

46

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## U.S. to Study Pollution Effect on California High-Technology Area

Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 29 — California's area of high-technology and electronics industries, once thought to be free of pollution, has been chosen as the site for a \$500,000 study by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The project plans to integrate data involving air, water and land to demonstrate how the polluting and subsequent cleanup of one element affects the others. Spokesmen for the environmental agency described the study as an attempt to "move beyond traditional, single-purpose approaches to environmental management."

Environmental groups in the area, widely known as Silicon Valley, after a basic substance used in electronics, expressed cautious optimism when the study was announced Thursday.

"Frankly, we're rather skeptical," said Theodore G. Smith, a San Jose lawyer who is chairman of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition. "But we're willing to give them the benefit of the doubt and see if we can work with them. It's obvious that we have serious environmental problems here, and we'll take all the help we can get."

### Center of Electronics Research

Silicon Valley, an area in Santa Clara County 50 miles south of here, is the world's foremost center of electronics research and development. Its name reflects the importance of silicon, a derivative of sand, in the tiny electronic circuits in computers, missile guidance systems and electronic equipment manufactured there.

In the last few years the area has had a rude awakening to the problems of environmental pollution.

"Until a few years ago, the industry thought of itself as clean," said Dr. David L. Morell, special assistant to the environmental agency's regional administrator.

The problem that has received the most attention locally was the discovery nearly two years ago that underground drinking supplies in the southern part of the county had become contaminated with hazardous chemicals, especially 1,1,1-trichloroethane, or TCA, a solvent commonly used in to clean silicon chips.

The solvent is linked to a number of health problems, ranging from liver

and kidney damage to skin rashes. A study by the National Toxicology Program earlier this year found that TCA caused cancer in laboratory mice.

The chemical was found to be leaking from underground storage tanks at the Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation, a silicon chip manufacturer. A lawsuit against Fairchild, the water company serving the area's residents and the makers of the storage tanks has been filed on behalf of more than 300 people concerned over reports of a high incidence of birth defects and health problems in the area.

Fairchild has filed its own claim

against the manufacturers of the storage tanks.

An investigation of the area has found more than 50 similar leaks, and a report last April by the State Assembly Office of Research has called the underground storage of toxic chemical "a significant source of contamination."

One response by residents of the area was to form the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, a group of environmental activists and labor unions seeking to curb the use toxic chemicals in the workplace. The group assisted in the drafting of a model ordinance that has been adopted, at least in part, by 11 of the 15 municipalities in Santa Clara County. The law requires permits for the storage of hazardous chemicals, and makes mandatory the installation of double-walled storage tanks.

A similar measure, sponsored by Assemblyman Byron Sher of Palo Alto, was signed into law last month by Gov. George Deukmejian.

Mr. Smith, the coalition chairman, said he hoped the new environmental study would be able to provide computer analysis of data collected under these new laws and an all-encompassing approach to applying it. "If they can determine whether the effort to clean up the water is polluting the air, that would be helpful," he said.

## Students in Fight With Police

EAST LANSING, Mich., Oct. 29 (UPI) — A thousand Michigan State University students battled early today with police officers who stopped illegal drinking in an apartment building. Forty people were arrested.

"It seems to me when you're a student, for whatever reason, you think you live under two sets of rules," said Capt. Tom Hendricks of the East Lansing Police. He estimated that 800 to 1,000 people were on the streets at the height of the incident. "There were plenty of parties going on, perhaps more than normal" on the eve of Michigan State's game against Minnesota, he said.

Captain Hendricks said several police officers were injured. One suffered a broken nose and others were cuts bruised or were bitten, he said.

The disturbance began Friday night after the police moved into the Cedar Village housing complex near the campus to close down an illegal bar operating in one of the apartments.

Captain Hendricks said students from nearby buildings began gathering and, as the police emerged from the apartment with four people in custody, they found hundreds of students in the street.

"Then, in our attempts to get the street open again, officers were pelted with rocks and bottles," Captain Hendricks said.

He said most of the charges against the 40 were misdemeanors, but that four were felonies — assaulting a police officer, operating an illegal drinking operation, malicious destruction of a police vehicle and inciting others to riot.

## Killing Suspect Called Sane

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 29 (UPI) — Michael David Miller, the son of President Reagan's personal attorney, Roy Miller, is mentally fit to stand trial on charges that he raped and murdered his mother, according to psychiatrists.