

CAFA-now Newsletter #4 April 2022

Recent CAFA NOW Efforts

CAFA-now recently applied for and was awarded a \$3,700 grant by the Center for Health, Environment and Justice to support activities. Unfortunately, paperwork issues delayed the funding, but those have been resolved and the money should arrive shortly.

In April, 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. If we do not receive a reply, we will contact members of our Congressional delegation to ask their assistance to prompt a response.

Also in April, Dennis O'Mara sent an Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) request to the New Mexico Environment Department, asking for the past three years of Intel NM's

stack testing reports. Turns out, Intel NM only has to report on total volatile organic compounds (VOC's) emitted, data which is already publicly available. So we were not able to learn anything new about individual VOC's coming from their thermal oxidizers. The report does include some information about acid-gas scrubber emissions. Intel says that those emissions consist mostly of hydrogen fluoride, hydrogen chloride and chlorine. They reported the following in tons per year for 2021. Hydrogen Fluoride: 0.75; Hydrogen Chloride: 0.94; and Chlorine: 0.026.

CAFA NOW Website

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, our original website developer decided not to continue. Instead, we are fortunate to have the support of our partner organization, Portland Clean Air, and their expert website designer. A new CAFA NOW website is under development and nearly completed. We expect it to go live very soon, and we will inform members and interested parties as soon as that happens.

Website Chemical of the Month Feature

Intel New Mexico uses and emits a wide variety of chemicals, many of which are toxic and present a danger to human health and to the environment. CAFA-now leadership has added this Chemical-of-the Month feature to our upcoming website because we believe that those living near the Intel plant need to know as much as possible about individual chemicals that Intel emits. Once readers have reviewed the

information on this site, we suggest that they do additional research to learn more about each Chemical of the Month. Most data about the impact of toxic chemicals on human health come from studies of occupational exposure where concentrations are substantially higher than would normally be encountered outside industrial facilities, e.g., in residential neighborhoods. So too, determinations of safe concentrations of these chemicals are either based on or influenced by studies in occupational settings, and very little data are available about the impact of exposure to concentrations below the EPA-published safe levels such as would be encountered in non-occupational (e.g., residential) settings. Recently though, more work is being done to examine the potential risk of constant exposure to low levels of toxic chemicals, and several articles about that work are posted on our soon-to-be-live website under the "ARTICLES" heading.

Project to Identify, Measure and Monitor Intel Emissions

In our last newsletter, we mentioned that we had procured five small air pollution sensors (Called FLOWs) which take readings every minute and transmit the data via Bluetooth to an app on older, reconditioned I-phones, model 6 or newer. We have two I-phones and need 3 more. Now the company from which we had expected to purchase them has no more in stock. We anticipated paying about \$30 each but see that other sources are charging a minimum of \$120. If you have an I-phone, model 6 or newer, that you are not using and are willing to sell, we will pay you \$40. If you are interested,

please let us know per the contact information at the end of this newsletter.

Member Meeting

As soon as our website is live, we plan to schedule a meeting for members and interested individuals on Zoom. Going forward, we hope to increase our membership to at least 50 members. Our primary purpose is to inform and educate the public about Intel's emissions and to advocate for Intel to continually increase its efforts to abate them. To succeed in this effort, we will need assistance on a number of fronts including but not limited to social media, news media, coordination of chemical monitoring, and expertise on toxicology and chemistry. Please consider how you might be able to contribute.

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).