

Trail Area Health & Environment Committee



SUMMARY

HYBRID Meeting: June 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Location: *City of Trail Committee Room #2 (Spokane St entrance) & City of Trail Committee Room, Spokane St Entrance and Zoom*

Committee members in attendance:

Colleen Jones, Chair, City of Trail
Thea Hanson, Alternate Chair, City of Trail
Jasen Nelson, BC Ministry of Environment
Clare North, Teck Trail Operations
Steve Hilts, Community Member (History)

Carolyn Amantea, Village of Warfield
Trevor Allegretto, USW Local 480 rep
Tara Bullanoff, Alternate, Interior Health
Dan Bouillon, Teck Trail Operations
Sara Ridge, Community Member (Families)

Others in attendance:

Cecilee Pitman, Interior Health
Meghan Morris, Interior Health
Christina Yamada, Interior Health
Nelson Ames, Community Member
Frances Boreland, Broken Hill, Australia
Razia Zariff – Port Pirie, Australia
Ed Coleman, Wells, B.C.
Michelle Laurie, THEC Lead Facilitator

Cindy Hall, AtkinsRealis
Morgan Sternberg, AtkinsRealis
Thompson Hickey, Teck Trail Operations
Dave Bell, Teck Trail Operations
Jayne Garry, Teck Trail Operations
Carol Lerosé, Community Member
Matt Joyce, KC Recycling

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

- Colleen Jones, THEC Chair and Mayor of Trail, welcomed everyone online and in-person followed by a traditional land acknowledgement.
- THEC Membership updates were provided including:
 - Community member Julia Stockhausen officially retired and Sara Ridge from Kootenay Family Place officially joined the committee to represent families.
 - Community member Annick de Goede, representing parents, resigned. She no longer lives in Trail. She expressed gratitude for her time on the Committee over the past two years. The Committee is actively searching for a parent representative from the community.
- New people around the table joining the meeting introduced themselves including Carol Lerosé (parent and former family of the Program); and Ed Coleman, the Mayor of Wells, who is interested in the approach THEP/THEC uses to collaborate on environmental health issues.

MEETING MINUTES

- Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved from THEC's April 24, 2024 meeting.

PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Lower Columbia Ecosystem Management Program (LCEMP) Overview

Presenter: Clare North, Teck Trail Operations

See attached presentation.

WARP Update and Timing

Presenter: Clare North, Teck Trail Operations

- Teck received preliminary comments on a proposed approach to the WARP from ENV and is in the process of reviewing these.
- Dr. Goodison is currently working on a recommendation related Pb to support a risk-based approach in the WARP.
- The draft WARP and the MHO recommendation will be the subject of public consultation. Public consultation will take place after the October Provincial elections; schedule is not confirmed however it is anticipated for late autumn.
- Outreach to Indigenous communities on the WARP has occurred and is on-going.

Program Reports & Updates

See reports attached for Air Quality, Health and Community Program Office.

Air Quality Working Group Update from Steve Hilts, Chair:

- The group met May 8th online.
- Linden Terry moved positions and is no longer on the AQWG; Adriana Almeida-Rodriguez (ENV) joined the AQWG.
- For the September THEC meeting which focuses on Air Quality, Donna Haga from ENV will support relevant information to present the CAAQS and Airshed Management reports.
- The Pb in air data comparison of Trail to other Canadian communities is still on the agenda. Donna Haga is leading this and finding it difficult to source the needed data.
- Input was provided by the group on the outdoor lead pathways visual (see attached at end of the package).
- The group continues to support the updating of communications materials related to lead with the intention to better explain lead in air borne dust (summer task).

Community & Round Table Check-In – All

The following comments were made:

- Thea Hanson shared that elected officials took part in a walking tour of THEP's work earlier in the day and that a short video sharing the work would be helpful.
 - Action to look if TLAP in Port Pirie has videos about their programs.
- Jasen Nelson supported the video concept and also felt a walking tour could be offered to the new Minister of Environment and new MLA after the elections in October.
- Suggestion to have a walking tour with media to help educate the media and provide good news stories. Potential activity for October. The Chamber was also noted as having potential synergies.
- Ed Coleman from Wells commented on the outstanding work of the Committee.
- A community member noted there is still a prevailing sentiment in the community that smelter emissions are harmful, noting a recent example where damage to sunglasses was attributed to acid rain related to smelter emissions. Michelle indicated there are lots of great resources about air quality at THEP.ca including fact sheets, FAQs and links to real time SO₂ measurements.
 - Suggestion that AQWG consider adding an FAQ related to acid rain.

Program Planning Update - Michelle Laurie, THEC Lead Facilitator

The following updates were shared:

- Michelle followed up on the April action item to write a letter re sweeping highways and dust to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. It's in the package. No response was received.
- Engagement/Learning:
 - There was an introductory online meeting with South Australia Health, Umicore in Hoboken, Belgium and Clare and Michelle from THEP in Trail on learning about each other's work and communities. Another meeting is scheduled for August specific to Fugitive Dust Program sharing.
- Communications:
 - Michelle met with the Communities in Bloom (CiB) leader Dan Rodlie. THEP has had a relationship with CiB since the early 1990's. This continues the efforts to connect with groups in the community and mutually support each other where relevant. THEP will provide updated information for their application and tour July 25.

