

Air Quality Report – September 2026

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

1. Lead in Air:

The chart in Figure 1 shows the 3-month rolling average for lead in airborne dust at Butler Park (blue line) and Birchbank (green line), in comparison to the US EPA standard (green dashed line). 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 airborne dust levels measured at Butler Park and Birchbank meet the US EPA standard of 0.15 µg/m³ on a 3-month average. The variability in the data reflects the influence of emissions and weather including dominant wind direction and precipitation. Read THEP's Lead (Pb) [Fact Sheet](#) to learn more.

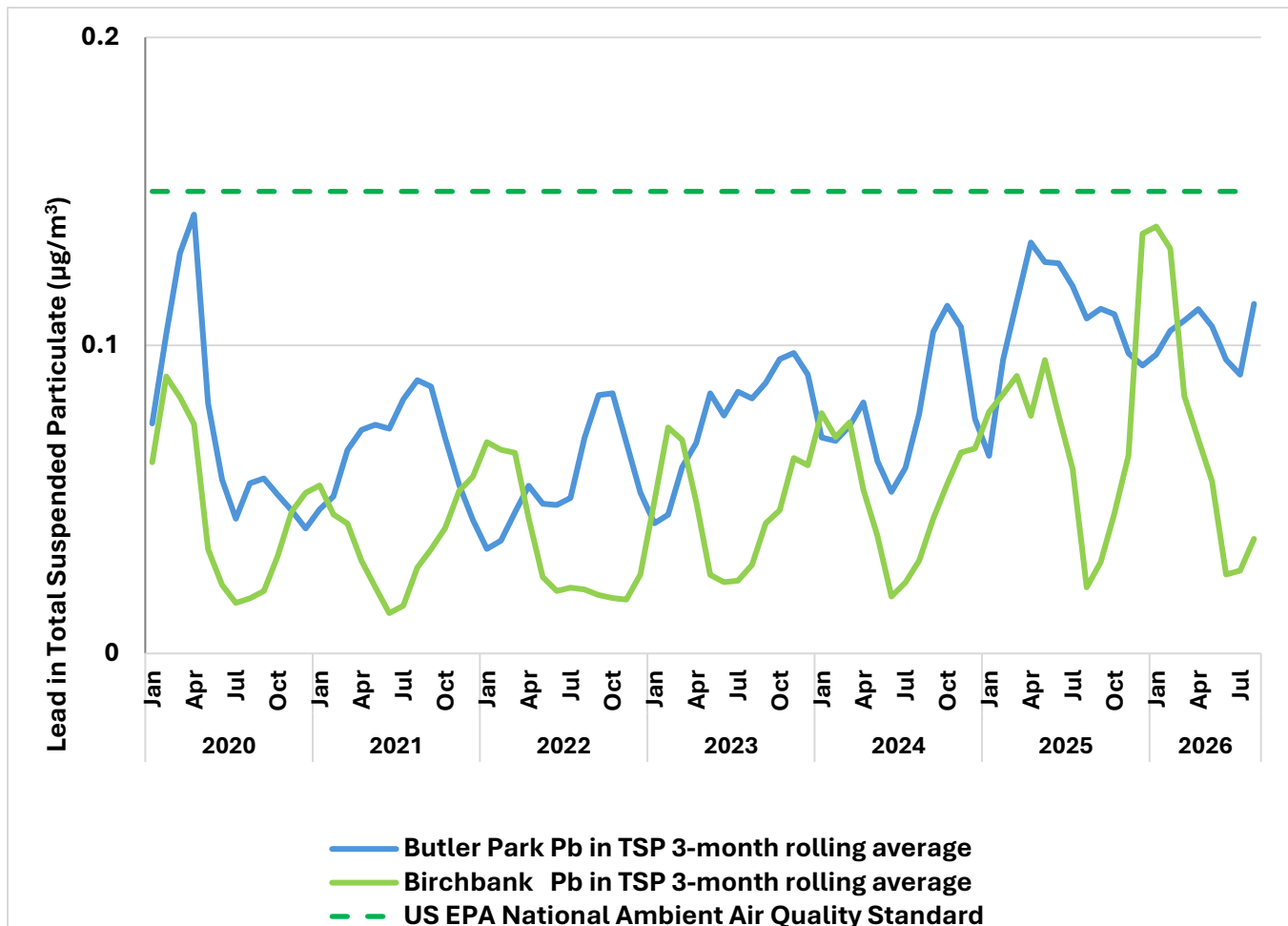


Figure 1: 3-month rolling average lead in total suspended particulate at Butler Park and Birchbank stations (measured bi-daily)

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 in the Trail area – Birchbank, Butler Park, Columbia Gardens and Haley Park. The Haley Park monitoring station replaced the nearby Warfield monitoring station in 2023. 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 charts below provide SO₂ hourly data from Butler Park, Birchbank and Warfield/Haley Park stations for 2016 – 2026 year-to-date, 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. Early in a given year, the year-to-date values presented in the charts below may be variable compared to the previous years with whole year data due to the influence of weather conditions in winter months. Values would be expected to become more similar to previous years over the course of the year.

