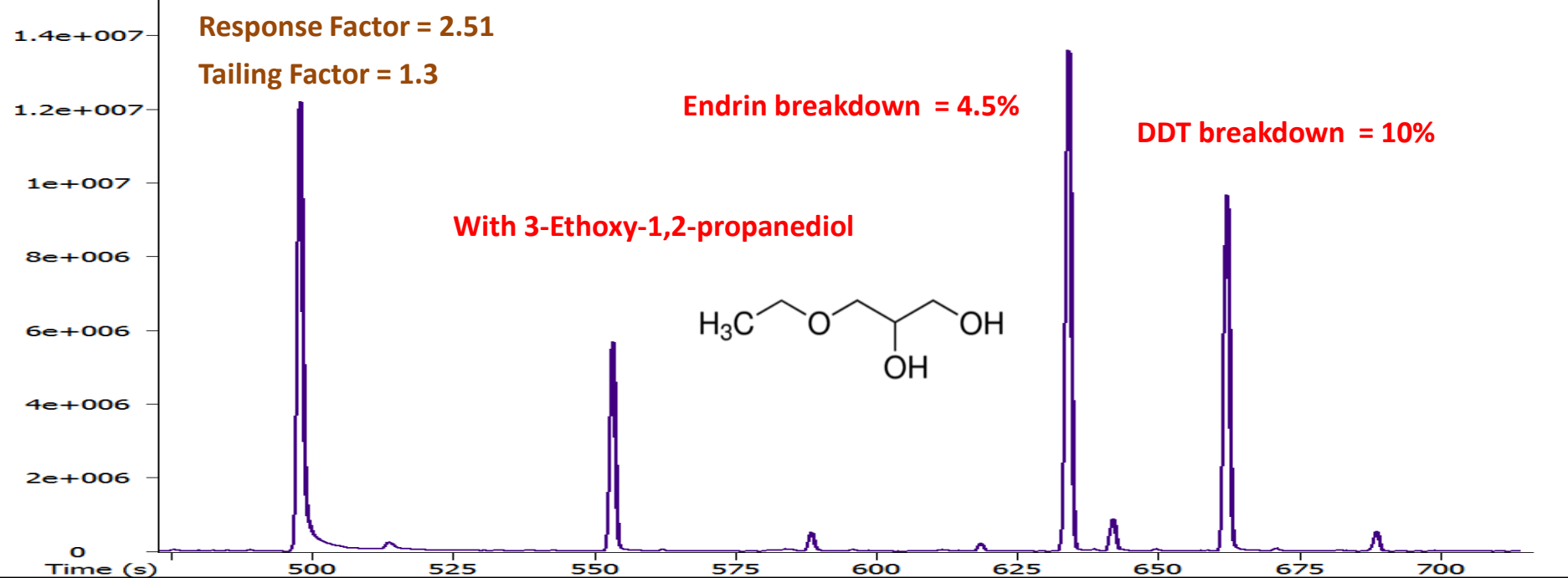


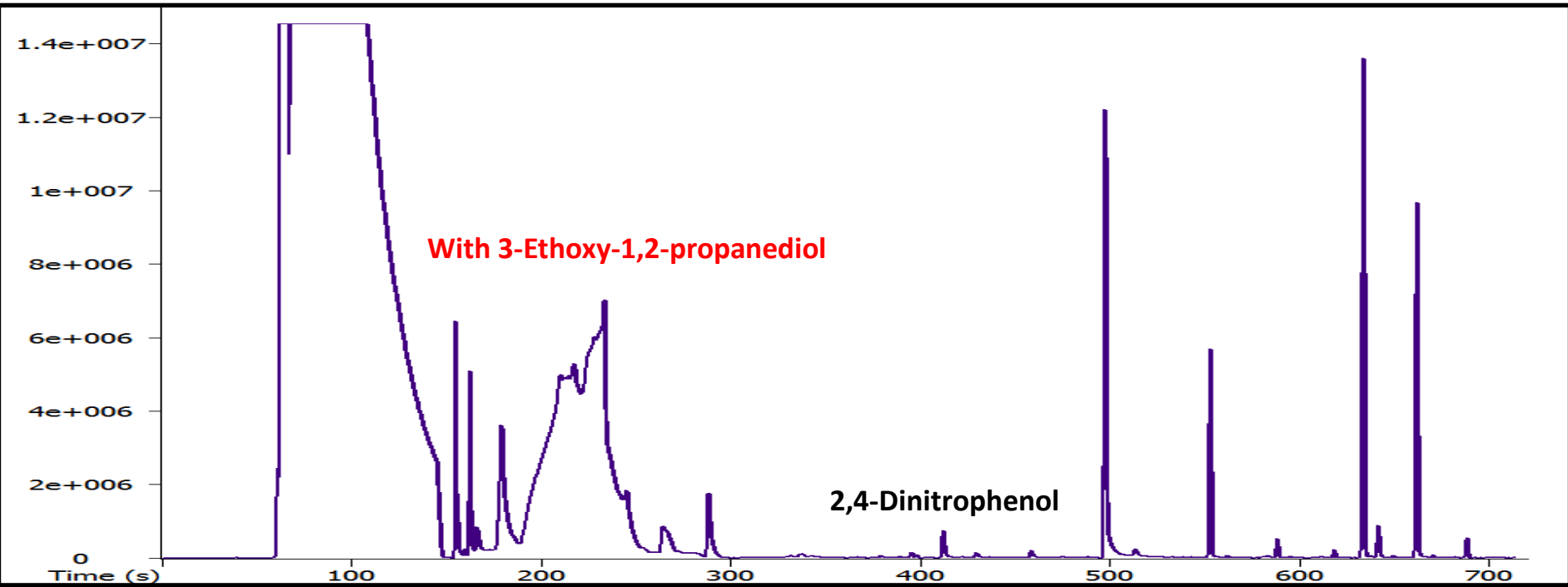
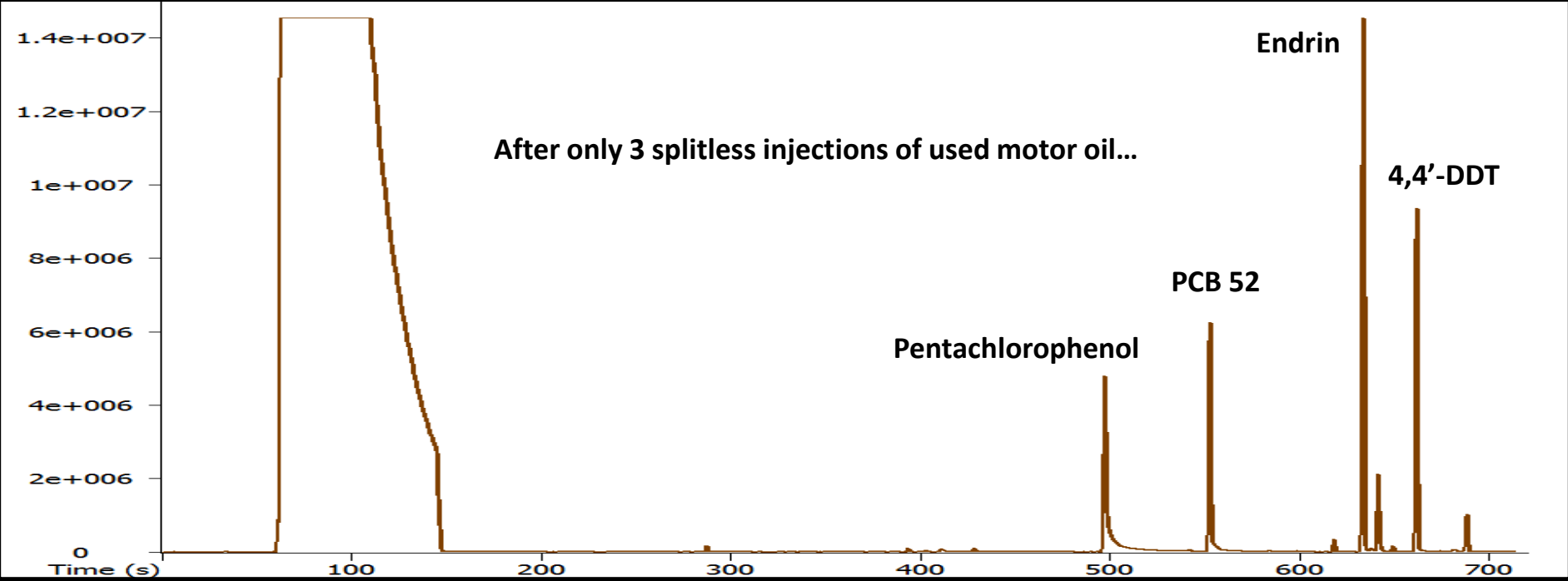
After only 3 splitless injections of used motor oil...

