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<u>Information Previously Distributed</u> To be listed on the Community Services Agenda - 05 June 1997
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DATE 05 May 1997

TO/DEST. Coordinator, Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. Associate Medical Officer of Health

SUBJECT/OBJET **1997 RECREATIONAL WATERS RECOMMENDATIONS**

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## BACKGROUND

It is the responsibility of the Medical Officer of Health to make recommendations from a health viewpoint regarding the use of recreational waters for bathing purposes. The final decision is made by the Department of Recreation and Parks.

### General Comments

In Ottawa-Carleton, the most relevant factor in determining beach water quality is the knowledge of the sanitary conditions at the site, supplemented by the bacteriological analysis of the water. The bacteriological tests are useful for monitoring the degree of hazard presented by known factors and for detecting the presence of "new" hazardous influences. After sampling, it takes 24-28 hours to obtain bacteriological results. Therefore, recommendations must be made on the basis of existing knowledge.

In preparing departmental recommendations, previous information including knowledge of various discharges into the river and their effects as measured by thousands of bacteriological samples taken over the past several years was reviewed. The data collected over the past years were analyzed and the status of known hazardous factors was assessed.

In 1992, the Ministry of Health established a standard of 100 organisms of *E. coli* per 100 ml of water for recreational water quality.

The Environmental Health Directorate monitors the water quality of 25 beaches on both the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers. Extensive sampling was carried out at all beaches within the Region in 1996. Major sampling (five times per week) occurred at the in-town beaches only. The out-of-town beaches were sampled once every two weeks.

Annex A shows bacteriological results for Mooney's Bay, Britannia Beach, and Westboro Beach for 1996.

Rainfall affects stormwater contribution to the rivers. In 1996, there was a strong correlation between rainfall events of 10 mm. or more on recreational water quality at both Britannia and Westboro beaches. As a result recommendations for the 1997 bathing season will be based on observations made in 1996.

#### Water quality in 1996

The water quality at Mooney's Bay Beach was very good in 1996, exceeding provincial standards on only one occasion after the beaches opened for swimming.

The water quality at Westboro Beach was also good in 1996. The Ministry of Health standards were met for most of the season with noticeable deterioration of water quality in late August. Bacterial results in July and August were elevated after rainfalls of 10 mm. or more.

The water quality at Britannia Beach was poor in 1996. Provincial standards were exceeded on 19 occasions after the beach opened with bacterial counts consistently exceeding provincial standards after rainfall events of 10 mm. or more.

It should be noted that water quality at Brewer Park was satisfactory in 1996 (measured twice per week). Samplings will be taken from Brewer Park again in 1997.

#### Sampling in 1996

In 1996, sampling at out-of town beaches was reduced. The sampling procedures in 1997 will be essentially the same as those in 1996 with samples being taken from Britannia, Westboro, and Mooney's Bay beaches five times per week and from Brewer Park twice per week. Other sites will be sampled once every two weeks with increases as necessary.

#### Medical Officer of Health beach recommendations for 1997

For Mooney's Bay Beach, Westboro Beach, and Britannia Beach, I have recommended to the City of Ottawa that:

- these beaches be open for swimming in 1997.
- Britannia Beach should close for 24 hours following a rainfall of 10 mm. or more.
- Westboro Beach should close for 24 hours following a rainfall of 10 mm. or more after July 1.

For out-of-town beaches, I have recommended that the following beaches be open in 1997:

#### Ottawa River

- Fitzroy Provincial Park (2)
- Camp Woolsey
- Constance Bay
- Camp “Y”
- Shirley`s Bay
- Auger Beach
- Baskin`s Beach

#### Rideau River

- Rideau Provincial Park (4)
- Baxter Conservation Centre
- Manotick East Channel
- Long Island (RCMP Camp)
- Echolands Park
- Black Rapids
- Taylor Conservation Area
- Kars Dock

The Health Department will continue to monitor in-town beaches on a daily basis and I will adjust these recommendations based on any changes in water quality which occur during the swimming season.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

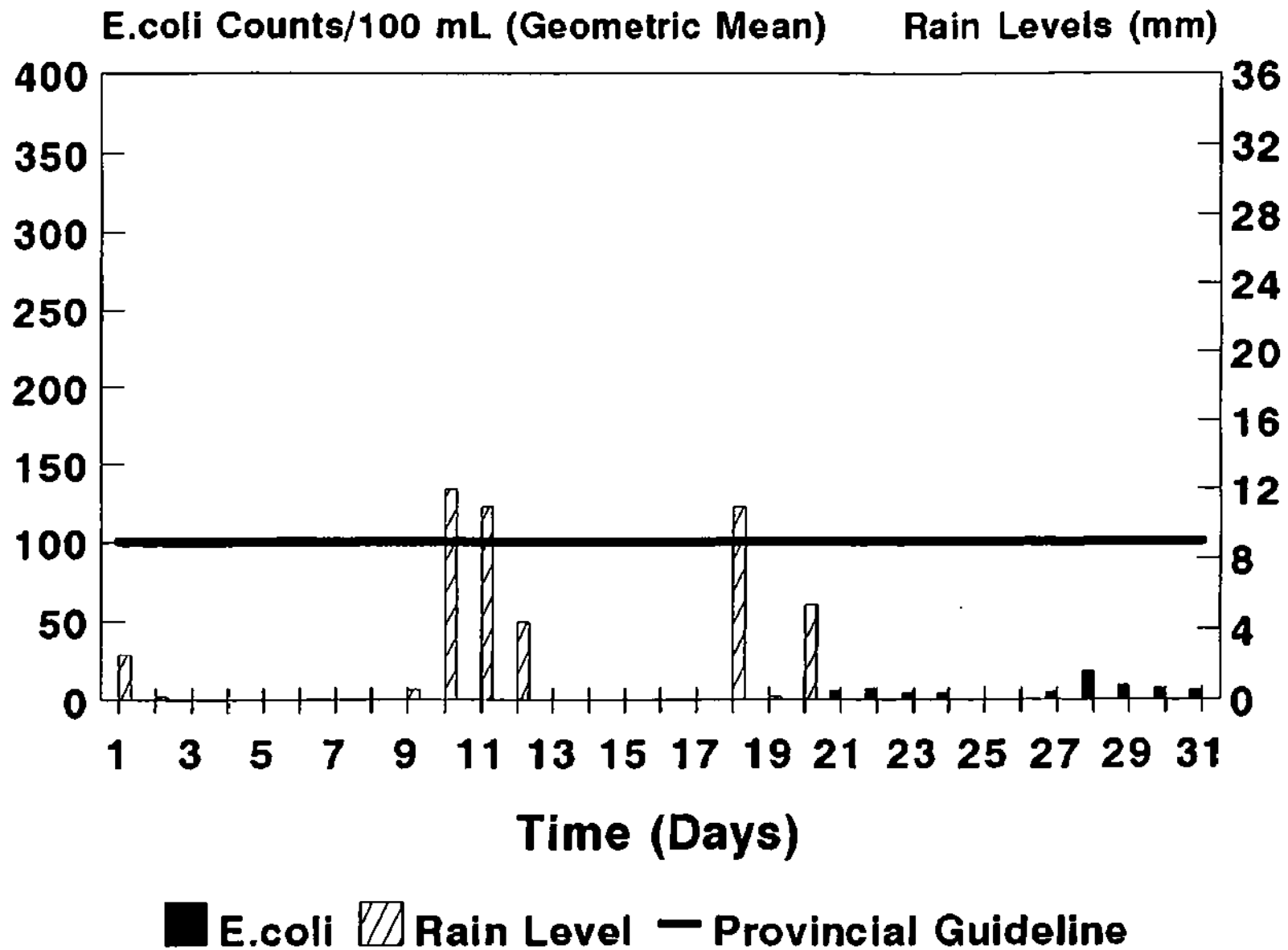
There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

