



PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER 26-02

**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
HAZARDOUS WASTE BUREAU
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87505
February 21, 2026**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A
PUBLIC HEARING ON A DRAFT HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT MODIFICATION
FOR THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WHITE SANDS TEST FACILITY
EPA ID NUMBER NM8800019434**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) intends to issue a Class 3 hazardous waste permit modification (Permit Modification) to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA or Permittee), the owner and operator of White Sands Test Facility (WSTF; the Facility), with EPA ID No. NM8800019434, located in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. The Permit authorizes the Facility to conduct corrective action for releases identified at various solid waste management units (SWMUs) and areas of concern (AOCs), and to conduct post-closure care for closed hazardous waste units (HWMUs) under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Act (Chapter 74, Article 4 NMSA 1978 or the HWA), and their implementing regulations. Additionally, the permit modification includes updates to several definitions, including the addition of language related to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as required by New Mexico House Bill 140. The action to be taken by NMED would modify the existing permit. NMED is charged with issuing a permit that will ensure that the implementation of corrective action continues at the Facility and that hazardous waste operations are properly managed to protect human health and the environment. This permit modification will accomplish two actions: 1) document sites where corrective action is complete, and 2) revise the permit to include language that supports the hazardous waste definition amendment for aqueous film-forming foam containing intentionally added per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances [PFAS].” NMED will consider the comments received during this comment period before making the final decision to modify the permit.

The NASA WSTF is a test facility established in 1962 in support of the National Space Program. WSTF occupies over 60,000 acres in Doña Ana County in south-central New Mexico, 18 miles northeast of Las Cruces, New Mexico and 65 miles north of El Paso, Texas. WSTF is located in the Mexican Highland Section of the Basin and Range Province and within the Rio Grand Rift Zone, a major tectonic feature. The main entrance to the facility is 6 miles north of the intersection of NASA Road and U.S. Highway 70.

The Permittee’s primary contact for this action is:
Ms. Amanda Skarsgard
Environmental Office

NASA
Johnson Space Center
WSTF
12600 NASA Road
Las Cruces, NM 88012

NMED also announces the availability of a Fact Sheet providing the basis for the proposed action on the permit modification and includes applicable statutory and regulatory support.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

The Administrative Record for this proposed action consists of the Fact Sheet/Statement of Basis, the Permittee's petition for a Class 3 Permit modification, the current Permit, this Public Notice, and supporting documentation. The Administrative Record may be reviewed, with prior appointment, at the following location during the public comment period.

NMED – Hazardous Waste Bureau
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313
(505) 476-6000
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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.

Copies of the draft Permit modification, this Public Notice, and the Fact Sheet are also available on the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau NASA WSTF website at:

https://hwbdocs.env.nm.gov/?base_dir=NASA/. 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 address given above. NMED will provide copies, or portions thereof, of the Administrative Record at a cost to the requestor.

NMED issues this public notice on **February 22, 2026**, to announce the beginning of a 60-day comment period that will end at **5:00 p.m. MST, April 22, 2026**. Any person who wishes to comment on the draft Permit or request a public hearing should submit written or electronic mail (e-mail) comment(s) with the commenter's name and address to the respective address below. Only comments and/or requests received before **5:00 p.m. MST April 22, 2026**, will be considered.

Neelam Dhawan, Program Manager
Hazardous Waste Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6313
(505) 476-6000
E-mail: neelam.dhawan@env.nm.gov
Ref: NASA WSTF Class 3 Permit Modification Request

Written comments must be based on reasonably available information and include, to the extent practicable, all referenced factual materials. 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 requestor represents; (3) a statement of any objections to the draft Permit, including specific references to any conditions being addressed; and (4) a statement of the issues which the commenter proposes to raise for consideration at the hearing. Written comments and requests for public hearing must be filed with the Bureau Contact on or before **5:00 p.m. MST on April 22, 2026**. NMED will provide a thirty (30) day notice of a public hearing, if scheduled.

NMED must ensure that the approved draft Permit modification is consistent with the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations. All written comments submitted will be considered in formulating a final decision and may cause the draft Permit to be modified or in disapproval of the permit modification request. The Department will respond in writing to all public comments. This response will specify which provisions, if any, of the draft Permit modification have been changed in the final decision and the reasons for the changes. All persons presenting written comments or who requested notification in writing will be notified of the decision by mail. These responses will also be posted on the Department's website <https://www.env.nm.gov>.

After consideration of all the written public comments received, NMED will issue, disapprove, or modify and issue the Permit. The Permittees will be provided by mail a copy of any relevant modified documents or disapproval and a detailed written statement of reasons for the modifications or disapproval.

New Mexico Environment Department will make the final decision publicly available and shall notify the Permittees by certified mail. The Secretary's decision shall constitute a final agency decision and may be appealed as provided by the HWA (Chapter 74, Article 4 NMSA 1978).

ARRANGEMENTS 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 ten days prior to the end of the public comment period.

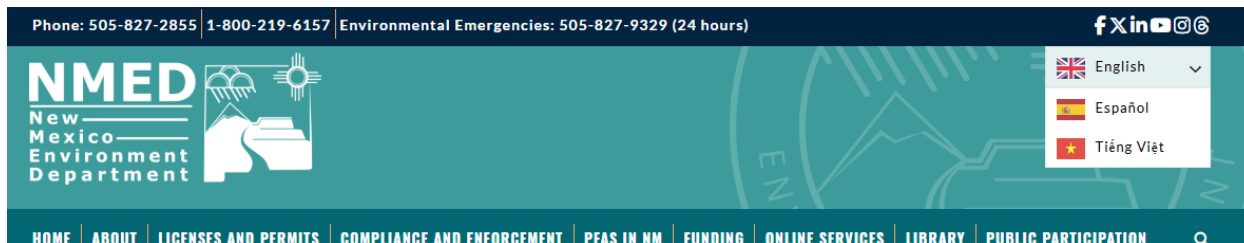
Telephone conversation assistance is available through New Mexico Relay Network at no charge for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have difficulty speaking on the phone, by calling 1-800-659-1779 (English); 1-800-327-1857 (Spanish); 1-800-659-8331 (TeleType TTY users).

LANGUAGE SERVICES

Any non-English language speaker may call the Bureau contact listed above and request language assistance in order to learn more about this permit modification. 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, to include the HWB NASA WSTF website. NMED's translation services currently translate into Spanish and Vietnamese, and can be found in the upper right corner of NMED web site:



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

NMED

1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050, P.O. Box 5469

Santa Fe, NM 87502

Phone: (505) 827-2855

Email: 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.