







#### **Community Liaison Committee Meeting** Date: September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Location: St Marys Town Hall

## Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- Review of June 1<sup>st</sup> Minutes
- Community Complaints
  - Odour
  - Noise
  - Dust
  - Health
- Concerns brought forward
  - Letter to the Editor
  - Benzene request to MOECC
  - Others?
- Odour Abatement Plan Status
- Website
- Open House
- Round Table
- Closing Remarks



#### **Welcome and Introductions**



#### **Review of June 1<sup>st</sup> Minutes**



Month	Odour	Noise	Dust	Health (SMC)
January	0	0	0	0
February	9	1	1	0
March	9	1	1	1
April	3	0	0	0
Мау	10	2	2	2
June	6	1	1	3
July	8	0	0	2
August	23	2	0	8
September				
October				
November				
December				



## Concerns Brought Forward Since Last CLC Meeting on June 1st



St. Marys Independent

Thursday, July 5, 2018

27

# Letters to the Editor

In response to the May 31, 2018 Letter to the Editor from Jose Soraggi, Operations Manager, St Marys Cement:

If St. Marys Cement (SMC) "is committed to being a good neighbour, while continuing to contribute to the community", then why would SMC not limit production when wind direction is carrying emissions toward town? Why does a complaint to the MOE no longer result in fresh air within the hour as it did just a few short years ago?

If SMC say they are committed to being a good neighbour, why do they choose to use petcoke for fuel, which has been commonly referred to as "the dirtiest fuel on the planet" and is banned in multiple places around the world.

Anyone who has done even some light research into petcoke would agree the Cement Plant would be a better neighbour if they chose to burn an alternative, healthier fuel source, such as natural gas or waste wood—which would not only reduce unnecessary waste from our landfills, but also create more jobs for our economy.

We would like to point out that the health statistics do not account for families who have moved away from the area because of health concerns, or take into account those who are suffering intermittent health issues silently, without medical observance. These factors make the stats inconclusive, either way.

Yes, SMC continues to contribute to the community with donations of land and money, taxes, etc. We acknowledge the Plant employs 125 people (although not all are local), and while certainly not one job or person goes unrecognized, SMC is by no means the largest employer in St Marys. Other factories in our town employ between 140 - 600 people.

But let's also speak about what SMC contributes to our air according to the Government of Canada Facility & Substance Information: 11 tonnes of Benzene, 537 tonnes Sulphur Dioxide, 32 tonnes Carbon Monoxide, 33 kg Mercury, 1.8 tonnes Styrene, 145 tonnes particulate matter, etc. and the noxious fumes & dust that steal outdoor enjoyment from the town's residents. Votorantim Cimentos, the Brazilian company who now owns St. Marys Cement, may be able to ride the coat-tails of the legacy which was built in the past by a local family, but it cannot hide from the facts and the ever growing number of people who are aware of its negative contributions.

All it would take is an investment to switch to a cleaner fuel, raise the stacks, and do what it takes to become a leader in your operating standards.

THAT would be a good neighbour and PROVE

SMC's commitment. Our town is worth the investment.

St Marys For Clean Air (S.M.F.C.A)



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#### St Marys For Clean Air (S.M.F.C.A)

Thursday, July 5, 2018



STMARYS St Marys Cement Votorantim Cimentos Life is made to last

- "If St Marys Cement (SMC) is committed to being a good neighbour while continuing to contribute to the community..."
- "If SMC say they are committed to being a good neighbour..."
- "The Cement Plant would be a better neighbour if..."
  - The letter acknowledges SMC's contributions and donations to the community.
  - St Marys Cement has demonstrated numerous times over the last 106 years our commitment to the Town of St Marys
  - Regarding this letter and the commitment that S.M.F.C.A. wants regarding *Air Emissions;* we have our Odour Abatement Plan, Noise Abatement Plan, Community Liaison Committee, and ongoing community outreach and engagement programs that we are working constantly on. We understand that these plans take time, which can be frustrating for residents, but we've shown and discussed how complex these issues truly are and are continuing to work towards improvement.



- "...why do they choose to use petcoke for fuel, which has been commonly referred to as 'the dirtiest fuel on the planet' and is banned in multiple places around the world."
  - As discussed in the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, petcoke is attractive to the cement manufacturing process for several reasons including heat value, high burning temperature, chemical composition, emission reducing capabilities, and economic viability.
    - In the cement process the hot gases flow counter to the flow of the cement and emissions such as sulphur dioxide are trapped in the cement, meaning petcoke in cement production is a clean way to use petcoke.
  - Petcoke was banned in India in 2017 in 2018 the Supreme Court that the "...import of petcoke in the country be regulated and permitted for clean purposes" such as the cement industry. Cement is considered a 'clean' use of petcoke because the counter-flow of material to emission gases removes pollutants from the gas stream.
    - <u>https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/report-paves-way-for-ban-on-pet-coke-</u> <u>import/articleshow/65170966.cms</u>



- "If they chose to burn an alternative, healthier fuel source, such as natural gas or waste wood which would not only reduce unnecessary waste from our landfills, but also create more jobs for our economy."
  - We do currently use natural gas as part of the kiln fuel.
  - Switching to wood is feasible but the logistics behind it are complex. There are several factors to consider including quantity of wood required, logistics of using wood in the process, etc.
  - The permitting process for using alternative fuels takes time and extensive due diligence.
  - We are currently looking into several options for low carbon fuel.
- *"All it would take is an investment to switch to cleaner fuel...to be come a leader in your operating standards"* 
  - There are other cement manufacturing facilities which currently use alternative fuels such as wood, used tires, plastics, natural gas, etc. but not at 100% fuel capacity – the remainder being petcoke.
  - For example, in the Midlothian Cement Plant in Texas they use 15% used tires and 8% Plastic waste as fuel, with the remainder of the fuel being petcoke.



