

Community Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2020

10:00am

Zoom Meeting

Present

St Marys Cement: Kara Terpstra, Vanessa Barr, Jose Soraggi, Ruben Plaza

St Marys Council: Jim Craigmile, Tony Winter, Brett Kittmer

Community Members: Marti Lindsay, Rodger Muir, Marvin Arthur, Fred Stam, Gordon Snelling

MECP: Bob Slivar

Guest: Neil Chan, BCX Engineering

Regrets:

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 September 11th meeting.

Kara also sent the updated Terms of Reference as signed by the MECP and SMC. The updated version will be posted to the website.

*Note that today's meeting was recorded and can be watched here;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5l0ftIo5hPc>

2. Community Complaints

Total number for the complaints 2020 YTD.

Reminder that Complaints that '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. Odour Complaints 2020 Year to Date

At previous CLC meetings we have discussed odour complaints and in previous years the complaints came from a wide number of people, some who complained frequently and some who only complained once or twice. In previous years the distribution between top receptors and low frequency receptors was similar.

In 2020 the trend has shifted and there are less low frequency receptors and more high frequency receptors. We have seen the high frequency top receptors numbers increase from 3 before the stack extension to 6 after. 3 new residents in town have been filing complaints, SMC has been communicating with them and answering any follow up questions. Note that 2 of these receptors are complaining when the wind direction does not line up with SMC.

SMC also notes that the frequent receptors are more sensitive to the odour. SMC did not expect the odour to be eliminated entirely however we do expect that the frequency and intensity has decreased.

SMC is working with their air consultant to validate that the intensity has decreased as per the modelling. Jose notes that perception is individual, so we need to look at variables including new residents in town.

The MECP says they will continue to receive complaints from the public and that odour is not a health issue although it can make some people uncomfortable and can be a difficult thing to deal with. The MECP policy is to accept complaints and discuss with industry to look at weather patterns to ensure things line up. Because only 50% of the population can smell the odour threshold it is a different thing to validate.

Jose highlighted that although we get disappointed because we thought the complaints would decrease with the stack height which it did not, we need to keep focusing on the improvements we do see with new residents who we are able to communicate with and continue to validate complaints with wind direction.

4. Dust Complaints

SMC received dust complaints north of the plant from November 5 to 13th and detailed resident's vehicles as a result.

5. CO2 Emissions in the Cement Industry

Watched a video outlining the source of CO2 in the Cement industry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSc9hu917OU>

The Global Cement and Concrete Association estimates that current global cement production is 4.1 Billion Tonnes per year, and Cement and Concrete Industry is 7% of the world's CO2 emissions.

BCX Engineering shared a presentation on Emission Reporting and what is in SMCs stack emissions, the complexity of odour as a combination of various air emission parameters, emission reporting in Ontario (National Pollutant Release Inventory, Toxic Reductions Act, Federal Greenhouse Gas Reporting, Ontario Greenhouse Gas Reporting, Ontario Regulation 194, and Multi-Sector Air Pollutant Regulations), and the Carbon Tax.

Jim asked how the data from an NPRI report was generated, including benzene and styrene which are done during stack tests. Neil noted it is based off stack testing multiplied by annual operating hours, so the numbers reported could be conservative or high based off timing and sensitivity of the stack testing.

Fred asked if SO2 was related to odour, SMC noted that based off historical complaints the SO2 emission values ranged from low to high ppm and no correlation had been noted.

6. Sustainability At the St Marys Cement Plant

SMC presented a video on the VCNA 2030 Sustainability Targets; Votorantim Cimentos, the parent company of St Marys Cement, sees the impact that the industry is having and has made various commitments for sustainability. SMC presented a short video on these commitments

Referring back to the video outlining where CO2 comes from in the cement industry they suggest using renewable resources and stop using limestone and use silica fume, slag, fly ash instead, all of which are used here at St Marys Plant.

The video also noted other industrial innovations which are either expensive or in early development and the St. Marys Strategic Development team is keeping an eye on and supporting these new technologies.

Specifically at the St Marys Plant SMC is actively implementing various programs for CO2 reduction. The sales team is focusing on sales of an environmentally friendly cement called Contempra which reduces the CO2 emissions by 10% compared to regular cement. SMC was pivotal in implementing this program with the assistance of the Ministry of Transportation and the Portland Cement Association.

In addition, the Global Cement and Concrete association's annual summary report says there has been a 19.2% CO2 reduction per ton of cementitious materials as a result of alternative fuels.

St Marys Cement is actively working on the various aspects required for the alternative low carbon fuels (ALCF) permit. We are working on evaluating different alternatives and designs to feed the alternative low carbon fuels into the process. Once SMC has finished this, we will start the process with the MECP to apply for a permit. We have presented our interest in the CLC to use ALCF. We expect that by the end of this year or early next year we will have the information required to submit an application for the permit to the MECP.

Jim wondered if there is any relation between fly ash substitution for CO2 reduction and odour complaints; Kara will check.

Gordon asked if the plant has ever looked at electricity cogeneration. Jose noted that this technology is often implemented in areas where electricity costs are higher than they are in St Marys, so this technology is not economically beneficial for our plant.

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

No questions sent to Kara prior to this meeting.

8. Round Table

Tony has discussed some concerns with residents who are new to St. Marys, Kara noted that SMC has also had discussion with new residents

Jim mentioned the recent MECP mobile monitoring report of ambient air monitoring in town. Bob noted no comments; the Ministry issued the report as a result of some testing completed previously this year and highlighted there were no health issues found in St. Marys. Bob will put together a summary for the next CLC meeting.

Ruben noted the new federal carbon tax is transferring to Ontario and will affect St. Marys Cement.

Marti noted she appreciates the informative and scientific information the plant presented and appreciates that the plant is open for transparent discussion with residents.

Fred noted he had seen dust on his car once in November, and only once smelled the plant.

9. Closing Remarks

The next meeting will be in March 2020.