Partner Meeting Report – Colleen Jones, Chair

- There was no partner meeting.
- The Knowledge Sharing and Learning Group for Trail met on June 11 virtually; Clare North and Dr Goodison shared the updated information and schedule for public consultation on the WARP and MHO recommendation similar to what was shared at the April 24 THEC meeting.
- As well, THEP submitted a proposal for a UBCM community excellence award in sustainability focused on THEP's strategic plan. THEP also submitted a proposal for a morning clinic which would be a 45 minute panel with all partners on the subject of working together to address complex environmental and health challenges.

Mayor Jones closed the meeting wishing everyone a great summer break.

2024 THEC MEETING DATES

- Sept 12
- Nov 28
- THEC meetings are held from 7:00-9:00pm.

Trail Area Health & Environment Committee



AGENDA

HYBRID Meeting: June 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m. (please join *THEP* networking 6:15)

Location: City of Trail Committee Room #2 (Spokane St entrance) & City of Trail Committee Room, Spokane St Entrance or online <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83157187159>

Committee Members:

Colleen Jones, Chair, City of Trail
Thea Hanson, Alternate Chair, City of Trail
Dr. Karin Goodison, Interior Health MHO
Jane Power, Interior Health
Trevor Allegretto, USW Local 480 Rep
Ron Joseph, Community Member (Resident)
Dan Bouillon, Teck Trail Operations
Clare North, Teck Trail Operations
Annick de Goede, Community Member (Parent)

Linda Worley, RDKB Area B
Carolyn Amantea, Village of Warfield
Ali Grieve, RDKB Area A
Adriana Almeida-Rodriguez, BC Ministry of Env
Jasen Nelson, BC Ministry of Environment
Erika Krest, Community Member (Chamber)
Steve Hilts, Community Member (History)
Sara Ridge, Community Member (Families)
Ashley Melenchuk, Community (Parent)

The Trail Area Health & Environment Committee (THEC) meets five times per year online or in-person. Members, designates and community members are welcome.

THEP NETWORKING (6:15-7:00pm)

- For those in Trail, please come early to meet THEP's program team, ask questions about work in the community, and network. Everyone is welcome.
- Non-alcoholic beverages and light snacks will be served.

WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

- Opening remarks from Colleen Jones, THEC Chair.

MEETING MINUTES

- Review and approve minutes from THEC meeting, April 24, 2024 (as attached).

PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Lower Columbia Ecosystem Management Plan (LCEMP) Overview (30 mins)

Presenter: Clare North, Teck Trail Operations

The purpose of LCEMP is to address ecological impacts associated with historical aerial emissions from Teck Trail Operations.

- Presentation followed by Q&A

Wide Area Remediation Plan (WARP) Update and Timing (10 mins)

Presenter: Clare North, Teck Trail Operations

- Update followed by Q&A

Program Reports & Updates

Air, Health, and Community Program Office reports are provided in the agenda package for your review prior to the meeting. Please bring your questions and comments for discussion.

Q&A and Comments on Reports All (15 mins)

- Q&A on all reports (Air, Health, Community Program Office)
 - Highlights and open questions (**All**)
 - Air Quality Working Group Update (**Steve Hilts, Chair**)

Community & Round Table Check-In - All (15 mins)

- Round table contributions & questions

Program Planning Update - Michelle Laurie, THEC Lead Facilitator (10 min)

- Letter to BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure attached.
- Graphic illustrating outdoor and indoor lead exposure pathways attached.

Partner Meeting Report – Colleen Jones, Chair

2024 THEC MEETING DATES

- Sept 12
- Nov 28
- THEC meetings are held from 7:00-9:00pm.

Lower Columbia Ecosystem Management Program Overview

June 17, 2024

Clare North

Superintendent, Environmental Remediation and
Biodiversity

The Teck logo is displayed in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. It is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the slide, set against a white background.