Response Factor = 1.08

Tailing Factor = 2.5





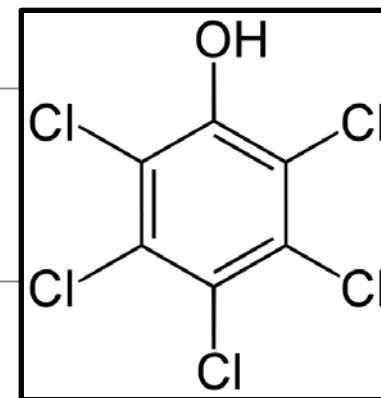




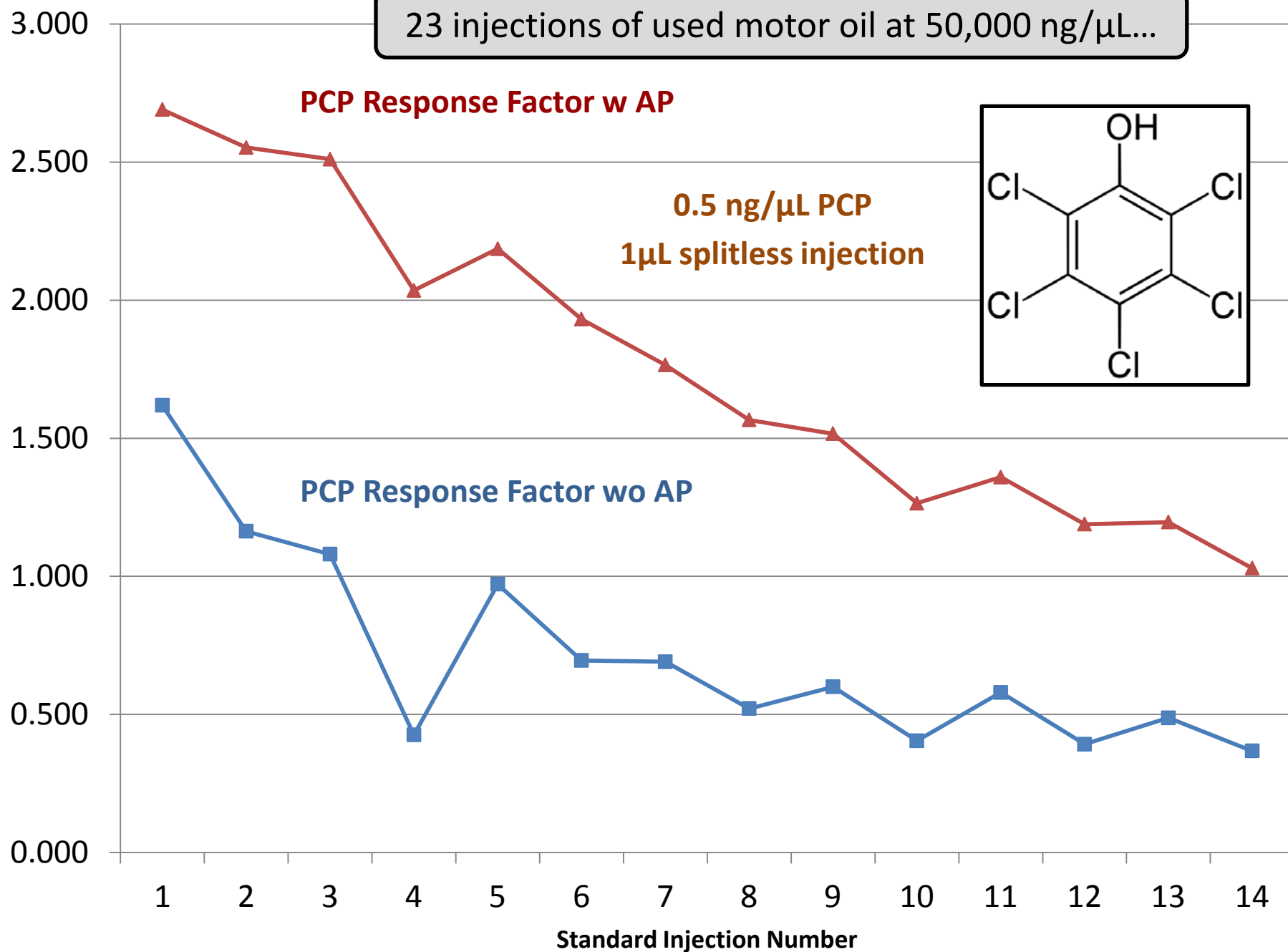
23 injections of used motor oil at 50,000 ng/ $\mu$ L...

PCP Response Factor w AP

0.5 ng/ $\mu$ L PCP  
1 $\mu$ L splitless injection



PCP Response Factor wo AP



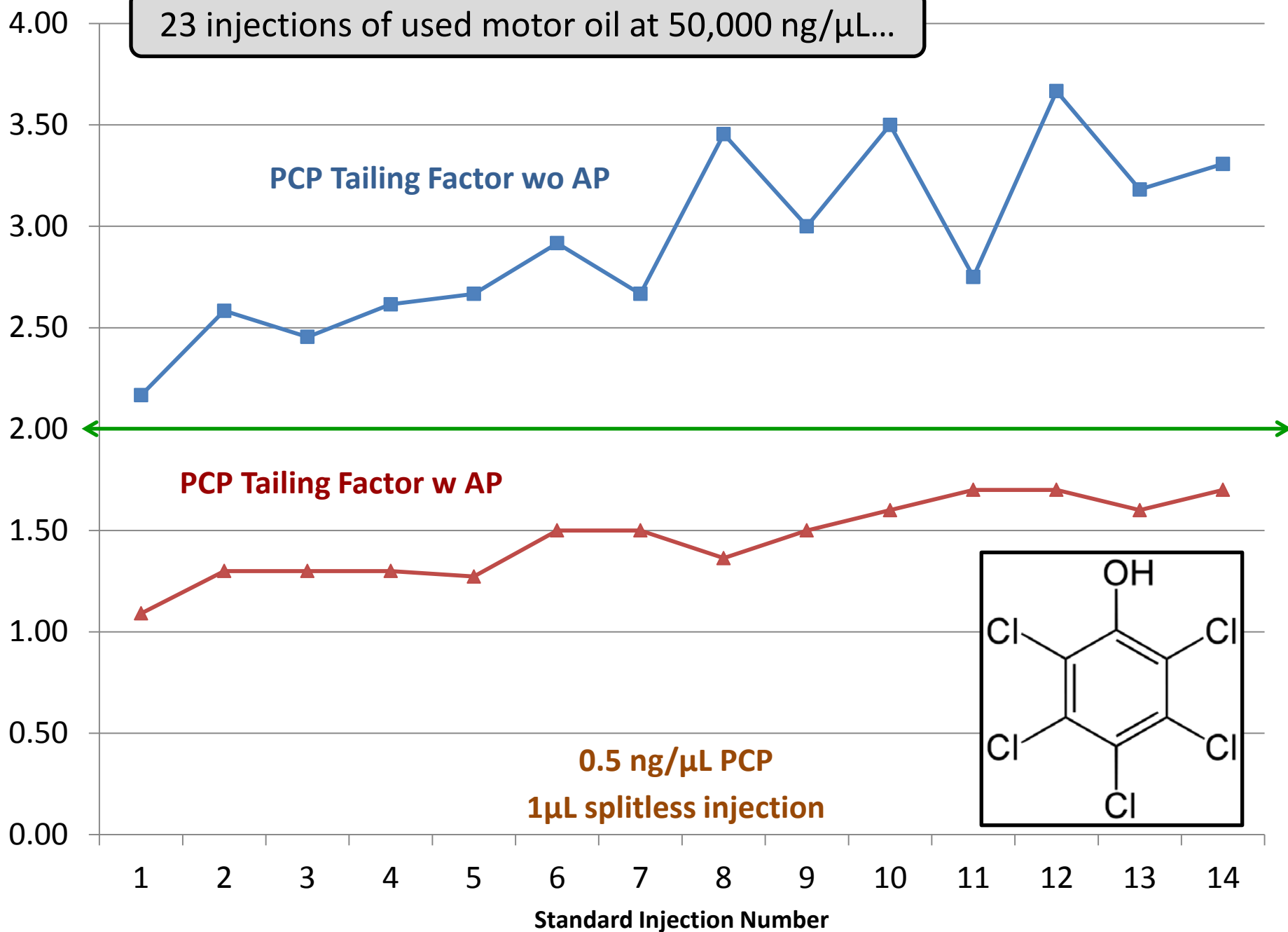
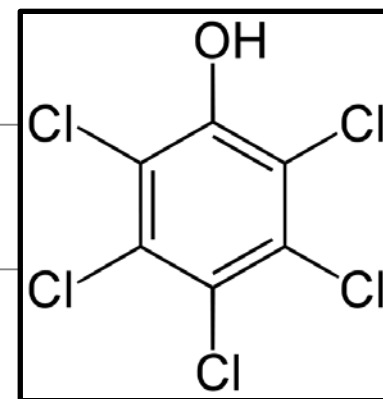
23 injections of used motor oil at 50,000 ng/ $\mu$ L...

PCP Tailing Factor wo AP

PCP Tailing Factor w AP

0.5 ng/ $\mu$ L PCP

1 $\mu$ L splitless injection



After 23 splitless injections of used motor oil at 50,000 ng/ $\mu$ L...

