

At the Water Quality TWC meeting on February 4, 2014, the TWC noted that the Parr Water Quality Report identified multiple dissolved oxygen (DO) levels below 4.0 mg/l in the Parr Shoals Dam tailrace. The TWC agreed that SCE&G would consolidate historic USGS data to examine those excursions and to provide any operations that might be associated with the data. SCE&G requested hourly DO, temperature and river flow data from 2004 through 2013 for the following USGS stations:

1. USGS 02160991 Broad River near Jenkinsville, SC
2. USGS 02156500 Broad River near Carlisle, SC
3. USGS 02160700 Enoree River at Whitmire, SC
4. USGS 02160105 Tyger River near Delta, SC

Our analysis of the data focused on the period from July through September of each year from 2004 through 2013. For this analysis, we plotted hourly readings of flow, temperature, and DO levels at each of the gage stations. Those plots and the raw data will be available to the TWC upon request. Included below are data from the Jenkinsville gage, located immediately downstream of the Parr Shoals Dam along the east bank of the tailrace (FIGURE 1 through FIGURE 10). Since flow data is not collected at the Jenkinsville gage, flow data from the Alston gage, USGS 02161000, was used.

FIGURE 1 2004 TEMPERATURE AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN AT USGS 02160991; AND FLOW AT USGS 02161000

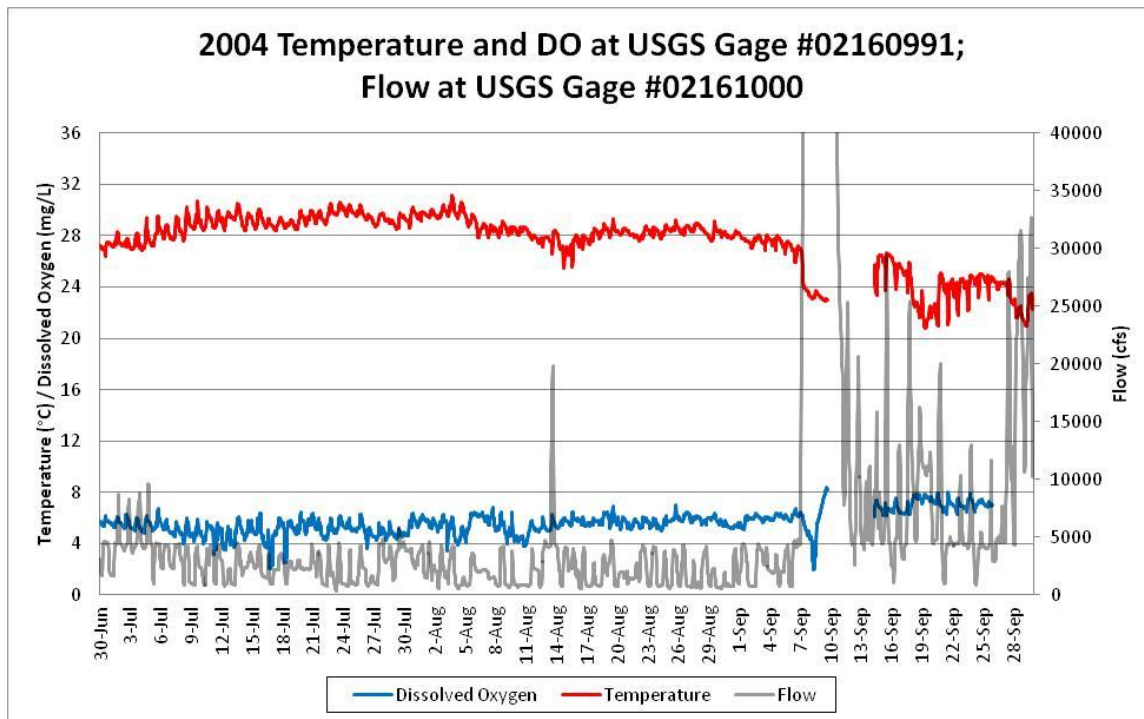


FIGURE 2 2005 TEMPERATURE AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN AT USGS 02160991; AND FLOW AT USGS 02161000

