

CAFA-now Newsletter #5

June 2022

CAFA-now Updates

1. We are excited to report that our CAFA-now website is up and live, and you can access it at cafanow.org. It already includes quite a bit of information and more will be added on a regular basis. We encourage you all to take some time and go through it. We welcome your feedback.

2. Disbursement of our \$3,700 grant from the Center for Health, Environment and Justice to support our activities had been delayed by some paperwork errors, but the funds have now been deposited in our account with our 501c3 partner, Cascadia Action.

3. In a previous newsletter we reported the following:

“CAFA-now Co-Chair Dennis O’Mara wrote to EPA Region 6 administrator Dr. Eartha Nance about an issue in Intel New Mexico’s air emissions permit, first noted in an EPA inspection of the plant in 2009. The EPA pointed out that the permit allows facility-wide emissions that greatly exceed what the plant is actually emitting. Thus, Intel has no incentive or motivation to minimize its emissions and can substantially increase them without regulation, oversight or public notification. And in fact, that is about to happen as the Intel plant gears up to produce the latest version of its computer chips. This issue has not been corrected and remains in the

current permit. To date, no response has been forthcoming from EPA.”

But, on June 30, we finally got through to the correct staff at the EPA Region 6 office and are promised that we will be updated soon about the status of a response to the letter. Our hope is that the EPA will direct NMED to address this issue by amending Intel’s air emissions permit.

Proposed Collaboration with Organizations in Oregon and Ohio

Intel has a major presence in Oregon and is planning a huge new \$20 billion facility in Ohio. We communicate regularly with the Chair of an organization in Oregon, called Washington County Citizen Action Network, which works on a variety of environmental issues including Intel’s emissions there. We are also in touch with individuals in Ohio who are organizing their own group to try to address what no doubt will be a major impact on their environment by Intel’s expansion there. We are proposing a collaboration among the three groups so that we can strategize, share information and resources, and answer each other’s questions. We will provide updates as this effort unfolds.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The recent Supreme Court ruling about greenhouse gasses applies specifically to coal-fired power plants and is a major setback for efforts to address climate change. But more specific to our situation, in 2014, the Court ruled against the

EPA as it began to regulate greenhouse gasses from all sources. That ruling allowed Intel New Mexico to downgrade to a minor source air emissions permit under which it presently operates with very little oversight and no independent verification of the kinds and levels of toxic air pollutants it emits.

In Intel's public website, Explore Intel, we find that in 2021, Intel New Mexico reported emitting over 215,000 metric **TONS** of greenhouse gasses expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents. The method of calculating greenhouse gasses considers that different chemicals have differing impacts. For example, if a pollution source emitted 100 tons of carbon dioxide and 10 tons of methane, the total greenhouse gas emissions of the two combined would be 350 tons – not 110 tons. That is because methane has at least 25 times more impact on the atmosphere than carbon dioxide.

A paper dated 10/27/20 titled "New Mexico Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Forecast" by Energy and Environmental Economics, Inc. states that in 2018, industry-related greenhouse gas emissions in New Mexico were estimated at 2.1 million tons.

Cancer Study Update

In December 2015, CAFA-now Co-Chairs Marcy Brandenburg and Dennis O'Mara asked the New Mexico Tumor Registry director to conduct a study of cancers of concern in the 12 census tracts that abut or are near to the Intel plant. For a variety of reasons, we found the study report unsatisfactory

and requested that it be redone. In February 2020, the director committed to redoing the study and expanding the study time frame from 2006-2015 to 2000-2019. The results are still pending and the director has said that he wants to complete the work and publish the results before the end of the summer. Obviously, we will make those results known to you when they become available.

Member Meeting

Now that our website is live, we plan to schedule a meeting in late July for members and interested individuals on Zoom. Look for a Zoom invitation and meeting agenda from member Carolyn O'Mara. Our primary purpose is to inform and educate the public about Intel's emissions and to advocate for Intel to continually increase and improve its efforts to abate them.

CAFA-now Membership

Our roster now includes 34 members, and we plan to continue to grow. At a minimum, we want to have at least 50 members, so if you have family, friends or neighbors who you believe are interested in or concerned about Intel's toxic air emissions, please encourage them to send us an e-mail at cafanow@gmail.com so we can add them to our membership list, invite them to our meetings and send them our newsletters. And by all means, feel free to share these newsletters with anyone you think would benefit from receiving them.

Contact Us

Our e-mail address is cafanow@gmail.com. Or if you need to reach us on a more urgent basis, call CAFA-now Co-Chairs Marcy Brandenburg (505-288-0093) or Dennis O'Mara (505-803-6590).