



Votorantim Cimentos North America  
Community Liaison Committee

Friday June 10, 2022



# Agenda

- ❖ Welcome and Introductions
- ❖ Review of March 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Minutes
- ❖ Blasting at St Marys Cement
- ❖ Complaints 2022 Year to Date
- ❖ SMC Odour Complaints – Enviro-Suite Update
- ❖ Alternative Low Carbon Fuels Update
- ❖ Questions Brought Forward in Advance of Today's Meeting
- ❖ Round Table
- ❖ Closing Remarks

# Welcome and Introductions



## Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting is going to be held on **June 10th 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 Events Calendar for the link to the online meeting.

Please submit any questions and concerns for the meeting by June 8th, 2022 to [kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com](mailto:kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com).

- ❖ Thank you to the Town of St Marys for allowing us to use their Youtube Channel
- ❖ Round Table Introductions.
- ❖ Did anyone have any comments/concerns about the March 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes



# Blasting Presentation



# Complaints 2022 Year to Date

Complaints 2022 Year to Date

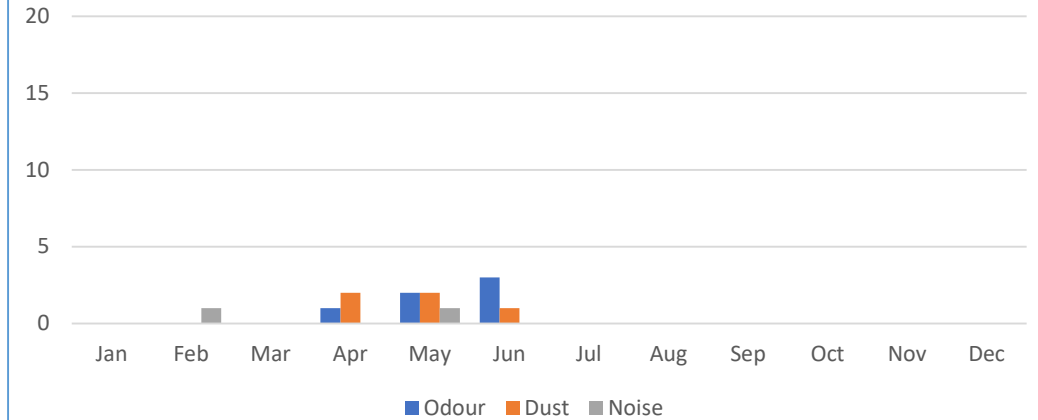
|              | Odour*   | Mention Health** | Dust***  | Noise    |
|--------------|----------|------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>Total</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>1</b>         | <b>3</b> | <b>2</b> |
| January      | 0        | 0                | 0        | 1        |
| February     | 0        | 0                | 0        | 0        |
| March        | 0        | 0                | 0        | 0        |
| April        | 1        | 0                | 2        | 0        |
| May          | 2        | 0                | 0        | 1        |
| June         | 3        | 1                | 1        | 0        |
| July         |          |                  |          |          |
| August       |          |                  |          |          |
| September    |          |                  |          |          |
| October      |          |                  |          |          |
| November     |          |                  |          |          |
| December     |          |                  |          |          |

\* Odour complaints reviewed on the next slides

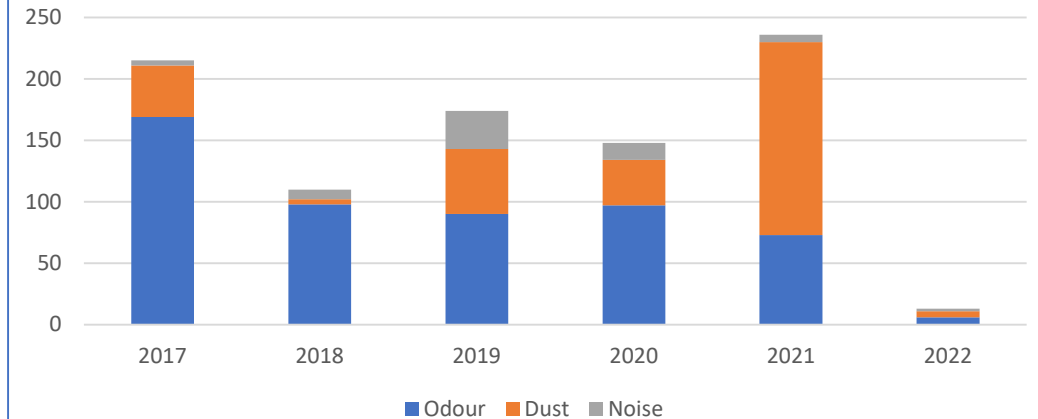
\*\* Dust Complaints reviewed on next slides

\*\*\* 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.

