Notes of Meeting #42 – Algoma Steel Community Liaison Committee

Date: September 13th, 2022

Location: Teams Meeting

Time: 12pm to 2:00pm

CLC Members in Attendance
Fred Post – Algoma Steel
Chris Galizia – Algoma Steel
Ron Dorscht – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Lori Jalak – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Catherine Taddo – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
David Trowbridge – Public
Jillian Marquis – Public
Dan Gabor – Public
Tony Schoahs – Public
John Rankin – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator
Steve Carey – Chippewa County Health Dept.
Wayne Hubbard – United Steel Workers Local 2251

CLC Members not in Attendance
Lisa Derickx – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator
Melissa Francella – Algoma Public Health
Kathie Brosemer – Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians
Maggie McAuley – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Suzanne Lieurance – Chippewa County Health Department
Dennis Gagne – United Steel Workers Local 2251

Meeting Notes

1. **Review of the Agenda and Meeting #41 Notes**
   There were no comments or concerns related to the agenda or previous meeting minutes.

2. **Membership Items and Terms of Reference**
   After advertising for new public members, Anton Schoahs and Dan Gabor, have been selected as alternates for the existing public members. Fred indicated that the alternates are welcome to participate alongside the primary members, as has been done in the past.

   In addition to the new public members, Lisa Derickx has appointed John Rankin to be her alternate member representing St. Mary's River RAP.

   Introductions were made and Algoma welcomed the new members.

3. **Cokemaking Emission Performance**

A graphic representation of Algoma's cokemaking performance was presented showing that Algoma has maintained compliance with all of the Site Specific Standard (SSS) limits. Since 2017 the average pushing opacity has been decreasing.

A question was raised on why #9 Battery has a higher trend for charging and lid emissions. It was explained that in 2011 Algoma installed an Individual Oven Pressure Control (IOPC) system that was intended to improve emissions by regulating pressure in each oven over the course of the coking cycle. While this technology helps to lower door emissions, pressure fluctuations can lead to higher charging and lid emissions.

David Trowbridge asked if push audits above the average 30% opacity threshold are included in Algoma's process upset table. Fred explained that the process upset table does not correlate with emissions auditors' observations because there are different groups of people monitoring the process at different times. Some cases might overlap with what the auditors observe, but not all.

Stack opacity graphs were provided showing the coke stack opacity performance for the past 2 years. They show a 30 day rolling average opacity and the number of hours in a day above 20% average opacity. These metrics are used to depict the overall performance trends.

Algoma has prepared a revised action plan to reduce overall opacity as there had been an increase over the winter months due to some operation problems associated with a freeze up of some equipment in the By-Products facility. The action plan implementation is ongoing and it is expected to progress over the remainder of the calendar year. There is however a recent decline in opacity attributed to the fire in Cokemaking on August 7th.

Ron Dorscht requested some detail on the more significant actions being taken to reduce stack opacity. Fred explained that the freeze up of equipment in the by-products plant and prolonged cold winter weather resulted in residues passing through the byproducts plant and precipitating out in the gas mains, restricting gas flow to the batteries. As a result, Algoma had to switch to an alternate gas main. A lack of pressure control mechanisms on this alternate gas main resulted in higher stack opacity. A number of actions have been underway and will continue to be implemented throughout the rest of the year including installing new pressure control valves, cleaning out residues from the gas mains and replacing equipment that froze in the byproducts plant. In addition there has been a significant increase in the amount of masonry support focused on improving oven wall conditions.

Jillian noted that stack opacity is generally out of compliance most of the time, and asked if Algoma was facing any repercussions. Ron responded that the MECP is not satisfied with the noncompliance and the expectation is that Algoma work on continuously improving. The MECP previously prioritized the reduction of benzene, BaP and particulate as they were of a more serious concern. The focus is now on stack opacity improvements.

Fred mentioned that the transition the EAF will result in a progressive reduction in stack opacity by first shutting down #7 Battery (which has the highest opacity) by the end of 2025, then #8 and #9 Batteries by 2029.

4. Public Complaints

Public complaints regarding odour and noise from the last quarter were noted. There were 2 odour, 2 noise and 1 particulate complaint.

The noise complaints are being actively investigated to try and pinpoint the source. The odour complaints were not able to be associated with a particular source. The particulate complaint was related to a visible emission from the operations that was reported.

5. Accidental Oil Release into the St. Mary's River

It was stated that this incident is currently under investigation and Algoma is limited in what it can disclose at this time.

Lubricant oil accidentally left our site early on the morning of June 9th and entered the adjacent waterway. The source of the spill was identified and safely contained that morning.

Regulatory authorities and other stakeholders were notified and the company took immediate action to coordinate with officials, deploy equipment, resources and personnel to mitigate any possible impact to the environment.

A water monitoring and sampling program was developed and implemented immediately that day to monitor any potential impacts. MECP and Environment Canada personnel participated in this monitoring program.

As a precaution, the Village of Echo Bay turned off their water intake and Algoma covered the cost of purchasing and transporting water to the community until such time as they deemed it was safe to resume operations.

Our technical assessment of this incident continues as we seek to determine appropriate controls to prevent it from ever happening again.

The estimates of the quantity of oil that left the site range from approximately 350 litres based on the composite sampling at our treatment plant and between 1000 and 1250 litres based on conservative calculations which use the colour of the sheen to determine the thickness of oil on the water. This colour chart is used by the US Coast Guard and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

A question was raised about how long the monitoring continued after the incident, and whether there any plans to conduct follow up monitoring into the fall? Fred explained that monitoring was conducted at a number of locations along the river for the first few days after the incident with the majority of the samples not detecting any concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons. The monitoring at the Echo Bay water intake continued for approximately 2 weeks with almost entirely non detectable concentrations. Due to the fast moving river and non-detectable concentrations, there is no intentions to continue sampling at this time.

