



Notes of Meeting #51 – Algoma Steel Community Liaison Committee

Date: December 10th, 2024

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

Time: 12:00pm to 2:00pm

CLC Members in Attendance

Corey Jackson – Algoma Steel
Chris Galizia – Algoma Steel
John Naccarato – Algoma Steel
Laura Devoni – Algoma Steel
Giancarlo Perra – Algoma Steel
Dennis Gagne – United Steel Workers Local 2251
Dean Law – United Steel Workers Local 2251
Rick Lalonde – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Lori Jalak – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Jace Dominey – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
David Trowbridge – Public
Jillian Marquis – Public
Dan Gabor – Public
Lisa Derickx – St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator
Catherine Taddo – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Lauren Febbraro – Algoma Public Health

CLC Members not in Attendance

Andrew Mallette – Garden River First Nation
Richard Perrault – Garden River First Nation
Tony Schoahs – Public
Maggie McAuley – Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Steve Carey – Chippewa County Health Department
Suzanne Lieurance – Chippewa County Health Department
Melissa Francella – Algoma Public Health
Virginia Huber – Algoma Public Health
Dan Sayers Jr. – Batchewana First Nation
Wayne Hubbard – United Steel Workers Local 2251

Meeting Notes

1. Review of the Agenda and Meeting #50 Notes

Meeting notes from Meeting #50 were accepted. Algoma continued to commit to distributing the meeting minutes in a shorter timeframe.

2. Membership Items and Terms of Reference

Membership changes were made at Algoma with Corey Jackson as the primary member and Giancarlo Perra as the alternate. Lauren Febbraro will also be the alternate for Algoma Public Health.

3. Cokemaking Emission Performance

Chris summarized the Cokemaking Emissions Performance limits and explained that the current limits are to stay the same until the Cokemaking ceases operations. Graphs were provided to show the last 12 months of emissions performance. Recent trends were discussed along with the impact of the utility corridor collapse.

David questioned if the IOPC installation on 9 Battery had negatively impacted the performance of charging emissions. Chris agreed it did play a large role, but was manageable and we have been in compliance since coming out of the utility corridor collapse incident.

David asked which emission point would have the largest effect on ambient air quality. Chris explained that doors are the largest source due to their size.

Two pushing opacity graphs were shown indicating that the average pushing opacity has slightly increased compared to the previous year, however the vast majority of audited pushes are well below the limit.

Chris explained that each battery is audited for 4 pushes every weekday, and 10 Saturdays and 10 Sundays per year. David asked how many times the MECP audits the pushes, and Chris mentioned the MECP performs inspections every year, with the next one likely to happen soon.

Jillian asked how much advance notice is given for an inspection, and Chris explained it varies to sometimes the morning of or as early as a week.

David asked if Pinchin is still the contractor performing the audits. Chris explained that they are and it is unlikely to change as it is difficult to train new auditors.

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. Chris explained that the data is not gathered by auditors, but by meters built into the stacks.

Dan Gabor asked if employee inexperience played a role in elevated opacity. Chris explained that it might, but the majority of the issues is related to oven conditions.

David asked if stack sampling is a possibility to verify what particulates were coming out and if any was being deposited in the community. Corey mentioned that it is likely stack testing would happen early in 2025 and that any particulate is likely from road dust and our stock piles.

David asked if there was an action plan to bring Algoma into compliance with stack opacity. Chris explained that reducing stack opacity is a challenge for all Cokemaking facilities, not just Algoma, and when the EAF is fully operating then all stack opacity will be eliminated. In addition, it was explained that Algoma is providing the most downtime and resources ever to improve conditions on the batteries.

Jillian asked if Algoma Public Health has conducted any studies on Algoma Steel's impact on the community. Lauren Febbraro indicated that APH has looked into doing studies with Public Health Ontario, but she would need to consult with Melissa Francella to provide an answer. David mentioned a past discussion about Algoma providing information to APH regarding air quality to perform a study and Corey mentioned he would look it for the next meeting.

4. Electric Arc Steelmaking

A short video was shown of an employee who will be Algoma's Front Line Supervisor (FLS) of EAF Operations and the role he will play.

Giancarlo and John discussed the construction progress of the EAF and the technology needed to power the furnaces. Slides were shown with pictures of the progress. Dan Gabor had a question about start up times, and John responded that the first arc should take place in March of 2025.

