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Division of Community Health Investigations
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
4770 Buford Hwy NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Re: Comments to Draft ATSDR Intel – New Mexico Facility Health Consultation February 10, 2014

Dear Mr. Kowalski:

This letter is in response to your draft report regarding air quality impacts of the Intel – New Mexico facility. Specifically we are commenting only on the section of the report on page 15 titled Environmental Protection Agency 2009 Inspection, by providing updated information related to the EPA areas of concern (AOC).

AOC 1: "concerns regarding the efficiency of scrubbers and the accuracy of scrubber emission reporting."

AQB Comment to AOC 1: Calculated and estimated uncontrolled emissions and emissions control efficiencies for equipment that emits and controls a wide and complex variety of pollutants, as found at the Intel facility, is never a preferred method of verifying compliance with permitted values. Intel has a long history of measuring stack emissions at the NM facility and is now estimating annual emissions based on annual stack testing (post control). The stack testing employed by Intel-NM has been shown to have high accuracy and precision. Annual stack testing includes testing multiple sources for a period of 24-continuous hours which covers many daily production variations. Intel-NM now uses this stack testing data as the basis for facility emissions calculations and no longer relies on the controversial scrubber efficiencies.

AOC 2: "lack of continuous parametric monitoring e.g. pH or operation ranges of the scrubbers."

AQB Comment to AOC 2: Current permits for the facility include continuous scrubber recirculation flow monitoring. AQB evaluated the need to expand the parametric monitoring in the recently issued (December 2013) Title V operating permit and concluded that expansion of the current parametric monitoring was not necessary to verify compliance with current permit conditions.

AOC 3: "lack of permit conditions that link minimum operating temperature to thermal oxidizer efficiency or emission rate."

AQB Comment to AOC 3: Current permits for the facility include continuous thermal oxidizer temperature monitoring and specified minimum allowable temperatures. The operating temperatures must be maintained at or above the minimum on a 24-hour average basis. Any deviation must be reported and standard practice assumes a zero control efficiency of each unit during periods of deviation. Again, like the scrubbers, calculation of emissions for compliance purposes are based on stack testing data and not based on any specific control efficiency.

AOC 4: "lack of accurate listing of emissions units."

AQB Comment to AOC 4: This is adequately addressed in the report's following paragraph that acknowledges the most recent permit that includes a full updated listing of emissions units. The newly issued Title V permit also includes this listing.

AOC 5: "other permit-related concerns: 1) permit limit are much higher than have been reported suggesting that the permit does not represent the actual condition at the site, 2) permit contain no short-term limits and does not require monitoring of emissions during upsets."

AQB Comment to AOC 5: 1) Intel has permitted planned expansion capacity into its permit so that it can respond to the rapidly changing semi-conductor industry business model. This is a common practice in many of New Mexico's industries including the oil and gas industry. From an air quality regulatory perspective, permitting excess capacity has the benefit of providing a conservative analysis of ambient air impacts from emissions that may never actually be emitted. 2) Intel has short-term limits for pollutants that were modeled against the applicable short-term ambient air quality standards (NOx, CO and Particulates). Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) are only compared to annual applicability limits in tons per year. No short-term ambient air quality standards exist for VOCs or HAPs. As stated previously, Intel monitors specific parameters on emission control equipment and other processes. Any monitored deviations are required to be reported in the Semi-annual monitoring report required by the Title V operating permit. Actual emissions associated with any deviation must be accounted for in the annual emissions inventory. Deviations that cause excess emissions of short-term limits (NOx, CO and Particulate) must be reported immediately.

If you have any questions, please contact me in Santa Fe at 505-476-4366.

Sincerely,

Daren K. Zigich, P.E.
Permit Section
Air Quality Bureau