

Community Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

**September 11, 2020
10:00am
Zoom Meeting**

Present	St Marys Cement: Kara Terpstra, Vanessa Barr, Jose Soraggi St Marys Council: Jim Craigmile, Tony Winter, Brett Kittmer Community Members: Marti Lindsay, Rodger Muir, Marvin Arthur, Spencer Seymour (for Stewart Grant), Fred Stam, Gordon Snelling MECP: Bob Slivar Guest: Regrets: Marvin Arthur
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1. Welcome and Introduction

10:00am Kara welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Thank you to the town for allowing us to use the Zoom/Youtube channels for this meeting

Round table introductions of CLC Members.

Also extended a welcome to residents viewing on the Youtube live stream.

No comments or concerns were brought forward about the March 13th or June 5th informational packets.

“Weather Impacts on Air Dispersion”.

2. Community Complaints

Total number for the complaints 2020 YTD.

Will go into total number of complaints since the Stack Extension (April 21st) for odour, noise, and vibration on the next few slides.

Reminder that Complaints which ‘Mention Health’ are counted when a resident calls with an odour complaint and highlights that they have a health concern. They are not separate complaints received by the plant.

3. Stack Extension and Odour Complaints

Prior to discussing the number of complaints Kara reviewed that in previous presentations we have highlighted findings that odour comes from the limestone used in the process which makes up 80% of our feed, and that engineering modeling determined that a 30m stack extension was the best option to decrease overall odour impact. In addition, due to topography and weather conditions SMC will likely have a residual odour. Note that the PDHU and the MECP have reports stating we are within compliance, and SMC continues to receive odour complaints when the plant is not running and when the wind direction does not line up with the plant.

The annual monthly average number of odour complaints has decreased from 2017, and although numbers for May – September look high they are similar numbers to the number of complaints received in previous years. When looking specifically at complaints since the stack extension we see that individual perception is a large factor of the odour, ie. In 2019 three residents contributed to 48% of the complaints, and since the stack extension the same three residents contribute to 86% of the complaints.

The PDHU reports confirm that there are no health risks due to SMC emissions.

Some people are more sensitive to odours than others, whether due to location in town or whether they are more in tune with the odour. Tony highlighted that some residents might have given up filing odour concerns with the MECP, and Jim Craigmile highlighted a date in August when he could perceive numerous odours at his residence throughout the day.

4. Stack Extension and Noise Complaints

SMC has received concerns about noise since the stack extension. HGC Engineering, SMCs noise consultant, was on site on June 4th to measure noise from the stack extension and noted there were no changes in noise levels. Noise complaints highlight an oscillating 'whumm-whumm-whumm' noise which has been determined to come from an adjacent facility. In addition, HGC did readings at a residents house and did not detect any noise emissions from SMC.

5. Stack Extension and Vibration Complaint

SMC has received a concern from a resident that the new stack is causing a vibration in the home of a resident, and a letter from this resident was circulated to the CLC. SMC highlighted that the time the vibration started did not correlate with the stack extension, as there are 2 months in between the installation date and the vibration concern that there were no vibration concerns. In addition, the vibration continues when SMC is not running, so the vibration could not originate from SMC.

The MECP highlighted that they are working with another facility in town to see if they correlate with the vibration concerns.

6. Terms of Reference

Changes proposed by Kara include updating the MOECC to MECP and adding in 3.i "Concerns resulting from the Facility's operations relating to *but not limited to* noise, dust, vibrations, and odours".

Please send the final comments to Kara by September 18th 2020 so changes can be reflected in the Terms of Reference.

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

- Emails from a Resident; September 2nd, 2020

As a new resident of St. Marys, I have been following the progress of the cement plant as far as adding height to the stack to mitigate "issues" with pollution. I am noticing today a definite odour from the plant that I have noticed before. Yes, the prevailing winds are blowing directly to my area (Ridgewood Crescent) and I suspect we will sometimes have odour from the plant. I do not see anything that deals with the odour from the stack. Is that somewhere? I'm wondering if you can advise me on how the plant deals with this issue and if in fact there is on-going improvements to be expected.

