



**ALGOMA STEEL INC. (ASI)  
EMISSION CONCERNS IN  
SAULT STE. MARIE**

**ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE CONCERNS**

**ABSTRACT**

A discussion regarding the emissions from Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI) and how the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and current government address public concerns of industrial contamination to the environment in Sault Ste. Marie.

**Selva Rasaiah**

Submitted to: Ms. Bonnie Lysyk  
Auditor General of Ontario

Submitted by: Selva Rasaiah

Date Submitted: October 12, 2020

Dear Ms. Lysyk,

Your comments in the 2019 Annual Reports on the Environment has encouraged me to write you about my concerns with environmental enforcement and compliance issues with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) regarding the emissions at Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI) in Sault Ste. Marie Ontario. The local MECP and the Environmental Investigations and Enforcement Branch have not sufficiently addressed my concerns and issues with these emissions. The MECP despite claiming that they rely on public input, have chosen not to acquire additional information regarding these issues to prevent further occurrences. The MECP has the responsibility to acquire any information made available to determine the merits of any claim of alleged environmental violations. A fundamental right should be granted to an individual or group that obligates the MECP to communicate directly with that individual or group to ensure the MECP has understood their issues and concerns. The MECP has made no direct contact to discuss these concerns before sending response letters that inadequately addressed the specific issues.

Attempts to resolve concerns with the MECP has resulted in significant delays in acquiring information. Correspondence to the local MECP often receives no response or is not acknowledged in an acceptable timeframe. The MECP provides unsubstantiated claims that they work closely with ASI to “mitigate” their emissions. The local MECP have been unwillingness to assist in narrowing the scope of a Freedom of Information request (A-2019-03638) filed in May of 2019 regarding ASI emissions, so that provincial mandates could be satisfied. To resolve the delay, consent was given to MECP analysts to have the FOI request be completed earlier so that third-party notices could be issued. The MECP analysts advised that this was not possible since it would be considered changing the scope of my FOI. To date, there has been no documentation provided or decision rendered for the FOI request.

Mayor Christian Provenzano, M.P.P. Ross Romano, and M.P. Terry Sheehan have provided no feedback regarding the conduct of the MECP and the enforcement concerns in Sault Ste. Marie. There is a general acceptance and tolerance of industrial emissions from ASI. Active discussions regarding our community’s welfare by Sault Ste. Marie politicians has been primarily focused on economic interests with insufficient consideration given to environmental and health impacts. This sentiment is recognized by some residents in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

There are limited opportunities for discussions with the MECP. A clear difference is evident of how public complaints and investigations of emissions by MECP are addressed in Sault Ste. Marie compared to Hamilton Ontario. The MECP has not exercised diligence in their responsibilities and mandates to ensure public confidence that their health and the environment are protected from the potential impacts of industrial contaminants from Algoma Steel Inc.

The residents of Sault Ste. Marie deserve more accountability from the MECP, and the protection afforded by stronger environmental laws which should be consistently enforced. Public input and consultation are absent in many decisions by the MECP when considering the ongoing emissions from ASI and their impacts to the community. Please consider the information I have provided for future audits of the MECP, which will assist your office to provide recommendations to improve how the MECP manages public complaints and enforces provincial mandates in Sault Ste. Marie.

Sincerely,

Selva Rasaiah

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION MARCH 09, 2019 EMISSIONS EVENT (POWER FAILURE)

**Power outage cited as cause of weekend Steel Plant incident**

Coke battery flaring led to billowing black smoke

Mar 11, 2019 11:28 AM By: SooToday Staff



*Smoke seen billowing from Algoma Steel March 9, 2019. Photo submitted*

SooToday has received word as to the cause of black smoke billowing from Algoma Steel Saturday.

“I can confirm at 9:40 a.m. Saturday, March 9 we had a temporary total loss of power to the steelworks which resulted in a loss of steam to the operation as well. This necessitated flaring on the coke batteries,” wrote Brenda Stenta, Algoma Steel communications manager, in an email to SooToday Monday morning.

“Power was fully restored by 10:45 a.m. and the steam supply followed several hours thereafter. No injuries were sustained. The appropriate authorities were notified. An investigation is underway to determine the root cause and corrective measures,” Stenta wrote

Soo Today: <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/power-outage-cited-as-cause-of-weekend-steel-plant-incident-1315510>



**Photo 1:** Heavy emissions from ASI taken from Cathcart St. near Marconi Hall @ 10:00 AM



**Photo 2:** Heavy emissions from ASI taken from Cathcart St./ASI @ 10:16 AM, Video: 7 minutes 56 seconds

March 10	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 5 event	Ovens to be inspected
March 9	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #9 Battery, #22 Oven	Checked next oven and continues pushing
March 9	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #8 Battery, #78 Oven	Checked next oven and continues pushing
<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <h1 style="margin: 0;">ALGOMA</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Environmental incidents resulting from operations</p> </div>			
March 9	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 9 event	Ovens to be inspected
March 9	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 17 event	Ovens to be inspected
March 9	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 12 event	Ovens to be inspected
March 8	Cokemaking	Charging emission #8 Battery, #100 Oven	Checked next oven and stopped for more coking time
March 8	Cokemaking	Charging emission #8 Battery, #67 Oven	Stopped pushing for more coking time
March 8	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 5 event	Ovens to be inspected

**Photo 3:** Portion of ASI Process Upset Table posted August 2019 not showing March 09 emissions event.



**Photo 4:** Heavy emissions on March 09, 2019 at 10:41 am from Cathcart St. (yellow emission is raw coke (COB) gas)

 Environmental incidents resulting from operations			
March 11	Cokemaking	Charging emission #9 Battery, #29 Oven	Charged oven to atmosphere to reduce risk due to Oxygen/Gas ratio
March 10	Cokemaking	Charging emission #9 Battery, #27 Oven	Charged oven to atmosphere to reduce risk due to Oxygen/Gas ratio
March 10	Cokemaking	Charging emission #9 Battery, #25 Oven	Charged oven to atmosphere to reduce risk due to Oxygen/Gas ratio
March 10	Cokemaking	Charging emission #9 Battery, #05 Oven	Charged oven to atmosphere to reduce risk due to Oxygen/Gas ratio
March 10	Cokemaking	Charging emission #9 Battery, #03 Oven	Charged oven to atmosphere to reduce risk due to Oxygen/Gas ratio
March 10	Cokemaking	Charging emission #9 Battery, #49 Oven	Charged oven to atmosphere to reduce risk due to Oxygen/Gas ratio
March 10	Cokemaking	Charging emission #9 Battery, #45 Oven	Charged oven to atmosphere to reduce risk due to Oxygen/Gas ratio
March 10	Cokemaking	Charging emission #9 Battery, #47 Oven	Charged oven to atmosphere to reduce risk due to Oxygen/Gas ratio
March 10	Cokemaking	Charging emission #9 Battery, #51 Oven	Charged oven to atmosphere to reduce risk due to Oxygen/Gas ratio
March 10	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 15 events	Ovens to be inspected
March 10	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 19 events	Ovens to be inspected
March 10	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 5 events	Ovens to be inspected
March 9	Facility Wide	Plant wide power failure, flares on Coke Batteries ignited, loss of power to baghouses	Dispatched emergency EMTs to repair electrical issue, followed emergency shut down procedures
March 9	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #9 Battery, #22 Oven	Checked next oven and continues pushing

Photo 5: Updated table showing March 09 event and discharges of COB gas to the atmosphere post March 09

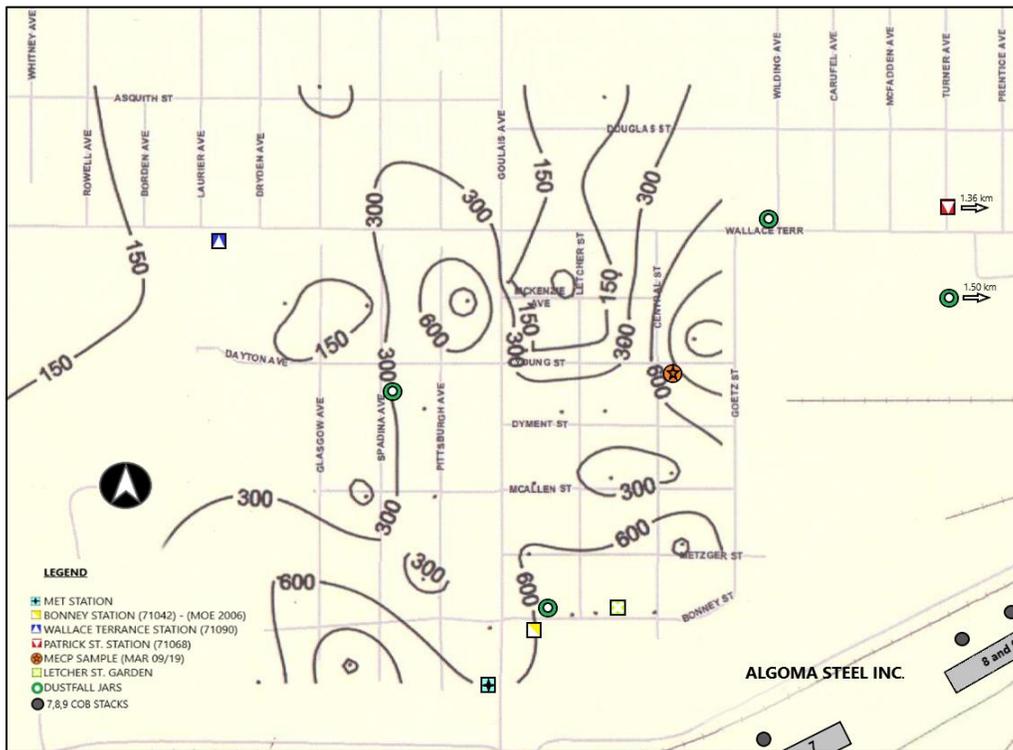


Photo 6: \*Concentration Contour Map showing the pattern of BaP (Benzo-a-pyrene) concentrations in surface soil samples collected relative the MECP sample collected on March 09, 2019.

\*Soil Survey in the Bayview Neighbourhood Adjacent to Essar Steel Algoma Incorporated, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (2012)

**OCTOBER 18, 2019 EMISSIONS EVENT (PIPE BURST-FLARING)****Why is Algoma Steel lighting the west end with flared coke oven gas?**

The problem should be fixed by early next week, the company says

about 14 hours ago By: [David Helwig](#)



*SooToday* reader Janice Anderson snapped this photo of huge flames over Algoma Steel early in the morning of Friday, Oct. 18, 2019. Photo used by permission.

A tiny, ruptured steam line at Algoma Steel is responsible for the spectacular gas flares that have periodically lit up the Sault's west end over the past week.

Brenda Stenta, the steelmaker's manager of communications and branding, says the flaring should stop early next week.

"On Friday, Oct. 18, 2019, we had a one-inch steam line rupture in the by-products plant which resulted in a loss of power to some related processes," Stenta tells *SooToday*.

