



# GOLD BAR

## Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Data

DECEMBER 2023

### 1. INTRODUCTION

EPCOR is committed to ongoing investments in odour mitigation and reduction at the Gold Bar Waste Water Treatment Plant (GBWWTP). The Gold Bar Park (GBP) station, near the GBWWTP, continuously monitors ambient air quality. The data collected is used to make changes to further reduce odours and improve air quality at the GBWWTP. This data is available publicly through EPCOR's website each month and the data is submitted monthly to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) to comply with our operating approval.

In July and August 2022, the AAQMS started recording data and recorded exceedances of the 1-hour and 24-hour Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQOs). The air quality monitoring method for the AAQMS is different from the fence line monitors at GBWWTP, and the Gold Bar Park station is closer to the plant than other stations in the area.

#### Monitoring Method

The AAQMS continuously monitors ambient concentrations of Hydrogen Sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and other factors, like wind speed/direction and temperature. Continuous monitoring takes measurements in real-time, allowing EPCOR to respond to possible issues to minimize impacts to the community.

#### Fence Line Monitoring

H<sub>2</sub>S monitoring along the Gold Bar WWTP fence line is not continuous and only represents the data at a specific point in time, making it difficult to compare the results with data from the AAQMS. Now that we have over one year of data from the AAQMS, and have shown that the station is functioning reliably, we are no longer taking the daily fence line measurements, effective November 1, 2023. The fence line monitors will still be used on an ad hoc basis to investigate H<sub>2</sub>S and odour.

#### Proximity to Gold Bar WWTP

Operations at the Gold Bar WWTP operations have not fundamentally changed, and we are continue to implement improvements to better mitigate and manage odours. However, the new AAQMS may sometimes measure higher concentrations of air substances than the Beverly and Gold Bar stations because it is closer to the Gold Bar WWTP. Measurements from the Gold Bar station and the Beverly station have remained similar to previous months, as shown in the results below. These two stations are monitored by the Strathcona Industrial Association.

## Health and Safety

The 24-hour and 1-hour AAAQOs for H<sub>2</sub>S are 3 parts per billion (ppb) and 10 ppb, respectively. The AAAQOs are developed to protect Alberta's air quality and are set at levels that evaluate facility performance and the adequacy of facility design. An exceedance of the AAAQOs might initiate a monitoring, reporting, or management action.

Humans will detect an odour from H<sub>2</sub>S (rotten egg smell) around six to 10 parts per billion (ppb). The Alberta Occupational Exposure Limit for H<sub>2</sub>S states that human health begins to be affected if exposed to concentrations higher than 10,000 ppb for eight hours. The levels currently being recorded at the AAQMS are substantially lower than this.

## 2. AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK

There is a comprehensive network of about 110 ambient air quality monitoring stations throughout Alberta, operated by the provincial and federal governments, airsheds, and industry. The stations that provide data to the Gold Bar WWTP include the Gold Bar Park (GBP) station, the Gold Bar station and the Beverly station (See Figure 1 for a map of locations).

**Figure 1: Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS)**



### 3. AMBIENT AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES

Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAQOs) are pre-established concentrations of certain substances that pose a potential risk to the environment or human health. At the GBP station, concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>S, NO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> are monitored and compared with the AAQOs. If the AAQOs are exceeded, this is reported to the Government of Alberta.

Air quality objectives are generally established for one-hour, 24-hour, and annual averaging periods. The air quality monitoring station takes readings continuously and these readings are averaged to give hourly and 24-hour air quality information. All averages are arithmetic means.

**Table 1: Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives for H<sub>2</sub>S, SO<sub>2</sub>, and NO<sub>2</sub>**

Substance	H <sub>2</sub> S		SO <sub>2</sub>		NO <sub>2</sub>
	1-hour	24-hour	1-hour	24-hour	1-hour
<b>AAQO</b>	10 ppb	3 ppb	172 ppb	48 ppb	159 ppb

\* NO<sub>2</sub> does not have a 24-hour AAQO

While there are occasional times that H<sub>2</sub>S levels at the Gold Bar WWTP exceed Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives, (such as during equipment maintenance), our H<sub>2</sub>S levels are much lower than those that can bring health concerns outlined in OH&S legislation. Please visit our [website](#) to understand more about different levels of H<sub>2</sub>S.

