



MECP AND ASI INVESTIGATIONS

Public Complaints

ABSTRACT

Concerns regarding how the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and Algoma Steel Inc. (ASI) investigate public complaints. ASI Environmental Control officers fail to properly attribute certain public complaints to their operations despite visual evidence.

Selva Rasaiah

Submitted to: M.P.P. Ross Romano
Ontario Conservative Party
Sault Ste. Marie

Submitted by: Selva Rasaiah

Date Submitted: March 27, 2021

3/27/2021

Mail - Selva Rasaiah - Outlook

ASI Public Complaints Investigations (Reporting)

Selva Rasaiah <selvarasaiah@hotmail.com>

Wed 23/12/2020 11:28 AM

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

Cc: brian.cameron@ontario.ca <brian.cameron@ontario.ca>; Fred.Post@algoma.com <Fred.Post@algoma.com>; Chris.Galizia@algoma.com <Chris.Galizia@algoma.com>; Paul.Walz@algoma.com <Paul.Walz@algoma.com>; David Trowbridge <dtrowbridge7@gmail.com>; Peter McLarty <pjmclarty@shaw.ca>; Catherine Taddo <c.Taddo@cityssm.on.ca>

2 attachments (2 MB)

ASI2019_PublicComplaints_MECP.pdf; AIRNetworkCompare_ASI_STMARYS_MECP.pdf;

Hello Mr. Dorscht,

Please review the attached documents. The investigation and reporting of public complaints (Environmental Complaints Received table) by ASI should be addressed with the ACLC. There appears to be a discrepancy with ASI concluding that the concerns from the public regarding particulate and odours are not attributed to their operations. The MECP should investigate the potential sources since many other similar issues have been noted but not attributed to ASI operations. Please speak to Mr. Trowbridge (ACLC Public Member) about the concerns of a particulate haze on December 07, 2020 which was determined by ASI to not have resulted from their operations. The two public complaints on ASI's complaint table (July 03, 2019 and August 01, 2019) originate from the east side of ASI's property line. This emphasizes the need to have monitoring devices including a meteorological station on the east side of ASI's property line as suggested for many years by Mr. Trowbridge. Since wind patterns are highly variable and dependent on location, this would aid in identifying the source of the particulate and odour complaints to verify if ASI has been incorrectly identified as the source by the public. Please let me know your comments on this matter.

Thank you,

Selva

<https://outlook.live.com/mail/0/search/id/AQMkADAwATYwMAItODQ0AGEtMDk3Yy0wMAItMDAKAEYAAANGQP8GfpsSTYUUmNFWYOKzBwDDXM...> 1/1

Note: MECP Ron Dorscht has not responded to this e-mail to date or made any comments regarding its contents which was sent on December 23, 2020.

JUNE 17, 2019 PUBLIC COMPLAINT

Client #: 5754-4JDRLV, Client Type: Corporation, NAICS: 331111

Site(s)

Site Details

105 West Street
 Address: 105 West St, Sault Ste. Marie, City, District of Algoma, P6A 7B4
 District Office: Sault Ste. Marie
 GeoReference: Map Datum: NAD83, Zone: 16, Accuracy Estimate: 10-30 metres eg. Medium Quality GPS,
 Method: GPS, UTM Easting: 698593, UTM Northing: 5153346, ,
 LIO GeoReference: Zone: 16, UTM Easting: 702519.25, UTM Northing: 5155183.0, Latitude: 46.519733,
 Longitude: -84.35969
 Site #: 0450-73NRWM

Incident Summary:

Caller is concerned with orange haze to the west over Algoma.

Initial Incident Description (as reported):

Created: Lori Greco (Sault Ste. Marie Area Office) - 2019/06/17 11:41:12 AM

Orange haze over Algoma

SAC Action Class:

Non-Standard Procedure: No

Incident Description:

Last update: Lori Greco (Sault Ste. Marie Area Office) - 2019/09/17 03:45:48 PM

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████████████████████ is concerned with the orange haze to the west over Algoma that has been present this morning. Sky is clear and air has been calm, winds are just starting to pick up. ██████ said he was told he could call to make a complaint and that we would likely be hearing from him again. I explained to ██████ that emissions from the coke battery stacks are recorded 24/7 and we get daily summary reports; Algoma is currently working on rotating shutdowns to complete battery maintenance and repair. Complaint was generalized, no specific stack or source noted.

