

Votorantim Cimentos North America

St Marys Cement

Community Liaison Committee

September 11, 2020



Don Bailey
PHOTOGRAPHY

Agenda

- ❖ **Welcome and Introductions**
- ❖ **Review of March 13 Meeting and June 6th Informational Packet**
- ❖ **Complaints 2020 Year to Date**
- ❖ **Stack Extension and Odour Complaints**
- ❖ **Stack Extension and Noise Complaints**
- ❖ **Stack Extension and Vibration Complaint**
- ❖ **Terms of Reference**
- ❖ **Questions Brought Forward in Advance of Today's Meeting**
- ❖ **Round Table**
- ❖ **Closing Remarks**

Welcome and Introductions



Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee is going to be held **September 11th, 2020 at 10am**. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic this meeting will be held virtually. Members of the public who wish to observe as the members of the Committee discuss information with respect to St Marys Cement can watch the live meeting online. Please see the Town of St Marys Event Calendar for the link to the online meeting.

Please submit any questions and concerns in advance of the meeting to kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com.

- ❖ September 11th's meeting is the first Community Liaison Committee Meeting to be held online using Zoom and YouTube
- ❖ Thank you to the Town of St Marys for allowing us to use their software
- ❖ Round Table Introductions
- ❖ Did anyone have any comments/concerns about the March 13th minutes or June 6th informational packet?

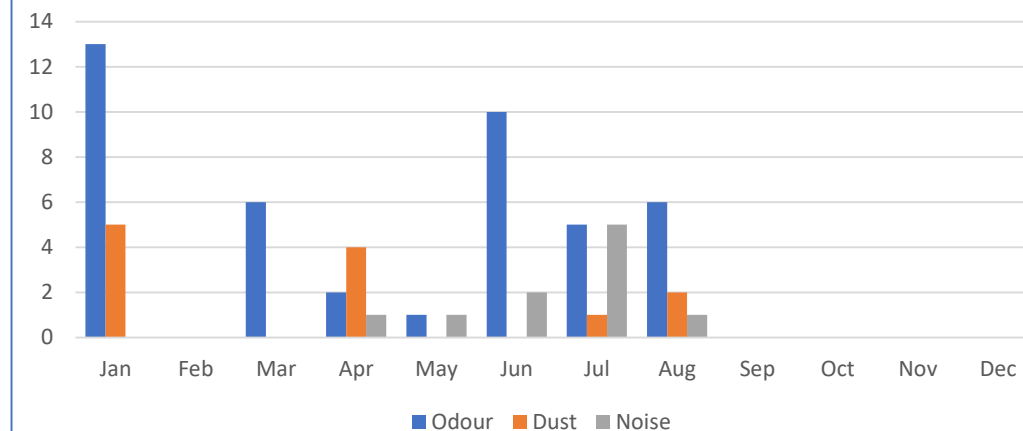
Complaints 2020 Year to Date

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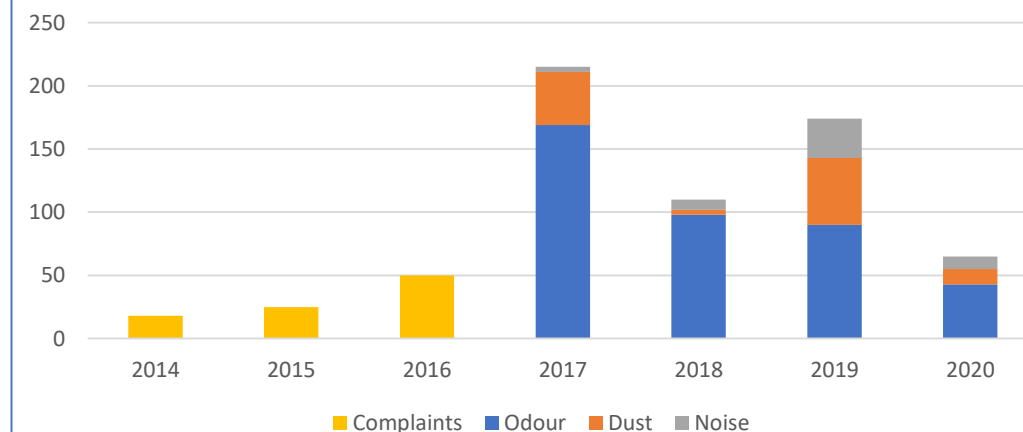
	Odour	Dust	Noise	Mention Health
Total	43	12	10	34
January	13	5	0	10
February	0	0	0	0
March	6	0	0	5
April	2	4	1	2
May	1	0	0	1
June	10	0	2	7
July	5	1	5	4
August	6	2	1	4
September				
October				
November				
December				