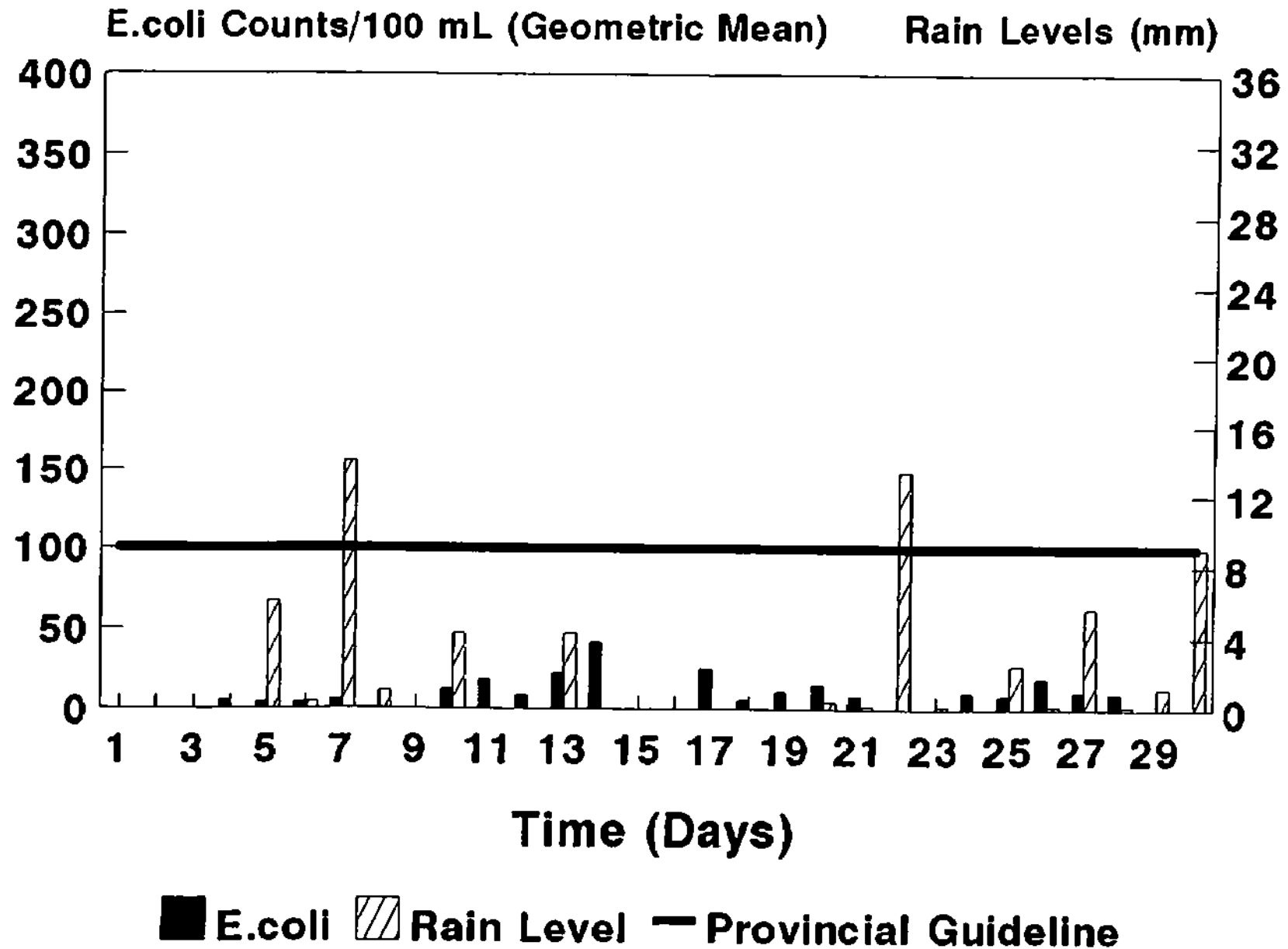
No public consultation was required for this report. Under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1983 and the Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines, 1989, the Medical Officer of Health has a legislated responsibility to ensure that recreational waters are suitable for bathing purposes.