2022 Complaints



Complaints Year to Year





# Enviro-Suite Update



## Likely Originated from SMC

The trajectory generated by Enviro-Suite aligns with the location of the stack.



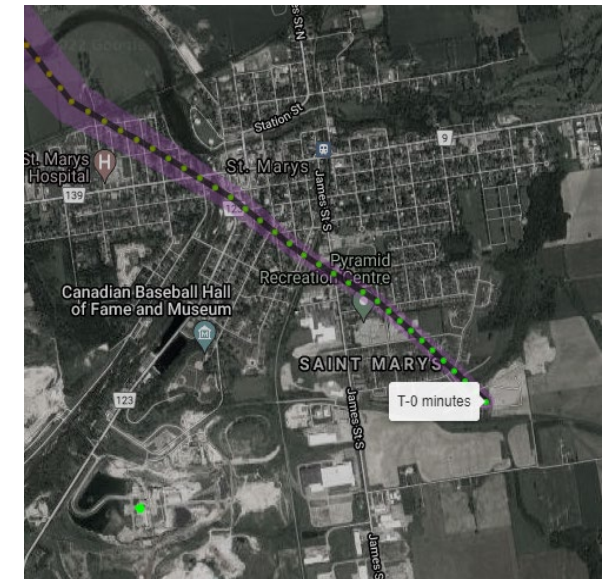
## Possibly Originated from SMC

The trajectory generated by Enviro-Suite is close to aligning with the location of the stack.



## Probably did not Originate from SMC

The trajectory generated by Enviro-Suite is not close to the stack but direction of the trajectory is towards SMC.



## Did Not Originate from SMC

The trajectory generated by Enviro-Suite is clearly not in the direction of the stack.

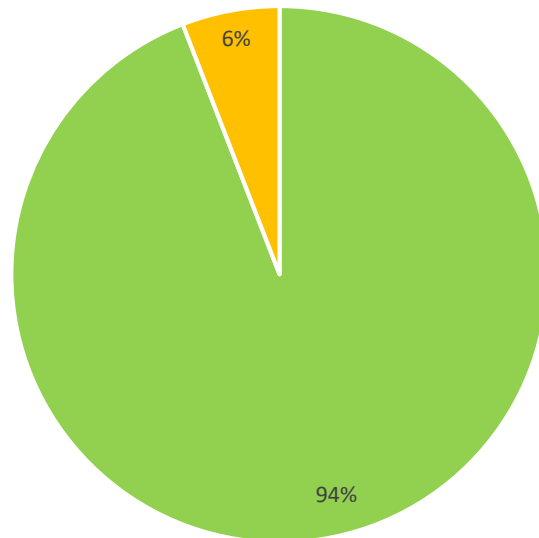
# Odour Complaints March to Present

| Date                      | Enviro-Suite Results         |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Wednesday, April 20, 2022 | Likely Originated from SMC   |
| Thursday, May 19, 2022    | Likely Originated from SMC   |
| Tuesday, May 31, 2022     | Likely Originated from SMC   |
| Sunday, June 5, 2022      | Likely Originated from SMC   |
| Sunday, June 5, 2022      | Likely Originated from SMC   |
| Tuesday, June 7, 2022     | Possibly Originated from SMC |

| Type                         | Count |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Likely originated from SMC   | 5     |
| Possibly originated from SMC | 1     |
| Probably Not SMC             | 0     |
| Not SMC                      | 0     |

## Observed Cement Plant Odour

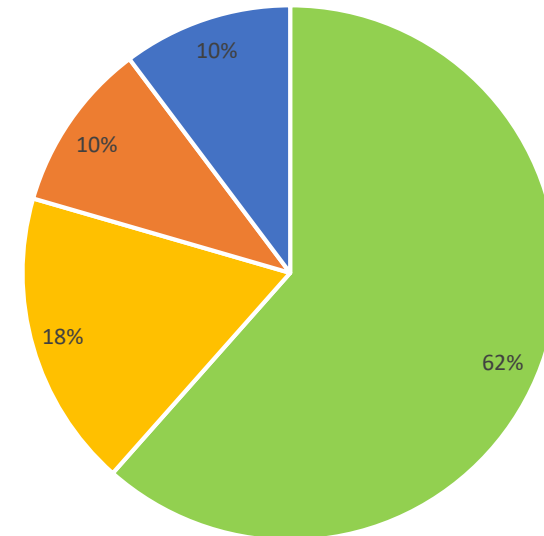
■ Likely Originated from SMC    ■ Possibly Originated from SMC