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

2020 Complaints



Complaints Year to Year

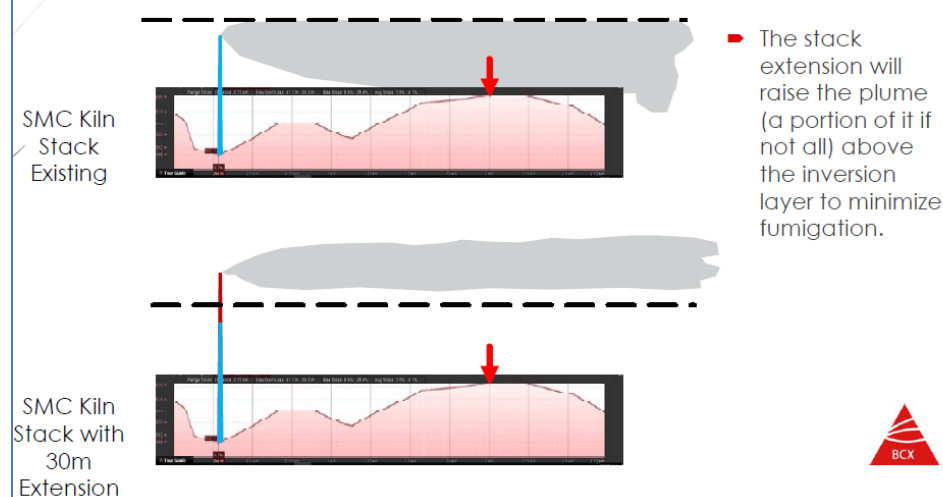


Stack Extension and Odour Complaints

- 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.