*Approved by  
Dr. Ed Ellis*

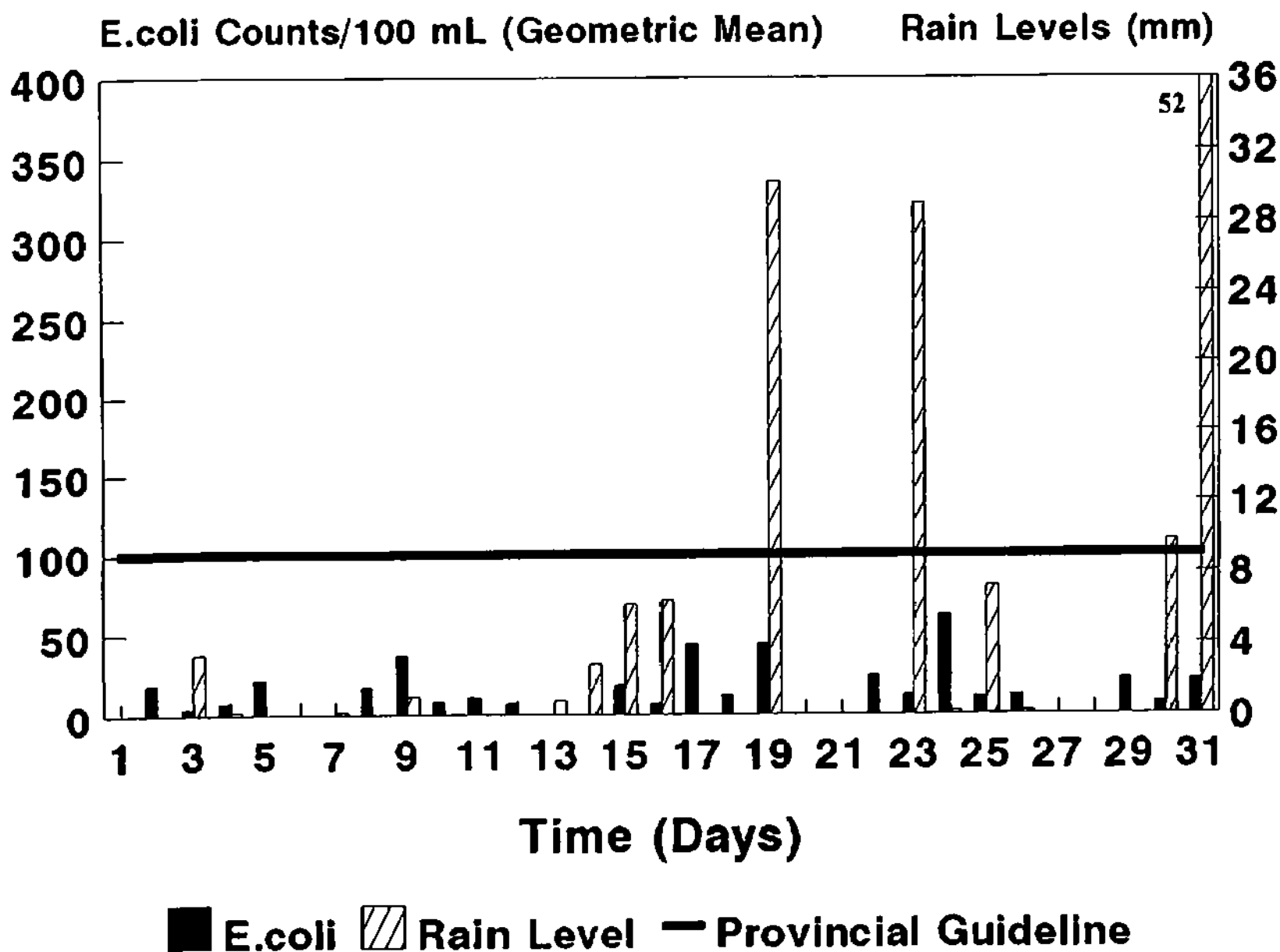
# Mooney's Bay - May 1996



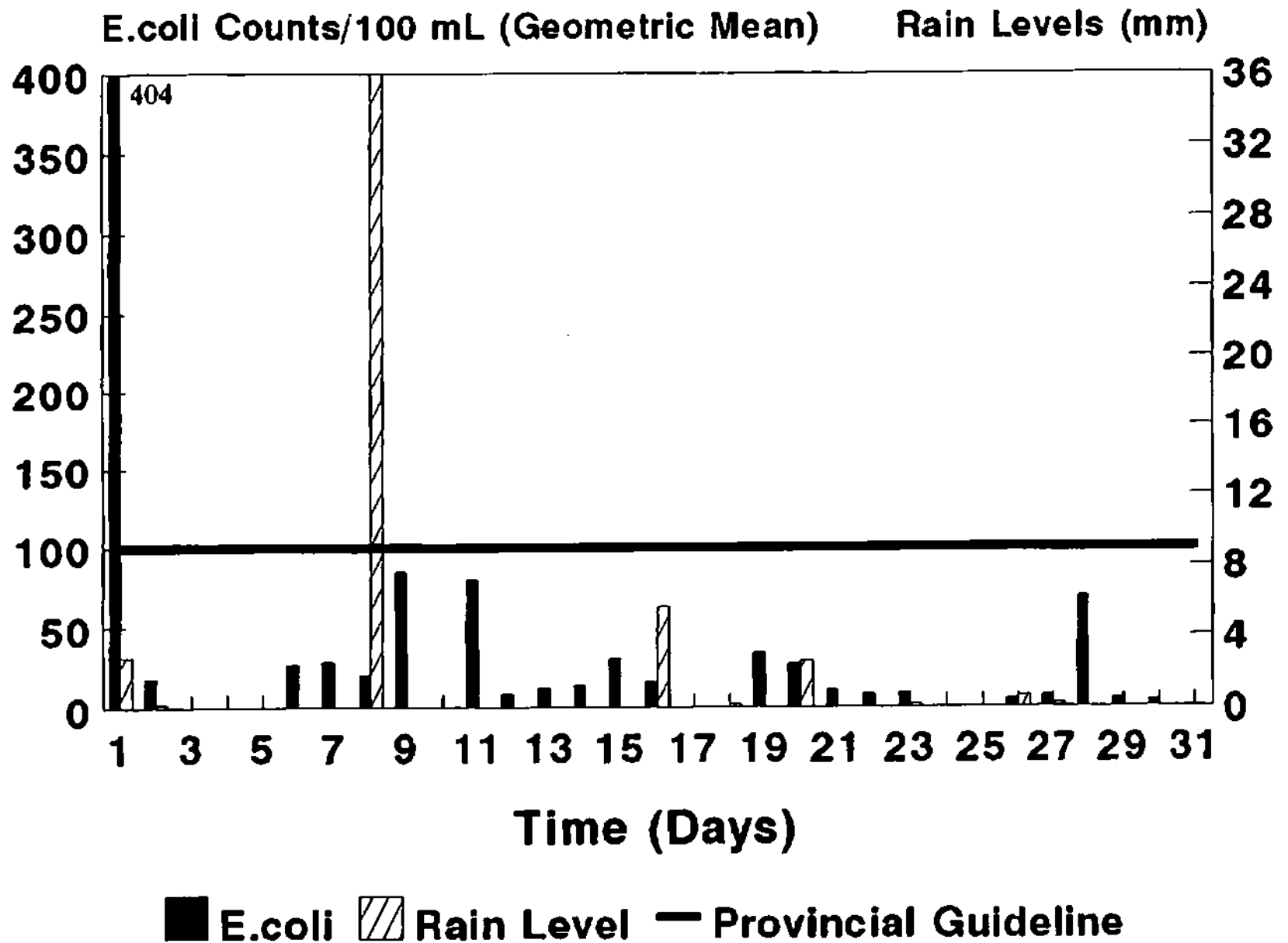