"As per protocol, the cokemaking battery flares were lit – two per battery."

"We have three batteries. The flares are a necessary safety mechanism for the safe combustion of surplus fuel when the process is unable to recycle the fuel in normal course through the boilers and the cogeneration plant. Once power was restored the battery flares were extinguished," she said.

"The coke oven gas stack is flared periodically when coke oven gas exceeds operating demand as is the case currently while the booster that distributes coke oven gas to the boilers gets repaired."

Stenta added: "When the booster comes back online early next week, the flare will not be required."

The Ontario government's [hourly air quality measurements](#) for Sault Ste. Marie show spikes in fine particulate matter (PM2.5) corresponding to major flares reported by our readers on Friday, Oct. 18 and Sunday, Oct. 20, but Stenta insists particulate levels aren't related to the coke oven flares.

"While particulate matter emissions were somewhat elevated on Friday during the outage (particulate matter - PM10 24-hour rate at our Wallace Terrace air monitoring station measured 12 micrograms per cubic metre that day, and peaked at 44), they have since returned to normal levels."

"Today the total PM10 24 hour rate is measuring at 0 micrograms per cubic metre. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks ambient air quality criterion for PM10 is 50 micrograms per cubic metre for a 24-hour period, which is based on a Canada-wide standard," Stenta said.

			
October 19	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 20 events	Ovens to be inspected
October 19	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 25 events	Ovens to be inspected
October 19	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 15 events	Ovens to be inspected
October 18	By-Products	400 lb steam line rupture caused a power loss in the BP resulting in the south raw liquor tank and tar decanters to overflow and entered storm sewers.	Area was cleaned up, storm sewer was bermed to prevent further inflow and power was restored.
October 18	By-Products	400 lbs steam line rupture, power loss cause loss of suction, battery flares lit. SAC Number 0008-BH3DGT	Repairs on-going, power restored, suction re-established.
October 18	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 4 events	Ovens to be inspected
October 18	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 4 events	Ovens to be inspected
October 18	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 4 events	Ovens to be inspected
October 17	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 28 events	Ovens to be inspected
October 17	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 25 events	Ovens to be inspected
October 17	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 16 events	Ovens to be inspected
October 16	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 23 events	Ovens to be inspected
October 16	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 23 events	Ovens to be inspected

**Photo 7:** A portion of ASI Process Upset Table highlighting the event on October 18, 2019.

**Note:** There was no acknowledgement of the event in the following ACLC #30 meeting minutes on September 08, 2019 despite a steam line rupturing which caused a power loss in the BP (By-products Plant) resulting in the south raw liquor tank and decanters to overflow and enter the storm sewers. There was no acknowledgement of public complaints or discussions despite media coverage on the event.



**Photo 8:** Particulate emissions from coke oven battery stacks (7,8,9) and flares stacks @8:26 am



**Photo 9:** Heavy emissions from No.8 COB stack and dark emissions from No. 8 COB stack @ 8:30 am



**Photo 10:** Heavy particulate emissions predominately from COB #8 stack @ 9:02 am from Bonney St.

**HIGH PARTICULATE EMISSIONS FROM ALGOMA STEEL INC. (2019)**



**Photo 11:** No. 7 Blast Furnace releasing untreated gas and particulate from dirty bleeder valves



**Photo 12:** Heavy iron emissions from the casthouse of No.07 Blast Furnace



**Photo 13:** Heavy iron emissions discharged from the BOSP Plant on July 13, 2019



**Photo 14:** Very high opacity (100%) acrid stack emission from No. 7 Battery on May 07, 2019

RECENT EMISSIONS EVENT IN 2020

**Thick smoke seen over Algoma Steel (video, 4 photos)**

We'll post additional information as it becomes available

Feb 27, 2020 1:08 PM By: SooToday Staff



SooToday has received a number of reports of thick, dark smoke coming from the area of Algoma Steel.

The accompanying reader submitted photos and video were taken shortly after 11 a.m. today.

SooToday has reached out to Algoma Steel for comment and will post additional information as it becomes available.

<https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/thick-smoke-seen-over-algoma-steel-video-4-photos-2123668>

**\*Note:** This event was caused by the dumping of excess iron onto wet ground. There was no discussion or acknowledgement of the emissions or public complaints about this event in the Algoma Community Liaison Committee (ACLC) meeting on March 10, 2020 following the event despite media coverage.

COMPARISON OF DATA PRESENTATION OF OPACITY VIOLATIONS

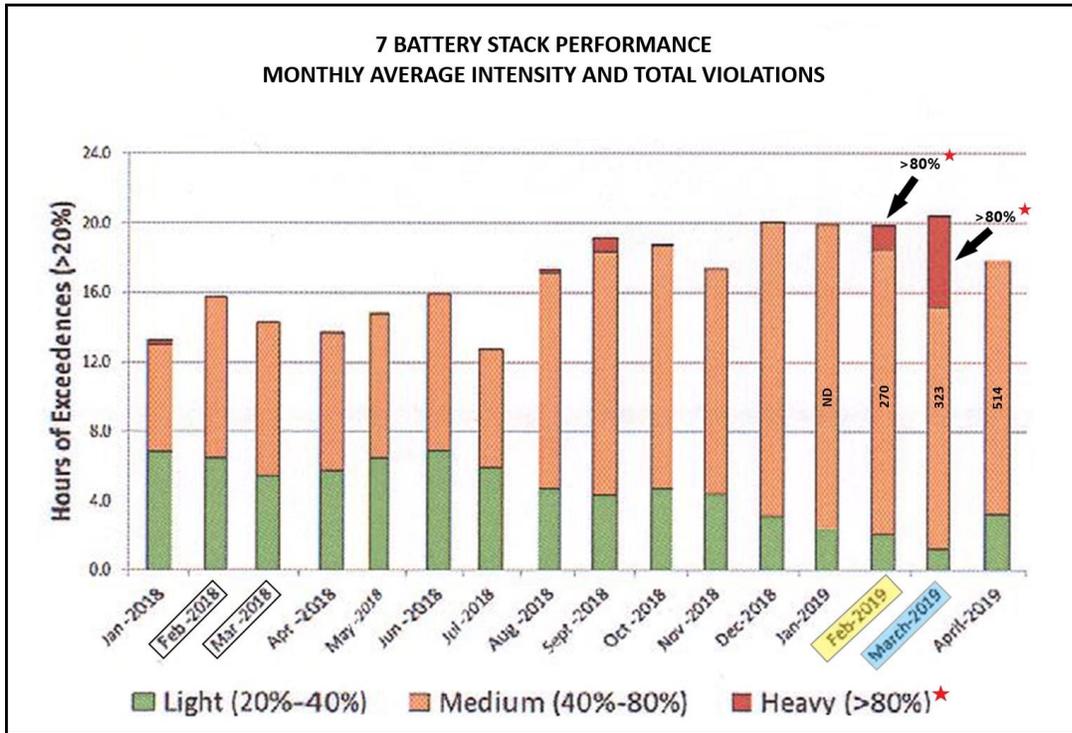


Photo 15: Modified from: ASI ACLC Meeting Presentation #29, June 04, 2019, slide 14.

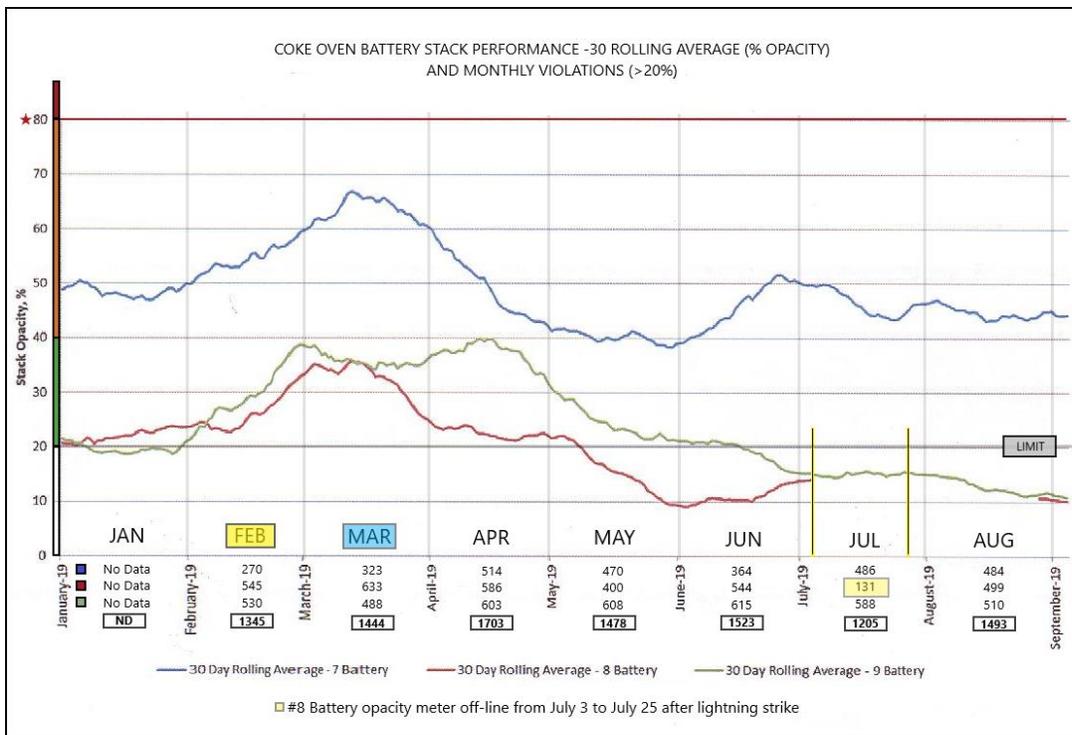


Photo 16: Modified from: ASI ACLC Meeting Presentation #30, September 10, 2019, slide 11.

