



Notes of Meeting #44 – Algoma Steel Community Liaison Committee

Date: March 7th, 2023

Location: Teams Meeting

Time: 12:00pm to 1:30pm

CLC Members in Attendance

Fred Post – Algoma Steel

Laura Devoni – Algoma Steel

Chris Galizia – Algoma Steel

Rick Lalonde – 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

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

Lisa Derickx – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator

Dean Law – United Steel Workers Local 2251

CLC Members not in Attendance

Jillian Marquis – Public

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

There have been some recent changes affecting membership. Ron Dorscht of the MECP has retired and Rick Lalonde is the new Area Supervisor for the Sault Ste. Marie office.

Kathie Brosemer has left her position with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and Algoma is actively seeking a replacement.

Algoma has reached out to both Batchewana First Nation and Garden River First Nation to inquire if there is any interest to participate in the CLC.

Laura Devoni was introduced as the new Director of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability at Algoma.

3. Cokemaking Emission Performance

A graphic representation of Algoma's cokemaking performance from the past 12 months 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, with 2022 having the best performance since starting the audits in 2015.

David asked for clarification on the difference between a pushing emission on Algoma's environmental incident report and what is being audited as above 30% average opacity. Fred explained that operations personnel input incidents on Algoma's incident table and not the auditors. In some cases, there could be overlap and the auditors might audit pushes that operations report as incidents. Auditors are a third party and do not report their observations in the form of incident reports on behalf of the company.

David asked why the incidents reported by the operations are not included in our compliance mechanism for audited ovens. Fred explained that operations personnel are not trained in emissions auditing. They simply report incidents when visible emissions occur. Trained auditors audit pushes according to specific criteria. All ovens are to be audited in a specific timeframe and do get assessed.

Stack opacity graphs were provided showing the coke stack opacity performance for the past 2 years. The graphs show 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 recognizes that stack opacity on all three batteries is the most challenging metric to comply with. The company has developed a stack opacity action plan with several initiatives currently underway to improve the opacity.

Chris explained that there has been an increase in the scheduled downtime available to work on ovens and an increase in the masonry crews available to perform this work. In addition, a few other initiatives are underway, including the replacement of the wash oil scrubber and pre-heater in the By-Products facility. These projects will improve the cleaning of the coke oven gas that is returned to the batteries as fuel.

4. Public Complaints

There has been an increase in the number of public complaints recently as a few individuals have been providing regular notification of concerns regarding stack opacity.

There has also been an increase in noise complaints. Algoma staff met with local residents to discuss what is being heard and conducted a detailed noise assessment, identifying the source as a pollution control device which underwent significant investment to reduce noise in 2019. While the noise measures below the night time limit, it is still a nuisance to our neighbours so Algoma is actively developing a near-term solution to mitigate the noise. It was noted the source of the noise will ultimately be shut down as Algoma transitions to EAF

5. Community Air Monitoring

Fred informed the CLC that Algoma has successfully expanded the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program. In consultation with the MECP, the former Patrick Street air monitoring station has been relocated to the Goulias Avenue and Bonney Street area, just inside Algoma's property boundary and two new stations were installed; one at 4th Avenue (David Kyle Park), and another at Cathcart Street. All stations are equipped with new monitoring devices to monitor for total reduced sulphur, sulphur dioxide, particulate matter less than 10 microns and

less than 2.5 microns, total suspended particulate, metals, volatile organic carbons, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

All stations have been operational since December 2022. Final steps are underway to link real-time monitoring data to Algoma's website.

A new meteorological station was also installed at the Bonney Street location, providing easier access for maintenance.

David asked the Algoma Public Health (APH) representative about the health impacts of PM 2.5 and if APH will monitor these results. Melissa Francella indicated that she would bring these questions forth to APH management to have them advise. Fred explained that the purpose of this monitoring program is to understand the actual air quality in the community and can be used to make comparisons to Algoma's air emissions dispersion model. It is also intended to provide community members with local air quality information.

David asked if there is an additional station to what there was previously. Fred replied yes, that before there were two stations, Patrick Street and Wallace Terrace, and now there are three stations.