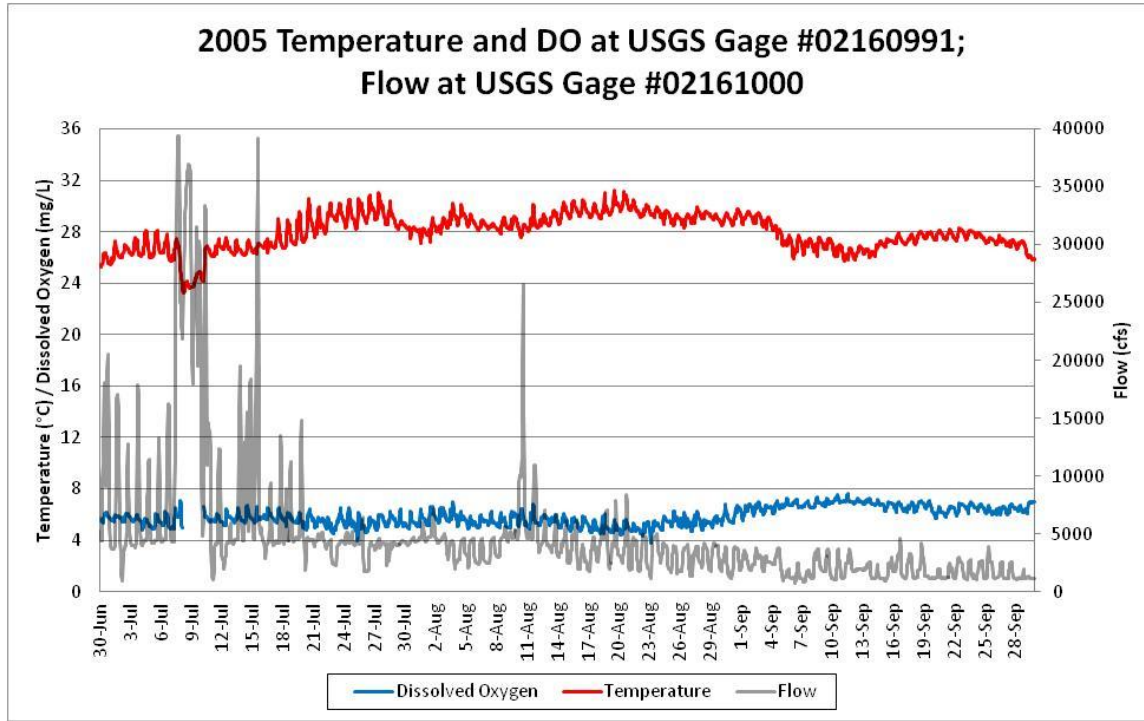


FIGURE 3 2006 TEMPERATURE AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN AT USGS 02160991; AND FLOW AT USGS 02161000