**Observed Cement Plant Odour** – SMC shift leads perform Daily Environmental Observations and note any industrial odour. These reports are generated using Enviro-Suite.

## Complaints Modelled Using Enviro-Suite

■ Likely Originated from SMC    ■ Possibly Originated from SMC  
■ Probably Not SMC    ■ Not from SMC



**Complaints Modelled Using Enviro-Suite**– Based off the individual odour complaints received SMC is able to examine the accuracy of odour complaints.



# Enviro-Suite Next Steps

1. Update Enviro-Suite Ambient Air Monitors that are in town
  - There are 3 monitors town that are generating odour readings by reading H<sub>2</sub>S which is not one of SMCs predominant emissions. SMC is updating these monitors to read compounds that align with SMC operations.
  - Once these monitors have been upgraded the Enviro-Suite software will be able to better correlate dispersion in St Marys with complaints received.
2. Continue to model odour complaints.
  - Using the software and build a database of trends including likeliness as discussed in previous slides, weather patterns, and cement plant operations.



# Alternative Low Carbon Fuels Update

- The permit application for ALCF was submitted to the MECP on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The MECP Permitting branch has up to 1 year to review and approve the application.
- Next Steps
  - SMC will be doing on site modifications for the ALCF project including constructing storage buildings and feeder belts.
  - Based off projected installation of this equipment we are estimating to begin using ALCF in Fall 2023.
  - Supplier of the ALCF will be finalized prior to implementation. Vendor names and materials provided will be shared with the CLC.
  - Stack testing for ALCF will be done once the ALCFs are used, results will be shared with the CLC.



Potential Set Up for an Enclosed ALCF Storage Container

# Questions Brought Forward in Advance

To Kara and all the members of the Community Liaison Committee

It has been well over a thousand days and counting that I have been asking for help with my sanity and health concerns directly connected with the vibration/turbulence in the air of St. Marys and the ground under St. Marys (meaning not just my house). I feel that I have expressed clearly that I am like a canary in the mine, meaning, that what I feel physically everyday since July of 2020 is also being forced on everyone that lives in St. Marys. Every person, so that includes every child, every infant and also every animal. For someone who **WAS BORN** with the extreme **DISABILITY** of sensitivity to noise, the last 1000 plus days have been a living hell! So, for me, my house has become a torture chamber. The ground under St. Marys vibrates - therefore I vibrate. My heart vibrates, my stomach vibrates, my brain vibrates, my eyeballs feel the pressure, my ears burn. I experience what I call environmental Parkinson's, meaning, dealing with the sensation that I am shaking. The Ministry of Health told me to go to the doctor - implying that I was the problem. I did go to the doctor. I had many tests - all during Covid!! All came back normal. My heart - normal! My ears - normal! I had two - two head CT scans - normal. However, what has not been normal for me in my 60 years plus of dealing with noise, is the ringing in my ear!!!!!!!!!!!!!! That began and continues **everyday** since the vibrations began in the town of St. Marys. For someone like me, when noises make me sweat or make me ill, I take timeout to think - what has changed in my environment? what is different that was not there before? In this situation, the difference was that the tower of St. Marys Cement was extended - acting like a bell tower. Although the tower was extended to blow the exhaust higher into the atmosphere, whoever designed and implemented the tower, either never considered or outright ignored the effect the vibration of the fans below the tower would have on the tower. People not familiar with the laws of kinetic energy. People lacking the insight that air and water are fantastic transporters of noise. I am not talking about the audible noise the cement plant makes - I do not know how they are allowed and get away with being so noisy!!! I am talking about the inaudible, the low frequency noise. Three people representing the plant were at my house in July of 2020 - I was in pain - I was outside my house while they were conducting their test - I mentioned the low frequency noise my body was experiencing and not one of the three could hear or feel it. My conviction is that if I, a living person can feel and be affected by a "noise" there **must be**, in our advanced technological age, a device that is able to determine the source of this "noise". However, there lies the problem!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I have been told by the plant representative that the ministry has not told them to do any such tests, and on the other hand, the ministry representative told me that the plant knows what tests they have to do. In the loooooooooooooooooooooooooooooog meantime, I suffer. Can people please understand that I have nothing against the St. Marys Cement Plant. I am fighting for my sanity and for my health. I would also like to have on record that another person in town has seen a doctor about ringing in her ears since the tower has been extended (someone who has lived her whole life in St. Marys and only in her senior years has developed tinnitus) so it's not just me, another gentleman in town has verbalized his ability to feel the vibration in the floors of his house, so it's not just me, and that a dog in town has suffered with vertigo - vet diagnosed - ever since the tower was extended, so it's not just me. Three months ago when the Community Liaison Committee met, I voiced the lack of contact with me to discuss my painful situation. Other than Kara, no one has contacted me to say - hey - lets talk. There is a source to this vibration and it should be illegal for the source to exist and to inflict such pain and mental stress on anyone. I live for the hope that there is someone who understands.