Background



1896

Smelter operations begin at Trail

1920s

Emissions control begins

1940s

Revegetation activities begin

1977

Trail Operations Modernization Program begins

1990

Trail Lead Program begins

1997

Contaminated Sites Regulation comes into force
KIVCET (new smelter) in operation

2000

ERA begins

2010

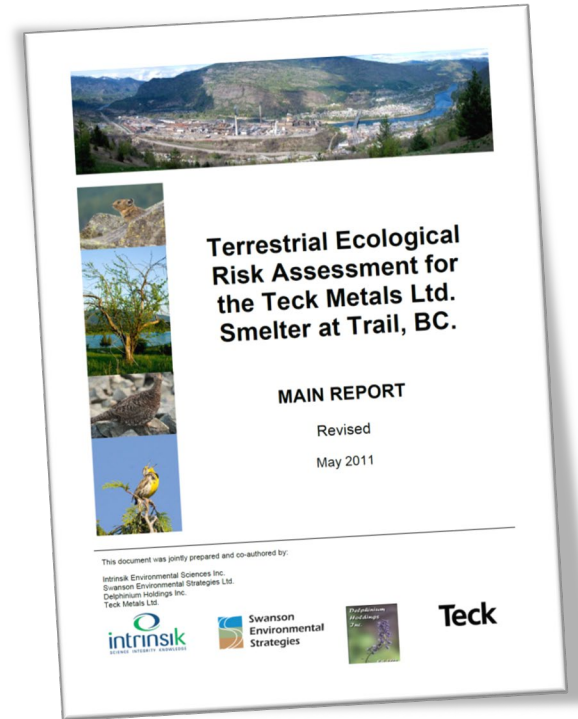
Draft WARP

2024

LCEMP begins

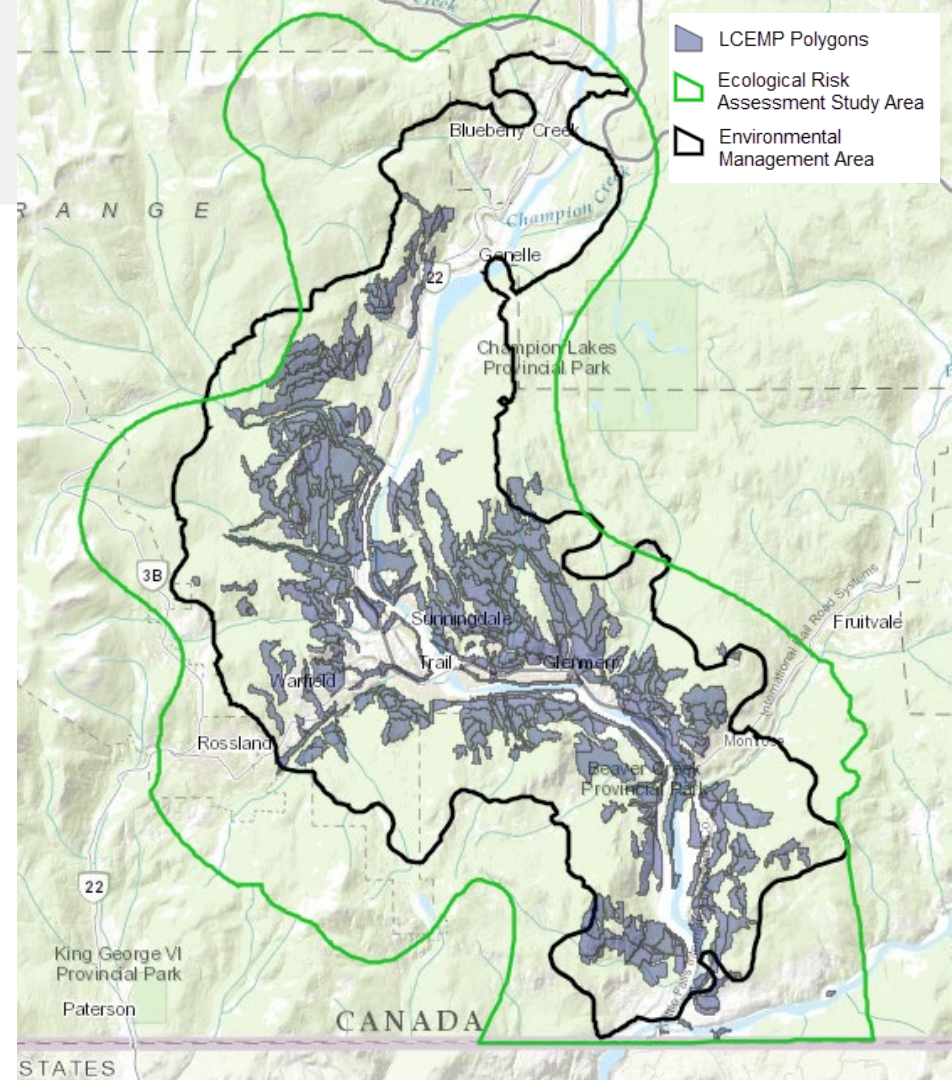
Background: Ecological Risk Assessments

- Aquatic and terrestrial Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) were carried out 2000 – 2011.
 - Wetlands were assessed 2004 – 2018.
- ERAs characterized risks from smelter emissions to aquatic and terrestrial ecological resources.
- Most direct toxicity risks were ruled out.
- **Impacts to plant communities were identified in certain areas, due to metals in soil and/or previous exposure to SO₂.**
 - **These plant community impacts are the subject of LCEMP.**



LCEMP Scope

- The terrestrial ERA concluded that polygons highlighted in this figure contained plant communities impacted due to soil metals, previous exposure to SO₂, or both
 - Total area of impacted plant communities ~5200 ha
 - These areas are the focus of LCEMP



