



Notes of Meeting #49 – Algoma Steel Community Liaison Committee

Date: June 11th, 2024

Location: Algoma Steel
Administration Building
Main Conference Room and Teams Meeting

Time: 12:00pm to 2:00pm

CLC Members in Attendance

Fred Post – Algoma Steel
Chris Galizia – Algoma Steel
Laura Devoni – Algoma Steel
Alex Little – Algoma Steel
Autumn McLean – Algoma Steel
Dennis Gagne – United Steel Workers Local 2251
Rick Lalonde – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Lori Jalak – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
David Trowbridge – Public
Dan Gabor – Public
Tony Schoahs – Public
Jillian Marquis – Public
Andrew Mallette – Garden River First Nation
Richard Perrault – Garden River First Nation
Justice Eva – Garden River First Nation
Cheyenne Nolan – Garden River First Nation
Evan Belleau – Garden River First Nation
Steve Carey – Chippewa County Health Department
Melissa Francella – Algoma Public Health
Catherine Taddo – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Lisa Derickx – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator

Special Guests

Justice Eva – Garden River First Nation
Cheyenne Nolan – Garden River First Nation
Evan Belleau – Garden River First Nation

CLC Members not in Attendance

Virginia Huber – Algoma Public Health
Maggie McAuley – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Suzanne Lieurance – Chippewa County Health Department
Dan Sayers Jr. – Batchewana First Nation
Wayne Hubbard – United Steel Workers Local 2251

Meeting Notes

1. Review of the Agenda and Meeting #48 Notes

Meeting notes from Meeting #48 were accepted.

2. Membership Items and Terms of Reference

No changes were made.

3. Review of Cokemaking Incident

Fred described a detailed overview of the incident in Cokemaking which occurred on January 20th regarding the pipe collapse. The structure supporting the utilities piping at the Cokemaking Plant collapsed resulting in abnormal coke oven gas flaring and air emissions. In addition, a quantity of effluent left the site immediately after the collapse but potential discharges were contained later that day.

A battery repair plan was prepared in accordance with the Cokemaking Environmental Compliance Approval to ensure the safety of personnel, maintain the assets and systematically restore operations. Included in the plan was a request for a temporary exemption from the battery fugitive emissions limits until the battery repair plan is complete. The request was approved by the MECP.

Fred explained that the plan required some facilities to operate at a reduced capacity, which necessitated venting pressure to atmosphere when charging ovens for safety reasons. Algoma's #7 Battery wasn't as significantly impacted and was able to return to near normal operations on February 14th.

On April 11th operations were returned to normal as the new utility corridor was commissioned.

David Trowbridge asked if there was a spill the day before that may have been an early indicator that the corridor collapse might occur. Lori explained that there was an incident the day prior and the MECP was on site for it. Fred clarified that the prior day's incident was reported to the MECP directly and it did not result in any exceedances in effluent parameters. He also explained that it was unrelated to the root cause of the corridor collapse.

4. Cokemaking Emission Performance

Fred summarized the Cokemaking Emissions Performance graphs and explained the trends. A new line was added to the graphs to indicate when the pipe collapse occurred and when the new utility corridor was commissioned.

A stack opacity graph was provided showing the 30 day rolling average coke stack opacity performance for the past year. This metric is used to depict the overall performance trends.

David asked for clarification from the MECP that the stack opacity is above the limit. Lori confirmed that it is currently above the regulated limit. Fred reminded the attendees that the end goal is to eliminate the Cokemaking process altogether with the construction of the EAF.

5. Environmental, Social and Governance Report (ESG)

A slide was presented on Algoma's inaugural ESG report issued in 2023 and described that a second annual report is expected to be issued in late summer 2024. The second annual report is under development and will include updates on Algoma's transformation and it will incorporate feedback received from various stakeholders.

6. Electric Arc Steelmaking

An update was provided on Algoma's timeline for its transition to electric arc steelmaking, including details of the work underway and planned for each phase of the project.

Commissioning is slated to begin in 2024 and the first arc is scheduled for early 2025 on EAF 2, with EAF 1 starting later in the year.

Fred discussed the new emission controls that will be in place, including the two new state-of-the-art fume treatment plants, a water treatment plant, and engineered furnace enclosures to mitigate noise.

