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## PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 25-03

**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT  
HAZARDOUS WASTE BUREAU  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**  
January 30, 2026

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A PUBLIC  
HEARING ON DETERMINATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION COMPLETE WITH CONTROLS  
FOR TWO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UNITS AT  
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE  
EPA ID NUMBER: NM2750211235**

Under the authority of the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (Section 74-4-1 *et seq.*, New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA) 1978, as amended, 1992) and the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20.4.1 New Mexico Administrative Code NMAC), the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) can approve or deny hazardous waste permits, closure plans, permit modifications, and amendments. Under this authority, NMED intends to approve, pending public input into this decision, a Class 3 Permit Modification Request received from the U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range (WSMR or the Permittee) for the WSMR Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Permit (Permit) to change the status of two Solid Waste Management Units from "Corrective Action Required" to "Corrective Action Complete with Controls".

The Permittee primary contact person is Mr. Brian D. Knight, Environment Division Chief, Directorate of Public Works. Mr. Knight is located at 100 Headquarters Avenue, Attn: *AMIM-WSP-E Building 163*, White Sands Missile Range, NM 88002. The Permittee's compliance history during the life of the permit being modified is available from the Bureau Contact person listed on page 3 below.

WSMR is a United States Army Installation Management Command installation established in 1945. WSMR is the largest land area military installation in the United States, encompassing approximately 3,200 square miles of land in Doña Ana, Socorro, Lincoln, Otero, and Sierra counties in south-central New Mexico. The installation is approximately 99 miles long (north to south) and 25 to 40 miles wide (east to west). WSMR was established on July 9, 1945, as White Sands Providing Ground (the name was changed in 1958) to be the nation's testing range for the newly developed missile weapons. WSMR is located within the Tularosa Basin of south-central New Mexico, and portions of WSMR extend west into the Jornada del Muerto Basin. The headquarters (Main Post) area of WSMR is located at the southwestern corner of the installation, approximately 27 miles east-northeast of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and 45 miles north of El Paso, Texas. The main entrance of WSMR is on U.S. Highway 70, east from Interstate 25 at Exit 6.

If approved, the proposed modification would grant Corrective Action Complete (CAC) with Controls status for two Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) listed in the July 2025 Permit. Currently, Table 8-1 in Permit Attachment 8 lists SWMUs and Areas of Concern (AOCs) where corrective action is required to characterize and remediate, as necessary, past releases of hazardous wastes or hazardous constituents. If this permit modification is approved by NMED, SWMUs 86 (Main Post Sanitary Landfill) and 87 (Main Post Construction Landfill) will be moved from Table 8-1 to a newly created Table 8-2-2 that will list SWMUs and AOCs having the status of Corrective Action Complete with Controls. Consequently, Table 8-2 “SWMUs and AOCs Corrective Action Complete Without Controls” will be newly designated as “Table 8-2-1”.

## **PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

The Administrative Record for this proposed action consists of the Fact Sheet/Statement of Basis, the Public Notice, the July 2025 RCRA Permit, and the Petition to Perform Class 3 Permit Modification to Change the Status of Solid Waste Management Units 86 and 87 from Corrective Action Required to Corrective Action Complete with Controls, dated July 2019.

The Administrative Record may be reviewed at the following locations during the public comment period:

Print and Digital access:

NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303  
(505) 476-6000  
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Digital access only:

NMED Las Cruces Field Office  
2301 Entrada Del Sol  
Las Cruces, NM 88001  
(575) 288-2050  
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A copy of the CAC petition, this Public Notice, and the Fact Sheet/Statement of Basis are also available on the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, WSMR webpage (<https://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/wsmr/>) listed under the Contents section, as “Corrective Action Complete Proposal”. The above documents are also available on the NMED Public Notices website (<https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices>).

To obtain a copy of the Administrative Record or a portion thereof please contact Ms. Naomi Gonzalez at (505) 476-6000, or at the NMED office addresses provided above. NMED will provide requested copies, or portions thereof, of the Administrative Record at a cost to the requestor.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

NMED issues this public notice on **January 30, 2026** to announce the beginning of a 60-day public comment period that will end at 5:00 p.m. on **March 31, 2026**. Any person who wishes to comment on this action or request a public hearing should submit written or electronic mail (e-mail) comments with the commenter's name and address to the address listed below. Only comments or requests received on or before 5:00 p.m. **March 31, 2026** will be considered.

