

PUBLIC NOTICE
For
Air Quality Operating Permit
for San Juan Mine of BHP Billiton - San Juan Coal Company

BHP Billiton - San Juan Coal Company at PO Box 561; Waterflow, NM 87421 has submitted an air quality operating permit application to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for an air quality operating permit for its San Juan Coal Co - San Juan Mine. The owner of this plant is BHP Billiton - San Juan Coal Company. The exact location of the facility is at latitude 36 deg, 47 min, 39.3914 sec, and longitude 108 deg, 25 min, 55.9973 sec. This facility is located approximately 16 miles West of Farmington, and 4.6 miles NE of Waterflow, in San Juan County, New Mexico. This application file has been assigned an Operating Permit Number P260 and TEMPO Agency Interest ID No. 1409.

The facility was not required to obtain an air quality construction permit and is in operation.

The main purpose of the San Juan Mine (SJM/Mine) is to extract raw coal from underground seams on the property described above. The coal is then processed through a series of crushers and other equipment, and is transported via conveyors, trucks, and other heavy equipment to the San Juan Generating Station (SJGS) on an adjacent property.

Coal combustion by-products (CCBs) of fly ash and gypsum are then transported by haul trucks from SJGS and taken to reclamation areas where bulldozers add it to piles of overburden for the Mine's ongoing reclamation of prior surface mining areas. The coal processing and transporting, as well as the reclamation activities, are a source of particulate matter emissions.

The SJM operates 8,760 hours per year over three shifts per day. Particulate matter emissions from the coal preparation plant are based on the maximum coal production capacity of 13,000,000 tons per year (tpy). Particulate matter emissions from haul truck traffic are based on transport rates of 8,200,000 tpy of coal; 1,840,000 tpy of fly ash; and 390,000 tpy of gypsum.

SJM's coal mining operation also releases methane from underground coal seams and surrounding rock strata and that methane is vented to the atmosphere using ventilation and degasification systems.

This is a first-time Title V Operating Permit for San Juan Coal Company's (SJCC's) San Juan Mine that is required by 20.2.70.200.A NMAC. New Mexico's Title V definition of "major source" has been amended to include a stationary source that emits or has the potential to emit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in amounts of 100,000 tpy or more CO₂e, and 100 tpy or more GHG mass emissions. That definition became effective for existing stationary sources on July 1, 2011.

Monitoring of the methane vented from the mine shafts has demonstrated that the Mine emits more than 100 tpy GHG mass basis and more than 100,000 tpy CO₂e. Therefore, the Mine is now considered a "major source" for Title V purposes. The previous permitting action for this facility was a Notice of Intent (NOI) No. 2537.

The facility is a major (>100,000 tpy CO₂e) source of Green-house Gas emissions. The estimated maximum air pollutant emissions to the atmosphere from this facility after the requested operating permit is issued, are as follows (the numbers in parentheses note changes in emissions from the NOI): Total Suspended Particulate Matter (TSP) at 493.1 tpy (+468.5); Particulate Matter - 10 microns or less (PM₁₀) at 160.3 tpy (+148.6); and Particulate Matter - 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}) at 44.9 tpy (1st time reported).

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 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 1, 5, 42, 61, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 77, 82; and 40 CFR 50 Subpart C; 40 CFR 60 Subparts A, Y, III; 40 CFR 63 Subparts A, ZZZZ, and CCCCCC; 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 February 22, 2014.

Interested persons may obtain the permit application, draft operating permit, and relevant supporting materials; submit written comments; or request a public hearing on Operating Permit Number P260 by contacting Cille Pritchard-Hoback at the New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau, 525 Camino de los Marquez Suite 1, Santa Fe, NM 87505-1816 at (505) 476-4340.

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.