
clean air for all
CAFA
now!

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 10

CAFA-now! Communication

CAFA-now!'s current communication outlets include e-mail cafanow@gmail.com, website cafanow.org and Facebook [cafanow residents](https://www.facebook.com/cafanowresidents).

We are working to increase our communication capacity and social media presence. Check out our website to see the latest Chemical of the Month, Newsletters, articles on health impacts of air pollution, plus much more!

www.cafanow.org

Cancer Study and EJ Screen

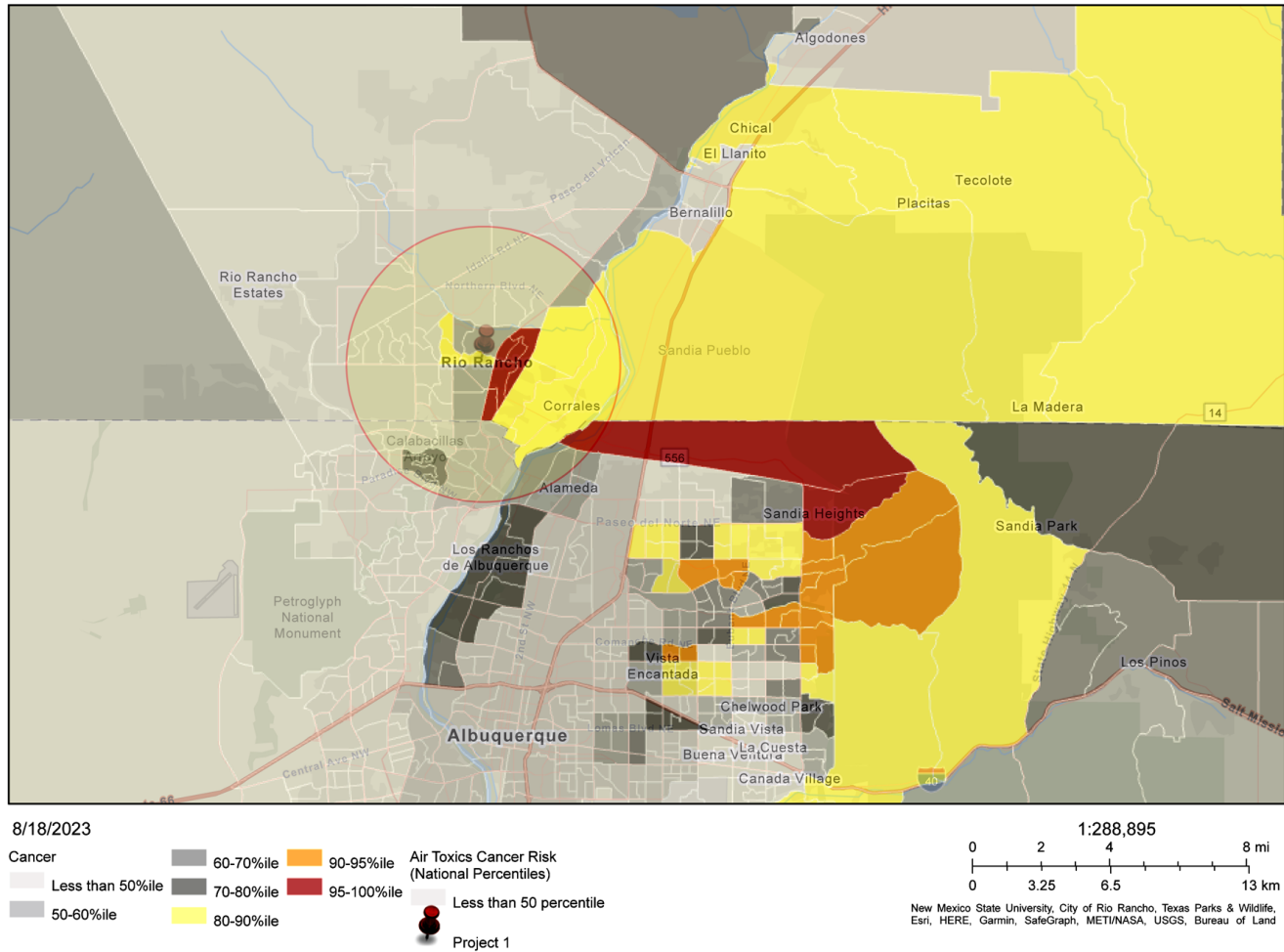
Clean Air for All–now! (CAFA-now!) continues to await the completion, publication and public presentation of the cancer study within the 14 census tracts that surround Intel New Mexico. The study is being undertaken by the New Mexico Tumor Registry, as was the initial study published in September 2019. We are both frustrated and perplexed by the delay since we were promised that this second study would be done in a more timely manner than the first one. Yet we are now approaching four years since this promise was made. After having seen the preliminary results of the new study in May of this year, we know that the findings will be significant and that the public deserves to be informed.

