

PROTEST: Six people came to speak out

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cially since the Luther Forest area has an aquifer that serves more than 5,000 households.

She said more than 1,000 signatures against the project had been gathered in the Malta area, but town officials and the Saratoga Economic Development Council ignored public concerns. She added that Luther Forest had been designated forever wild, but had been turned into an industrial zone.

"It's a crime," she said.

However, Malta Councilman Cliff Lange said Tuesday the

'This has the potential for a lot of change. Any time you have change, you have apprehension.'

Travis Bullard,

AMD corporate communications staff member

area was never designated as forever wild in all the time he was on the Town Board or Planning Board.

The site was used as a rocket test site where research was done that led to the early days of

the space program. In those days, according to both Lange and the SEDC, there was a one-mile exclusionary zone around the site where there could be no development.

Travis Bullard of AMD corpo-

rate communications was not surprised to see some protesters.

"You can never build anything and have 100 percent of a population agree with it, especially when you're building something of this magnitude," he said.

"This has the potential for a lot of change. Any time you have change, you have apprehension. Our job is to help explain that change with information."

Reach Ted Reinert at treinert@saratogian.com or 583-8729 ext. 221.

NEXT: AMD may use local architects for review

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M+W Zander has local offices in the Watervliet Arsenal in Watervliet, Albany County. Representatives of the firm, as well as other construction companies and officials from unions representing the building trades, attended a luncheon Tuesday hosted by Saratoga Economic Development Corp. in AMD's honor. The event drew 675 people.

Terry Caudell, director of wafer manufacturing strategies for AMD, said he'll take the

design that comes out of the 12-week process and present it to AMD's board of directors for further action.

Caudell said AMD typically uses an Italian architect to ensure some uniformity for its facilities here and in Dresden, Germany.

Meanwhile, M+W Zander is expanding its efforts in New York state, said John Frank, the company's senior vice president for electronics. M+W Zander now has 250 employees in this state and has about 50 openings

to fill, he said. The jobs range from engineers and architects to sheet-metal workers, he said.

Besides planning for AMD, the M+W Zander office in Watervliet is also doing a lot of work for IBM's plant in East Fishkill and the Albany Nanotech facility at the University at Albany.

Phil Tucker is a representative of District Council 9 of the painters union and active in a consortium of local construction unions and is based in Glens Falls. He attends every AMD-

related event hoping that his members get a chance to build the facility.

The plant is expected to mean 2,000 construction jobs over more than two years of work.

"It'll be open bid," Tucker said, comparing it with a job where union construction is mandated. "But we have the skilled labor they will need."

Reach Jim Kinney at jkinney@saratogian.com or 518-583-8729 ext.216.

PLANT: Construction could start mid-2008

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everything from cost to infrastructure needs and work force projections.

When it comes to deciding on a construction start date, the bottom line is global market conditions.

"Seventy percent of what we manufacture is sold outside the U.S.," Caudell said.

AMD is the world's second-leading supplier of the x86 microprocessor. Only Intel sells more, but AMD has been making steady advances in the market share.

China and India's booming economies have generated significant demand for new computer products, along with other parts of Asia, in addition to vast demand for replacement purchases in the U.S. and Europe.

On Tuesday, however, AMD reported a fourth-quarter loss of \$574 million, or \$1.08 per share, compared to \$96 million earnings for the same quarter in 2005. The company said losses were related to last July's \$5.4 billion acquisition of graphics chip maker ATI Technologies Inc. that negated record processor sales.

The state is providing AMD with \$1 billion in financial incen-

tives. As part of the agreement, AMD must begin construction within a two-year window from mid-2007 to mid-2009. If AMD doesn't break ground by July 2009, the agreement is null and void unless the deal is renegotiated.

It would take about six months for construction to begin from the date AMD's board gives its approval for the project.

"So a decision has to be made sometime before the end of next year," Caudell said. "We could decide due to market conditions that we would delay the project until later in the window that we have. With each fab (chip plant), the decision process is unique."

"I think here, the decision process should be a fairly quick one."

If the board gives a green light by the end of this year, construction could start in mid-2008.

All of AMD's chip manufacturing is done in Dresden, Germany where it has two plants - Fab 30 and Fab 36. AMD was founded in 1969. Plants are named based on the number of years between the company's founding and the plant's start-up date.

If the Luther Forest plant opens in 2010, the facility will be called Fab 41.

Caudell has overseen the construction of both AMD's Dresden plants and an Austin, Texas facility now owned by Spansion, an AMD spinoff company. Construction is expected to take about 2-1/2 years, meaning the Malta plant could open anywhere from late 2010 to early 2012.

There are four main milestones with each new plant's development. They are:

- Groundbreaking.

- Getting the structure built and ready for installation of tools in the facility's "clean room," where production occurs.

- Starting the first batch of chip wafers through the production process.

- Making the factory qualified to ship production wafers.

High-tech tools needed to make chips cost from \$35 million to \$40 million each, so technicians must go through extensive training and are paid accordingly.

"It's very delicate work," Caudell said. "You have to have a lot of faith in your workforce

and they've got to be very well trained."

The work force will consist of three main categories - administrative, high-level engineers and technicians, who perform manufacturing duties.

The plant is considered a 300 millimeter facility; the diameter of wafers used to start the production process. AMD gets base products from SOI Wafers in France. Using intricate design, chemicals are imbedded to specific areas of the wafer, a 500-step process that takes 70 days to complete.

The end result is the x86 microprocessor.

Each 300mm wafer can produce up to 500 microprocessors, which are tested and sent to Asia for manufacturing in all kinds of products, from video games to laptop computers. Well-known companies such as Dell and Hewlett-Packard use AMD chips.

"Most people think about household computer applications," company spokesman Travis Bullard said. "We tend not to think about all the computers that run Wall Street and all of the computers that run data centers around the world."