**With Analyte Protectant**  
**Without Analyte Protectant**

**PCB 52**

**Pentachlorophenol**

**Response Factor = 1.03**

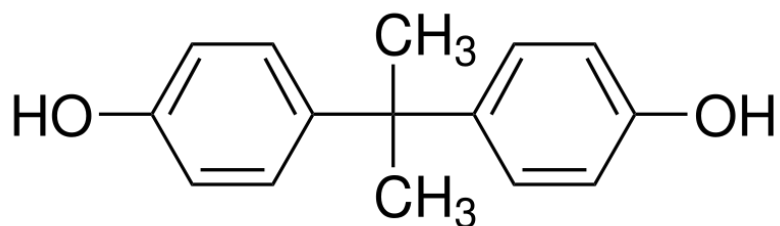
**Tailing Factor = 1.7**

**Response Factor = 0.368**

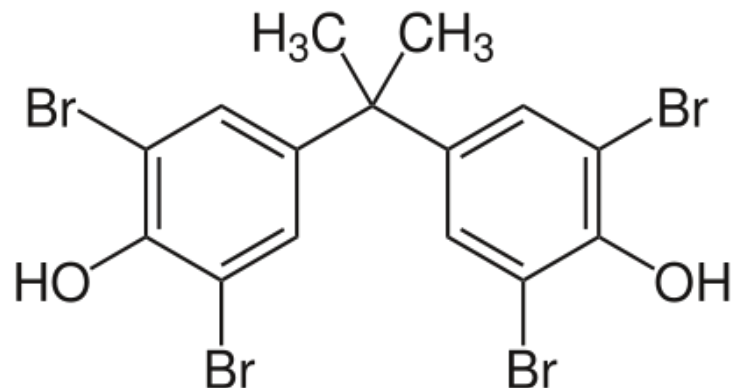
**Tailing Factor = 3.3**

0  
Time (s) 490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560 570

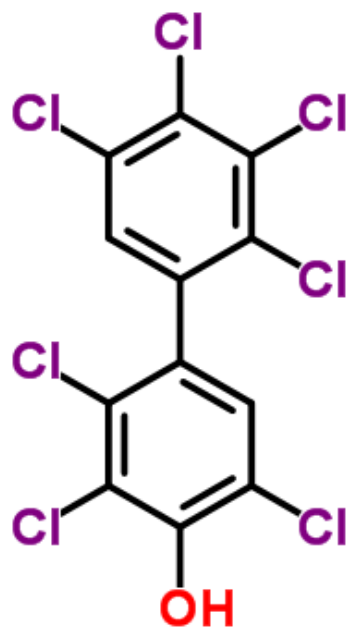




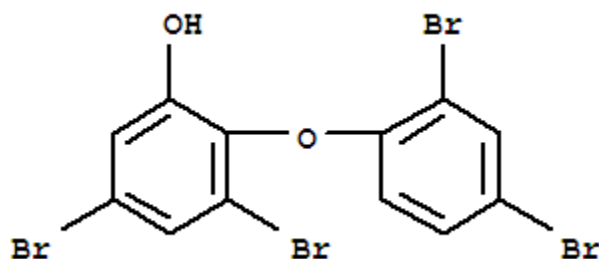
Bisphenol A



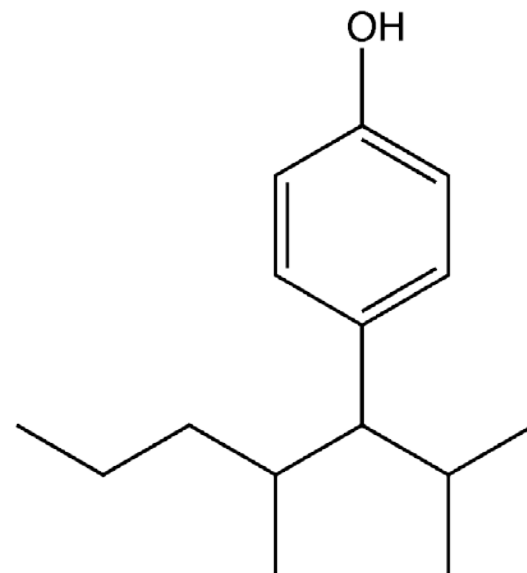
Tetrabromobisphenol A



Hydroxy PCB



Hydroxy BDE



Nonyl phenol

# Analyte Protectants Summary for Splitless Injection GC

- Approach shows promise for better GC of active compounds, including POPs
  - Increased response factors and less peak tailing
- Less successful for reactive compounds
  - Endrin and DDT still subject to degradation
- Additional analyte protectants need testing
  - GC-MS will increase protectant choices

# Splitless Injection GC Issues

- Active/polar/thermal sensitive analytes
- Dirty samples
- Matrix enhanced/degraded responses
- Limited transfer from GC inlet to column
- Poor detectability
- Significant quantification bias
- Frequent GC inlet and column maintenance
- Offline cleanup

## **Split injection**

Matrix *effect* diluted to the point where it doesn't negatively impact *GC inlet* efficiency

## **Shoot-and-Dilute GC**

**Relies on detector sensitivity and selectivity improvements, e.g. MS/MS, HRMS**

- Frequent GC inlet and column maintenance
- Offline cleanup

Sky® 4mm ID Single Taper  
Inlet Liner with Quartz Wool  
Splitless Injections



Sky® 4mm ID Precision®  
Inlet Liner with Quartz Wool  
Split Injections

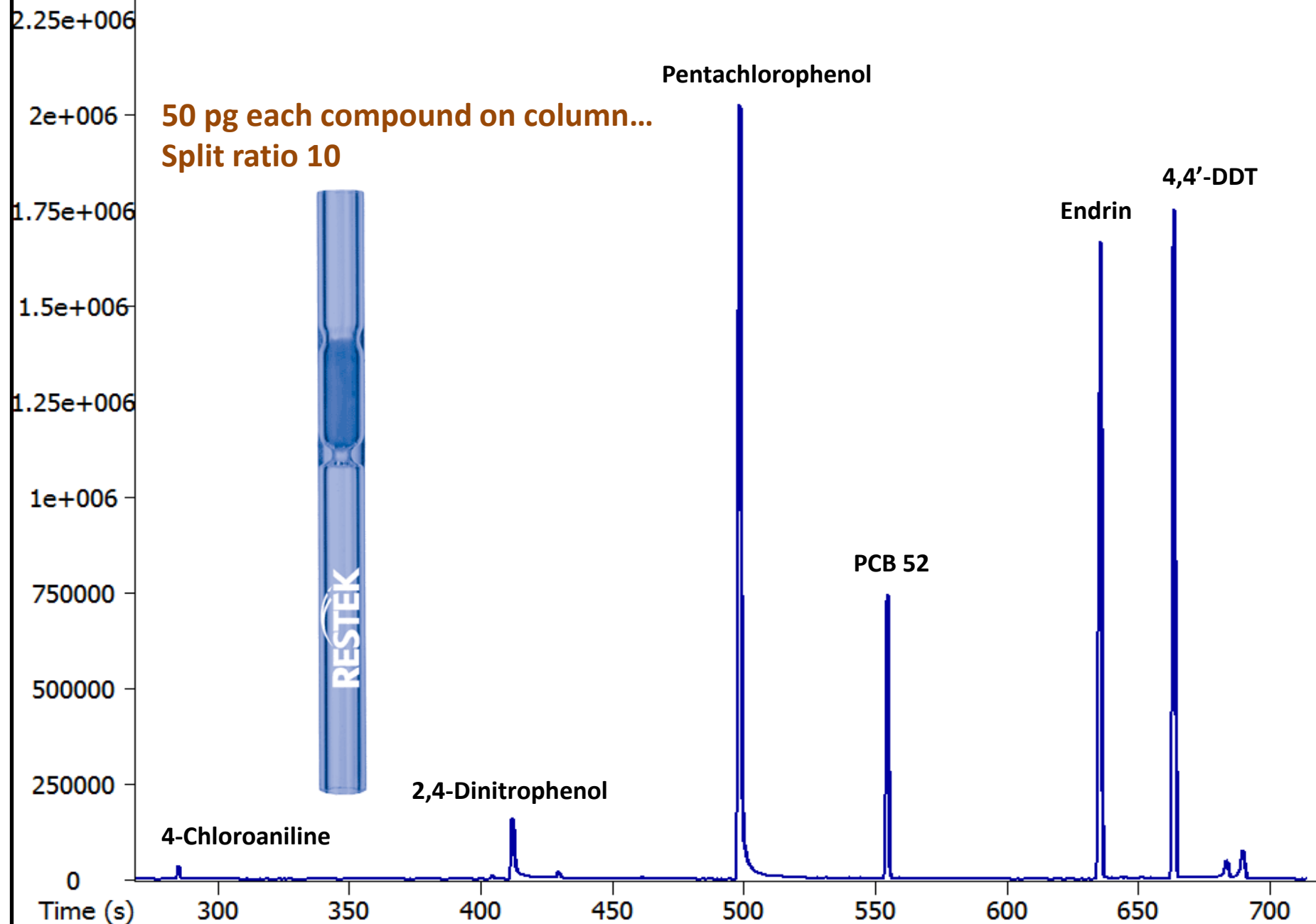


- Goal is for part of sample to make it to GC column
  - Based on split ratio
- Wool wipes needle and helps homogenize sample
  - Excellent for repeatability
  - High split ratio reduces wool and “dirt” impact on compounds prone to breakdown or sorption losses