Lower Columbia Ecosystem Management Program

Overview

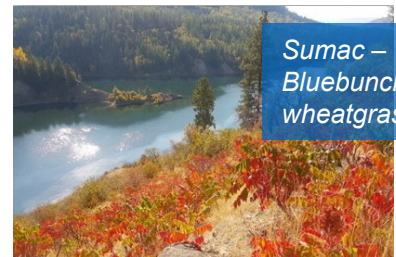
- Teck is working to **restore plant communities** that have been impacted by historical smelter emissions;
- Local parties involved with land management and stewardship have broad knowledge that can **inform restoration approaches and priorities**;
- Lower Columbia Ecosystem Management Program (LCEMP) is a way to **incorporate this knowledge into restoration planning**;
- LCEMP may **identify and encourage synergies between participants to address common goals** and facilitate ecosystem restoration, enhancement and preservation activities.
- Steering committee formed in 2010; sampling, pilot treatments and monitoring underway since 2016



Mature black cottonwood



Common clarkia



*Sumac –
Bluebunch
wheatgrass (Gb05)*

LCEMP Restoration Approach

- Restoration where feasible
- Methods being tested through trails
- Restoration targets are based on pre-disturbance/pre-impact ecosystems, and consider natural ecological succession



- Biodiversity offsets will be developed for areas where restoration is infeasible or where restoration target is not achieved

LCEMP Relationship to other Programs

Wide Area Remediation Plan



Human health risk management

LCEMP



Offsite Impacted Plant Communities
Elevated Soil Metal Concentrations



Offsite Impacted Plant Communities
Low Soil Metal Concentrations

Biodiversity Management Plan



Trail Operations footprint & associated infrastructure

Program Reports to follow:

- Air Quality
- Health
- Community Program Office
- Program Planning & Communications



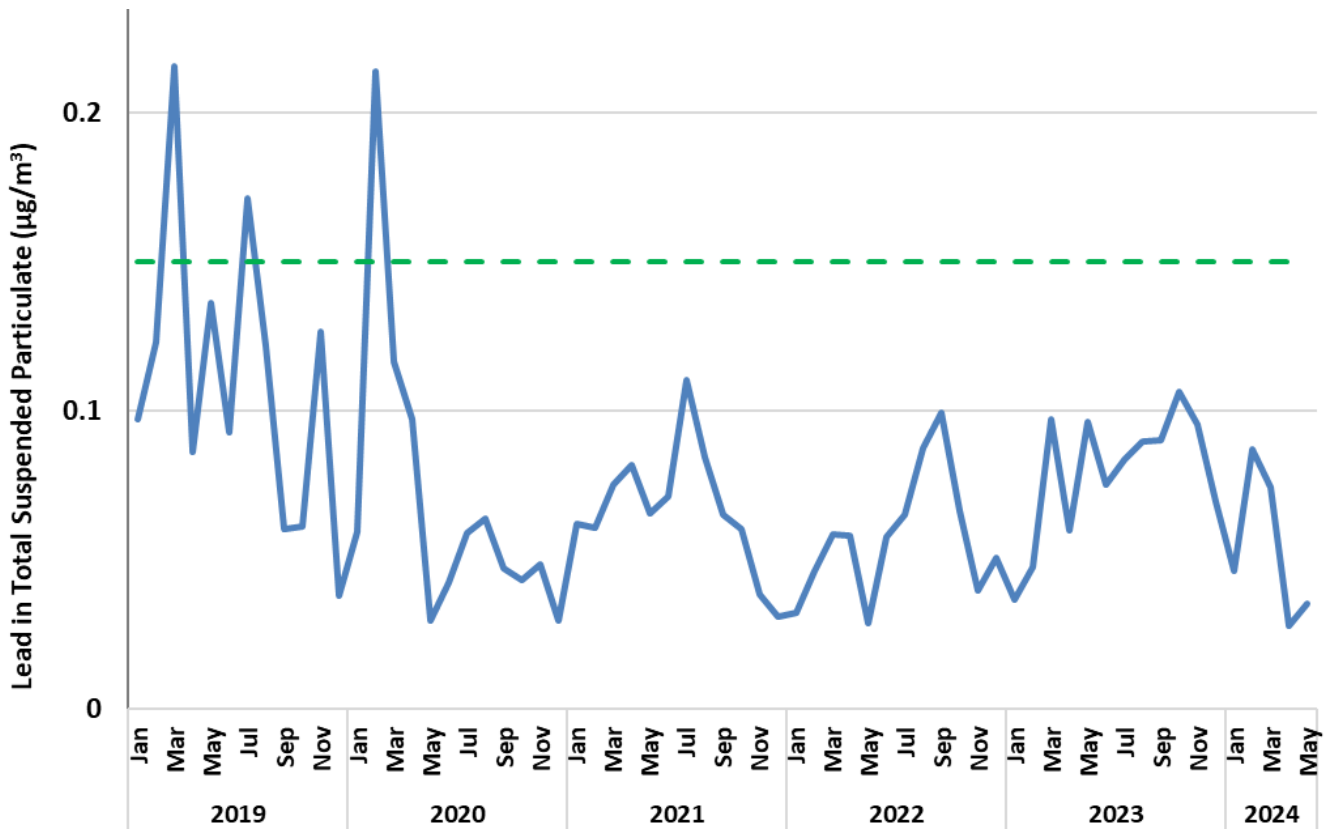
Air Quality Report – June 2024

The THEC Air Quality Report provides an update on levels Pb and SO₂ in community air based on THEP’s current priorities related to ambient air.

