



## **Notes of Meeting #48 – Algoma Steel Community Liaison Committee**

Date: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 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  
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)  
David Trowbridge – Public  
Dan Gabor – Public  
Tony Schoahs – Public  
Jillian Marquis – Public  
Lauren Febbraro – Algoma Public Health  
Melissa Francella – Algoma Public Health  
Steve Carey – Chippewa County Health Department

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

Catherine Taddo – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie  
Maggie McAuley – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie  
Lisa Derickx – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator  
Suzanne Lieurance – Chippewa County Health Department  
Dan Sayers Jr. – Batchewana First Nation  
Andrew Mallette – Garden River First Nation  
Richard Perrault – Garden River First Nation  
Wayne Hubbard – United Steel Workers Local 2251  
Dean Law – United Steel Workers Local 2251

### **Meeting Notes**

#### **1. Review of the Agenda and Meeting #47 Notes**

Meeting notes from Meeting #47 were accepted.

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

Fred highlighted some changes in the current membership with Andrew Mallette and Richard Perrault representing the Garden River First Nation. Also, Virginia Huber is a new alternate member for Algoma Public Health. Fred will also confirm if John Rankin is still an alternate member for St. Mary's River RAP.

### **3. Review of Cokemaking Incident**

Fred described a detailed overview of the incident in Cokemaking which occurred on January 20<sup>th</sup> 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. This request has been approved by the MECP.

Fred explained that the plan requires some facilities to operate at a reduced capacity, which necessitates 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 14<sup>th</sup>.

During the period the plan is in effect, Algoma has implemented enhanced ambient air monitoring, fugitive visible emissions and reporting of operating practices and monitoring results. Algoma has also implemented alternative procedures to minimize emissions and increased inspections and maintenance activities while the battery repair plan is in effect.

In addressing a question from David Trowbridge, Fred explained that the ambient air quality monitoring for benzene and BaP has been increased to every third day. At the initial period of this increased monitoring there were 2 days where measurements indicated elevated levels of benzene at the Bonney St. monitoring station. The cause is believed to be related to damages to the benzene emission control system as a result of the pipe collapse, however subsequent sampling results have remained at normal levels.

Fred also mentioned that Algoma is actively investigating the cause of the collapse with a team of experts.

There was some discussion with public members regarding the rumors of possible human error or the lack of maintenance being a contributing cause. However, Algoma indicated this was unlikely and the investigation with experts will determine the cause.

### **4. Blast Furnace Update**

Shortly after the incident in Cokemaking, the Blast Furnace temporarily suspended production for safety reasons while the site was secured.

Complications associated with the pipe collapse created challenges with bringing the blast furnace back online which resulted in a furnace chill. Temporary layoffs occurred as a result of the Cokemaking incident and the blast furnace chill.

Since then, the furnace has been restarted and coke supplies are being supplemented with market purchases.

Tony Schoahs asked about the measures taken by Algoma to minimize the layoffs and wanted to highlight the impact these layoffs have in the community. Laura explained that every measure was taken to retain employees by processing stock on site and displacing contractors in favor of permanent employees.

## **5. 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. The trends have been declining since the collapse as operations have been impacted.

The opacity graphs were shown for 2024 and the previous years. Currently the pushing opacity is being minimized as the coking time has been extended across all 3 batteries.

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. Fred explained that the drop in opacity is a direct result of the pipe collapse as production was virtually halted. However, on 7 Battery there is a sharp increase as a result of production resuming. The elevated level is a result of having lost all beneficial carbon after the pipe collapse.

David asked for some clarification on the criteria for a stack opacity violation to be reported on Algoma's website. Fred explained that incident reports are submitted daily for each battery.

## **6. 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. Some of the actions undertaken included 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 requested that in future ESG reports Algoma clarifies the use of the language "committed to complying with all applicable regulations" as it could be misleading. Algoma has agreed to soften the language.

## **7. Electric Arc Steelmaking and Environmental Permit Applications**

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 regarding construction progress were shared.

David asked whether the solid residues will be landfilled or recycled. Fred indicated that Algoma is working with a third party on a zero waste recycling plan to extract the usable metals from the dust.

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.

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.

Fred explained that the ECA for air will take some time as Algoma needs to register to the Technical Standard. The MECF has indicated that the Technical Standard for mini mills will be published in April, and approximately 1 year for the integrated mill standard. In the interim

Algoma has submitted an abatement plan to bridge the gap. Once the Technical Standard is ready, Algoma will register to it and withdraw from the abatement plan.

For the Industrial Sewage Works application, Fred shared that the permit has been recently issued by the MECP.

David had a question regarding the 70% reduction in GHG's, and how Algoma accounts for the increase of electricity consumption. Laura explained that the 70% reduction is based on emissions reduced onsite and does not consider offsite generation. However, 90% of Ontario's power generation is non-emitting.

A slide was presented regarding logistics of the EAF parts, indicating that most of the equipment is on site.

#### **8. Other Initiatives**

Laura discussed some local initiatives that Algoma has been involved in recently. This included Algoma participating in the 12 Days of Christmas, with a donation of a new car. Algoma has also sponsored free skating times, Bon Soo Winter Carnival, and the Bring a Doctor Home Hockey Tournament. Algoma has also been showcasing exhibits at local high schools called #CareersinSteel.

#### **9. Additional Comments**

A video was shown about Algoma's new logistics around scrap and product handling. Highlighted was the new vehicles used to minimize the number of trucks on the road.

David asked how the scrap handlers will segregate contaminants from the scrap. Fred explained that the shredding and segregation technology used in scrap separation is highly advanced at ensuring undesirable materials are removed from the scrap stream prior to reuse.

A final slide was shown of the approximate timeline of the EAF commissioning, including power transmission.

#### **10. Next Meeting**

The next CLC meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

*Meeting notes prepared by Chris Galizia and Fred Post  
April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

## **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	
Garden River First Nation	Andrew Mallette	Richard Perrault
Batchewana First Nation	Dan Sayers Jr.	