# 15m x 0.25mm x 0.25µm Rtx-5MS with 5m Integra-Guard

50 pg each compound on column...  
Split ratio 10

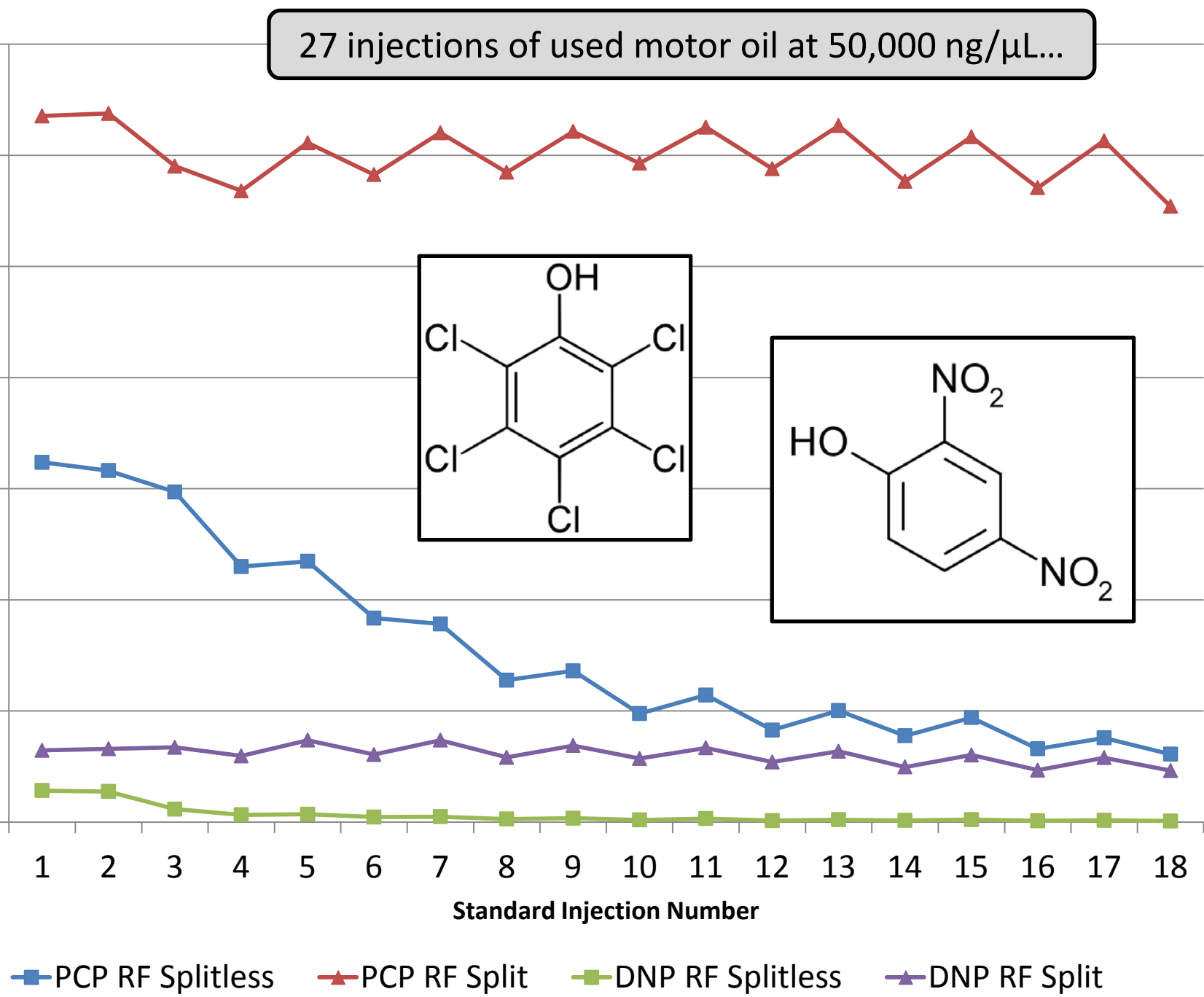


# Splitless versus Split Injection GC Ruggedness Experiments

- Standard  $\times 2$
  - Used Motor Oil  $\times 1$
  - Standard  $\times 2$
  - Used Motor Oil  $\times 2$
  - Standard  $\times 2$
  - Used Motor Oil  $\times 4$
  - Standard  $\times 2$
  - Used Motor Oil  $\times 4$
  - Standard  $\times 2$
- Used Motor Oil  $\times 4$
  - Standard  $\times 2$
  - Used Motor Oil  $\times 4$
  - Standard  $\times 2$
  - Used Motor Oil  $\times 4$
  - Standard  $\times 2$
  - And more...

DNP PCP PCB Standard = 0.5 ng/μL  
Used Motor Oil = 50,000 ng/μL

27 injections of used motor oil at 50,000 ng/ $\mu$ L...



15m x 0.25mm x 0.25 $\mu$ m Rtx-5MS with 5m Integra-Guard

27 injections of used motor oil at 50,000 ng/ $\mu$ L...

**Splitless injection**

500 pg on column...

Pentachlorophenol

PCB 52



Time (s) 490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560

Pentachlorophenol

**Split injection**  
split ratio 10

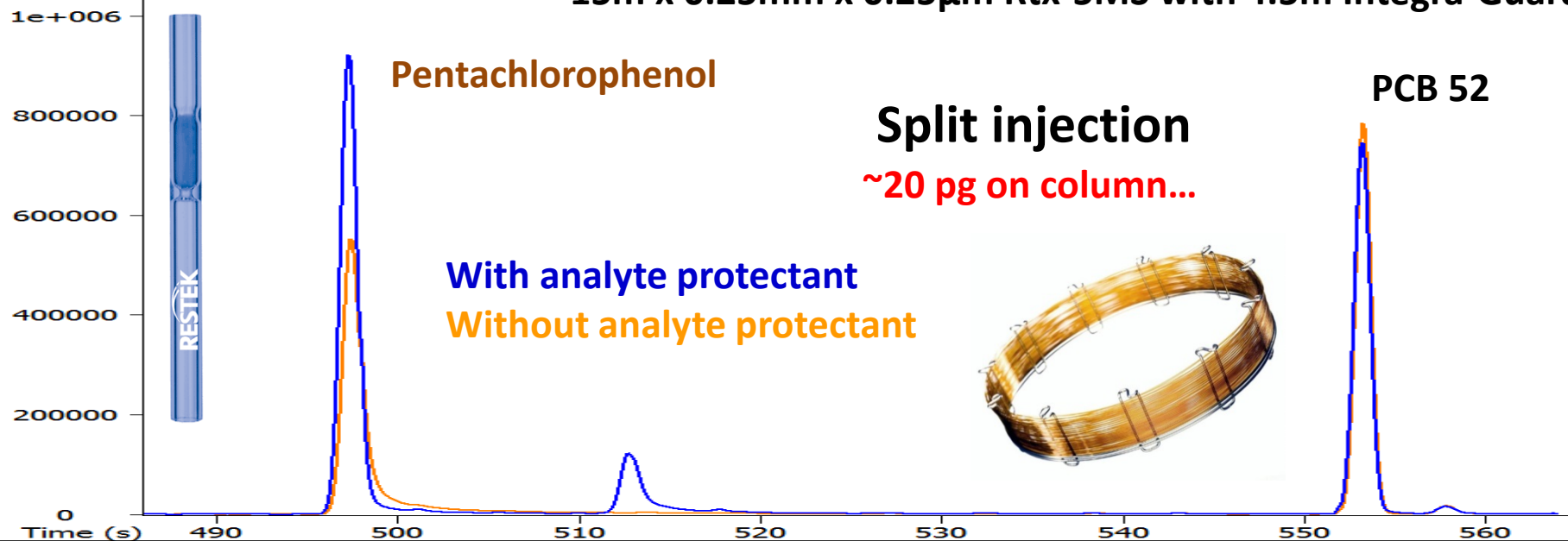
~50 pg on column...

PCB 52



Time (s) 490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560

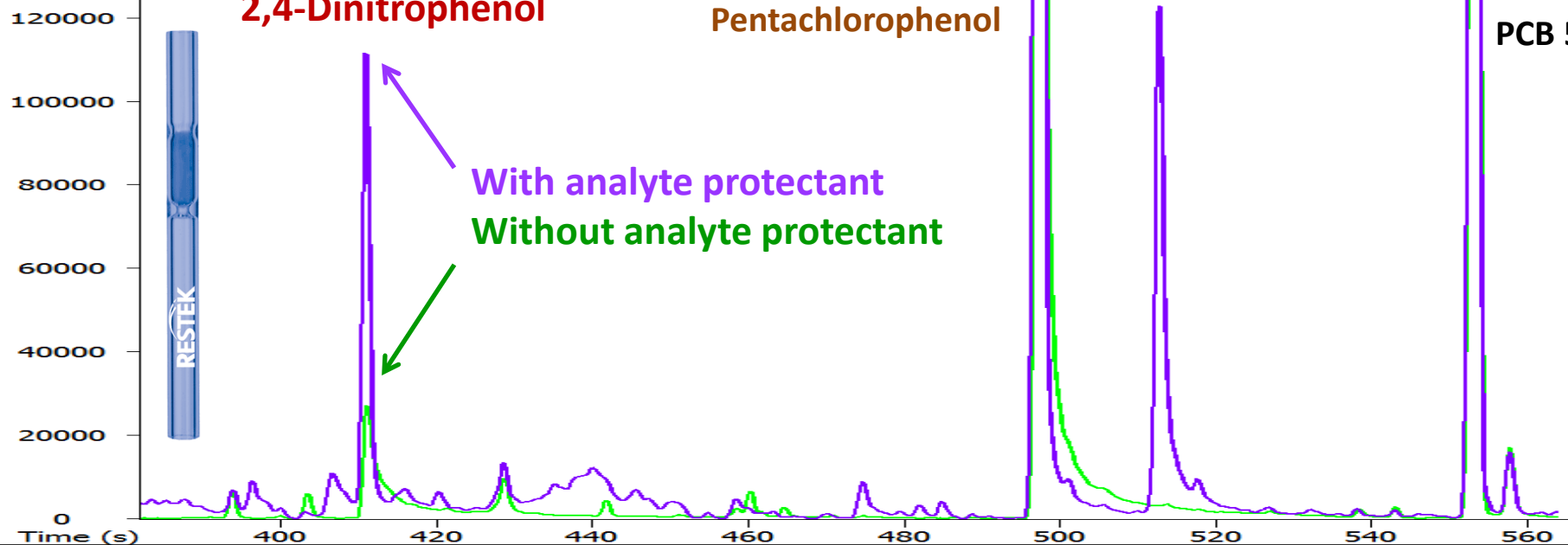
15m x 0.25mm x 0.25 $\mu$ m Rtx-5MS with 4.5m Integra-Guard