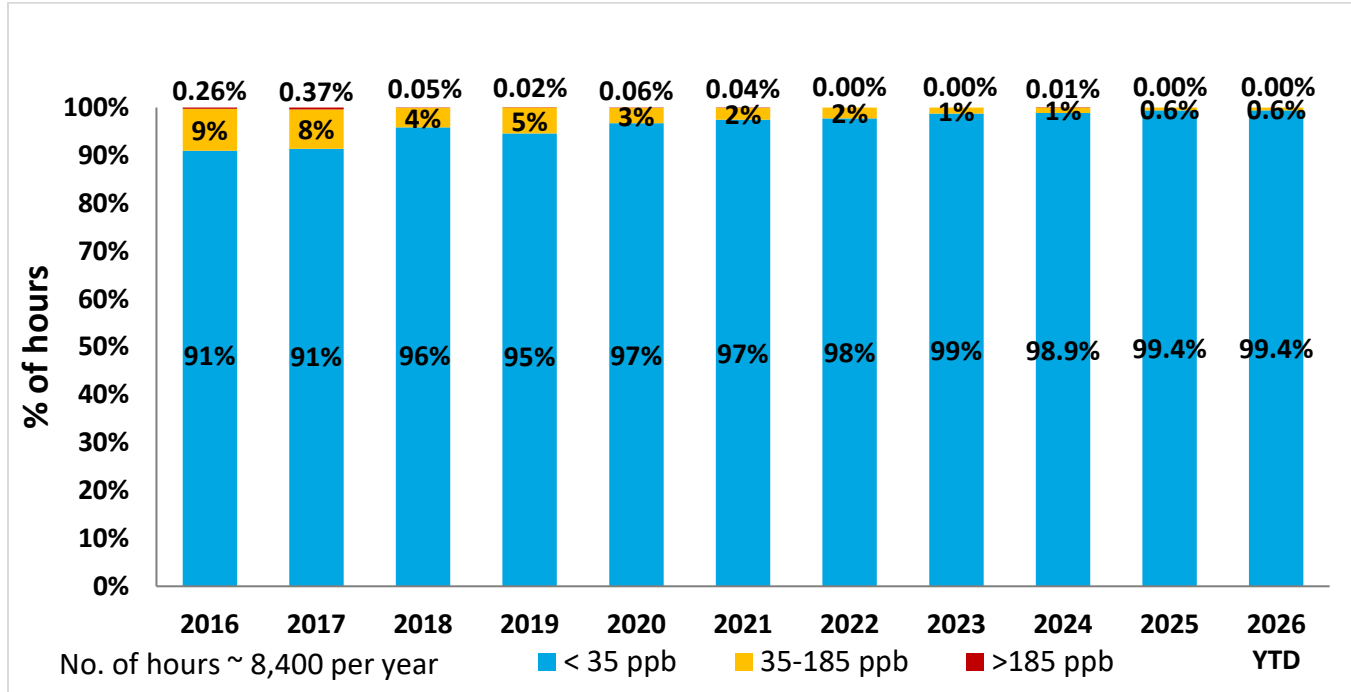


Figure 2: Distribution of Hourly SO₂ Levels at Butler Park

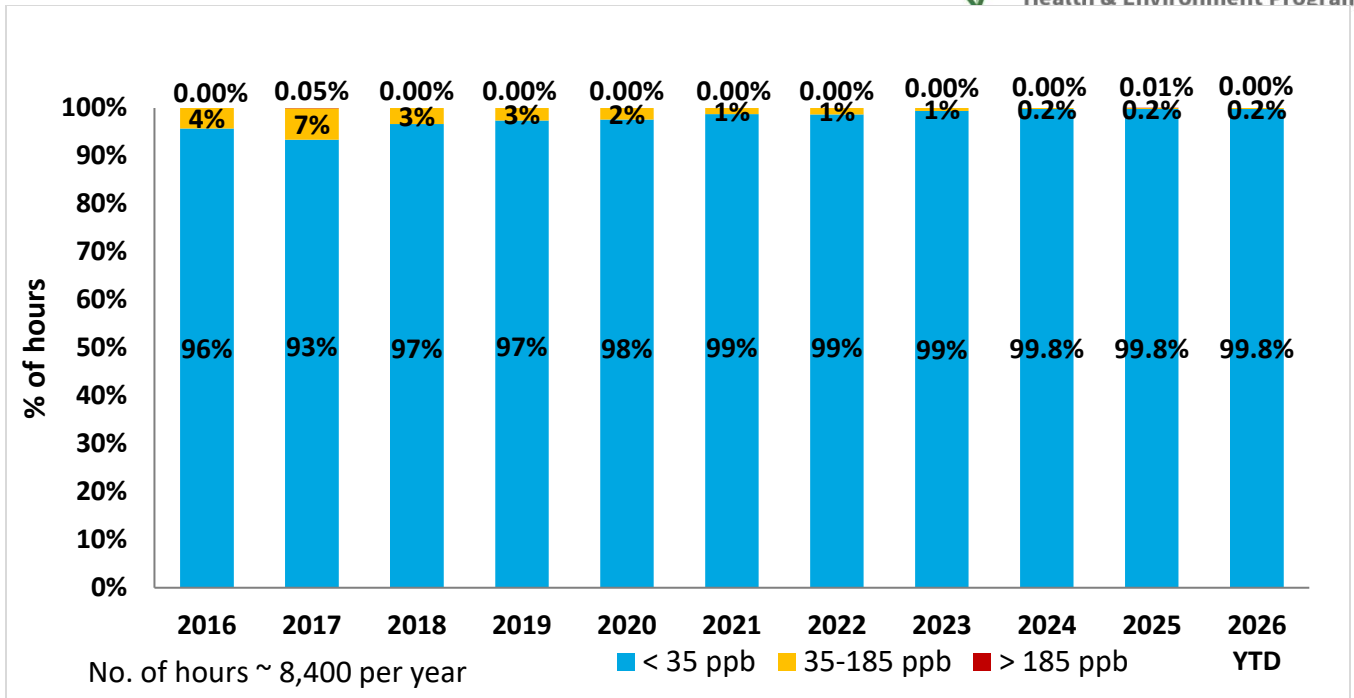


Figure 3: Distribution of Hourly SO₂ Levels at Birchbank

