

# Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition

January 21, 1985

Dear Friends:

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Enclosed is the latest packet of materials on problems of high-tech toxic hazards in Silicon Valley, and in particular information about the recently released birth defects study just released by the California Department of Health Services which found an increase of birth defects and miscarriages of 2 to 3 times in the neighborhood that was exposed to industrial solvents in their drinking water. While we believe that the study is very important, you should note especially 2 of the enclosures:

1. Teratology Abstracts, Volume 29, Number 2, April 1984, which indicates the cardiotoxic effects of 1,1,1 Trichloroethane (methyl chloroform) in rats. The California DOHS was unaware of this research while undertaking their study.
2. San Jose Mercury reprint of July 22, 1983 entitled "Toxic Leak: A Question of Age". DOHS relied on information provided by Fairchild Camera & Instrument which suggested that the leak of solvents started in mid-1980. This article cites an internal company memo that indicates that the leak started in 1979.

For further information about the study, contact Epidemiological Studies Section California Department of Health Services 2151 Berkeley Way Berkeley, Cal. 94704 (415) 540-2669

Sincerely,



Ted Smith

P.S. I'm also enclosing recent news articles concerning the huge IBM toxic spill and the clean-up controversy surrounding the question of "How clean is clean." The same chemical -- TCA -- as found in the Fairchild spill is involved. IBM won the first round and we are appealing the decision of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (see enclosure).