CEWG Annual Report 2016

The Community Environmental Working Group began in 2004, with the mission of making environmental improvements at Intel New Mexico, including reducing chemical emissions from the facility, and improving community dialogue. Since then, the CEWG has had contact with a wide variety of people and organizations to gather and use a large amount of information about the emissions. The CEWG also has made independent measurements of crystalline silica emissions from the stacks, it has done independent modeling of the dispersion of stack emissions in nearby communities, and it has helped, along with others, in bringing various reductions in emissions

None of these additional steps could be required by law.

A number of persons with varied interests have commented to the CEWG that local effects of the emissions are noticeably less than in the years before the CEWG began. These reports strengthen the prospects that further reducing emissions would be beneficial to the community. Reducing emissions further remains part of the CEWG mission.

In 2016, no further emission reductions were achieved. The most persuasive talking points for further reducing emissions rely on the most solid evidence that can be mustered. The CEWG continued to contact more sources of information and apply the best reasons to promote continuous improvements.

The chief work products completed in 2016 are the following (detailed information can be found in the topic index @ http://www.cewg.org/index-of-topics-and-documents/. Topic headings for finding more details are listed with each item below):

1. A letter drafted by consensus was sent from the CEWG to Intel leaders that describes the science and history of regulating the large category of pollutants called "Hazardous Air Pollutants" or HAPs. The letter gives reasons for reducing HAPs emissions further. (Topic: Chemical and emissions changes)

2. The CEWG proposed in the same letter a CEWG Award for ideas from Intel employees that reduce HAPs emissions further and reduce costs. The proposed award, of up to $50,000, would come from savings Intel realized by implementation of the idea. Several of the previous emission reductions also saved costs. (Chemical and emissions changes)

3. Steve Dickens reviewed the results of a 2005 public health survey of about 600 Corrales residents who lived different distances from Intel and presented the information to the CEWG.

The talk focused on the statistical interpretation of self-reported health effects in the vicinity of Intel. (Public communication and public engagement)

4. A series of CEWG questions related to effects of fluorides, the potential costs for improved control, and concentrations of aldehydes in urban air in the Southwest were agreed on and sent out to a list of known subject-matter experts. (Complaint-response process)

5. Information about multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), also known as idiopathic environmental intolerance (IEI), was gathered from a variety of sources. Ten copies of the 24-page booklet "Multiple Chemical Sensitivity" by Dr. Ann McCampbell were purchased and distributed. Dr. Susan Smolinske, Director of the NM Poison and Drug Information Center at UNM, gave a presentation entitled "A Toxicologist's Perspective on Multiple Chemical Sensitivity." (Health Effects)

6. A review was undertaken again to learn the current status of using supercritical CO_2 as a cleaner solvent in chip production. The joint work reported by chip manufacturers and suppliers of chip-making tools has not produced an effective and reliable tool based on the CO_2 method. (Supercritical CO_2)