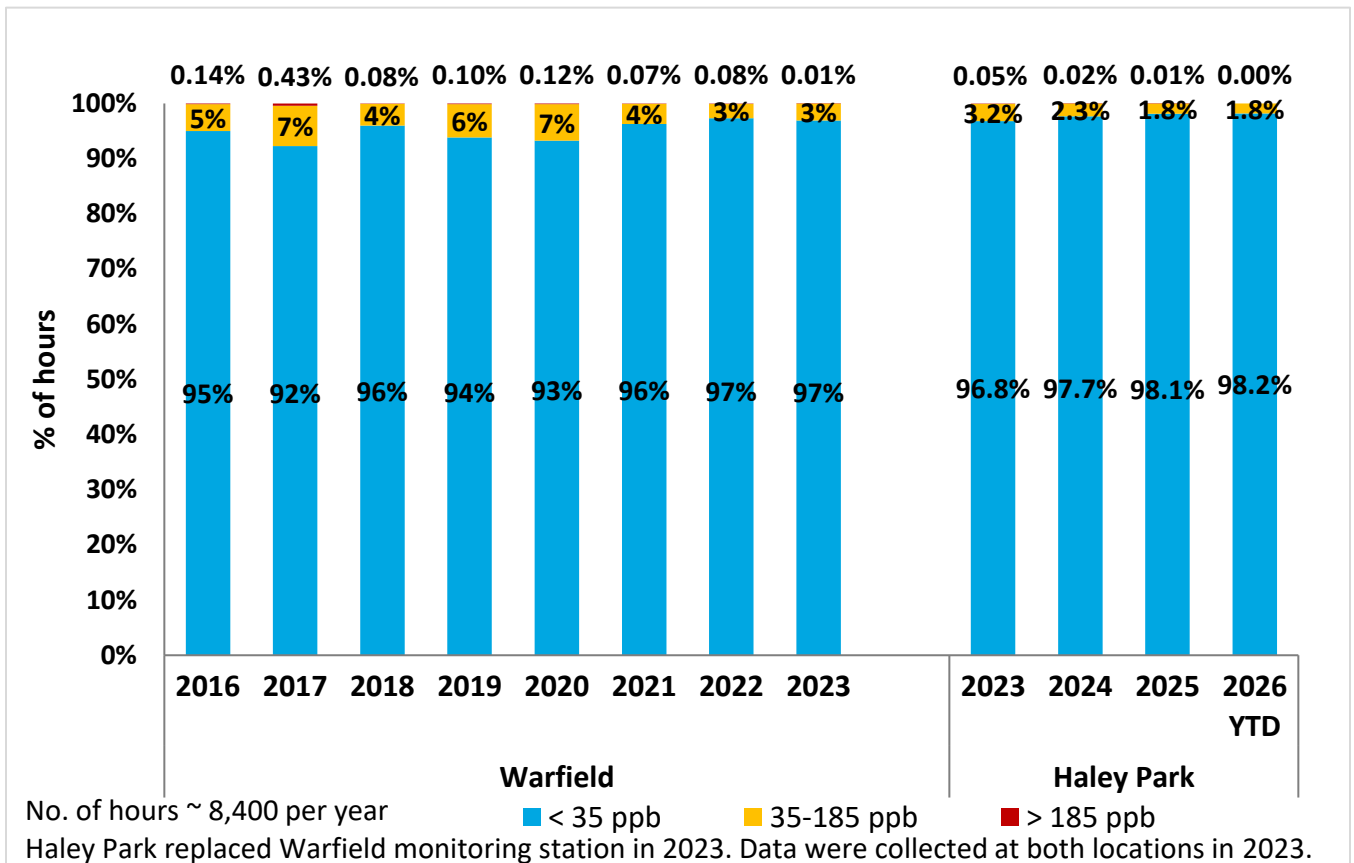


Figure 4: Distribution of Hourly SO₂ Levels at Warfield/Haley Park



Figure 5: Teck Community Air Monitoring Stations

Residents who have concerns about air quality are encouraged to call the Teck Community and Environment Feedback line at (250) 364-4817, a phone line answered 24 hours a day.