



Notes of Meeting #43 – Algoma Steel Community Liaison Committee

Date: December 13th, 2022

Location: Teams Meeting

Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm

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.

Melissa Francella – Algoma Public Health

CLC Members not in Attendance

Lisa Derickx – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator

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

Wayne Hubbard – United Steel Workers Local 2251

Meeting Notes

1. Review of the Agenda and Meeting #42 Notes

There were no comments or concerns related to the agenda or previous meeting minutes.

2. Membership Items and Terms of Reference

Chris Spooner is no longer part of Algoma Public Health, but Melissa Francella indicated that they are working on finding a new alternate. There was a question regarding the participation of local First Nations groups. Algoma has been reaching out to local Indigenous leaders regarding a number of matters including interest in participating in the CLC and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

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.

Jillian Marquis asked if Algoma was able to utilize the downtime incurred while repairing the coal conveyor after the fire. It was explained that Algoma did take advantage of the reduced production to increase masonry work on the ovens and other equipment.

David Trowbridge asked if the current limits will be maintained until the Coke Oven Batteries are phased out. Ron Dorscht replied that they would remain the same.

David asked if the Pushing emissions on Algoma's incident table are also captured by the daily audits. 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. The operations team report emissions which may be visible in the community whereas the auditors follow a method to determine actual opacity. Auditors are third party and do not report their observations in the form of incident reports on behalf of the company.

Questions were asked why there is an increase in the number of incidents being reported lately. It was explained that a lot of effort has been made in having our employees watch pushes more closely and report more diligently. All reported incidents are investigated and treated in the same way as if they were audited above the 30% average opacity limit.

Stack opacity graphs were provided showing the coke stack opacity performance for the past 2 years. The graphs demonstrate the 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 and into the New Year. A number of initiatives have been implemented such as adding pressure control valves, replacing a stack damper, and cleaning the gas main. However, significant improvements in stack opacity have not been realized to date due to a loss of beneficial carbon in the oven refractory due to the conveyor fire. It is anticipated that improvements in stack opacity will be realized in the coming months as beneficial carbon returns and progress continues on the stack opacity reduction plan.

David asked if the masonry dusting trial was successful on the ovens. It was explained that it wasn't very beneficial, however it can still be used on newer ovens to act in a similar way to beneficial carbon.

4. Public Complaints

Public complaints regarding odour and noise from the last quarter were noted. There were 4 odour, 2 noise and 1 particulate complaint.

All complaints are investigated, but the noise complaints have been difficult to pinpoint. Algoma encourages the community to make contact when hearing nuisance noise.

5. 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.

Jillian asked if Algoma is employing local contractors in the EAF construction. Fred explained that Algoma is utilizing numerous local companies, but some out of town contractors are needed due to the size and scope of work.

It was asked if the EAF is on schedule, and how information on progress is communicated externally. Fred indicated that the project is currently on schedule for mid-2024 and there are various media releases from Algoma regarding the project. Due to this community interest, Fred will raise this subject internally for consideration.

Tony Schoahs asked if Algoma was going to respond to the Climate Trace article in the local news. Fred indicated that Algoma hasn't responded, but did recognize that the steel industry is a significant source of GHG's. Algoma is going down a path to completely change the way it makes steel and reduce its GHG's by approximately 70%. There was additional discussion about Algoma's decarbonization strategy.

6. 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 modelled 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 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 sulphur 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 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. The new models are currently under review by the Ministry.

David asked if the current Site Specific Standard for Benzo(a)pyrene has expired. Fred indicated that it has and a request has been submitted for a new approval.

A follow-up question was made on why Algoma was applying for a new SSS that is above the upper risk threshold (URT) for BaP. Fred explained that the URT's came into force in regulation around the same time as the new standard for BaP which is the reason for the requirements for SSS's.

David asked what meteorological data was used for Algoma's ESDM and if Algoma was planning on re-establishing its own meteorological station. Fred indicated that the MECP requested that Algoma use the Environment Canada data from the airport for the modelling. As part of Algoma's ambient air quality monitoring program expansion, a new meteorological station is being built and there is a plan to use our site specific data in future modelling.

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.

David asked if Algoma will be considered a mini-mill once the EAF transition is complete and if Algoma would be required to register to the associated technical standard. Fred explained that air model is still under review however, it is Algoma's objective to achieve compliance with all schedule 3 standards meaning that Algoma won't be required to register to the tech standard at all. This may be subject to change as the ESDM is still under review with the MECP and is therefore not final.

7. Decarbonization Strategy

Algoma continues to evaluate additional opportunities to further decarbonize our operations aligned with the Canadian Steel Industry's aspirational goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Algoma is taking a collaborative approach, working with industry peers, federal and provincial stakeholders, research associations and technology providers to develop a decarbonization pathway.

Fred listed and explained the current technology pathways to decarbonization under evaluation by the Canadian Industry. These include:

- Utilizing local biomass for fuel substitution
- Process electrification
- Carbon capture, utilization and storage
- Hydrogen-based fuel substitution

8. Site Greening

The plan for site greening includes the creation of naturalized green buffer strips along the perimeter of the site by introducing new soils, creating seasonal surface water ponding areas, and vegetating with select native plants and tree species. A collaboration with Sault College resulted in the planting of approximately 1,885 trees this past fall. Further planting will follow planned shoreline stabilization efforts.

9. 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.

10. Additional Questions

A request was made to explain an incident from March 9, 2019 that was highlighted in a recent news article. Fred explained that on that date there was a plant wide power failure resulting in dark emissions from the facility and flaring at the coke oven batteries. The Ministry was notified immediately and attended the Site. The article was very inaccurate regarding both the volume and nature of materials released and included false information regarding reporting.

A follow up question was asked on how Algoma communicates externally when these events occur. Fred explained that Algoma has procedures regarding external communications when incidents occur and those procedures are subject to regular review as part of our continuous improvement process. The June 9, 2022 event demonstrates communication improvements with external stakeholders.

11. Next Meeting

The next CLC meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 7th, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM, December 13th, 2022.

*Meeting notes prepared by Chris Galizia and Fred Post
December 22nd, 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 Schoahs
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