Incident Description Continuation:

Not Available

Incident Update:

Not Available

Was there an MOE field response? No

Note: Incident occurred on June 17, 2019 and information updated by MECP Greco on September 17.



Photo 7: Light orange haze over ASI described in the public complaint.



Photo 8: Orange haze becoming more prominent from iron emissions (Dekish area)



Photo 9: Iron emissions emanating from the Dekish area




Photo 10: Multiple fugitive iron emissions from the rooftop of the No. 2 BOSP

June 29 th 2019 from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario	Odour/Particulate	Best Management Plan (BMP) being followed to reduced emissions from site. Algoma to continue its 7 Battery Revitalization Plan, 8 & 9 Battery Action Plan and working towards meeting the limits outlined in Algoma's Site Specific Standards. Algoma's Dust Management Plan continues to be followed to reduce potential road dust emissions. No spills were recorded or observed at the time of the complaint. Cameras were reviewed and no visible emissions were noted.
June 3 rd 2019 from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (BayView Area)	Odour	Winds were from the West, Northwest at the time of complaint, at 23.0 kph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algoma personnel contacted the shift coordinators of both Cokemaking and Ironmaking to ask if any abnormal events occurred. Both stated that they did not know of any abnormal events. No spills were reported on Algoma's property during this time.

Photo 11: ASI Monthly Report of Environmental Concerns not showing June 17, 2019 public complaint.

June 18	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 10 events	Ovens to be inspected
June 18	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 12 events	Ovens to be inspected
June 17	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 9 events	Ovens to be inspected
June 17	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 12 events	Ovens to be inspected
June 17	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 20 events	Ovens to be inspected
June 17	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #8 Battery, #97 Oven	Checked next oven to be pushed, continued pushing



ALGOMA

Environmental incidents resulting from operations

June 16	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 7 events	Ovens to be inspected
June 16	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 15 events	Ovens to be inspected
June 16	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 26 events	Ovens to be inspected
June 15	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 8 events	Ovens to be inspected

Photo 12: Portion of ASI's Process Upset Table showing no BOSP (steelmaking) rooftop emissions

Note: BOSP fugitive emissions are incidents which require reporting. Only stack violations and a pushing emission are noted on their Process Upset Table.

JULY 02, 2019 PUBLIC COMPLAINT

Client #: 5754-4JDRLV, Client Type: Corporation, NAICS: 331111

Site(s)**Site Details**

Algoma Steel Inc. - 105 West Street
 Address: 105 West St, Sault Ste. Marie, City, District of Algoma, P6A 7B4
 District Office: Sault Ste. Marie
 GeoReference: Map Datum: NAD83, Zone: 16, Accuracy Estimate: 1-10 metres eg. Good Quality GPS,
 Method: Survey, UTM Easting: 701613, UTM Northing: 5154576, ,
 LIO GeoReference: Zone: 16, UTM Easting: 702519.25, UTM Northing: 5155183.0, Latitude: 46.519733,
 Longitude: -84.35969
 Sewage Works Number: 0000040006
 Site #: 1754-4NVMP9, NAICS: 331110

Incident Summary:

PIR: Algoma Steel - Odour Complaint

Initial Incident Description (as reported):

Created: Jonathan Tse (Spills Action Centre) - 2019/06/29 10:06:54 AM

Caller reports:

- She went for a walk earlier and there is a horrible odour coming from Algoma Steel
- The caller couldn't describe the odour but stated it was the usual odour
- There was also a blueish haze in the air which has no dissipated
- There is barely any wind
- The caller states she has to stay inside now because it's horrible outside

SAC Action Class:

Pollution Incident Reports (PIRs) and "Other" calls

Non-Standard Procedure:

No

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Incident Description:

Last update: Rick Lalonde (Sault Ste. Marie Area Office) - 2019/07/08 09:04:54 AM

July 2, 2019 9:08 AM - Complainant called again - reports same issue from Saturday as well as a complaint for this morning.

- Strong unusual odour and a blueish haze

July 2, 2019 9:45 AM - RL contacted [REDACTED] of Algoma Steel and advised of complaints details for both days. [REDACTED] is to conduct an investigation and report back.

July 3, 2019 10:20 AM - Complainant called -call received by Lilian Keen- reports same issues beginning at 9:50 and getting worse now.