# Mooney's Bay - June 1996



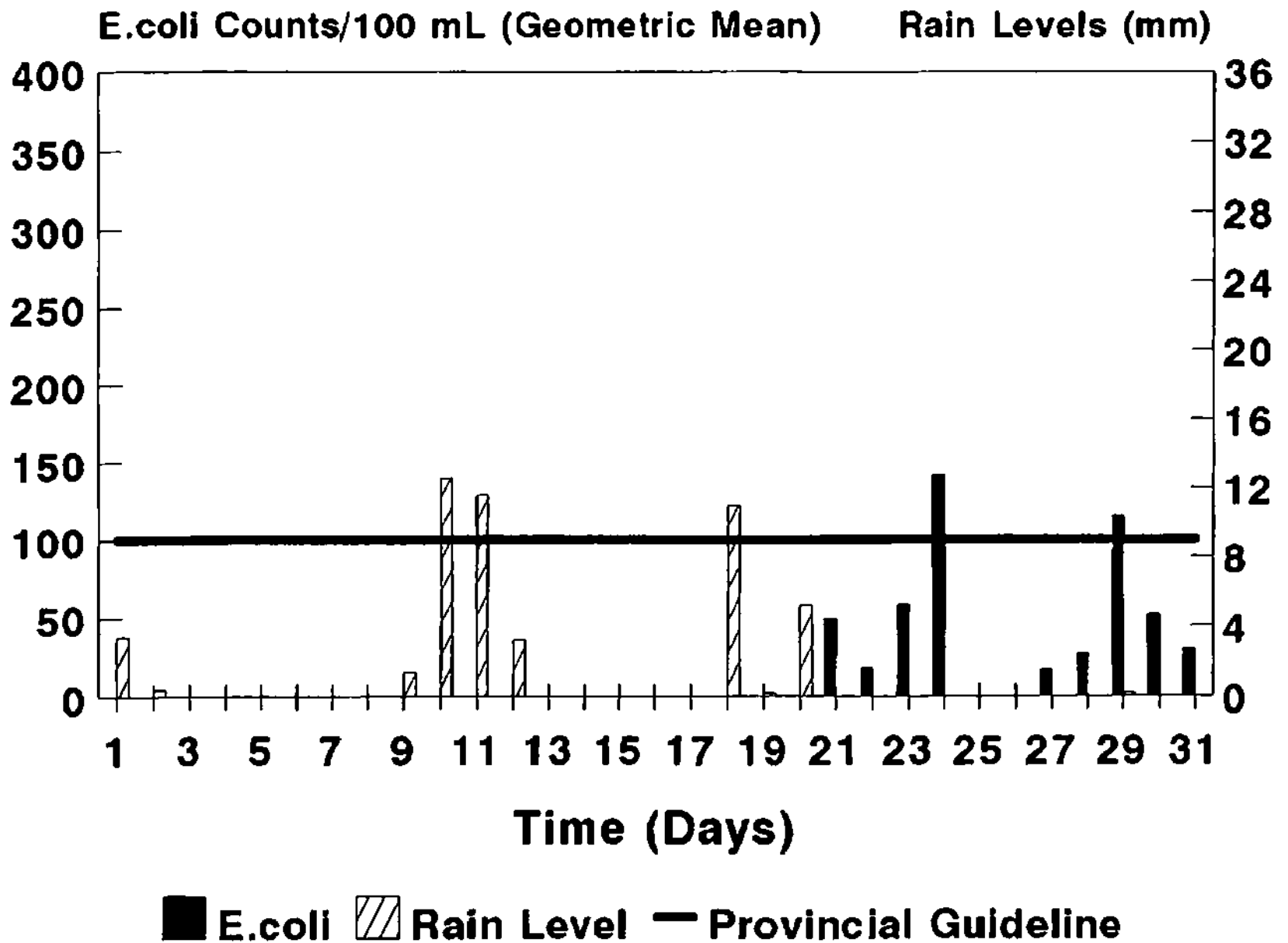
# Mooney's Bay - July 1996



# Mooney's Bay - August 