### 4. RESULTS

#### 4.1. Hydrogen Sulfide

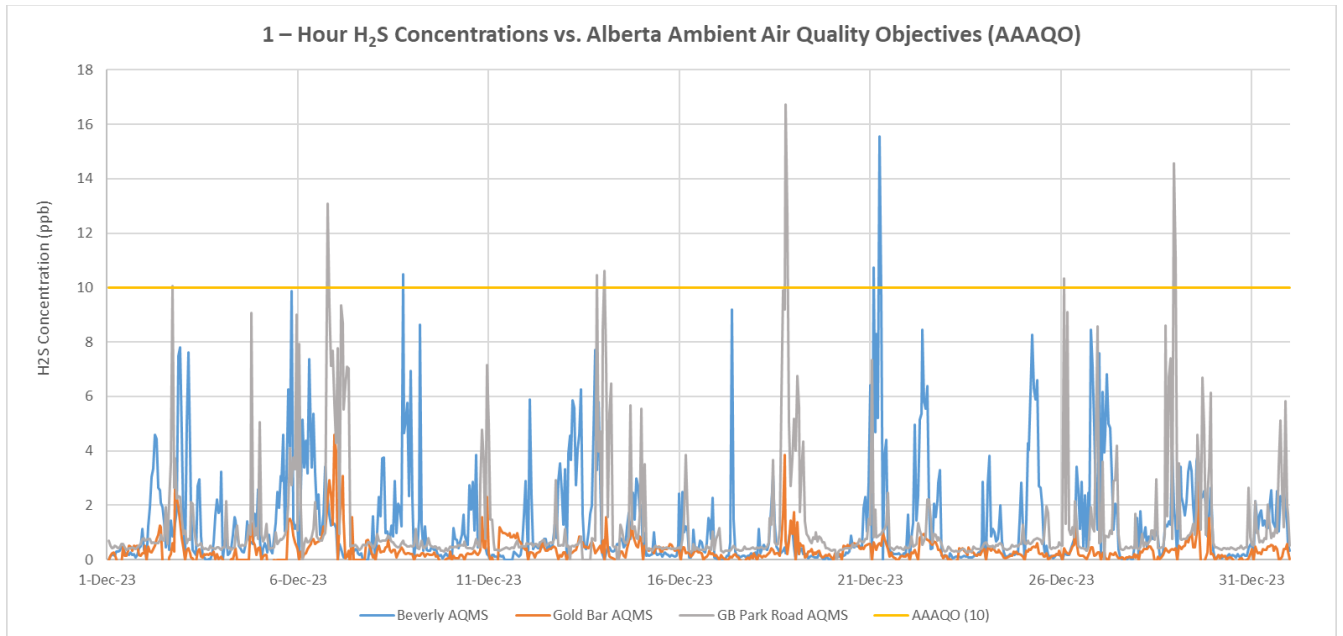
Table 1 shows a summary of the data for H<sub>2</sub>S for December 2023. Figure 2 shows the results for December 2023 for 1-hour concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>S for the stations at GBP, Gold Bar, and Beverly. Figure 3 shows the results for December 2023 24-hour concentrations of H<sub>2</sub>S.

In December, there were nine exceedances of the 1-hour AAQO and two exceedances of the 24-hour AAQO at the GBP station. These have been reported to Alberta Environment and Protected Areas. There were three 1-hour exceedances and two 24-hour exceedances recorded at the Beverly station (1.37 km northeast) and none recorded at the Gold Bar station (1.19 km south).

