

ATTACHMENT

AIR QUALITY PROGRAM RESPONSE TO GENERAL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS AT SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING

Fires and explosions have been a part of the shredder operations and a serious look should be made at such dangers here in our neighborhood.

The facility's current permit requires that a water injection system be in operation in order to control emissions from the metal shredder at all times that the metal shredder is in operation. The water injection system serves an important purpose other than pollution control. Much of the effectiveness of the water injection system relates to the control of oxygen and temperature in the shredding chamber, and the constant operation of the smart water injection system helps to prevent fires and explosions.

In addition, the company has made improvements at the facility for fighting fires. They recently installed fire hydrants around the perimeter of the yard. This allows employees or the fire department to use the hydrants to fight any yard fires. They have also added a full time security guard to watch for signs of fires or other hazards. In conjunction with this guard the company installed a new solid fence on the west side of the facility to prevent unauthorized access.

Are water permits required by the facility? This concern arises because certain chemicals will be onsite and contaminants could migrate beyond the property lines or through the concrete foundation and enter the local aquifer?

The Air Quality Program (AQP) understands that the community has a broad range of potential concerns regarding local business activities. State and local law strictly limits AQP's jurisdiction to regulation of air pollution related issues only. AQP does not have authority to address broader environmental and land use issues through the air quality construction permit process. As such, AQP is responsible for issuing air quality construction permits to facilities that emit regulated levels of pollutants into the air but not water. For information about water permits, please contact the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau or the NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau. The Surface Water Quality Bureau can be contacted at (505)827-0187 and the Ground Water Quality Bureau can be contacted at (505)827-2918.

The facility is located close to residential areas.

As mentioned above, AQP has limited legal authority, which does not extend to regulation of zoning; therefore, AQP does not have the authority to issue or deny a permit based on zoning. For issues related to zoning of this property, citizens should contact the Bernalillo County Planning Department at (505)314-0350.

The improvements at the facility could cause increased traffic which is a concern, what is being done to mitigate this concern?

AQP cannot address traffic issues through the air quality construction permit process. For issues related to traffic planning, citizens should contact the Mid-Region Council of Governments at (505)247-1750. Another good resource is Bernalillo County Traffic Engineering at (505)848-1500. In regards to emissions from traffic, AQP is not empowered by any rule to include emissions from mobile sources. U.S. EPA has exclusive authority to regulate mobile source emissions in Bernalillo County and nationwide.