**2,4-Dinitrophenol**

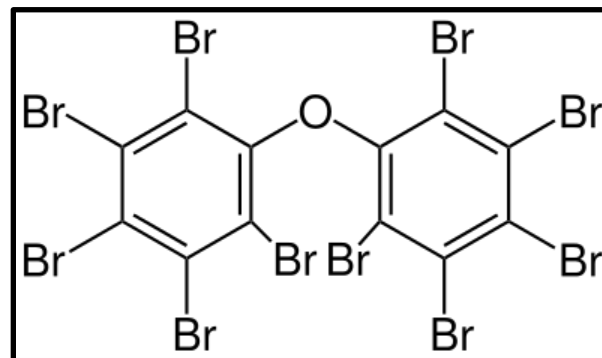
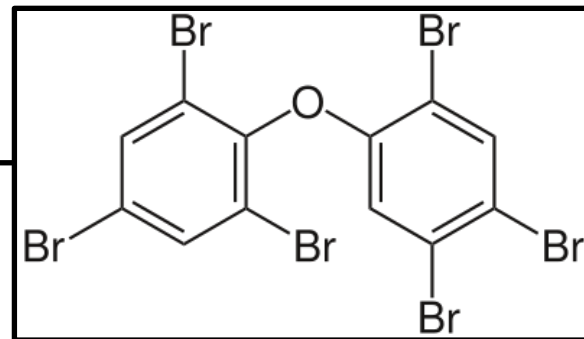
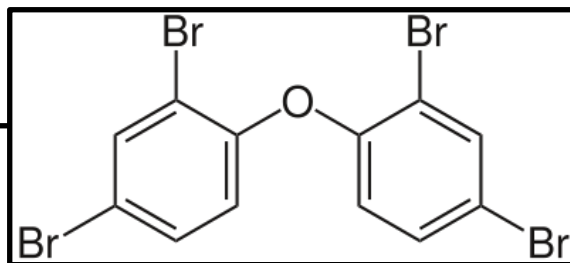
**Pentachlorophenol**

**PCB 52**



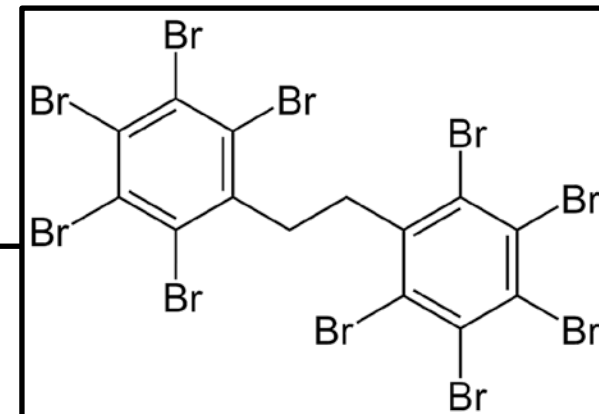
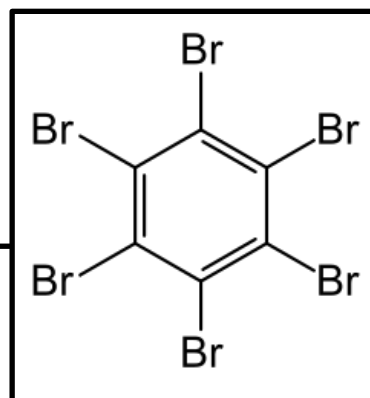
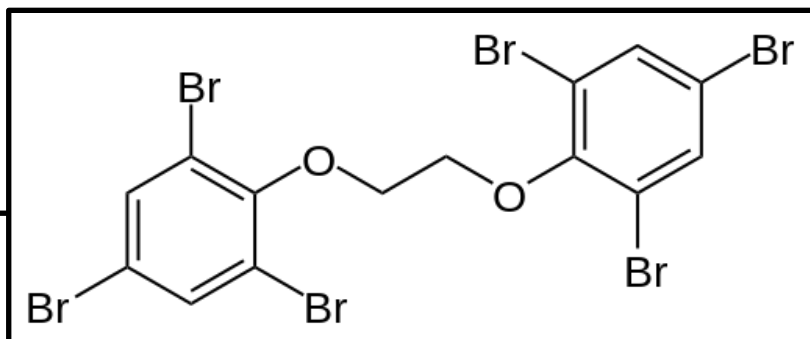


United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

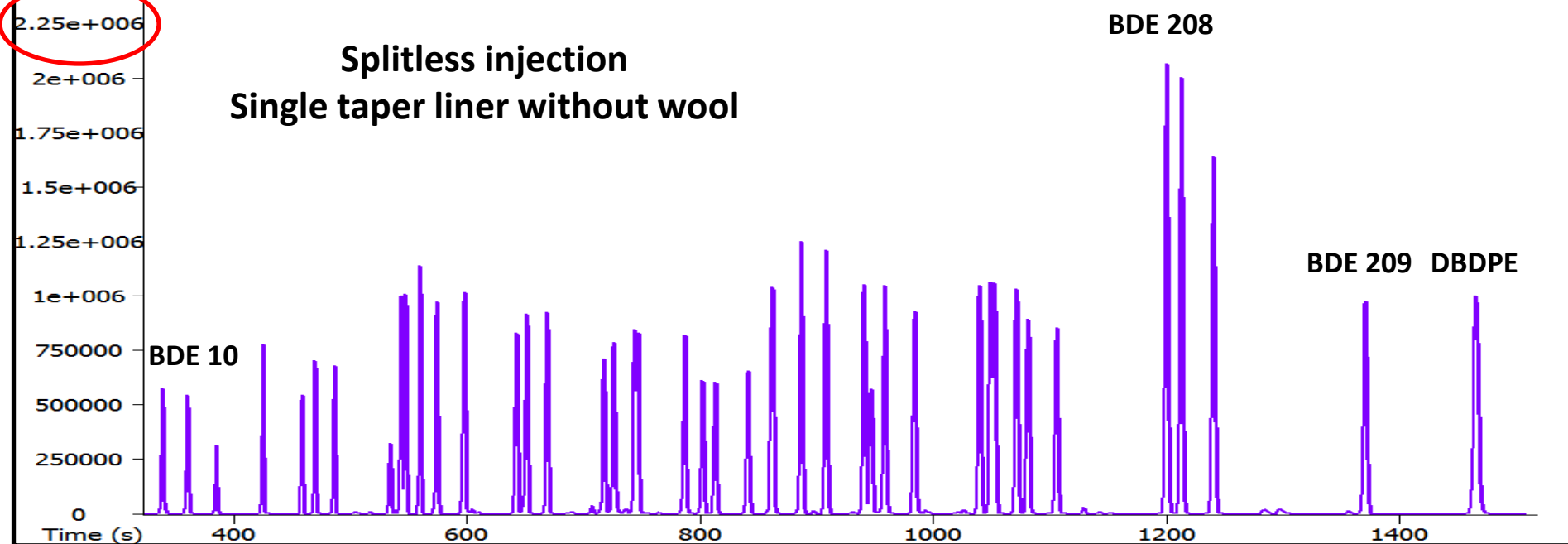
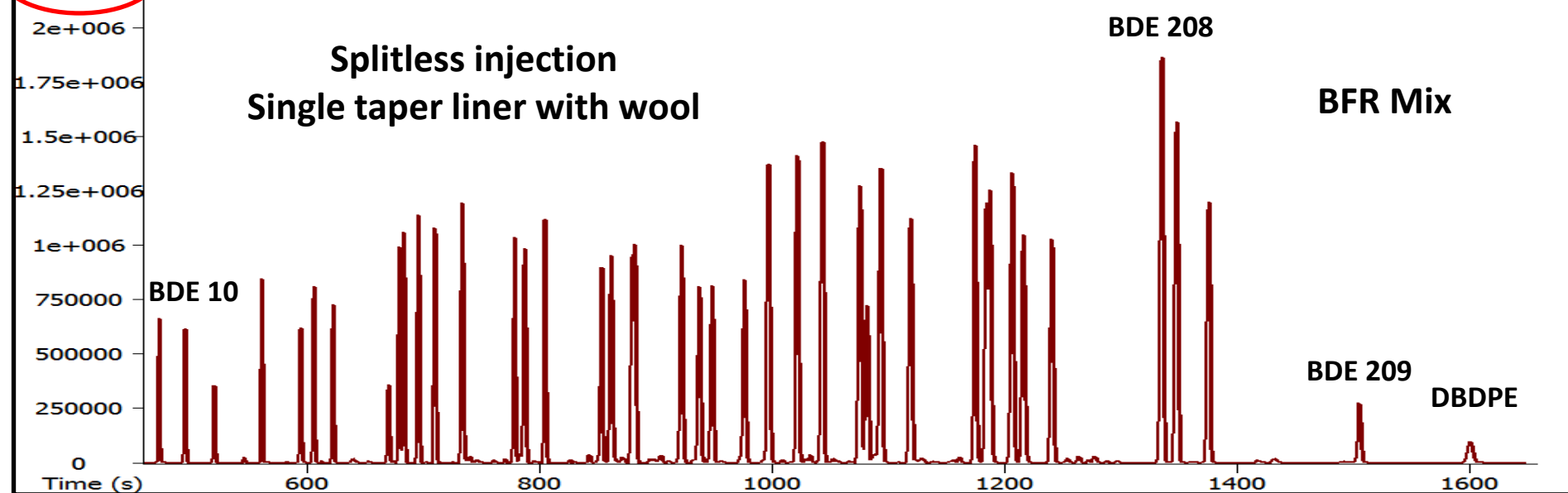