1996

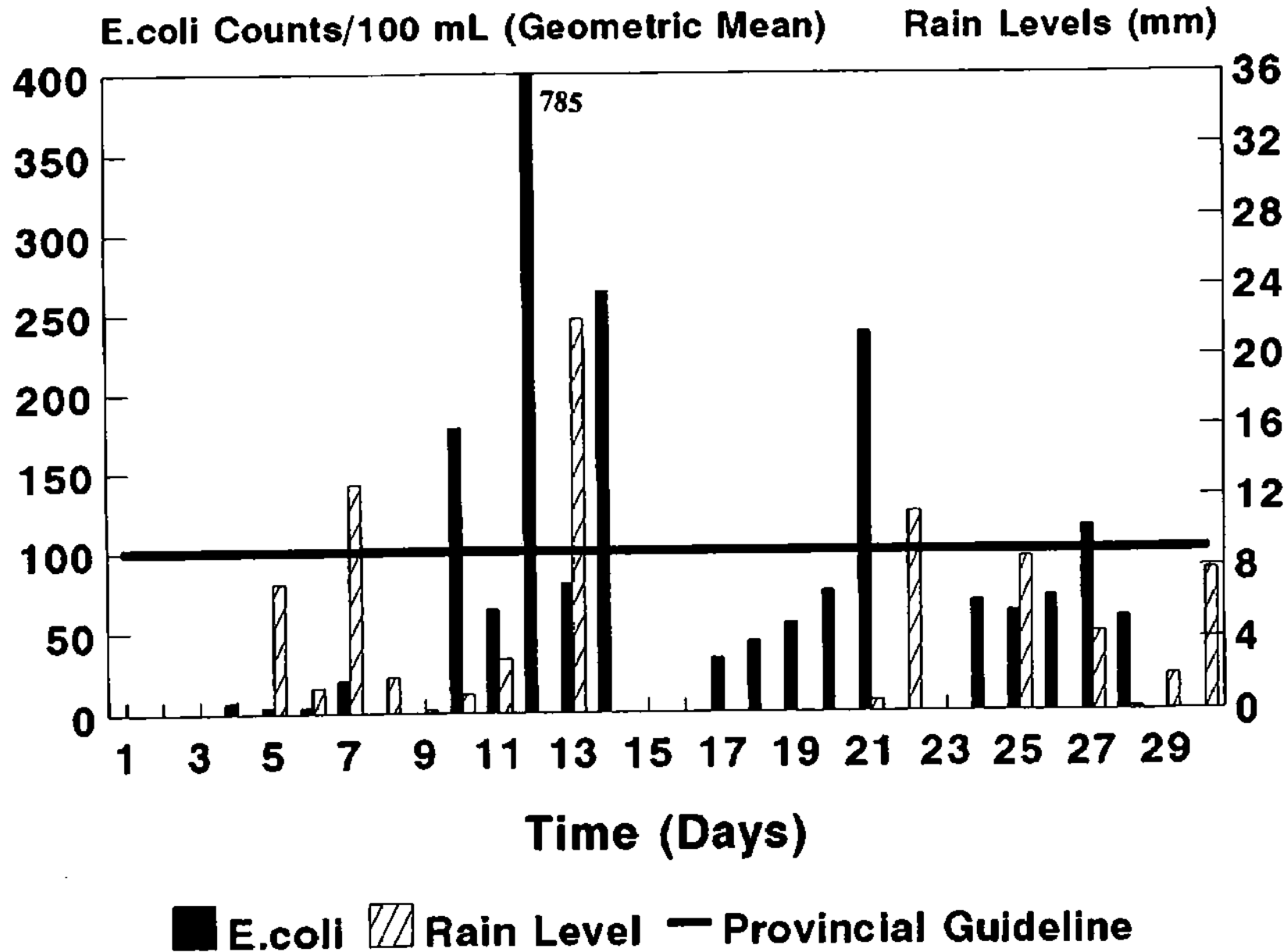


# Britannia - May 1996

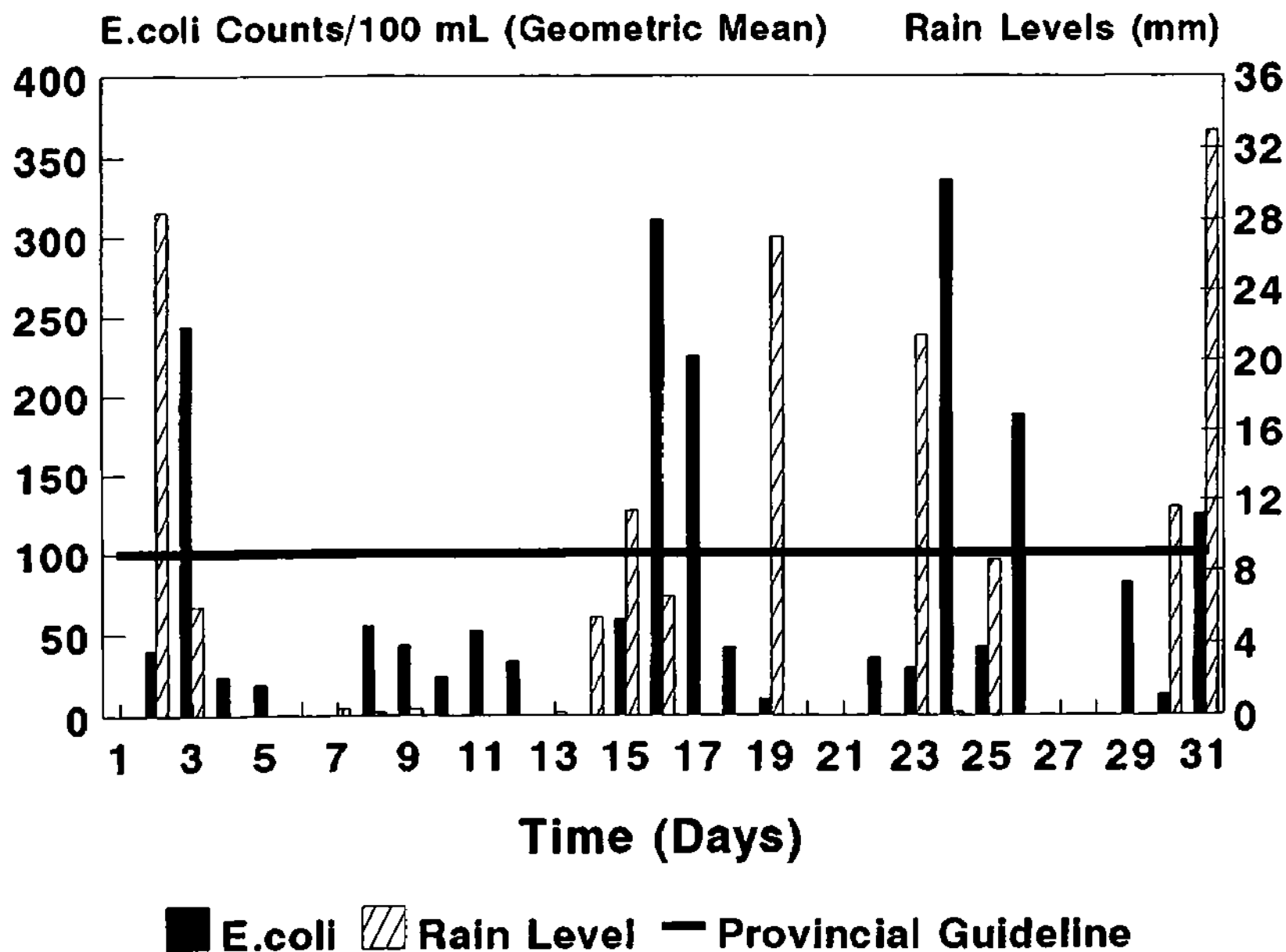