July 3, 2019 10:59 AM - send email and call [REDACTED] of Algoma Steel- advising of new complaint. [REDACTED] indicated that they are working on investigation report from yesterdays complaint and will be going out right away to see issue identified this morning.

See attached complaint investigation reports

Incident Description Continuation:

Not Available

Note: Incident Report for July 02, 2019 and July 03, 2019 public complaints.



Photo 13: High particulate haze with 7 Battery stack and pushing emissions near BF7



Photo 14: Bluish haze described in the public complaint and a large No. 2 BOSP rooftop emission.



Photo 15: High particulate haze continuing with stack emissions from all COB stacks (L to R: 7,8,9)



Photo 16: Large iron emissions from the casthouse of the No. 7 Blast Furnace

July 2 nd 2019 from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (West Street)	Odour/Particulate	<p>Winds were 239.6° of true North.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algoma personnel contacted operations. All primary operations (Ironmaking, Steelmaking and Cokemaking) were operating under normal conditions at the time Heavy fog in the area, moving out at the time. Inversion identified at the time of the call <p>Best Management Plan (BMP) being followed to reduced emissions from site. Algoma to continue its 7 Battery Revitalization Plan, 8 & 9 Battery Action Plan and working towards meeting the limits outlined in Algoma's Site Specific Standards.</p> <p>Algoma's Dust Management Plan continues to be followed to reduce potential road dust emissions</p> <p>Algoma will continue to investigate all complaints.</p>
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Photo 17: ASI Monthly Report of Environmental Concerns showing July 02, 2019 public complaint.


<div style="text-align: center;">  Environmental incidents resulting from operations </div>			
July 4	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #8 Battery, #71 Oven	Stopped for more coking time
July 3	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 19 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 3	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 10 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 3	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 19 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 2	Material Reprocessing	Emission from beaching iron	Prepped beaching beds and brought downstream users back online
July 2	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 14 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 2	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 23 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 2	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 17 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 1	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 21 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 1	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 26 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 1	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 24 events	Ovens to be inspected

Photo 18: Portion of ASI's Process Upset Table showing no BOSP or blast furnace casthouse emissions

Note: BOSP fugitive emissions and casthouse emissions are incidents which require reporting. Only stack violations and a beaching of iron (occurred @12:55 pm) are noted on their Process Upset Table. No fog can be seen in the photos or was noted at the time of observations.

JULY 03, 2019 PUBLIC COMPLAINT



Heavy fugitive particulate emissions from ASI's #2 BOSP (Basic Oxygen Steelmaking Plant)

IRONMAKING (NO. 7 BLAST FURNACE BLEEDER EMISSION)



No. 7 Blast furnace dirty bleeder valve emissions



No. 7 Blast Furnace bleeder event (30 mins)



Particulate released from NO.7 BF flare stack



Long light iron emission (likely casthouse emission)

COKEMAKING (PARTICULATE FROM BAD PUSHES – 8,9 BATTERIES)



High particulate from pushing (8 Battery)



High particulate from pushing (9 Battery)

COKEMAKING (PARTICULATE FROM HIGH OPACITY STACKS)



High opacity COB stacks (L to R: 8 and 9)



High opacity 7 Battery COB stack



High opacity 8 Battery COB stack



High opacity 9 Battery COB stack

STEELMAKING (#2 BOSP HIGH PARTICULATE EMISSIONS)



#2 BOSP rooftop and gas plant stack emissions



#2 BOSP gas cleaning plant stack emission

STEELMAKING (MULTIPLE BOSP FUGITIVE ROOFTOP EMISSIONS)



Heavy particulate emissions from #2 BOSP



High particulate rooftop emissions from #2 BOSP

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Greco, Lori (MECP)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: July 3, 2019 2:37 PM
To: Lalonde, Rick (MECP)
Cc: Greco, Lori (MECP)
Subject: RE: Complaint Photo COB #9?

Good Afternoon Rick

The picture below shows the opacity from #9 Stack (recorded on Opacity meter). No other emissions were identified around the time of the image

Also, upon reviewing operations, our internal camera and going out to the sites, we could not identify any source of a blue haze or a strong odour. Enviro Officer Corey Jackson was dispatched to Estelle/wellington and reported the same.