- Odour coming out of the stack comes from the limestone, which is 80% of our feed.
- Engineering modelling determined that a 30m stack extension was the best option to decrease our overall odour impact.

- Weather patterns and topography in town are also a big factor in where the stack emissions disperses. Refer to the BCX Presentation on Weather Impacts on Air Dispersion, presented at the March 13 2020 CLC meeting.

- Under certain weather conditions the dispersion of the stack may still have a residual odour.
- Individual perception of the odour is also a huge factor, and other odour sources in town are also perceived to be from the plant. For example we receive complaints when the plant is in shutdown mode.

Please also address the noise level emitted by the plant. It carries very well and is very noticeable. When referring to the Noise Abatement Action Plan, I do not see any definite dates to deal with noise. Is that listed somewhere?

- “The recent noise measurements of the stack outlet show that the sound levels from the outlet are very similar to those measured in the past”.
- The Noise Abatement Action Plan (as per Ministry of Environment approved Schedule)

Noise Abatement Phase	Schedule
Phase 1	August 2019 (complete)
Phase 2	August 2021
Phase 3	August 2023
Phase 4	August 2025
Phase 5	August 2027

- Email from a Resident; September 9nd, 2020

What is the time frame for St Marys Cement to implement changes to address the Noise, Odour and Dust complaints?

- Noise;

Refer to Slide 13, the Noise Abatement Action Plan has a timeline approved by the Ministry of Environment

- Odour;

Refer to Slide 5, The stack extension was complete to decrease the overall odour impact in town. It is important to note that odour may still be perceived in town, with less intensity and frequency, due to weather conditions and topography.

- Dust;

When St Marys Cement receives a dust complaint we are able to take a sample to compare chemistry and on site operations to verify the source so that we can take actions to reduce overall dust impact.

From past meetings the implementation of these changes are years out. Why aren't they being addressed sooner if there are solutions to these problems. ie: Why aren't they being implemented now? Where does the MOE stand as far as oversight and enforcement of these changes in a timely manner?

- There are over 70 actions on the Noise Abatement Action Plan, each with an impact on overall noise emissions
- Most of these actions require engineering design and scheduled implementation so that the noise model for the plant can be updated as required.
- Bob Slivar, MECP; the Ministry has looked at timelines for the Noise Abatement Action Plan and agree with the proposed timeline. Due to lead times, design, delivery times, the timeline is required for assembling the silencing equipment required for the necessary equipment as outlined in the noise abatement action plan.
- Note that one change may also affect another, so we are required to do noise measurement readings between phases of the Noise Abatement Action Plan.

The smoke stack was replaced earlier this year to what advantage? The burning odour this past weekend of Saturday Sept 5th was particularly bad. There have been several other instances over the summer when the wind was blowing from the direction of St Marys Cement of the acrid burning odour. The intensity and duration of the smell is dependent on the atmospheric conditions.

- The modelling conducted by our third party experts looked at the atmospheric conditions and topography in St Marys, and showed a decrease in odour frequency. Unfortunately, the intensity and frequency of the odour is largely dependent on these factors.

It is my observation that production at St Marys Cement is stepped up in the evenings, especially on weekends and inclement weather. I can usually tell when the smoke/vapour is billowing out of the smoke stack. On weekdays if there is smoke/vapour it comes out in a thinner stream. The noise level increases and a light coating of dust on my patio, windows etc... My ERV system which is designed to bring fresh air from the outside into the house draws in a grey dust. This is evident in the ERV filters. Particularly the filter on the intake side. The intake fan motor was recently replaced due to a bearing failure. Also the two dust filters were replaced with new white filters. The grey colour is indicative of how much dust it draws in from the outside of our house on the side facing St Marys Cement. My neighbor on the east side of me had the same occurrence with his ERV system. This past weekend the smell/burning odour was so bad/intense my ERV system had to be shut off because the burning smell was so bad inside the house. The ERV system does not filter out smell, only dust.