1. Lead in Air:

Figure 1 presents the 3-month rolling average for lead in air measured at the Butler Park station compared to the US EPA standard of 0.15 µg/m³. Federal and BC Provincial governments do not have ambient air quality objectives or standards for lead; however, it is reasonable to rely on standards from other jurisdictions when this is the case.

Lead in air levels measured at Butler Park and Birchbank meet the US EPA standard of 0.15 µg/m³ on a 3-month average. The intra-annual variability in the data reflects the influence of weather including dominant wind direction and precipitation. Read THEP’s Lead (Pb) [Fact Sheet](#) to learn more.



— Butler Park Pb in TSP 3-month rolling average — US EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standard

Figure 1: 3-month rolling average lead in air at Butler Park station (as total suspended particulate measured bi-daily)

The chart in Figure 1 shows the 3-month rolling average for lead in air for Butler Park (blue line), in comparison to the US EPA standard (green dashed line).

Questions or concerns about Air Quality?

Call Teck’s Community and Environment Feedback line at (250) 364-4817

2. Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂):

SO₂ is emitted by Teck Trail Operations as a by-product of processing mine concentrates, which contain sulphur, into metal and chemical products. Teck Trail Operations currently captures more than 99% of the sulphur and converts it to by-products, such as fertilizer and sulphuric acid. About 1% leaves the operation through emissions to air. With environmental improvements, SO₂ emissions continue to decline. However, the dispersion of air emissions from the smelter is constrained due to the location of the smelter, weather and the surrounding topography.

SO₂ is monitored by Teck at four locations throughout Trail and the surrounding areas – Birchbank, Butler Park, Columbia Gardens and Warfield. These stations operate continuously, with near real-time data publicly available at <https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/readings/find-stations-map-SO2.html> SO₂ levels fluctuate throughout the day, month and year.

THEP's SO₂ [Fact Sheet](#) provides guidance for actions to take when SO₂ levels are elevated. The chart below provides SO₂ hourly data from Butler Park and Birchbank stations for 2013 – 2023, categorized by the health guidance levels. As Teck Trail Operations continues to implement emissions reductions measures, the percentage of hours within the yellow (35-185 ppb) and red (>185 ppb) categories is decreasing.