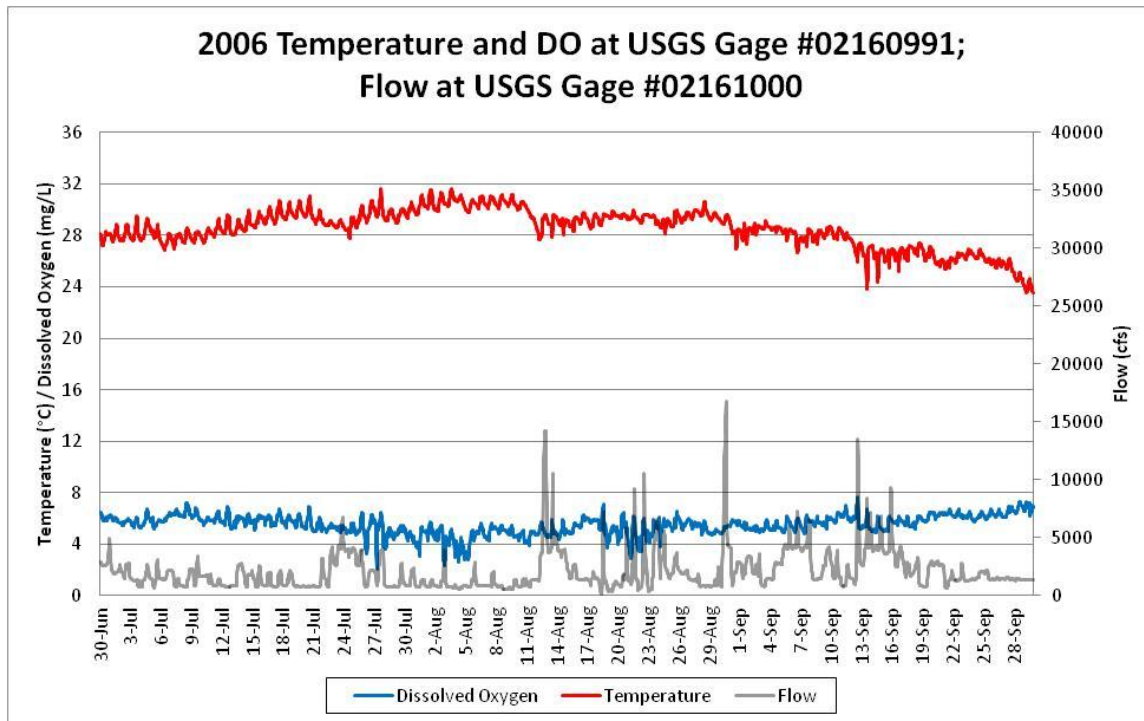


FIGURE 4 2007 TEMPERATURE AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN AT USGS 02160991; AND FLOW AT USGS 02161000

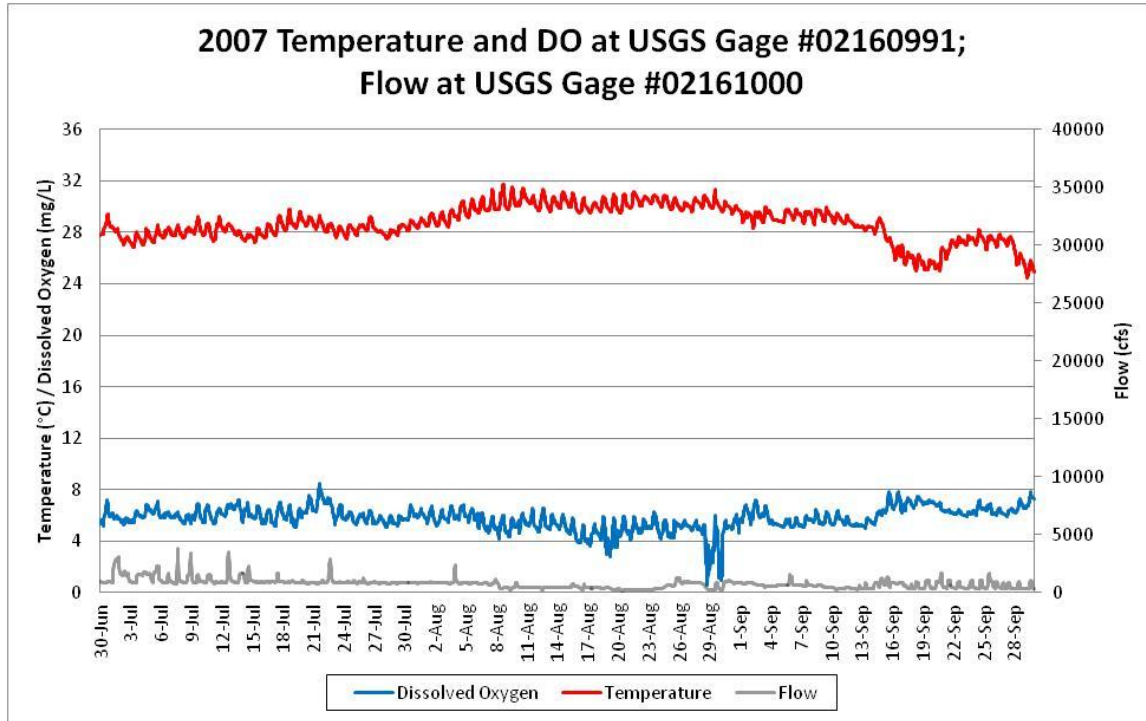


FIGURE 5 2008 TEMPERATURE AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN AT USGS 02160991; AND FLOW AT USGS 02161000

