SHORT REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
Community Environmental Working Group: Accomplishments[1]
(August 2008 - July 2009)
"Striving for Continuous Environmental Improvements at Intel"

Note: Accomplishments in this report go beyond the law. They all are steps that environmental and health regulatory agencies cannot currently require.

Achievements in Environmental Control Equipment and Less Chemical Usage

- Removed rain caps from boiler stacks at a cost of $8,500 with the effect of greatly increasing the exit velocity (effective height) of stack flow. This change reduced highest estimated concentrations of particulate matter on the ground by 37% on a yearly average and carbon monoxide (CO) by 69% on an 8-hour average.

- Maintained overtime allocation for Durr RTO maintenance at a cost of approximately $2,400 during Intel's 2009 budgetary cutbacks. This retains the efficient procedure required to reduce by 2/3 the unabated emissions during maintenance.

- Reduced usage of HMDS, a chemical that produces silica when burned in the thermal oxidizers, by a factor of 3 since 2005 and a factor of 8 since 1994. The public concern with HMDS is that it emits silica when burned. Assuming all the HMDS turned to silica pollution, these air emissions were 1/3 of 2005's and 1/8 of 1994's. An upturn in the economy could increase the future use of HMDS. This change would reduce, but not eliminate the significant improvements.

- Installed Munters RTOs, the first round in a series of such installations. The Munters thermal oxidizers have less unplanned downtime than the Durr units they are replacing. This also adds some redundant abatement equipment, at an added cost of $2 million, that reduces the amount of time emissions go unabated when RTO problems occur.

Communications/Process Improvements

- Continued to refine the Citizen Protocol (CP), gaining more open procedures to contract for testing at Intel and to report the results. The CEWG committed to work toward funding the CP as a public means of testing for crystalline silica emissions.

- Established a task force to improve Intel's response for public complaints. The CEWG and Intel are working with local residents to learn more about the failures of the system and ways to improve it.

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[1] Actual accomplishments always fall short of what might be desired, yet they still add to useful progress. The accomplishments reported here are attributable to various members of the public, public agencies, Intel management and engineers, and discussions of the CEWG.