



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

JAMES C. KENNEY  
CABINET SECRETARY

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PIP)**

### **Air Quality Bureau Air Permit Application**

Version 07.22.24

Date: September 3, 2025

Applicant: Universal Waste Systems, Inc.

Facility Name: UWS Air Curtain Incinerator Facility

Air Quality Permit Application Number: 10392-M1

Location: Approximately 1.9 miles northeast of Ruidoso Downs, Lincoln County, New Mexico

Latitude: 33.3407638889

Longitude: -105.5743944444

#### **1. Overview of Air Quality Bureau's plan of action for addressing the community's needs and concerns for processing Air Quality Permit Applications:**

The New Mexico Environment Department (Department), Air Quality Bureau (AQB) developed this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the processing of air quality permit applications in accordance with NMAC 20.2.72 requirements for this facility. This air quality regulation does require public participation outreach throughout different stages of the permitting process. The AQB will meet the public participation requirements by following this PIP, which includes all applicable policy, regulatory, and statutory public participation requirements.

In developing this PIP, community participation needs for this permitting action were assessed to ensure appropriate promotion of public outreach by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors (i.e., low-income community, minority community, Limited English Proficiency individuals, Linguistically Isolated Households, etc.) that may impact public participation. This assessment identifies community outreach needs and provides for public access opportunities above and beyond statutorily mandated requirements, and underscores the provision of adequate public access to information about this permit application.

As much as possible, public participation and informational activities related to this permit application will be held within the regulatory timelines outlined below.

- a. AQB regulations at NMAC 20.2.72 require that the application must be ruled complete or incomplete no more than 30 days after receipt, and that a Public Notice for this application must be published in a newspaper of general circulation where the facility is located. See Section 4.c below for more information.

The Public Notice contains a paragraph in Spanish directing Spanish-speaking interested parties to call the AQB at (505) 629-3395 to speak to Spanish-speaking staff for additional information regarding this permitting action.

- b. The AQB will provide a copy of the Completion Letter w/Legal Notice and Attachment B of the completion letter template that has links for someone to view the application and PIP on our Bureau website Public Notice page to the NMED field office at:

#### **Ruidoso**

1216 E. Mechem Dr., Building 2

SCIENCE | INNOVATION | COLLABORATION | COMPLIANCE

Ruidoso, NM 88345  
Phone (575) 258-3272  
Fax (575) 258-4891

- c. AQB regulations require that the Public Notice be sent to interested parties maintained on a mailing list. See Section 4.b below for more information.
- d. AQB regulations require that the Public Notice be sent to the “appropriate agency” as defined at 20.2.72. See Section 4.e below for more information.
- e. In accordance with the evaluation of the site location and associated demographics, no additional means for disseminating information are planned at this time.
- f. Public Notice shall be followed by a 30-day public comment period that starts on the day that the notice is published in the newspaper. See Section 4.g below for details.
- g. AQB regulations require that the permit must be issued, issued subject to conditions, or denied within one hundred eighty (180) days after the department deems the application administratively complete.

**2. Contact list of AQB staff with phone numbers and email addresses:**

**a. AQB contact for questions about this application or PIP (included in public notices and outreach materials):**

McKenna Hedgepeth  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Air Quality Bureau  
525 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505  
505-690-0756  
[mckenna.hedgepeth@env.nm.gov](mailto:mckenna.hedgepeth@env.nm.gov)

Electronic copies will be available at the following link, which will be included in public notices and outreach materials as appropriate: <https://www.env.nm.gov/public-notices/>.

**b. Non-English language speaker assistance and accommodations**

The AQB may hold public meetings, open houses, stakeholder meetings, and/or a formal hearing depending on the interest in the application. Language assistance services may be arranged for translation of documents for meetings, for translators during meetings, and for obtaining services for persons with disabilities. A phone-based interpretation service may be available for languages other than English.

**3. Description of the community/stakeholder groups:**

To provide for adequate public participation opportunities and meaningful involvement of persons regarding this permit application and to address potential or existing environmental justice areas, the affected communities must first be identified, informed about proposed environmental actions affecting the community, and invited to share their comments and concerns. The EJSCREEN tool developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps identify

communities that are low income and minority populations that may benefit from a variety of approaches for notification and outreach communication.

Using the default 4-mile radius from the facility, the results of the EJSscreen V2.3 ACS Summary Report (attached) are listed in the table below. [<https://ejsscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>]

<b>Population and Income Data</b>			
Total Population:	3,318	Per Capita Income of Community (2016-2020):	\$33,6481,2
People of Color Population, %:	55%	US Per Capita Income*:	\$37,638
Total Number of Households:	1276	Total Number (and Percent) of Limited English-Speaking Households:	<sup>1</sup> (5%)

\*US Per Capita Income 2017-2021; <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/INC910219>

<sup>1</sup>The Percent of Limited English-Speaking Households, in the EJSscreen Community Report, under EJSscreen Version 2.3.

<b>Population by Race or Ethnicity, %</b>		<b>Linguistically Isolated Household Details, %</b>	
White	45	Speak Spanish	88
Black	1	Speak Other Indo-European Languages	0
American Indian	8	Speak Asian Pacific Island Languages	12
Asian	1	Speak Other Languages	0
Pacific Islander	0		
Some Other Race	0		
Two or More Races	2		
Hispanic (any race)	43		

In addition, the following community or stakeholder groups have been identified: none.