\*Note: A line graph with a 30-day rolling average stack opacity “conceals” high opacities values compared to the bar graph (total hours)

**ALGOMA STEEL INC. COKE OVEN BATTERY OPACITY VIOLATIONS (2019-2020)**

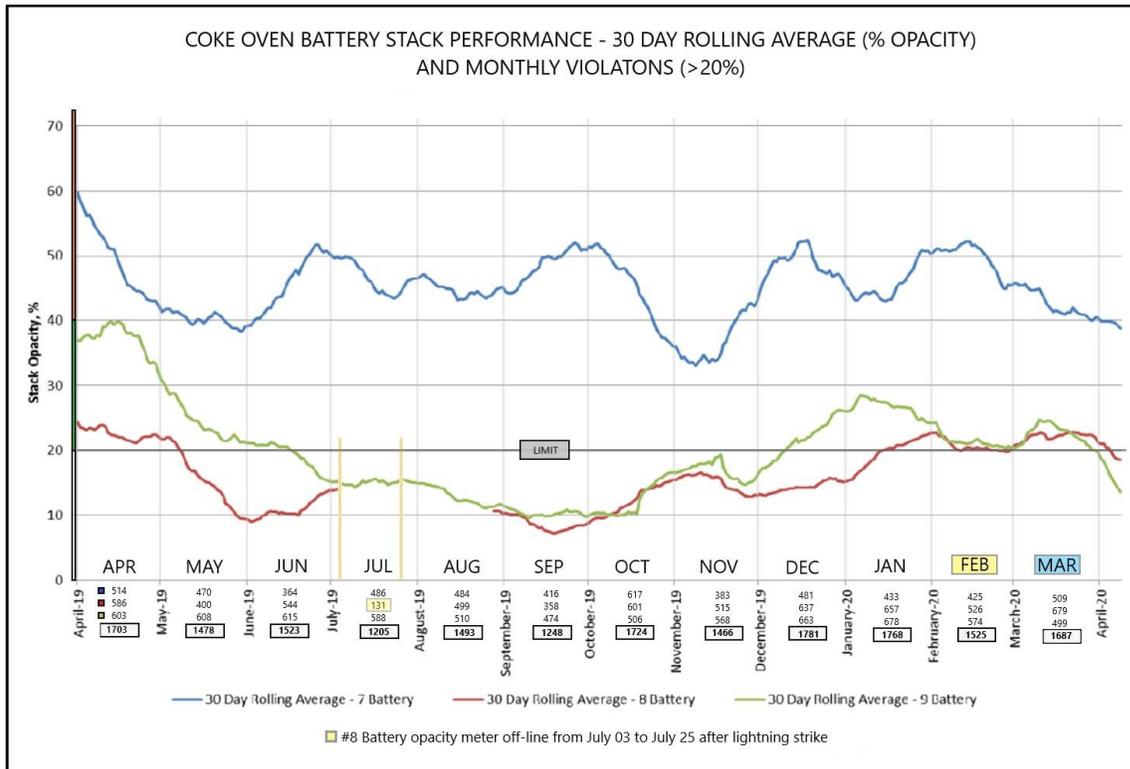


Photo 17: Modified from: ASI ACLC Meeting Presentation #33, June 09, 2020, slide 7.

**COMPARISON OF ASI COKE OVEN BATTERY STACK MONTHLY VIOLATIONS FOR 2019-2020**

Total Year Violations 2019					Total Year Violations 2020				
Month	7 Battery	8 Battery	9 Battery		Month	7 Battery	8 Battery	9 Battery	
JAN	no data	no data	no data	no data	JAN	433	657	678	1768
FEB	270	545	530	1345	FEB	425	526	574	1525
MAR	323	633	488	1444	MAR	509	679	499	1687
APR	514	586	603	1703	APR	437	610	618	1665
MAY	470	400	608	1478	MAY	341	443	638	1422
JUN	364	544	615	1523	JUN	506	484	562	1552
JUL	486	131	588	1205	JUL	479	462	444	1385
AUG	484	499	510	1493	AUG	324	536	349	1209
SEPT	416	358	474	1248	SEPT*	117	323	198	638
OCT	617	601	506	1724	OCT	*	*	*	*
NOV	383	515	568	1466	NOV				
DEC	481	637	663	1781	DEC				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4808</b>	<b>5449</b>	<b>6153</b>	<b>16410</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3571</b>	<b>4720</b>	<b>4560</b>	<b>12851</b>

All data compiled from ASI Process Upset Tables  
\*Data incomplete, data no longer posted on ASI Process Upset Table

Photo 18: Chart showing the difference in the number of monthly violations from 2019 to 2020.

## CHANGES TO THE NOTATION OF ASI'S PROCESS UPSET TABLE IN 2020

 Environmental incidents resulting from operations				
The following table lists the environmental incidents with the potential for an off-site impact, related to operations, for the date indicated:				
Date occurred 2020	Department	Description of the Incident	Resolution	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks File Number
August 4	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 Battery, 21 events	Ovens to be inspected	
August 4	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 Battery, 11 events	Ovens to be inspected	
August 4	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 Battery, 7 events	Ovens to be inspected	
August 3	Cokemaking	Fill out emission Ht 1338H	Stopped fill out -- waited for dampers to activate	3237-BS6J7R
August 3	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #8 Battery, #112 Oven	Checked next oven in sequence and stopped pushing for more coking time	6524-BS6J6N
August 3	Steelmaking	Pushing emission #8 Battery, #106 Oven	Checked next oven in sequence and stopped pushing for more coking time	4252-BS6J5L
August 3	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 Battery, 13 events	Ovens to be inspected	
August 3	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 Battery, 22 events	Ovens to be inspected	

**Photo 19:** Showing the number of stack violations (events) for each COB stack and a Ministry File No.

 Environmental incidents resulting from operations		
August 4	Cokemaking	Stack opacity emissions on #7 Battery
August 4	Cokemaking	Stack opacity emissions on #8 Battery
August 4	Cokemaking	Stack opacity emissions on #9 Battery
August 3	Steelmaking	Fill out emission Ht 1338H
August 3	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #8 Battery, #112 Oven
August 3	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #8 Battery, #106 Oven
August 3	Cokemaking	Stack opacity emissions on #7 Battery
August 3	Cokemaking	Stack opacity emissions on #8 Battery

**Photo 20:** The number of stack violations (events) are no longer posted or a Ministry File No.

\*Changes to ASI Process Upset Table were first noticed on September 18, 2020. The table initially included incidents starting from the beginning of the year. Currently, incidents are only noted beginning from June 08, 2020.

PAST MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT (MOE) FINES FOR PARTICULATE STACK EMISSIONS – 2010

## Court Bulletin Nouvelles judiciaires



Ministry of the  
Environment

Ministère de  
l'Environnement

For Immediate Release  
October 15, 2010

### **ESSAR STEEL ALGOMA INC. FINED \$100,000 FOR PARTICULATE DISCHARGE**

**SAULT STE. MARIE** – On September 30, 2010, Essar Steel Algoma Inc. was fined \$100,000 for causing or permitting the discharge of a contaminant, namely particulates, into the natural environment, contrary to the Environmental Protection Act.

The Court heard that the company operates a steel making facility in Sault Ste. Marie. On August 28, 2008, the ministry received complaints about emissions from the company's smokestacks. The smoke emissions had prompted the complainants to go inside their homes. Ministry staff observed smoke being emitted from the site and noted that it appeared to drop to ground level and migrate in a northerly direction off the property.

The company was charged following an investigation by the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch.

The company was fined \$100,000 plus a victim fine surcharge and given 90 days to pay.

For further information:

**Members of the media:**  
Kate Jordan  
Communications Branch  
(416) 314-6666

**Contact information for the general public:**  
416-325-4000 or 1-800-565-4923/  
[www.ontario.ca/environment](http://www.ontario.ca/environment)

## ARCELORMITTAL DOFASCO (AMD) FINES FOR STACK OPACITY VIOLATIONS FROM 2012

### Coke dust plumes cost steelmaker \$390,000

#### ArcelorMittal Dofasco admits to six charges

[Matthew Van Dongen](#)

The Hamilton Spectator

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

ArcelorMittal Dofasco faces a government order to cut pollution at its steelmaking plant even as it prepares to pay \$390,000 in fines for releasing coke-oven dust into the air two years ago.

The company pleaded guilty Monday to six charges of exceeding visible pollution standards.

But it noted in a statement that past and ongoing repairs — including an \$87 million investment — are improving the environmental performance of its coke-making plants.

Seven other charges were dropped.

The rare provincial charges — the first of their kind laid against the steelmaker since local air regulations were updated almost a decade ago — came after nearly 200 air pollution violations were recorded in 2012.

But hundreds of new "opacity exceedances" — basically thick smoke plumes that linger for more than six minutes — have since been recorded by the Ministry of the Environment, said local spokesperson Jennifer Hall.

Ministry staff have noted more than 500 violations since April 2012, an average of one every day-and-a-half.

That's no surprise to residents living in the shadow of the steelmaker, said Barbara LaFleshe, who attended provincial offences court to hear the verdict. "It hasn't gotten better. All you have to do is sit there and watch and you'd see (a smoke plume) practically every day," said the resident of McAnulty neighbourhood, where studies show residents face a higher risk of dying due to air pollution.

LaFleshe said she was disappointed a sustained citizen effort to submit photos of pollution to the MOE resulted in what she called a "slap on the wrist" and questioned whether it would deter future pollution.

Hall said the ministry is poised to issue an [order](#) that sets deadlines for a series of planned environmental fixes between this June and 2018.

But company spokesperson Marie Verdun said via email that ArcelorMittal "worked closely" with the MOE on the actions outlined in the order, and required improvements are already underway.

Verdun said the company previously committed to close by early 2015 its oldest coke-making plant, which turns coal into fuel for steel-making blast furnaces.

That move alone is expected to cut the number of opacity violations by 30 per cent, she said

Full article: <https://www.simcoe.com/news-story/4540106-coke-dust-plumes-cost-steelmaker-390-000/>

COMPARISON OF HOURS OF ASI STACK VIOLATIONS TO ALLEGHENY COUNTY FINES FOR US STEEL – (CLAIRTON)

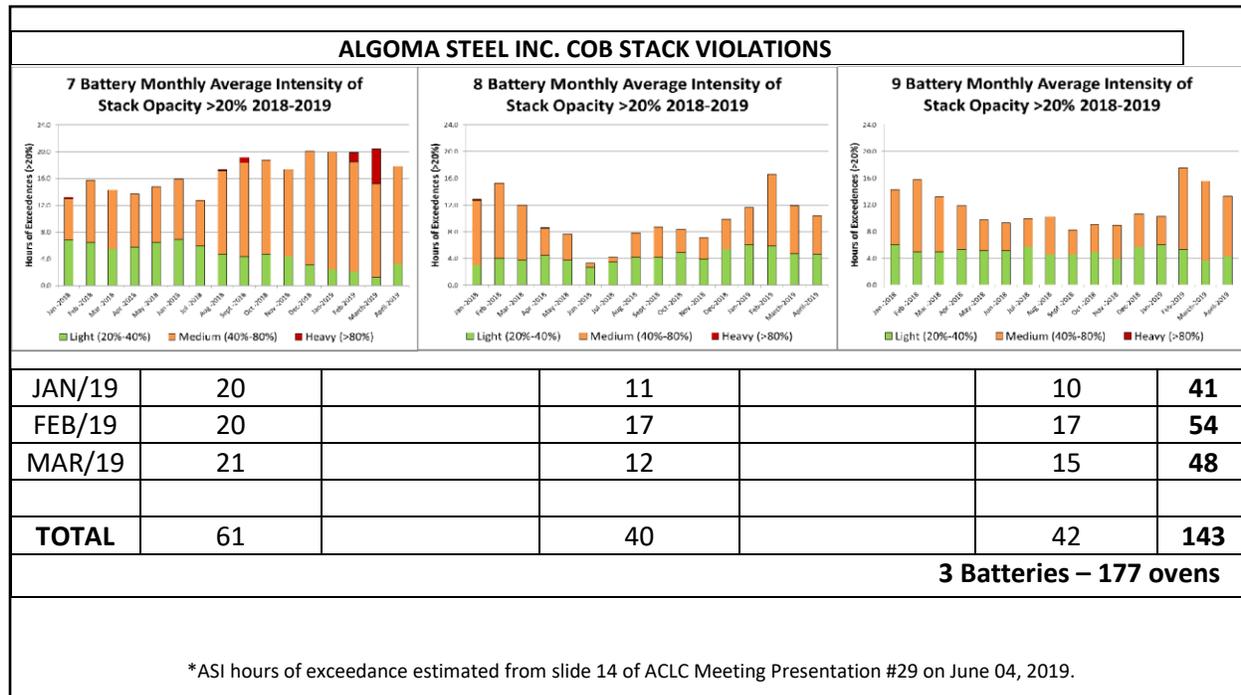


Photo 21: Modified from: ASI ACLC Meeting Presentation #29, June 04, 2019, slide 14

