

Community Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

June 7th, 2019
10:00am
Town Hall, St Marys

Present	St Marys Cement: Kara Terpstra, Vanessa Barr, Jose Soraggi St Marys Council: Jim Craigmile, Tony Winter Community Members: Marti Lindsay, Rodger Muir MECP: Fernando Circelli (District Officer), Peter Rehbein (Air Quality Analyst) Regrets: Brent Kittmer (St Marys Council), Krysta-Leigh Johnston (MECP), Stewart Grant (Community Member), Marvin Arthur (Community Member), Sylvia Harvey (Community Member)
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1. **Welcome and Introduction**

10:00am Kara welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Round table introductions of CLC Members. Community members observing are welcome to observe and speak with CLC members after the meeting.

Krysta-Leigh Johnston from the MECP is unable to attend, Fernando Circelli is here to represent the MECP. Also with the MECP is Peter Rehbein who will speak to questions regarding SO2.

Also present is Ruben Plaza (VCNA Environmental Manager).

2. **Paperwork Provided**

Minutes from March 8th meeting

*Noted the error in Tony Winter's name.

Copy of June 7th Community Liaison Committee Meeting Presentation

Copy of Bonis Quarry Expansion Project letter and survey sent to residents

Copy of report from the PDHU regarding pneumonia in St Marys.

Copy of information from the PDHU regarding SO2 Standards in Ontario

Passed around list of Community Liaison Committee contact information for members to verify.

3. **Community Complaints**

Total number March - May 2019.

SMC also highlighted that complaints are received by either the MECP or SMC. Not all complaints are attributed to SMC. The number of complaints which mention health are odour complaints in which the resident mentions health concerns. The number of complaints has decreased since previous years.

4. MECP – St Marys Cement Air Quality Monitoring – Updated Ontario Sulphur Dioxide Standards

Peter Rehbein with the MECP reviewed updates to SO₂ standards in Ontario and answering some answers brought to the CLC during previous CLC Meetings.

SMC presented information on SO₂ generated during the cement manufacturing process and levels of SO₂ emitted from SMC vs. other facilities in Ontario.

Mobile air monitoring campaign by the MECP was done in 2018 but has not yet been done in 2019. Results from last year will be available soon.

5. Perth District Health Unit – Report on Pneumonia in Perth County

Reviewed the findings of the Perth District Health Unit report on pneumonia which is available on the Town website. For further information contact the PDHU.

6. PDHU Request for information on Bonis Property

A resident of St Marys reached out to the PDHU regarding the letter which had been sent to residents who live within 1km of the Bonis property. Copies of the letter and survey were provided to CLC members.

7. Stack Extension

Engineering companies were on site earlier this month to do structural assessment of the existing stack. SMC is looking to extend the stack 20m or more.

8. Concerns Brought Forward in Advance of Today's Meeting

What is the cement plant going to do about people in town who send negative comments to residents who have expressed their concerns about the cement plant emissions?

Response from SMC:

- We would hope and expect that people engaging in social media forums and interacting on a day to day basis would always treat each other with dignity and respect that they deserve.
- Facebook, in its Community Standards, states:
 - Every day, people come to Facebook to share their stories, see the world through the eyes of others, and connect with friends and causes. The conversations that happen on Facebook reflect the diversity of a community of more than two billion people communicating across countries and cultures and in dozens of languages, posting everything from text to photos and videos.
 - We recognize how important it is for Facebook to be a place where people feel empowered to communicate.
- Conversations are occurring on Facebook between people who are neither employed by or acting on behalf of the company.
- At St Marys Cement we have our Values and Beliefs, which we use to guide our conduct including how we address and respect others.
 - Our process for fielding concerns are:

- Making ourselves available for discussions and encourage residents to participate in discussions
- Holding our Community Liaison Committee meetings which provide an additional and formal environment and process for addressing concerns.
- Providing opportunities for people to come to visit the plant to learn more.

What are other cement plants doing around the world for odour?

- Cement plants have a legal obligation to comply with regulations established by experts who set standards for air quality and public safety.
- Based off the specific conditions of each cement plant location and materials and processes used, each solution for controlling emissions must be site specific and engineered for each location.
- St Marys Cement's Odour Abatement Plan looked at the raw material and processes on site and determined the source of the odour was the limestone coming from the quarry and the most effective form of mitigation is to increase the dispersion.
- Extending the stack height will mitigate odour in an effective manner as per the Air Dispersion Modelling.

Jose mentioned a plant in Brazil which had odour problems which were attributed to high SO₂. A reactor was installed which reduced SO₂ from 1500ppm to 800ppm SO₂. SMC has lower SO₂ levels at 40ppm.

What is the status of the extended smoke stack?

Reviewed earlier in the meeting.

Would it be possible to get all the stack sampling, MOECC mobile and stationary monitoring data?

SMC stack sampling data is extensive and can be provided upon request. The MECP data will be shared with the town once reports are completed.

Are there any plans to reduce emissions?

- St Marys Cement has several processes to control emissions on site including an ammonia system to decrease NO_x emissions and baghouses to control dust.
- St Marys Cement ensures that all regulatory limits are met as per Federal and Provincial standards.

Ruben Plaza spoke towards SMC applying for an alternative fuels permit which takes time to be approved by the MECP. Biomass and wood waste is a common alternative fuels, along with waste plastics and tires. However certain alternative fuels have a negative perception and can have their own issues when it comes to introducing them in the process.

9. Round Table

Rodger Muir asked how the alternative fuels would be fed into the system – it would be co-fed with an existing fuel such as petcoke. Likely would have separate feed injectors.

Fernando noted that the 2018 monitoring reports done by the MECP are in progress, the London district office will continue to do odour surveys in the vicinity of SMC.

Jim Craigmile asked about typical feed rates for alternative fuels, Ruben noted it is typically 8% by thermal replacement. Jim also noted that odour changes frequently in town and can be difficult to pinpoint exact times of odour.

Marti Lindsay commented that residents who are on Facebook are encouraged to educate themselves and come to meetings. The PDHU and the MECP are not alarmed with the data so if residents have concerns about SMC they should contact the health unit or ministry directly.

Jose Soraggi mentioned the 10 year no lost time milestone that the plant just reached.

Kara will send out electronic versions of the documents provided today and will upload them to the website.

The next meeting will be uploaded to the website.

10. Closing Remarks

The next meeting will be in September 2019.