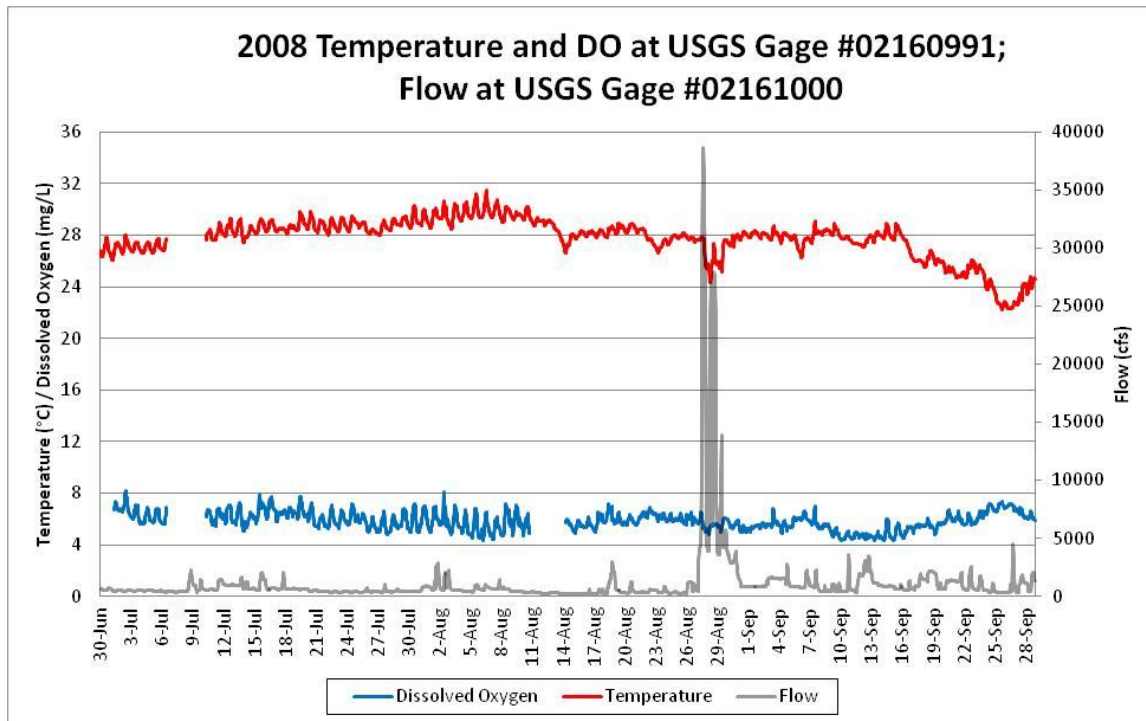


FIGURE 6 2009 TEMPERATURE AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN AT USGS 02160991; AND FLOW AT USGS 02161000

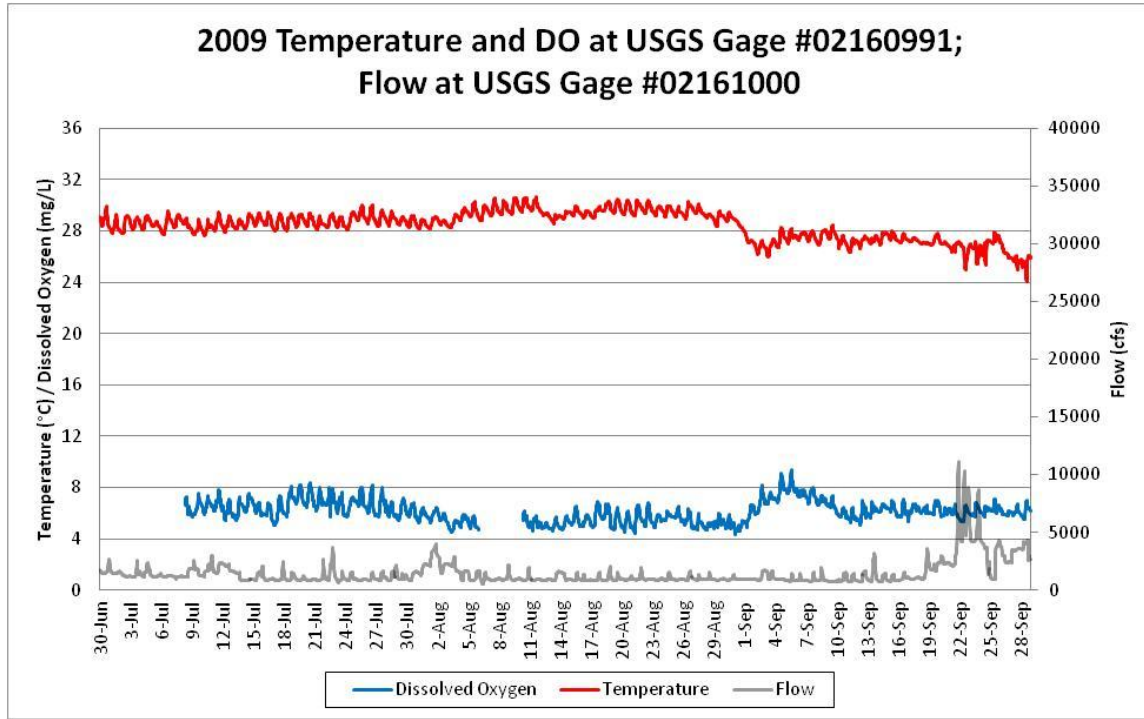


FIGURE 7 2010 TEMPERATURE AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN AT USGS 02160991; AND FLOW AT USGS 02161000

