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◆ *CHEMICALS* from C-1

AMD, local group argue emissions

of chemicals into the environment each year.

The coalition based its finding on information that AMD had filed with the EPA under a new "community-right-to-know" law. The legislation requires companies to report the amount of toxic chemicals they legally release into the air, ground and water each year.

Hewlett-Packard Co., the Palo Alto electronics company, ranked second in the coalition's report for releasing 2 million pounds of chemicals. International Business Machines Corp., which has manufacturing facilities in Silicon Valley, was third with 1.8 million pounds.

Two weeks after the report was released, AMD purchased a full-page advertisement in the San Jose Mercury News that denounced the group's "outrageously distorted figure."

That's when Jeffrey Zelikson, director of toxics and waste man-

agement for the EPA's Western Region, got involved. His own review of the EPA forms showed that AMD was the source of the problem.

Zelikson wrote a letter to AMD President Anthony Holbrook, advising him that AMD had filled out the forms incorrectly.

Zelikson wrote that "in its efforts to comply with the new reporting requirement, AMD mistakenly reported usage numbers rather than release numbers for chemicals used in its waste treatment operations, and did not realize its mis-

take until after the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition publicized the information."

Since it was the first time AMD had filled out the forms, the mistake was understandable, he wrote.

Zelikson said in an interview that he had come to the coalition's defense because he thought AMD was "coming down pretty hard" on the group for simply reporting the data contained on AMD's forms.

Ted Smith, executive director of the coalition, wants an apology and a retraction from AMD. He also said the company had not responded to a request for a meeting with the group.

"Our integrity was very much impugned by that ad," Smith said. "AMD should acknowledge that they are the ones that made the

mistake. The minimum they could do is apologize to us as publicly as they attacked us."

In his letter to Holbrook, Zelikson encouraged the two sides to "work together in a cooperative and responsible manner to deal with the difficulties associated with chemicals in our environment."

But AMD shows no signs of making peace with the coalition.

Scott Allen, AMD's corporate media relations manager, said the company had made "honest errors" in filling out the forms. But AMD maintains that the coalition "deliberately decided to misrepresent the facts," he said.

Allen said the coalition should have realized that the company had made a mistake and asked AMD

for a clarification.

"If they are the experts they purport to be, they should have known that AMD does not dispose of 2.7 million pounds of toxic chemicals a year," Allen said.

Smith said AMD must shoulder the responsibility for its own errors.

"It's amazing that a major, high-powered corporation, which is supposed to have the kind of expertise that doesn't make this kind of mistake, would turn around and try to put the blame for its error on a small community organization," he said.

AMD has submitted amended chemical release reports to the EPA, which are now being reviewed at the agency's headquarters in Washington, D.C., an EPA spokeswoman said.

Squabble on toxic emissions

Mistakes by AMD set off dispute with local group

By Kathleen Sullivan
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

No truce has been declared in the battle between Advanced Micro Devices Inc. and an industry watchdog group known as the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition. And none seems imminent.

The combatants have been trading jabs since early August, when the coalition named the Sunnyvale company the top polluter in Silicon Valley.

In an unusual step, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tried to mediate the dispute between AMD, the nation's fifth-largest semiconductor vendor, and the 6-year-old environmental group. But to no avail.

The controversy began when the coalition issued a report saying that AMD released 2.7 million pounds

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