- "... why would SMC not limit production when wind direction is carrying emissions towards town?"
  - Cement manufacturing is a complex process with extensive controls- decreasing the production rate of a kiln made for a set production rate can actually increase the amount of air emissions coming out of the stack.
- *"... Why does a complaint to the MOE no longer result in fresh air within the hour as it did just a few short years ago?"* 
  - We are continuing our investigation to determine the source of the odour.
- "... raise the stacks and do what it takes to become a leader in your operating standards."
  - We are currently working on the air modelling for the effectiveness of changing our stack height.
  - Weather is one of the biggest factors in our stack dispersion wind direction and speed, ground temperature vs. air temperature, changing barometric pressure, incoming storm fronts, etc.

Our Noise Reduction and Odour Abatement plans are in progress, and we are committed to being open and transparent with residents of St Marys as we move forward. We have policies in place to address problems with excess dust from the plant, and community members can raise any concerns they may have through the CLC or with the plant directly.



- "... what SMC contributes to our air according to the Government of Canada Facility & Substance Information..."
  - The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change conducted further testing of air quality levels in St Marys in 2017 and 2018.
  - They also evaluated our air dispersion and emission factors for the plant to verify that they are within MOECC standards.
  - The findings confirmed the plant is operating in compliance towards air emissions regulations.
  - All of our emissions are closely monitored.
  - Emissions are spread out over the entire year.



- "... the health statistics do not account for families who have moved away from the area because of health concerns, or take into account those who are suffering intermittent health issues silently, without medical observance."
  - For questions regarding the health statistics provided by the Perth District Health Unit, their contact information is available on their website.
  - http://www.pdhu.on.ca/



#### **Email from Resident Re. Benzene**



#### **Benzene Emissions from St. Marys Cement**

Sent: Thu 31/05/2018 11:19 AM

To: Rob.Wrigley@ontario.ca

Cc 🛛 🗐 astrathdee@town.stmarys.on.ca; 🗐 sharvey@golden.net; 🗷 Kara Terpstra

Good morning:

According to the following link, the benzene annual average Ambient Air Quality Criteria (AAQC) is 0.45 ug/m3. <u>https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontarios-ambient-air-quality-criteria-sorted-contaminant-name</u>

Averaging the data from Table 2 of the TAGA Survey for benzene (link below), undetectable values are set to 0, resulting in a value of 0.75 ug/m3. http://www.townofstmarys.com/en/living-here/resources/Documents/012618-Technical-Memo---St-Marys-Cement-TAGA-Survey-date-correction.pdf

Since this value is above the AAQC criteria, why is benzene not being monitored by the stationary sampler that the MOECC put in place for a year? During the meeting last December you mentioned in your presentation that benzene was not being monitored even though there had been 6 instances of exceedances. Now that I have read the TAGA survey in detail, this is a question that needs answering.

