



Public Information Meeting - Intel

Question and Answer Summary

DEQ held a virtual public meeting on Oct. 11, 2023. The following summarizes DEQ's responses to the questions asked in the meeting.

How has information about this permit modification application been shared with local residents?

DEQ used a combination of email, phone and web updates through two waves of notification since the initiation of this project. First, after Intel submitted its application in July 2023, DEQ set up a web page, and has been keeping it up to date with key information, like the public notice and virtual public information meeting. DEQ asked the following individuals and organizations to help publicize the project and public information meeting:

- Washington County Community Planning Organizations
- Washington County commissioners
- Metro Counselor Juan Carlos Gonzalez
- Neighbors for Clean Air
- Northwest Environmental Defense Center
- Dan Dias - Hillsboro City Manager
- Intel's Air Quality Advisory Committee (Intel's good neighbor agreement group)
- Adelante Mujeres (Washington County community organization)
- Centro Cultural (Washington County community organization)

DEQ continues to explore other methods of communicating updates on this proposed permitting project and welcomes suggestions and ideas for improved outreach.

How does it get decided what is the best available control device? Who makes the final decision?

A Best Available Control Technology analysis follows a specific process that involves:

- Identifying all controls that may work,
- Rejecting any that will not work or have excessive energy or other environmental impacts,
- Listing those that remain in order of most effective to least effective, and
- Completing a cost effectiveness analysis of each option on the list, starting with the most effective control.

The first option on the list that is cost effective becomes BACT. Intel submits a BACT proposal to DEQ and it is DEQ's job to ensure that the BACT analysis is done properly to ensure the correct result.

If Intel gets a permit, it would be for five years. Does the modeling project what the air quality will be in the future while Intel is under the permit or is it just a snapshot in time?

The modeling is a snapshot in time. The results are compared to the health-based federal air quality standards called the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The modeling includes contributions from Intel, from nearby permitted sources, and from background emissions that include non-permitted sources like woodstoves and transportation.

DEQ uses a variety of information, including monitoring data that DEQ collects statewide through its network, emission inventories, and inspections, to determine if additional modeling might be necessary. DEQ could request additional modeling in the future if there was concern that pollution was trending upwards and possibly above air quality standards.

Translation or other formats

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As someone who lives very close and grows a lot of food in my garden, I'm interested in knowing if any of the pollutants in question get deposited into soil and can enter the food production cycle.

Pollution depositing on soil and its effect on soils and vegetation is specifically addressed in the [Modeling Report](#).

When Intel goes through a Cleaner Air Oregon risk assessment, which is planned to start in 2024, this issue is taken into consideration again when calculating total risk from the facility.

Intel is in an area that includes other sources of pollution. How is DEQ considering multiple sources of pollution in determining pollution limits for Intel?

Other sources of pollution are evaluated in the [Modeling Report](#). DEQ's ambient air quality monitors can help DEQ understand trends in air quality. If concentrations in the Hillsboro area trend upwards in the future, DEQ will investigate the cause and determine if additional action is required.

Can you explain how Intel obtains offsets through the Growth Allowance?

DEQ established the industrial growth allowance after a study showed that significant increases in emissions in the Portland Metro Area would not cause air quality to exceed the federal air quality standards for ozone or carbon monoxide. The growth allowance provides an emission "reserve" for businesses to draw from so economic growth can continue in the Portland Metro Area. This reserve will allow a certain amount of pollution from new or expanding facilities as long as the region stays below the federal air quality standards.

Intel is among several businesses over the years who have made requests from the allowance. The entire reserve was not made available all at once; instead, blocks or subsets of the reserve are made available one at a time. Allocations from each block are made on a first come, first served basis and when a block is used up, DEQ must determine if air quality conditions will allow the release of another block. A public process would be part of the decision to release another block.

What monitoring methods does DEQ use with Intel and other businesses to ensure safety?

There are three ways that DEQ ensures business with air quality permits are operating in a way that will protect human health and the environment.

1. Measuring air quality. DEQ has been responsible for measuring air quality for many years. Typically the agency measures ambient air, meaning the air you breathe, and not what might be coming out of a particular facility. This tells DEQ what the air is based on all sources of pollution – facilities, traffic, etc. [Learn more about air quality monitoring](#).
2. Reporting. All facilities with air quality permits are required to report their emissions and other information that could change emissions to DEQ on a regular basis.
3. Inspections. DEQ conducts regular inspections at permitted facilities. Inspections involve walking through facilities to see if there are any problems, but most importantly inspections involve reviewing the facility's recordkeeping and emissions calculations on-site to ensure these are being done correctly. Inspections can be both announced and unannounced.

What about the protection of farmland and urban growth boundary expansion?

Any land use decisions would occur at the local jurisdiction level such as Washington County and/or the City of Hillsboro.

Non-discrimination statement

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