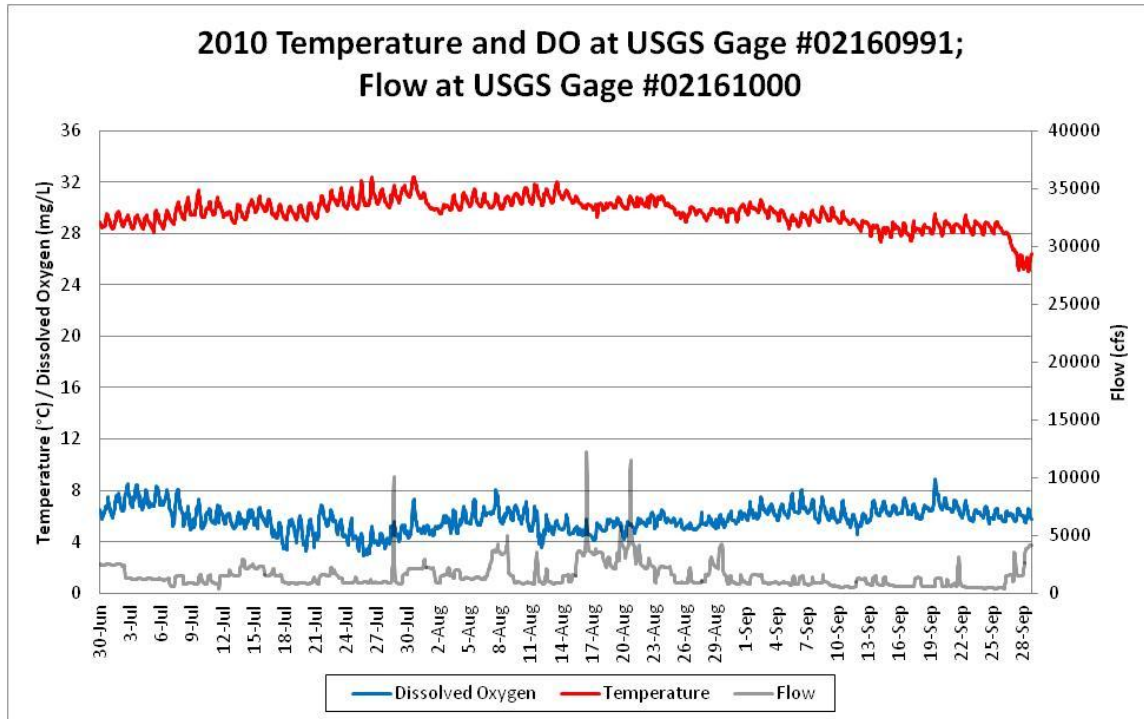


FIGURE 8 2011 TEMPERATURE AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN AT USGS 02160991; AND FLOW AT USGS 02161000