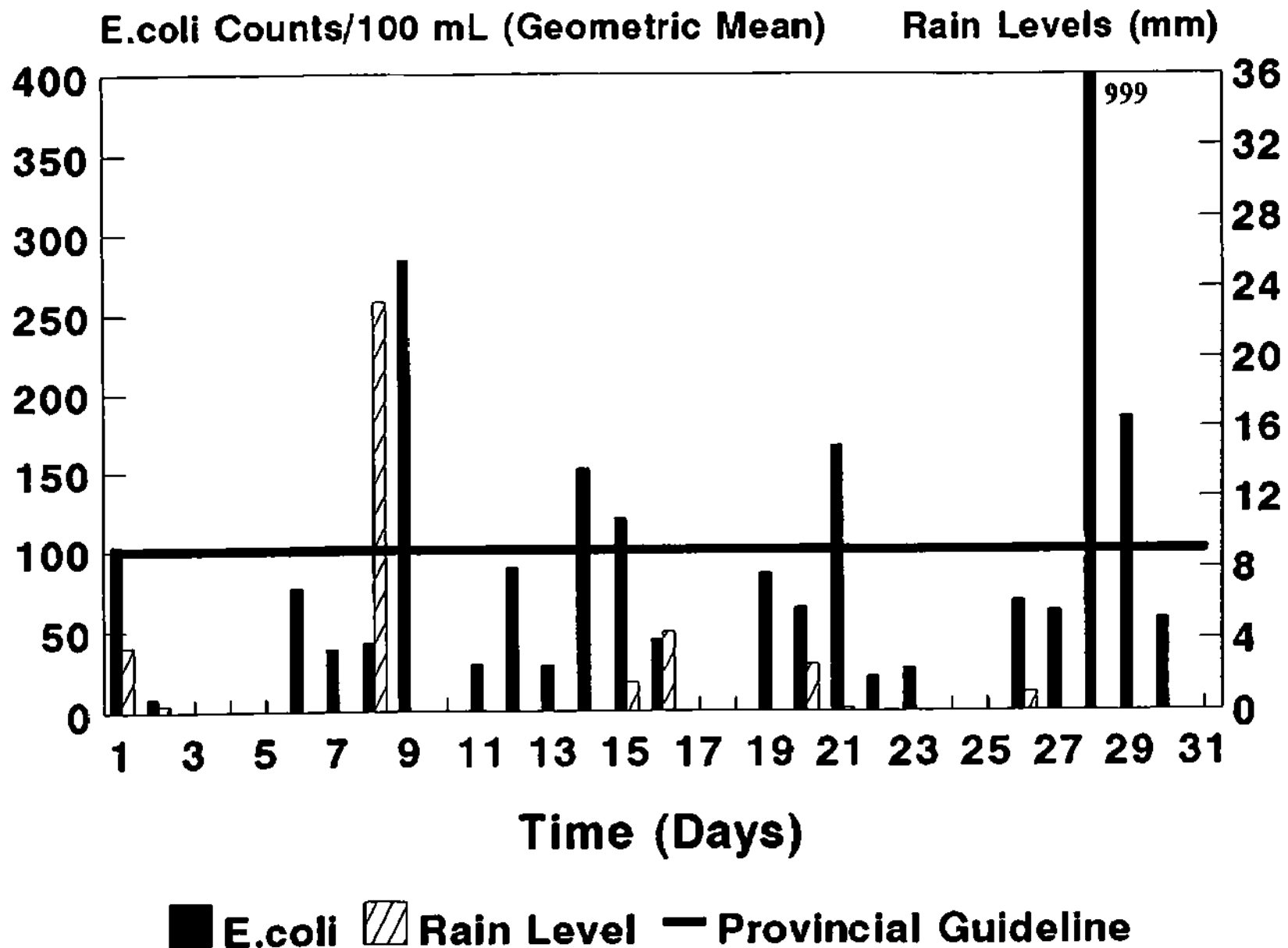
# Britannia - June 1996



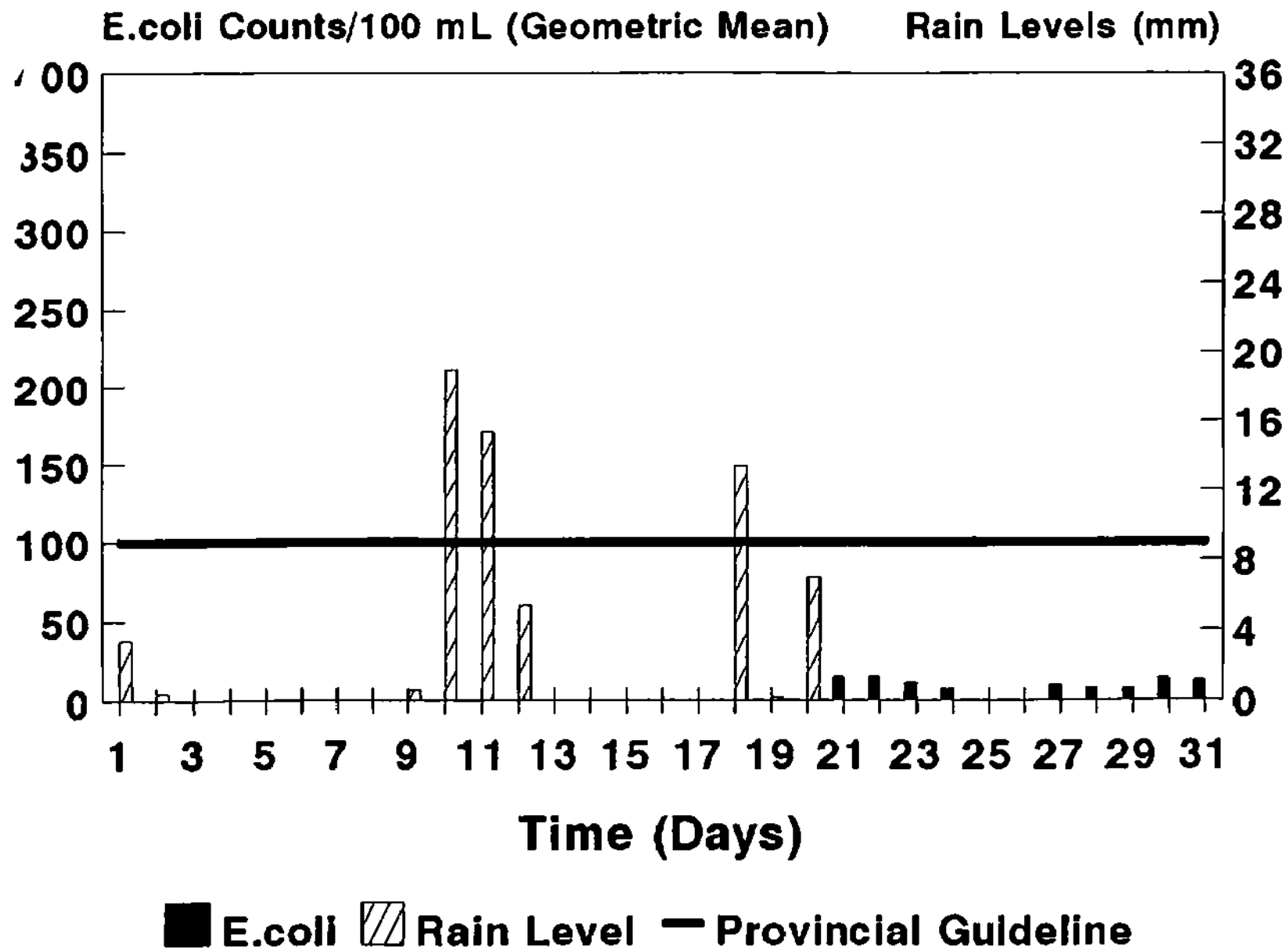
# Britannia - July 1996