History of public involvement in air permitting during the last 10 years: none.

It is important for the AQB to incorporate the linguistic and communication needs of this community when conducting public outreach and participation activities. To help accomplish this, the AQB will provide information in English, in public comment notices, public meeting notices (if applicable), and other announcements (radio broadcasts, brochures, signs, postcards, etc.) and strive to make public participation efforts as inclusive as possible within AQB budget and time limitations. The Ruidoso NMED field office will serve as access areas for the AQB to leave hard copies of important documents and information about how to comment on this permit application.

**4. Detailed actions and outreach activities the AQB Permitting Section will take to reach the affected public:**

**a. Overview**

Based on the demographics report discussed in the PIP, the history of public involvement at the facility, and the facility background, basic information about public involvement opportunities will be in English. This information will include how to request materials in Spanish or to speak with AQB staff through an interpreter. Further details about public participation for this activity are outlined below.

**The AQB maintains information regarding this air quality permit application at the following locations:**

- i. On the Air Quality Bureau website, see Section 2.a above.**
- ii. At the District Office listed in Section 1.b above.**
- iii. At the Main Office location:**  
New Mexico Environment Department  
Air Quality Bureau  
525 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505

**b. Postal mailing or e-mailing of notices to persons on the facility-specific mailing list**

AQB regulations require notification to persons who have expressed interest in applications. The AQB maintains a mailing list that includes individuals interested in permit applications from particular facilities or geographic areas. Notifications may be sent through physical mail and/or an email.

The list also includes addresses within fifty kilometers of the boundary of other states, Bernalillo County, or a Class I area.

**c. Notices in the state newspaper and local newspapers**

The Public Notice for this permit application will be published in English in the Legal Section of the Alamogordo Daily News newspaper.

Website for this publication is listed below:

Alamogordo Daily News:

English: <http://www.alamogordonevents.com/>

**d. Mailing to the Governor or President of Indian Tribes, Pueblos, or Nations**

AQB regulations, and the evaluation of the facility location and associated demographics, require notification to Tribes, Pueblos, or Nations about this permit application for facilities located within a specified distance.

Notification to Indian Tribes, Pueblos, or Nations within 10 miles is required from the applicant for the NSR. However, in accordance with NMED Public Involvement Plan Policy, the Department provided additional notification to those within the 10-mile radius. Email notification will be sent to the contacts at the Tribes, Pueblos and/or Nations listed below:

Mescalero Apache Tribe  
Division of Resource Management and Protection (DRMP)  
John Nelson, Director  
nelson@mescalero-drmp.org  
P.O. Box 250  
268 Pine St.,  
Mescalero, NM 88430  
575-464-4711

**e. Affected local, state, or federal government agencies, and active Land Grants**

AQB regulations require identifying and notifying local, state, or federal government agencies about this permit application.

The following affected local, state, or federal government agencies will be notified by email:

US EPA Region VI, Elizabeth (Mary) Layton at [r6airpermits@epa.gov](mailto:r6airpermits@epa.gov) & [layton.mary@epa.gov](mailto:layton.mary@epa.gov)

There are no Colonias or Land Grants within 4 miles of the facility.

**f. Public meeting notices, public comment notices, and other notices**

AQB may hold public meetings, open houses, stakeholder meetings, and/or a formal hearing depending on the interest in the application. Based on historical information and the results of the initial screening, there is no public meeting planned at this time for this permit application. If it is determined that a public meeting will be required, notice will be provided to the community as follows:

- 1) Via a newspaper of general circulation in the area closest to the location of the facility.
- 2) Locations commonly frequented by the general public, such as a nearby post office, public library, or city hall.
- 3) All persons and organizations that have expressed interest and are on a list maintained by AQB.
- 4) Via a public service announcement to at least one radio or television station which serves the municipality or county in which the source is or is proposed to be located.
- 5) The notices will be translated for non-English speaking participants, if required.
- 6) The notices will include information for requesting accommodations for those with disabilities as listed in Section 2.b above.

AQB will locate an appropriate venue based on the availability to the community to access the meeting, and the specific needs of the affected community (e.g., size of community, community locations, impacts, etc.).

AQB may reschedule the meeting due to inclement weather. If rescheduled, AQB will provide as much advance notice as possible and reschedule for an appropriate time and date.

Meetings will be scheduled to make them as accessible and user-friendly as practical, considering work schedules, dinner hours, and other community commitments. To the extent possible, the meeting will be held at a location that is local and convenient, and meet American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. In addition, whenever practical and appropriate, translators for limited-English speaking communities, or assistance for hearing-impaired individuals may be available. Information in public notices for a public meeting will adhere to AQB regulations, statutes, and policies.

**g. Public Comment Periods**

AQB regulations require that all interested persons have thirty (30) days from the date the Public Notice is published to express an interest in writing in the permit application. If AQB receives written public comment before the end of the thirty (30) day public comment period, the analysis of the application will be made available for review for thirty (30) days on the Air Quality Bureau Website and at the NMED District office (address listed in Section 1.b above).

Permit Application No: 10392-M1

Page 6 of 6

The PIP has been reviewed and approved by the AQB Bureau Chief.

DocuSigned by:  
*Cindy Hollenberg*  
8C5B75B327A0402...  
Cindy Hollenberg  
Bureau Chief  
Air Quality Bureau

1/7/2026  
Date Approved

Attachments: EJSCREEN Printout