



Votorantim Cimentos North America

# St Marys Cement

Community Liaison Committee

Informational Packet

June 2020

 **Votorantim**  
Cimentos

 **St Marys Cement**



St. Marys Independent Thursday, May 28, 2020

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## Community Liaison Committee

**The Community Liaison Committee hopes residents of St Marys are doing well and staying safe.**

**Due to the current provincial legislation surrounding the current COVID-19 crisis, the June 2020 Community Liaison Committee meeting has been cancelled. Please contact Kara Terpstra at 519-284-1020 x235 or [kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com](mailto:kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com) for any concerns related to operations at St Marys Cement Plant.**



Thu 07/05/2020 1:17 PM

Kara Terpstra

CLC Meeting - June

Hello CLC Members;

We at St Marys Cement all hope you are all doing well, staying home, and staying safe!

Our next Community Liaison Committee Meeting should be held in June 2020. However due to current Provincial legislation surrounding the current COVID-19 crisis we are going to cancel the June meeting until September 2020 (pending any Provincial updates). Cancelling this meeting is one of the numerous changes we have made to our operations to prevent the spread of this virus. SMC will still put together some information to share with CLC Members and residents in lieu of this meeting, including standard agenda items such as number of complaints and concerns brought forward to the committee. If you have any concerns you would like included please submit them prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Another update I would like to share is that our stack extension is currently underway (see the picture attached, the main piece arrived today!), and you will be able to see some big changes to our facility next week – May 11 to 15<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately we do not have exact times of the big lifts, but there are a few throughout the week so hopefully you can catch sight of one of them!

If you have any questions or concerns about cancelling this meeting please let me know, and hopefully we can see each other safely again come fall,

Thanks,

Kara Terpstra  
Votorantim Cimentos  
St Marys Cement | Environmental Coordinator