- St Marys Cement operates continually with the exception of shutdown periods. We optimize our production output at any given point of times, and operating too slow can have negative affects on the equipment operations.
- We have a continuous emissions monitoring equipment in our stack to measure the particulate matter, and emission levels of the facility at all times. This equipment ensures we stay within the ministry limits regardless of time of day, or day of the week.
- We performed noise monitoring in town and verified that the noise from our facility is constant whereas other industries in town cause noise levels to shift.
- St Marys Cement is not able to comment of the maintenance requirements of ERV systems however we can remind residents that if there are any dust concerns to bring them to the plant so we can take samples and compare to on site operations.
- Also note that the MECP has done air monitoring in town which did not detect any exceedances in dust emissions that were attributed to St Marys Cement Plant. There are several other sources of dust in the area including roads and agricultural sources.
- Note regarding the complaint specified in this email, the wind was coming from the opposite direction, so it was concluded that the odour was not coming from St Marys Cement.
- Jim Craigmile noted that the color of the stack emissions is not related to dust as there are gases which will condensate and create different colors, this is also dependent on the time of the year.

Some of my neighbours indicated they have been bothered by the odour and noise. They choose to go into the house and don't bother complaining to the MOE. There are times the bad odour and noise is coming from other industries in the area. I suspect Sure Gain as the source, in particular the strong smell of silage. This is dependent on the wind direction.

- St Marys Cement knows that there are other sources of odour, noise, and dust in the area. We investigate every complaint made to the plant individually to determine whether or not it could have come from our operations.
- Complaint investigations include whether or not the plant was operating at the time, wind direction, field investigations such as the noise monitoring we have completed, complaint descriptions, and daily environmental observations.
- Jose mentioned that the statistics presented in CLC meetings are the result of all of the complaints and do not include the complaints which SMC is able to prove did not come from SMC.

8. Round Table

Kara noted the area outside of the plant main entrance is under construction by the town of St Marys but any questions or concerns about the project can be brought to Kara.

Jim noted that the noise from the Main ID fan seems to get louder when the leaves are gone in the fall, he has not heard the Main ID fan since the stack extension. Note that noise can affect other noises, by either amplifying or cancelling them each other out. Also noted that there is a difference between stack dust and fugitive dust, and concerns about both need to be brought to SMC.

Marti commented that a lot of diligence goes into each and every complaint that is brought to SMC.

Fred Stam noted that he personally has not noted the odour since the stack extension.

Brett commented that St Marys Cement has donated to the town, the limestone on the Church Street bridge was donated by SMC and the plant went out of their way to ensure the color of the new limestone matched the color of the old.

Gordon wonders if there is a target number for complaints in 2021, the expectation that there will be zero complaint overall is unrealistic.

Jose invited CLC members to come for a tour of the plant once the COVID-19 allows for tours. Looking at the odour trends for the last 2 years we would like to continue to see the complaints trend downwards however individual perception of odour is so different that it is difficult to fully remove complaints. The stack is a visible example of an improvement made but the efforts put in place by consultants and experts to improve the plant, including technologies to control dust and odour are also improvements we see at the plant.

Vanessa highlighted that we take every concern seriously and put investigation into each one so it is important for residents to contact SMC.

Tony highlighted that a tour is a good idea so that people can see the operations. He also questioned why houses between the plant and the vibration concern are not feeling the vibration.

Roger wondered if people are filing less concerns because COVID has taken higher priority over the cement plant odour.

Bob Slivar highlighted that he is the District Officer for St Marys Cement Plant and other Cement Plants in the area, and that Fernando Circelli is the District Officer for Perth County.

9. Closing Remarks

The next meeting will be in December 2020.