**UNITED STATES STEEL - CLAIRTON PLANT  
OPACITY VIOLATIONS (HOURS OF EXCEEDENCE >20%)**

Combustion Stack COM Non-compliant Clock Hours

Battery	July	August	September	Total Clock Hours 2nd Qtr 2019	amount
1	5	2	4	11	\$2,200
2	13	12	10	35	\$8,600 *
3	4	5	10	19	\$3,800
13	2	2	6	10	\$2,000
14	4	2	8	14	\$2,800
15	3	10	11	24	\$4,800
19	3	9	10	22	\$4,400
20	13	1	1	15	\$3,000
B	5	5	2	12	\$2,400
C	0	1	1	2	\$400
<b>Count:</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>\$34,400 subtotal</b>

\* Note: 33 hrs. @ \$200 & 2 hrs. @ \$1000 = \$8,600

**10 Batteries - 708 ovens**

Photo 22: Modified from: \*Report by Allegheny Health Department Air Quality Program (January 14, 2020), pg.9

\*United States Steel Clairton Plant; Demand for Stipulated Penalties Under Settlement Agreement and Order #190604 Section IX. Stipulated Penalties April 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters)

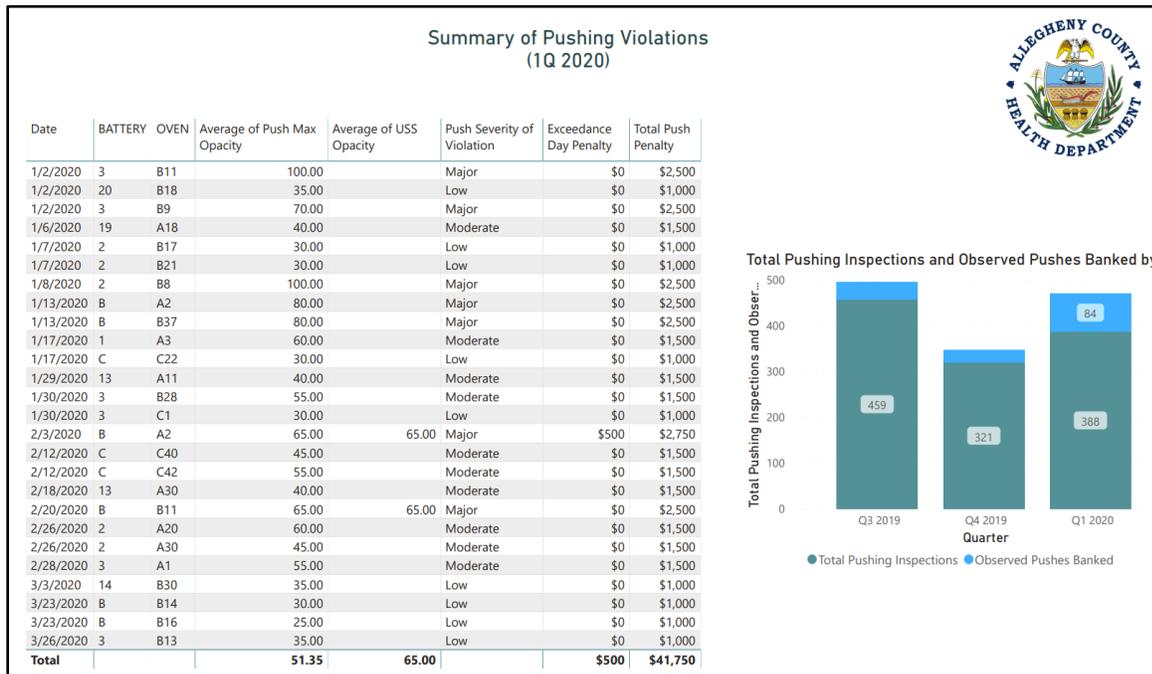
**Note:** There is currently no fines issued for opacity violations at ASI. US regulations in Allegheny County are also stricter than Ontario where an opacity violation (>20%) occurs after 3 consecutive minutes versus 6 consecutive minutes in Ontario.

**COMPARISON OF ASI PUSHING VIOLATIONS TO ALLEGHENY COUNTY FINES FOR US STEEL – (CLAIRTON)**

ALGOMA STEEL INC. PUSHING VIOLATIONS (JAN -MAR 2020)						
DATE	BATTERY	OVEN#	DATE	BATTERY	OVEN#	
04-Jan	8	90	04-Feb	8	91	
04-Jan	9	33	24-Feb	8	89	
05-Jan	8	85	24-Feb	8	71	
05-Jan	9	26	27-Feb	9	39	
05-Jan	9	44				
06-Jan	8	18				
06-Jan	9	13	DATE	BATTERY	OVEN#	
06-Jan	9	24	01-Mar	8	70	
06-Jan	9	26	07-Mar	8	98	
06-Jan	9	46	08-Mar	9	19	
07-Jan	8	84	08-Mar	9	29	
09-Jan	8	64	10-Mar	8	ND	
11-Jan	9	33	19-Mar	7	51	
13-Jan	8	97	28-Mar	8	68	
19-Jan	8	97	29-Mar	8	64	
19-Jan	9	38				
24-Jan	8	108	MONTH	FAILS		
24-Jan	9	25	JAN	23		
26-Jan	8	70	FEB	4		
28-Jan	8	97	MAR	8		
30-Jan	8	68	TOTAL	35		
30-Jan	9	26				
31-Jan	8	74				

Note: All data was compiled from ASI Process Upset Tables

**Photo 23:** Number of pushing violations at ASI recorded on their Process Upset Table



**Photo 24:** Modified from: \*Report by Allegheny Health Department Air Quality Program (May 28, 2020), pg.18

\*United States Steel Clairton Plant; Demand for Stipulated Penalties Under Settlement Agreement and Order #190604 Section IX. Stipulated Penalties October 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 (4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Quarters)

**Note:** There is currently no fines issued for pushing violations at ASI.

**INTERNATIONAL IMPACTS FROM ALGOMA STEEL INC. PARTICULATE EMISSIONS**



**Photo 25:** Emissions from ASI Coke Oven Battery Stacks (L to R: 7 Battery (black), 8 Battery (orange), 9 Battery (Yellow))



**Photo 26:** Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI) emissions on the US side of the International Bridge visible from across the St. Mary's River.



**Photo 27:** High opacity particulate emissions from No. 7 Battery (far right) and BOSP Plant particulate emissions



**Photo 28:** Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI) emissions on the US side of the International Bridge visible from across the St. Mary's River.

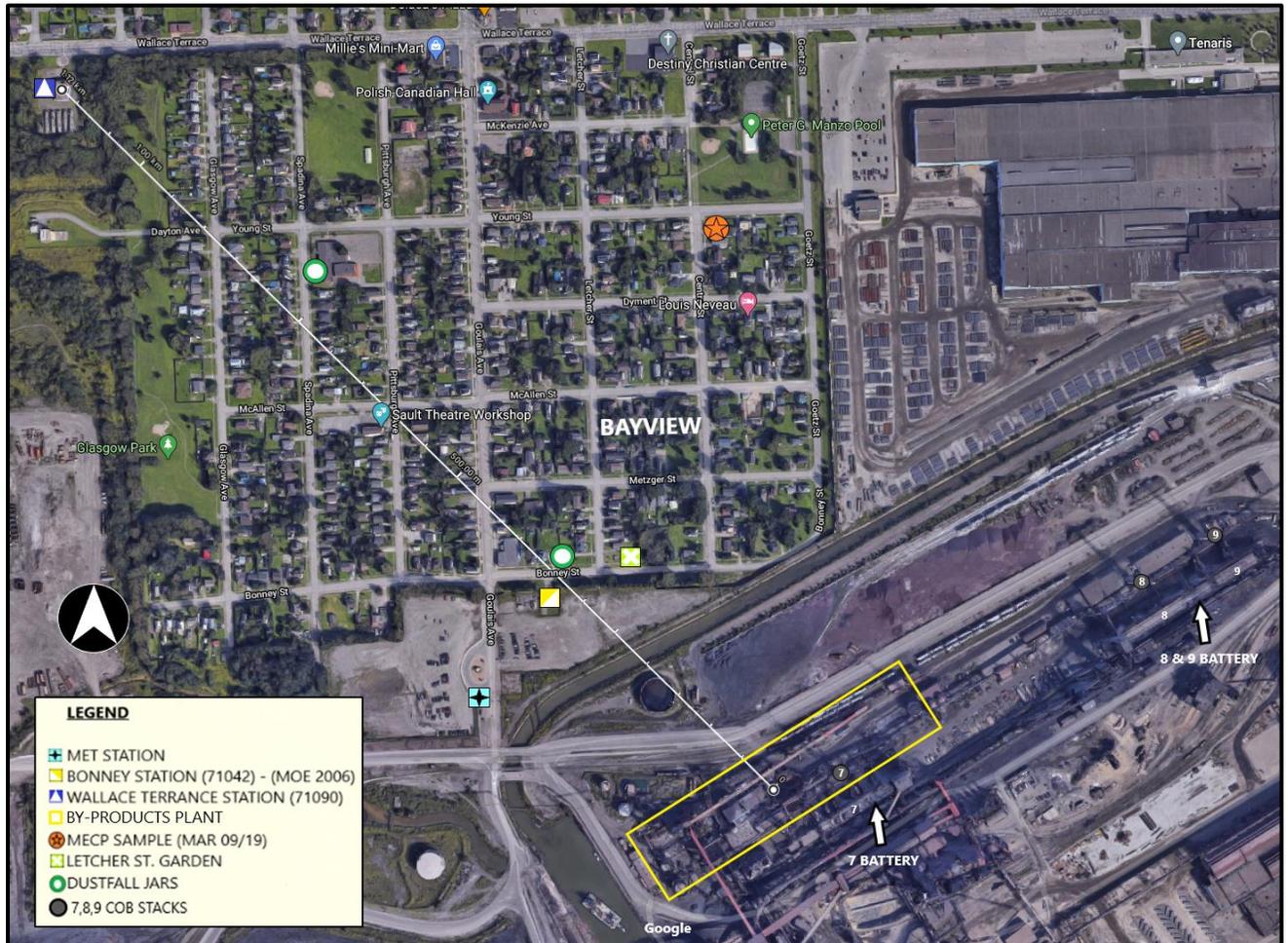
## MAPS SHOWING RELATIVE DISTANCE TO INDUSTRIAL CONTAMINANTS FROM ASI



**Photo 29:** Modified Google Image (2020) of current Algoma Steel Inc. AAQM (Ambient Air Quality Monitoring) network with MOE 2006 Aerocet Met Stations, MECP sample and key landmarks.