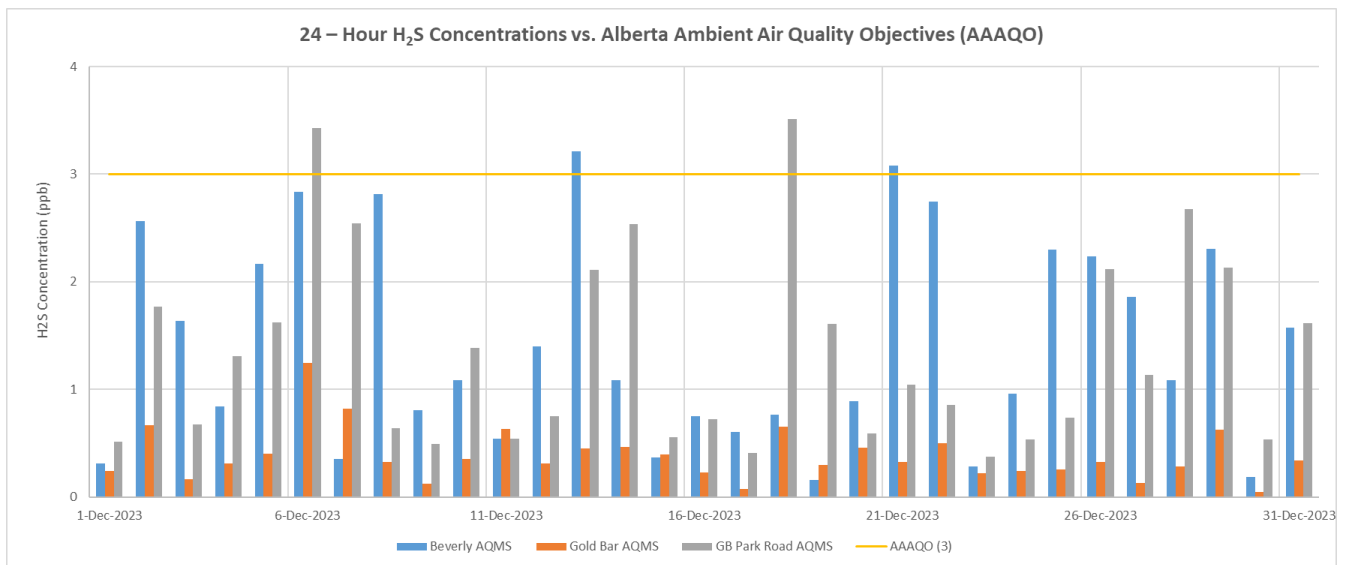
**Table 2: December 2023 Monthly Ambient Air Quality Summary (H<sub>2</sub>S, ppb)**

Station	Monthly Average	# Exceedance		Maximum Recorded Values			
				1- Hour		24- Hour	
		1- Hour	24- Hour	Concentration	Day & Time	Concentration	Day
Beverly AQMS	1.4	3	2	15.5	21-Dec-2023 06:00	3.2	13-Dec-23
Gold Bar AQMS	0.4	0	0	4.6	6-Dec-2023 23:00	1.2	6-Dec-23
GB Park Road AQMS	1.3	9	2	16.7	18-Dec-2023 19:00	3.5	18-Dec-23