David informed the CLC that Hamilton and Sarnia have many more stations than the Sault, and the real time data can be accessed anytime and asked if that will be the case here. Fred indicated that real-time data will be available on Algoma's website in the near future. While unable to confirm, Fred suggested Hamilton and Sarnia may have more monitoring stations because they have more industrial facilities engaged in monitoring programs.

6. Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) Update

Fred reviewed the progress being made with the construction of the EAF facility, and presented the current timeline. 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. The project is currently on schedule. Project statistics were shared along with an estimated breakdown of the current spending.

Tony asked how the power requirements for the EAF might impact the local community and what that layout might look like. Fred explained that new transmission lines are expected from the 3rd Line substation into the western portion of Algoma's property. Fred will work to get a proposed layout of the transmission lines for a future CLC meeting.

7. Applications for Environmental Compliance Approvals

Applications for 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 baghouses and 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.

For the Industrial Sewage Works application, a minor amendment is being sought to add the new recirculating non-contact water treatment facility 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.

8. Site Specific Standard Requests

An update was provided regarding Algoma's Site Specific Standard applications noting that in March 2022, Algoma submitted a request for amended site-specific standards for benzene, benzo(a)pyrene, and particulate matter that are expiring this year. The new standards will reflect changes to the air emission dispersion model that have resulted in an increase in modelled emissions. The new approvals are intended to bridge the gap as Algoma progressively shuts down 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.

The air model updates included 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. These led to higher than previously modelled concentrations of these contaminants. The land use change made the biggest impact on the model, as rural land use results in less dispersion compared to an urban designation in the computer model.

A public open house was held in February 2022 regarding these Site Specific Standards and plain language information is provided on Algoma's website. Once the MECP has completed their legal drafting of the permits and Site Specific Standards the posting will be on the ERO for public comments.

David inquired about how the expired SSS for benzo(a)pyrene will be handled until the new SSS is granted. Fred explained that since Algoma has an application submitted, it shows intent to work with the community and MECP on this topic.

David asked if there would be any chance to use the new meteorological weather station instead of using the airport data for the model. Fred responded that yes, the intent going forward is to use the new meteorological station data in future modelling.

David also asked if the particulate from the stack, pushing and charging emissions is captured in the new SSS's. Fred advised that the MECP is currently undertaking a detailed review of the model to ensure it is capturing all emission sources appropriately and this will be reflected in the SSS's.

9. Decarbonization Strategy

Algoma continues to evaluate additional opportunities to further decarbonize its operations in keeping 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 described 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

David commented that biomass for fuel substitution could be controversial as it is taking sequestered carbon and introducing it back into the air. Fred advised that the biomass being contemplated is mainly forestry residuals and other underutilized materials that are not currently being utilized for sequestering and have a much shorter lifecycle.

10. 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 plant 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.

11. 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. A large portion of the armouring will be completed this year.

12. Additional Questions

David had some comments on the information available on Algoma's website. He asked when the 4th quarterly report of the AAQM would be posted. Fred believed that the information was available and would ensure the latest report is posted.

David asked if a note could be added to indicate that the air quality data on Algoma's website is dated and the new air quality data will be updated shortly. He also asked when the community engagement report would be posted. Fred indicated that it would be posted in June for the 2022 year.

David also asked if there was the possibility of in-person meetings. Fred expressed he was open to this and polled members for their preferences. It was agreed that the next meeting would be available as a hybrid offering in-person and virtual attendance. The possibility of a plant tour was also discussed and Fred was going to make arrangements in advance.

13. Next Meeting

The next CLC meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 6th, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM, March 7th, 2023.

*Meeting notes prepared by Chris Galizia and Fred Post
April 26th, 2023*

Current Members and Alternates

Representation	Primary Member	Alternate
Algoma Steel	Fred Post	Chris Galizia
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks		
	Lori Greco	Rick Lalonde
Public	David Trowbridge	Tony Schoahs
Public	Jillian Marquis	Dan Gabor
SSM Tribe of Chippewa Indians	TBD	
Algoma Public Health	Melissa Francella	
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	John Rankin
Garden River First Nation	Stephanie Seymour	
Batchewana First Nation	TBD	