



## **Notes of Meeting #47 – Algoma Steel Community Liaison Committee**

Date: December 5<sup>th</sup>, 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  
Jillian Marquis – Public  
Lauren Febbraro – Algoma Public Health  
Steve Carey – Chippewa County Health Department  
Lisa Derickx – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator  
Wayne Hubbard – United Steel Workers Local 2251  
Dean Law – United Steel Workers Local 2251

### **CLC Members not in Attendance**

Maggie McAuley – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie  
John Rankin – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator  
Suzanne Lieurance – Chippewa County Health Department  
Stephanie Seymour – Garden River First Nation  
Melissa Francella – Algoma Public Health

### **Meeting Notes**

#### **1. Review of the Agenda and Meeting #46 Notes**

David Trowbridge requested that we review the membership and the actions for the reducing stack opacity. There were no comments on the previous meeting notes.

#### **2. Membership Items and Terms of Reference**

Fred will remove Kathie Brosemer as she is no longer a member of SSM tribe of Chippewa Indians. Fred will keep reaching out for a response on new representation.

Lauren Febbraro requested we add Virginia Huber from APH as an alternate member.

David Trowbridge requested that we discuss the opening up of the CLC to the community and the media. David mentioned that he spoke to a member of Stelco and AMD's committees, and they say their CLC's allow the public and media to be present, but their comments were withheld to the end of the meetings. Fred advised that the main concern is that opening CLC participation to the public and media would potentially restrict dialogue amongst the committee.

David noted that the noon time meetings might be restrictive as well and that perhaps Algoma should consider more frequent public open houses in order to provide the public with more opportunity have dialogue about Algoma Steel. It was agreed that a poll would be sent to the membership regarding preferred meeting times. Fred mentioned that Algoma is planning to have more frequent open house events.

### **3. Sustainability**

A slide was presented with a timeline of Algoma's sustainability journey from 2018 to present which also listed some of the major future milestones. This included actions undertaken like the LEAP, Site Greening, the inaugural ESG report and some significant steps in the EAF transition. Videos were also shown to illustrate the progress of the EAF, and the videos are all posted on Algoma's website and LinkedIn.

David had a comment that AMD follows an accreditation process called Responsible Steel. David asked if Algoma has considered joining this organization. Fred stated the Algoma is aware of Responsible Steel, but Algoma has not made commitments to certify to their standard.

### **4. Site Greening**

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.

Fred mentioned that 18 sault college students were on site to plant more trees as part of our collaboration with them. The project has numerous benefits including minimizing surface water run-off from the site, mitigating wind-blown dust from areas adjacent to roads and generally changing the aesthetic of the site.

### **5. Cokemaking Emission Performance**

Fred summarized the methodology and history of the coke oven emissions monitoring program 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.

Chris explained the trends in the graphs and the recent challenges faced. David asked about the actions that are taken when the charging emission approach the limit. Chris explained that actions vary but could include a number of different actions to reduce emissions. Examples of actions include having supervision present to ensure procedures are being followed, investigating the potential source of emissions and implementing corrective action, temporarily taking ovens out of service for repair to improve suction or increasing coal moisture.

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, but overall lower than in previous years. 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 question was raised about retention of employees in Cokemaking and what steps are being taken. It was mentioned that an agreement was made with one of the two Unions on an employee retention program.

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 requested if Algoma could show the hourly chart to highlight how many hours Algoma is above the 20% average opacity. This will be included in the next CLC.

David also asked if the MECP has any comments on Algoma's performance. Lori Jalak expressed concern regarding performance and indicated that she has recently requested some information on actions being taken by Algoma to reduce opacity. Chris advised that information was being prepared and would be provided to the MECP.

Fred described some of the initiatives underway to improve stack opacity including the recent completion of 3 thruwall ovens and 3 more to be completed before year end. Algoma is also replacing one of the light oil scrubbers which will aid in cleaning our coke oven gas and reduce manual cleaning of underfiring systems. Additionally, there are dedicated maintenance teams focused on masonry and steelwork maintenance.

