

**Notes of Meeting #14 – Essar Steel Algoma Inc.  
Community Liaison Committee**



Date: October 21<sup>st</sup> 2014

Location: Essar Steel Algoma Inc.  
Administration Building  
Video Conference Room

Time: Noon to 3:30pm

**CLC Members in Attendance**

Fred Post - Essar Steel Algoma Inc.  
Dave Clingen – Essar Steel Algoma Inc. (Guest)  
Blair McLaughlin - Ontario Ministry of Environment  
David Trowbridge - Public  
Patt Marquis – Public  
Kara Flannigan – Algoma Public Health (alternate)  
Corrina Barrett - St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator  
Catherine Taddo – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie  
Bill Denny – United Steelworkers Local 2251

**CLC Members not in Attendance**

Dan Sayers Jr. - Batchewana First Nations  
Dave Martin – Chippewa County Health Department

**Meeting Notes**

**1. Review of Meeting #13 Notes**

The notes for Meeting #13 held on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 were tabled and accepted by all in attendance.

**2. Membership issues**

Fred Post reminded the committee that Jerry Suurna has retired July 1 and Dave Clingen has assumed Jerry's responsibilities regarding Environment.

Fred Post remains as Manager: Environment Control Services. Fred proposed that he chair the CLC meetings and all in attendance agreed that this would be acceptable.

Corrina Barrett has proposed an alternate (Carrie Ginou) and all in attendance agreed that this would be acceptable.

**3. Status Report: Noise Abatement**

Early in 2014 the MOE accepted a plan to reduce noise emissions from 10 sources throughout the facility. In accordance with the plan an acoustic silencer was installed on a steam exhaust in the By-Products Plant reducing noise levels from 125 dBA to 81 dBA at the source. New mufflers have been purchased and are currently being installed on the blast furnace stove blow-offs. Commissioning is expected before year end.

It was asked if there was a noise reading for this unit at the property boundary before this installation. Fred explained that since other noise sources in the vicinity would mask this, it was not possible to perform a pre and post abatement measurement at the property boundary. This can only be measured at the source and modeled at the property boundary.

One member asked what frequency of noise compliance monitoring was required. Fred explained that the current action plan has a post abatement assessment being conducted in 2019 and that assessments are not required on a regular basis.

A description was provided regarding the process in which steam was created in the steelmaking area that the engineering was currently under way for designing an electricity generating steam turbine to utilize excess steam from the steelmaking process.

#### **4. Current and planned activities that require Environmental Compliance Approval application:**

There have been four applications submitted to the MOE as follows:

- i) Landfill Amendment – In progress with the MOE
- ii) New Cokemaking Battery – In progress with the MOE. Anticipate approval by end of 2015.

Fred explained that an application was currently under review with the MOE, however Essar has no immediate plans to construct a new battery. This application is pro-active in the event Essar decides to construct a new battery.

#### **5. Boat Slip Sediment Assessment**

As part of the ongoing efforts to de-list the St. Marys River as an Area of Concern (AOC) under the Remedial Action Plan (RAP), Essar will be conducting a re-assessment of the sediment quality in the boat slip. Essar's boat slip was dredged twice (first in 1998 and second in 2006) and has not been re-assessed since prior to the last dredging. Essar is working with Environment Canada, the MOE and the RAP to conduct a follow-up sediment assessment in the boat slip. The objective is to determine the relative success that improvements to environmental performance and past dredging operations have had on the sediment quality. The assessment is to be conducted this fall.

#### **6. Site Specific Standard for particulate**

Fred re-capped the status of the Site Specific Standard for particulate that was requested last year. This request was based on an emissions model that predicted emissions over the limit. The regulation has an alternate compliance mechanism in which the MOE and the company agree to a plan to reduce emissions over a period of time. Essar constructed this plan in conjunction with the MOE so as to focus on emission reductions from the cokemaking process in anticipation of the new limits coming into force for Benzene and BaP. Now that a Site Specific Standard has been developed for Benzene and BaP, Essar will be amending its request to include these substances.

The MOE has established a public consultation group for the purpose of sharing information during the development of the standard. Public representatives from each of the steel company community liaison committees have been invited to participate. David Trowbridge and Patt

Marquis are members of this group. Consultation group meetings have been held: October 2, 2012; May 29, 2013; December 3, 2013; September 30, 2014.

Key issues for compliance:

- MOE has drafted a Site Specific Standard that reflects US EPA requirements
- New standards considered to be the “best available control”
- Five year phase in period to meet the required control measures which are specific to each facility
- To be ready for July 2016 with the intended launch in July 2015

The Site Specific Standard specifies limits on the quantity of fugitive emissions. Emissions must be quantified daily by specially trained and certified personnel and all integrated steel manufacturers face the same standards.

There was an inquiry regarding how many coke batteries in the US meet the SSS/EPA requirements. Fred explained that he was not aware of the numbers, but that reports say the limits are extremely difficult to achieve. Some plants operate with ovens out of service to meet the limits which is detrimental to the assets. A new battery commissioned in 2013 is having difficulty meeting the limits.

One member asked what the level of engagement was of the group at the last public consultation. It was described to be fairly involved and there was significant discussion by community members and the MOE. Patt Marquis echoed the same concerns raised at the last community consultation session.

One member asked if it would be possible to use the Algoma University students to model Essar’s emissions. Fred explained the complexity of the model and that this would be very difficult to perform without proprietary software and extensive air modeling experience.

## **7. Public Open House**

An overview was provided of the Public Open House that was held on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the new Library at the Goulais Avenue Community Centre. The focus was on Cokemaking Site Specific Standard and to inform community of application for Site Specific Standard for Benzene and BaP. ESAI focused the information on efforts to reduce emissions from Cokemaking. An information letter was sent to our neighbours highlighting key points prior to the open house.

The next open house to be scheduled in late fall 2014 or early spring 2015.

One member asked what the turn-out of other open house events were in the Hamilton area. Fred explained that other open houses receive the same level of attention elsewhere.

It was asked if Essar could try to schedule the next meeting when some kind of after school sports activities were occurring in order to try to get higher attendance. Fred agreed that he would try to organize the next meeting with this in consideration.

## **8. Port of Algoma**

Preliminary funding has been approved for initiating the development of a deep water port. Activities on site will remain the same (storage, shipping and receiving of raw materials,

products and by-products). Environmental liabilities and compliance obligations remain the responsibility of Essar Steel Algoma. This development offers immense economic development opportunities for Sault Ste. Marie and Northern Ontario.

## 9. Next Meeting

Fred stated that a date would be proposed for sometime in the winter or spring and a walking tour of the operations would be organized. The members would be canvassed at a later time for suggested dates.

The meeting closed at 1:30 PM, Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 and three members joined for a driving tour of the steelworks. (David Trowbridge, Corrina Barrett, Kara Flannigan).

*Meeting notes prepared by Fred Post.  
November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

### Current Members and Alternates

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Primary Member</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
Essar Steel Algoma Inc.	Fred Post	Dave Clingen
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Ontario Ministry of Environment	Blair McLaughlin	Ron Dorscht
Public	David Trowbridge	Ildiko Horvath
Public	Patt Marquis	Kathie Brosemer
Algoma Public Health	Sherri Cleaves	Kara Flannigan
Chippewa County Health Depart.	Dave Martin	Christine Daley
Batchewana First Nations	Dan Sayers Jr.	
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