**Note:** The only current monitoring station near the Bayview neighbourhood (where the MECP collected a particulate sample on March 09, 2019) which has continuous monitors that measure particulate matter and PAHs (benzene) is located at the Wallace Terrance Station (71090)

## BAYVIEW NEIGHBOURHOOD AND EXPOSURE TO CONTAMINANTS FROM ASI



**Photo 30:** The proximity of Bayview neighbourhood to sources of BaP (Benzo-a-pyrene)

**Note:** The only current monitoring station near the Bayview neighbourhood (where the MECP collected a particulate sample on March 09, 2019) which has continuous monitors that measure particulate matter and PAHs (ex. benzene) is located at the Wallace Terrace Station (71090). There is only one monitoring device in the Bayview neighbourhood, a dustfall jar. This device does not continually sample the air for particulate emissions and other contaminants such as BaP from ASI operations. An update by ASI regarding uncontrolled benzene emissions: “The ten week benzene air monitoring program was completed in fall 2018 in the by-product area to look for potential benzene sources not currently controlled. Three sources were identified and control actions are completed.” (ACLC #32 Meeting minutes, March 10, 2020)

**SUPPORTING LETTERS/CORRESPONDENCE**

**LETTER TO MAYOR PROVENZANO REGARDING MARCH 09, 2019 EMISSIONS EVENT**

**Algoma Emissions**

Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>

Wed 08/05/2019 10:40 AM

To: mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca [mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca)

Hello Mayor Provenzano,

I would like to confirm that you received the pictures and USB with videos depicting the major emissions event at Algoma Steel Inc. on March 09, 2019. Could you please confirm. They were dropped off at your office on Monday.

Thank you.

Have a good day.

Selva Rasaiah

**Re: Review of March 09, 2019**

Mayor Provenzano <mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca>

Wed 15/05/2019 12:49 PM

To: Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>

Cc: Karen Fields <k.fields@cityssm.on.ca>

Selva:

I acknowledge receipt of your email and the pictures.

CP

Sent from my iPhone

On May 15, 2019, at 12:25 PM, Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com<mailto:selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>> wrote:

This email originated outside of the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

Do not open attachments or click links unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I have not received a reply as to whether you have reviewed the contents of the USB and the photos of March 09, 2019 from Algoma Steel Inc. that I provided to your offices. I have attached a timeline with photos from March 09, 2019. You will see some are captures of videos and the lengths of the videos are noted. Please retain this for your records and feel free to contact me if you have any questions. This has also been provided to Algoma and the local MCEP.

Selva Rasaiah

<March09\_Timeline.pdf>

**\*Note:** This is the only response and acknowledgement from Mayor Provenzano regarding ASI emissions concerns

**INITIAL LETTER: HONORABLE JEFF YUREK MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS (MECP)****Algoma Steel Inc. Air Emissions**

Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>

Thu 04/07/2019 4:03 PM

To: minister.mecp@ontario.ca <minister.mecp@ontario.ca>

5 attachments (8 MB)

March09\_Timeline.pdf; Emissions Post March 09\_D.pdf; IMG\_3915 (1).JPG; IMG\_5079.JPG; IMG\_5298.JPG;

Hello Mr. Yurek,

I am a concerned resident and former third-party emissions auditor of the coke oven batteries at Algoma Steel Inc. in Sault Ste. Marie. I have many concerns about how the audits are conducted and the local MECP's unwillingness to properly enforce compliance issues and answer concerns regarding their emissions. I was not satisfied with the conduct at the facility and brought those concerns to the environmental staff and the company I worked for. I have been monitoring and recording Algoma's emissions for over 50 days since their major emissions event on March 09, 2019. I have tried to reach out to local officials with little success. I have applied through FOI for emissions information since Algoma Steel and the local ministry have not been willing to provide simple information like the actual value for their benzene and benzene(a)pyrene in Algoma's latest report. Mr. Fred Post (Environmental Manager) claims the numbers in their report are "worst case scenario" and not the actual numbers. My attempts to acquire the actual numbers have not been successful.

I have also tried to obtain the contact information for the Algoma Liaison Committee through the city and Algoma and no one was willing to supply that.

I took videos of the event on March 09, 2019 that were supplied to Algoma Steel Inc., City of Sault Ste. Marie and Pinchin Ltd. The local ministry was offered these and showed no interest in seeing them. I advised them that they could get these from the organizations that have them if they preferred.

I have attached the March 09, 2019 timeline that goes with the ministry report (1433-BA4LCB) and some emissions observations after that event. Some of the later events on the list (not updated) may or may not be concerning or violations but serve as an overview for my own personal observations. However, there have been many larger iron emissions from the area of Algoma's No.7 blast furnace. I have also attached a few photos from more recent observations.

I feel that lack of environmental due diligence and willingness to address public concerns in Sault Ste. Marie is very concerning considering the plan to add a ferrochrome facility on Algoma Steel property.

Could you please provide me with a ministry contact who is outside the local ministry to whom I can send my concerns.

Thank you

Have good day.

Selva Rasaiah

**RESPONSE LETTER FROM MR. RON DORSCHT, SSM MECP AREA SUPERVISOR****Algoma Steel Emissions**

Dorscht, Ron (MECP) <Ron.Dorscht@ontario.ca>

Wed 10/07/2019 4:14 PM

To: selvarasaiah@hotmail.com <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>

1 attachments (8 MB)

Algoma Steel Inc. Air Emissions;

Good afternoon Mr. Rasaiah:

Thank you for your email of July 4, 2019 about ongoing visible emissions from Algoma Steel Inc. in Sault Ste. Marie. The Sault Ste. Marie Office has been asked to respond directly to your email on the behalf of the Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks shares your concerns about the need improve operations and reduce emissions from Algoma Steel's facilities. As you are aware, Ontario's Local Air Quality Regulation 419/05 (Regulation 419) is the main tool used by the ministry to regulate air emissions released by industrial facilities and to protect local communities from air pollution.

The compliance framework we use for Algoma Steel is the site-specific standard approach under Regulation 419. Site-specific standard approvals and orders are used when existing air quality standards cannot be immediately achieved. These standards require companies to invest in the best available technologies and practices to reduce air emissions and improve air quality over time.

Algoma Steel has been issued 3 site-specific standard approvals and orders under Regulation 419 (for suspended particulate matter in March 2015, for benzene in June 2016, and for benzo-a-pyrene in November 2017). Similar site-specific standards and accompanying orders have been issued to the other steel mills in Ontario. At this time, Algoma Steel is in compliance with the requirements of all 3 of their site-specific standards.

I understand from your latest email, and your previous contacts to the Sault Ste. Marie Office from March of this year onwards, that you have many more questions about how the ministry assesses compliance at Algoma Steel. To date you have not been able to accept our offer to meet in person and have detailed discussions on these more technical matters. I would like to repeat our offer to meet, at a time of your convenience, to continue these discussions in person, rather than by email. You can reach me by phone at 705-254-8145 or by email at [ron.dorscht@ontario.ca](mailto:ron.dorscht@ontario.ca).

I hope we will have the chance to meet soon. Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the ministry's attention.

Sincerely,

Ron Dorscht, Area Supervisor,  
Sault Ste. Marie Office  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

**INITIAL LETTER: MR. GREG SONES, FORMER DIRECTOR OF MECP ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT BRANCH****Algoma Steel Inc. Emissions**

Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>

Fri 19/07/2019 10:16 PM

To: greg.sones@ontario.ca <greg.sones@ontario.ca>

4 attachments (7 MB)

March09\_Timeline.pdf; Emissions Post March 09\_D.pdf; Recent Emissions Post June 20.pdf; 00187\_Moment.jpg;

Hello Mr. Sones,

I am a concerned resident and former third-party (Pinchin Ltd.) emissions auditor of the coke oven batteries at Algoma Steel Inc. in Sault Ste. Marie. I have many concerns about how the audits are conducted and the enforcement compliance issues regarding their emissions. I was not satisfied with the conduct at the facility and brought those concerns to the environmental staff at Algoma and Pinchin Ltd. SSM. I have been independently monitoring and recording Algoma's emissions for over 65 days since their major emissions event on March 09, 2019. I met with Ron Dorscht (SSM Area Supervisor) and Lori Greco (Supervisor for cokemaking) on Thursday July 07, 2019 to discuss my concerns. The meeting was insightful, but I disagree with the local ministry and I believe that Algoma Steel Inc. should be prosecuted for the events on March 09 (Ministry Report 1433-BA4LCB) and their subsequent violations. These are in addition to their consistent coke oven battery stack opacity violations and their manipulation of emissions audits to produce favorable results. I took videos of the event on March 09, 2019 that were supplied to Algoma Steel Inc., City of Sault Ste. Marie, Pinchin Ltd, and SSM MECP.

I have applied through FOI for emissions information since Algoma Steel has not been willing to provide simple information like the actual values for their benzene and benzene(a)pyrene in their latest report. Mr. Fred Post (Environmental Manager) claims the numbers in their report are "worst case scenario" and not the actual numbers. My attempts to acquire the actual numbers from Mr. Post have not been successful.

I have also tried to obtain the contact information for the Algoma Community Liaison Committee through the City of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma Steel Inc., and no one has been willing to supply it. Mayor Provenzano and city counsellors have not been willing to discuss any concerns regarding Algoma's emissions.

I have attached the March 09, 2019 timeline that goes with the ministry report (1433-BA4LCB) and some emissions observations after that event. Some of the later events on the lists may or may not be concerning or violations but serve as an overview for my own personal observations. However, there have been many larger iron emissions from the area of Algoma's No.7 blast furnace. I have also attached a few photos from more recent observations and the latest emission from the area of their blast furnace that occurred on July 19, 2019. All of the events have corresponding videos and additional photos.

Considerable time and effort have been spent to help protect the environment and the health of the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie. None of the photos have been seen by the public or media so that the ministry could be given the opportunity to assess them prior to public opinion. A lot of Algoma Steel emissions head across the St. Mary's river to the US side and many people in Sault Ste. Marie Michigan are not happy with the level of pollution. They have expressed interest in contacting the US EPA and wonder why there are no air quality monitors on the east side of Algoma's facility.