Very truthfully and sincerely Barb Reinwald

# Questions Brought Forward in Advance

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Very truthfully and sincerely Barb Reinwald



# Concerns

- In this situation, the difference was that the tower of St. Marys Cement was extended - acting like a bell tower. Although the tower was extended to blow the exhaust higher into the atmosphere, whoever designed and implemented the tower, either never considered or outright ignored the effect the vibration of the fans below the tower would have on the tower.
  - Unitec Engineering looked at the existing cement plant tower and determined the best way to attach the extension including reinforcement so that the tower would be stable. The changes were made only to the tower and not to the fan, so there are no changes to the fan operations. In addition, monitoring vibration from large industrial fans is a common practice and on site measurements of vibration from the fan have not changed from the addition of the stack extension.
- I am talking about the inaudible, the low frequency noise. I have been told by the plant representative that the ministry has not told them to do any such tests, and on the other hand, the ministry representative told me that the plant knows what tests they have to do.
  - HGC Engineering (SMCs noise consultant) notes that audible noise is considered to be anything over 100hZ, and anything below that low frequency noise. The noise monitors used for noise testing have limitations gathering data at low frequencies primarily because of interference from wind, but also due to domination by other nearby noise sources. In addition the further the noise testing is done from the source only amplifies these interferences. As of June 2022 the MECP has not requested any additional testing to be done for low frequency noise at the location.
- Another person in town has seen a doctor about ringing in her ears since the tower has been extended (someone who has lived her whole life in St. Marys and only in her senior years has developed tinnitus) so it's not just me, another gentleman in town has verbalized his ability to feel the vibration in the floors of his house, so it's not just me, and that a dog in town has suffered with vertigo.
  - Health concerns between residents and their physicians are confidential. SMC encourages residents to bring all concerns to their primary physician who can discuss their concerns with the Perth District Health Unit.

# Cement Plant Tour



# How To Have A Safe Summer



5 TIPS TO ENSURE SAFETY DURING THE SUMMER SEASON

## 1.) SHIELD YOURSELF



UVA and UVB rays can permanently damage eyes and cause cataracts, and can damage the skin causing premature skin aging and skin cancers. Wear UV 400 sunglasses to protect your eyes and full-spectrum sunscreen to protect your skin.

## 2.) SAY YES TO HATS

Wearing a brimmed hat is better than wearing a ball cap as it protects more of your neck and ears. Most skin cancer (80 percent) occurs on the neck or head.



## 3.) HYDRATE OFTEN

Always bring water with you. Summertime is the season in which our bodies are most likely to become dehydrated. Proper hydration can help prevent heat-related illnesses.

## 4.) SUPERVISE LITTLE ONES

Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death among children 1-4 and the second-leading cause among children 1-14. Whether bucket, bathtub, pond or pool, even strong swimmers need supervision around water.



## 5.) REPELL INSECTS

With warmer temperatures comes a rise of mosquitoes. Use insect repellents to prevent virus outbreaks and safeguard yourself and loved ones.

# Round Table & Closing Remarks

For any Questions or Concerns related to St Marys Cement Plant Operations  
please contact

Kara Terpstra – Environmental Manager

at 519-284-1020 x 235

or at

[kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com](mailto:kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com)