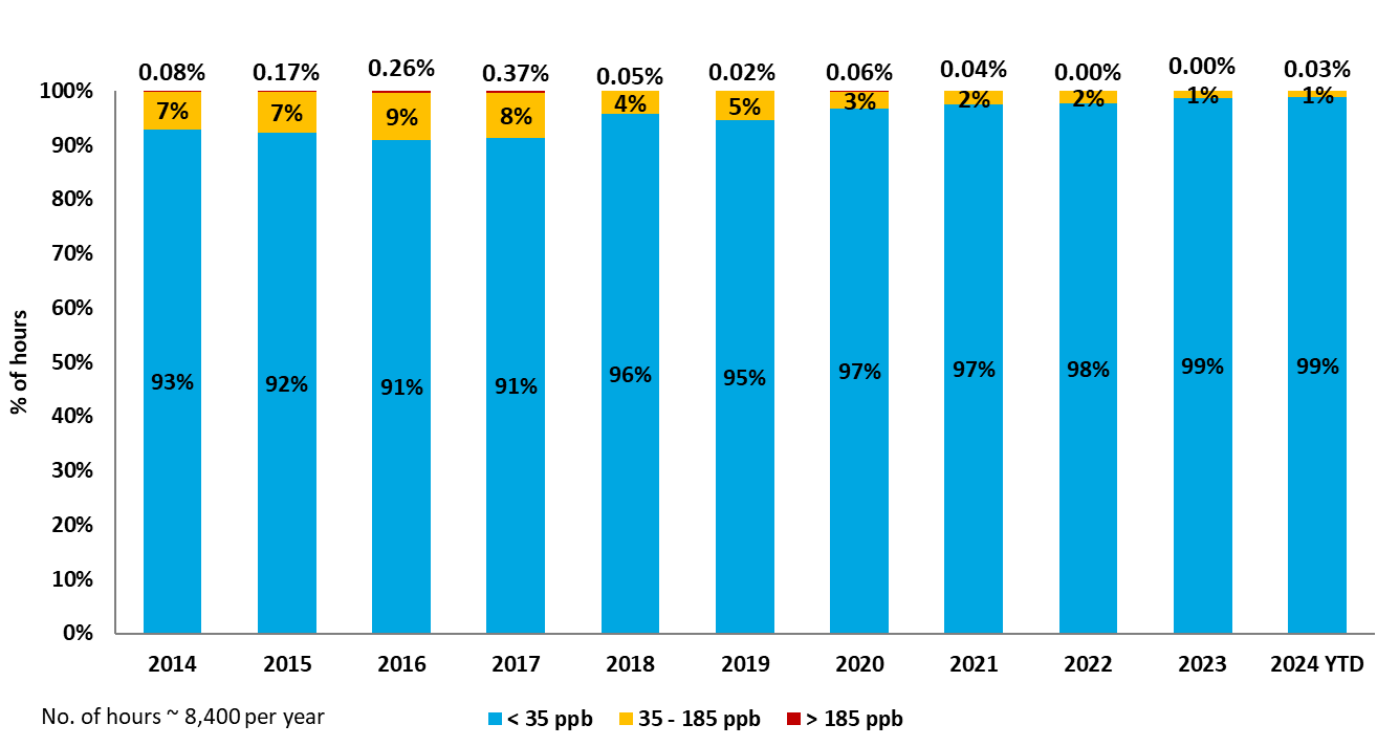
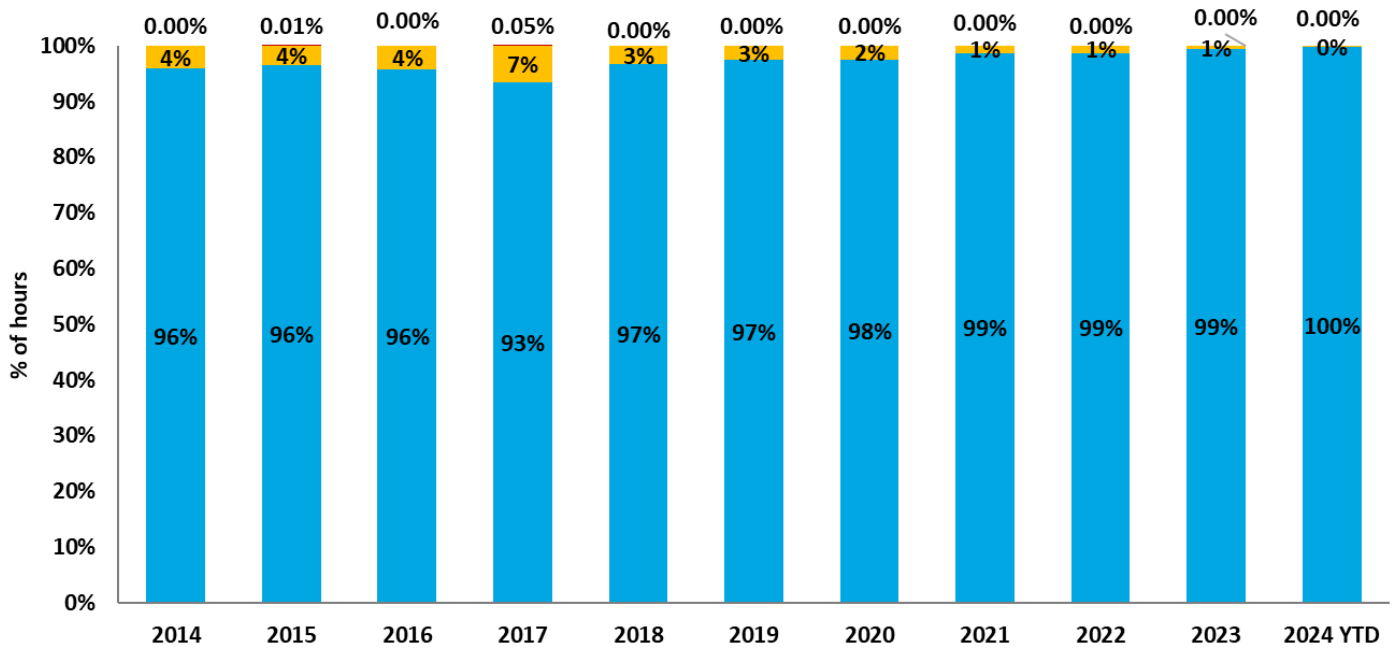


Figure 2: Distribution of Hourly SO₂ Levels at Butler Park

Questions or concerns about Air Quality?

Call Teck's Community and Environment Feedback line at (250) 364-4817



No. of hours ~ 8,400 per year

■ < 35 pbb ■ 35 - 185 ppb ■ > 185 ppb

Figure 3: Distribution of Hourly SO₂ Levels at Birchbank

Questions or concerns about Air Quality?