Written comments must be sent to the Bureau Contact:

Neelam Dhawan, Permits Program Manager  
Hazardous Waste Bureau – New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6313  
**Or** via email: [neelam.dhawan@env.nm.gov](mailto:neelam.dhawan@env.nm.gov)  
**Subject:** WSMR Class 3 Permit Modification Request, SWMUs 86 & 87

Written comments must be based on the Administrative Record. Documents in the Administrative Record need not be re-submitted if expressly referenced by the commenter. Requests for a Public Hearing shall provide: (1) A clear and concise factual statement of the nature and scope of the interest of the person requesting the hearing; (2) The name and address of all persons whom the requester represents; (3) A statement of any objections to the proposed action, including specific references; and (4) A statement of the issues which the commenter proposes to raise for consideration at the hearing. Written comments and requests for public hearings must be filed with the Bureau Contact on or before 5:00 p.m. **March 31, 2026**. NMED will provide a minimum 30-day notice of a public hearing, if scheduled.

All written comments submitted will be considered in formulating a final decision and may result in NMED modifying or disapproving the CAC proposal. NMED will respond in writing to all public comments received. This response will specify which provisions, if any, of the CAC proposal have been changed in the final decision and the reasons for the change, and will provide a brief description of all public comments. All persons presenting written comments or who request notification in writing will be notified of the decision by mail. The final decision will also be posted on the NMED website (<https://www.env.nm.gov>).

## **NEXT STEPS**

After consideration of all public comments received, NMED will issue a final decision that will approve, modify or deny the request. If NMED modifies or denies the request, NMED will provide written justification for the decision to the Permittee by mail. NMED will make the final decision publicly available and will notify the Permittee and each person who submitted written comments of the final decision. The final decision will constitute a final agency decision and may be appealed as provided in the Hazardous Waste Act (Chapter 74, Article 4 NMSA 1978).

## **CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

To learn more about RCRA Hazardous Waste Permit and the permitting process, or to be placed on a facility-specific mailing list, please reach out to the Bureau Contact provided above.

NMED maintains a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for permitted facilities to provide for public participation opportunities and information that may be needed for the community to participate in permitting actions. The WSMR PIP may be viewed online at <http://www.env.nm.gov/hazardous-waste/wsmr/> or at NMED offices where the administrative record is accessible. NMED also maintains facility-specific mailing lists for persons wishing to receive associated notices for a permit action.

## **ARRANGEMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Any person with a disability requiring assistance or auxiliary aid to participate in this process should contact the Bureau Contact listed above no less than 10 days prior to the end of the public comment period.

Telephone conversation assistance is available through New Mexico Relay Network at no charge for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have difficulty speaking on the phone, by calling 1-800-659-1779 (English); 1-800-327-1857 (Spanish); TeleType (TTY) users: 1-800-659-8331.

## **LANGUAGE SERVICES**

Any non-English speaker may call the Bureau contact listed above and request language assistance in order to learn more about this class 3 permit modification request. Arrangements may be made for document translation or interpretation related to this permit modification as necessary and as resources allow.

Real-time translation is now available on the NMED website, including on the HWB WSMR webpage. NMED's new Weglot translation tool has been implemented and uses artificial intelligence translation services to achieve high-quality machine translation in real-time for the entire NMED website. Please notice a small drop-down box at the top of webpages on the right-hand side. This drop-down can be used to display the website in Spanish, Vietnamese, and English currently.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-

discrimination programs, policies or procedures, or if you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact:

Kate Cardenas, Non-Discrimination Coordinator  
New Mexico Environment Department  
1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050  
P.O. Box 5469  
Santa Fe, NM 87502  
Phone: (505) 827-2855  
Email: [nd.coordinator@env.nm.gov](mailto:nd.coordinator@env.nm.gov)

You may also visit our website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/non-employee-discrimination-complaint-page/> to learn how and where to file a complaint of discrimination.