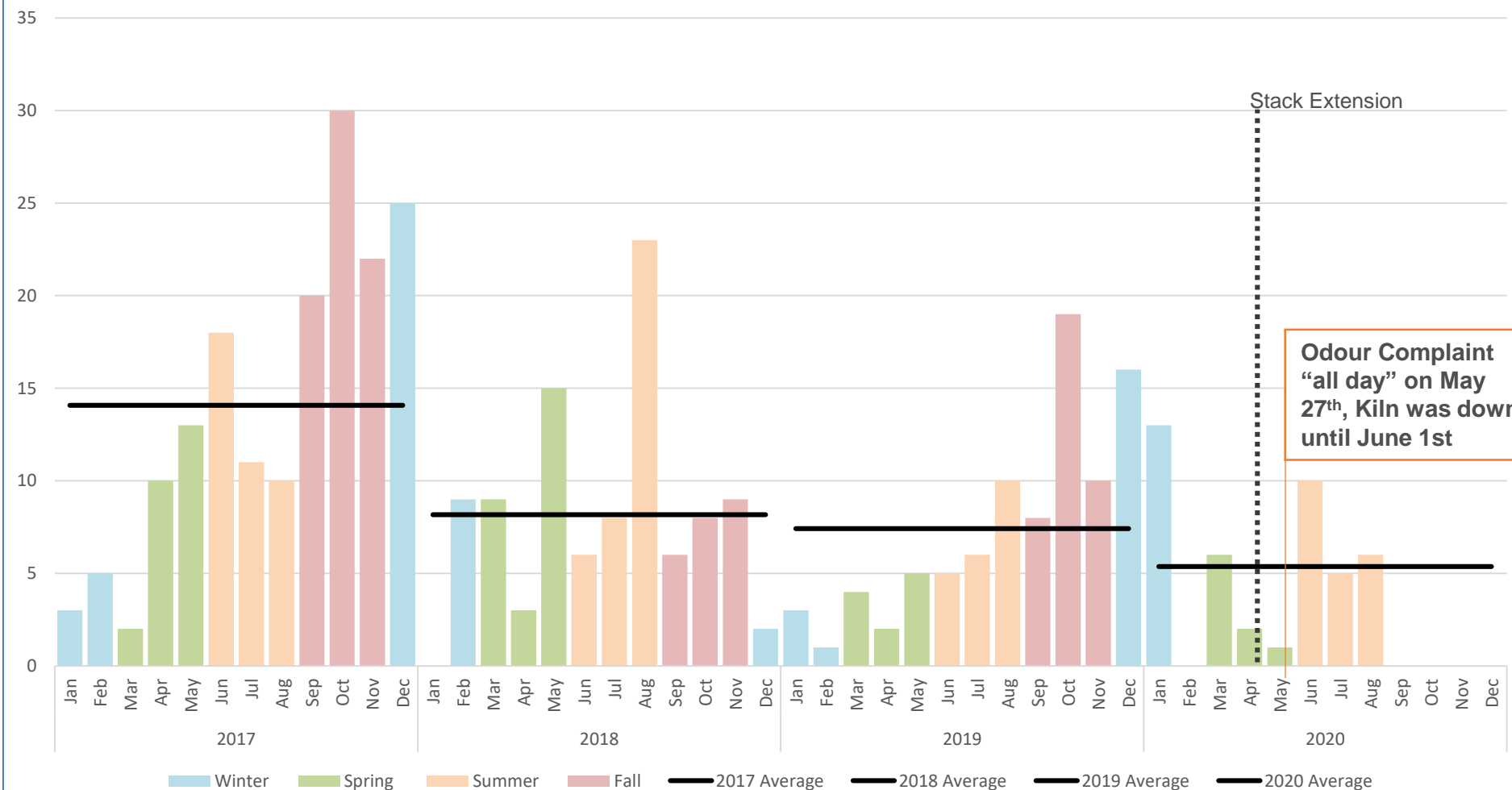


What will the Stack Extension Do for Air Dispersion under Poor Dispersion Conditions



Stack Extension and Odour Complaints

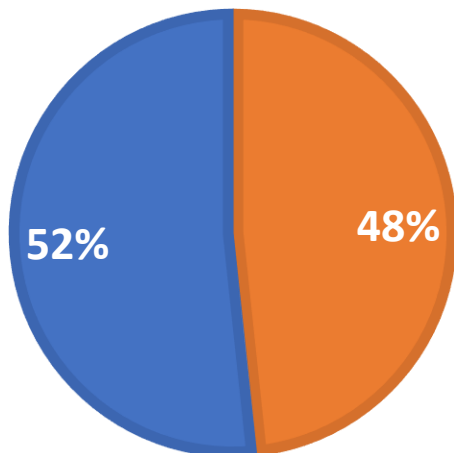
Seasonal Odour Complaints



- Seasonality affects when we receive complaints, not only do shifting weather patterns in this period change the overall dispersion but people are outside more during warmer periods.
- The monthly average is down 57% from 2017 to 2020.