**Figure 2: 1-Hour H<sub>2</sub>S Concentrations vs. Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQO 10)**



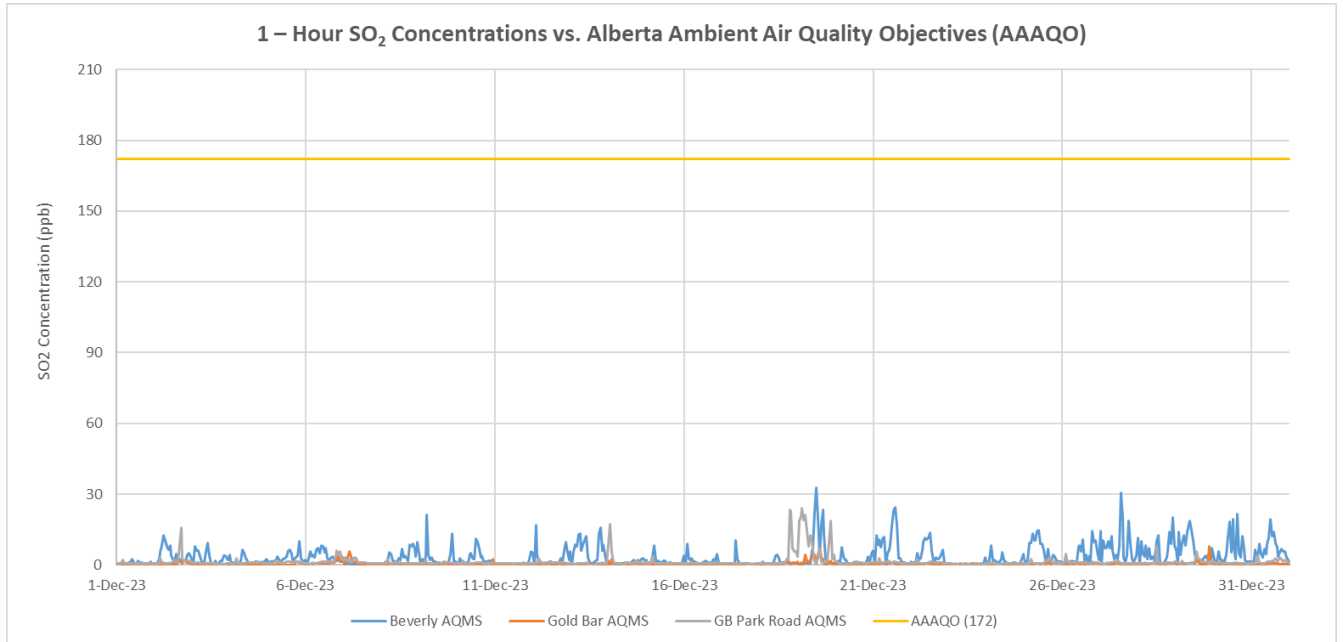
**Figure 3: 24-Hour H<sub>2</sub>S Concentrations vs. Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQO 3)**



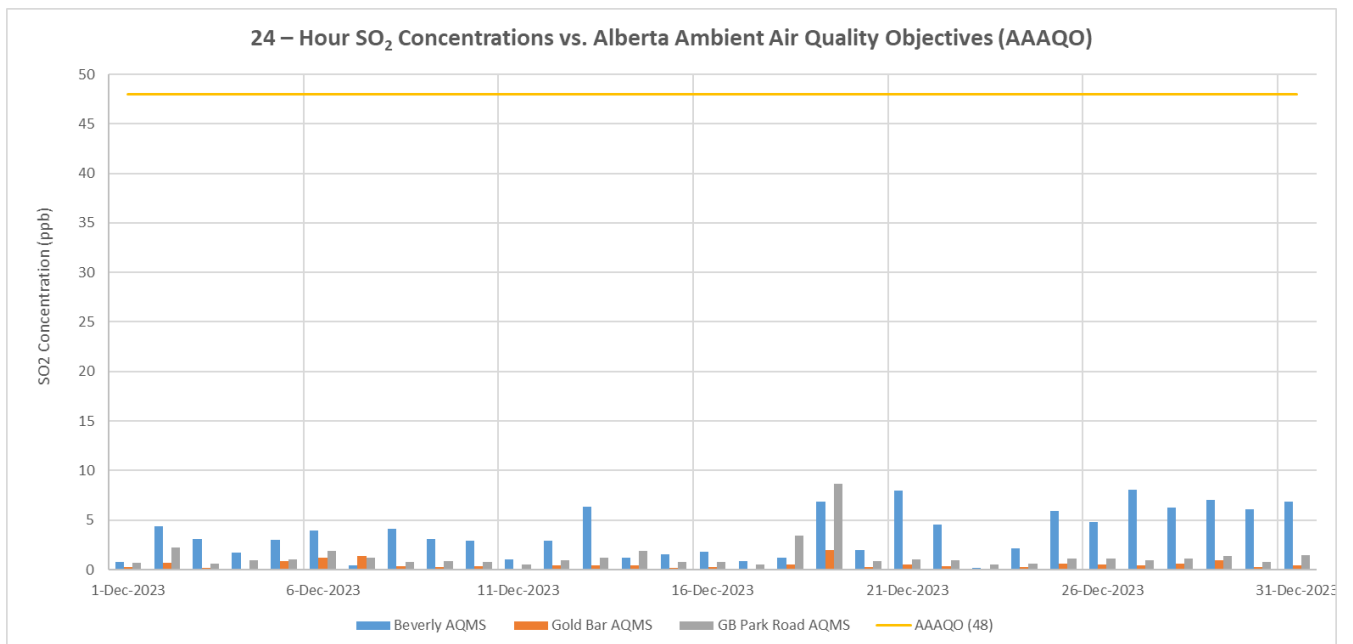
## 4.2. Sulfur Dioxide

Figure 4 shows the results for December 2023 for 1-hour concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub> for the stations at GBP, Gold Bar, and Beverly. Figure 5 shows the results for December 2023 24-hour concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub>.