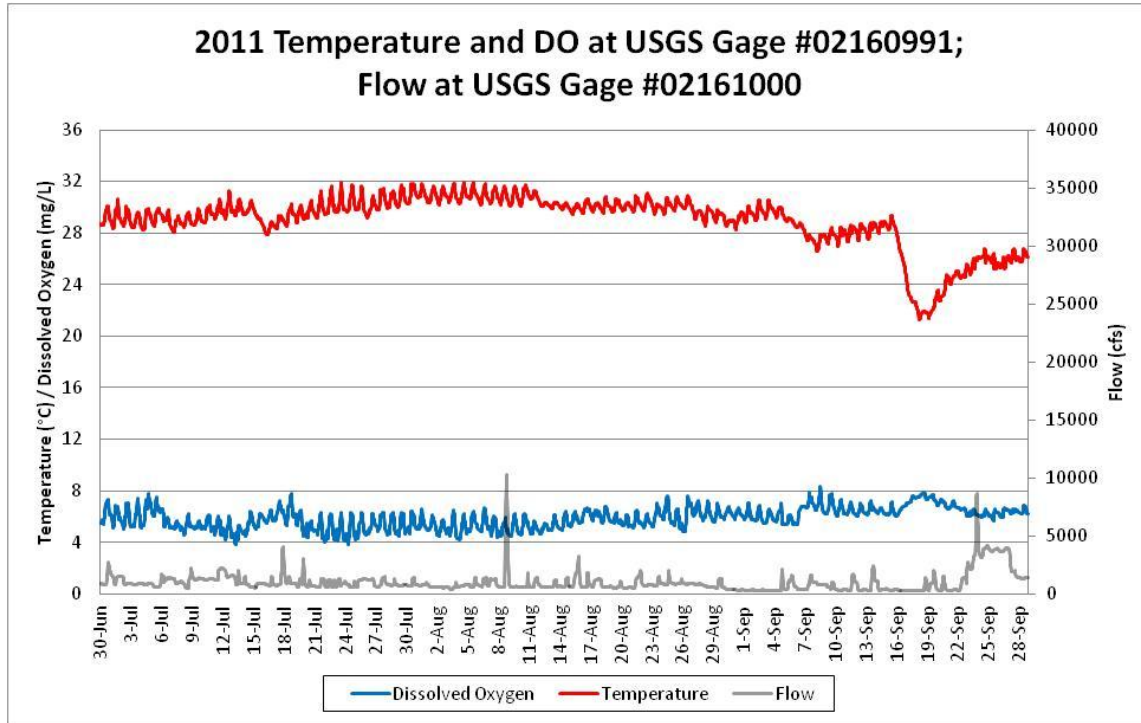


FIGURE 9 2012 TEMPERATURE AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN AT USGS 02160991; AND FLOW AT USGS 02161000

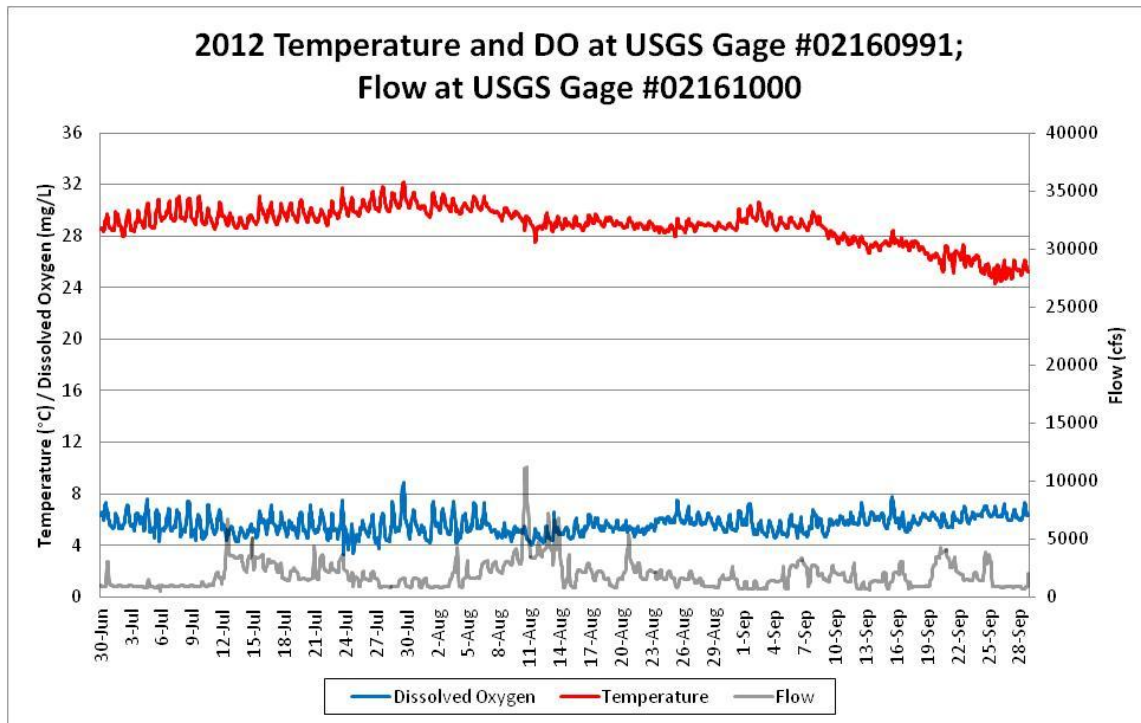
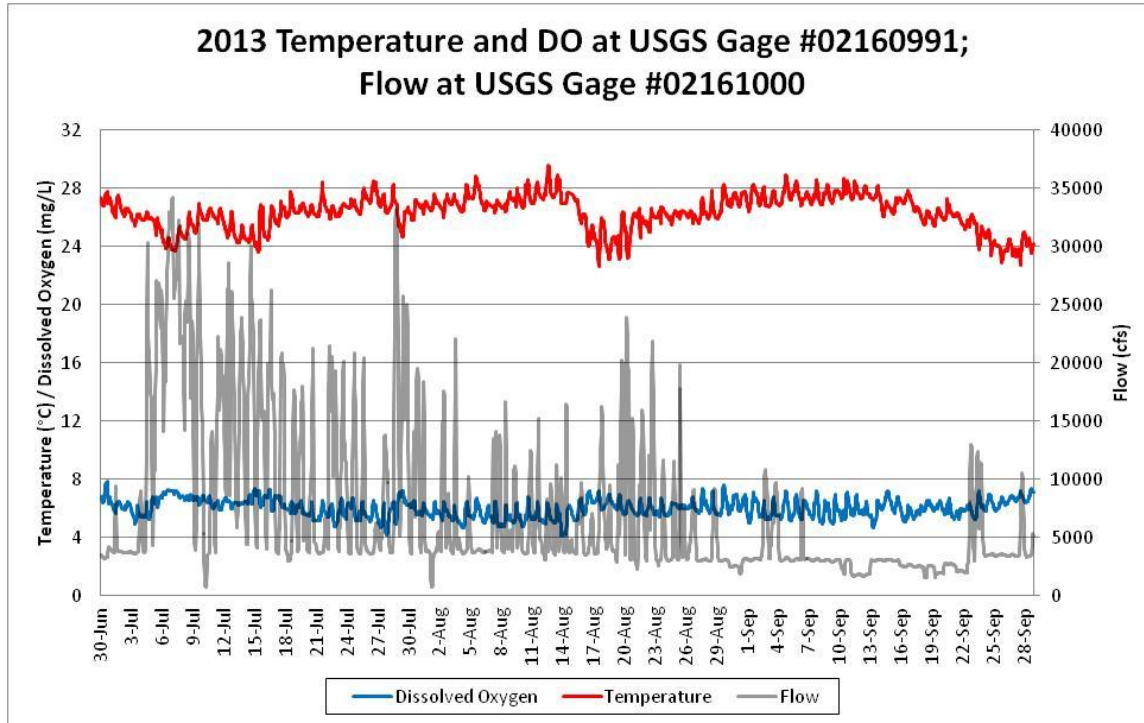


