



Notes of Meeting #34 – Algoma Steel Community Liaison Committee

Date: September 15th, 2020

Location: Cisco Webex Meeting

Time: 12pm to 2:15pm

CLC Members in Attendance

Fred Post – Algoma Steel

Chris Galizia – Algoma Steel

Ron Dorscht – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Catherine Taddo – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie

Lisa Derickx – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator

Lori Greco - Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Steve Carey – Chippewa County Health Department

David Trowbridge - Public

Peter McLarty – Public

Jillian Marquis – Public

Kathie Brosemer – Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

CLC Members not in Attendance

Kara Flannigan – Algoma Public Health

Chris Spooner – Algoma Public Health

Wayne Hubbard – United Steel Workers Local 2251

Jonathon Bouma - Algoma Public Health (alternate)

Dan Sayers Jr. – Batchewana First Nations

Maggie McAuley – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie

Suzanne Lieurance - Chippewa County Health Department

Meeting Notes

1. Review of the Agenda

There were no new items proposed to be added to the agenda.

2. Review of Meeting #33 Notes

There were no comments regarding the minutes of the June 9th CLC meeting. They have been posted on the company website. The Terms Of Reference will be circulated for review.

3. Membership issues

Due to the tragic loss of Patt Marquis, Jillian agreed to consider an alternate representative.

It was requested to reach out to Garden River First Nations to inquire of their interest in participating in the CLC.

4. Site Specific Standard (SSS) for particulate and BaP

Fred re-capped the standards development process and coke plant rules detailed within the Site Specific Standard (SSS) for particulate that was issued in March 2015. This MECP Standard was based on an emissions model that predicted potential for emissions over the Reg. 419 limit. The Site Specific Standard is an alternate compliance mechanism in which the MECP and the company agree to a plan to reduce emissions over a period of time. The Site Specific Standard came into effect on July 2nd 2015 and includes progressive phases of increasingly strict limits over time.

On July 2nd 2015, Algoma began to monitor coke oven emissions in accordance with the site specific standard. The progressive phase in of limits has occurred on an annual basis. A graphic representation of Algoma's performance was presented along with the new limits taking effect in January 2020. There has been consistent improvement from all emission sources and Algoma is in compliance with all of the limits.

Chris explained the reason for the increase in charging emissions on #9 battery and the corrective actions taken. It was explained that 9 Battery has an IOPC (Individual Oven Pressure Control) system that makes it more susceptible to variables such as suction and coal moisture. While dry coal was observed and rectified with addition of water, a loss of suction was noted from the #9 Larry Car. This equipment was temporarily taken out of service while repairs to its bypass sleeve and magnet lifter were completed.

Benzene Site Specific Standard

The benzene SSS requires the installation of vapor collection and air pollution control devices on the last four remaining point sources of benzene emissions to air by December 31st, 2020. Algoma has requested a one year deferral to Dec. 31st, 2021 due to the extenuating circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The current status and plans include the following:

- Emergency Liquor Storage Tank – An out of service tank is currently being refurbished and equipped with Thermal Oxidizer - IN PROCESS
- #3 Tar Tank – This tank was taken out of service in 2019 - COMPLETE
- #4 Tar Tank and Tar Barge Loading – Plans are currently under development to install a Thermal Oxidizer that will service both processes - UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Stack Opacity

A graph was provided showing the coke stack opacity performance for the past year. The graphs show the percent of total opacity in a 30 day rolling average to depict the long term performance trends. This topic continues to be an issue and the company is working with the MECP to develop a detailed action plan to reduce opacity.

Algoma has indicated that due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and current market conditions some investments have been scaled back. However, through wall replacements continue, and began on No. 9 Battery in early September. It was also mentioned that Algoma is continually seeking best available technology and utilizing best operating practices to reduce stack opacity. For example, trials are planned to use a new technology to seal up cracks in oven walls that result in stack opacity. The process involves pressurizing ovens and injecting a product that will adhere to the refractory at the cracks and lessen oven to flue leakage. Another trial is also planned to attempt clean out bus flues to improve combustion and heating.

A question was raised about what the regulatory limit is and it was explained that the limit is 20% opacity for six consecutive minutes, and multiple occurrences per day can be counted as one occurrence on each coke oven battery. It was requested for future presentations that a

different visual representation be provided which better compares performance to the regulatory limit.