A report will be send today



Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Senior Environment Control Officer |

[REDACTED]

ALGOMA
 — STEEL INC. —

105 West Street • Sault Ste. Marie • Ontario • Canada • P6A 7B4  

Disclaimer: This email is subject to a disclaimer. To view, please click [here](#)

From: Lalonde, Rick (MECP) [mailto:Rick.Lalonde@ontario.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2019 10:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Lori Greco
Subject: FW: Complaint Photo COB #9?

* This email originated from outside of Algoma. Please exercise caution *

Hi [REDACTED]

We received another complaint this morning at 10:20.

Strong odour and blue haze started at around 9:50 am on [REDACTED]

Odour and haze getting stronger

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Below is a picture taken shortly after call was received.

Let me know any issues/causes identified

thanks

Rick Lalonde

	<p>July 3rd 2019 from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (West Street)</p>	<p>Odour/Particulate</p>	<p>Winds were 155.5° of true North.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algoma personnel contacted operations and investigated site of complaint, no odour or smog identified. Construction close to area of complaint (paving and heavy equipment) All primary operations (Ironmaking, Steelmaking and Cokemaking) were operating under normal conditions at the time Winds from the North were identified and verified with Environment Canada Online data <p>Best Management Plan (BMP) being followed to reduced emissions from site. Algoma to continue its 7 Battery Revitalization Plan, 8 & 9 Battery Action Plan and working towards meeting the limits outlined in Algoma's Site Specific Standards.</p> <p>Algoma's Dust Management Plan continues to be followed to reduce potential road dust emissions</p> <p>Algoma will continue to investigate all complaints.</p>
	<p>July 2nd 2019</p>		<p>Winds were 239.6° of true North.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algoma personnel contacted

Photo 19: Portion of ASI Monthly Report of Environmental Concerns showing July 03, 2019


 Environmental incidents resulting from operations			
July 4	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #8 Battery, #71 Oven	Stopped for more coking time
July 3	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 19 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 3	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 10 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 3	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 19 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 2	Material Reprocessing	Emission from beaching iron	Prepped beaching beds and brought downstream users back online
July 2	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 14 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 2	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 23 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 2	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 17 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 1	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 21 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 1	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 26 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 1	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 24 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 1	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #8 Battery, #67 Oven	Contacted heater to check oven

Photo 20: Portion of ASI's Process Upset Table showing July 03, 2019.

Note: Only the daily stack opacity violations ("events" per stack) are noted as process upsets. The No.7 Blast Furnace bleeder emissions and #2 BOSP fugitive rooftop emissions are required to be reported.

July 14, 2019 PUBLIC COMPLAINT

Client #: 7704-BA7QKE, Client Type: Corporation

Site(s)

Site Details

Algoma Steel Inc. - 105 West Street
 Address: 105 West St, Sault Ste. Marie, City, District of Algoma, P6A 7B4
 District Office: Sault Ste. Marie
 GeoReference: Map Datum: NAD83, Zone: 16, Accuracy Estimate: 1-10 metres eg. Good Quality GPS,
 Method: Survey, UTM Easting: 701613, UTM Northing: 5154576, ,
 LIO GeoReference: Zone: 16, UTM Easting: 702519.25, UTM Northing: 5155183.0, Latitude: 46.519733,
 Longitude: -84.35969
 Sewage Works Number: 0000040006
 Site #: 1754-4NVMP9, NAICS: 331110

Incident Summary:

PIR: Algoma Steel - Odour Complaint

Initial Incident Description (as reported):

Created: Jonathan Tse (Spills Action Centre) - 2019/07/14 09:24:40 AM

Caller reports:

- A putrid odour coming from Algoma Steel
- The caller can't describe the smell but states it's the typical odour
- The odour started around 09:00 but it is really bad now
- There is dark smoke coming out of the stacks
- The caller states she has to close all her windows and can't go outside
- There is no wind

SAC Action Class:

Pollution Incident Reports (PIRs) and "Other" calls

Non-Standard Procedure:

No

Incident Description:

Last update: Lori Greco (Sault Ste. Marie Area Office) - 2019/09/17 04:27:16 PM

Incident Description Continuation:

Not Available

Incident Update:

Not Available



Photo 21: Pale yellow stack emissions and pushing emissions from 8 Battery @ 7:59am



Photo 22: Pale yellow stack emissions and more pushing emissions from 8 Battery @ 8:20 am



Photo 23: Haze from cokemaking operations on 7 and 8 battery causing a stronger odour @ 8:47 am



Photo 24: Dark stack emissions from 7 battery and pale yellow from 8 and 9 COB stacks @ 9:11 am