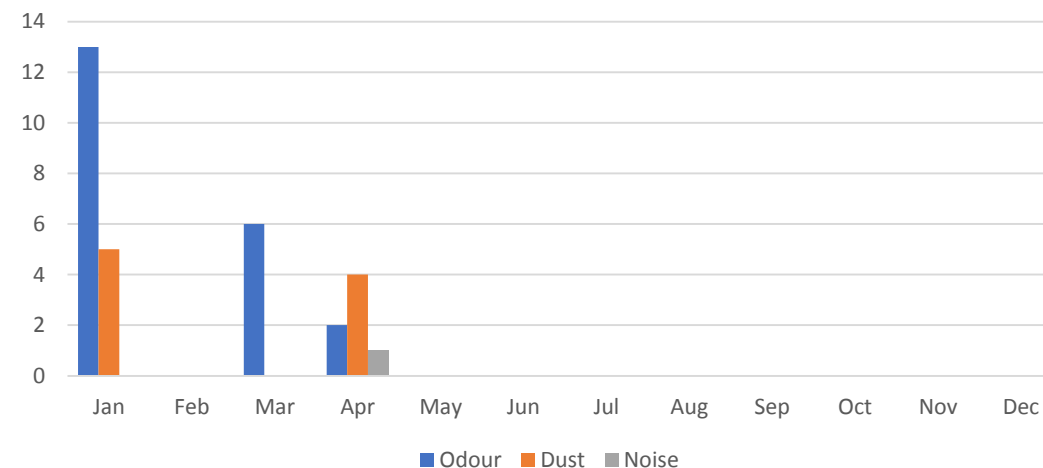
# Complaints 2020 Year to Date

Complaints 2020 Year to Date

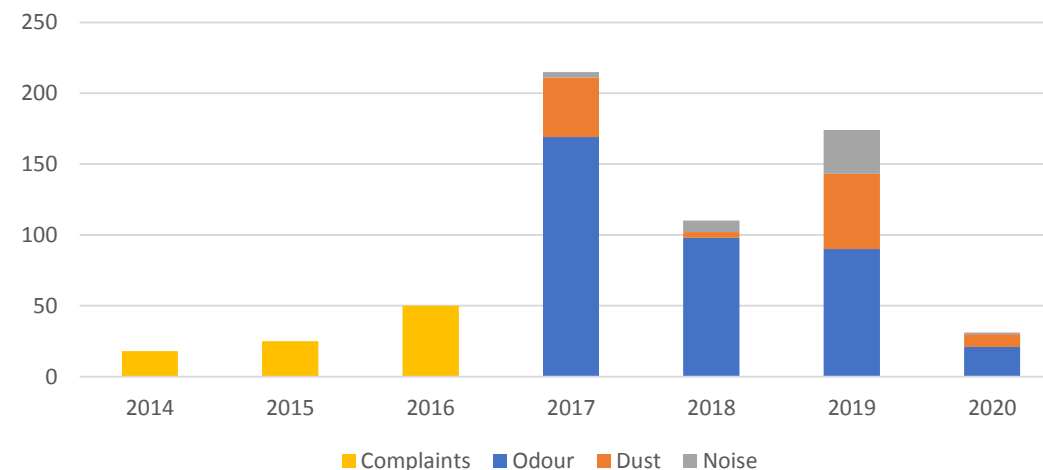
	Odour	Dust	Noise	Mention Health
<b>Total</b>	21	9	1	17
<b>January</b>	13	5	0	10
<b>February</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>March</b>	6	0	0	5
<b>April</b>	2	4	1	2
<b>May</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>June</b>				
<b>July</b>				
<b>August</b>				
<b>September</b>				
<b>October</b>				
<b>November</b>				
<b>December</b>				

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

2020 Complaints



Complaints Year to Year



St. Marys Independent

Thursday, May 21, 2020

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## Stack Extension completed at St. Marys Cement

By Spencer Seymour, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Some Stonetown residents are hoping to breathe a little easier as a result of a 30-metre stack extension installed last week at St Marys Cement (SMC).

The stack extension is a significant investment by St Marys Cement and its parent company Votorantim Cimentos, and is the product of feedback received through the St Marys Cement Community Liaison Committee (CLC), which meets quarterly and is now in its fourth year. The CLC is a way of maintaining open dialogue between the plant and local residents to exchange information and provide a forum to raise concerns, ask questions and seek mutually beneficial solutions.

St Marys Cement was founded in 1912, and the Company's presence throughout their 100+ years has been extremely impactful to the community. SMC was instrumental in the opening of St. Marys Memorial Hospital in 1950, and since then, has donated land for the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame, provided resources for the growth of the swimming quarry, the Pyramid Centre and redevelopment of Cadzow Park, and continued support for community initiatives like hockey teams and the local hospice.

Over the years, SMC has responded to occasional complaints of dust or odour, but in recent years the number of complaints with regards to odour have increased. While not a daily issue, circumstances are often influenced by weather conditions such as air pressure and wind, which may cause cement plant emissions (which are deemed safe and within regulatory limits) to drift closer to town. Many residents don't experience anything sensory related to the plant except for perhaps hearing (or feeling) the weekly blast from the quarries. However, not everyone experiences their surroundings in the same way. The CLC has heard the concerns of some residents who, on certain days, are unable to enjoy their time outside due to how they are affected by the Stonetown air.

"Thank you to everyone who helped propel this change," commented one of the residents who had been adversely affected by the air quality in St. Marys. "Really hope this helps," said another resident, in hopes that the stack extension will disperse emissions comfortably out of town.

"We've been part of the community for well over a century, providing jobs and a product that has literally built and modernized Ontario. Growing along with the community also means adapting along with it," said Jose Soraggi, Plant Manager at the St. Marys plant. "We consider ourselves fortunate to maintain good relations with local residents and the Town and to serve as an integral part of the business community in St. Marys and Perth County. We take every opportunity to hear from our constituents and find solutions toward a positive and mutually beneficial future. The stack extension is an excellent example of that."

The company conducted extensive research and planning for the project and leveraged expertise from third-party specialists to help improve conditions surrounding the plant. Work was conducted with oversight from with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). Computer modelling helped SMC determine and design the best solution, which was to increase the stack from 80 metres up to 110 metres.

