

Legal Notice
and
Preliminary Determination for an Air Quality Permit for
Intrepid Potash New Mexico, LLC

Intrepid Potash New Mexico, LLC at 1996 Potash Mines Road, Carlsbad, NM has submitted an air quality permit application to the Air Quality Bureau (AQB), New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) for an air quality permit to modify East Plant. The application file has been assigned Permit No. 0755M16 and TEMPO Agency Interest No. 208. The exact location of the facility is/will be at latitude and longitude decimal degrees: 32.505523, -103.782518 Datum: NAD27. To aid in locating this facility, the approximate location is 32 mi ENE of Carlsbad in Eddy County, NM.

This is an existing Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit application submitted in accordance with 20.2.74 NMAC.

The proposed modification will consist of the following:

Including portable non-road engines in the facility permit and expanding the restricted boundary along the western and southern side of the tailings ponds. One additional 199 hp engine is being proposed at a fixed location and two 199 hp engines are proposed as “floating” locations to address needs as they arise. The new proposed engines and ten existing engines will be rental diesel pump engines and be required by contract to meet the Tier 3 exhaust standards of 40 CFR 89.112. Rental pump engines are to be used to manage water that seeps through the tailings pond dams as needed.

Total air pollutant emissions to the atmosphere are estimated to be approximately Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) at 203.0 tons per year (tpy) (-2.7); Carbon Monoxide (CO) at 251.1 tpy (-.8); Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) at 23.8 tpy (+1.5); Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) at 13.8 tpy (+1.4); Particulate Matter (PM) at 412.3 tpy; Particulate Matter 10 microns or less (PM₁₀) at 231.5 tpy (-0.6); and Particulate Matter 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}) at 125.1 tpy (-0.6); and greenhouse gas (CO₂e) > 75,000 tpy. These emission estimates could change slightly during the course of the Department's review of the application.

The NMED has conducted a preliminary review of the information submitted with the permit application. The preliminary review and applicant's analysis of ambient air quality impacts indicates that the facility's air emissions will meet the air quality standards for NO_x, CO, SO₂, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. VOCs are a pre-cursor to ozone and the NMED does not require an individual ozone ambient impact analysis for each application. To determine compliance with national ambient air quality standards for ozone, NMED uses air monitors to monitor ozone concentrations. A full review will evaluate the estimated emission rates for the pollutants listed in this public notice and determine compliance with ambient air quality requirements and standards.

Based on the applicant's analysis, a preliminary determination is that this facility will comply with the requirements of Title 20, New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC), Chapter 2, Parts 1, 7, 19, 61, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 82; 40 CFR 50; 40 CFR 60 Subparts A, Dc, IIII; 40 CFR 63 Subparts A, CCCCCC, ZZZZ; and the New Mexico Air Quality Control Act. Therefore, the preliminary intent of NMED is to issue the air quality permit on or before April 28, 2026. This source is a PSD major source without BACT according to 20.2.74 NMAC.

To ensure compliance with state and federal air regulations, the permit is expected to include conditions that limit the emissions, hours of operation, and production rate, and conditions that will require recordkeeping and reporting to the Department.

The permit application is available for review on the AQB Public Notices of Permitting Actions website www.env.nm.gov/public-notice.

All interested persons have thirty (30) days from the date this notice is published to notify the Department in writing of their interest in the permit application. The written comments should refer to the company name, facility name and Permit No. (or send a copy of this notice along with your comments). The written comments shall state the nature of the issues raised and how it relates to the requirements of applicable state and federal air quality regulations and the Clean Air Act. The written comments should be mailed to Jordan Moore, New Mexico Environment Dept., Air Quality Bureau, Permit Section, 525 Camino de los Marquez Suite 1, Santa Fe, NM 87505-1816, or submitted by email to jordan.moore@env.nm.gov. Comments may also be submitted electronically via the NMED public comment portal online at: <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search>.

The Department will notify all people who have provided written comments as to when and where the Department's analysis may be reviewed. Although all written comments will be made part of the public record, any person who does not express interest in writing before the end of this first thirty (30) day period will not receive such notification.

If the Department receives written public comment before the end of the Department's thirty (30) day public notice, the Department's analysis will be made available for review for thirty (30) days at the NMED district or field office nearest to the source before the permit will be issued. Written comments on the analysis or permit application may be submitted to the Department during this second thirty (30) day period or at any time before the permit is issued or denied.

Questions or comments not intended to be part of the public record can be directed to Jordan Moore at jordan.moore@env.nm.gov. General information about air quality and the permitting process can be found at the Air Quality Bureau's website. The regulation dealing with public participation in the permit review process is 20.2.72.206 NMAC. This regulation can be found in the "Permits" section of this website.

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