I feel that the lack of environmental due diligence and willingness to address public concerns in Sault Ste. Marie is very concerning considering the plan to add a ferrochrome facility on Algoma Steel property. I hope you will give serious consideration to my request and I will provide you with all the photos and videos you require.

Thank you  
Have good day.

Selva Rasaiah

**LETTER TO SAULT STE. MARIE M.P. TERRY SHEEHAN REGARDING ASI EMISSIONS CONCERNS****Algoma Steel Emissions Concerns**

Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>

Sun 11/08/2019 1:37 PM

To: TERRY.SHEEHAN@PARL.GC.CA <TERRY.SHEEHAN@PARL.GC.CA>; ross.romano@pc.ola.org <ross.romano@pc.ola.org>; mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca <mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca>; cspooney@algomapublichealth.com <cspooney@algomapublichealth.com>

6 attachments (11 MB)

March09\_Timeline.pdf; Iron Emissions of No. 07 Blast Furnace\_ACLC.pdf; ASI USA Hazes.pdf; ASI AirMonitoringStation\_B 001.jpg; ASI Baghouse 25M 001.jpg; BF7andBaghouse.jpg;

Hello everyone,

I am a concerned resident and former third-party (Pinchin Ltd.) emissions auditor of the coke oven batteries at Algoma Steel Inc. in Sault Ste. Marie. I have many concerns about how the audits are conducted and the enforcement compliance issues regarding their emissions. I was not satisfied with the conduct at the facility and brought those concerns to the environmental staff at Algoma and Pinchin Ltd. SSM. I have been independently monitoring and recording Algoma's emissions for over 90 days since their major emissions event on March 09, 2019. I met with Ron Dorscht and Lori Greco on Thursday July 07, 2019 to discuss my concerns. The meeting was insightful, but I disagree with the local ministry and I believe that Algoma Steel Inc. should be prosecuted for the events on March 09 (Ministry Report 1433-BA4LCB) and their subsequent violations. These are in addition to their consistent coke oven battery stack opacity violations that produce high levels of particulate. I took videos of the event on March 09, 2019 that were supplied to Algoma Steel Inc., City of Sault Ste. Marie, Pinchin Ltd, and SSM MECP. You will see that the emissions were extensive and resulted in particulate being deposited into the surrounding neighborhoods. Also, Algoma's pumps to their Wastewater Treatment Facility failed to operate due to lack of power and they were presumed to have discharged untreated water into the St. Mary's River. I told the local ministry in my last meeting that the time and methodology of the collection of the particulate (in the Bayview Area) and water were insufficient. Also, the fact that Algoma Steel waited over 40 minutes before notifying the Spills Action Centre (SAC) is concerning considering how bad the emissions were even at 9:55 (the call was made at 10:38). According to Algoma, the total power loss was due to a cable termination failure using older style technology prone to leaking current in their power supply.

I have applied through FOI for emissions information and a 2013 soil report (in Bayview Area) since Algoma Steel has not been willing to provide simple information like the actual values for their benzene and benzene(a)pyrene in their latest report. Mr. Fred Post (Environmental Manager) claims the numbers in their report are "worst case scenario" and not the actual numbers. My attempts to acquire the actual numbers from Mr. Post have not been successful.

Mayor Provenzano and city counsellors have not been willing to discuss any concerns regarding Algoma's emissions. I have also tried to obtain the contact information for the other members of the Algoma Community Liaison Committee through the City of Sault Ste. Marie (Catherine Taddo) and Algoma Steel Inc. (Chris Galizia and Fred Post), and no one has been willing to supply it. There appears to be little concern or scrutiny of their emissions.

I was wondering if the local ministry or Algoma gave the CLC further information regarding my concerns as I noticed that their presentation slide (from their latest meeting) doesn't mention public complaints regarding March 09 other than a noise complaint. I also gave the ministry a picture of a very large iron emissions on April 30, 2019. I am very disappointed that I have been dealing with Algoma, the City and the local MECP since March 11, 2019 and no one even mentioned an opportunity to meet or speak with the Algoma CLC. I have attached a few things for everyone to review. I included information regarding the No.07 blast furnace to emphasize that the

permanent bag house was either not working or not connected (there are many smaller events but only larger events are presented). It is very clear that the numerous blast furnace emissions were not simple "operational upsets" but deficiencies in their operations. The permanent bag house appears to be fully operational now.

I have spent considerable time and effort to help protect the environment and the health of the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie. A lot of Algoma Steel emissions head in easterly directions from their facility and you should note that the monitors are all on the west side. The air monitoring equipment needs to be addressed in the west as well considering a report in Feb. 2018 by a third-party auditor (GHD) which states regarding all the dust fall jars: "Dust fall jars do not meet MECP siting criteria for locations Bonney Street, Spadina Avenue, Wilding Avenue and Adelaide Street, therefore results may be suspect". The stations are maintained by Algoma Steel and the local MECP says they do periodically inspect them. Algoma Steel and the local MECP have yet to provide the reasons they don't meet the MECP siting criteria and if there will be some resolution to this issue.

As of July 29, 2019, Mr. Don Earl of the Environmental Enforcement and Compliance branch is now reviewing these concerns. He has been advised that the US EPA will also be contacted in a few weeks for a response (requested by concerned Sault Michigan residents). I feel that the lack of environmental due diligence and willingness to address public concerns in Sault Ste. Marie is very concerning. I hope you will give serious thought and acknowledgment to my concerns. Please share this information with the members of the Algoma CLC not included on this email so they can be properly informed.

Thank you  
Have good day.

Selva Rasaiah

**Note:** M.P. Terry Sheehan did not acknowledge this letter and has not commented on ASI emissions concerns.

## MECP ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE RESPONSE (Former Director Don Earl):



**Ministry of the  
Environment,  
Conservation and Parks**

Environmental Enforcement  
and Compliance Office

305 Milner Ave, Suite 1000  
Scarborough, ON M1B 3V4  
Tel.: 416-314-4278  
Fax.: 416-314-4464

**Ministère de l'Environnement,  
de la Protection de la nature et  
des Parcs**

Bureau de l'application des lois  
environnementales et de la conformité

305, avenue Milner, bureau 1000  
Scarborough, ON M1B 3V4  
Tél.: 416-314-4278  
Télééc.: 416-314-4464

Aug 27, 2019

Selva Rasaiah  
162 Cathcart St.  
Sault Ste. Marie  
Ontario P6A 1E4  
[selvarasaiah@hotmail.com](mailto:selvarasaiah@hotmail.com)

Dear Mr. Rasaiah,

Thank you for your emails of July 20 and July 30, 2019 to Greg Sones and myself and your email to the Premier on August 17, 2019 regarding the event that occurred on March 9, 2019 and ongoing visible emissions from Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI) in Sault Ste. Marie. I have been asked to provide a direct response on your emails.

The Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Office through the Investigations and Enforcement Branch reviews allegations of non-compliance to determine where prosecution is warranted. We work closely with staff in local area and district offices to follow-up on serious non-compliance and repeated violations.

We have reviewed the allegations included in your letter and discussed the incidents with the Sault Ste. Marie area office to gather additional information and have concluded that an investigation is not warranted at this time.

In response to the March 9 incident, ASI took measures to ensure safety in response to the power outage which affected operation of the Coke Oven Batteries. We acknowledge there were significant visible emissions, however the company followed operational procedures to maintain safety of the site and advised MECP of the emissions as they were occurring.

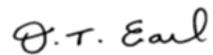
With respect to the other events you've mentioned, we've considered the ongoing efforts that ASI is undertaking to mitigate the visible emissions. As communicated by the Sault Ste. Marie Area Supervisor, Ron Dorscht, in his letter of July 10, 2019, ASI is

in compliance with the site-specific standards and accompanying orders that have been issued for suspended particulate, benzene and benzo-a-pyrene.

I would encourage you to direct specific questions regarding mitigation plans and site-specific standards to the Sault Ste. Marie Area office and /or ASI. Thank you for your interest in the continued protection of Ontario's air.

Should you have additional information or questions, please contact Melissa Evers as of September 3, 2019 at [melissa.evers@ontario.ca](mailto:melissa.evers@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. T. Earl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "E".

Don Earl  
A. Director,  
Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Office  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

## MECP ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE RESPONSE (Director Melissa Evers):

**Ministry of the  
Environment,  
Conservation and Parks**Environmental Enforcement  
and Compliance Office*305 Milner Ave, Suite 1000  
Scarborough, ON M1B 3V4*  
Tel.: 416-314-4278  
Fax.: 416-314-4464**Ministère de l'Environnement,  
de la Protection de la nature et  
des Parcs**Bureau de l'application des lois  
environnementales et de la conformité*305, avenue Milner, bureau 1000  
Scarborough, ON M1B 3V4*  
Tél.: 416-314-4278  
Télééc.: 416-314-4464

December 13, 2019

Selva Rasaiah  
162 Cathcart St.  
Sault Ste. Marie  
Ontario P6A 1E4  
[selvarasaiah@hotmail.com](mailto:selvarasaiah@hotmail.com)

Dear Mr. Rasaiah,

Thank you for your letter of September 9, 2019 to Don Earl regarding the event on March 9, 2019 from Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI) in Sault Ste. Marie. As the current director, I'm providing a response to your inquiry.

As you may know, the Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Office (EECO), through our Investigations and Enforcement Branch, reviews incidents of alleged violations of Ontario's environmental laws to determine where prosecution is warranted. Information about environmental incidents is generated from calls to the Spills Action Centre (SAC), calls/submissions from the public and contact from municipalities, as well as the local district office field follow-up. This information is reviewed to make a determination if an investigation into alleged violations and subsequent prosecution is warranted. Initiation of an investigation, or the decision not to proceed with one, is carefully considered to ensure prosecution will improve compliance with requirements and result in deterrence from further violations. We also strive for fair and consistent enforcement across the province.

With respect to the concerns raised in your letter of September 9, 2019, IEB will not be proceeding with investigation into the March 9, 2019 power failure event. Through review of your materials, and the information available through the Sault Ste. Marie Area Office of the MECP, we understand the emissions were related to an emergency situation, during which the company exercised diligence in their response and return to normal operations.

I have shared the information you provided in your submission with the Sault Ste Marie MECP office to ensure they have as much information as possible to continue their work with ASI on their compliance with environmental requirements. The MECP office in Sault Ste. Marie continues to monitor compliance at ASI and ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate emissions from the facility. Should you have any specific concerns, I would encourage you to direct them to the Sault Ste. Marie Area office and/ or ASI. Thank you for your interest in the continued protection of Ontario's air.