A question was raised asking how this opacity issue can be mitigated. It was explained that numerous ongoing measures are being conducted on a daily basis to mitigate stack opacity. The longer term measures to reduce opacity involve either replacing through walls or replacing #7 coke oven battery, both of which require extensive investment.

Another member asked why the Ministry has not taken more action on this issue. It was explained that the Ministry's priority was to focus on ground level fugitive emissions from the coke batteries which are regulated by the Site Specific Standards. The stack opacity emissions have much less of an impact on the community and contaminants are less harmful. Now that the most stringent SSS leak limits have been met, the Ministry is working with the company to develop a more robust plan to address stack emissions.

5. Public Complaints

Public complaints regarding particulate, odour and noise from the last quarter were noted. There was a public complaint regarding particulate in August that originated from the lime plant. There was an incident at the lime plant and the facility was shut down for repairs. The MECP issued an order for the incident which has been complied with. The company is implementing a more robust area specific environmental and incident reporting training program to ensure all personnel are aware of their responsibility to report.

6. Industry / Technical / Site Specific Standard

The MECP has commenced discussions with the iron and steel sector on new Industry / Technical / Site Specific Standards for multiple air contaminants that will replace the existing Standards when they expire. The potential contaminants could include Particulate, B(a)P, Benzene, SO₂, Metals (Iron, Nickel, Manganese and Chromium VI). The process is led by the MECP and is expected to take 3-4 years to develop the new technical standards. The MECP conducted a site visit and accepted the monitoring program proposals for benzene and metals which may be used to inform if/or where future controls may be required. The Benzene Air Monitoring Program and the Metals Air Monitoring Program which commenced in August, 2018 are both complete.

The ten week benzene air monitoring program was completed in fall 2018 in the by-product area to look for potential benzene sources not currently controlled. Three sources were identified and control actions are completed.

The one year ambient air monitoring program commenced in August 2018 and was completed in August 2019 which measured suspended particulate matter and metals (Iron, Chromium VI, Manganese and Nickel). Hexavalent chromium sample results were below precise laboratory detection limits at all locations. Iron and nickel results also did not indicate any concern. Measurements of manganese concentrations were elevated at some locations. The industry standard aims to further investigate sources of manganese such as on-site roadways, steelmaking and slag management and implement additional control measures.

The next steps involve participating in MECP led working groups to focus on the following topics:

- Fugitive metal/particulate emissions from on-site roadways; steel-making; slag management;
- Identifying managed sources – current emission sources and air pollution controls;

- Expanding Leak Detection And Repair (LDAR) programs in by-product plants for benzene;
- Coke oven gas de-sulphurization (Federally required by January 1, 2026);
- Development of an Ontario-based emission auditor training and certification program;
- Completing a jurisdictional review of best available emission control techniques globally;
- Industry economic overview and economic feasibility assessment (industry led);
- Development of trigger mechanisms to facilitate a review of the appropriateness of the Technical Standard every 7-8 years.

David Trowbridge informed the committee that the community representatives on the industry standard would be given the opportunity to participate in the working groups. There have been very few subgroup meetings since the last CLC.

7. Current and planned activities that require Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) application

Algoma has submitted an application for an amendment to an existing ECA for its #2 Ladle Metallurgy Furnace (LMF) to install a larger baghouse than the existing approval to improve capture efficiency at both Ladle Metallurgy treatment stations and the Basic Oxygen Furnaces.

8. Legacy Environmental Action Plan

In fall 2018 upon exiting CCAA, the MECP and Algoma Steel signed an Environmental Framework Agreement which was established to mitigate risk from on-site legacy environmental liabilities. Ontario's Environmental Protection Act allows a person responsible for a source of contaminant to submit a Program to prevent or to reduce and control the discharge into the natural environment of any contaminant. A Program Approval is a document describing the associated abatement activities. A Program Approval was posted on the EBR for public comment and was issued May 3rd 2019.