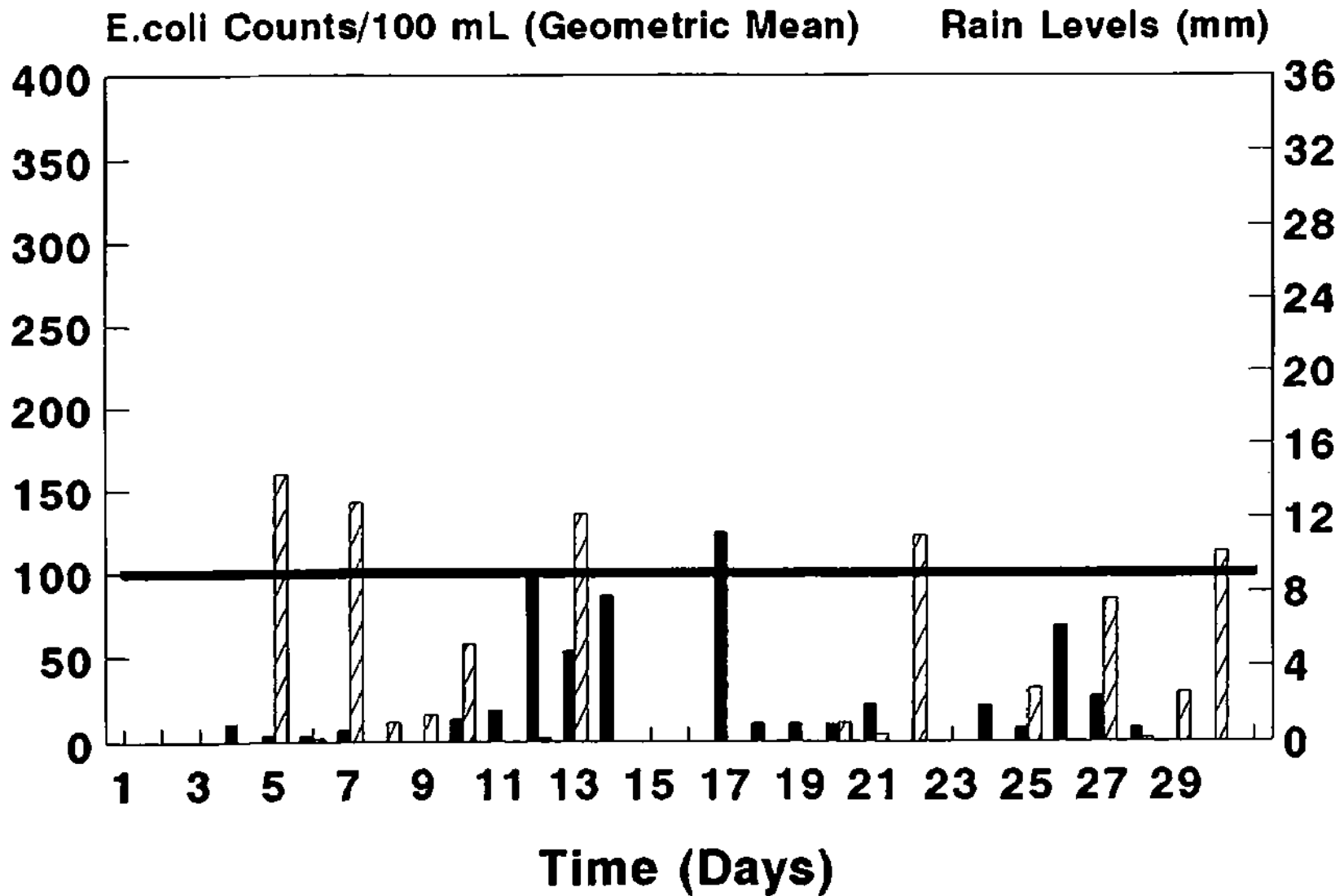
# Britannia - August 1996



# Westboro - May 1996

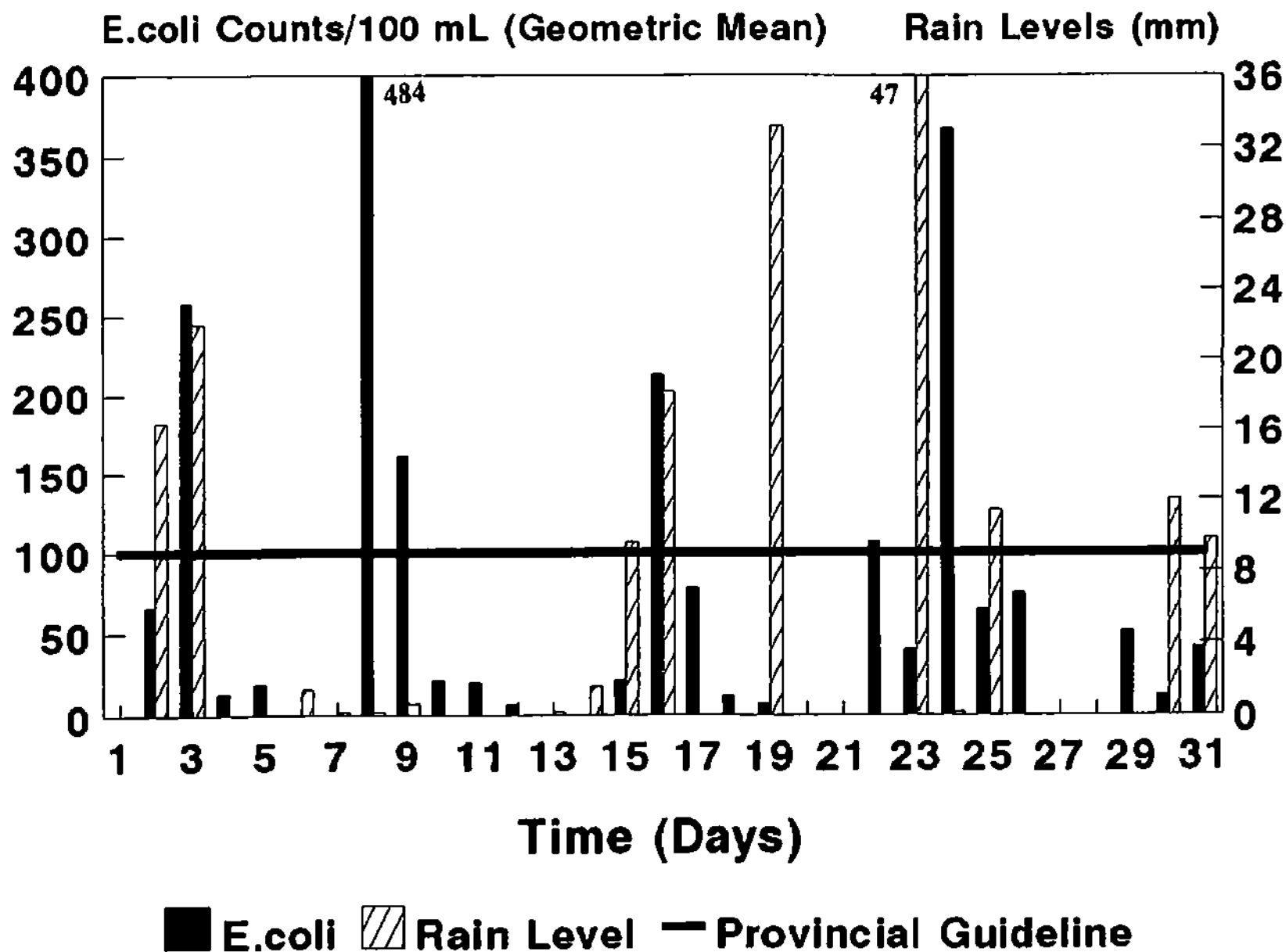


# Westboro - June 1996



■ E.coli    ▨ Rain Level    — Provincial Guideline

# Westboro - July 1996



# Westboro - August 1996

