

The Union

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# Activists want timely toxics replacement

The Associated Press

(SAN JOSE) — A group of environmental activists Friday called for Silicon Valley computer chip makers to adopt a strict timetable to end their use of toxic chemicals shown to cause miscarriages among workers.

Industry officials said such changes would cost "hundreds of millions of dollars" and predicted they would come about, but not overnight.

"We want all of the companies to make commitments by January 1 to establish aggressive goals and timetables for the phase-out of all of these chemicals," said Ted Smith, director of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition.

The group has been working for years to draw attention to the potential dangers of toxic glycol ethers and other chemicals used to make

chips from silicon wafers. Researchers at the University of California at Davis Medical School announced Thursday results of a three-year study of 15,000 workers at 14 semiconductor plants in seven states. The study indicated a 40 percent higher rate of miscarriages among women workers exposed to the chemicals than women who work elsewhere in the same factories.

The \$3.8 billion study was commissioned by the San Jose-based Semiconductor Industry Association and was the first study of toxics in the industry. The study results immediately prompted the industry group to announce it would move toward eliminating harmful chemicals from their production processes, though the chip makers gave no timetable for doing so.

"It's been more than a decade that we've been saying we want you to replace these chemicals."

You keep making news that even reaches our semi rural area.

Go gettem Ted,

Good work,

Lee Hudson

CC AB

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GASP

Gross Valley / Nevada City

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