

Kara Terpstra

From: Donna Taylor <dtaylor@pdhu.on.ca>
Sent: December-06-18 4:46 PM
To: Kara Terpstra
Cc: Miriam Klassen; Donna Taylor
Subject: FW: Community Liaison Committee meeting - Dec.6/18-St. Marys Cement

Hi Kara,

My apologies again for not being able to attend the meeting this evening.

Please see our response below to the question that was sent to us last week.

If attendees have questions for the health unit please have them:

Email pdhu@pdhu.on.ca with the subject line "questions for the health unit" OR

Call 519 271 7600 ext. 256 (Dr. Klassen's Confidential Secretary)

Thanks
Donna

Donna Taylor
Director of Health Protection
Perth District Health Unit
653 West Gore St.
Stratford, Ontario
N5A 1L4
519 271 7600 ext 254
dtaylor@pdhu.on.ca
www.pdhu.on.ca

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From: Miriam Klassen
Sent: December-06-18 4:05 PM
To: Donna Taylor <dtaylor@pdhu.on.ca>; Miriam Klassen <mklassen@pdhu.on.ca>
Subject: FW: Community Liaison Committee meeting - Dec.6/18-St. Marys Cement

If an individual is experiencing health-related symptoms, it is important they follow-up with their own Health Care Provider, who can do a comprehensive assessment, and will have an understanding of the complete medical history of the individual, and can provide tailored guidance.

In addition, with regard to this specific situation in St. Marys, it is important that individuals continue to report odour and other issues to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The MECP ensures compliance with Ambient Air Quality Criteria (AAQC) and may also provide direction with regard to odour abatement. The work of the MECP is assisted by residents who provide valuable information.

With regard to the public health role of monitoring and protecting population health, our May 2018 report described our investigation, which included consideration of many data sources, and concluded that St Marys Cement (SMC) does

not pose a health risk as it is operating within standards set out to protect human health and the environment. It also described some of the complexities of assessing odour. Any given substance will have an odour detection threshold that differs for each person, and the fact that an odour is detectable does not mean that levels are harmful. This is further complicated by the fact that multiple substances can be contributing to an odour. Regardless, emitters are expected to follow odour abatement plans so that emissions do not interfere with the enjoyment of adjacent properties.

Further research (such as a survey) intended to try to systematically identify people who may be impacted by emissions and have not sought medical consultation will not add to current knowledge about cement factories and population health. A small health unit cannot match, much less exceed, the rigour or effort of the larger studies done to date on this complex issue, and would be limited by small numbers and confounding factors. Furthermore, such a survey would not add to our understanding of compliance of SMC with current AAQC. Anyone who is experiencing respiratory or other symptoms, whether they suspect the symptoms to be related to SMC or not, is encouraged to see their family doctor. Anyone who is impacted by odours and/or emissions is encouraged to report this to the MECP.

PDHU is further reviewing data on school absenteeism; to see if it adds to our understanding of impacts on students and conditions when symptoms may be exacerbated.

Miriam Klassen
Medical Officer of Health and CEO
Perth District Health Unit
653 West Gore St., Stratford, ON, N5A 1L4
519-271-7600 x 255
mklassen@pdhu.on.ca

-----Original Message-----

From: chris young [mailto:cecyoung8@hotmail.com]
Sent: November-27-18 2:44 PM
To: Miriam Klassen <mklassen@pdhu.on.ca>
Cc: Kara Terpstra <kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com>; jcraigmile@town.stmarys.on.ca; sharvey@golden.net
Subject: Community Liaison Committee meeting - Dec.6/18-St. Marys Cement

Good afternoon, Dr. Klassen,

I have a question for the Perth Health Unit that I would like included at the upcoming Community Liaison Committee Meeting on December 6, 2018, regarding St. Marys Cement.

At past meetings, we learned that incidences of various health concerns in St. Marys were tracked by the PHU and the numbers were not found to be a concern.

The fact that "silent sufferers" were not included in those numbers was raised in a letter to the editor (July 5) in the local paper. At the September 7 CLC meeting, one part of this concern was addressed in that it is difficult to monitor those who move away. However, the fact that many other people with symptoms do not go to the doctor was not addressed.

My question concerns these "silent sufferers". Does the PHU have any suggestions as to how to systematically research the number of people who experience ill health effects from the Odour, but who do not go to the doctor?

I believe that it is important to have all of these physical reactions recorded somehow in order to have all of the pieces of the puzzle as we try to improve this situation.

I look forward to hearing your ideas at the upcoming meeting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Chris Young
178 Widder Street East
St. Marys, ON

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