

# Community Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
10:00am  
Town Hall, St Marys

<b>Present</b>	<b>St Marys Cement:</b> Kara Terpstra, Vanessa Barr, Jose Soraggi <b>St Marys Council:</b> Jim Craigmile, Tony Winter, Brent Kittmer <b>Community Members:</b> Marti Lindsay, Sylvia Harvey, <b>MECP:</b> Krysta-Leigh Johnston <b>Guest:</b> Tim Everett (Pond Technologies), Peter Howard (Pond Technologies) <b>Regrets:</b> Rodger Muir (Community), Marvin Arthur (Community), Stewart Grant (Community)
----------------	--

## 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.

Guest speakers today are Tim Everett and Peter Howard to discuss research being done on site at Pond Technologies.

## 2. Paperwork Provided

Minutes from September 6<sup>th</sup> Community Liaison Committee Meeting

Copy of December 6<sup>th</sup> Community Liaison Committee Meeting Presentation

Copy of MECP 2017 – 2018 Ministry Ambient Air Monitoring

## 3. Community Complaints

Total number September – November 2019.

SMC also highlighted a comparison of complaints year to year including the increase in odour, noise, and dust complaints in 2017 to 2019. 5 complaints YTD were not from SMC.

\*Amendment\* The total number across the table presented on slide 4- Community Complaints YTD is not up to date. Correct Numbers YTD are Odour – 73, Dust- 47, Noise – 30, Mention Health- 57. Note that odour Complaints which mention health are counted for reference only and are not separate complaints.

## 4. Dust Complaints

Kara reviewed St Marys Cement procedure for responding to dust concerns from residents which was discussed with the CLC in 2017.

SMC also discussed sources of dust in town including traffic, farming, other industrial facilities, salt, road cleaning, construction, pollen, etc.

Kara reviewed 13 dust complaints received from residents between October 23-25<sup>th</sup> including source on site and preventative measures being put in place to prevent reoccurrence.

## 5. Noise Complaints

Kara referred back to the presentation provided at the September 6<sup>th</sup> CLC meeting from HGC Engineering: Acoustic Assessment & Noise Abatement Action Plan for St Marys Cement Presentation

SMC received an increase in noise complaints from a residential area north of the plant. Additional on site and offsite testing has been initiated to determine the source of the noise. HGC Engineering was able to detect a dual frequency noise at the residence which was higher than SMC.

SMC is waiting for the results of additional monitoring.

## 6. **MECP Update on Monitoring**

The MECP has finalized 2 reports on permanent and mobile testing which was done in St Marys from 2017 – 2019. The reports are on the Town website.

No exceedances in AAQC at this time.

*\*Addendum\* Email from Krysta-Leigh Johnston on Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>*

1) What are the detection limits for the contaminants measured in the mobile monitoring report?

The detection limits ( $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) for the measured species are as follows:

Benzene	Toluene	Styrene	Xylenes	Trimethylbenzenes	NO2	PM10
0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	1

2) On June 24, 2019, the upwind concentrations of VOCs appear to be higher than the upwind concentrations measured on other days. Is there any indication of why that might be?

Background concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were higher than normal throughout the St. Marys/Stratford region on June 24, 2019. The wind direction was from the south and it is possible that ambient air quality in the region was influenced by emissions from sources located to the south. This explains why the mobile monitoring showed relatively higher VOC concentrations both upwind and downwind of St Marys Cement on that day.

## 7. **Pond Technologies**

Tim Everett and Peter Howard with Pond Technologies discussed the research being done for carbon recycling at the St. Marys plant. The facility has been operating since 2011.

## 8. **Stack Extension – Preliminary Design**

Jose noted that the Stack Extension is scheduled for April/May 2020. The plant will be shut down during this time performing preventative maintenance.

## 9. **Concerns Brought Forward in Advance of Today's Meeting**

Meeting with the Interim Mayor and concerned citizens:

1. Why has there been a huge increase in Cement Plant odour over the past few months?
  - SMC has previously discussed that the odour is caused by the limestone used in the process and variations in the limestone cause variations in the odour. We also have discussed the weather conditions that lead to decreased dispersion.
  - The number of odour complaints received by St Marys Cement YTD is lower than the number of complaints received in previous years.
2. When is the construction of raised stack to start?
  - April/May 2020.
3. Will the plant be shut down at the time of the project (stack being raised) and for how long?
  - Yes, we have a shutdown scheduled for April/May 2020 for maintenance reasons and the stack extension will coincide. Fabrication has started and installation will be completed in April/May during the 2 week shutdown.
4. Has there been any more talk of alternative fuel being used? Or better filtration?
  - As discussed at the September 6th CLC meeting - the permitting process to use any alternative fuels including plastics or wood waste has been started and can take up to 3 years for approval.
  - Filtration of dust occurs in the main baghouse, filtration of emissions happens within the kiln itself due to the counter-flow of flame to the materials. This process does not change.
5. Has SMC been testing out burning plastics? There was a new plastic burning odour the other day.
  - No. SMC is not currently permitted to burn plastics or any other alternative fuels. If we did it would violate our current Air Permit which was issued by the MECP.
6. What is City Council doing to improve our air quality in St Marys?
  - Jim Craigmile- Council is present at CLC meetings to mediate, they rely on the MECP and PDHU to set the rules in Ontario based on scientific data and results.
  - Brent Kittmer – the town does not have a legal right to enforce limits that are more stringent than the MECP and PDHU criteria. The town is doing as much as they are legally able.

Email from a resident on December 3<sup>rd</sup>;

7. I would like to know why the Ministry of the Environment aren't tasked to monitor the noise, dust, smoke (in general the pollution) that is being emitted from the industries in and around St Marys, specifically St Marys Cement, Sure Gain, Cascade to name a few. I commend St Marys Cement for responding to complaints and investigating and providing responses to those complaints. It was my impression the MOE should be looking out for the best interest of the public/community not the industry that is potentially responsible for the complaint. ie: the fox guarding the hen house.
  - MECP: The role of the MECP is to monitor the plant through the Environmental Compliance Approval for Air (ECA) where the facility is required to show through measurements and modelling that the facility is in compliance. If there are ongoing concerns the MECP will do additional monitoring through permanent or stationary monitors. The MECP monitors the facility regularly through communications to ensure that the conditions of the ECA are being met. These conditions include plans to address Noise, Odour, and Dust.
8. Measuring the pollution was done at one specific location, the St Marys Fire House on James Street. How can the results of the monitoring be taken seriously when the Fire Station is at a distance of at least one kilometre from the St Marys Cement. The results were dependant on the wind direction, atmospheric conditions etc... I believe the results of the testing/monitoring proves this. When the MOE does the emissions testing for automobiles it is done from the tail pipe of the vehicle, not at a distance. Pollution is pollution regardless to whom it may affect at any one moment in time.
  - The MECP collects data in different forms, when it comes to general air quality monitoring in town, the MECP will use a stationary monitor which does continuous monitoring. The location is selected by Air Quality experts based off the prevailing wind direction.

- When monitoring is done specific to a facility the MECP will use a mobile monitoring station which allows the MECP to follow the plume from a facility to take readings.
  - In addition Continuous Emissions Monitoring (CEM) is done at the stack itself by SMC. The CEM System follows regulations required by the MECP and data from the CEM is submitted for every odour complaint received by SMC.
9. Many times the pollution appears to occur at night, over the weekend, holidays and in inclement weather. This seems very convenient that less people are around to complain and the MOE doesn't have the staff available to observe the complaint while it's happening.
- SMC operates 24 hours continuously and there are no processes which are done under specific times of the day
  - The MECP highlighted that residents can contact the Spills Action Center (SAC) and there is a District Office hotline to file concerns 24/7.

## 10. Round Table

Kara reminded everyone that if they would like a tour of St Marys Cement Plant or the Pond Technologies building to let Kara know.

Marti highlighted that it is important for residents to come to meetings and to do their research ahead of time so that they can understand the work being done by the committee and the plant. Marti also highlighted that this meeting strayed from the format of previous committee meetings which distracted focus. Future meetings will follow the committee format as outlined in the terms of reference where community members are allowed to view and ask questions submitted in advance to the committee or after the meeting has concluded.

Tony has heard concerns about SO<sub>2</sub> and will look further at the reports available on the town website. He has concerns as to whether statistics are available because people are not reporting their concerns.

Brent will speak to the Health Unit to see if they want to update reports given the data from the stationary and mobile monitoring.

Jim highlighted that the odour threshold is different for every resident where some perceive and some don't. The stationary monitor was done with the sensor at ground level (~5 ft) to measure what residents would be exposed to.

Sylvia expressed that this will be her last CLC meeting as a member of the committee. She hopes that those with higher susceptibilities to odour should not be excluded, and hopes her position will be filled with someone from the Facebook group.

Vanessa highlighted that we have had several meetings with very few public turnout regardless of location or time of day.

## 11. Closing Remarks

The next meeting will be in March 2020.