Jillian asked if the full transition to the EAF could be held up by the power supply from the Province. John indicated that Algoma use its onsite Lake Superior Power (LSP) to initially provide power to one furnace arcing at a time, and when the 230kV line is complete then Algoma's dependency on LSP will be scaled back.

Giancarlo provided an update on the current expenditures, including how much is being spent locally and how many jobs have been created to date.

Giancarlo and John presented a slide showing transition from arcing in alternate mode to a full transition to the EAF.

Giancarlo presented a slide on additional benefits of a 230kV line being built in the Sault, including an increased transmission capacity, enhanced power reliability, and future growth opportunities for the City. A discussion was had about the proposed routes from Hydro One and PUC, as well as the sources of the power.

Corey discussed the reductions in Algoma's footprint including CO₂, SO_x, NO_x, and stack and fugitive emissions. These reductions would position Algoma as one of the leading producers of green steel in North America.

David asked if Algoma is working with carbon credits and if there will be a benefit in the transition. John discussed that Algoma will not see any credit for reducing emissions from an integrated facility to an EAF. However, Algoma is in the process of negotiating with the Province about finding a way to recognize that reduction.

5. Environmental Permit Applications

Corey gave an update on the status for the two site wide environmental compliance approvals (ECA's). The ECA for air and noise was posted on the ERO on Sept. 6th for a 45 day consultation, closing on Nov 4th. The ECA for industrial sewage works was approved in March, which was a consolidation of all existing ECA's and the addition of a new contact cooling water system for the new EAF's.

David expressed frustration about how there was no information provided by the MECP on the approvals, therefore it made it hard to make comments. Corey indicated that the decision for the postings was made at the MECP approvals branch and Algoma wasn't involved.

Corey showed a slide on alternate standard requests. Algoma is seeking either a Site Specific Standard (SSS) or an Industry Technical Standard (ITS) as it transitions to a full EAF operation. Since neither Standards are available yet, an Abatement Plan was prepared and accepted by the MECP in accordance with O.Reg. 419. The Abatement Plan is intended to bridge the gap until one of the Standards are available. The plan is intended to be aligned with industry best practices and future requirements of the ITS. A separate ERO posting will be issued for the alternate standard.

David asked the MECP why Algoma's abatement plan had not been released. Rick Lalonde believed the abatement plan was released through an FOI but did not know for sure as the local office is not involved in the ERO positing.

6. Legacy Environmental Action Plan

Corey provided an update to the Shoreline Stabilization which resumed on June 24th. The project is almost complete with the exception of certain areas such as the dock edges. Work will continue to the end of the year.

The Site Greening initiative will proceed once the shoreline stabilization is completed. This will involve bringing in clean soils and creating seasonal surface water ponding areas. Vegetating with native plants and tree species will be done in collaboration with Sault College.

Lisa Derickx asked if there was any updates on the dredging of the boat slip. Corey did not have any new information but would look into it and provide a later update.

7. Community Engagement

Laura provided an update on Algoma's involvement in the community, including being a sponsor for SooToday's 12 Days of Christmas Random Acts of Kindness, continuing to donate to Harvest Algoma, providing information sessions on careers to high school and college students, making donations to the Christmas Cheer program and SOYA.

8. Other

David had asked a couple questions prior to the meeting via email. Corey addressed these at the end of the presentation. The first one was regarding the website not updating information. Corey stated he is actively working on correcting this issue.

The next was related to the number of incidents being unusually high. Corey explained that the higher numbers in March, April and May were directly related to the utility corridor collapse and the state of operations afterwards.

David and Corey had a discussion at the end of the meeting regarding the ambient air quality data. This data is on the website, but David would like portions of this data shown at the next open house. Algoma agreed and will find a way to present the data in a simplified way.

9. Next Meeting

Algoma intends to host the next Community Open House on February 19th at the Royal Legion. David mentioned that the Terms of Reference states that the CLC should have input into the presentations at the open house. Laura requested that if any member has anything specific they would like shown at the open house to please forward that on to Corey by end of January.

The next CLC meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 18th, 2025.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM, December 10th, 2024.

*Meeting notes prepared by Chris Galizia
December 19th, 2024*

Current Members and Alternates

Representation

Primary Member

Alternate

Algoma Steel	Corey Jackson	Giancarlo Perra
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	Lauren Febbraro
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.	