

# Washington State Department of Ecology

## Sulfur Dioxide Air Quality Monitoring

### May 2019 FAQ

**I saw the Department of Ecology's announcement regarding air quality in the Ferndale area, what is this announcement about?**

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has measured elevated levels of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) in the air near the Alcoa Intalco Works (Intalco) aluminum smelter near Ferndale.

**Are there impacts to the Ferndale School District?**

The Washington Department of Ecology has shared that at this time, there is no evidence that elevated levels of SO<sub>2</sub> have reached Ferndale or other nearby communities.

**Who is in charge of monitoring air quality in Whatcom County?**

While Intalco's air emissions are regulated by Ecology, Northwest Clean Air Agency covers most other aspects of air quality in the region. Ecology is committed to working collaboratively with the Northwest Clean Air Agency to address SO<sub>2</sub> levels and protect air quality. In the weeks and months ahead, the two agencies will provide the public with information on SO<sub>2</sub> pollution in the area and work with Intalco to create a plan to reduce emissions.

**Where can I get more information?**

The Department of Ecology sent the following letter to the Ferndale School District regarding the announcement. That letter is available at the following link: <https://www.ferndalesd.org/facilities-maintenance/air-quality>

In addition, the Department of Ecology has additional information available at the following link: [www.ecology.wa.gov/sulfurdioxide](http://www.ecology.wa.gov/sulfurdioxide)