Photo 25: Heavy fugitive rooftop emissions from No.2 BOSP



Photo 26: Pushing emissions from 7 battery

July 16 th 2019 from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (West Street)	Odour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water trucks continue to provide water to coal piles to reduce the risk of dust generation All primary operations (Ironmaking, Steelmaking and Cokemaking) were operating under normal conditions at the time <p>Best Management Plan (BMP) being followed to reduced emissions from site. Algoma to continue its 7 Battery Revitalization Plan, 8 & 9 Battery Action Plan and working towards meeting the limits outlined in Algoma's Site Specific Standards.</p> <p>Algoma will continue to investigate all complaints.</p>
July 3 rd 2019 from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (West Street)	Odour/Particulate	<p>Winds were 155.5⁰ of true North.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algoma personnel contacted operations and investigated site of complaint, no odour or smog identified. Construction close to area of complaint (paving and heavy equipment)

Photo 27: Portion of ASI Monthly Report of Environmental Concerns not showing July 14, 2019.


<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Environmental incidents resulting from operations</p> </div>			
July 16	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #8 Battery, #84 Oven	Stopped for more coking time
July 16	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #9 Battery, #40 Oven	Stopped for more coking time
July 15	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 24 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 15	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 25 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 14	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 8 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 14	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 16 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 13	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 22 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 13	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 20 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 13	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #9 Battery, #26 Oven	Stopped for more coking time
July 13	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #9 Battery, #25 Oven	Stopped for more coking time
July 12	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 19 events	Ovens to be inspected

Photo 28: Portion of ASI's Process Upset Table showing July 03, 2019.

Note: Only the daily stack opacity violations ("events" per stack) are noted as process upsets. The No. 2 BOSP fugitive rooftop emissions are required to be reported.

AUGUST 01, 2019 PUBLIC COMPLAINT



Photo 29: High particulate haze. Quench Tower ("Quencher") was operating seen by the white plume (far right) from pushing operations @ 7:54 am.



Photo 30: High particulate haze. Quench Tower still operating seen by the white plume @11:24 am



Photo 31: High particulate haze and emissions from ASI seen from Sault Ste. Marie, ON Boardwalk



Photo 32: High particulate haze and emissions from ASI visible at Sault Ste. Marie, MI (USA)

from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario	Odour	inspected and records checked, no abnormal conditions were identified Best Management Plan (BMP) being followed to reduced emissions from site. Algoma to continue its 7 Battery Revitalization Plan, 8 & 9 Battery Action Plan and working towards meeting the limits outlined in Algoma's Site Specific Standards.
August 1 st 2019 from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (Cathcart St. and Huron St)	Odour	<p>Winds were from the 204.7^o of true North</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algoma's Ironmaking and Steelmaking process were not in operations for a scheduled down day Cokemaking operations down awaiting repairs to the Quencher Potential sources of odours were inspected and records checked, no abnormal conditions were identified <p>Best Management Plan (BMP) being followed to reduced emissions from site. Algoma to continue its 7 Battery Revitalization Plan, 8 & 9 Battery Action Plan and working towards meeting the</p>

Photo 33: ASI Monthly Report of Environmental Concerns showing August 01,2019

August 4	Cokemaking	Pushing emission #9 Battery, #26 Oven	Stopped pushing to allow for more coking
August 4	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 14 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, 20 events	Ovens to be inspected
August 3	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 29 events	Ovens to be inspected
August 3	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 10 events	Ovens to be inspected
August 3	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 11 events	Ovens to be inspected
August 2	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 11 events	Ovens to be inspected
August 2	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 11 events	Ovens to be inspected
August 2	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 15 events	Ovens to be inspected
August 1	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 7 events	Ovens to be inspected
August 1	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 13 events	Ovens to be inspected
August 1	Cokemaking	Stack emission #9 battery, 25 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 31	Cokemaking	Stack emission #7 battery, 13 events	Ovens to be inspected
July 31	Cokemaking	Stack emission #8 battery, 21 events	Ovens to be inspected

Photo 34: ASI's Process Upset Table showing August 01, 2019.

Note: Cokemaking was operating for most of the morning since the quencher was in operation until at least 11:30 am. Only daily stack opacity violations ("events" per stack) are noted as process upsets.



Layers of pollution seen from the corner of Queen and Bruce St. on August 01, 2020