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**St. Marys Air Information**  
**Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change**  
**December 2017**

# Purpose

- This year, local residents in the Town of St. Marys have played an active role reporting concerns to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.
- The ministry takes all potential impacts to the environment very seriously and encourage people to continue to report their concerns to the local office.
- The following information is provided as a resource for the residents of St. Marys and outlines the actions currently being undertaken by the ministry to address concerns related to the industrial facilities in the local community.
- The ministry will continue to work with the Town of St. Marys, local residents and industry to address concerns.
- The ministry will work in partnership with the Town to provide updates to this information as it becomes available.

# Ministry Role

- Industrial and commercial operations in Ontario must comply with the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and other provincial environmental legislation and regulations.
- Ontario businesses must have an environmental approval if the nature of the business causes the release of a contaminant to land, water or air.
- The purpose of an environmental approval is to set requirements for these activities in a way that ensures the protection of the natural environment.
- The ministry can issue an Inspection Report requiring the company to undertake operational changes/improvements.
- **If necessary, the ministry can also:**
  - Issue Provincial Officers Orders;
  - Require the company to take steps to address emissions; and/or,
  - Refer the matter for investigation to the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch.

# Complaints

- Residents of St. Marys are encouraged to notify the local ministry office of concerns related to odour, noise or dust from nearby facilities. Local residents can report their concerns by contacting:
  - The London District Office at 519-873-5199 or by e-mail at [MOECC.London@ontario.ca](mailto:MOECC.London@ontario.ca) during regular business hours; or,
  - The ministry's Spills Action Centre (SAC), toll-free, 24 hours a day, at 1-800-268-6060, **outside of regular business hours**. Residents are encouraged to contact SAC outside of regular business hours (evenings and weekends).
- Callers are encouraged to provide the location, date, time, weather conditions and any other details when they make their report.
- Residents can also file an anonymous report by calling the ministry's Pollution Hotline at 1-866-663-8477 (1-866-MOE-TIPS).

# Complaints

- If local residents suspect odour and dust is originating from the St. Marys Cement facility they are strongly encouraged to contact the Environmental Coordinator Kara Terpstra, at 519-284-1020 ext. 235 or by email at [kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com](mailto:kara.terpstra@vcimentos.com).
- When a complaint is filed to the ministry, the local London District Office will:
  - Track, log and analyze odour, noise and dust complaints that are received;
  - Conduct proactive observations on a scheduled basis and after normal business hours (evenings and weekends); and
  - Conduct proactive and reactive inspections of local facilities, including St. Marys Cement, to ensure that they are in compliance with ministry approvals, where appropriate.

# Recent Ministry Action

- In 2017, local residents have played an active role reporting concerns to the ministry.
- The ministry has undertaken several actions to look at air quality within the local community. The ministry conducted mobile air quality monitoring around the Town of St. Marys over nine days from August 2016 to November 2016.
- In July 2017, the ministry installed a temporary air monitoring station within the Town of St. Marys to collect air quality data, to help identify the concentrations of particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and sulphur dioxide in the community. The ministry expects to continue collecting data for at least one year to observe changes over seasons and to provide a more comprehensive dataset.

## Recent Ministry Action

- In August 2017, the ministry issued a revised Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) to St. Marys Cement. In addition to other conditions, the amended ECA requires the company to continue to implement a Best Management Practices Plan (BMPP) for the management of fugitive dust emissions from the facility, conduct stack testing and to prepare and implement an odour abatement plan. The conditions related to air emissions imposed through the ECA will further safeguard the environment by requiring St. Marys Cement to maintain their operations, report any non-compliance and take immediate action to safeguard the environment, should it be required.
- As part of the amended ECA, the company is also required to test the emissions from their facility. The purpose of the test is to determine the rates of emissions for various compounds and to evaluate if the facility is in compliance with the air quality standards for Ontario. This testing occurred November 29 - 30, 2017 and ministry staff were present to monitor local air quality and also to ensure that it was conducted in accordance with the conditions of the ECA. The company will be required to submit the report with the results of the testing to the ministry for review by the end of January 2018.

# Next Steps

- The ministry will continue to work with the local residents, the town and local industry to address complaints.
- Residents are encouraged to notify the local ministry office of concerns from nearby facilities, including St. Marys Cement.
- Ministry technical staff will be further analyzing the data from the ministry's 2016 mobile air monitoring, the 2017 mobile air monitoring, and the data from our temporary air monitor.
- The ministry expects to share preliminary results with the local health unit in early 2018. The health unit will do an independent analysis of the data. The ministry also expects to share the data with the Town for posting on the municipal webpage.
- The ministry will host a public meeting in spring 2018, in the Town of St. Marys, to share the results of this data and the health unit's analysis with the community.



# Additional Resources

- For more information about the role of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-environment-and-climate-change>
- For more information about odours in the environment please visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/odours-our-environment>
- Copies of Environmental Approvals for the various facilities in St. Marys Area are available online at: <http://www.accessenvironment.ene.gov.on.ca/AEWeb/ae/GoSearch.action>
- More information about the St. Marys Cement Community Liaison Committee (CLC) is available on the company's website at: <http://www.stmaryscement.com/Pages/Sustainability/Community-Liaison-Committee.aspx>