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clean air for all  
**CAFA**  
**now!**

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NEWSLETTER NUMBER 6

**CAFA-now!  
Member Meeting  
July 28, 2022**

We held our first member meeting via Zoom with seven members in attendance. While we had hoped for greater participation, we were able to share a lot of information with attendees. Meeting minutes will be prepared and forwarded to all members.

[www.cafanow.org](http://www.cafanow.org)

## **Intel NM's \$3.5 Billion Upgrade Means More Pollution**

A recent *Albuquerque Journal* article describes progress on Intel NM's \$3.5 billion upgrade. According to the article, the newly refurbished part of the plant should be operating "by 2023," which we interpret to mean no later than December 31, 2022. While production of existing products continues in other sections of the plant, a "new generation of chip-packaging architecture" will be manufactured in the area under construction. Called *Foveros*, the new product will increase computation speed by stacking chips three-dimensionally.

While all of this may be good news in several respects, the downside for the 75,000 residents living near the plant is that toxic air pollution from Intel's stacks is going to increase. We asked an Intel staff member how much of an increase to expect but she declined to say. What we do know is that presently, the plant has eight thermal oxidizers that burn volatile organic compounds at 1,400 to 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit using natural gas, and 27 acid-gas scrubbers. We are told that an additional five thermal oxidizers and eight scrubbers will be added to the plant's footprint.

## **Communication with *Albq. Journal***

On July 29, Co-Chair Dennis O'Mara sent an e-mail to the management, news and editorial staff at the *Albuquerque Journal* asking them to include CAFA-now as a contact for commentary on articles they are preparing about Intel NM. The journal purports to try to offer differing viewpoints on topics about which they are reporting. So we will soon know if they are true to their stated mission.

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## CAFA-now Funding: Current Status

Thanks to some very generous donors, our income to date totals \$8,165. Expenses have included website development costs and pollution monitoring equipment. Current balance is \$5,601.

As you can see, we have enough money in our account to continue operations for the time being, but we will have ongoing monthly payments for website maintenance and air quality monitoring efforts which include costs of equipment, laboratory analysis and supplies. We hope that you will consider making a financial donation to the effort. Now that our website is live (at [cafanow.org](http://cafanow.org)), all one has to do is click the "Donate" button on the home page. That will take you to our Go-Fund-Me page which will walk you through a simple process, either with a credit card or via PayPal®. The funds are directed to our 501(c)(3) partner, Cascadia Action, meaning that donations are tax-deductible, and you receive a receipt to your email address almost immediately.

## Air Emissions Monitoring

Our efforts to collect data with our five Flow personal air pollution monitors are on hold while we continue to seek donations of older iPhones, versions 4s or newer, that work on IOS 10 or newer operating systems. We have two but need three more. If you have an iPhone with the correct specs that you are not using, please consider donating it to us. The Flow takes a reading every minute and sends the data via Bluetooth to an app on the phone that is synced with it.

Once we deploy the monitors and collect enough data, we will forward it to our partner organization, Portland Clean Air, where it will be analyzed, graphed and mapped. We have received several donated phones only to learn that they were not new enough. If necessary, we will have to purchase recycled/refurbished phones. But the cost per phone from reliable sources is in the \$120 to \$130 range, so we would prefer to avoid that expense if possible.

## Anomaly in Intel NM's Air Emissions Permit

For many years we have questioned why Intel New Mexico's air emissions permit includes facility-wide emissions limits for the so-called "legacy pollutants" that are substantially higher than what is actually being emitted. For example, Intel is allowed to emit up to 96.5 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). But on an annualized basis, the plant is actually emitting 10 to 11 tons. We have argued that as a result, Intel can increase its emissions substantially without any regulatory action, oversight or public notification. And therefore, we have said that Intel is not motivated to keep its emissions to an absolute minimum.

After many discussions over many years with staff at Intel, NMED and EPA, we finally have an answer and it is very simple. **EPA regulations for a minor source permit, which is what Intel has, do not require facility-wide limits to approximate actual emissions levels. Instead, as long as a facility does not exceed the threshold for a major source permit, which for VOCs is 100 tons, they can do as they please.**

