

CASA Meeting – February 12, 2020

- Approximately twenty people participated in the meeting including representatives from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Sarnia-Lambton Environmental Association (SLEA), industry, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Lambton Public Health, the City of Sarnia, the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada, and the Canadian Fuels Association.
- There were three main presentations/updates at the meeting:
 - A presentation from the ministry about updates to the CASA website
 - A presentation from the ministry with a status update of the Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project
 - An update from SLEA on three new sulphur dioxide monitors that will be installed in the Sarnia area
- Next CASA meeting to be planned for June

1. Ministry update about the CASA website:

- The ministry presented an update about the CASA website. Specific topics in the presentation included:
 - Recent updates made to the CASA website
 - Quarterly update of non-continuous data
 - Posting of airpointer data
 - Comparison of VOC monitoring
 - Posting of presentation and summary of Nov. 25 meeting
 - Proposal for incorporating the new SO₂ AAQC to the CASA website
 - Review of airpointer data
 - Suggestions for other CASA website improvements
- Questions and discussion throughout this presentation included:
 - a. Why did AP2 stop measuring NO_x/NO/NO₂ when it moved from Eddings Street to Vidal Street?
 - When the AP2 was moved new equipment was added to enable it to measure benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, and xylene. To make room for this new equipment it was necessary to remove the equipment for measuring NO_x/NO/NO₂. Concentrations of NO_x/NO/NO₂ are measured at other locations in the Sarnia area and have been consistently well below Ontario's Ambient Air Quality Criteria (AAQC).

- b. If changes are planned to be made to the Sarnia air monitoring network, can these be discussed at future CASA meetings before making the change?
 - o Yes, going forward the CASA group is planning to meet regularly and (when possible) any upcoming changes that are planned can be discussed.

- c. Is the CASA website able to compare the measured concentrations to limits in other jurisdictions with similar industries?
 - o The CASA website uses Ontario's AAQC as a basis for comparison. Further resources could be added to the CASA website to provide information or links to limits used by other jurisdictions.

- d. Is the proposal to change the classification system for SO₂ described on the CASA website?
 - o Not yet. The current classification system, which uses the old AAQC, is described in the FAQ section of the website, but this new proposed classification system is not. The FAQ section of the website will be updated once this change is implemented.

- e. Will the classification of historic SO₂ data be based on the new classification system, or will it remain based on the old system?
 - o A clear break point will need to be determined for when to switch from the old to the new classification system. The logistics will also need to be discussed with the website development group.

- f. Can more SO₂ monitors be added around Aamjiwnaang First Nation?
 - o Currently there are five SO₂ monitors as part of the permanent CASA monitoring network and two temporary airpointers. Three new SO₂ monitors are also being added as part of the Petroleum Refining Industry Standard for sulphur dioxide which is in development. The locations for these new monitors are still being determined and will be presented at future CASA meetings.

- g. What is the ministry doing about elevated concentrations that are measured by the monitors?
 - o When elevated concentrations are observed the ministry follows up with the companies to request additional information about what may have led to the elevated measurement and takes additional action as appropriate.

- h. How often will new data from the airpointers be posted to the CASA website and what will be the time delay?
 - o The ministry plans to post new airpointer data to the CASA website on a quarterly basis, at the same time as the non-continuous data updates. This will result in a delay of approximately three months.

2. Ministry status update on the Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project:

- Representatives from the ministry's Human Toxicology and Air Standards Section also joined via a teleconference line to present a status update of the Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project.
- Project has 3 key elements:
 - o Air Exposure Review – assessment of exposures to chemicals in air and associated health risks.
 - Implementation phase - MECP has procured a vendor to undertake this element of the project
 - o Garden Produce & Medicinal Plants – evaluation of chemicals associated with air pollution in plants, and potential exposures when consumed/used.
 - Planning phase - Ministry, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, federal agencies and a potential Ryerson University study lead discussing possible approaches and funding.
 - o Environmental Stressors Review – characterizing how quality of life is impacted by disturbances from industrial operations (noise/vibration, odour, light).
 - Planning phase. Ministry also exploring how to leverage partners' work on enhancing communications during incidents, emergencies.
- Timeframe to complete the project: early 2022.
- Advisory Committee to be formed, community kickoff meetings to be held in March.
- Questions and discussion throughout this presentation included:
 - a. What is the overall project governance in terms of decision making?
 - o The ministry is leading the project and will form an Advisory Committee with representatives from government, health agencies, industry, First Nations and Sarnia area communities to share information and receive input on the project plan and implementation.

- For the air exposure review, the ministry has hired a third-party consultant following the government's rigorous competitive procurement process. The consultant will work with the ministry and a group of government partners to direct that component of the project. The consultant will also provide updates to the Advisory Committee.

- b. How will the community's experiences be included in the environmental stressors component of the project and what about the need for appropriately trained experts to be involved in social science aspects?
 - The ministry is discussing with Aamjiwnaang, government partners, Industry and other stakeholders to plan this part of the project.
 - The ministry would include community experiences from the entire study area, as shared through surveys carried out by others, or at community meetings.

- c. What health indicators will be used for the air exposure review and will cumulative exposures be considered? What about peer review?
 - It will be up to the consultant to decide the most appropriate health benchmarks.
 - Cumulative exposures will be considered in this study.
 - The ministry is working with government partners who are providing technical experts to review materials from the consultant.

3. Update from SLEA on status of three new sulphur dioxide monitors

- SLEA provided an update on three new sulphur dioxide monitors that will be installed in the Sarnia area as part of the Petroleum Refining Industry Standard for sulphur dioxide which is in development.
- All three monitors have been received.
- The ministry provided SLEA with three general areas for the new monitors along with a checklist of siting criteria and considerations to be used to identify a specific site within each area.
- SLEA is in the process of selecting a specific site for the first monitor and are pursuing a few potential options.

Additional Discussion:

1. CASA is currently not being advertised. The group wants to increase awareness of CASA as well as get more people signed up to MyCNN to receive emergency and community alerts.
2. Consider how the CASA website may be improved with respect to how the community can go on and view the data to be more user friendly in comparison to other similar websites.
3. Planning for next CASA meeting in June. No general preference as to whether it be in the morning or afternoon but prefer to avoid Fridays and Mondays.