## Method 1614

# Brominated Diphenyl Ethers in Water Soil, Sediment and Tissue by HRGC/HRMS



2.25e+006 15m x 0.25mm x 0.10µm Rtx-1614



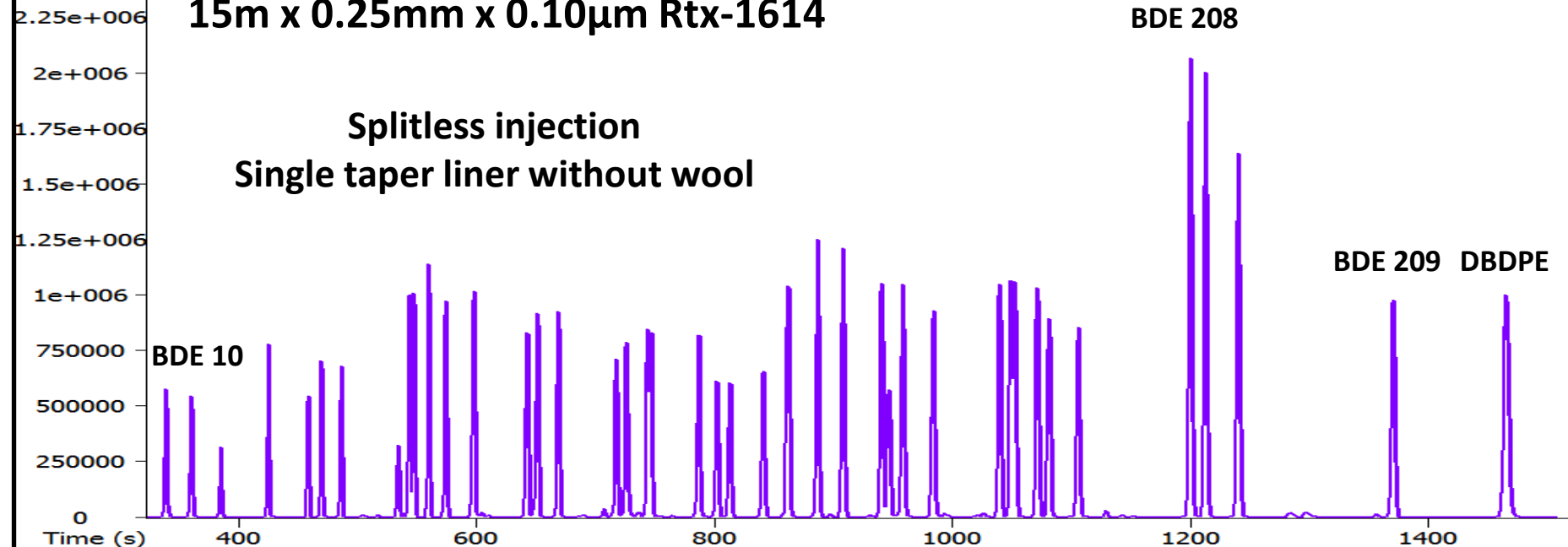
15m x 0.25mm x 0.10 $\mu$ m Rtx-1614

BDE 208

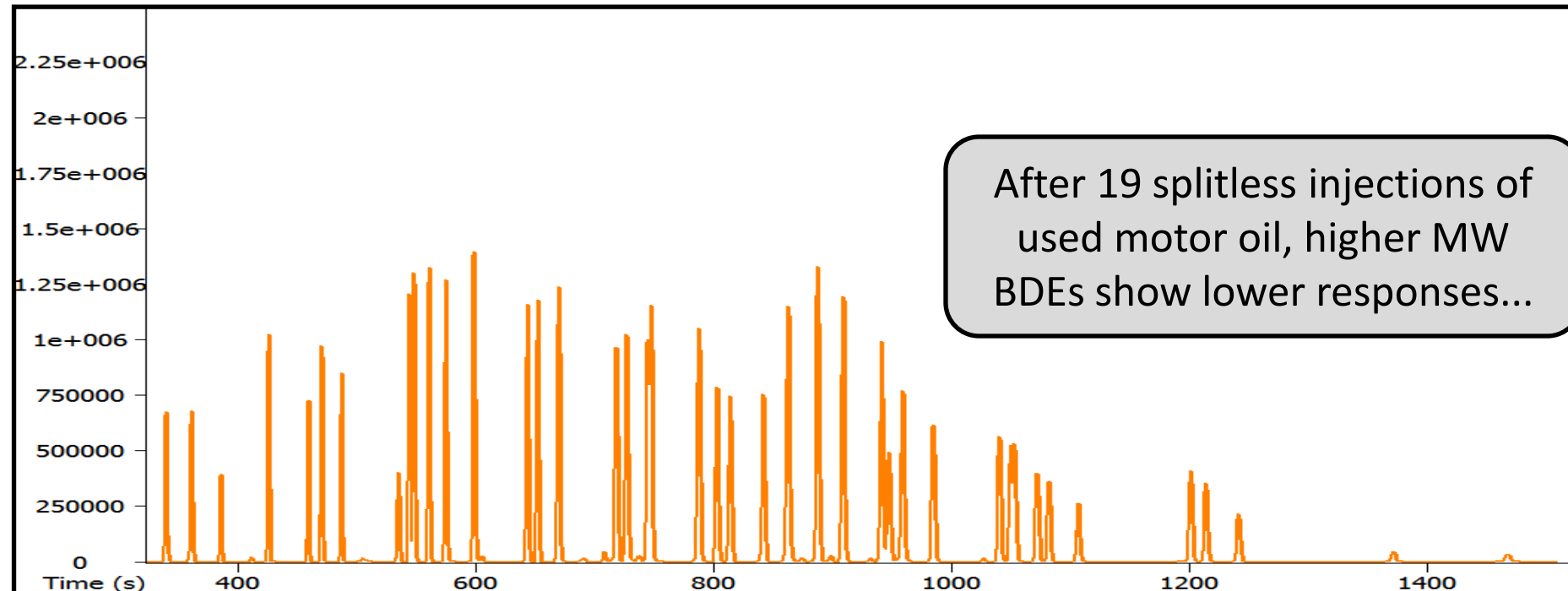
Splitless injection  
Single taper liner without wool

