



Notes of Meeting #46 – Algoma Steel Community Liaison Committee

Date: September 12th, 2023

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
Laura Devoni – Algoma Steel
Chris Galizia – Algoma Steel
Autumn McLean – Algoma Steel
Alex Little – 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
Steve Carey – Chippewa County Health Department
Melissa Francella – Algoma Public Health
Wayne Hubbard – United Steel Workers Local 2251

CLC Members not in Attendance

Maggie McAuley – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Jillian Marquis – Public
Lisa Derickx – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator
John Rankin – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator
Suzanne Lieurance – Chippewa County Health Department
Stephanie Seymour – Garden River First Nation
Dennis Gagne – United Steel Workers Local 2251

Meeting Notes

1. Review of the Agenda and Meeting #45 Notes

David Trowbridge requested that during the meeting there be a discussion on the beaching of iron and the 2nd Quarterly Report that was recently published.

2. Membership Items and Terms of Reference

No new membership changes were noted.

3. Cokemaking Emission Performance

Fred summarized the methodology and history of the coke oven emissions monitoring and presented a graphic representation of Algoma's cokemaking performance from the past 12 months showing that Algoma has maintained compliance with all of the Site Specific Standard

(SSS) limits. The MECP has indicated that the 2020 limits will continue to be enforced until the shutdown of the batteries.

David had questioned why the rolling averages come close to the limits but never go over. Fred explained that if any averages start to approach the limits then certain actions are triggered and work is undertaken to mitigate emissions to ensure compliance is always maintained.

A pushing opacity graph was shown indicating that the average pushing emissions across all three batteries is currently higher in 2023 when compared to 2022. This is a result of experiencing difficulties with heating and maintaining oven temperatures. However, corrective actions taken have always resulted in maintaining compliance. Additionally, some ovens that cannot meet compliance have been permanently taken out of service.

A stack opacity graph was provided showing the coke stack opacity performance for the past 3.5 years. The graph shows the 30 day rolling average in the number of hours in a day above 20% average opacity. This metric is used to depict the overall performance trends.

Algoma recognizes that stack opacity on all three batteries is the most challenging metric to meet. Fred explained that the company is focused on trying to improve the stack opacity performance. Algoma has an abatement plan with the MECP that is in the process of being revised, with the long term goal of shutting the batteries down when the EAF is fully operational.

David commented that ASI's ESG report states that the company is committed to complying with all environmental regulations, but that is clearly not the case with stack opacity. Fred agreed that he would seek to clarify this statement.

Wayne Hubbard mentioned that he did not believe the graphs indicated the true picture and felt that actions should be taken by the MECP. Fred explained that the graphs are showing the measured opacity and are indicative of what is observed in the community. ASI recognizes that stack opacity is the most significant challenge that the company faces from an environmental compliance perspective. However, many initiatives are underway to improve the stack opacity with the end result being a planned shutdown of the batteries when the transition to electric arc steelmaking is complete. Fred also mentioned that the planned downtime and maintenance on the batteries are more than it has ever been in cokemaking.

Rick Lalonde mentioned that the MECP is performing inspections and requests regular updates on the maintenance being performed by ASI. The MECP does understand that there are opacity issues and is looking forward to the complete transition to the EAF and is working with ASI to lower the opacity as much as possible until then.

4. Public Complaints

As mentioned in previous meetings, there has 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 the Gas Cleaning Plant (pollution control device) which underwent significant investment to reduce noise in 2019. The assessment identified that while the noise measures below the night time limit in the community, the frequency of the noise is a nuisance to some residents. Algoma is implementing a solution to mitigate the noise by replacing the acoustic silencing material in the associated ducts.

In addition, Algoma replaced one of the fans in July and the community members stated that it had made a huge improvement in what they were hearing.

David mentioned that the Algoma website hadn't recorded any complaints since June. Lori Jalak mentioned that the MECP was in the process of sending them through to Algoma to document, but the process was slow.

David asked why there seems to be an increase in iron beaching events being reported. Fred explained that beaching is the process where molten iron is poured out on specially prepared beds of sand when the metal cannot be consumed in the normal process. If moisture is present in the sand then a reaction can occur resulting in visible particulate emissions. Most of the time there are no off-site visible emissions from this process. However, as a result of emissions from a beaching event this past winter, operations have modified their procedure, erring on the side of caution, to report all beaching activities in the event that emissions may be visible off-site. The frequency of beaching has not changed, however there has been an increase in reporting.

5. 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 and a significant reduction in Algoma's environmental footprint. Project statistics were shared along with an estimated breakdown of the current spending.

Fred discussed the new emission controls that will be in place, including the fume treatment plants, water treatment plant, and the engineered furnace enclosures.

David inquired about the potential for dioxins and furans being released in the process. Fred explained that the new facility is specifically designed to control these emissions. The gases will be evacuated from the furnace into a "knockout" and combustion chamber to knock out the heavier particles and destroy dioxins or furans formed via combustion. Afterwards, a rapid cooling or quench process will be used to prevent reformation of the dioxins and furans. After the quench process, there will be an activated carbon injection system which can be used to absorb the contaminants prior to filtration at the baghouses. There are also requirements for source testing to verify that the controls are effective.

David asked if pig iron is needed to be purchased, would the green house gases generated from the producer be factored into ASI's total. Fred explained that the emissions generated would be accounted for by the producer of the pig iron.

6. 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 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.

Progress on the air approval application is moving well and Algoma is working with the MECP on the details of the air model. The final documentation on noise plans has been submitted, with the EAF's designed to meet the nighttime noise limits.

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 four effluent discharges will be eliminated.

David asked how much the consumption of water will be reduced. Fred indicated that we would have to look into this and get back to the group with new intake volume estimates.

7. 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 sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in order to provide a compliance approach to the new provincial standards that came 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. There have been no changes to the processes.

At this time Algoma has not made a final decision on what direction it will take in regards to a SSS or registering to an Industry Technical Standard which is currently being developed by the MECP. Algoma has applied for SSS's because an Industry Standard does not yet exist.

David asked when the applications be posted on the ERO site. Fred indicated that he believed they should be posted in the springtime but did not have a date. Rick indicated that he also did not have a date yet. Fred explained that the process is extremely technical and time consuming and that the review process has been ongoing with the MECP for over a year.

8. Site Greening and Shoreline Stabilization

Fred provided an update on Algoma's site greening initiative which consist of installing shoreline protection along approximately 4.1 km of Algoma's shoreline to protect it from future erosion. Subsequently, the site greening plan 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.

Progress has been made on the sloping and erosion protection. Once the stone is laid there will be approximately 30,000 – 40,000 m³ of clean soil that will be laid down, followed by planting of native vegetation and tree species in collaboration with Sault College.

9. Collaborations

Laura highlighted a number of collaborations in place with Algoma University and Sault College, as well as meaningful engagement with local First Nations.

Algoma has also made a significant contribution to the Northway Wellness Centre.

10. Additional Questions

David asked why the quarterly report showed so many PM₁₀ exceedances. Fred explained that once the 24 hour threshold is met, the guideline stipulates that every succeeding hour over the threshold represents a 24 hour excursion.

Lori indicated the MECP will review the reports from the new sampling stations and compare with the previous reports. Rick also mentioned that the mobile air quality monitoring vehicle will be in the area soon.

11. Next Meeting

The next CLC meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 5th, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM, September 12th, 2023.

*Meeting notes prepared by Chris Galizia and Fred Post
October 10th, 2023*

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	
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	Jauvonne Kitto
Batchewana First Nation	TBD	