Sincerely,



Melissa Evers  
Director,  
Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Office  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

**LETTER FROM CHRISTINE GORMAN, MECP FOI ANALYST REGARDING UPDATE FOR FOI REQUEST (A-2019-03638)****MECP FOI A-2019-03638**

Gorman, Christine (MECP) <Christine.Gorman@ontario.ca>

Fri 21/02/2020 11:33 AM

To: selvarasaiah@hotmail.com <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>

Cc: Gorman, Christine (MECP) <Christine.Gorman@ontario.ca>

Selva,

I have read through the emails you exchanged with Florence and other staff, and due to the large number of changes to your original request, I want to make sure I understand the final scope of your request so I don't exclude any relevant records during my review. Below is the timeline as I understand it:

On **May 27, 2019** you submitted your original request looking for: "All documents including letters, exemptions, Orders, pertaining to the Method 303 for Algoma Steel Inc (Essar Steel Algoma, Algoma); All documents relating to site specific standards (including Benzene, Benzene (a) Pyrene).

On **May 29, 2019** you revised the scope of your original request and confirmed with Victoria that you were looking for:

- 1.) All documents, letters, reports and orders that pertain to the Method 303. This includes documents that relate to the exemptions given to Algoma Steel Inc. in 2015 (Essar Algoma Steel, Algoma). These include letters from Fred Post (Environmental Manger at Algoma) to Brian Cameron (Sudbury Regional MECP Manager) regarding the approval of changes to the methodology of the Method 303. Also, the actual "Canadian" Method 303 to compare it to the USEPA Method 303 to account for any differences between the two (if any).
- 2.) All documents, letters, reports and orders that pertain to Regulation 419. This includes any site-specific standards/exemptions related specifically to benzene, benzene(a)pyrene and related benzene compounds.
- 3.) MECP reports (annual and/or quarterly) that pertain to air emissions (2015-2019). I would like to know about their coke oven battery stack violations (assuming they are in these reports as well).
- 4.) All documents, including reports, certificates of analysis, letters from Algoma to MECP currently available for the incident on March 09, 2019 (MECP Incident report 1433-BA4LCB)

On **July 21, 2019**, after receiving the original fee estimate, you revised (narrowed) the scope of your request again and confirmed with Florence that you were looking for:

1. All documents (letters, correspondence) from 2015 relating to the Method 303
2. All documents (including photos) relating to the emission event on March 09, 2019 (Ministry Report No. 1433-BA4LCB)
3. The most recent Ministry Report (that includes air emissions, stack opacity violations)
4. All spill reports available from 2019
5. Full document (including photos, tables) entitled Soil Survey in the Bayview Neighbourhood Adjacent to Essar Steel Algoma Incorporated, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (2012) - Report No. S5020-2012 February 2013

A revised fee estimate was sent to you on **September 4, 2019**. I believe this revised estimate was based on the revised scope provided on July 21.

On **December 18, 2019** Florence confirmed with you that:

- You do not require your own correspondence
- She would not be removing duplicate email chains

On **December 20, 2019** Florence confirmed by email that you would need to submit a separate request for the additional information you were looking for regarding SAC report 0008-BH3DGT, and you confirmed you were interested in receiving all of the documents she asked about, specifically:

1. A draft order – Draft of SPM Site Specific Standard Order Document for Iron & Steel (Order Issued Pursuant to s.35(14) of O. Reg. 419/05).
2. Soil Survey in the Bayview Neighbourhood Adjacent to Essar Steel Algoma Incorporated, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (2013) Report No. S5020-2013 October 2014.
3. Preliminary Report of Algoma Steel Environmental Incident – March 9th, 2019 dated March 22, 2019.
4. Notice – s.52 of O. Regulation 419/05 as amended made under the Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.e 19 (EPA), as amended, to Essar Steel Algoma Inc., Notice Number: 3144-9TZMTS, issued April 13, 2015.
5. Combined Ministry Review of Request for Site Specific Standards from ArcelorMittal Dofasco – Hamilton; Essar Steel – Sault Ste Marie; US Steel – Hamilton and US Steel – Nanticoke, dated May 4, 2015.
6. Air Facility Inspection Report (Algoma Steel Inc.), Inspection Start Date and Inspection Finish Date: 2019/02/21.
7. Algoma email to Ministry dated April 3, 2019, subject: March 9th Information, with data attachments.
8. Algoma email to Ministry dated April 4, 2019, subject: RE: March 9th Information, with data attachments.
9. Algoma email to Ministry dated April 26, 2019, subject: March 9th Power Failure, with letter attached entitled Re: March 9th, 2019 Power Failure Summary Report
10. Algoma email to Ministry dated April 29, 2019, subject: Back up Diesel Generator, with attachments.

In addition, I believe during a phone call the morning of December 20, Florence also mentioned other types of documents that she had found during her review, such as Inspection Reports, Information Reports, Essar's Notices of Operational Adjustments, etc. and you confirmed you were not interested in receiving those types of documents. Included in these documents I noticed a letter from Essar regarding a request to "Amend Method 303 Observation Methodology", and a letter from Essar and Orders re: Site Specific Standard Observations, etc. that Florence has not flagged as being responsive, but based on your July 21 email clarification it looks like it would be. It is unclear to me, based on the information I have, if the scope in your July 21 email was narrowed even further as a result of your subsequent conversations with Florence, so that these types of records are no longer responsive.

Perhaps we could set up a time to speak on the phone early next week to discuss the types of records you're looking for before I begin my review of the file.

Regards,

**Christine Gorman**

FOI Analyst  
 Access and Privacy Office  
 Information Management and Access Branch  
 Corporate Management Division  
 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
[christine.gorman@ontario.ca](mailto:christine.gorman@ontario.ca)  
 40 ST CLAIR AVENUE WEST, FLOOR 12  
 TORONTO, ON, M4V 1M2

**LETTER TO MS. MELISSA EVERS, DIRECTOR MECP ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH****MECP Emissions Investigation Response**

Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>

Fri 14/08/2020 12:26 PM

To: Evers, Melissa (MECP) <Melissa.Evers@ontario.ca>

Cc: Chen, Donna (MECP) <donna.chen@ontario.ca>; Harris, Nadine (MECP) <Nadine.Harris@ontario.ca>; ross.romano@pc.ola.org <ross.romano@pc.ola.org>; Dorscht, Ron (MECP) <Ron.Dorscht@ontario.ca>; joleary@ombudsman.on.ca <joleary@ombudsman.on.ca>; Greco, Lori (MECP) <Lori.Greco@ontario.ca>; Mayor Provenzano <mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca>

Hello Ms. Evers,

Further to your letter dated December 16, 2019, I have been communicating with the SSM MECP over the past few months to resolve and address my concerns regarding Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI) emissions. I am limited to the information I provide to the SSM MECP due to the extended timeframe of my FOI request (A-2019-03628) to the MECP made in May of 2019. The extended time throughout the process has resulted in further delays since three individuals (Victoria Partosa, Florence Lam and Christine Gorman) were assigned to the file and required further time to review the request independently. I have received no information regarding this request to date. Since I have limited information and no timeline when my request will be completed, I will use the information available to me to facilitate progress in resolving my concerns. Respectfully, I do not feel that your letter sufficiently addresses the concerns I outlined in my letter dated September 09, 2019.

My concerns regarding the events on March 09, 2019 included the limited investigation by the SSM MECP and the delays in communicating the urgency by ASI to the MECP (1433-BA4LCB). Although the MECP has concluded that this event was simply an emergency situation, the root cause of the event determined by ASI was a failure in outdated equipment prone to mechanical failure. ASI is responsible for the maintenance of its equipment and failed to address this issue despite the critical nature of this equipment to the safe operation of their facility which resulted in the emergency situation. I highlighted that the ACLC (Algoma Community Liaison Committee) and the public were given limited information regarding that day despite the discharge to the air of significant emissions and discharge of untreated effluent into the St. Mary's River, a danger to the public. An FOI request made to the city regarding spills to the air and water from ASI produced no documents (they may not "own" the documents). Considering the City of Sault Ste. Marie has the due diligence of protecting the overall health and safety of the community and the environment, how was the City of Sault Ste. Marie notified and informed about the events on March 09? What expectation does the MECP have with respect to any assumed or required due diligence regarding environmental compliance from a municipal government?

Regarding bleeder events and Case No. 19-012 against ArcelorMittal Dofasco (AMD), MECP Lori Greco informed me that there is no specific policy regarding the reporting of bleeder events. The number of bleeder events (2 in one month at AMD) although a sign of operational difficulties, cannot be argued as a factor since there is not an industry standard stating how many events are abnormal. A comparison to other facilities by the MECP can easily be invalidated by the fact that these types of event are not monitored by the MECP or a third-party, and the decision to report is made exclusively by the operator. In August 2019, there is video and photos (photos provided to the MECP) where it is evident that two of these bleeder events (4 events in August) violated Section 46 of Ontario Regulation 419/05. These violations required reporting on the ASI Process Upset Table regardless of the reason for the event (maintenance, burden slip, operator error, etc.). Further, these events were not discussed with the ACLC.

The MECP did not request any information from myself despite sharing my emissions concerns. I would appreciate if you could address whether the MECP has a policy or obligation to obtain information from the public when it is made available to them. In your letter, you state "Information about environmental incidents is generated from calls to the Spills Action Centre (SAC), calls/submissions from the public and contact from municipalities, as well as

the local district office field follow-up." Why did the MECP not request further details that were available to them? Due to limitations of monitoring and available resources, the MECP should be willing to accept and request information related to emissions concerns especially when it is documented by photographs and video. How does the MECP decide when to acquire information made available to them? It is reasonable to assume that all relevant information available to an investigation is acquired and considered before it is concluded.

I look forward to your response and please feel free to contact me anytime.

Thank you.

Selva Rasaiah

**LETTER TO PETER MCLARTY, ALGOMA CLC PUBLIC MEMBER****ACLCL and ASI mandated responsibilities**

Selva Rasaiah &lt;selvarasaiah@hotmail.com&gt;

Thu 27/08/2020 11:48 AM

To: Peter McLarty [pjmclarty@shaw.ca](mailto:pjmclarty@shaw.ca)

Cc: DAVID TROWBRIDGE <dtrowbridge7@gmail.com>; Fred Post <Fred.Post@algoma.com>; Chris.Galizia@algoma.com <Chris.Galizia@algoma.com>; Paul.Walz@algoma.com <Paul.Walz@algoma.com>; Dorscht, Ron (MECP) <Ron.Dorscht@ontario.ca>; Greco, Lori (MECP) <Lori.Greco@ontario.ca>; Catherine Taddo <c.Taddo@cityssm.on.ca>; Mayor Provenzano <mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca>; ross.romano@pc.ola.org <ross.romano@pc.ola.org>; TERRY.SHEEHAN@PARL.GC.CA <TERRY.SHEEHAN@PARL.GC.CA>; lisa.derickx@algomau.ca <lisa.derickx@algomau.ca>

5 attachments (9 MB)

USSteel-Stipulated-Penalty-Demand-Letter-Q4-2019-Q1-2020.pdf; MECPSupportDoc\_ASLemissions.pdf; Oct18\_2019Flare.pdf; BarAnalysis\_1\_001.jpg; ASIFine2016.jpg;

Hi Peter,

Thank you for your reply. Algoma Steel Inc. has the responsibility to report its emissions and disclose issues regarding those emissions to the ACLC to encourage discussion and ensure the safety of the public, the environment as well as address public concerns. The ACLC has the responsibility to ask informed questions and does have access to some public information from media outlets and ASI's Process Upset Table to help facilitate discussion on some of those emissions. It is well understood the limitations of steelmaking and this has been accommodated for by granting Site-Specific-Standards, technical standards, and other exemptions. The SSM MECP is responsible to ensure that Algoma Steel is disclosing its emissions properly since most emissions are modelled and not measured. According to an article by the Narwhal:

"In the last 10 years, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment has prosecuted Algoma Steel and its predecessor Essar Steel Algoma on two occasions, leading to convictions and \$200,000 in fines. Also in the last decade, the ministry has issued four environmental penalty orders with an additional \$27,000 in fines, and 11 provincial officer's orders requiring improvements to operations."

