

Intel New Mexico: 17 Years of Added Innovation with the Community Environmental Working Group

Since 2004, the Community Environmental Working Group (CEWG) has been a facilitated forum where Intel technical staff, neighboring citizens, and volunteer environmental advocates have met regularly to pursue environmental concerns raised by neighbors of Intel New Mexico. Chief concerns are pollutants on the EPA's list of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). See: <https://www.epa.gov/haps>.

Throughout these 17 years, community voices focused equally on Intel's air emissions, related health concerns, and puzzling state air monitoring requirements. Work methods of the CEWG brought about significant cuts in Intel's air emissions and arranged for the first-ever measurements of Intel's emission of a pollutant of concern, namely, crystalline silica. All these actions went beyond requirements of state or federal rules. Air quality rules require exact testing over a span of several weeks each year, costing Intel NM hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Smart tools with computer chips are used for other purposes in many fields and offer faster and cheaper access to data. The regulatory field has been slower to adopt these changes.

The ceremony at Intel's Rio Rancho New Mexico facility on May 3, 2021, with corporate, state, and congressional dignitaries, celebrated Intel's \$3.5 billion investment in New Mexico. The CEWG takes this opportunity to share widely its vision of using smart tools to monitor the plant more closely, potentially at less cost, while continuing to reduce air emissions below legal requirements. To that end:

- The CEWG's agreed-on mission explains the purpose of its work as promoting "continuous environmental improvements at the Intel New Mexico plant, including reduction of Intel's chemical emissions" and "constructive community dialogue on issues related to its mission."
- The CEWG will pursue its goals by seeking reasonable improvements in emissions from the plant. Until more information is known, changes at Intel New Mexico may result in air emissions being higher than current actual emissions. The more the new emissions exceed current emissions, the greater stake the CEWG has in working jointly to gain new emissions reductions.
- Details will be negotiated and publicly explained in the context of the CEWG's agreed mission.

The CEWG's past work is documented in depth, using both community and technical terms, on the web site, <http://www.cewg.org/>.

- The Community Environmental Work Group