FIGURE 10 2013 TEMPERATURE AND DISSOLVED OXYGEN AT USGS 02160991; AND FLOW AT USGS 02161000



Review of the data verified that there are periodic excursions of DO levels less than 4.0 mg/l. These events are not consistent from year to year and do not typically have a long duration. We have presented representative excerpts of the raw data in TABLE 1 through TABLE 4 to demonstrate the month, flow, temperature, time of day, and DO level experienced.

TABLE 1 JULY 19-20, 2010: DO EXCURSION

Date	Time	DO (mg/L)	Temperature (°C)	Flow (cfs)
7/19/2010	9:00 pm	4.3	29.5	900.7
7/19/2010	10:00 pm	4.0	29.4	900.7
7/19/2010	11:00 pm	3.7	29.4	900.7
7/20/2010	12:00 am	3.9	29.3	900.7
7/20/2010	1:00 am	3.8	29.3	900.7
7/20/2010	2:00 am	3.8	29.2	888.0
7/20/2010	3:00 am	3.7	29.2	875.3
7/20/2010	4:00 am	3.6	29.1	862.7
7/20/2010	5:00 am	3.3	29.1	862.7
7/20/2010	6:00 am	3.7	29.0	837.7
7/20/2010	7:00 am	4.0	29.1	837.7
7/20/2010	8:00 am	4.5	29.2	825.3

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TABLE 2 JULY 13, 2011: DO EXCURSION

Date	Time	DO (mg/L)	Temperature (°C)	Flow (cfs)
7/13/2011	5:00 am	4.6	29.7	1474.9
7/13/2011	6:00 am	3.9	29.3	1369.9
7/13/2011	7:00 am	3.8	29.3	939.3
7/13/2011	8:00 am	4.1	29.5	812.9