I have attached an image of an emissions event where a fine was issued by the MECP that represents half of that total.

Compared to a US facility, operators like ASI do not face many financial hardships from environmental penalties/fines. I have attached an example from United States Steel - Clairton Plant (US Allegheny County) for you to review. To my knowledge, ASI has not received any penalties related to many of the items listed in that document including failed pushes and charges (please confirm with ASI Fred Post and MECP Ron Dorscht). You should also note that US Steel also faced penalties for opacity violations whereas MECP Ron Dorscht states there is no limit that allows them to issue fines against ASI. US regulations in Allegheny County are also stricter than Ontario where an opacity violation (>20%) occurs after 3 consecutive minutes versus 6 consecutive minutes in Ontario.

The health and safety of the people and the environment is the priority. Despite economic concerns, ASI needs to make continued corrective repairs and maintenance including disclosing emissions issues or upsets to the ACLC. There was no information in ACLC minutes or presentations regarding the estimated release of over 4 million litres of untreated effluent into the St. Mary's River (calculated by ASI) on March 09, 2019. I can only assume that Ms. Lisa Derickx (St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator) was made aware and was given the opportunity to

comment. Algoma Steel Inc. and the SSM MECP must understand that if they fail to disclose this information, it can impact these other agencies and their work.

I encourage you to discuss some of these issues at your next ACLC meeting.

Thanks.

Selva

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**From:** Peter McLarty <pjmclarty@shaw.ca>  
**Sent:** August 23, 2020 11:30 AM  
**To:** Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>  
**Cc:** DAVID TROWBRIDGE <dtrowbridge7@gmail.com>; Fred Post <Fred.Post@algoma.com>  
**Subject:** Re: FYI: Fw: MECP Emissions Investigation Response

Hi Selva

Thanks for keeping us in the loop. I share your concerns and frustrations.

As stated before, the CLC receives reports and then reviews, comments and asks questions. The CLC has no power to take any action with ASI or the MECP.

The bottom line is that steel-making is and will always be a dirty business and "accidents" will inevitably happen regardless of best intentions.

The latest technology is always playing catch-up. The ultimate alternative is to "shut it down"...but at what expense?

Regards

Peter McLarty

**From:** Selva Rasaiah  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2020 11:34 AM  
**To:** Peter McLarty ; David Trowbridge  
**Subject:** FYI: Fw: MECP Emissions Investigation Response

Hi guys,

I just wanted you to be aware of some of the conversations I am having with the ministry and other agencies.

Have a good day.

Selva

**LETTER TO SSM CITY COUNCILLOR GARDI REGARDING THE CANADA WATER AGENCY****Consideration for Canada Water Agency**

Selva Rasaiah &lt;selvarasaiah@hotmail.com&gt;

Tue 29/09/2020 3:47 PM

To: Corey Gardi [c.gardi@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:c.gardi@cityssm.on.ca)

Cc: Lisa Vezeau-Allen <l.vezeuallen@cityssm.on.ca>; Paul Christian <p.christian@cityssm.on.ca>; Sandra Hollingsworth <s.hollingsworth@cityssm.on.ca>; Luke Dufour <l.dufour@cityssm.on.ca>; Donna Hilsinger <d.hilsinger@cityssm.on.ca>; Matthew Shoemaker <m.shoemaker@cityssm.on.ca>; Marchy Bruni <m.bruni@cityssm.on.ca>; Rick Niro <r.niro@cityssm.on.ca>; Matthew Scott <m.scott@cityssm.on.ca>; Mayor Provenzano <mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca>; Catherine Taddo <c.taddo@cityssm.on.ca>; ross.romano@pc.ola.org <ross.romano@pc.ola.org>; TERRY.SHEEHAN@PARL.GC.CA <TERRY.SHEEHAN@PARL.GC.CA>; Lisa Derickx <lisa.derickx@algomau.ca>; pjmcclarty@shaw.ca <pjmcclarty@shaw.ca>; dtrowbridge7@gmail.com <dtrowbridge7@gmail.com>; Dorscht, Ron (MECP) <Ron.Dorscht@ontario.ca>; Greco, Lori (MECP) <Lori.Greco@ontario.ca>; Fred.Post@algoma.com <Fred.Post@algoma.com>; Chris.Galizia@algoma.com <Chris.Galizia@algoma.com>

2 attachments (4 MB)

MECPSupportDoc\_ASIEmissions\_City.pdf; Oct18\_2019Flare.pdf;

Dear Councillor Gardi,

I appreciate your efforts to bring a new Canada Water Agency to Sault Ste. Marie. However, there needs to be more transparency regarding our responsibility for the protection of our water locally. The city has been advised on the significant emissions event at Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI) on March 09, 2019 that resulted from a total loss of commercial power due to outdated equipment. This loss of power also resulted in an estimated discharge 4,780,000 litres of untreated effluent to enter the St. Mary's River. An FOI request was made to the city to determine if there was any information with respect to that event. The FOI request produced no documentation regarding any event at ASI (it is possible the city does not "own" the information). It appears that this discharge was not fully disclosed by ASI despite an investigation by the MECP that concluded that it was an accident. There was no discussion in the Algoma Community Liaison Committee (ACLC) meeting minutes or presentation regarding any discharge of effluent to the St. Mary's River. The City of Sault Ste. Marie has membership on this committee (Catherine Taddo, Maggie McAuley) as well Ms. Lisa Derickx (St. Mary's River RAP Coordinator).

There was also another emissions event on October 18, 2019. This was a result of a steam line that ruptured in the By-Products plant resulting in the South Raw Liquor Tank and tar decanters to overflow and enter the storm sewers. Despite a Soo Today article and the event being posted on ASI's Process Upset Table, there was no discussion in the ACLC meeting on December 10, 2019 following the event. An FOI request to the MECP earlier this year, and SSM MECP Lori Greco confirmed that the investigation into the event was not completed, and no further details could be provided at the time of the request.

The issues created by a ferrochrome facility will add to concerns regarding the degradation of the water quality of the St. Mary's River. The allowable limits in the effluent they discharge and the large draw of millions of gallons of water for their operations are issues that should be considered. I was interested in environment and health considerations by the city in the proposal submitted to Noront Resources Ltd. for a Ferrochrome Production Facility (FPF). I applied through an FOI for the document entitled, "Noront Ferrochrome Production Facility, The Path Forward in Sault Ste. Marie". I was denied access to this document and the reason included a clause regarding "economic interest". Since the City of Sault Ste. Marie put forth a proposal to have this facility, they are a proponent and should be required to prove that they exercised due diligence by considering the health and environmental impacts of this project in our community while preparing the proposal. The addition of another heavy industrial facility will undoubtedly add to the current level of contamination and issues in the river. Future

concerns will include the cumulative impacts associated with its close proximity to ASI and how they may influence current progress in de-listing the river as an “Area of Concern”.

It is important that any contamination to the river is fully documented and discussed by all parties to determine the potential impacts from the contamination despite the reason for the occurrence. Having knowledge and details of the event are vital for current and future research since this could have significant impacts to the analysis and parameters used in those research studies. Quality and reliable research also requires objective analysis and interpretation of all relevant data, despite concerns that are not directly relevant to scientific investigations. This allows for robust data and analysis when assessing perceived environmental and health impacts. It should be demonstrated that there is a heightened awareness from all stakeholders for environmental issues in this community that warrant this agency to be situated in Sault Ste. Marie. There should be public confidence that all issues are investigated, properly assessed and not biased by economic influences.

This letter only addresses the physical discharge of untreated water, but aerial deposition from point sources like stacks from industrial facilities close to the river, will also have some impact on the overall water quality.

I understand that ASI is responsible for the level of information disclosed to the public and its CLC. I would encourage you to discuss these concerns with Mr. Fred Post (ASI Environmental Control Manager) and Mr. Ron Dorscht (MECP Area Supervisor).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Selva Rasaiah

**2<sup>ND</sup> LETTER: HONORABLE JEFF YUREK MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND PARKS (MECP)****MECP Enforcement Concerns**

Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>

Fri 09/10/2020 10:27 AM

To: minister.mecp@ontario.ca <minister.mecp@ontario.ca>

Cc: Evers, Melissa (MECP) <Melissa.Evers@ontario.ca>; Chen, Donna (MECP) <donna.chen@ontario.ca>; Dorscht, Ron (MECP) <Ron.Dorscht@ontario.ca>; Menzies, Sharon (MECP) <Sharon.Menzies@ontario.ca>; TERRY.SHEEHAN@PARL.GC.CA <TERRY.SHEEHAN@PARL.GC.CA>; ross.romano@pc.ola.org <ross.romano@pc.ola.org>; Mayor Provenzano <mayor.provenzano@cityssm.on.ca>; John OLeary <joleary@ombudsman.on.ca>

2 attachments (10 MB)

MECP\_ASIBLEEDER2019\_EVALCase19-012\_FINAL.docxRevised(C).pdf; MECP\_ASIMarch09EVAL\_(1)Revised.pdf;

Hello Minister Yurek,

I am writing you this letter to express my continued concerns, regarding environmental enforcement issues with the emissions from Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI). For your review, I have attached two documents of short reports (with minor revisions) I prepared that were submitted to Director Melissa Evers of the Environmental Investigations and Enforcement Branch. I appreciate the acknowledgement of my previous letter to Premier Doug Ford and his response to contact your ministry. However, my concerns have not been fully addressed and they now extend to MECP Freedom of Information analysts who have not been able to render a decision within the mandated timelines set by the province. I was advised by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario that MECP was also required to formally request in writing for extensions, which did not occur. To my knowledge, there has not been any notices sent to third parties regarding any of my requests. It was recommended to file a complaint against the MECP regarding the requests (A-2019-03638 (Algoma Steel Inc), A-2019-04722 (ArcelorMittal Dofasco), A-2019-04723 (Stelco)).

I hope that the ministry will sufficiently resolve these concerns and provide substantiated evidence that the air and water in our community is diligently monitored and violations enforced by the MECP.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Selva Rasaiah



Algoma Steel Inc. emissions on the US side of the International Bridge on August 07, 2019