

Legal Notice
For
Air Quality Operating Permit
for UWS Air Curtain Burner Facility of Universal Waste Systems

Universal Waste Systems at 5520 Broadway Blvd SE; Albuquerque, NM 87105 has submitted an air quality operating permit application to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for an air quality operating permit for its UWS Air Curtain Burner Facility. The owner of this plant is Universal Waste Systems. The exact location of the facility is at latitude and longitude decimal degrees: 33.3407, 105.5743 Datum: 13. To aid in locating this facility, the approximate location is 1.9 miles NE of Ruidoso Downs in Lincoln County, NM. This application file has been assigned an construction Permit Number 10392-M1 and TEMPO Agency Interest ID No. 41209.

Per the Air Quality Bureau's (ABQ) requirements and ACI Guidance, the facility submitted notification to install, installed the equipment, and then submitted the ACI GOP application on November 2, 2024. That permit has an issuance deadline of 18 months. For the TV ACI Permit, all public notices were performed when it was issued in 2018. There are no additional comment periods.

Subsequently, the permittee submitted a 20.2.72 NMAC NSR Construction permit requesting an increase of ACI throughput and previously proposed emissions. AQB received the NSR application April 11, 2025. This legal notice services the purpose for public participation per 20.2.72.206 NMAC.

The main purpose of the facility is to burn only wood waste (clean/untreated) utilized in wildfire mitigation, forest fuel management, and natural disaster cleanup while operating safely, year-round, and with lower opacity and air emissions than open burning. Universal Waste Systems operates this composting facility and is involved with the Lincoln County Fire Disaster Response program.

This permit application is for an NSR Minor Source permit. Per 20.2.70.401.C.(4) NMAC, this permitting action involves burning clean waste wood up to 207 tons per day.

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) at 38.1 tpy; Carbon Monoxide (CO) at 96.2 tpy; Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) at 32.6 tpy; Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) at 4.2 tpy; Particulate Matter 10 microns or less (PM₁₀) at 23.5 tpy, and Particulate Matter 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}) at 23.5 tpy; and greenhouse gas (CO₂e) < 75,000 tpy.

The NMED has conducted a preliminary review of the information submitted with the permit application. This review included evaluation of the emission rates and applicable requirements to determine compliance. The application was administratively ruled complete on June 5th 2025.

The NMED has made a preliminary determination that this facility will comply with the requirements of Title 20, New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC), Chapter 2, Parts 70, 71, 73, and 82; 40 CFR 60 Subparts A and EEEE; and 40 CFR 63 Subparts A and ZZZZ and the New Mexico Air Quality Control Act. Therefore, the preliminary intent of NMED is to issue the air quality operating permit on or before September 3rd, 2025.

Interested persons may obtain the draft operating permit, submit written comments, or request a public hearing on Operating Permit Number 10932-M1 by contacting McKenna Hedgepeth at the New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau, 525 Camino de los Marquez Suite 1, Santa Fe, NM 87505-1816, or by email at mckenna.hedgepeth@env.nm.gov. Comments may also be submitted electronically via the NMED public comment portal online at: <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search>.

Written requests for public hearing must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. Comments must be based on the requirements of the applicable state and federal air quality regulations and the Clean Air Act. Comments or hearing requests must be received within 30 days after the public notice is published.

The permit application is currently available for review on the AQB Public Notices of Permitting Actions website www.env.nm.gov/public-notice. The Department contact in Santa Fe is McKenna Hedgepeth at 505-690-0756.

Atención

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