The Environmental Framework Agreement and the associated Program Approval are the legal instruments which have initiated the development of the Legacy Environmental Action Plan (LEAP). The LEAP is a risk-based environmental management plan maintained and funded by Algoma Steel, with the objectives of identifying, assessing, managing and mitigating off-site adverse environmental effects caused by legacy environmental contamination at the site. Algoma Steel is responsible for planning, budgeting/funding, implementing, documenting and reporting the activities undertaken as part of the LEAP, while the MECP has oversight, review and approval responsibilities for LEAP budget, plans and activities, including approval (or pre-approval) of eligible LEAP expenses. A formal action and implementation plan for Year 2, and indicative action plans for the following four calendar years has been approved by the MECP.

Algoma has indicated that due to impacts related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the scope of the 2020 projects have been reduced and some deferred to next year. Approximately \$2 million in projects are planned for 2020 including the following:

- Expanding the site wide baseline hydrogeological investigation - Complete
 - 37 new wells added this year
- Legacy Tire Disposal
 - 100% complete -1055 metric tonnes removed and recycled
- Engineering for re-routing blast furnace 30" sewer (90% complete)
- Refurbish #7 Tank for future Groundwater Collection System
 - Includes clean-out of legacy light oil residues, new floor and benzene emission control system - #7 Tank Clean - out IN PROCESS
- Carbon capture and storage testing - UNDER DEVELOPMENT
- Extrusion briquetting testing - UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- Boat Slip Sediment Study to support the St. Mary's River Remedial Action Plan's delisting criteria for the Degradation of Benthos Beneficial Use Impairment - UNDER DEVELOPMENT

9. Climate Change

A brief description was provided of three greenhouse gas reduction projects that are either complete or underway at Algoma (two are complete). The three projects are anticipated to reduce GHG emissions by approximately 79,000 tonnes annually which is approximately 2% of Algoma's emissions. Further projects are being investigated as the company continues to seek out further incremental reductions.

On August 18th the Government of Canada announced funding support through the Low Carbon Economy Fund for up to \$4M to help refurbish Algoma Steel's tar and light oil plant. This project is expected to result in a 21,000 tonne reduction in our annual greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas reductions will be achieved by the use of new electrostatic tar precipitators and light oil scrubbers which will remove tar and light oil from the coke oven gas so they will not be combusted. Instead of releasing GHG emissions, these by-products will be recovered and sold for use in the chemical industry.

As a member of the Canadian Steel Producers Association we aspire to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We believe that by working with government and other stakeholders to secure the necessary capital and partnerships, that together we can achieve breakthrough technological advancements and enact transformational change. The Canadian Steel Producers Association's Climate Change Call to Action can be viewed at the following link: https://canadiansteel.ca/files/resources/CSPA_2_29_compressed.pdf.

10. Bank Swallows

In June 2020, employees observed birds nesting in a granulated slag pile. Upon investigation they were confirmed to be bank swallows which are classified as a threatened species in Ontario. Shipment of product from the pile was postponed until September to ensure nests were not disturbed in accordance with federal and provincial regulatory requirements. There is another location on Algoma's property where these birds nest and it is being left alone to allow the birds to continue to nest there in future. Algoma is considering an opportunity to create additional artificial habitat in future.

11. Public Open House

The last Public Open House was held on December 10th, 2019 from 4-7pm at the Northern Community Centre. The next open house will be scheduled for the fall of 2020. It was recommended to hold the open house in November before winter weather arrives, subject to any COVID-19 measures in place at that time.

12. Next Meeting

The next tentative 2020 CLC meeting schedule is as follows:

- December 8th, 2020

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM, September 15th, 2020.

*Meeting notes prepared by Chris Galizia and Fred Post
September 18th, 2020*

Current Members and Alternates

Representation	Primary Member	Alternate
Algoma Steel	Fred Post	Chris Galizia
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks		
	Lori Greco	Ron Dorscht
Public	David Trowbridge	Peter McLarty
Public	Jillian Marquis	
SSM Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Kathie Brosemer	
Algoma Public Health	Kara Flannigan	Chris Spooney
Chippewa County Health Dept.	Steve Carey	Suzanne Lieurance
Batchewana First Nations	Dan Sayers Jr.	
City of Sault Ste. Marie	Catherine Taddo	Maggie McAuley
United Steel Workers Local 2251	Wayne Hubbard	
St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator	Lisa Derickx	