

CAFA NOW Newsletter #2 February 2022

Update: Recent Actions by Intel and NMED

Intel is now retooling an inactive part of its plant and will soon launch its next-generation chip production initiative, supported by a new \$3.5 billion investment. CAFA NOW asked Intel to consider using a small portion of this new investment to replace its old, outdated emissions abatement equipment with new, more effective equipment, but they refused. Instead, they will continue to use their existing equipment, some of which was first installed 25 years ago. They are moving some of this equipment from the south to the north end of the plant where the new production will take place. And they are adding five new thermal oxidizers of the same make as the existing equipment. We have been told by an Intel staffer that emissions are going to increase but this individual would not say by how much. Given the number of new thermal oxidizers, we are concerned that the increase may be substantial.

As you already know, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is not going to issue Intel a new air emissions permit which CAFA NOW asked them to do. NMED will not require Intel to replace its aging and outdated air emissions abatement equipment. And NMED will not provide a public comment period nor hold a public hearing. Instead NMED will allow Intel to simply make a few minor adjustments to its existing permit which we believe will not adequately protect residents living near the plant. Intel has submitted to NMED the paperwork required to allow these permit adjustments and that is all under review. Despite CAFA NOW's efforts, including an extensive critique of the application by one of our members as well as submission of our

petition with over 200 signatures, we expect that the changes Intel has requested will be approved.

EPA Inaction

The EPA delegates responsibility for most air emissions permitting to the states but is ultimately responsible to ensure that the process is done correctly and within the limits of EPA's regulations. While continuing to make our concerns about Intel's permit known to NMED, we have been in constant contact with staff at the EPA Region VI offices in Dallas. Among other things, we have asked them to look closely at the procedures employed by NMED for issuing permits and to review some of the content of the existing permit which we believe is totally inappropriate. The responses that we have received so far reveal the inadequacies of the EPA's regulations and oversight.

Building CAFA Now

1. Members and Membership

At present, CAFA NOW has 19 members which is a good start, but we need more. So we encourage all you existing members to share information, such as this newsletter, with friends and neighbors about what is happening regarding Intel and to invite them to become members. All that is required for those who are interested is to send an e-mail to cafanow@gmail.com indicating that they would like to be added to our membership roster.

2. Assistance from Members

CAFA NOW members are not obligated to undertake any actions or participate in any activities. Nevertheless, any members who

would like to participate more actively are welcome to send an e-mail to cafanow@gmail.com to let us know of their particular interests. At this moment, we are able to carry out our organizational functions and activities, but we will soon be reaching out to seek assistance with a variety of activities from those who may be interested in getting more involved.

3. Periodic Member Meetings by Zoom

In the near future, we plan to schedule periodic member meetings by Zoom. These meetings will provide an opportunity for us to inform members of current activities and future plans and to seek input and advice from the membership.

4. Building Up Our Website

We are beginning a process to build up and restructure our website with a variety of useful features and content such as these newsletters, links to articles and studies about the emerging understanding of the health risks of low concentrations of air pollution, and information about chemicals of interest to those living near the Intel plant.

5. Expanding Our Social Media Presence and Reach

We are beginning an effort to make our presence widely known in social media including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

6. Project to Identify, Measure and Monitor Intel's Emissions

CAFA NOW has ordered and will soon have two types of equipment that will allow us to begin monitoring volatile organic

compounds in our area. This is most important since there is no independent verification of the emissions data that Intel provides NMED and there is no monitoring of types and levels of emissions in our community. Once we begin the monitoring process and have obtained data and testing results, we will share that widely. Given current circumstances, we believe that the vast majority of residents living near the Intel plant (in 2015, over 73,000 in the 14 census tracts that abut or are near to Intel) have no idea about what has been happening to the air we breathe and how it is all likely going to get worse.

7. Seeking Donations

CAFA NOW has no one employed nor will that be the case. We have raised some funds so that we can pay the fees associated with the establishment and maintenance of our website and purchase/rent equipment for our air pollution monitoring. We will need additional funds to continue to support these two efforts and for some future efforts such as running ads in local newspapers.

All our funding goes to and through our 501(C)3 partner, Cascadia Action in Portland Oregon. If you are interested in donating to CAFA NOW, follow this link to our GoFundMe account which offers the option of using a credit card or PayPal:

<https://gofund.me/81a09bb5>

Or if you prefer, you may send a check made out to Cascadia Action directly to: Cascadia Action at 3439 SE Hawthorne Blvd., #241, Portland, OR 97214. Be sure to put "For CAFA NOW" on the memo line at the bottom of your check. In the near future, we will add a "DONATE" button to our website.