BDE 209 DBDPE

BDE 10



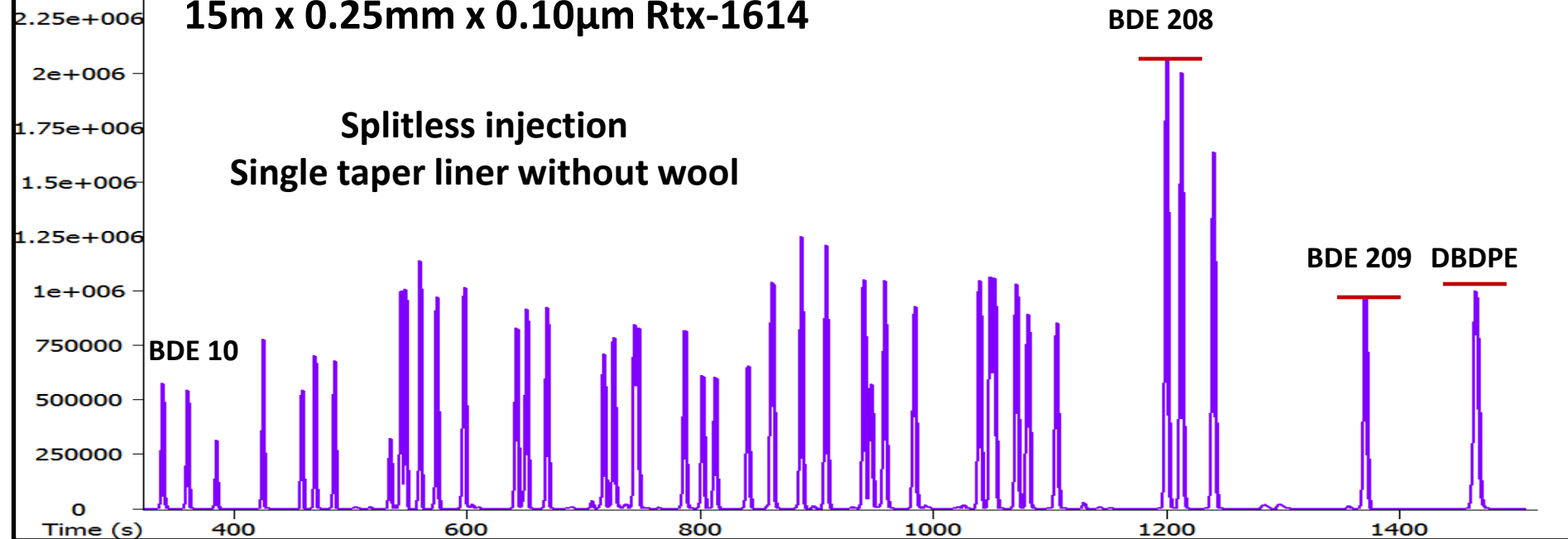
After 19 splitless injections of  
used motor oil, higher MW  
BDEs show lower responses...



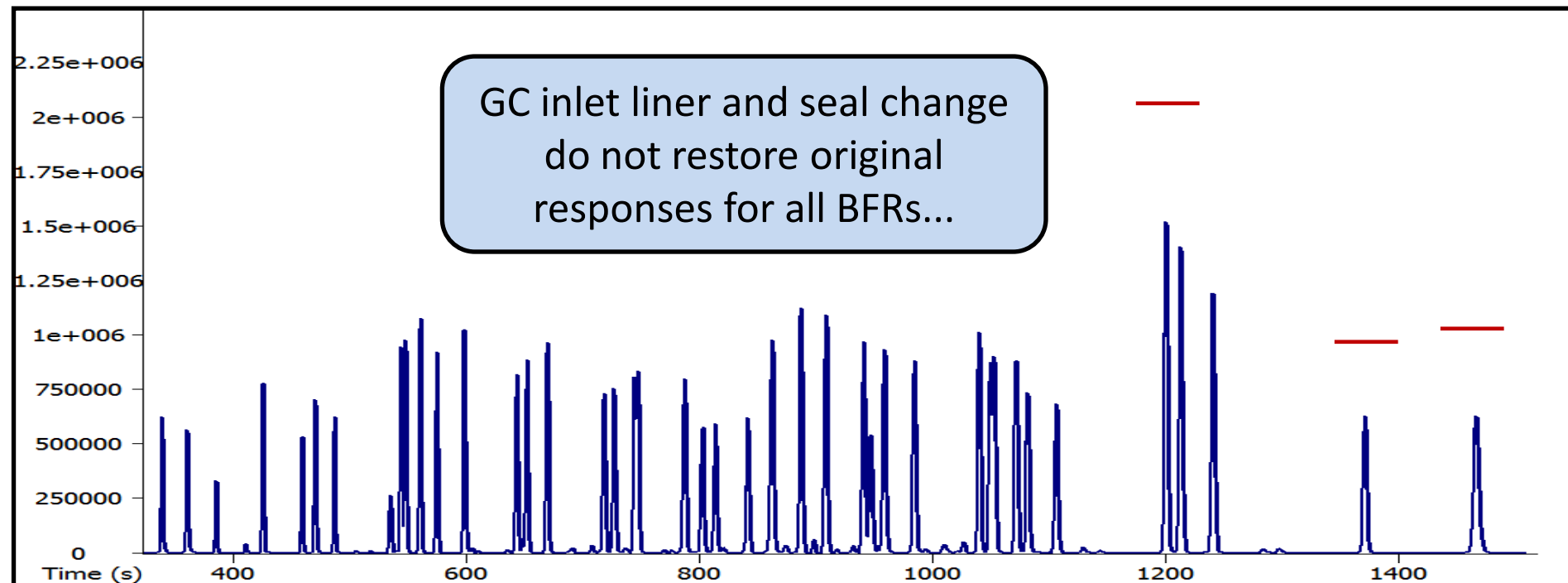


15m x 0.25mm x 0.10 $\mu$ m Rtx-1614

Splitless injection  
Single taper liner without wool



GC inlet liner and seal change  
do not restore original  
responses for all BFRs...



