



Perth District Health Unit

Public Health Update

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Statement from the Perth District Health Unit Regarding Air Quality in the Town of St. Marys

The Perth District Health Unit (PDHU) is working with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), the Town of St. Marys, and the St. Marys community to address recent concerns with the air quality in St. Marys.

This fall, the Health Unit received an increased number of complaints related to odour and dust from St. Marys Cement. In accordance with the Health Protection and Promotion Act, it is the duty of the Medical Officer of Health to notify and consult the leading Ministry - in this case the MOECC - in response to such complaints and investigate to determine whether a health hazard exists.

The MOECC informed the Health Unit that there had been no previous evidence of non-compliance with provincial standards by St. Marys Cement, and therefore no previous health concerns.

However, given the recent increase in complaints, the Health Unit will continue following up with the MOECC on issues related to compliance, air quality testing results, and dust emission from St. Marys Cement to determine its next steps. The Health Unit will be consulting with Public Health Ontario to conduct an independent assessment of air quality testing data.

The Health Unit expects the process to take time in order to do the analysis properly, and will be making the results public in late winter/early spring 2018.

For more information, visit www.pdhu.on.ca