Call Teck's Community and Environment Feedback line at (250) 364-4817

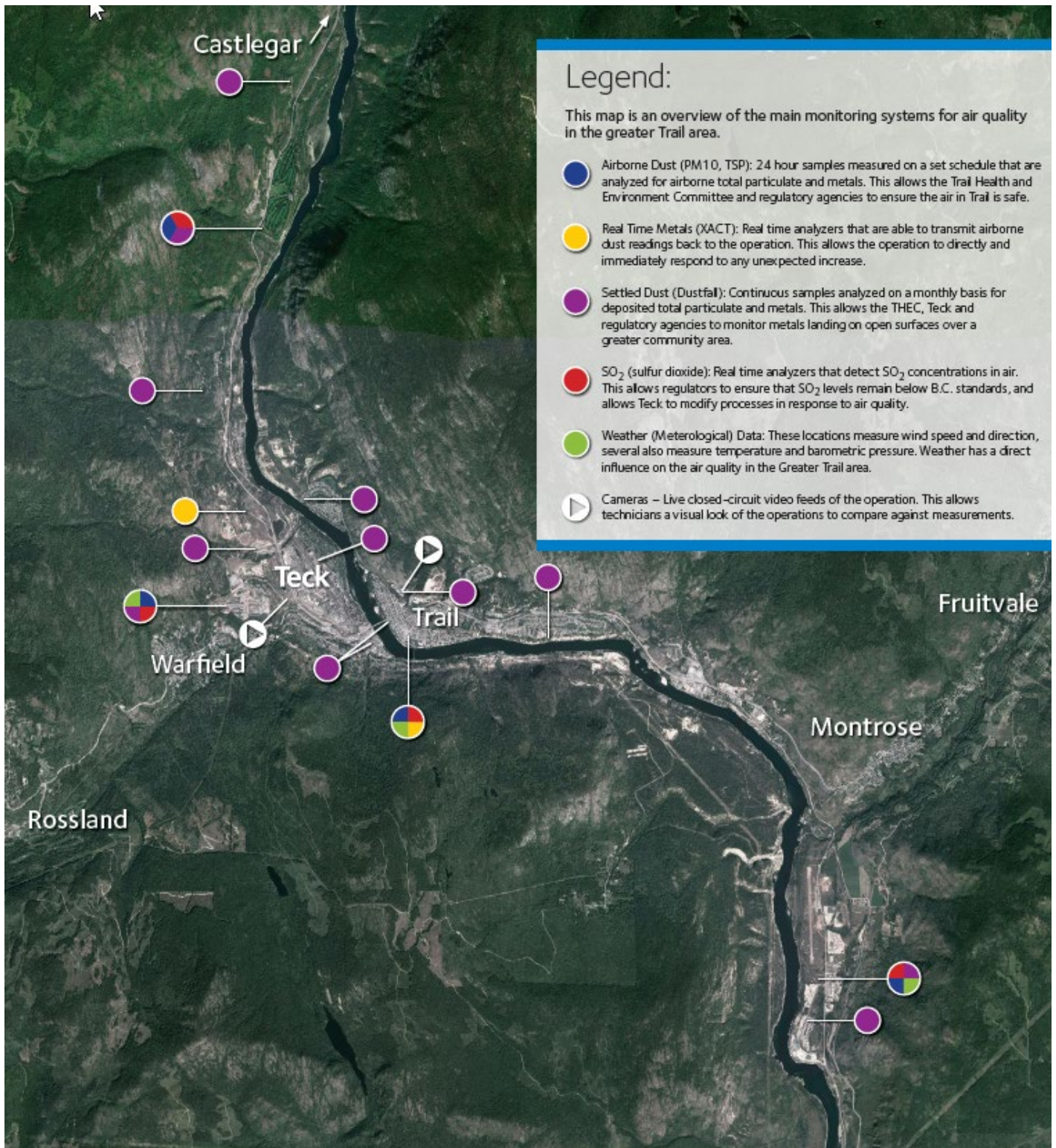


Figure 4: Teck Community Air Monitoring Stations

Questions or concerns about Air Quality?
 Call Teck's Community and Environment Feedback line at (250) 364-4817



FAMILY HEALTH REPORT

June 19, 2024

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Healthy Family Visits
2. Community Outreach
3. Blood Lead Clinic Update

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

1. Healthy Family Visits
 - 27 Healthy Family Visits completed to date in 2024.
 - 2 Healthy Family visits declined in 2024.
Both families had visits with older children.
2. Community Outreach
 - Meghan attending Building Beautiful Babies monthly.
 - Cecilee attending Muffins and Munchkins monthly.
 - Meghan attended Community Connections Fair at Waneta Plaza on April 26th with Morgan from CPO.
 - Meghan, Cecilee and Dr. Goodison attended Homelessness Summit Meeting on April 29th and 30th.
 - HFHH team hosted a THEP education event on May 7th with Community Services providers to educate about THEP and build connections with other service providers.
 - HFHH team presented to PHN's across the KB region to educate about THEP and May 8th.
 - Meghan attended the Early Years Table meeting on May 27th.
 - Meghan and Cecilee attended annual Teddy Bear Picnic at Gyro Park with HFHH team.
3. Blood Lead Clinic
 - Planning is underway for Fall 2024 Blood Lead Clinics at Kiro.
 - Sept 9, 10, 17, 18, 23 and 25th. Two dates will be evening clinics.



COMMUNITY PROGRAM OFFICE REPORT

June 19, 2024

The Community Program Office's (CPO) seasonal work is in full swing. You may have noticed CPO staff out evaluating ground cover on yards, sampling yard soil, testing paint, and over-seeing soil replacement work. Our Healthy Homes team has also been busy supporting families with young children. Through one-on-one visits and at community engagement events, families are shared messaging and provided with material supports to help reduce potential lead (Pb) exposure. We're looking forward to a full and productive summer.

As described in THEP's Strategic Directions Plan, the CPO tests paint at properties to identify lead exposure risks and support families in understanding where to focus management efforts. In keeping with THEP's intent to report data using the most stringent regulations available, we are changing the reference point from the US Environmental Protection Agency lead paint standard to Canada's Surface Coating Materials regulation¹ for paint containing lead. This means that THEP will identify lower levels of lead in paint as 'paint containing lead'. This change will support THEP's work to educate families on potential sources of lead in the home, and to help reduce exposure for children and pregnant women.