Meanwhile, we have tapped into the EPA's Environmental Justice Screen (EJScreen) system to look at the potential risk of exposure to cancer-causing chemicals that the population near Intel New Mexico faces. *The map on the following page reveals that the air toxics cancer risk for much of the area near the plant is rated at a national percentile of 95-100. This means that the air toxics cancer risk in those areas is higher than all but 1-5 percent of the remainder of the United States. Another large swath in yellow is rated at a percentile of 80-90.*

Emissions Monitoring

We continue to monitor the air in the vicinity of Intel New Mexico with three small monitors that measure total volatile organic compounds (VOCs), Nitrogen Dioxide and particulate matter. We have just received and will soon deploy six new, highly accurate monitors to measure particulate matter. Initial

Cancer



results from the existing monitors suggest that dangerous particulate matter (PM2.5) often exceeds so-called safe EPA air quality standards and is frequently occurring at levels well beyond those recommended by the World Health Organization.

The CAFA-now! Story / Case: The Four Pillars

We are close to completing work on the four elements of our story / case—the information that we will present to surrounding communities and ultimately to Intel New Mexico. **Pillar #1** is the previously mentioned cancer study result supplemented by the EJ

Screen data. **Pillar #2** is the newly evolving medical science revealing that longterm exposure to even so-called low/safe levels of air pollution poses risks to human health and reduces longevity. **Pillar #3** is the data we are collecting from air monitoring. And **Pillar #4** is technical information about the most effective pollution abatement equipment. We believe that all of this, when taken together, will make a compelling and convincing argument that Intel New Mexico should exchange its aging and inadequate emissions abatement equipment for the newest, most effective options in order to reduce its emissions to an absolute minimum.

Neither the EPA nor the New Mexico Environment Department will require Intel to make these improvements. The EPA describes various levels of abatement equipment effectiveness. One more commonly used by industry is referred to as BACT—Best Available Control Technology. But because companies like Intel can define what is “best” based on various criteria, most importantly cost, BACT does not equate to best in the common everyday understanding of the word. Instead, CAFA-now! prefers the phrase “most effective” without any added criteria to weaken the definition.

Update: Intel NM Expansion

Work continues on modifications to the northern portion of the Intel New Mexico

plant. We are told that the work should be completed at some point during the first quarter of 2024. Once the newly updated portion of the plant begins production, toxic air emissions will increase. We have also learned that some work on the new microprocessor model is already happening in another part of the plant. And we have noticed that in the area where the plant modification is happening, three large white stacks have appeared. These have to do with a process called “Air Separation” for the purpose of collecting nitrogen.

Further explanation will be forthcoming at the next meeting of the Community Environmental Working Group where we will learn, among other things, whether “Air Separation” involves the creation and emission of additional pollutants.



Aerial view of Intel New Mexico plant, on the edge of Rio Rancho and looming over Corrales, prior to expansion construction. Photo credit: Intel Website

Community Meeting

We plan to schedule an in-person community meeting, probably in February 2024, where we can present our findings and recommendations to as many people as possible. We will invite news media and various political leaders as well.

Membership

At present, CAFA-now! has 36 members. We are currently undertaking an effort to increase membership by directly contacting individuals in the vicinity of the plant and inviting them to join. We want to increase membership to at least 100, and we are asking all members to encourage others to join our fight for clean air. We believe increased membership will enhance our impact and credibility. While we hope that many current and new members will become active participants in our efforts, membership does not involve any commitments or obligations. All members receive our periodic newsletters and new information.

CAFA-now! Needs YOU!

To be successful, CAFA-now! is going to need more membership participation. Following are some of the tasks with which we will need help.

- **Management/Coordination of the Air Monitoring Effort**
- **Compiling and Analyzing the Air Monitoring Data**
- **Outreach Through Social Media**
- **News Media Coordination**

If you have expertise and/or interest in any of these areas, please contact us at cafanow@gmail.com.

Funding / Donations

Much of what we are trying to do requires funding. We are seeking grant opportunities but also must rely on donations from individuals. If you believe in what we are trying to do and want to support CAFA-now!, please go to our website, cafanow.org, click the donate button, and follow the instructions. Donations can be made either by check or credit card, and any and all amounts are welcome. All donations are tax deductible, and our 501c3 fiscal sponsor, Southwest Information and Research Center, will send you a receipt.

Become an advocate for your community!

CONTACT US

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If you need to reach us on a more urgent basis, call CAFA-now! Co-Chairs

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