Tony Schoahs inquired about the dates for the shut down of the coke oven batteries. Fred explained that the plan is to first lower production at the blast furnace after the commissioning of the EAF's. It is anticipated that Cokemaking will continue to operate at current levels while being supplemented with purchased coke. The shut down of the coke batteries will be dependant on the power supply upgrade.

An additional slide was presented highlighting expected reductions in air and GHG emissions as well as waste, water and noise reductions from the transformation to electric arc steelmaking.

Applications for two site wide environmental compliance approvals (ECA's) were submitted in March 2022. 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 fume treatment plants and a water cooling tower. As part of this application, a new noise abatement action plan has been prepared that will address any potential new noise sources and include the elimination of up to seven existing sources.

Additionally, applications for Site Specific/Technical Standards were submitted for benzene, benzo(a)pyrene, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). These applications included an MECP approved abatement plan that will act as a bridging mechanism until the new Site Specific Standards or Technical Standards are available. The abatement plan 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.

Fred shared that a new, consolidated and site wide industrial sewage works permit has been issued by the MECP which incorporates all existing and proposed new sewage works.

7. Legacy Environmental Action Plan

Fred discussed the Legacy Environmental Action Plan (LEAP). The LEAP is a risk-based environmental management plan with the objectives of identifying, assessing, managing and mitigating off-site adverse environmental effects caused by Legacy Environmental Contamination at the Site. The targeted annual investment is \$3.8 million; totaling \$79.8 million over 21 years.

One significant project currently underway involves Shoreline Stabilization and Site Greening. Algoma's shoreline stabilization project consists of a four year plan to install 4.1 km of shoreline protection along the St. Mary's River to prevent future erosion.

The project is scheduled to resume June 24th with the placement of the clean rip-rap and armour stone. Once the stone is installed, the Site Greening Initiative will proceed in parallel with the introduction of clean soils, creating seasonal surface water ponding areas, and vegetating with select native plants and tree species. This will be done in collaboration with Sault College.

The site greening initiative involves the creation of naturalized green buffer strips along the perimeter of the site which will be protected from possible erosion.

Fred also mentioned that additional dredging work is planned to commence at the Sawmill Bay dock to improve vessel access to the dock as part of the EAF transformation. All regulatory authorities have been notified of the intended work.

8. Community Engagement

Fred described some recent initiatives related to community engagement, in particular a recent collaboration with Algoma University has been announced to investigate potential beneficial use strategies for steelmaking slags.

9. Additional Comments

David had some comments related to ambient air quality monitoring results. He commented that there were some higher levels of PM10 noted at Bonney Street. Fred responded that the elevated levels are likely related to increased vehicle traffic on site due to the construction of the EAF's and other major projects.

David also asked why there has been continued flaring of coke oven gas. Fred commented that there are simply operational constraints currently being addressed related to the corridor collapse limiting the full use of the gas. It was also clarified that the coke oven gas is always combusted, whether it is at the flare or in various process equipment including the coke ovens, reheat furnaces, cogen or boilers.

David asked the MECP about previous spills that went to the river. The MECP indicated that those spills have been referred to their investigations branch.

David shared to the CLC that he is continuing to lobby Algoma to have CLC meetings open to the general public and media as other steel producers do. Fred explained that Algoma is choosing to maintain member only CLC meetings and has plans to improve communication with the broader community by increasing the frequency of open house meetings.

Jillian commented that she would like to see more members in attendance and not continue with the hybrid in person / virtual format. Fred will continue to encourage in person attendance but would like to continue to provide flexibility with a virtual option.

10. Next Meeting

The next CLC meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 10th, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM, June 11th, 2024 with a site tour following those in attending in person.

*Meeting notes prepared by Chris Galizia and Fred Post
July 29th, 2024*

Current Members and Alternates

Representation	Primary Member	Alternate
Algoma Steel	Fred Post	Chris Galizia
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks		
	Lori Jalak	Rick Lalonde
Public	David Trowbridge	Tony Schoahs
Public	Jillian Marquis	Dan Gabor
SSM Tribe of Chippewa Indians	TBD	
Algoma Public Health	Melissa Francella	Virginia Huber
Chippewa County Health Dept.	Steve Carey	Suzanne Lieurance
The 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	
Garden River First Nation	Andrew Mallette	Richard Perrault
Batchewana First Nation	Dan Sayers Jr.	