TABLE 3 JULY 24, 2012: DO EXCURSION

Date	Time	DO (mg/L)	Temperature (°C)	Flow (cfs)
7/24/2012	6:00 am	4.2	29.6	2107.6
7/24/2012	7:00 am	3.9	29.6	1789.4
7/24/2012	8:00 am	3.6	29.5	1536.0
7/24/2012	9:00 am	3.9	29.7	1459.7
7/24/2012	10:00 am	4.3	30.1	1429.5
7/24/2012	11:00 am	4.3	30.1	1429.5
7/24/2012	12:00 pm	4.4	30.2	1444.6
7/24/2012	1:00 pm	4.4	30.3	1444.6
7/24/2012	2:00 pm	4.7	30.6	1399.6
7/24/2012	3:00 pm	5.6	30.9	1444.6
7/24/2012	4:00 pm	5.7	31.0	1954.6
7/24/2012	5:00 pm	5.5	30.9	2124.8
7/24/2012	6:00 pm	4.8	30.8	1971.4
7/24/2012	7:00 pm	3.5	30.1	1154.4
7/24/2012	8:00 pm	3.4	29.9	875.3
7/24/2012	9:00 pm	3.6	29.9	1520.7
7/24/2012	10:00 pm	3.6	29.9	1676.9
7/24/2012	11:00 pm	4.1	29.9	1724.8

TABLE 4 JULY 27, 2012: DO EXCURSION

Date	Time	DO (mg/L)	Temperature (°C)	Flow (cfs)
7/27/2012	6:00 am	4.2	30.0	1490.1
7/27/2012	7:00 am	3.7	29.9	1196.5
7/27/2012	8:00 am	3.8	30.0	900.7
7/27/2012	9:00 am	4.3	30.0	837.7

Our review of this data lead us to the conclusion that the low DO levels frequently occur during the early morning hours when DO levels often begin to decline (diel fluctuation) and flows begin to decline. Based on this observation we reviewed the location of the USGS monitor which is located along the bank in a back eddy just downstream of the Parr Shoals Dam. We also asked the USGS to provide any information they had on the type of monitoring equipment used and how it had changed over time. The following is a consolidation of email excerpts that we received from Michael Hall of the USGS:

The current DO probe that the USGS uses at the Parr Dam monitoring site is a YSI 6150 ROX, which is an optical DO probe with a self cleaning wiper system. Looking back over the last year and a half, there have been no corrections needed to the sensor data for fouling or calibration drift. The sensors and sonde are cleaned at least monthly, but sometimes more often in the summer months if needed. The DO membrane itself rarely has any visible fouling because of the wiper system. Calibration is checked monthly and readings are also verified at each visit with a separate calibrated field meter. YSI states that the accuracy of the ROX DO is +/- 0.1 mg/L or 1% of reading, whichever is greater. The USGS applies corrections to the data if the combined fouling and drift differences exceed +/- 0.3 mg/L.

[USGS hasn't] noticed any issues with the quality of the readings and can't ever recall the water being stagnant where the sonde housing is placed. The flow at the sonde is mostly negative due to a swirling motion, but any debris or other trash that is floating in the pool gets "flushed" fairly quickly, so I would assume the water is constantly being refreshed. If you would like, we can arrange to be on site during different unit releases to better determine if there is a stagnant issue.

Prior to the ROX sensor [installation – June 2011], [USGS] used a YSI 5739 and YSI Rapid Pulse DO Probes. All three sensors have the same accuracy according to YSI. [USGS doesn't] have the exact dates that the ROX was installed, but [they] believe it was in the 2011 water year. The frequency of cleaning for the older probes was 2 to 4 weeks depending on season and flow events. Those probes didn't self clean, so during the summer months they usually needed more attention”

It is our suspicion that some, if not all, of these low DO events are related to low flows in the tailrace and backflow or stagnant flows at the USGS monitor. To test this theory, we have planned to collect additional data in the tailrace during July and August of 2014 and compare it with USGS data collected at the same time. We will focus on these warmer summer months when flows are lower and more likely for us to observe any deviations.

DO readings will be collected along a transect starting at the furthest turbine discharge on the west end of the Parr Shoals powerhouse and proceed to the east towards the USGS monitor using a Hydrolab Surveyor 4a with a Hydrolab MS 5 sonde or similar equipment. DO readings will be collected at the mid-depth of the water column from a maximum of 10 sample locations along the transect. Collections will be performed at one hour before sunrise, at sunrise, and one hour after sunrise. Collections will also be coordinated with lower flow events – possibly scheduled for each sampling. We will perform up to eight collections during July and August of 2014 to detect any differences in the transect DO measurements and the USGS data measurements.

The transect data will be compared to the USGS data. We will use figures and tables to display the collected data and patterns in the DO level will be described based on time, flow, and distance from the USGS monitor. We will consolidate this information into a letter report to share with the TWC for review and discussion.