Sincerely,



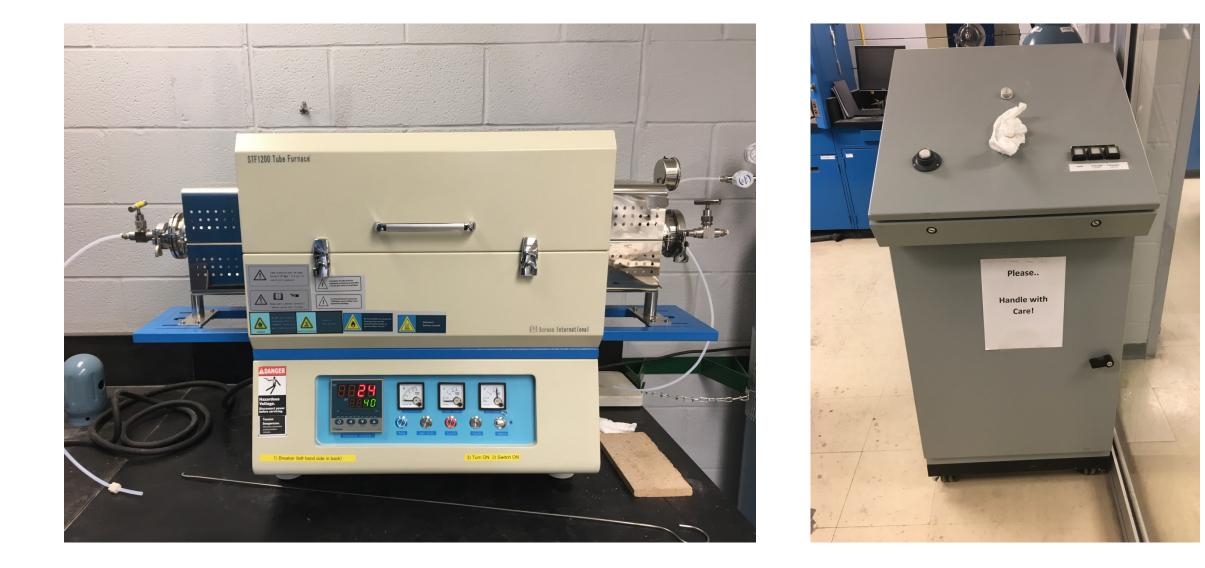


## **Other Concerns Brought Forward?**



#### **Odour Abatement Plan Status**







### Website

#### Website



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 The Code of Conduct
 Contact Us
 A A
 What are periodizing for

 Votorantim
 A St Marys Comment
 Company
 Products in Services
 Investors:
 Be a Customer
 Sustainability
 Careers
 Media

Home / Sustainability / Community Liaison Committee

#### St Marys Community Liaison Committee

The Committee aims to build on the relationship between the community members of St Marys and the St Marys Cement Plant.



Current webpage for the Community Liaison Committee will be adapted to better position the St Marys Plant in the community





(AFTER)

TOWN OF ST. MARYS AND ST MARY'S CEMENT

> ABOUT US COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

This new webpage will show the the history of St Marys Cement in the town, the work that's been done in the community, and the ongoing sustainability efforts being made. Will also include a contact section with FAQs that will better serve the community, and notices and updates from the CLC.

#### NEXT MEETING

November 17, 2017

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Vanessa Barr Human Resource Manager, St Marys Cement

Fernando Circelli District Officer, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

Jim Craigmile Councillor, Town of St Marys

Brett Kittmer CAO/Clerk, Town of St Marys

Jose Soraggi Plant Manager, St Marys Cement

Al Strathdee Mayor, Town of St Marys

Kara Terpstra Environmental Coordinator, St Marys Cement

#### COMMUNITY PROJECTS

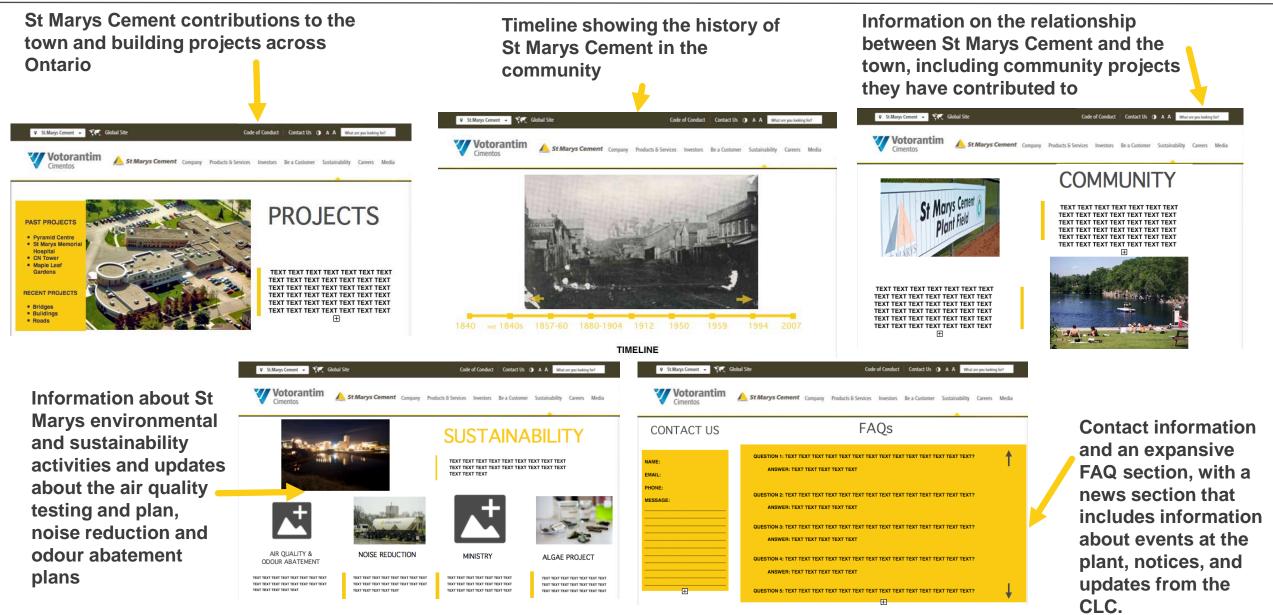
Pyramid Center Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame St Marys Memorial Hospital Swimming Quarry Innovative CO2 Pilot Project



#### Website -

The new webpage will allow residents to access information on the following:







#### **St Marys Cement Open House**



#### **Round Table**



### **Closing Remarks**

Kara Terpstra – Environmental Coordinator at 519-284-1020 x 235 or at <u>kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com</u>