There was a discussion surrounding Algoma's future coke needs during the EAF transition and whether Algoma is able to purchase coke in order to reduce emissions from making it. Fred explained that purchasing coke to supplement on-site production has been part of Algoma's operating model for a number of years. At times a lack of coke availability in the market has resulted high cost to purchase it, but recent market changes has allowed Algoma to purchase more than historically. However due to various constraints, on-site cokemaking operations will need to continue to run to meet Algoma's blast furnace demands.

## **6. Public Complaints**

Fred recapped on some public noise complaints and a detailed noise assessment that Algoma conducted as a result. The assessment identifying the source as the steelmaking 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 developed a mitigation plan and began implementation in early summer. The plan consists of the progressive replacement of acoustic silencers in the ductwork of the gas cleaning plant.

Work is also being done in our lime plant to replace an impeller in the baghouse, which should address recent complaints in the Bayview area.

David mentioned that AMD has an online grievance system set up to document complaints. David will provide some more information about it, and Algoma will look at it.

## **7. 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 to mitigate noise.

David had a question about the scrap being used and how the non-ferrous parts are dealt with. Fred and Laura Devoni explained that Triple M is our scrap provider and that the process for separating non-ferrous material has advanced greatly in recent years. Current shredders and separators can efficiently separate scrap into different streams, but any residual material not removed would be essentially destroyed in the EAF process.

Laura also explained that today we use about 23% scrap in our process, but with the EAF's we anticipate a minimum of 70% scrap used.

Wayne Hubbard asked if 6 Blast Furnace would be used at all. Fred mentioned that 6 Blast Furnace could potentially be used as a contingency if needed, but there is no defined plan to start it up at this time.

## **8. 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.

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. A draft has recently been provided by the MECP and it is being reviewed.

Progress on the air approval application is moving well and Algoma is working with the MECP to finalize details of the air model inputs. Five different model scenarios are being worked on with the MECP indicating expected emission during each operating phase in the EAF transition.

Jillian asked what data is being used to run these models. Fred explained that the models are based on source test data, engineered emissions rates for contaminants, and physical parameters such as locations and stack heights. The model predicts air contaminant dispersion and the maximum concentration at any point on the property line. The current modelled values are on Algoma's website and they will be updated once the model review with the MECP is complete.

Jillian inquired with Algoma Public Health regarding their review of local air quality data and asked if APH will communicate this to the public. Unfortunately Lauren Febbraro had to leave the meeting early, but Fred explained that APH had requested Algoma to provide Ambient Air Quality data from 2014-2022 for their review. Fred advised that the data had recently been provided. Jillian expressed concern with the potential delay in the results of the review being released to the public.

## **9. 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 expired in 2023. 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 (SO<sub>2</sub>) 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 SO<sub>2</sub> which reflects the progressive facility shutdown.

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.

#### **10. Other Initiatives**

There was a brief discussion regarding some other initiatives underway at Algoma. These include an employee take home initiative to all Algoma employees to take home and reuse clean materials to divert them from the landfill. These include wood pallets, refractory brick and poly totes and drums.

Some additional decarbonization initiatives being investigated include potentially utilizing biomass for fuel substitution as well as further process electrification, carbon capture and storage and the use of hydrogen.

Algoma has also been actively involved in recent job fairs and contributions to local charities and initiatives to support the local community.

#### **11. Additional Comments**

There was a high level future timeline provided on some major milestones in over the next few years of Algoma's transformation. David asked if we are still on track to meet the deadlines for the EAF's. Fred responded that they are on track, and most of the equipment is already on site.

Rick Lalonde commented that the mobile monitoring data for 2022 has been reviewed and can be circulated to the committee. Fred agreed to circulate the MECP's briefing to the committee. Rick also explained that mobile monitoring for 2023 was completed in October and the data will be provided when available.

#### **12. Next Meeting**

The next CLC meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

*Meeting notes prepared by Chris Galizia and Fred Post  
December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

## **Current Members and Alternates**

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Primary Member</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
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	John Rankin
Garden River First Nation	Stephanie Seymour	
Batchewana First Nation	TBD	