1 Soil Management Program:

- › Yard Improvement:
 - Ground Cover Improvements: 10 properties for DIY deliveries of ground cover materials planned; 2 properties completed.
 - Lawn Care: 6 Healthy Home properties and 51 post-soil management (pilot) properties initiated.
 - First round of fertilizer has occurred. The second round will be completed by June 30.
- › Soil Assessment:
 - Soil testing: 29 properties (and exterior paint screenings) have been completed; 65 properties remain on the list.
 - Ground Cover Evaluations: 57 properties completed; 1 property remains and will be completed by June 30.
- › Soil Replacement:
 - Full soil replacement has been completed at 24 properties so far. Partial soil replacement at 2 properties.
 - 2 vegetable garden replacements have been completed.
 - Year 2 of the Pilot Block Initiative is well underway.
 - Four full blocks and one part block will receive soil management work in 2024.
 - The first block (1800 block of Fourth and Fifth Ave) is complete.

¹ Surface Coating Materials Regulation, SOR/2016-193, Canada Consumer Product Safety Act. 2022-12-19.

- Contractors have started on the second block (1500 block of Columbia and Second Ave).
 - The third and part blocks will be started in late June.
 - Offer letters for the fourth block have been sent out.
- › Standardized Paint Testing:
- 11 exterior paint testing² has been completed this year at properties that received full soil management or yard assessments.
 - 16 exterior paint testing has been performed at properties with children less than 3 that receive annual ground cover evaluations.

2 Healthy Homes:

- › Healthy Homes:
- 32 home visits completed so far in 2024.
 - 7 Healthy Homes families were offered interior paint testing at their properties of which 3 were completed and 4 declined or canceled.
- › Enhanced Support:
- 2 Residential Lead Inspections completed for Enhanced Support families so far in 2024.
 - 3 daycares offered Lead Inspections.
 - 1 was completed in May, and the other 2 centers have not responded.

3 Lead (Pb) Safe Renovation:

- › 27 residents have accessed free supplies so far this year.

4 Outreach and Engagement:

- › Soils team hosted a soil testing workshop with the Selkirk College's SOAR (Steps to Opportunities Academics and Readiness) program on April 24.
- › Participated in the Community Connect Fair on April 26.
- › HFHH team hosted an Engagement Event with local early years partners to share THEP messaging as well as promote community collaboration on May 7.
- › Participated in the Kootenay Boundary Public Health Nurse education day May 8.
- › Participated in the Business After Business event on May 23.
- › Participated in the Teddy Bear Picnic on June 12.
- › Our staff continue to attend the Navigator meetings, Greater Trail Early Years Childhood Coalition meetings and involved on the Family Action Network board.

² Paint testing is a term used in lieu of paint screening for public communications purposes. Paint testing requires sending paint chips to a laboratory and results are more precise. For the purpose of THEP, paint testing means THEP screened viable paint in a home using XRF technology on-site. The XRF provides an immediate reading for lead levels in a painted surface.

highway sweeping and dust in Trail Area

Michelle Laurie <michelle@thep.ca>

Thu, May 30, 2024 at 10:35 AM

To: Greg.Kinnear@gov.bc.ca, Dennis.Kurylowich@gov.bc.ca

Cc: Colleen Jones <cjones@trail.ca>, Sandy Lucchini <SLucchini@trail.ca>

Dear Mr. Kinnear and Mr. Kurylowich of BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure,

We, the [partners](#) of the Trail Area Health & Environment Program (THEP) and the Trail Area Health & Environment Committee ([THEC](#)), are concerned about a lack of dust control measures implemented during sweeping on Highways 3B / 22 in the Trail / Warfield region.

Due to the presence of a lead and zinc smelting and refining complex in Trail, there may be higher concentrations of lead (Pb) and other metals in road dust in the Trail area. THEP promotes the importance of keeping dust down to reduce children's potential exposure to Pb. Furthermore, airborne dust is not healthy to inhale, and should always be minimized regardless of metals content.

To minimize dust generation when sweeping highways, best practice is to wet dust on roads/highways prior to sweeping.

In spring 2024, THEP received several phone calls and emails from residents describing a lack of wetting highways and large amounts of visible dust during sweeping by YRB, including on the highways adjacent to the elementary school in Warfield and adjacent to downtown Trail. THEP has communicated directly with YRB on three separate occasions asking for diligence in wetting before sweeping dust off highways.

THEP would appreciate your support to remind Highway contractors that health and safety is paramount including keeping dust down in the community despite competing demands and deadlines.

THEP is an integrated program in the Trail area that supports the communities to live, work and play in an area influenced by smelter air emissions. The program has been in existence for more than thirty years. You can learn more at [thep.ca](#).

Thank you for confirming receipt and follow up.

Kind Regards,

Michelle Laurie,
Lead Facilitator, Trail Area Health & Environment Program / Committee

Mayor Colleen Jones,
Chair of the Trail Area Health & Environment Committee

—
*Michelle Laurie, Lead Facilitator
Trail Area Health & Environment Program/Committee
Email: michelle@thep.ca*

Lead can come from many sources.