An 800-tonne crane extending 120 metres in the air was used to remove the existing stack tip, add the frame to hold the stack extension, and put the new 35-tonne stainless steel stack in place. The work was completed during the plant's annual shutdown, a period when operations are temporarily halted to perform scheduled maintenance on the plant and its equipment. The plant expects to resume operations in the coming weeks with the new stack in place. The overall cost of the project was just over \$1,500,000, which was part of approximately \$2,300,000 in recent environmental improvements at the St. Marys plant.

As part of its air-quality monitoring efforts, St Marys Cement collects approximately 70,000 data points each day (when the plant is operating) to ensure its operations are in compliance with air-quality and public safety thresholds established by the MECP.

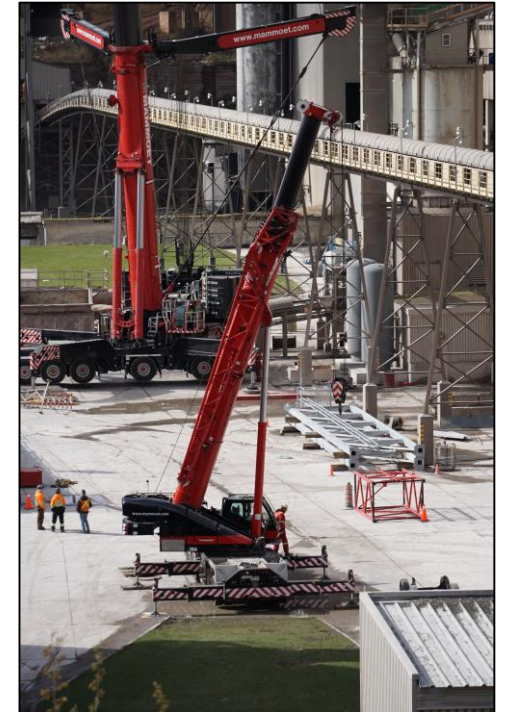
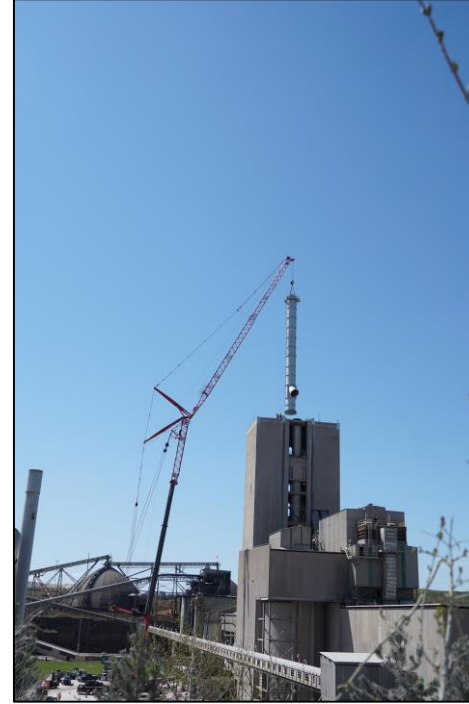
Currently, 115 local residents are employed by the St. Marys Cement plant, one of Votorantim Cimentos' 31 plants located in 11 countries around the globe. The St. Marys plant was recently ISO 50001 certified. ISO 50001 is the International Standard for Energy Management Systems, providing a framework for optimizing energy efficiency in public and private sector organizations and demonstrating SMC's commitment to continual improvement in energy management. The plant also recently achieved 11 consecutive years with no lost-time injuries.

Please contact Kara Terpstra (kara.terpstra@vci-mentos.com or 519-284-1020x235) for any environmental concerns related to St Marys Cement including questions about the stack extension project and odour dispersion.





# Stack Extension



## Additional Information

- Have not received any feedback on updating the Terms of Reference

# COVID-19

[Coronavirus Disease 2019]



The Department of Public Health recommends the following steps to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses:

## WASH. YOUR. HANDS.

Wash your hands with soap and water regularly.

## Cover a cough or sneeze

Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve or disposable tissue.

## Don't touch

Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

## Keep your distance

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

## Stay home

If you experience respiratory symptoms like a fever or cough, stay home.

## Get help

If you experience symptoms of COVID-19, CALL your health care provider.

## Closing Remarks

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

or at

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