**Figure 4: 1-Hour SO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations vs. Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQO 172)**



**Figure 5: 24-Hour SO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations vs. Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQO 48)**

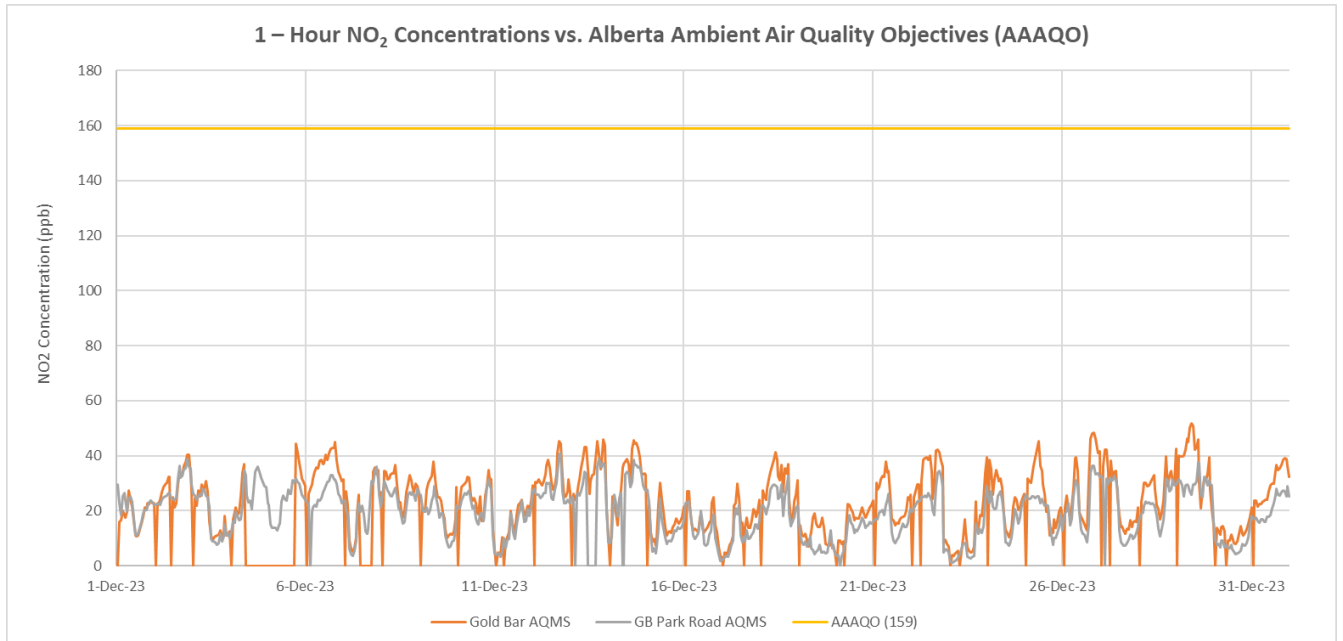


### 4.3. Nitrogen Oxides

Figure 6 shows the results for December 2023 for 1-hour concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> for the stations at GBP and Gold Bar. The Beverly Station does not measure NO<sub>2</sub>.

There is no 24-hour AAAQO for NO<sub>2</sub>, only a 1-hour objective and an annual objective. The annual AAAQO for NO<sub>2</sub> is 24 ppb. The annual average recorded at the GBP AQMS from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 was 11.4 ppb. The average annual NO<sub>2</sub> recorded at the Gold Bar AQMS for the same time period was 12.5 ppb.

**Figure 6: 1-Hour NO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations vs. Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQO 159)**



Note: to view all monthly reports, as well as the fence line monitoring results, please visit [www.epcor.com/goldbardata](http://www.epcor.com/goldbardata)



### MORE INFORMATION

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