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clean air for all

# CAFA

now!

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NEWSLETTER NUMBER 7

## CAFA-now! Needs Your Support!

As we continue efforts to advocate for better abatement of Intel's emissions, measure and monitor those emissions and inform and educate the public about our findings, we will need additional financial support. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to CAFA-now! by going to our website at [cafanow.org](http://cafanow.org) and clicking the DONATE button which leads to our GoFundMe page. The site accepts PayPal® or credit cards and will return a receipt to you via e-mail.

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

## CAFA-now! Updates

■ We continue to struggle to keep our website updated. The current arrangement that we thought had solved the problem is not working. We have been trying to find another individual to take it on, but the challenge has been that the person needs to be able to operate within the complex soft-ware application called Git Hub on which the site is built. Without the capacity to keep the site updated, we do not believe we can move forward with efforts to inform and educate the public about what is in the air that we who live near the Intel plant have to breathe every day. We are now exploring options with a commercial vendor of website services and hope to have an arrangement finalized in the near future.

■ As previously reported we received a grant from the Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ) to support our activities. CHEJ required a "final report" at the end of the 6-month grant period, and a copy of that is attached. A portion of grant money remains and we will continue to use it as we move forward. The only restriction on the funding is that it cannot be used for monitoring/measuring air pollution. Fortunately, thanks to some generous donors, we have a separate pool of money to cover those and other expenses.

■ All five of our Flow personal air pollution monitors are deployed at strategic locations near the Intel plant. We are collecting data now to try to establish baseline levels of total Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and Particulate Matter (which is measured in microns at PM2.5 and PM10). If successful, we will be able to compare *current levels* of pollution with what we anticipate will be *increased levels* once Intel begins production of its new generation of chips.

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## Collaboration with Organizers in Ohio

As previously reported, Intel is planning a huge new \$20 billion facility in Ohio. We continue to communicate 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. On Facebook, search a page called "Intel Mega Project" to see a variety of posts about this project which is developing in a rural area outside of Columbus, Ohio. One focus now appears to be what is happening publicly and behind the scenes with land purchases and local governments' applications of eminent domain.

As the initial construction of Intel facilities is underway, a substantial number of other businesses, many of which will be providing Intel with supplies and support, have already scrambled to obtain land or are in the process of doing so. As Intel's CEO noted when the plans for this new plant were first announced, in five years, the nearby community will be unrecognizable.

## Evolving Medical Science Human Exposure to Levels of Pollution Well Below EPA Safe Standards

By searching the Internet, one can find numerous articles published in the past few years about the risks to human health from levels of air pollution much lower than EPA's ambient air standards. On the home page of our website, [cafanow.org](http://cafanow.org), you can find our featured article on this topic from the Harvard School of Public Health. CAFA-now!'s position is that EPA's standards *do not protect human health and must be revised substantially lower*. Further,

we are calling upon Intel New Mexico to acknowledge this and stop insisting that by complying with these standards, they are doing everything they should to protect human health and the environment.

## Improvements to Intel's Abatement of Emissions: They Can Do It If They Choose

Intel New Mexico can do much more to reduce its emissions by adding additional equipment. For example, Intel Oregon has just deployed what are called wet electrostatic precipitators (WESPs) to re-treat the emissions coming from their thermal oxidizers and scrubbers. WESPs reduce dangerous particulate matter, particularly that which enters the lungs and is not expelled. CAFA-now!'s position is that if this equipment is important to protect people living near the Oregon facilities, then it should also be important for those of us impacted by Intel New Mexico's emissions. Additional equipment options exist for further reducing Intel New Mexico's emissions. We continue to call upon them to invest the necessary resources to make these improvements.

## Community Environmental Working Group Current Status, Future Plans

In 2004, at the behest of the New Mexico Environment Department, Intel New Mexico established the Community Environmental Working Group (CEWG), the mission of which is pursuit of continuous environmental improvement at Intel New Mexico and enhancement of community dialog on related issues. The CEWG is at a crossroad as membership has declined to three

persons—an environmental activist, a CAFA-now! co-chair, and an Intel engineer. The CEWG facilitator is leading the members on a three-session strategic planning effort in December to try to reinvigorate it. One of several items under consideration is how to increase both membership and non-member, community-based participation. To that end, CAFA-now! will share information about the results of the planning effort with both CAFA-now! and community members. The CEWG usually meets by Zoom on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. and is open to all who wish to observe or participate. We will share as widely as possible the Zoom link to the January meeting and the agenda as soon as it is available. That and much more information about CEWG is available at <http://www.cewg.org/>. Many will question whether CEWG has accomplished very much, and rightly so. Nevertheless, it is a valuable venue which allows participants to interact with Intel staff to raise concerns, ask questions and learn about the latest developments at the plant. We strongly encourage CAFA-now! members to participate in these meetings.

## 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 the study be redone. In February 2020, the director committed to redoing the study and expanding the study timeframe from 2006–2015 to 2000–2019. We are frustrated that

the results of the second study are still pending but will keep our membership informed about new developments.

## CAFA-now! Membership

Our roster now includes 38 members. If you know of friends or neighbors who would like to become members, receive our newsletters, and participate in our meetings, please ask them to send a request to our email address at [cafanow@gmail.com](mailto:cafanow@gmail.com). We want to continue to grow. At a minimum, we want to have at least 50 members. And by all means, feel free to share our newsletters with anyone you think would benefit from receiving them.

### Contact Us

Our email address:  
**[cafanow@gmail.com](mailto:cafanow@gmail.com)**

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

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