Number of Residents Registering Complaints

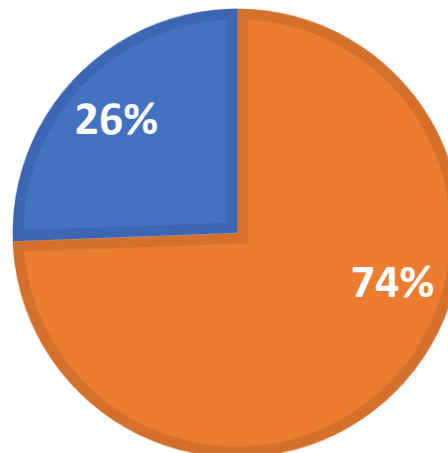
2019: 89 TOTAL COMPLAINTS



39 Residents

- In 2019; 48% of the complaints came from 3 residents

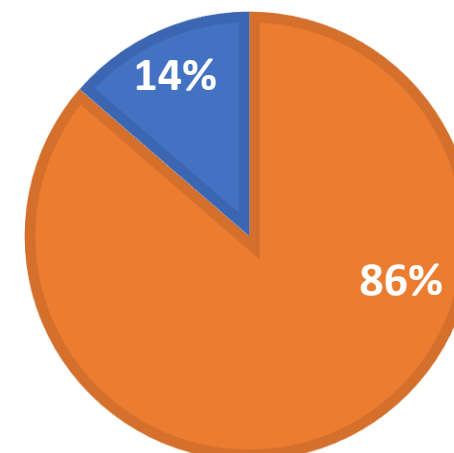
2020 (YTD): 43 ODOUR COMPLAINTS



14 Residents

- In 2020 (YTD); 74% of the complaints come from 3 residents

POST STACK EXTENSION: 22 COMPLAINTS



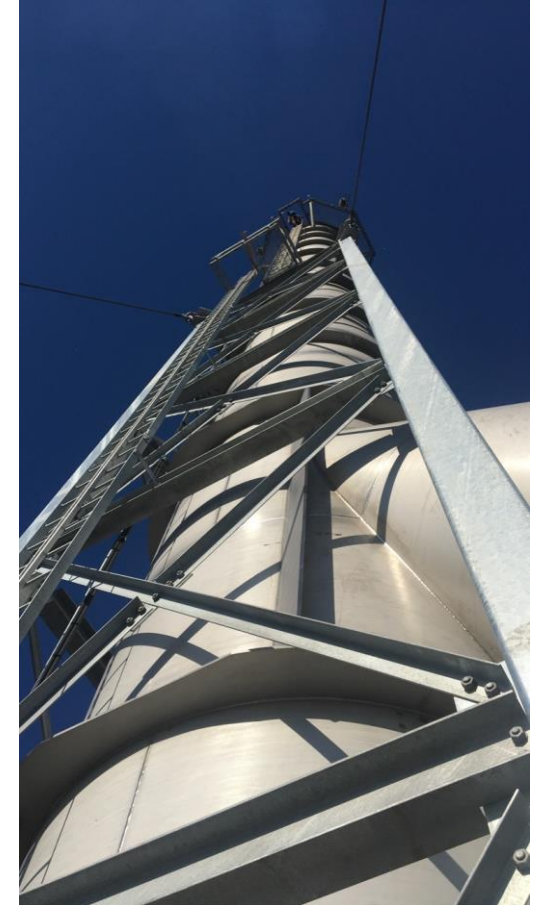
6 Residents

- Post Stack Extension; 86% of the complaints come from 3 residents

- SMC continues to operate within regulatory compliance limits set in place by the Ministry of Environment and the Public Health Unit.
- As per the reports from the MECP and PDHU there are no detrimental affects to health from the emissions from St Marys Cement.
- The number of residents filing odour complaints with the MECP has decreased since the stack extension.

Stack Extension and Noise Complaints

- HGC Engineering was on site June 4, 2020 (Kiln started June 1st) to conduct readings on the noise levels coming from the new stack.
 - “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”.
 - “Considering the most recent measurements of noise emitted from the stack outlet and stack walls, the conclusions of the Acoustic Assessment Report will remain largely unchanged.”
- One of the noise complaints since the stack extension highlighted a “whumm-whumm-whumm” sound at about a frequency of one ‘whumm’ per second.
 - The noise coming from the main stack at St Marys Cement is a single, steady tone.
 - At the time of the complaint (May 29th) the main stack was not running.
 - SMC conducted an investigation to determine if any other sources could have contributed to this sound, determined that the sound originated from an adjacent industrial facility, and reported findings to the Ministry of Environment.
- HGC Engineering conducted a noise level reading at a resident’s house located north of town to see if there was any detection of St Marys Cement noise at this location.
 - Resident noted a change in noise since the stack extension.
 - HGC Report says “During the visit HGC noted the SMC facility was neither audible nor directly measurable over the background sound levels (ie. Other sources of sound unrelated to the SMC facility). In particular a “pulsing” sound (ie. Not steady) with a distinct “tonal character” (at 250Hz in the frequency spectrum) was clearly audible, and appeared to be originating from sources other than the SMC plant.”



Stack Extension and Vibration

- St Marys Cement has received concerns from a resident that the new stack is causing a vibration/reverberation inside their home which started around the same time as the stack extension.
- St Marys Cement used their seismograph equipment to perform monitoring at the house to see if any ground or air vibration could be detected.
- No vibration was detected through either the ground or the air.
- During one instance while speaking to the resident, they noted they could currently feel the vibration; however, the plant was not running at the time so it was determined that the vibration is not caused by St Marys Cement.
- We have asked the Ministry if any additional testing is required for this matter, to let us know and we will perform the testing as requested.

Terms of Reference

- I have no received any feedback on the Terms of Reference
- Are there any today?
- Please send all final concerns to me by Friday September 18th

Questions 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.

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?

Thanks,

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Referring back to Slide 5;

- 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.

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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?

Referring back to Slide 8;

- “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

Questions Brought Forward in Advance of Today's Meeting

- Email from a Resident; September 9nd, 2020

1. What is the time frame for St Marys Cement to implement changes to address the Noise, Odour and Dust complaints?
2. 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?
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

Questions Brought Forward in Advance of Today's Meeting

- Email from a Resident; September 9nd, 2020

1. 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 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.

Questions Brought Forward in Advance of Today's Meeting

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- 2. **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.

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- 3. **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.

Questions Brought Forward in Advance of Today's Meeting

- Email from a Resident; September 9nd, 2020

4. **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 an 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.

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- 5. **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.

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
**What you need to know
to help you and your family
stay healthy**



Wash your hands with soap
and water thoroughly and often.

Cough and sneeze into your
sleeve or a tissue. Dispose of tissue
immediately and wash your hands.



Keep surfaces clean and disinfected.

Stay home when you are sick.



If you have symptoms, call Telehealth Ontario at:
1-866-797-0000
TTY: 1-866-797-0007
Or contact your public health unit.

For more information,
visit Ontario.ca/coronavirus

Ontario 

Round Table & Closing Remarks

Kara Terpstra – Environmental Coordinator
at 519-284-1020 x 235
or at

kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com



**St Marys
donates
KN95 masks**

400 masks to
Happy Valley
Medical Clinic

200 masks to
Stratford Hospice