15m x 0.25mm x 0.10µm Rtx-1614

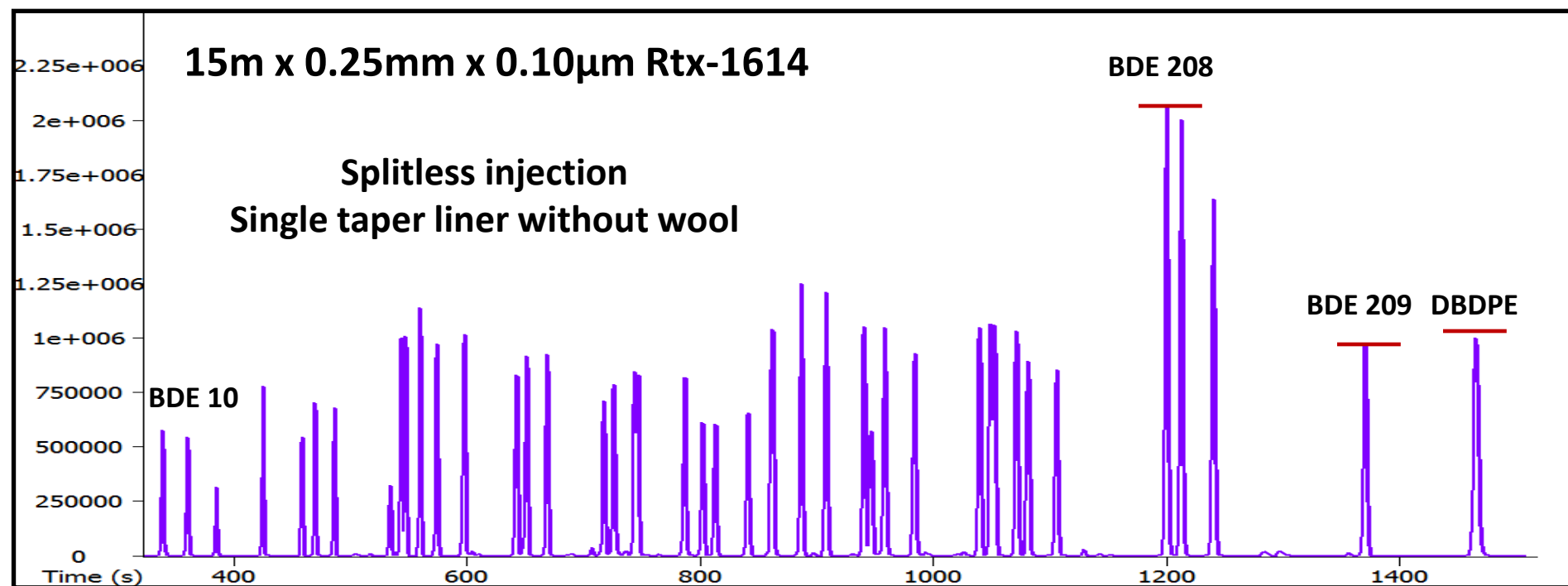
BDE 208

Splitless injection

Single taper liner without wool

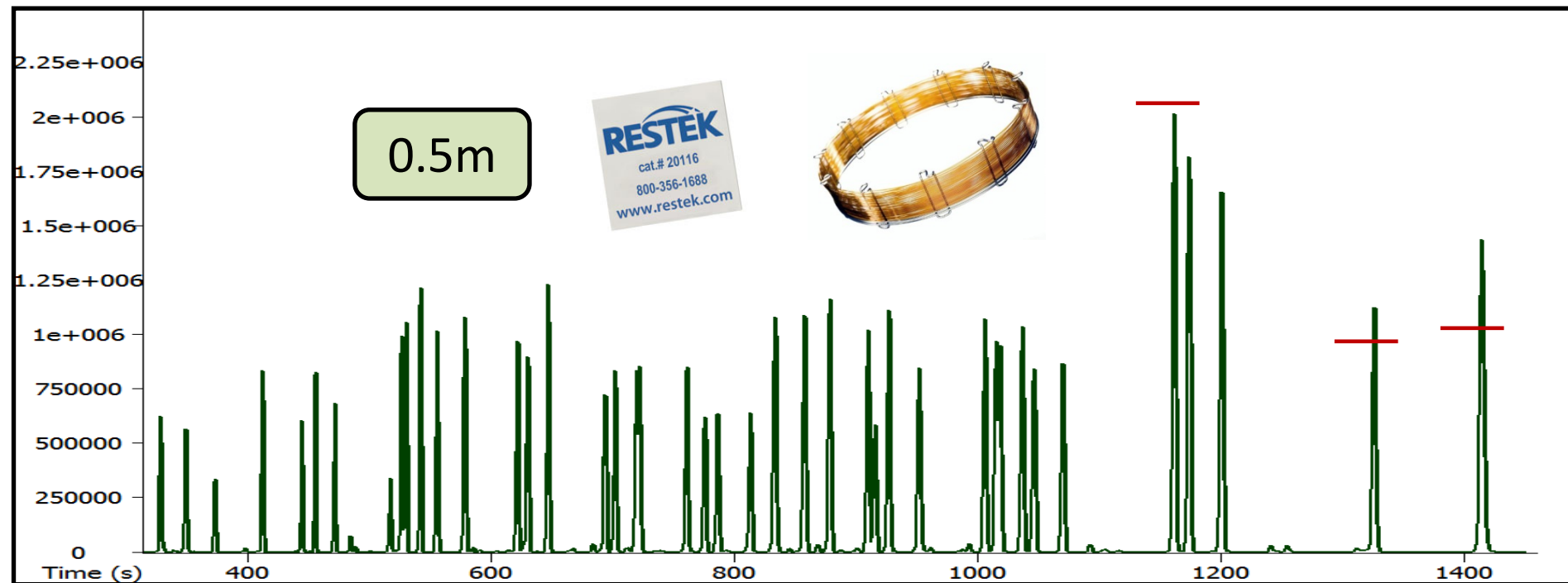
BDE 209 DBDPE

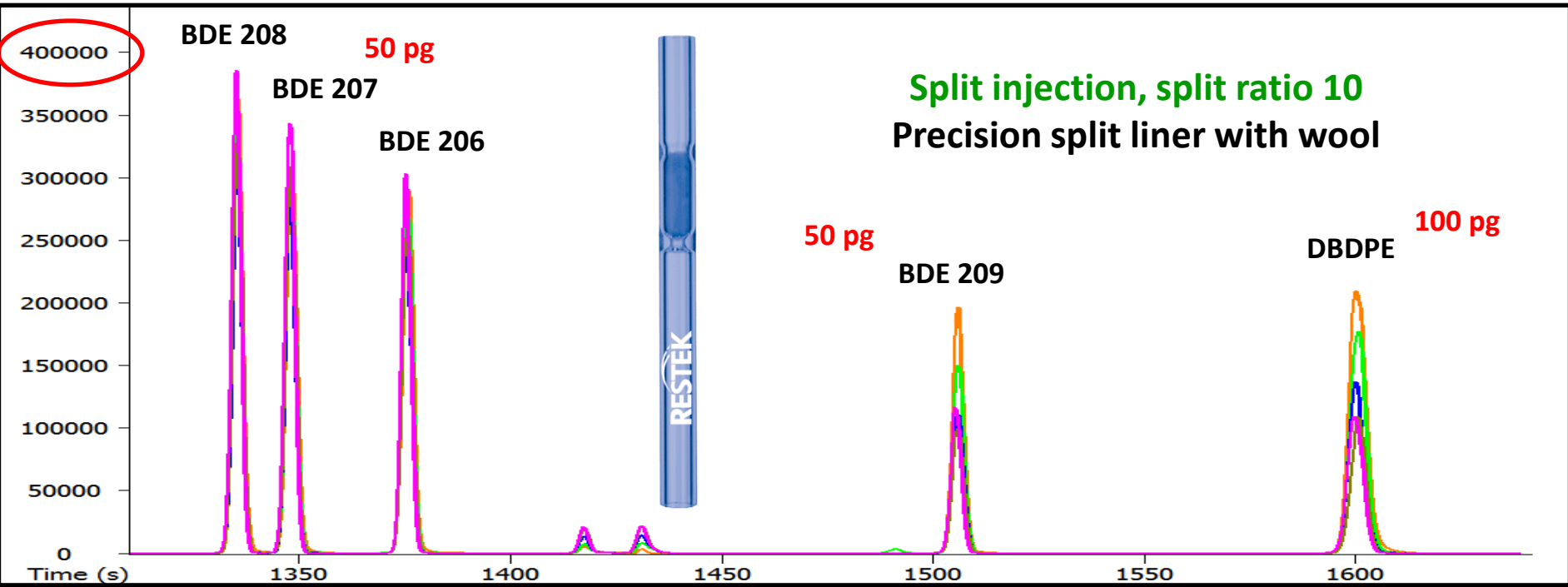
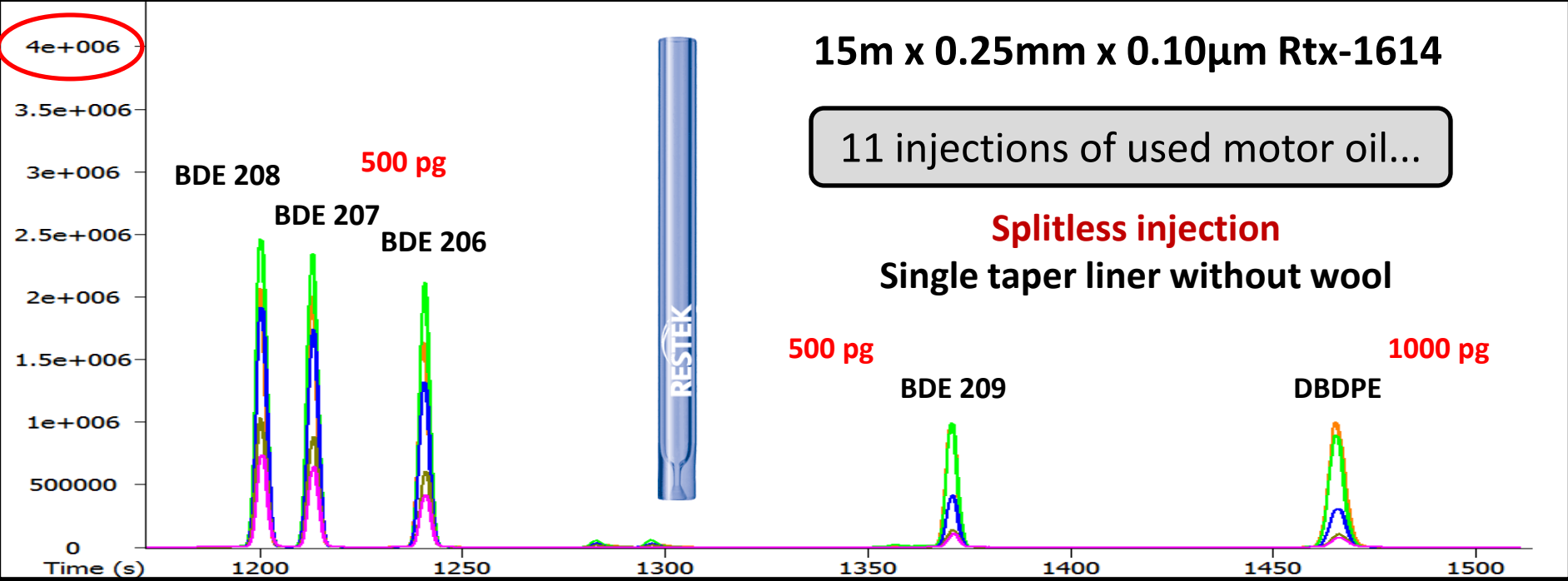
BDE 10



0.5m

RESTEK  
cat.# 20116  
800-356-1688  
www.restek.com





15m x 0.25mm x 0.10µm Rtx-1614

Before any split injections  
of used motor oil...

BFR-PAR Mix

Split injection, split ratio 10  
Precision split liner with wool

400000

350000

300000

250000

200000

150000

100000

50000

0

Time (s)

600

800

1000

1200

1400

1600

BDE 208

BDE 206

BDE 209

DBDPE



After 19 split injections of  
used motor oil followed  
by liner and seal change...

400000

350000

300000

250000

200000

150000

100000

50000

0

Time (s)

600

800

1000

1200

1400

1600

BDE 208

BDE 206

BDE 209

DBDPE



# Estimated LOQs Based on 10:1 Split Ratio

EPA Mtd	Ext Type	Smp Amt	Ext Vol	Detector	Det fg	~LOQ
8081B	LLE	1 L	10 mL	ECD	50	5 ppt
8081B	PFE	10 g	10 mL	ECD	50	0.5 ppb
1614	LLE	1 L	20 µL	HRMS DFS	25	5 ppq
1614	Soxhlet	10 g	20 µL	HRMS DFS	25	0.5 ppt
1668A	LLE	1 L	20 µL	HRMS DFS	10	2 ppq
1668A	Soxhlet	10 g	20 µL	HRMS DFS	10	0.2 ppt

**Application  
Note: 30098**

## DFS - Analysis of Brominated Flame Retardants with High Resolution GC/MS

*Dirk Krumwiede, Hans-Joachim Hübschmann, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bremen, Germany*

# Shoot-and-Dilute GC Summary

- Split injection can minimize sorptive losses of active compounds
  - Better initial and sustained performance
- Split injection results in a better proportional and sustained transfer of less volatile analytes of interest (e.g., BDE 209)
  - Should lead to better accuracy and uptime
- Split injection reduces the amount of nonvolatile “dirt” placed on a GC column
  - Longer GC column uptime and lifetime



Only use split injection,  
never splitless, when  
detector is sensitive  
enough to meet  
LODs and LOQs