Another question was raised about a previous spill in the courts and if it is anticipated that charges will be laid? Ron was not able to comment as it is under investigation.

A question was raised about why Algoma could not determine how much oil was released by measuring how much volume was lost in the tank. Fred explained that it is not possible to use the tank volume to determine exactly how much was released as the oil did not spill directly from the tank into the river, but rather it passed through several different processes on site first where it mixed with water as it passed through various pumps.

6. Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) Update

Fred reviewed the progress being made with the construction of the EAF facility, following the announcement to invest CDN $700 million in the transition to electric arc steelmaking. Two state-of-the-art electric arc furnaces will replace its existing basic oxygen steelmaking

operations and result in the elimination of Cokemaking which will result in a significant reduction in Algoma's environmental footprint.

Applications for site wide environmental compliance approvals (ECA's) were submitted in March. The ECA for air and noise is based on the planned progressive shutdown of equipment and facilities associated with the transition to EAF steelmaking, and includes the addition of the two new baghouses and the associated cooling tower. As part of this application, a new noise abatement action plan has been prepared that will address potential new noise sources and include the elimination of up to seven existing sources.

For the Industrial Sewage Works application, a minor amendment is being sought to add the new non-contact effluent source to the existing sewage works approval. No new contaminant loading is associated with it. Additionally, over the transition to the full EAF, up to five effluent discharges will be eliminated.

7. Site Specific Standards / Technical Standards

Update was provided regarding Algoma's Site Specific Standards noting that in March 2022, Algoma submitted a request for amended site-specific standards for benzene, benzo(a)pyrene, and particulate matter. The new standards will reflect changes to the air emission dispersion model that have resulted in an increase in modeled emissions.

The model updates include; a new model version, a more recent meteorological data set and changes to the land use designations around Algoma from urban to rural to more accurately reflect local land use. The land use change made the biggest impact on the model, as a rural land use results in less dispersion compared to an urban designation.

Algoma's request included a continuous improvement plan that provides for the substantial reduction or elimination of emissions as a result of the progressive shutdown of equipment and facilities in the transition to electric arc steelmaking.

Algoma also submitted a new Site Specific Standard application for sulfur dioxide (SO2) in order to provide a compliance approach to the new provincial standards coming into force in July 2023. This application includes an action plan to reduce SO2 which reflects the progressive facility shutdown.

A table was shown summarizing the progressive modelled reduction of contaminants from the site over the course of the transition to the full EAF steelmaking. Once the transition to EAF is complete, we expect Algoma will be in compliance with all schedule 3 standards in O. Reg. 419 for all contaminants and there will no longer be a requirement for SSS's.

David asked a question regarding the monitoring that will be used to demonstrate the continuous improvement. Fred explained that new monitoring stations will be utilized to provide a limited comparison to the modelled data, as well as potentially using studies to provide a Comparative Analysis of Modeled and Monitored data.

A slide was shown illustrating the timeline of the progressive transition to electric arc steelmaking. The timeline includes the shutdown of the Basic Oxygen Steelmaking, the Coke Oven Batteries and the Blast Furnace, as well as the progression to full electric arc steelmaking by 2029.

Jillian asked if there was enough power in the grid to operate the EAF's. Fred mentioned that there is available grid power, but new transmission lines would be needed. In the interim

Algoma would be operating our natural gas fired generating plant to supplement the available power.
A number of plain language summary documents are now available on Algoma's website for interested stakeholders to review and comment on Algoma's Site Specific Standard applications. There will also be additional opportunity for stakeholder feedback when the MECP posts the proposals on the ERO.

8. Shoreline Stabilization

Fred explained that approximately 4.1 km of Algoma's shoreline adjacent to the Material Storage and Reprocessing Site and the Main Water Intake will be protected from future erosion via shoreline armouring. Algoma's shoreline stabilization project will support the Site Greening Initiative by ensuring that the naturalized green buffer strips along the perimeter of the site remain intact and are protected from possible erosion. The shoreline stabilization project consists of a four year plan to design and implement shoreline protection along the St. Mary's River via the placement of clean rip-rap and armour stone.

9. Additional Comments

Ron asked if Algoma plans to hold its annual open house again in December. Fred mentioned Algoma is potentially looking to hold the open house in November or December, but no date has been selected.

David requested some clarification on air quality monitoring between the old and new 3rd party contractors for PM10 criteria. Fred is requesting clarification from the previous vendor to confirm the criteria that they used.

There was also a comment about recent postings from the Bayview community members Facebook page regarding particulate.

David had a question on why the previous ESDM models showed total suspended particulate in PM10 and PM2.5, but the new model does not. Fred indicated that they remain in the model but were not shown on the executive summary in order to be consistent with the MECP standards as the MECP does not have standards for those size fractions of particulate. Fred added that the new monitoring stations will monitor for PM10 and PM2.5.

Additional comments were made regarding recent process upsets and how process upsets are modelled. It was explained that there were some emissions recently and they are being investigated and corrected. It was explained that it is not possible to model process upsets as they cannot be quantified.

10. Next Meeting

The next CLC meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 6th, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM, September 13th, 2022.

Meeting notes prepared by Chris Galizia and Fred Post
November 1st, 2022

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	Tony Shoahs
Public	Jillian Marquis	Dan Gabor
SSM Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Kathie Brosemer	
Algoma Public Health	Melissa Francella	
Chippewa County Health Dept.	Steve Carey	Suzanne Lieurance
City of Sault Ste. Marie	Catherine Taddo	Maggie McAuley
United Steel Workers Local 2251	Wayne Hubbard	Denis Gagne
St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator	Lisa Derickx	John Rankin